



LIGHT FROM THE TOWER

August 2015

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.

Women's Drum Circle

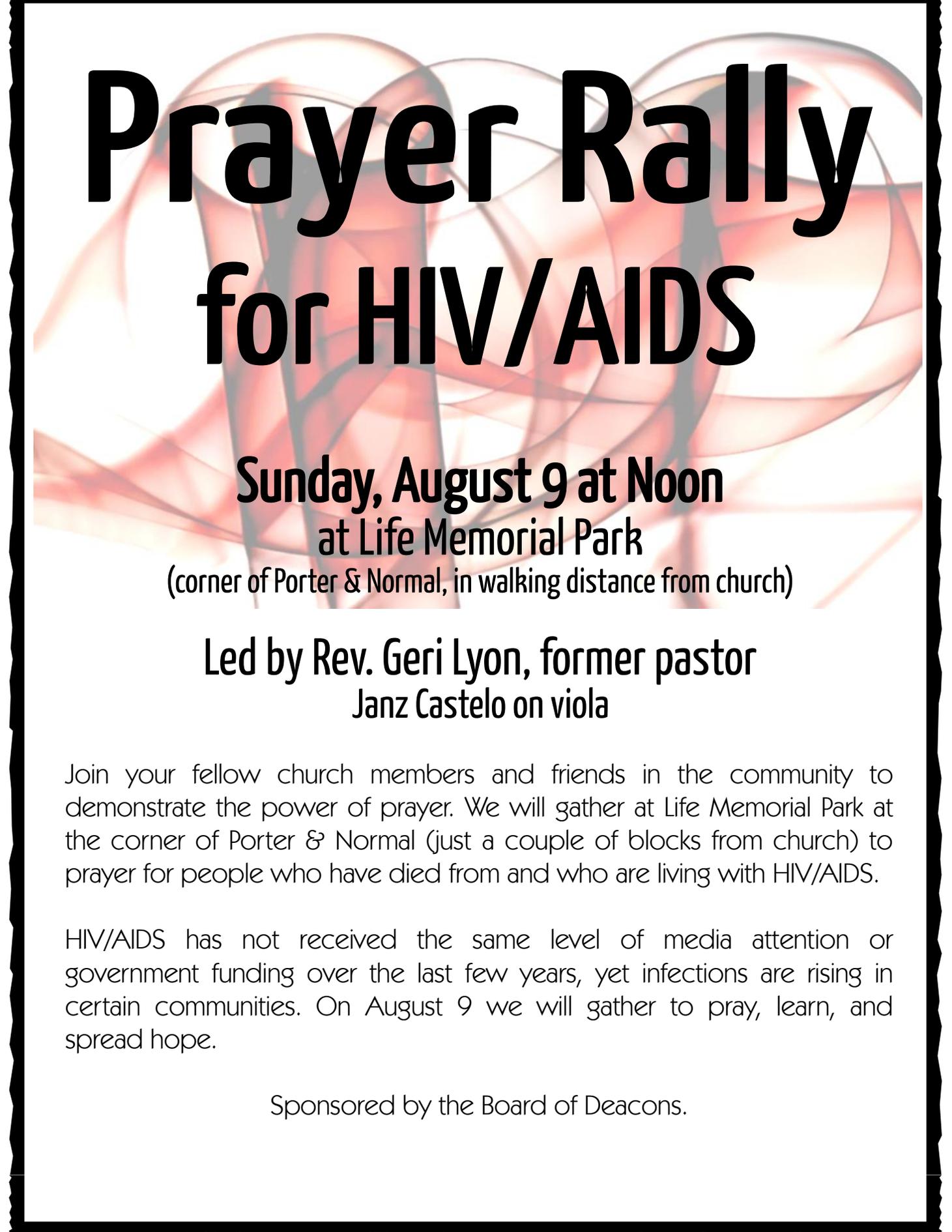


Sunday, August 9 at 4:00 PM

in the Chapel, led by Mary Ellen Carges

Catered supper to follow.

Drums & rattles provided,
but please bring a drum if you have one.

The background of the flyer features a stylized illustration of several hands in shades of red and orange, reaching out to hold a globe. The hands are positioned around the globe, with fingers spread, symbolizing global unity and care. The entire scene is set against a light, warm-toned background.

