



LIGHT FROM THE TOWER

November 2014

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



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

During the last month our worship services focused on the theme of “Counting Our Blessings.” We have celebrated the abundance that God showers upon us every day. We also recognized that much of our abundance consists in the wonderful relationships we share with family, friends, and here at First Presbyterian Church.

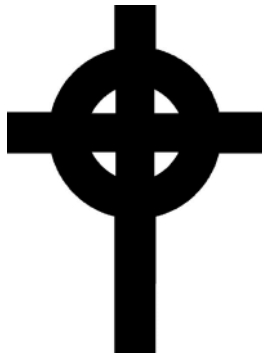
In just a few weeks we’ll stop everything for one day to give thanks! The Thanksgiving holiday is very special for many of us. We join family and friends, enjoy a feast, talk about everything under the sun and lots of other activities. On Thanksgiving, everything we do is an act of thanksgiving for all God’s blessings. Even the act of eating the meal gives thanks as you enjoy the smell and taste of turkey, stuffing, yams, and all the rest of your Thanksgiving treats.

We counted our blessings in October! November worship services will focus on ways to be thankful, ways we can show our gratitude, for the blessings. There are lots of ways we can give thanks. We give thanks when we pray around our Thanksgiving table. Everyone knows that. But there are also actions that can give thanks, just in the doing. Few of us think about the idea that shared laughter can be a way of giving thanks; sitting in a committee meeting trying to help the ministry of the church can be a way of giving thanks; sharing a hug with someone who needs it is a great way to give thanks. Giving our tithes and offerings is a way to give thanks.

There are many ways to give thanks. In November we’ll prepare for Thanksgiving by naming as many ways as we can possibly think of— ways to give thanks.

I give thanks for you!

Phil Gittings



WORSHIP IN NOVEMBER

November is a month of special Sundays here at First Presbyterian Church. We begin with the observance of All Saints, proceeds through the celebration of Christ the King and the joy of Thanksgiving, and ends with the first Sunday of Advent. We are going to have some wonderful experiences with God as we ponder our “Acts of Thanksgiving” in November.

November 9:

“Giving Thanks By Staying Ready” will be the theme of the sermon from Matthew 25:1-13 on November 9. Worship on that morning will focus on the ways we can be ready for whatever God is doing in our midst and for our future.

November 16:

In a sermon entitled “Returning Interest and Returning Thanks” based on Matthew 25:14-30 we’ll hear how our giving and our use of God’s gifts can be acts of thanksgiving. November 16 will also be our annual Stewardship Commitment Sunday so we’ll give thanks by making pledges for the next year of our ministry the God has given us to do.

November 23:

Three Scriptures, Psalm 100, Matthew 25:31-46 and Ephesians 1:15-23 will be the texts for our worship on the Sunday we celebrate Thanksgiving as well as Christ the King/Reign of Christ! Singing favorite songs of gratitude will put us in the mood to give thanks; a wonderful prayer of thanksgiving will help us unite our hearts before God; our united hearts will testify to God the height, breadth, and depth of our gratitude.

November 30:

The First Sunday in Advent begins our journey toward Christmas together. We’ll start right off with a hymn sing so you get in the real spirit of the season by singing your favorite Christmas hymns. Watch for more details of the Advent season in upcoming bulletins and in the next newsletter.

NEW MEMBERS’ CLASSES

New Members classes will be held on Sundays, November 2, 9, and 16 after worship in the Pastor’s Study. If you are interested in attending, contact Phil Gittings at 884-7250, x 13 or revphil@firstchurchbuffalo.org.



Stewardship Reflections

Give, Give, Give

By Elder Virginia McIntyre

In a second grade religion class, a young girl wrote a letter to God on which she asked... "ARE YOU RICH OR JUST FAMOUS?"

Perhaps this child's question was inspired by the television show called "Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous" which portrayed the "good life" in terms of ornate mansions, fancy clothes, expensive jewelry, big cars, sumptuous dining and lavish vacations. "The rich and famous, they've got it all, so eat your heart out" the show said in effect to the not so rich and famous.

Jesus said to his disciples; "What gain, then, is it for a man to win the whole world and ruin his Life?" (Mk 8:35-36) What gain, then, for the person whose number one priority in life is defined by money and things? What gain, then, for the person who treasures easy living above extravagant giving?

