

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BUFFALO

# NEWSLETTER

Spring 2019

## HATRED'S FIRESTORM

By Rev. Dr. Kenneth E. Hughes

*For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by men and hating one another.*

*Titus 3:3*

It's a sad reality of our time that in the Season of Easter one is led by current events to talk not of joy and resurrection, but of eruptions of religiously tinged hatred inside and outside our borders. One can hardly catch a breath between these outrages: from the slaughter at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, to the massacre at the Al Noor Mosque in Christchurch, New Zealand; from the carnage at churches across Sri Lanka, to the bloodshed at Congregation Chabad in Poway, California. One might honestly (if

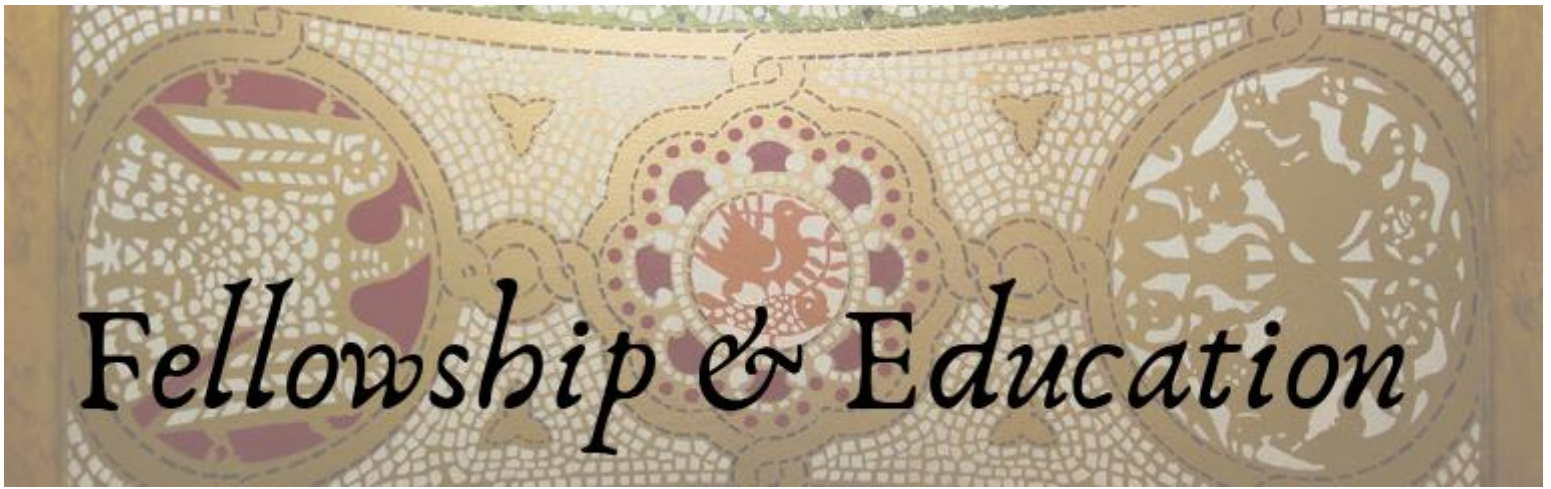
roughly) ask: what in hell is going on? There certainly is no one-size-fits-all explanation for these tragedies apart from the link that they all occurred in houses of faith and worship. Beyond that, the geographic, religious, historic, and cultural differences among these sites of butchery defy easy diagnosis.

But there is one other common denominator: hatred. Whatever the motivations of the murderers – theological, political, aberrant psyche, etc. – surely their actions are hate-filled and hate-inspired. Which propels us into a whole new arena of questioning. On its face hatred seems easy to recognize and define, marked as it is by the bared fangs of the fanatic. Might hatred, though, be more subtle than that? Might it grow incrementally, imperceptibly, fueled by the other commonplaces of our time – contempt, slander, lies, and bigotry? Are those the tinders,

either carefully or carelessly assembled, that at the perfect moment reach critical mass and erupt into firestorms that take the names of Pittsburgh, Christchurch, Colombo, and Poway?