Prayer Rally for HIV/AIDS

Sunday, August 9 at Noon

at Life Memorial Park

(corner of Porter & Normal, in walking distance from church)

**Led by Rev. Geri Lyon, former pastor
Janz Castelo on viola**

Join your fellow church members and friends in the community to demonstrate the power of prayer. We will gather at Life Memorial Park at the corner of Porter & Normal (just a couple of blocks from church) to prayer for people who have died from and who are living with HIV/AIDS.

HIV/AIDS has not received the same level of media attention or government funding over the last few years, yet infections are rising in certain communities. On August 9 we will gather to pray, learn, and spread hope.

Sponsored by the Board of Deacons.



**AN EPISTLE FROM PHIL
TO ALL THE SAINTS AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BUFFALO**

First, a personal word. Once again I thank God for all of you, for your prayers and continuing help through my recent health issues. I think I am getting to the point where this will be behind me soon, and I continue to gain strength and enjoy my work among you all.

Second, I have a few summertime requests. You decided at an annual meeting several years ago to stay here in the building for the foreseeable future, and to stay together as a congregation. Together we have made some very great strides forward in that process, and we should all thank God for the divine help and guidance we have experienced. However, we are still not finished by any means. And so I prayerfully ask that you make some time this summer to pray about our ministry here at First Presbyterian Church. Even with our forward steps we still need to work harder to build our body of believers up in numbers and commitment. Please pray for our church this summer.

Second, I ask that you pray for one another. The Deacons have been including a weekly prayer list in the worship folder. Whenever you are in church pick someone to pray for that week, and if you have to miss worship then please make it a habit to think of one person you haven't prayed for in a while and lift that person up. It will also help if you tell the person that you are praying for him or her, but even if you can't do that you can at least say the prayers.

Finally, please pray daily—or as often as you can—for the Session, Deacons and Trustees you have called to serve God in your congregation. Both the Session and the Deacons are going through some big reorganizing right now. We are trying to cut down on the number of meetings and try to do more hands on and face to face ministry because we believe that such ministry is necessary for our future. Your prayers will help open us all to the guidance of God in this time.

One last note: We are continuing to seek ways to make the worship experience more meaningful for everyone. In August we will try a few more ideas. Let us know what you think, and what you would like to see in worship here at First Church. What will help you in your prayer life? What will bring you closer to God and what will bring you out to worship more regularly? Anything you can tell us, by note or face to face, will be deeply appreciated.

May God bless us all in this wonderful good old summertime!



Phil Gittings, Interim Pastor



August Worship at First Church



The month of August is a time when, believe it or not, churches often begin to see more visitors. People who have moved in over the summer are beginning to attend local churches to see what congregation God might be calling them to join and serve. Some who have been away from church consider coming back as they anticipate the autumn months that lie ahead. For the month of August we have planned several joyous celebrations for our worship services. We hope you'll join us, and bring someone!

AUGUST 9

Lucas Lloyd, one of our youngest elders, will preach to us on this second Sunday in August. After hearing Maria Oakley and Ryan Nadbrzuch share the gospel as they understand it in June and July we will now get to hear Lucas. These Sundays when our elders preach have already become special moments in the life of our church, and we will be keeping at this throughout the year ahead. Come to hear Lucas. You can be certain God will guide him as he brings the good news to us all.

AUGUST 16

One way to look at our lives is this: "Each of us has an eternity, but we all get to live and die on earth only once!" In Ephesians 5 the passage talks about "redeeming the time" and we will discuss just what it means to redeem time in a world where time moves so quickly that it seems entire lives are lived and over very quickly. And yet time is a special gift from God! So what does God want us to do with our time? And just how can we do it?

AUGUST 23

Some early Christians may have been accused of cannibalism because of Jesus words in John 6 about eating his flesh. But of course we Christians know that he was using a very special image to explain an eternal truth. On August 23 we'll explore this odd image and celebrate the joy of sharing in the bread of life together. Though this is NOT a communion Sunday we will touch and ponder the meaning of the bread for our lives and for our faith.