In Mathew's Gospel, the emphasis on giving is the hallmark of Christian living comes at the very beginning of Jesus's life on earth. In his description of the nativity Scene, Mathew writes:

"After Jesus had been born in Bethlehem...some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east... And there in front of them was the star that had seen rising: it went forward and halted over a place where the Child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the Child with His mother Mary...Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts (MT 2: 1, 9-12)

The wise men's gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh were, of course, symbolic of their innermost, heartfelt response to the coming of the Christ Child.

It was not the prospect of easy living that led them to the Bethlehem stable. On the contrary, they had endured a long and difficult journey just to get there and, upon their arrival, they were warned of the life-threatening danger they faced from King Herod because of their self-giving response to the Newborn King.

There once was a farmer who was well known for his generosity. His friends could not understand how he could give so much and yet remain to give even more. "We cannot understand how you do it" they said. "You give far more than any of the rest of us, and yet you always seem to have more to give." To which the farmer replied, "Oh that is easy to explain. You see, I keep

shoveling into God's bin, and God keeps shoveling back into mine---and God has the bigger shovel. John Bunyan put it this way: A man there was and they called him mad, the more he gave, the more he had.

It's a strange paradox, but it is the Christian paradox; we are successful as Christians not to the degree to which we find ways for our own ego to be pumped up, but to the degree that we identify with the needs of others for the love of Christ. Do you identify with those who give money ---perhaps even in large sums---out of a sense of obligation, in a manner which suggests that the gift is being extracted from them? Or do you identify with those whose one concern is to give everything to God because He has given everything to them?

Can you, deep within yourself, say, "Yes! The gift of God's love is so good for me, so life- enhancing for me, that I will put every part of my being, my whole self into my response. I will let the Holy Spirit baptize my TIME, my SKILLS, my FEELINGS, my MIND, my BODY, as I offer them to God in the service of others. Yes, even my money."

Whether it be directly to someone in need or to the Church, the quantity of the gift is important. But what is most important is the quality ...of the giver. We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give. It isn't your position that brings you joy, it is your disposition.

In a book called "The Kingdom Within" the author John Sanford, writes of his boyhood summers in an old New Hampshire farmhouse. The dwelling was over 150 years old and had never been modernized. Consequently, the family lived their summers without the benefit of modern plumbing and electricity. The water supply came from an old well. The pure, cold water it supplied was a joy to drink on hot summer days. The well always ran faithfully, even in periods of drought. Then time came when the house was modernized. Electricity and running water were installed. The kerosene lamps were discarded. The old faithful well was abandoned in favor of an artisan well. "Things remained so for several years," says the author.

Until one day, moved by curiosity and old loyalties, I determined to uncover the old well to inspect its condition. As I moved the cover, I fully expected to see the same dark, cool, moist depths I had known as a boy. But I was





due for a shock, for the well was bone dry.

It took many inquiries on my part the author continued, to understand what had happened. A well of this kind is fed by hundreds of tiny underground rivulets along which seep a constant water supply. As the water is drawn from the well, more water moves into it along the rivulets, keeping the tiny apertures clear and open. Our well, which had not run without failing for so many years was dry... not because there was no water, but because it had not been used.

That is why Christianity is give...give...give. The supply of God's grace that Jesus brings into our lives is never exhausted. The living waters of God's Gift of Love never cease to flow. But our souls can dry up—from non-use. If we are not, as a matter of lifestyle, gathering joyfully at the well with our neighbors, drawing on it, using it, sharing in its living waters, it will dry up.

"I have revealed Your Name...so that Your love for ME may live in them and I may live in them" Jesus prayed to the Father. Jesus wants in. Jesus wants to refresh and enrich your life with the living waters of God's Love. Don't cover up the well-head of your soul. Be an extravagant giver. Be a joyful Christian giver. GIVE,GIVE,GIVE, and your soul will never run dry.

In a rural church, the local grain elevator manager was asked to become the parish treasurer, and he agreed on condition that no questions would be asked about finances for one full year. The congregation agreed, since most of them did business with him and he was a trusted man in the community. At the end of the year, the treasurer gave his report:

"The Church debt of 430,000 had been paid. The staff salaries had been increased by 10%. The mission payments had increased by 200%. All major repairs to the church building had been made. There were no outstanding bills. There was a cash balance of \$30,000.

Immediately, the shocked congregation asked, "How did you do it?" Where did the money come from? And the treasurer answered quietly: "Most of you bring your grain to my elevator. Throughout the year, I simply withheld 10 percent on your behalf and gave the proceeds to the church, in your name. You didn't even miss it!"

