

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OFFICERS



SESSION AND TRUSTEES BY CLASS AND TERM

Clerk of Session
Janet Hill

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

Class of 2017
Mark Armesto (T) (2)
Lucas Lloyd (1)
Henry Porter (T) (1)
Sue Snyder (1)
Roger Woodard (1)

Class of 2018
John Darby T (1)
Tim Hess (2)
Lauren Hill T (1)
Susan Koepfel (2)
Virginia McIntyre (2)

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

BOARD OF DEACONS BY CLASS AND TERM

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

Class of 2017
Pat Brown (2)
Rebecca Laubenstein (1)
Madeline Mason (1)
Lovelace Quarshie (1)
Olga Rico-Armesto (2)
Nolan Whipple*(1)

Class of 2018
Christina Banas* (1)
Mary Field (1)
Liz Kamke (2)
Sheila Miller (1)
Tina Osei (2)

** Indicates Co-Moderator*



First Presbyterian Church

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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.

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME OCTOBER 4, 2015

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

PRELUDE Prelude on *Ubi caritas* *Gerald Near*

♦CALL TO WORSHIP: *(responsive)*
Taste and see that the Lord is good! **Happy are those who rest in God.**
Come and listen, children of God. **Teach us the way of truth and life.**
Let us depart from evil and do good. **Let us seek peace and pursue it.**

♦HYMN 229 “From All That Dwell Below the Skies” *Laßt uns erfreuen*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(unison)*
God of every people and nation, we confess that we have not lived as global citizens in your new realm of justice and peace. We build up dividing walls in the world. We contribute to division in the church. We ignore the suffering in distant nations and live in fear of our closest neighbors. Forgive us, God of grace. Pour out your Spirit of peace upon us, break down the dividing walls among us, and raise us up to be a holy temple; your temple of peace in the world built on the cornerstone of Jesus Christ, in whose holy name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS *(responsive)*
Once we were strangers and aliens; now we are citizens with the saints and members of the household of God. People of God, hear the good news: 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

LITURGY OF SHARING *Elder Lucas Lloyd*

RECOGNITION OF LITERACY PROGRAM LEADERS

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Psalm 8

OT page 492

ANTHEM O Lord, In Thee Have I Trusted *George F. Handel*
Oh Lord, in Thee have I trusted, let me never be confounded.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Hebrews 1:1-5 & 2:5-12 *NT pages 218-219*

SERMON “Worlds Communing and Worlds Colliding!” *Rev. Dr. Philip S. Gittings*

◇HYMN 513 “Let Us Break Bread Together” *Let Us Break Bread*

THE EUCHARIST

OFFERTORY *Ghanese Choir*

◇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.**

◇PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*responsive*)

Yours, O Lord, are grandeur and power, majesty, splendor, and glory.

All in the heavens and earth is yours, and of your own we give you.

PRESENTATION OF BREADS OF THE WORLD

Leader:

These breads we bring are symbols of the many different peoples within the family of God.

Presenter 1, placing bread on communion table says:

I offer this Spicy Tea Bread in honor of the men and women in Africa, where your church grows rapidly; where a bright mosaic of culture shows the world the vibrancy of your love. May we remember those who struggle with disease, drought, famine and civil wars.

Presenter 2, placing bread on communion table says:

I offer this Pita Bread in honor of the people of the Middle East. The cradle of the church; the birthplace of our Lord; the land we call holy. May we remember those who are trapped in wars where anarchy has replaced tyranny and religion is a tool of oppression.

Presenter 3, placing bread on communion table says:

I offer this Banana Bread in honor of the people of Latin America, where faith is exuberant. Where your church struggles valiantly for the weak and the poor. Lands so rich in the bounties of creation, so misused by outsiders. May we remember those facing violence and poverty.

Presenter 4, placing bread on communion table says:

I offer this Rye Bread in honor of the people of Europe where art, music, and architecture inspire generation upon generation with the beauty and the majesty of your gospel message. May we remember those who face an uncertain future in these countries as refugees and pray for those who have fallen away from faith in you.

