



Light from the Tower

THE NEWSLETTER OF

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
BUFFALO, NEW YORK

“A COMMUNITY WITH CHRIST AT THE CENTER.”

ESTABLISHED 1812

April 2011

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

Easter is just weeks away! The event that started it all will be celebrated on Sunday, April 24 across the world. Without that day, no church! Without that event—the Resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth—no faith that even resembles Christianity would have grown up to spread to every nation and culture on the earth.

What happened in the mists of that first Easter morning changed empty, defeated disciples into men and women full of new power, life and hope. Ever since the first Easter that hope has never been squashed, the enthusiasm has never been quenched, even after nearly 2000 years of war, disappointment, death, and brokenness.

I love the various stories of Easter in the Gospels. Each one has its own elements of mystery and grace. In each narrative the people who see the empty tomb, feel an earthquake or behold the risen Christ are filled with fear before the joy of new life floods over them. And in every single one of the four gospels, there is one very simple demand.

“Go and tell,” the young man says to the women who come to the empty tomb in Mark. “Go and tell,” the angel in Matthew and the men in Luke command. “Go and tell” is the command to everyone who experiences the resurrection on that first Easter.

Guess what? “Go and tell” is still the command, the prime directive if you will, for all who experience and celebrate the new life of resurrection in Jesus Christ. I know that talking about our faith is something many of us don’t feel comfortable doing. Of course, who ever said that following God was going to be comfortable?

As we finish our preparations for Easter and celebrate the glorious new life Christ holds out to us all, I am praying that each of us will experience the grace of God in deeper and richer ways this Easter. I hope you’ll celebrate, and then live out the new life in Christ in all you do—including fulfilling the Easter prime directive to “Go and tell.”

May God bless us all,

Phil

Our Lenten Journey

SPECIAL LENTEN WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Traditionally, Lent is a time when Christians prepare new believers, helping them grow in their understanding of our faith. It has become the season in which we prepare ourselves to witness the terrifying horror of Christ suffering on the cross. Somehow, we have come to know that such preparations are necessary if we are going to be ready to experience the blazing glory of the Easter morning. This year our Worship Committee has planned a program for worship that will help us all prepare, and we hope you'll take advantage of as many of these opportunities as you can.

Mid-Week Prayer and Meditation Service

Each Wednesday during Lent we have an opportunity to gather together for a brief (15-20 minutes) service of prayer and meditation. Our first few services have been small and intimate times with each other and with God. As we continue toward Easter we hope you will try to join us.

In the midst of a week full of work, school, appointments, and all the rest of the things our lives throw at us, we can stop, pray together, and ask God to prepare our souls for the journey ahead. Phil and one of our members will share in the leadership of these brief services.

We'll meet in the **Chapel** from **5:30 P.M.-5:50 P.M.** The dates for and Bible passages for our meditation during these services are:

April 6	Romans 8:1-11
April 13	John 10:1-18

Come from work or whatever your busy day brings. Come on Wednesdays and take time to pray and meditate together.

Sunday Morning Worship During Lent and Easter

Our Sunday mornings in Lent will be times of turning to God together and opening ourselves to our Lords will for us all. Our Lenten worship services each week will focus on ways that we can be open to God in our lives, our attitudes, and our actions. And watch for some new ideas that we will be trying as we journey through Lent together. Here are the plans for worship Sundays at 11:00 a.m. during April:

April 10	Ezekiel 37:1-14	"From Death To Life"
	Romans 8:6-11	

Sunday Morning Prayer Circle

Gather in the stillness of the Chapel each Sunday morning from 10:30 to 10:45 AM for prayer. Lift your joys and concerns to the Lord, pray for the sick and hurting in our midst, and feel the Spirit's presence in preparation for worship. If you are interested in leading Prayer Circle from time to time, have prayer concerns to raise, or have questions please contact Christina Trachtenberg in the Church Office.





Easter Flowers

Help decorate the Sanctuary with tulips, lilies, daffodils and other 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 \$9.00 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 24th, 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 17th.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR LENT

We will enjoy several delightful opportunities for adult learning during the Lenten Season. We hope you will make an effort to join at least one of these as we seek God's will and grow together.