Christ-like love is an extravagant love. Jesus wants in! Jesus wants to bring God's extravagant love into your life and, through you, into the lives of others. Whether or not this is happening in your life depends on your answer to these two questions: Are you extravagant with your love? Does your extravagance bring joy in your life?

Yes as a church we have made progress in our financial situation, but we are not there yet! This is a crucial year as we decide if we met our financial goals or venture off to new places. I know from conversations with many that tithing convictions have taken place and there is room for improvement in this arena. I trust that you will all become extravagant givers of your money, time and talent to our great church. I trust that you will take a seat in worship and participate in corporate praise to our God for all of your abundance and meet all our visitors! I too, like Lauren Hill stated in her sermon have hope for our future!. However, your extravagant giving is needed.

Why Giving a Tithe is a Joy to Me

Minute for Mission, October 19, 2014, by Elder Lucas Lloyd

Good morning. I am here to share with you about why giving a tithe to the church is a joy to me.

A tithe is ten percent of one's gross income, offered as a gift to the church. Each week, when I receive my pay statements, one of the first things I do is to determine what my total gross pay is for the week from all my sources of income, and then what ten percent of that will be, and then to write out a check for that amount to this church. And writing out that check is a joy.

Most people think of tithing as being part of the Law. But actually tithing is a principle that is more basic than the Law, and its examples in Scripture predate Moses by several centuries. When Abram – before he had even gotten his name changed to Abraham, but while he was still in his

earliest days of trying to follow God; he had left behind his home, and was trying to make a new life for himself in a strange land, the land of God's promises, and his nephew Lot had been captured by marauders from an enemy nation; Abram gathered up his own family and resources and chased and fought that band of marauders, and with God's help, had rescued his nephew and restored the city – when Abram was met after the battle by Melchizedek, the mysterious King-Priest of the Most High (you're not supposed to be both a King and a Priest, but he was), from a land called Peace (a translation of Melchizedek's land, Salem), who seemed to come out of nowhere with the blessings of God spoken upon Abram's life, and then disappear again just as mysteriously – when Abram had received these blessings from him, he gave to





Melchizedek ten percent of everything he owned. (Genesis 14:18-20; Hebrews 7:1-10) And when Abraham's grandson Jacob, long before he'd had his name changed to Israel – his life was in an even greater mess of uncertainty than Abram's had been, on the run from his brother, had never yet even met God, was trying to find a wife, was trying to make sense of his own life – when he first met with God, as God appeared to him in a dream on a hard, desert road, and God promised to *be with him*, and to give him the promises of his forefather Abraham, and not to leave him until He had fulfilled these promises in His life – Jacob swore that if God would do that for him, if God would *be with him* and *keep him* and bring him back to his own land, that he would surely give back to God ten percent of everything that God would give to him. (Genesis 28:10-22) And so, when Moses came around, God had him put that ten percent rule into the Law; but the principle of the ten percent return is actually more basic and foundational than the Law, and says something about why even now, in the New Testament era, churches throughout the centuries have been filled with people who experience the blessings of giving a tithe to the Lord.

Now, even though the concept is Scriptural, I didn't actually learn it from Scripture. I learned it from my family. We were never wealthy people in the sense that modern culture views it: we never had large sums in the bank account, or invested in the stock market. There were times when Dad was out of work, or was supporting our family of six doing odd jobs. Yet there was never any sense of poverty, or fear about where our next meal would come from. We always, always had enough. And my parents never questioned whether or not they would give the tithe. It was just part of it. So once I began earning money of my own, even as a teenager, I tithed, because I wanted to experience the same sense of joy and peace and trust that I saw throughout my childhood in my parents. So why is giving a tithe such a joy to me? As I now understand it, there are two main reasons:

Giving a tithe is a 90% gift to me. Here's what I mean by that: Giving a tithe changes my perspective on everything that I have. Along with the ten percent theme, there is another theme throughout the Scriptures called the "firstfruits." And the basic concept is this: *We give a part to sanctify the whole.* As long as what I have is simply something that I've earned, then I feel the need to cling to it, to clutch onto it, and to fear the letting go of it. In that state, nothing that I have can be used by God. But when God begins to pry my fingers off of what I own, when I can let it go and breathe and have life, that's when it becomes a blessing, both to me and to all those around me.

Here's another way to look it: Giving a tithe reminds me from whom all good things come, and to whence all good things must go. It teaches me to view what I have as a gift from God. It compels me to confess the abundance of God, and to be thankful. Did I work to earn these things? Yes, mostly. But how did I get the opportunities to work? The abilities to work? Who brought me to this place? Who brought into my path the resources I depend on? All comes from the Lord. And it teaches me that what I've been given is not for my benefit alone, but also for those around me. Tithing is a training ground for generosity.