AUGUST 30

Kirk Laubenstein, brother of our own beloved Rebecca, will share the message with us on the last Sunday of August. Kirk, who is ordained to a specialized ministry as the Executive Director of the Coalition for Economic Justice (CEJ) and works on issues of justice and labor here in Western New York, will be with us as we prepare for Labor Day. Anyone who has ever worked at any kind of labor, whether in a home, an office, a classroom, or on a factory floor, will benefit from sharing worship with us on August 30. Please make a special effort to join together in worship!



Rummage Sale

August 14th & 15th 10a-2p

Women's Association is hosting a Rummage Sale in the basement on Friday, August 14th and Saturday, August 15 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. On Saturday, there will be a Bag Sale for the final hour from 1:00-2:00 PM.

Part One

We need your donations of artwork, dishes, knickknacks, and gently used clothing by August 13th. Donations can be left outside the Church Office.

Part Two

Come browse the sale!

Proceeds benefit the charitable works of Women's Association.

Deacon Prayer List



The Deacons want to know if you are sick, have a joy to share, or need a prayer. The weekly bulletin now contains a prayer list. To be included in the prayer list, please contact a Deacon or the Church Office by Thursday of each week. Your prayer needs may remain anonymous if you wish.

Adult Christian Education

"What's Your Issue?" This summer our Sunday adult class is meeting after church most weeks to discuss various issues that are on the minds of our members. The group will meet in the chapel after worship for about 45-60 minutes and will discuss possible Christian responses to any issue people want to bring to the group. We generally try to do one issue each week, but the group decided so you never know what may happen.

You are always welcome to join the group and put forth your issue or issues for discussion! We'd love to see you! (No class on August 9.)



Hiroshima & Nagasaki Observances

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki during WWII. The following observances are taking place in Buffalo:

Thursday, August 6 at 7 p.m.

The WNY Peace Center will sponsor a presentation by Lawrence Wittner on "How Peace Activists Saved the World from Nuclear War." (1272 Delaware Ave.)

Sunday, August 9 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

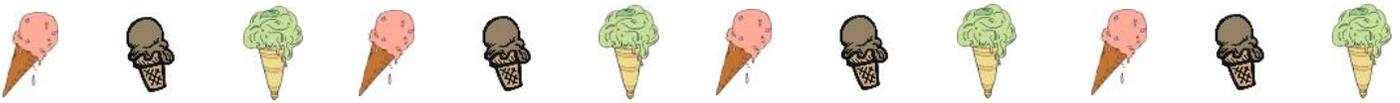
in Delaware Park, next to the Lodge
The Vietnam Veterans Against the War and L.P. Number 9 will host "Remembering the Civilians." There will be a discussion, a picnic and a walk to memorialize the innocent, the civilians, and the non-decision makers killed. We will remember the 20 million who died from starvation and disease as a result of World War I, the millions killed in the Allied bombing of cities during World War II and the 6 to 8 million more that perished in the U.S. bombing of Korea and Indochina during the Cold War.

Sunday, August 9 at 7 p.m.

at the Buffalo History Museum
The Indigenous Women's Initiative and the WNYPC will host a program commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the U.S. bombing of Hiroshima/Nagasaki, Japan. Speakers and dessert by Oliver's will be followed at dusk, 8-8:30 p.m., with an interfaith gathering fostering peace and remembrance, and then Toro nagashi, the floating of lanterns on the lake at the Japanese Gardens behind the History Museum. The lanterns were decorated by children and youth of the Seneca language program as well as by the children of Camp Peaceprints.

News in the Family

- ☆ Congratulations to Rebecca Laubenstein & Nolan Whipple who were married at First Church on August 1st. Best wishes to the happy couple!
- ☆ Christina Banas was published in the online edition of *Presbyterians Today* with an article titled "Love and patience overcoming hopelessness" about one of her animal fostering experiences. It can be found at <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/today/animal-stories/>, and is also posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex.



First Church August Calendar Highlights

Summer Sunday Schedule

10:30 AM	Worship
10:45 AM	Sunday School
11:30 AM	Fellowship Time
11:45 AM	Adult Christian Education

Communion is served the first Sunday of the month.
There is no Sunday school on Communion Sundays.