Presenter 5, placing bread on communion table says:

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, October 4	World Communion Sunday
9:30 a.m.	Adult Christian Education — Pastor's Study
11:00 a.m.	Worship & Communion, Rev. Dr. Philip S. Gittings preaching — Sanctuary
12:00 p.m.	Fellowship Time — Chapel
6:00 p.m.	Jazz Vespers Potluck — Chapel
7:00 p.m.	Jazz Vespers Service — Chapel
Monday, October 5	Church Closed
Tuesday, October 6	
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Staff Meeting — Pastor's Study
11:00 a.m.	Houghton Service — Chapel
12:30 p.m.	Food Bag Assistance — Historical Hall
4:30 p.m.	Literacy Tutoring Teacher's Meeting — Chapel
Wednesday, October 7	
12:30 p.m.	Bible Study — Pastor's Study
4:30 p.m.	Literacy Tutoring — Chapel
6:30 p.m.	Kleinhans Community Association Meeting — Chapel
7:00 p.m.	Board of Deacons Meeting — Historical Hall
Thursday, October 8	
3:00 p.m.	Native Offerings Crop Share Pickup — Courtyard
7:00 p.m.	Explore Buffalo Fall History Course — Sanctuary
Friday, October 9	
6:00 p.m.	New Neighbors Symposium — Sanctuary
Saturday, October 10	Finn Fest Activities* (all day)
Sunday, October 11	Finn Fest Activities* (all day)
9:30 a.m.	Special Finn Fest Adult Christian Education — Chapel
11:00 a.m.	Worship, Rev. Dr. Philip S. Gittings preaching — Sanctuary
11:15 a.m.	Sunday school — Classrooms
12:00 p.m.	Fellowship Time — Chapel

**Complete details of FinnFest will be published in the October newsletter and on our website this week.*

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl ministry group meets Mondays at 6:30 PM at the Eggertsville-Snyder Library (4622 Main St. in Snyder just past Harlem Rd.) Anyone is welcome, and yarn can be provided. Speak to Ellen Henry or JoAnn Doerr with any questions.

A NOTE FROM ELDER JOHN DARBY

In the same spirit as our successful summertime guest preacher program, the Session thought that it might be fun to arrange a Youth Service that could be developed and presented by our youth on **November 22, 2015**.

Since this is the Sunday before Thanksgiving, the universal topic of Thanksgiving, in all its various forms, seemed like a timely and appropriate theme that our youth could sink their teeth into.

The purpose of this note is to let you know about this service and to see if your child (or children) would be interested in contributing their talents to making this a successful event. There are a variety of different roles that each member of our youth could participate in depending on age and interest, but to make it a really fun event, we need as many youth as possible to say "Yes".

I have volunteered to get this process off the ground and help organize the Sunday service. If you want to participate, I need the following information from you **by October 15, 2015**.

You can send this information to Christina at the Church who will help collate the information for me.

- Child's name:
- Contact information (with a heavy preference on email, please):
- Interest area:

Once we have those identified who want to participate we can begin assigning various roles for the service. In the interests of making this a smooth and well received event, we will need a couple of meetings to bring the event together, so just be

prepared to attend these mandatory meetings if you say "Yes".

I know that my three kids are super excited about this and are already brimming with ideas, and I hope yours will be too!

This is also an opportunity to get the word out to friends and family in the community (with a heavy emphasis on kids who do not attend Church at all or do not attend Church regularly) about this special Sunday and lets see how many new faces we can get to Church on "Youth Day".

I have a bet with Maria Oakley that we can get 50 new kids at this service on November 22, so I will need all of your help to make this a reality and win my bet! **Wouldn't that be great – 50 new kids in Church?!**

PRAYER LIST FOR THE WEEK OF 10/4/15

- For widows and widowers who are dealing with the pain of loss each day.
- For members Gladys Gibbon and Ruth Hunter, who both struggle with chronic pain and other health concerns.
- For Paula Standart as she continues to recover from a second surgery.

