

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OFFICERS



SESSION AND TRUSTEES BY CLASS AND TERM

Clerk of Session
Janet Hill

Class of 2014
Mark Armesto (T) (1)
John Darby (T) (2)
Lauren Hill (T) (2)
Marv Riegler (2)
Erica Wichtowski (1)

Class of 2015
Jean Hess (2)
Tim Hess (1)
Janet Hill (2)
Don Houck (T) (2)
Susan Koepfel (1)
Virginia McIntyre (1)

Class of 2016
Ian Bradford (T) (2)
Mike Henry (T) (2)
Stephanie Smith (1)
Ryan Nadbrzuch (T) (1)
Maria Oakley (1)

BOARD OF DEACONS BY CLASS AND TERM

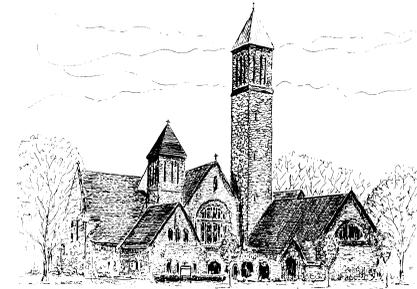
Class of 2014
Pat Brown (1)
Russell Carlson (2)
Mary Field (2)
Karen Frieder (2)
Olga Rico-Armesto (1)
Lou Ann Luther Riegler (1)

Class of 2015
Liz Kamke (1)
Tina Osei (1)
Judith Paradzai (2)
Phil Sims (2)
Denis Wettlaufer (2)

Class of 2016
Jackie Addo (1)
Cleo Alexander (2)
Mark Juan Armesto (2)
José Gomez (2)
Gifty Koramoah (1)
Ken Madell (2)



(T) indicates that the Elder has also been nominated or elected to serve as a Trustee while on Session.



First Presbyterian Church

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“Like” us Facebook: “First Presbyterian Church of Buffalo, NY”
Follow us Twitter @1stChurchBflo

The mission of historic First Church is to bring diverse people of metropolitan Buffalo together to follow Jesus Christ through worshipping God, fostering spiritual growth, and serving the community.

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT MARCH 30, 2014

*Wherever ♦ appears, you are asked to stand if you are able to do so.
Text in **bold print** indicates congregational responses.*

PRELUDE Were You There? *Leo Sowerby*

♦CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsive*)
Once we lived in darkness; **now, in the Lord, we are light.**
Jesus said: I am the light of the world. **Let us live as children of the light.**

♦PRAYER OF THE DAY (*responsive*)
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray:
Holy God, why is it that we look, but do not see? Bring us again and again into your light until your ways become visible to us and bear fruit in us. Touch us so that we are utterly changed, a “before” and “after,” a “now” and “then,” that we may also say, “One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” Lord, we believe; help our unbelief. In Christ’s light we pray. **Amen.**

♦HYMN “A Man Who Could Not See” *Leoni*
See page 3

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)
God of great mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you. We look at outward appearances and fail to see what pleases you. We look with judgment on others and fail to see our own sin. Forgive us, by your steadfast love. Create a clean heart within us, teach us your holy way, and restore the joy of salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (*responsive*)
God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the gift of the Holy Spirit.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God.

♦CANTICLE “Glory to the Father” *Richard Wetzel*
**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
as in the beginning, so now, and forever. Amen.**

◇PASSING OF THE PEACE

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST READING: Psalm 23

ANTHEM

Jesus Christ the Apple Tree

OT page 501

arr. J. Bullard

SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:8-14

NT page 194

SERMON

“Let You Be Light!”

Rev. Dr. Philip S. Gittings

◇HYMN 324

“Open My Eyes That I May See”

Open My Eyes

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *(responsive)*

In Christ Jesus, we have a great high priest who knows our weakness and suffering; therefore with boldness, let us seek God's grace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for the church... By your grace, make us children of light, reflecting the glory of our Savior— Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for the earth... Renew in us a vision of the world restored, shining with the splendor of your glory, unstained by the sin of human greed.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for all nations... Raise up new leaders among us, new shepherds who will defend the weak and lead us in all paths of peace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for the community... Help us to notice our neighbors in need. Give us the courage and compassion to see them all as your beloved children.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for loved ones... Accompany those who walk in darkness; protect those who are facing danger; comfort those who live in fear.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

To you, O God, we entrust these prayers, knowing that you alone can provide grace to help in our time of need; in the name of our great high priest who has passed through the heavens.

Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Savior. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER *(unison)*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERTORY

Adagio

Felix Mendelssohn

◇DOXOLOGY 591

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Old Hundredth

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore; Praise triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**



Easter Flowers

Help decorate the Sanctuary with spring flowers on Easter, and take the opportunity to honor a loved one. Purchase an Easter plant “celebrating” or “in memory” of someone special. The cost is \$8.00 per plant. To order yours, please complete the form below and include a check for the correct amount made payable to First Presbyterian Church with “Easter Flowers” indicated on the check. Reservations can also be made by calling the church office at 884-7250, ext. 10 and mailing your check. Credit card payments by VISA or MasterCard can be taken over the phone.

Dedications will be printed in the Easter bulletin. On Easter Sunday, April 20th, our flowers may be taken home or left to be given to our shut-ins.

Your Name: _____

Please check if you would like your dedication to be anonymous: ____

These flowers are dedicated: (please circle one)
in celebration of... or in loving memory of...

Name(s): _____

Number of flowers: _____ Total: \$ _____

Please check one:

I would like my flower(s) to go to our shut-ins. ____

I plan on taking my flower(s) home. ____

Order deadline is Palm Sunday, April 13th.

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, March 30

9:30 a.m. Adult Christian Education — Pastor's Study
 11:15 a.m. Worship, Rev. Dr. Philip S. Gittings preaching — Sanctuary
 11:30 a.m. Sunday school — CE Wing
 12:15 p.m. Fellowship Hour — Chapel
 7:00 p.m. Lenten Small Group Discussion — Pastor's Study

Monday, March 31

Building Closed

Tuesday, April 1

10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Staff Meeting — Pastor's Study
 12:30 p.m. Food Bag Assistance — Historical Hall
 4:30 p.m. Literacy Tutoring — Chapel
 5:30 p.m. Worship & Music Committee Meeting — Pastor's Study
 7:00 p.m. Lands & Buildings Committee Meeting — Historical Hall

Wednesday, April 2

1:00 p.m. Bible Study — Pastor's Study
 4:30 p.m. Literacy Tutoring — Chapel
 6:30 p.m. Nominating Committee Meeting — Pastor's Study

Thursday, April 3

No events

Friday, April 4

7:30 p.m. American Guild of Organists Recital — Sanctuary

Saturday, April 5

10:00 a.m. American Guild of Organists Masterclass — Sanctuary

Sunday, April 6

Food Pantry Sunday
 9:30 a.m. Adult Christian Education — Pastor's Study
 11:15 a.m. Worship & Communion,
 Rev. Dr. Philip S. Gittings preaching — Sanctuary
 12:15 p.m. "Spring Fling" Potluck Luncheon — Chapel
 7:00 p.m. Lenten Small Group Discussion — Pastor's Study

◇PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*responsive*)

Holy God, for all your blessings, known and unknown, remembered and forgotten,
we give you thanks. In gratitude we share our gifts—the gift of money, time, and our lives.
**Use all that we bring, and all that we are, to bring your healing and hope, your
 compassion and peace to our neighbors near and far. Amen.**

◇HYMN 399

"We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight"

Dunlap's Creek

◇CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Fugue in C

Felix Mendelssohn

A Man Who Could Not See

LEONI 6.6.8.4 D ("The God of Abraham Praise")

1. A man who could not see re - ceived the gift of sight;
 2. Some lead - ers were dis - tressed and said it was a sin,
 3. O Christ, you are the light to all who fol - low you;

O Lord, you spoke and he be - lieved and saw the light.
 for it was on the day of rest that you healed him.
 you give to us the gift of sight— a new world - view.