The space of a newsletter article is inadequate to the question I've posed. But it's more than adequate to offer a reminder that we are minders of "tinders," which we either choose to encourage or to extinguish. Our thoughts, opinions, gestures, and actions might not be decisive in and of themselves, but they are part of the atmosphere we all breathe, for good or ill.

And, of course, we are Christians. People of faith whom the apostle Paul reminded "were once foolish, disobedient, led astray..." but who are now called by the Spirit to a higher purpose and ideal. The Season of Easter affords the opportunity to do just that, to be fire-fighters, not fire-starters.



## May Adult Forum


### FAMILY PROMISE OF WNY WITH LUANNE FIRESTONE

All emergency shelters provide a meal and a place to sleep, but Family Promise of WNY (FPWNY) is different. Learn how from the organization's Executive Director, Luanne Firestone. She'll discuss how FPWNY's small-scale program allows for an array of services that are above and beyond what typical, bigger shelters can provide, such as the ability to keep families together, intensive case management, a home-like environment, nutritious home-cooked dinners every night.

Adult Forums are monthly educational opportunities for church members and friends and are presented by the Christian Education Committee in the Houghton Library.

**“FPWNY is one of only two shelters in Erie County that keep families together.”**

SUNDAY  
May 19  
12:15 PM




## Book Group

“SMALL GREAT THINGS”  
BY JODI PICOULT

“...Richly layered characters and a gripping moral dilemma that will lead readers to question everything they know about privilege, power, and race...”

Location: Ingrid Meyer's home  
Please bring a dish to share for a potluck meal.

THURSDAY  
May 23  
6:00 PM



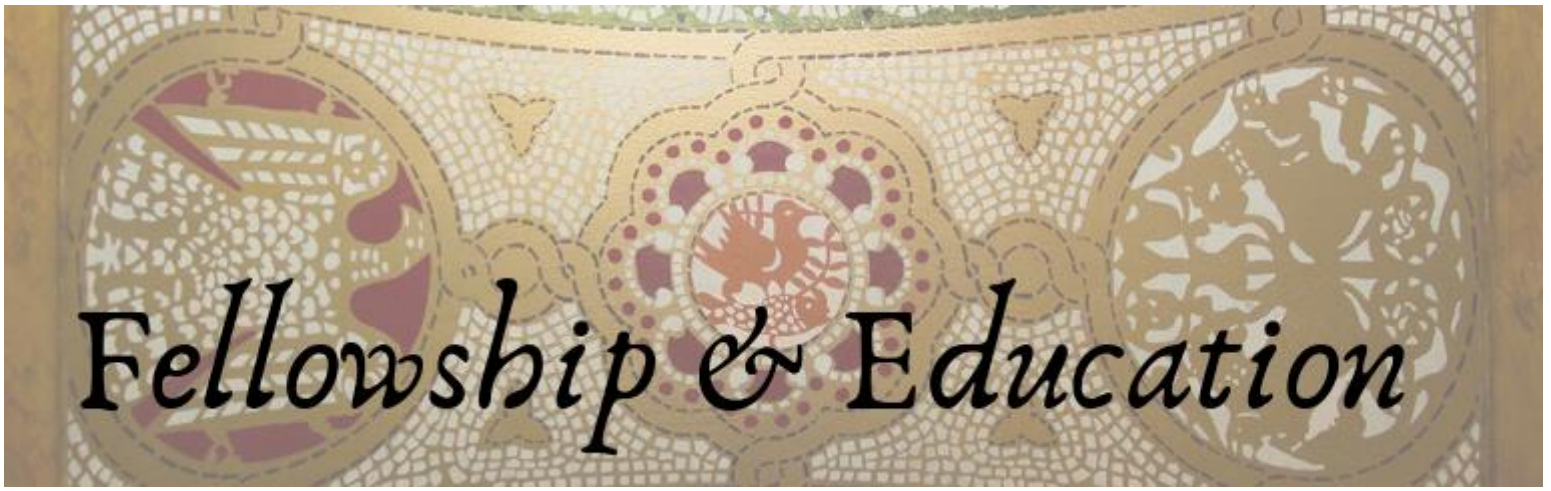
First Church Fellowship Event

# Bowling BASH



Friday, May 10  
6:30 PM  
at Voelker's  
(corner of Elmwood & Amherst)

