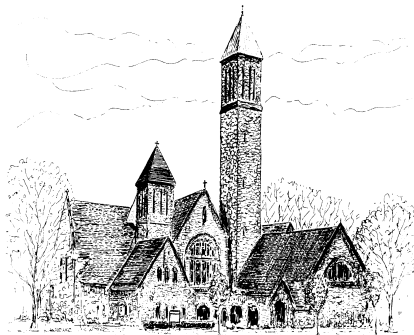


First Presbyterian Church

Founded 1812





First Presbyterian Church

One Symphony Circle ▪ Buffalo, New York 14201-1213
(716) 884-7250 ▪ email@firstchurchbuffalo.org
www.firstchurchbuffalo.org

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.

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

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MAY 5, 2024

PRELUDE

Prelude on *Capel*

Leo Sowerby

WELCOME & NEWS OF THE COMMUNITY

◇CALL TO WORSHIP

Based on Psalm 98; written by Carol Prickett

We come to join with all the earth in praise:
**to sing a new song to the Lord, who has done marvelous things,
who has shown us steadfast love and faithfulness.**

We praise the Lord with joyful noises joining the symphony of the earth:
**The roar of the ocean, the call of the birds, the wind across the hills,
people in every corner of the globe.**

On the Sabbath day of rest and gladness,
we greet you with joy, our living God!

◇HYMN 455

“All Creatures of Our God and King”

Lasst Uns Erfrueun

◇PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray:

Thirsty, we come to you. Faint, we lean on you.

Meditating, we dwell in you. Wing-shadowed, we sing to you.

Turn to us in our need with your abundant grace.

Gift us as we worship with a fragrant blessing of Spirit. **Amen.**

◇CONFESSION AND PARDON

There is nothing that can separate us from God’s love. Therefore, let us confess our sins, trusting that God will forgive us and help us transform our lives.



Lord, have mer-cy up-on us. Christ, have mer-cy up-on us. Lord, have mer-cy up-on us.

Let us pray:

Loving God, we have not loved you or each other with our whole hearts. Forgive us, we pray, and lead us toward wholeness, that we may be filled with your joy. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Christ loves us so much that he laid down his life for us and calls us his friends. If we can forgive our friends, how much more does Christ forgive us!

◇ CANTICLE

“Glory to the Father”

Richard Wetzel

Glo - ry to the Fa - ther and
to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it, as in the be -
gin - ning, so now, and for - ev - er. A - men.

◇ PASSING OF THE PEACE

In Jesus Christ, we know God's forgiveness and peace. Let us share that peace with one another. The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Come, Holy Spirit, that through your word we may be guided into the love of God for all the world. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Acts 10:44-48

NT page 130

ANTHEM

Rejoice in the Lord

Alfred V. Fedak

Rejoice in the Lord always. And again I say rejoice! Let your gentleness be known by all peoples, for the Lord is near. Do not fear or be anxious, but pray and give thanks to God in all things, and the peace of God that passes understanding will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, think on these things: whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are noble, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, think on these things. And the God of peace will be with you. Amen.

—Philippians 4:4-8

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: John 15:9-17

NT page 109

SERMON

“Love. It's All We Need”

Rev. Leslie Latham

◇ HYMN 507

“I Come with Joy”

Dove of Peace

THE EUCHARIST

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Let us show our friendship with Christ and our love for our neighbors by giving generously so that we may bear the lasting fruit of Christ's love. Let us give our tithes and offerings.

OFFERTORY

O Sacred Feast

Healey Willan

O Sacred Feast, wherein Christ is received, the memory of His Passion is renewed in us, our souls are filled with grace, and the pledge of everlasting glory is given unto us. Alleluia.

◇ DOXOLOGY

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

Holy God, in Christ you have chosen us to be your friends and to know your will in the world. Therefore, we pray in Jesus' name that these tithes and offerings spread your love near and far. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT THANKSGIVING

This is the joyful feast of the people of God. **We have come from east and west.**

We have come from north and south **To feast at our Lord's table.**

When our risen Lord was at table with his disciples, he took bread and blessed it and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him.

Who can come to this table?

Our Savior invites all those who trust him to come to this table.

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.**

Why do we give thanks at this table?

We give thanks for God's creation, and for making us in God's image. We give thanks because God never gave up on us, even when we were not faithful to God.

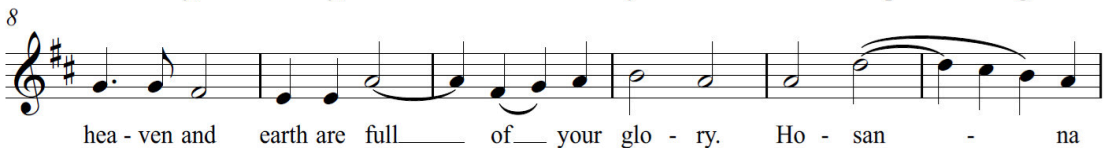
We give thanks because when it was time, God sent his Son Jesus, to show God's love for us.