Wednesday Afternoons/Thursday Evenings Bible Study: “The Death of the Messiah”

Our Wednesday afternoon and our Thursday Evening Bible studies will begin focusing on a new topic during the Lenten Season. “The Death of The Messiah” will be a study of the Biblical narratives which tell the story of the passion and death of Jesus Christ. We will look at all four of the Gospel Narratives, comparing and contrasting what each Gospel emphasizes and why it is important to us as we ponder our faith together. Phil Gittings will lead these discussions. The *Wednesday Afternoon* group meets from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. Our *Thursday Evening* group meets at 7:00 p.m. beginning March 10.

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Adult Christian Education

During the month of April, the Adult Christian Education class will conclude its eight-week series that features *Eyes on the Prize II*. Join us before worship in the library at 9:30 AM as we look at this important time in our nation's struggle to secure equality for all.

April 10 – Eyes on the Prize – *Ain't Gonna Shuffle No More* (1964-72)

April 17 – Eyes on the Prize – *A Nation of Law?* (1968-71)

April 24 – Easter Sunday — No class

COMING AFTER EASTER!

After Easter we will offer a special series on the Resurrection Narratives in the New Testament.

“What the Bible Teaches Us About Resurrection!”

Phil Gittings will lead an in depth discussion of resurrection as we study the gospel stories of Jesus rising from the dead as well as some passages in other parts of the New Testament that teach us about the meaning of the resurrection. A great class for believers and skeptics alike, this group will be open to everyone. We are still working out the schedule, and will announce the times and dates soon. Watch for it!

Christian Education News

By Ellen Henry, Associate for Outreach and Christian Education

Christian Education means a lot of different things to different people. For some, it is the weekly session of Sunday School for the children and youth in the CE wing. For others, it means the adult class on Sunday mornings or the weekly Bible study on Wednesday. Still others think of CE as the "special" events – the retreats, the pageants, the mission trips, the youth projects. In truth, it is all of these things, and more. Christian Education is anything that touches our heart and informs our journey as we seek to learn more about our God and His wondrous workings in the world He created. All of us, no matter how old or how long we have been connected with a church, need Christian Education in our lives.

This May, there are two unique opportunities for our congregation to engage in educational events. On May 4, at 6:30, Daughters of Creative Sound will perform in the sanctuary. This is a fabulous drumming, singing, storytelling group that draws its material from their African roots. We invited the group to FPC to celebrate our literacy programs and to give our church, and those of the other churches which support the programs, a chance to connect with the students who are tutored here every Tuesday and Wednesday. Our students come from an array of national, cultural and religious backgrounds, but they are united in their desire to learn to speak and read English. They know this is essential if they are going to be able to fully participate in the fabric of their new home. They have all escaped unspeakable conditions in their homelands and are working to establish new lives in a strange and vastly different place. The tutors with whom they work are dedicated and caring and the bonds among the students and tutors are enduring. We see this as a celebration of all that the literacy programs represent and a chance for those who support the programs to learn more about the students and their lives.

On May 6, the Raccontamiunastoria Storytelling Company will present two powerful Bible stories during a performance at 7:30 in the sanctuary. Their name means "tell me a story" and they come to us from Rome, Italy. Using drama, music and dance, they will bring to life *David and Bathsheba* and *I Alone Love You, Peter and Mary Magdelene*. The company is the most established storytelling group in Italy and they organize the International Storytelling Festival in Rome.

I invite you to mark your calendars and plan to attend both of these special events. They will surely inspire you as you continue along your own journey of discovery and faith.

Palm Sunday, April 17th

The Christian Education Committee will meet in the Narthex at 9:30 AM to strip palms for morning worship. Later, the children of the Sunday School will parade into the sanctuary during the first hymn and distribute the palms – gather in the narthex at 10:45!

After worship, Judith Paradzai will be available in the Library to show us how to make palm crosses.

First Presbyterian Church

the very first Christian community in the (then) Town of Buffalo, with the WNY Biblical Storytellers Guild, is proud to present the Raccontamiunastoria Storytelling Company from Rome, Italy. Using their unique method of creative-theatrical storytelling the troupe will perform the controversial and passionate stories of

King David and Bathsheba and I Alone Love You, Mary Magdalene and Peter

David and Bathsheba is the emotional retelling of the most shaking, shocking and controversial story of the Bible: the story of a forbidden burning passion, the story of a cruel murder, the story of a lost child. Betrayal and power, treason and adultery, sin and redemption, the most passionate story told in the past 4000 years!