There will be no Adult Ed. on August 9

Elder Preacher Series: Lucas Lloyd August 9
Guest preacher, Kirk Laubenstein, on August 30

The summer worship schedule runs through
Labor Day weekend.

Weekly Events

Tuesdays

10:30 AM	Staff Meeting
12:30 PM	Food Bag Distribution

Wednesdays

12:30 PM	Bible Study
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Building Use

Thursdays	3-7 PM	Native Offerings Crop Share Pickup
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Committee Meetings

Tues. 8/11	6:30 PM	Christian Education
Wed. 8/12	5:45 PM	Trustees
Wed. 8/19	7:00 PM	Session
Sun. 8/23	12:00 PM	Deacon Planning Retreat

Church Programs/Events

Sun. 8/9	12:00 PM	Prayer Rally
Sun. 8/9	4:00 PM	Women's Drum Circle
Fri. 8/14	10:00 AM	Rummage Sale
Sat. 8/15	10:00 AM	Rummage Sale
Fri. 8/21	September Newsletter Deadline	

SAVE THE DATE!

September 13 New Life Sunday with
Meg Doerzbacher preaching

October 10 & 11
Finn Fest with Kleinhans Music Hall
<http://www.finnfestusa.org/buffalo2015/>
Many activities are being planned at
First Church!

Clerk's Corner

The following business was transacted by Session at its regular meeting on July 22, 2015.

- ✓ Recorded the ordination and installation of Andrew Gaerte as Elder on June 21, 2015 and recognized him as a Trustee beginning June 21, 2015.
- ✓ Granted permission to Rebecca Laubenstein and Nolan Whipple to serve beer and wine at their wedding rehearsal dinner in the chapel on Friday, July 31, 2015 from 7:00 to 9:00 P.M.
- ✓ Agreed to donate the remaining books from the First Church library to the University Women's used book sale.
- ✓ Approved the collection of a free will offering during the July 26th Garden Walk organ recital to benefit One Symphony Circle's tower restoration.
- ✓ Approved the request to permit Rev. Geri Lyon lead the prayer rally planned by the Deacons of First Church for August 9, 2015 in Life Memorial Park.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

One Symphony Circle, Buffalo, NY 14201-1213
(Across from Kleinhans)

Phone: (716) 884-7250 Fax: (716) 884-7253
www.firstchurchbuffalo.org
email@firstchurchbuffalo.org

Twitter: @1stChurchBflo

"Like" us on Facebook:

"First Presbyterian Church of Buffalo, NY"

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.

FIRST CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Philip S. Gittings, *Interim Pastor*
RevPhil@firstchurchbuffalo.org
Voicemail extension: 13

The Reverend John Long, D.D.
Parish Associate for Community Outreach
JohnRLong17@verizon.net

The Reverend Jack Smiley, *Pastor Emeritus*

Dr. David Bond, *Organist/Choirmaster, Bookkeeper*
DBond@firstchurchbuffalo.org
Voicemail extension: 17

Christina Banas, *Business Manager*
CBanas@firstchurchbuffalo.org
Voicemail extension: 11

Meg Doerzbacher, *Christian Education Director*
Meg@firstchurchbuffalo.org
Voicemail extension: 16

Quinton Meyer, *Volunteer Assoc for Pastoral Visitation*
Meyer405@aol.com

Liz Kamke, *Outreach Assistant*
EKSK476@gmail.com

Tom Hollfelder, *Custodian/Security Guard*

Church Office, extension 10

Weddings, extension 15
weddings@firstchurchbuffalo.org

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 Koeppel (2)
Virginia McIntyre (2)

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

(T) indicates that the Elder has also been elected to serve as a Trustee.

**To reach Rev. Dr. Philip S. Gittings,
Interim Pastor,
call 884-7250, ext. 13 (Office)
548-0466 (Cell)**
**To reach Quinton Meyer,
Volunteer Associate for Pastoral
Visitation
909-2259 (Cell)**

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY	Closed
TUESDAY	9 AM to 4 PM
WEDNESDAY	9 AM to 4 PM
THURSDAY	9 AM to 4 PM
FRIDAY	9 AM to 4 PM