How do we praise God for all this?

With all the faithful of every time and place, we sing to God's glory:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord. God of pow'r and might.



8
hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na

14

in the high - est! Bless - ed _____ is he who comes _____ in the

20

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

What do we remember at this table?

We remember God’s Son, Jesus;

He healed the sick and restored sight to the blind;

He welcomed strangers and ate with outcasts.

Dying on the cross, he saved us from our sin; Risen from the dead, he gives us new life.

Why do we eat bread at this table?

Jesus took bread, blessed it, and gave it to his friends.

Why do we drink from the cup at this table?

Jesus gave them the cup as the promise that our sins are forgiven.

But this just everyday bread and juice.

Let us pray that the everyday bread and juice will become holy:

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.

By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ, that we may be one with all who share this feast, united in ministry in every place. As this bread is Christ’s body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

As Christ’s body sent to serve the world you so love, O God, we lift before you our prayers for the church, the world, and all in need, saying, “God in your mercy,” and responding with, “Hear our prayer.”

Gracious God, grant that when we are called, we may faithfully serve, strengthened and renewed at this table.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, O God, now and forever. Amen.

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

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.

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Eternal God, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the sacrament of his body and blood. Send us now into the world in peace and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart, through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

◇HYMN 543

“Abide with Me”

Eventide

◇CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Festival Voluntary

Flor Peeters

Household Prayer: Morning

Holy One, I begin today breathing in your love for me, for others, and for the world. Keep me mindful of all the marvelous things you are doing around and within me today. Help me to feel my friendship with Jesus and his confidence in me. Maintain in my heart the image of myself as a tree, bearing the fruit of Christ’s love everywhere I go today. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

God, you are both judge and friend. Even as I review my day, I give it over to you. I let go of the good, the bad, and the in-between, trusting in your care for me. I am content this night to abide in your love. I breathe in your joy and your peace. Whatever I need, I ask of you in Jesus’ name. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2024

Today's liturgist is Pat Frey.

COFFEE HOUR

Please join us for coffee hour after worship today.

THE UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY

"The Undiscovered Country" Preparing for Our Final Passage

Church Life will be offering several opportunities for conversation surrounding our ends of life.

Topics will include:

- Wills and end of life directives
- End of life care: physical, spiritual, and the like
- How to talk plainly with your family about your wishes, and how to plan your Service of Witness to the Resurrection
- What to do with your stuff

See the full announcement on the next page for dates and topics.

CHURCH LIFE EVENTS

Save the date—June 9th after church. There will be a 'thank-you' party for David in the community room.

Save the date for Shakespeare in Delaware Park—Sunday, July 28, 2024. Church Life has reserved the event platform for the evening. Cost will be \$10 per person to cover the rental. Details regarding payment, time, etc., will follow closer to the date.

JOYS & CONCERNS

- For Gregg and Anna Kay.
- For Johanna & Terry, living with dementia.
- For Alan and Bob, residing in a skilled nursing facility.
- For Gino to continue walking on the right road.
- For Karl fighting lung cancer.
- For Olga recovering from knee surgery
- For all First Church members who are homebound or residing in adult living facilities.
- For the nesting congregations in our building—El Shaddai Buffalo & Holiness Mennonite
- For the people of the United State and its elected leaders & representatives
- For the people of and in Ukraine.
- For the people of Gaza, Israel, Jordan, and Syria.

Prayer requests: dbond@firstchurchbuffalo.org or call **716-884-7250, Ext. 204.**

THE UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY

from whose bourne no traveller returns... Hamlet, III.1, Wm. Shakespeare

A series of brunch workshops directly after church on preparing for our deaths,

May 5: **Planning Your Memorial Service**, led by Rev. Leslie Latham

We'll talk about the various elements you need to know to plan your service, including what the service will look like, when it will be, hospitality, and other elements. We'll provide you with a form to formalize your wishes.

*****RSVP to revleslie@firstchurchbuffalo.org, or 716.884.7250 x203*****

Feel free to invite others, but make sure they also register!

Upcoming conversations include

- May 19: **What to Know Before You Die**: a medical perspective
- June 2: **The Paperwork of it All**
- June 30: **Difficult Conversations** with family and loved ones

Duffield Camp and Retreat Center has openings for their summer camps. Please consider sending your children and grandchildren and let your friends know about Camp Duffield.