Universal and extreme, it is the story of the never ending struggle of humankind trying to reach God. The ancient story of David and Bathsheba speaks to the hearts and souls of people from all experiences and walks of life. Their story inspired across the centuries great artists of all disciplines: from painters to poets, from musicians to Hollywood directors. But nothing makes it as real and incredibly contemporary as its original oral storytelling form.

Peter and Mary Magdalene couldn't have been more different...their dislike was palpable...still they had in common the most important thing of their life: their love for Jesus. He a fisherman with a common life and a family. She a common harlot with a life of extraordinary distress and misery. They meet Jesus "by chance" and He will become the central figure of their lives and change them forever.

Two stories of fierce love, great passion and deep tragedy, set in an era haunted by a war of conquest, hunger and violence; two characters in stark contrast, but united in the enormity of the events that shake their lives. *I Alone Love You* is story of Jesus seen through the eyes of two people who loved Him on earth. Two people belonging to the lowest steps of their society who through their faith and love reached the highest place in heaven.

Paola Balbi and Davide Bardi from the Raccontamiunastoria Storytelling Company bring these tales to life through their emotional performances. With laughter, tears, words, music and dance, they tell these stories of Biblical power and humanity.

Raccontamiunastoria is the most established Storytelling Company of Italy, organiser of the International Storytelling Festival in Rome. Alongside a wide repertoire of traditional folk tales and stories from ancient Roman history and Italian recent history the artists of the Company have concentrated their attention of Bible stories since the very beginning.

Friday, May 6, 2011 at 7:30 pm
First Presbyterian Church Buffalo
1 Symphony Circle (across from Kleinhans)

The first church in Buffalo back in 1812, with all Christians worshipping together under one roof (yes, even Catholics). As the "mother of all Buffalo churches" we welcome this opportunity for all Christians to again gather under one roof to hear these Biblical stories. Free-will offering to follow.

Spring is here! And new life is all around. As we are in the midst of the most holy time of year for us we are reminded what renewal and hope means. We hope, as a corporate body, to reach our friends and neighbors who don't know the amazing love of our Lord. We pray for renewal , as a church, as we go through some change and some uncertain times. We have hope that God leads us and that we are willing to hear the message.

So as we see the renewal outside – let us work on renewing inside our doors. We, as the Session and as the Trustees are being more transparent and you will be able to see minutes and notes from our meetings and committee meetings on the bulletin board outside the blue room. We are also hoping to change a bit by asking for your assistance. We are making stewardship a year round committee because that is one of the ways our faith is seen in tangible measurements. Stewardship also helps in preparing our hearts and our focus on what we can do and should be doing more of. So with that said we are looking for interested members of the congregation who want to be a part of the Stewardship Committee. You do not have to be on Session, Deacons or Trustees to join but just a member of our church willing to have a voice and meet once a month. The Budget committee is also looking for new eyes and an opinion. This committee will start meeting in August to look at how we can fashion a budget that is not only business but also faith based. If you have some knowledge of budgets and/or financial matters we would love to have you. If you are interested in either please contact the church office or myself at sumflah@roadrunner.com

I am thankful to be part of a church whose faith leads them to act in our community. I look forward to what God is going to do in this interim time. I truly believe we will be all the more renewed.

Blessings,



Summer Flaherty
President Board of Trustees.



Scrabble Fest for Literacy

You may have noticed lots of advertising around town for Scrabblefest 2011, a huge fundraiser for the Literacy Volunteers.

Well, their whole project wrapped up the first weekend in March, but in case you missed it, or if you want to get a jump start on next year, join us for our very own Scrabblefest April 10, after church, in the Library.

For a \$5 donation to the Literacy Volunteers of Buffalo, you can play Scrabble and enjoy the refreshments and good company.

Put on your thinking cap, and join us for some word play.



Spring cleaning? Why not bring the things you “weed out” for the Thrift Shop to sell at our Spring Fling the weekend of April 30th and May 1st? We also need you to volunteer to help us price and sell that week—we’d love to have any time you can give us!
“Spring Fling” Rummage Sale

The Women’s Association Rummage Sale the weekend of April 30th & May 1st needs you—to donate gently used clothing and items to be sold—and to help at the sale. We will set up on Friday, April 29th. The sale is Saturday, April 30th at 10:00 AM and after church on Sunday, May 1st.