His joy was great - er still than sight that was re - stored;
 They could not see the grace or — know how much God cares;
 When cul - ture hems us in with val - ues that de - stroy,

he saw, when you had made him well, that you are Lord.
 the lack of vis - ion in that place was tru - ly theirs.
 Lord, help your church to see a - gain your king - dom's joy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 2014

Today's Liturgist is Tim Hess.

Today's acolyte is Kofi Osei.

Welcome to all visitors— you have a friend at First Church! If you would like to learn more about our diverse, welcoming faith community, please speak to a Deacon after worship.

If you have a prayer request to include during Prayers of the People, please use one of the blue prayer cards available in the Narthex or by asking a Deacon. Please write neatly and give your card to a Deacon.

APARTMENT WANTED

A friend of First Church is looking for a one bedroom apartment in Elmwood Village. If you know of any available, please let Phil Gittings know.

SPRING FLING POTLUCK

Sunday, April 6 after worship in the Chapel
with the Balloon Man!
Bring a dish to share.
Sponsored by the Church Life Committee

NEXT SUNDAY IS FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY

The first Sunday of the month is designated "Food Pantry Sunday." Donations of canned goods can be placed in the shopping cart that will be near the chancel. Monetary donations to the Lyon Food Pantry are also appreciated. First Church feeds an average of 20 hungry people every Tuesday, right here in our neighborhood. This is an opportunity for hands-on mission that helps many. Thank you!

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY

On Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. a wonderful group of our members gathers to study the Scriptures together. They are always happy to have new members join them whenever you can for an hour and a half or two of lively discussion and learning. They meet in Phil's office. This week, on March 26, the group is beginning a new study of the "**Gospel of Matthew**"! This gospel has many unique characteristics, and during the year 2014 Matthew is the main gospel in the lectionary so a good number of sermons will be based on the stories of Jesus recorded there. Please take time—or make time—to join us for a discussion that will have positive impact on your spiritual journey.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR LENT

Do you wonder what you would say if an acquaintance ever asks you what you believe? Many people go through their entire lives and never talk deeply about their faith. Have you ever had someone ask you if you're saved and you haven't quite known what to say, or even if you believe that you are saved? These and other questions will be addressed head on during Lent of 2014 in our Adult Education classes. How about making a special effort to learn and grow in this Lenten season? Here's the line up.

Sunday Mornings: "What Does it Mean to be Saved?"

In the Bible a man comes to Jesus and asks, "What must I do to be saved?" This is just one of the many questions about salvation and being saved that have arisen over the centuries. You might also have heard some of these: "What am I saved from?" "Who saves?" "What are we saved for?" "How do I know if I'm saved?" These and many other questions will be discussed from the Biblical, theological, and practical perspectives during the Sundays of Lent in the class "What does it mean to be saved?"

Lent is a time when all of us can stop to reflect on our faith, and we hope you will do just that in Lent of 2014 by joining this unique class on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in Phil's study.

Sunday Evening Small Group: *Testimony: Talking Ourselves Into Being Christian*

Thomas G. Long's wonderful book Testimony: Talking Ourselves Into Being Christian inspires and instructs Christians on the terrifying, fascinating, and ultimately enjoyable task of learning how to talk about what we believe in front of others. Furthermore, he does so without making us feel guilty, shallow, phony, or ostracized. This is not just a shallow "tips for what to say" kind of book, though there are lots of tips here. Mostly, this is a book that helps us clarify our faith to ourselves as well as to others. It's a delightful guide for everyone on a spiritual journey. Even if you don't have the book this small group will provide plenty of wonderful discussion opportunities to help you grow in your faith and practice.

The brand new Sunday Evening Small Group will meet every Sunday in Lent beginning on March 9th at 7:00 p.m. and continuing for six weeks. Our first meeting will be in Phil's office, but we do hope to meet in homes at times as well. You do not have to buy or read the book to come to the small group. Those wishing to buy the book may do so by contacting the church so we can place an order for you, or by contacting your own bookseller of choice. We really hope we'll see you there on Sunday nights!