- First Timers Science Camp (1st -2nd grade) July 14 - 17
- First Timers Music Camp (1st -2nd grade) July 21 - 24
- Science Camp (3rd-8th grade) July 14 - 20
- Music Camp (3rd-8th grade) July 21 - 27
- Night Owls (8th-12th grade) July 28 - August 3
- Impact 716 Camp (1st-8th grade) July 28 - August 3
- Challenge Camp for adults (over 18) with developmental disabilities July 7 - 13

Camp Duffield is located on 137 acres of forested land in Delevan, NY, just over the border between Erie County and Cattaraugus County, 45minutes south of Buffalo. It has 7 groomed trails, 6 cabins sleeping 12 each, a pond for swimming, fishing or canoeing, and many traditional camp activities. There is a recreation area including a Gaga pit (ask your kids), a Nine Square in the Air ball game, climbing wall, playground, frisbee golf, horseshoes, sand volleyball area, tether ball, and basketball hoop. The camp is ready and waiting for you. Just go to our website, www.campduffield.net for more information and to register.

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, May 5, 2024` 10:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	6th Sunday of Easter—Holy Communion In person and livestreamed— Rev. Leslie Latham preaching Coffee hour in the narthex
Monday, May 6, 2024	No events
Tuesday, May 7, 2024 12:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Food Bag Distribution—Courtyard Friends of Harmony rehearsal—Hindman Chapel
Wednesday, May 8, 2024 12:00 - 5:00 p.m.	Serendipity Shoppe open — Basement
Thursday, May 9, 2024 12:00 - 5:00 p.m.	Serendipity Shoppe open — Basement
Friday, May 10, 2024 12:00 - 5:00 p.m.	Serendipity Shoppe open — Basement
Saturday, May 11, 2024 11:00 a.m. 12:00 - 5:00 p.m. 1:30 p.m.– 6:00 p.m.	Memorial service for Nancy Barry Serendipity Shoppe open — Basement Buffalo Opera Unlimited auditions — Sanctuary
Sunday, May 5, 2024` 10:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	7th Sunday of Easter In person and livestreamed - Rev. Leslie Latham preaching Coffee Hour in the narthex

Please visit our updated website at www.firstchurchbuffalo.org.

That's where you'll find:

- The link to Sunday worship on-line and previous services in recording.
- Weekly bulletins
- Newsletters
- Photos—we'd love to have some of your church-related pictures
- News about church life
- Upcoming events

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OFFICERS

SESSION BY CLASS AND TERM

Class of 2024

James Gardner (2)
Jean Hess (2)
Maria Patrick-Roberts (1)

Class of 2025

Pat Frey (1)
Pat Harmon (1)
Suzanne Pilon (1)

Class of 2026

Mark Armesto (1)
Tim Hess (2)
Quinton Meyer (2)

OFFICERS OF THE CORPORATION

James Gardner, President
Don Houck Vice President
Tim Hess, Treasurer
Janet Hill, Secretary

Transition Team

Mark Armesto
David Bond
Ilsa Cooper
Jean Hess
John Long
Eli Van Brunt

BOARD OF DEACONS BY CLASS AND TERM

Class of 2024

Gail McKeel (1)
Jim McKeel (2)
Madeline Mason-Brandon (1)

Class of 2025

Olga Rico-Armesto (2)
Nikia Jenkins (1)
LouAnn Riegler (1)

Class of 2026

Marsha Baker (1)
Ilsa Cooper (2)
Mary Field (1)

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

The Reverend Leslie Latham

Pastor, Head of Staff
Revleslie@firstchurchbuffalo.org
Voicemail extension 203

The Reverend John Long, D.D.,

Parish Associate for Community Outreach
johnrlong17@verizon.net

Dr. David Bond, Organist/Choirmaster,

Bookkeeper, Facilities Manager
DBond@firstchurchbuffalo.org
Voicemail extension 204

Cory Connell, Maintenance Coordinator

Connelljamescory@gmail.com
Voicemail extension 201

Kurt Froese, Director of Family Ministries

KFroese@firstchurchbuffalo.org
Voicemail extension 200

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www.facebook.com/1stChurchBuffalo

Presbytery of Western New York

www.pbywny.org
www.facebook.com/pbywny

The Undiscovered Country

from whose bourne no traveller returns... Hamlet III.1, Wm. Shakespeare

A series of brunch workshops
directly after worship
on preparing for our deaths

**MAY
5**



Planning your memorial service

We'll talk about the various elements you need to know to plan your service, including what the service will look like, when it will be, hospitality before or after, and other elements, including how and where you wish to be buried

**MAY
19**



What to know before you die

What are your medical options when a loved one is dying? What procedures are necessary, and what about dying with dignity? A panel of medical professionals will walk us through the good, the bad, the beauty, and the ugly of death. We'll also talk about hospice and other options.

**JUNE
2**



The paperwork of it all

We'll review wills, MOLST forms, health proxy, power of attorney, NOK files—navigating the river of terms to make sure you and your family are clear on your last days. Forms will be available for you to take home.

**JUNE
30**



Difficult conversations

How do you sit down with loved ones who are too scared to listen, much less know what your final wishes are? We'll use our knowledge from the previous sessions to help plan those conversations. We'll also take a stab at writing our own obituaries. How else will people know about all your accomplishments?

First Presbyterian Church 1 Symphony Circle, Buffalo
RSVP to revleslie@firstchurchbuffalo.org