April Sunday School Calendar



April 10 – Sunday School

April 17 – Palm Sunday - parade in the sanctuary - Sunday School

April 24 –Easter Sunday - no Sunday School – come to the sanctuary to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus

One Great Hour of Sharing 2011

It's remarkable what your gift will do!

What do my gifts to the Presbyterian One Great Hour of Sharing offering do?

Within the PC(USA), programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing have evolved over the last half century along with our understanding of how best to stand with the people in their suffering and offer an authentic witness to God's healing love. Like our ecumenical partners, we focused our early efforts on those in acute need as a result of wars or natural disasters

Most recently, One Great Hour of Sharing Funds have been used by Presbyterian Disaster Relief to offer aid in Japan after the devastating earthquake and tsunami in March. With your gifts in previous years, One Great Hour of Sharing has responded to a record number of hurricanes, including the devastating Katrina, and such other disasters as the earthquake in Haiti.

While all of these disasters require immediate and long-term assistance, even more of your One Great Hour of Sharing gifts have helped our sisters and brothers around the world address chronic needs. Through your outstretched hands, many more families have felt the embrace

of God's love in very tangible ways: sufficient food, ready access to clean water and medical care, and a firmer grasp on hope. Because of your gifts, hungry people are fed, thirsty people have water to drink, sick people are cared for, and people without a home have shelter from the weather.

Please give lovingly. The children will be collecting their pennies, nickels and dimes in their One Great Hour of Sharing boxes during Lent. The adults will have the opportunity to give a gift on Palm Sunday, April 17th. Thanks be to God!



Children: Your One Great Hour of Sharing fish boxes will be returned on Palm Sunday, April 17th.

OGHS Calendars are available on the table outside the Blue Room.

Daughters of Creative Sound



May 4, 6:30 PM

First Presbyterian Church

One Symphony Circle

Buffalo NY, 14201

<http://www.firstchurchbuffalo.org/>

*Free Will Offering to benefit our Literacy
Program. All are welcome!*

FILM TO TALK ABOUT
2ND FRIDAY OF THE MONTH

Free film and discussion the Second Friday of the month
—AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—

Friday, April 8th at 7:00 p.m. in the Blue Room
Up In the Air

2009, color, 109 minutes, Rated R
Written and Directed by Jason Reitman
Starring: George Clooney, Vera Farmiga, Anna Kendrick, and Jason Bateman

Sig Art

Illustrated by Sig Potembski



Welcome New Members!



Jackie Addo

Jackie Addo is new to Buffalo, having arrived in the fall from Ghana. Born Presbyterian, Jackie was so excited to learn that she was living in walking distance to a Presbyterian church. Then, on her first Sunday here in November, she was even more excited to meet fellow Ghanaians worshipping at First Church. Jackie said she decided her very first day that this was the church for her. Welcome, Jackie!



Barry, Stephania & Eva Farmer

The Farmer family discovered First Church around Advent, and we're so happy that they did! While they are natives to Buffalo, Barry & Eva and their 5 children (of whom Stephania is the youngest) spent some time in Rhode Island before returning to Buffalo about 3 years ago. They were initially attracted to the Advent Bible study led by Rev. Phil, and then discovered that the warmth and love of the people at First Church was captivating, so they decided to join our faith community. Welcome, Barry, Eva & Stephania!

Women's Book Club Gathering



The Women's Book Club will meet on
Wednesday, April 27th
at 6:00 PM

At the home of Ingrid Meyer.

We will gather for a potluck meal and discussion of the book
Hurry Down Sunshine
by Michael Greenberg.

May's Book: Ghosty Men by Franz Lidz

Women's Association News

The Women's Association will have its Annual Fund drive on Sunday, April 10th. Ladies, please keep your eyes on the mail for a letter coming your way.

Coming May 18th, our Women's Association Luncheon & Program with our featured speaker, Gretchen Kamke. Gretchen is planning to go to Peru to help at the Hogar Clinica, San Francisco de Assis. Come find out what they do and how she will be helping. We will enjoy delicious Peruvian food cooked by Liz Kamke.

The Annual Mothers' Day Theme Basket Auction sponsored by Women's Association will be on May 8th. Can you give a basket to be sold? Can you bid on the ones for sale?

Save the Date! Get yourself "spruced up" for the Hat Tea on Thursday, June 16th from 3:30-5:30 PM. Delicious goodies, good company and a good cause to give your \$5.00 fee. Put it on your calendar and choose your hat now!