Giving ten percent of one's earnings is a huge deal – that's probably a higher percentage than any of us would allocate to any other one thing in our lives, except maybe the rent or the mortgage! So it's sacrificial. But it's also a joy, because every time I write that check, I am reminded of how much God has given to me. That's the cool part about giving a percentage. When the tithe check is large, I get a thrill, because I have to exclaim, "Look at how God is blessing me!" And on weeks when the tithe check is smaller, it reminds me to be thankful that no matter the situation, God continues to provide.

Giving my tithe helps me participate more fully in the mission of the church. This church does many, many things. Now, it's important for us to give of our time and our talents, our callings – in fact, it's crucial! But we cannot be a part of everything the church is doing – we don't have the time, nor the talents to do everything. But when we give, consistently and sacrificially, we help the church carry out all of its many ministries, and we become personally invested.

Our world is changing rapidly. Our communities are changing. This city is changing! Our church will also change. We are going to have opportunities to take part in all that God is doing new in our world and right here in Buffalo. And I give because I want to be part of it – not just by doing what I love to do and can do well, but also by being financially invested in the overall life of the church and all its ministries.

In conclusion: Giving my tithe is a joy to me because it blesses me, and because it blesses the world around me. Thank you.





Adult Education Opportunities

Adult Sunday School - 9:30 a.m. each Sunday:

In November, we continue with the study of C.S. Lewis's Mere Christianity. C. S. Lewis was a famous author and teacher whose series The Chronicles of Narnia is extremely popular. Lewis also wrote some very good non-fiction books on Christianity and on Christian themes. Mere Christianity may be the most famous of these books, and justifiably so. Our Adult Sunday School class meets every week to discuss this book. The concepts there are central to our faith, and reading Lewis is a good way to take the next steps on your faith journey. Even if you don't have time to do all the reading we hope you'll join us however. This is a great group to join, and they'd love to welcome you.

Young Adult Small Group Study:

Meeting once a month our Young Adult group has been a wonderful experience for our congregation. These people are already leaders in our ministry and mission efforts, and have actually read significant portions of the theology of John Calvin together. Now they are studying Brian MacLaren's book Why Did Jesus, Moses, the Buddha and Mohammed Cross the Road. It is a wonderful exploration of how we can be Christians in a world full of different religions. He tackles the questions of how we should relate to people of other faiths, what evangelism and mission mean in the new world we live in, and he gives many great ideas that will help us all along the road of our spiritual journey. The next gathering is Thursday, November 6 at 7:00 PM at Lauren Hill's home.

Wednesday Afternoon Adult Bible Study:

At 1:00 p.m. each Wednesday a group of very interesting people gather to study the Scriptures together. Focusing on the Gospel of Matthew for the present time, we are talking about the life of Christ and what Matthew has to tell us about our Savior. No outside reading is necessary as we read the passages together and share our thoughts, questions, and interpretations. This long standing group is always open to sharing with more people so please join us if you can. We'd love to see you.

"Financial Fast" Discussion Series:

Back by popular demand, join your First Church family on a Financial Fast. Led by Elder Lauren Hill, this discussion will take place after worship on Sundays, November 2, 9, and 16. We will explore the history of fasting within our faith and begin a 21 day fast to understand our finances, what motivates our financial decisions, break the habit of overspending, budget properly, handle money with a partner, learn how to handle debt, save for the future and stop worrying about money. This is a class for financial beginners and those who already know a thing or two about the financial world. We will use the book The Power to Prosper by Michelle Singletary, author of the nationally syndicated "The Color of Money" column.



*Our senior members are cordially invited to attend a special worship service on **Sunday, November 9** at 11:15 AM during which our senior members will be celebrated and honored. A special coffee hour will follow.*

Sponsored by the Board of Deacons



Fall Food Drive

The Sunday School children decorated grocery bags for our Fall Food Drive. Please take one home and fill it with non-perishable food items from this accompanying list. Bags may be returned any Sunday in November.





Christian Education Good News

Matthew 28:19-20a: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you."

I recently had the privilege, along with a few other members of First Church, of hearing Rodger Nishioka speak at the Faithful Leadership conference sponsored by the Discipleship and Nurture Ministry Team of the Presbytery of Western New York. Rodger is currently the Benton Family Professor of Christian Education at Columbia Theological Seminary. If anyone knows anything about making disciples, it is Rodger! He has dedicated his whole ministry to Christian Education.