I offer these Rice Cakes in honor of the people Asia so vast, so deeply rooted in tradition, where the church deepens our understanding of serenity, and prayer. May we remember those who hunger, lack education and struggle in poverty.

Presenter 6, placing bread on communion table says:

I offer this Wheat Bread in honor of the people of North America, where your church ebbs and grows, where so much affluence hides so much poverty and disease. May we welcome all those who come to our doors in need of food, shelter and God's love.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT THANKSGIVING (*responsive*)

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give God our thanks and praise.**

The Minister continues and then says:

With many tongues, yet with one voice, in the community with the angels we sing:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - - - ly. Lord.

God of pow'r & might. Hea-ven and earth are full of your

glo- ry. Ho - san - - - na in the high - est!

Bless - ed is he who comes in - the

name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est!

The Minister continues and says:

Great is the mystery of faith: **Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

The Minister continues and says:

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are Yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

And now, with the confidence of the children of God, let us pray:

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS & COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (*unison*)

God of all nations, we give you thanks for this feast of your goodness and grace. As you have nourished us in Christ Jesus, send us forth to feed and serve others sharing your peace with the whole community and showing your faithful love in the world; through Jesus Christ, bread of life for all. Amen.

◇HYMN 439 "In Christ There Is No East or West" *St. Peter*

◇CHARGE AND BLESSING (*responsive*) *Rev. Dr. Philip S. Gittings*

The grace of God be with you; The love of Christ be with you; the Spirit's peace be with you here and everywhere, now and forever. **Alleluia!**

Go now into all the world, proclaiming the gospel of peace. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE Fugue in C *Felix Mendelssohn*



Household Prayer: Morning

Help us, God, as we rise this day, to seek out your will as we enjoy the good and suffer through the bad. Prove us, O God, and try us so that we can learn the steps we need to take to follow your ways. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

When I felt like a dejected child, rejected and lost, your comfort surrounded me, and I felt as if I was home. Thank you for your embracing heart, for making me feel special and loved, for helping me up, and for saying that you are my brother, my Savior, my friend. Thank you, Jesus. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2015

Today's Liturgist is Don Houck.

Today's Acolytes are Kofi Osei and Nanayaw Osei.

The flowers in the Chancel are given to the glory of God, and in celebration of Hilary & Beryl Bradford, by Jamey, Caroline & Nellie.

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.

Additional parking is available in the Gateway-Longview lot on Wadsworth Street Sunday mornings from 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM, courtesy of Carl Paladino.

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER UPDATE

Due to some exciting Finn Fest events to be held at First Church that are just being finalized, the October newsletter is a bit delayed. We will publish the newsletter no later than Tuesday of this week. Look for it in your email, online, or call Christina in the Church Office for a hard copy.

PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING

Today our congregation will participate in our denomination's special offering. The enclosed brochure offers more information.

TODAY IS FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY

The first Sunday of the month is designated "Food Pantry Sunday." Donations of canned goods can be placed in 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!

SPECIAL ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Next Sunday, October 11, the 9:30 AM Adult CE class will be led by a representative of the Church of Finland. As part of Finn Fest, this special program titled "The Church of Finland: Alive and Active in a Secular 21st C. Society" will be held in the chapel. This is a very special opportunity that you won't want to miss!

JAZZ VESPERS SERVICES

TONIGHT! Sunday, October 4
6:00 PM Potluck Supper
7:00 PM Worship service with Jazz music
Save the date for the next one on November 1!

FINN FEST VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

An exciting, once in a lifetime festival is coming to Buffalo October 8-12 called "Finn Fest." It's a celebration of Finnish heritage, and First Church is playing a big role. **Visitors from all over the world will be on Symphony Circle for special cultural events on Saturday, October 9 and Sunday, October 10. Many events will take place at First Church on these days. Volunteers are needed to greet visitors, direct cars in the parking lot, and generally be helpful and hospitable. Can you help? If so, please contact Christina Banas in the Church Office.**