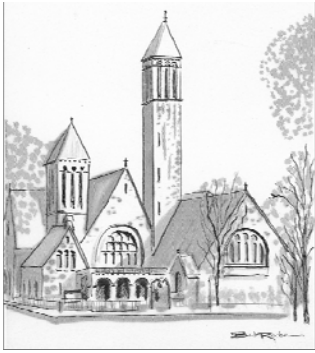


SAVE THE DATE! CHURCHES IN ACTION WORK WEEKEND

Friday and Saturday,
May 20th and 21st
8:30 AM to 4:30 PM

This year's project will take place at Paradise Opportunities, an agency that helps give women a new start on life after losing children due to serving jail time for drug-related offenses. Volunteers, both skilled and unskilled, are needed for painting, cleaning and yard work. More information will appear in upcoming newsletters.

If you have questions, speak to a member of the CMO Committee.



FIRST CHURCH HISTORY

By Bruce McCausland, Bicentennial Committee Chair

Since we are in an interim period in our church "Profiles in Ministry" will feature over the next few months biographies of some of the men who served for extended periods as "Supply Pastors" or as "Interim Pastors" of our church. According to the on-line model contract for Supply Pastors for the Los Ranchos Presbytery Committee On Ministry, (Anaheim, CA), the contemporary definition of a Supply Minister is as follows: "A stated supply is a minister appointed by the Presbytery, after consultation with the session, to perform the functions of a pastor in a church which is not seeking an

installed pastor. The relation shall be established only by the Presbytery and shall extend for a period not to exceed twelve months at a time." (G-14.0513, a.)" An "Interim Minister" fulfills the same function except that the assumption is that they serve as pastor only until an installed pastor has been found.

Peter K. Emmons, D.D.: (ca. 1892 - 6 November 1978) Interim Pastor (November 1962 – December 1962)
Dr. Emmons was born in Mommouth, NJ, educated at Princeton, Class of 1912, and a graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary class of 1915. Rev. Peter K Emmons assumed the pastorate of the First Presbyterian Church, Trenton, NJ on January 28, 1919, and continued until November 6, 1927, He assumed the pastorate at the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Scranton, PA in late 1927 and was pastor there through at least 1955. He received an honorary Doctorate of Divinity from Washington and Jefferson College and from Grover City College in 1937. He was chosen during this pastorate a member of the board of trustees of Princeton Theological Seminary since 1925. He was also elected a member of the Permanent Judicial Commission of the General Assembly. For one year he served as district governor of the Thirty-sixth District Rotary International.. He was interim pastor during the short time before Dr. Mielke came to Buffalo, NY. He is believed to have died in or near Athens, OH 6 November 1978.

Clerk's Corner

By Janet Hill, Clerk of Session

The following actions were taken at the March Session meeting.

- Approved Mark Armesto as the head of the Building Utilization Committee, which will operate under the auspices of Lands and Buildings.
- Authorized Ellen Henry and Liz Kamke to offer guidance to Aniwang Berrie, a Sudanese client of Literacy Volunteers, in her quest to assist her home village in the Sudan.
- Approved a freewill offering at a performance of Daughters of Creative Sound on May 4th. The funds will benefit the literacy program.
- Passed the recommendation from Trustees that a "Pennies for Heaven" stewardship program be adopted. It is designed to encourage children and members of the congregation to place small change in a special folding paper box.
- Passed the request from Trustees that a permanent Stewardship Committee be established.
- Approved the request from the Women's Association to collect a special offering on April 10th.
- Accepted with regret and thanks the resignation of Ellen Henry, Associate for Christian Education and Outreach, effective June 26, 2011.
- Set the date of May 22, 2011 for the Congregational Meeting to receive the report of the Nominating Committee and to elect officers and deacons.



Remember the 4 R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Repair

Once again, we are becoming victims of increasing gas prices and most of us feel that there is little that we can do to prevent it. It has been two and a half years since we experienced this and I remember writing some suggestions at that time on how to save on our fuel consumption. There are a few things that we can do to reduce the amount of fuel that we purchase.

Save money by walking: Walking is healthier for you than driving. It saves money on gas. It saves the planet. You would be doing your bit to save the world. It saves on paying for parking.

Another option: Sell your cars. (Especially if you have more than one) Too drastic? Buffalo has a wonderful program called Buffalo Carshare where you can rent a car for a few hours a day or more. All of their cars are economical on gas mileage and they provide an excellent alternative especially for those who live in the inner city.