Of the many things he talked about, one of the most interesting was the changing trends in our world that are impacting the church and the way we *make disciples*. He talked about how we need to move from a model of being disciples to being apostles. The difference is that disciples are learners who follow the Teacher around, trying to be like him. Apostles are disciples who are "sent out"; in other words, sent out into the world to teach what Jesus taught them. In reflecting on this idea, I was concerned. How can we be apostles when, truthfully, we probably haven't completed the job of becoming disciples? Coming from the Presbyterian tradition, my concern was that we be fully prepared before trying to go out into the world and put our faith into practice. I had an opportunity to ask Dr. Nishioka about this, and his answer surprised me.

Dr. Nishioka reminded me that when Jesus sent his disciples out to preach the good news in Matthew 12, they had only just begun their education with him. They really don't know much about who Jesus was and had only spent a little time learning from him. But Jesus, as the ultimate Teacher, knew that they would learn as they went, better than they would by just sitting by his side and listening to him. Indeed, in Matthew chapter 7, Jesus had said that those who heard his words but did not act on them would be foolish, while those who heard his teachings AND acted on them would be like a wise man who built his house on a rock foundation.

In other words, if we truly want to be disciples of Jesus, we need to go out into the world and put what we have learned into practice. Jesus knows that we learn best by doing, not just hearing and seeing. These same principles of education are used by our greatest scholars, like Dr. Nishioka, who are seeking to make disciples today. The truth is, when we try to put our faith into practice, we find out what we still need to learn, and become more motivated to do so.

In the final verses of the gospel according to Matthew, Jesus does NOT say that we should simply study his teachings. The words he uses are *action* words – "go", "make", "teach", "obey". As we consider what it means to be followers of Jesus Christ, may we remember that to "follow" means that we must "go".

- Meg Doerzbacher,
Christian Education Director



November Acolytes

November 9 ToRei PawWah

November 23 Mark Juan Armesto

November 16 Nanayaw Osei

November 30 Evelyn Akiwumi



Raising Spiritually Healthy Children: Stewardship

According to the American Heritage College Dictionary, stewardship is the act of managing another's property, finances, or other affairs. As Christians, we believe that we are stewards of everything that God has given us; and this is, truly, *everything*. If stewardship is such an all-encompassing concept, how can we begin to teach it to our children?

Kathleen Long Bostrom says that "living a life of stewardship begins with seeing everything as first and foremost belonging to God." So, the first way we can teach stewardship is to talk to our children about how God has provided for the things in our lives, and created everything in our environment. Showing our children that we are grateful for all that God has created and given us is an important first step.

We can also talk to them about how we take care of the things – and especially the people – that God has given us. One of the most important gifts that we must manage is our time. It is the one and only way that every human being is exactly the same – each one of us has exactly the same amount of time in each day. How we choose to spend that time speaks volumes about how much we value God's gifts – and our children are very much aware of how we spend our time. Even if it is only a few minutes each day, we can make a significant difference for the Kingdom of God by making wise choices in how we use our time. Some examples are:

- ☆ Taking a few extra minutes to talk to a friend who is in need
- ☆ Making time to pray with our children
- ☆ Spending a little extra time thinking about how our daily activities impact the environment

When our children see us spend even a few minutes doing things that demonstrate appreciation and care for the gifts God has given us, they learn how to be good stewards themselves.



First Presbyterian Church of Buffalo offers nursery services for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers up to age 4. Our nursery workers, Cassondra Sheriff and Kayra Clark are experienced and equipped to care for the little ones. However, we do ask that you follow these guidelines when using the nursery:

- complete a nursery registration form for each of your children
- provide supplies such as diapers, wipes, snacks or drinks your child may need
- please keep your little one at home if they are sick

We try to make coming to the nursery a fun, friendly, and comfortable experience for your child, so they learn that coming to church is a great thing! If you have any questions, please contact Meg Doerzbacher at 884-7250, ext. 16 or meg@firstchurchbuffalo.org.



Moms Group

Are you the mother of young or school-aged children who could use some grown-up fellowship time?

If so, please contact Erica Wichtowski at erica080880@yahoo.com or Meg Doerzbacher at meg@firstchurchbuffalo.org.

We are hoping to plan an event soon!