Alternative Transportation: Bicycle or use public transportation to get to work or school. Carpool to work with people in your area who are going in the same direction.

Work from your home: Many people are setting up an office or business in their home. Some employers are offering perks to their employees if they are willing to work from the comfort of their own residence.

Drive less: Reducing the amount of driving we do, whether by carpooling or foregoing an unnecessary trip, is perhaps the most effective way to decrease the amount of gas that each person uses. Lower gas mileage is good for you, good for your car and good for the environment.

Planning and combining errands: An easy way to reduce your driving and fuel consumption is to think about all of the errands that you need to take care of before you get behind the wheel. Try to shop in one location and you will find that one ride covering half-dozen stops can cut out five additional trips. You will not only save fuel, but you will reduce the wear and tear on your car. Catalog sales - shop by phone to avoid unnecessary trips in your vehicle.

Turn off the car: Idling gets zero miles per gallon and collectively consumes several billion gallons of fuel per year. According to the U.S. Department of Energy vehicles should be turned off if the expected wait will be longer than 10 seconds, since an idling vehicle can burn as much as one gallon of gas each hour. Turning the car off can save about 5 cents per minute.

Buy Regular: Most gas stations offer Unleaded Premium for 10 to 12 cents a gallon more than Unleaded Regular. Many customers think they are giving their car some kind of extra care by filling up with what they think is the best. Don't do it! Virtually all automobiles run well on Unleaded Regular; so unless your vehicle documentation specifically states that it requires a premium grade of gas with higher octane, save your money and stick with regular.

Find the cheapest gas: check one of the following weblinks before you leave home to buy your gas – they will let you know which gas station has the lowest prices in your area:

<http://www.Buffalogasprices.com>, <http://www.automotive.com/gas-prices/buffalo> or <http://gasprices.mapquest.com/buffalo>.

Make sure your vehicle has regular maintenance. I will write more on this topic next month. To be continued... "Together we can make a difference" Lesley Haynes – peacesojourner@yahoo.com

First Church Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
April 3 JOINT WORSHIP <u>AT</u> LAFAYETTE 10:30 AM — Worship & Communion, Rev. Dr. Philip S. Gittings preaching 11:30 AM — Fellowship Time	4 BUILDING CLOSED 6:30-8:00 PM — Prayer Shawl Gathering at Café Allegro on Hertel	5 10:30 AM-12:00 PM — Staff Mtg. 4:30-6:00 PM — LV Tutoring 5:30 PM — Worship & Music Mtg. 6:30 PM — Lands & Bldgs. Mtg. 8:00 PM — AA Mtg.
10 9:30 AM — Adult Christian Ed. 10:30 AM — Prayer Circle 11:00 AM — Worship, Rev. Dr. Gittings preaching 11:15 AM — Sunday school 12:00 PM — Fellowship Hour 12:00 PM — Scrabble Fest 12:15 PM — CMO Committee Meeting	11 BUILDING CLOSED 6:30-8:00 PM — Prayer Shawl Gathering at Café Allegro on Hertel	12 10:30 AM-12:00 PM — Staff Mtg. 4:30-6:00 PM — LV Tutoring 5:15 PM — Membership Mtg, 6:30 PM — CE Committee Mtg. 8:00 PM — AA Mtg.
17 PALM SUNDAY ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING 9:30 AM — Adult Christian Ed. 9:30 AM — Preparation of Palms 10:30 AM — Prayer Circle 11:00 AM — Worship & Parade of Palms, Rev. Dr. Gittings preaching 11:15 AM — Sunday school 12:00 PM — Fellowship Hour	18 BUILDING CLOSED 5:30 PM — Meditation service <i>(Building Open for service)</i> 6:30-8:00 PM — Prayer Shawl Gathering at Café Allegro on Hertel	19 10:30 AM-12:00 PM — Staff Mtg. 4:30-6:00 PM — LV Tutoring 5:30 PM — Meditation service 8:00 PM — AA Mtg.
24 EASTER 10:30 AM — Prayer Circle 10:45 AM — Special Brass Music 11:00 AM — Worship, Rev. Dr. Gittings preaching 12:00 PM — Fellowship Hour 12:00 PM — Healing Service	25 BUILDING CLOSED 6:30-8:00 PM — Prayer Shawl Gathering at Café Allegro on Hertel	26 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 10:30 AM-12:00 PM — Staff Mtg. 4:30-6:00 PM — LV Tutoring 8:00 PM — AA Mtg.
May 1 9:30 AM — Adult Christian Ed. 10:30 AM — Prayer Circle 11:00 AM — Worship & Communion, Rev. Dr. Philip S. Gittings preaching 12:00 PM — Fellowship Hour 12:00 PM — Women's Association Rummage Sale	May 2 BUILDING CLOSED 6:30-8:00 PM — Prayer Shawl Gathering at Café Allegro on Hertel	May 3 10:30 AM-12:00 PM — Staff Mtg. 4:30-6:00 PM — LV Tutoring 5:30 PM — Worship & Music Mtg. 6:30 PM — Lands & Bldgs. Mtg. 8:00 PM — AA Mtg.

April 2011

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
6 9:00 AM — Park School Tour 11:00 AM—2:00 PM — Thrift Shop 1:00-3:00 PM — Bible Study 2:00 PM — Church Life Mtg. 4:30-6:00 PM — PICS & LV Tutoring 5:30 PM — Meditation service 7:00 PM — Deacons' Mtg.	7 11:00 AM—2:00 PM — Thrift Shop 7:00 PM — Bible Study	April 1 11:00 AM—2:00 PM — Thrift Shop 8:00 PM — AA Mtg	2 BUILDING CLOSED
13 11:00AM—2:00PM — Thrift Shop 1:00-3:00 PM — Bible Study 4:30-5:45 PM — PICS & LV Tutoring 5:30 PM — Meditation service 6:00 PM — Trustees' Mtg.	14 11:00 AM—2:00 PM — Thrift Shop 6:30 PM — Allentown Association Public Meeting 7:00 PM — Bible Study	15 11:00 AM—2:00 PM — Thrift Shop 7:00 PM — Film Discussion	8 11:00 AM—2:00 PM — Thrift Shop 8:00 PM — AA Mtg
20 1:00-3:00 PM — Bible Study 4:30-6:00 PM — PICS & LV Tutoring 5:30 PM — Meditation service 7:00 PM — Session Mtg.	21 MAUNDY THURSDAY 11:00 AM—2:00 PM — Thrift Shop 7:00 PM — Maundy Thursday Service	22 GOOD FRIDAY 11:00 AM—2:00 PM — Thrift Shop 7:00 PM — "Faces at the Cross" Good Friday Service	9 BUILDING CLOSED
27 11:00 AM—2:00 PM — Thrift Shop 1:00-3:00 PM — Bible Study 4:30-6:00 PM — PICS & LV Tutoring 6:00 PM — Women's Book Club	28 11:00 AM—2:00 PM — Thrift Shop	29 11:00 AM—2:00 PM — Thrift Shop 8:00 PM — AA Mtg	30 10:00 AM — Women's Association Rummage Sale
May 4 11:00 AM—2:00 PM — Thrift Shop 2:00 PM — Church Life Mtg. 1:00-3:00 PM — Bible Study 4:30-6:00 PM — PICS & LV Tutoring 7:00 PM — Deacons' Mtg.	May 5 11:00 AM—2:00 PM — Thrift Shop	May 6 11:00 AM—2:00 PM — Thrift Shop 8:00 PM — AA Mtg	May 7 BUILDING CLOSED

News in the Family

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Happy Birthday to all our Saints with birthdays in April, especially:

- Peter Bykowicz
- Joan Close
- Samantha Darby
- Justin Hemphill
- Eliene Henry
- Andrew Hess
- Ruth Hunter
- Gretchen Kamke
- Bob Kerwin
- Tina Kettle
- Alex Lipnicki
- Lou Ann Luther-Riegle
- Alan McCausland
- Bruce McCausland
- Janet Schulz
- Christina Trachtenberg



*Hello to all of you are First Church! We want you to know that we are alive and well and enjoying life day by day—and that is our hope and prayer for all of you...
...And we send you our very best wishes for God’s rich blessings of peace and love.*

Sincerely yours, Jack and Maryellen Smiley



Congratulations to Judith Paradzai and her daughters, Lynn and Tsitsi. Their case with the immigration court ended with a successful verdict, and the whole family will remain in Buffalo!

Thank you to everyone who wrote letters of support!



JoAnn Doerr was pleased to report that our new (in-progress) Rain Garden (former Tot Lot) was officially accepted to become a Grassroots Gardens of Buffalo community garden!