VIVA VIVALDI FESTIVAL XXXVI & VICARIOUS VISIONARIES

CONCERT 1

SUN · NOV 9
6:30

St. Benedict
Roman Catholic Church
1317 Eggert Road at Main Street • Buffalo, NY 14226

CONCERT 2

SUN · NOV 16
6:30

First Presbyterian Church
1 Symphony Circle • Buffalo, NY 14201

CONCERT 3

SUN · NOV 23
6:30

Trinity Episcopal Church
371 Delaware Avenue • Buffalo, NY 14202

CONCERT 4

SUN · NOV 30
6:30

Blessed Sacrament
Roman Catholic Church
1035 Delaware Avenue • Buffalo, NY 14209

Ars Nova Musicians
Chamber Orchestra

Marylouise Nanna, Conductor & Music Director

ADMISSION: \$12

arsnovamusicians@aol.com • arsnovamusicians.com

RED BLAZER MEN'S CHORUS

The members of the The Red Blazer Men's Chorus cordially invite you to honor our veterans and currently serving members of the military by attending our annual Tribute to Veterans Concert to be held on **Saturday, November 8** at 4:00 p.m. This year the concert will be presented at the Montante Cultural Center (on the campus of Canisius College), 2001 Main St, Buffalo, NY, 14208. Tickets are \$10 but military personnel (both veterans and those currently serving) are admitted free. Free parking across Main St. in the Lyons Hall lot. Tickets can be purchased from any Chorus member. You can also call 716-875-2958 to reserve tickets.

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

Women's Book group will meet on **Thursday, December 4** at 6:00 p.m. for a pot luck meal, Christmas book exchange, and to discuss the book The Obituary Writer by Ann Hood. The gathering will be at Ingrid Meyer's home





First Church Calendar Highlights

Sunday Morning Schedule

9:30 AM	Adult Christian Education
11:15 AM	Worship
11:30 AM	Sunday School
12:15 PM	Fellowship Time

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

Additional Sunday Events

November 2, 9, and 16

12:30 PM	Financial Fast Discussion Series
12:30 AM	New Members' Classes

November 30—1st Sunday of Advent

Please note

Tuesday, November 11, Veterans' Day,
is a staff holiday.

Weekly Events

Mondays

6:30 PM	Prayer Shawl Ministry at the Eggersville-Snyder Library
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Tuesdays

10:30 AM	Staff Meeting
12:30 PM	Food Bag Distribution
4:30 PM	Literacy Tutoring

Wednesdays

1:00 PM	Bible Study
4:30 PM	Literacy Tutoring

Building Use

Thursdays	3-7 PM	Native Offerings Crop Share Pickup
Sun. 11/16	6:30 PM	Ars Nova "Viva Vivaldi" (various rehearsals the week before)

Committee Meetings

Tues. 11/4	5:30 PM	Worship & Music
Tues. 11/4	7:00 PM	Lands & Buildings
Sun. 11/9	12:30 PM	Deacons
Tues. 11/11	6:30 PM	Christian Education
Wed. 11/12	5:45 PM	Trustees
Thurs. 11/13	6:00 PM	One Symphony Circle
Wed. 11/19	7:00 PM	Session
Wed. 12/3	6:00 PM	P&A
Wed. 12/3	7:00 PM	Church Life

Church Programs/Events

Thurs. 11/6	7:00 PM	McLaren Gathering
Sun. 11/9	11:15 AM	Senior Recognition
Wed. 11/19		December Newsletter Deadline
Thurs. 12/4	6:00 PM	Women's Book Club at Ingrid Meyer's home

Save the Date!

Sun. 12/14	12:30 PM	Women's Association Dickens Celebration
Sun. 12/21	11:15 AM	Children's Christmas Pageant

Sunday Morning Nursery Care

First Church offers nursery services for infants and children up through age four. The nursery is located on the second floor of Allen Hall and is available from 9:30 AM until the end of worship on Sunday mornings. Our paid nursery workers are safe and reliable and love children! Please feel free to use this service on Sunday mornings!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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(Across from Kleinhans)

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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

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RevPhil@firstchurchbuffalo.org
Voicemail extension: 13

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Parish Associate for Community Outreach
JohnRLong17@verizon.net

The Reverend Jack Smiley, *Pastor Emeritus*

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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 2015

Jean Hess (2)
Tim Hess (1)
Janet Hill (T) (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)

Class of 2017

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

BOARD OF DEACONS BY CLASS AND TERM

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)

Class of 2017

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

(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 3 PM
WEDNESDAY	9 AM to 12 PM
THURSDAY	9 AM to 3 PM
FRIDAY	9 AM to 12 PM