Thank you to everyone who came to eat pancakes and raise money for a worthy cause at the Smiley Brunch on March 20th. To date, we raised \$719!

**Do you have a birthday in May?
If so, let us know! Call the church
office at
884-7250.**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OFFICERS

SESSION AND TRUSTEES BY CLASS AND TERM

Clerk of Session

Janet Hill

Associate Clerk of Session

Joan Close

Class of 2013

Ian Bradford (T) (1)
Summer Flaherty (T) (2)
Norm Gibbon (T)(2)
Henry Porter (T) (2)
William Schulz (2)

Class of 2012

JoAnn Doerr (2)
Jean Hess (1)
Janet Hill (1)
Don Houck (1)
Roger Woodard (2)

Class of 2011

Molly Anthony (T) (1)
Hilary Bradford (1)
Carlton Brownell (T) (1)
John Darby (T) (1)
Lauren Hill (1)
Marv Riegle (1)

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

BOARD OF DEACONS BY CLASS AND TERM

Class of 2013

Mark Juan Armesto (1)
Debra Byrne (2)
José Gomez (1)
Alexander Lipnicki (1)
Stephanie Lipnicki (1)
Suzanne Snyder (2)

Class of 2012

Gregg Borland (2)
Jessica Laudisio (1)
Madeline Mason (2)
Judith Paradzai (1)
Lovelace Quarshie (2)
Phil Sims (1)
Denis Wettlaufer (1)

Class of 2011

Mark Armesto (1)
Russell Carlson (1)
Jennifer Doerr (2)
Mary Field (1)
Karen Frieder (1)
Jessica Henry (1)
Maria Murphy (1)

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday through Friday 9 AM to 5 PM*

**Please note the office closes from 12:00-1:00 PM daily for lunch.*

When calling, please leave a message on the appropriate staff member's voicemail or ext. 10.



BUILDING USE

Please arrange use of building space for meetings and other events in advance with the Church Office by calling 884-7250, ext. 10 to add your meeting to the church calendar. All building use is subject to approval.



GERI LYON FOOD PANTRY*

**Formerly the Bread of Life Food Pantry*

Bags are distributed at 12:30 p.m. every Tuesday on the Wadsworth St. side of the building (except holidays). Available to all, first come, first served; no referral needed.

Childcare Hours



Sundays

9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
in the Nursery

(For infants and toddlers to age 3)

For pastoral care concerns,
call Quinton Meyer, Associate for Pastoral Visitation
884-7250, ext. 12 (Office) 909-2259 (Cell)

To reach Rev. Dr. Philip S. Gittings, Interim Pastor,
call 884-7250, ext. 13 (Office)
548-0466(Cell)

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

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 Donald Garrett,
Parish Associate for Pastoral Care

The Reverend Jack Smiley, *Pastor Emeritus*

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

Quinton Meyer, *Associate for Pastoral Visitation*
Meyer405@aol.com
Voicemail extension: 12

Ellen Henry, *Associate for Christian Ed. & Outreach*
ESHREAD@aol.com
Voicemail extension: 16

Christina Trachtenberg, *Business Manager*
CTrachtenberg@firstchurchbuffalo.org
Voicemail extension: 11

Tim Neaverth, *Building Supervisor*
TNeaverth@firstchurchbuffalo.org
Voicemail extension: 22

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

Tom Hollfelder, *Custodian/Security Guard*

Church Office, extension 10

Follow us on Twitter & Facebook!

Are you on Twitter?
If so, follow us @1stChurchBflo.

Not sure what Twitter is? It's a social networking/micro-blogging site on the Internet that provides instant information. Even if you're not on Twitter, you can view our "tweets" at <http://twitter.com/1stChurchBflo>. Our Twitter feed is also on the homepage of our website, www.firstchurchbuffalo.org.

Also, "Like" us on Facebook. You can find us at "First Presbyterian Church of Buffalo, NY". We post photos and fun facts about the church!



Queen City



Quality

Printing & Copying

Woman Owned Business

- High Speed B&W Copying
 - Digital Color Output
 - Project Binding & Laminating
 - Large Format B&W, and Color
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 - Offset Printing
 - Business Cards & Letterhead
 - CD & Video Tape Duplication
 - Fax & UPS services
- & more...

- LEGAL
- COMMERCIAL
- RETAIL

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www.QueenCityImaging.com