\$4 per game  
Shoe rental available



## Brain Museum Tour

AN IN-DEPTH VISIT TO A UNIQUE FACILITY

Brain facts:

- The human brain weighs 3 pounds
- It is comprised of 60% of fat and is one of the fattest organs in the human body
- Human brain has the capacity to generate approximately 23 watts of power when awake.
- The blood vessels that are present in the brain are almost 100,000 miles in length.

The human brain is the command center for the body's nervous system. Learn about this vital organ on a private tour at the UB South Campus. After worship enjoy a light lunch, then caravan to the Brain Museum (the only one of its kind in the nation) for a private tour. Question? Contact Liz Kamke at [eksk476@gmail.com](mailto:eksk476@gmail.com).

SUNDAY

June 23

after worship



## Mothers' Day

A CELEBRATION OF ALL WOMEN

Enjoy a delicious cake provided by Women's Association after worship in the chapel while browsing items in the annual basket raffle.

For those contributing theme baskets, please bring them to the chapel the morning of May 12.

SUNDAY

May 12



SAVE THE DATE!

## WEDDING SHOWER FOR LUCAS & CONNIE

Sunday, June 9  
after worship  
in the Chapel

Watch the Sunday bulletin for details as time gets closer.

# Worship

## Presbytery of WNY Meeting

HOSTED AT FIRST CHURCH

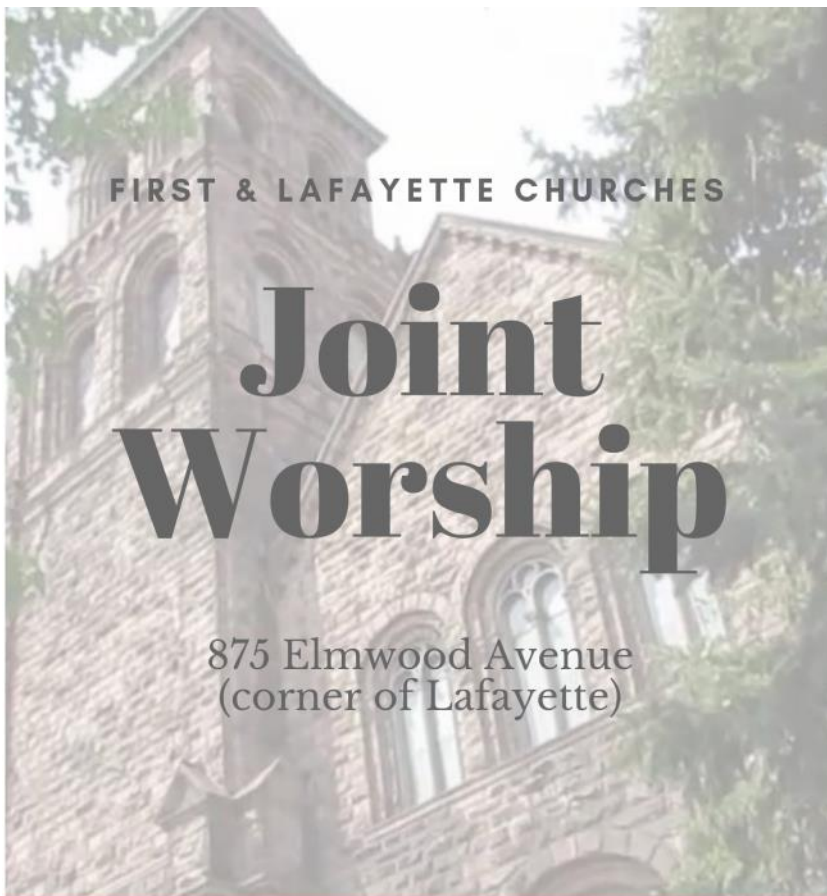
As Ken is installed as the next Moderator of the Presbytery of WNY, its annual meeting will be held at First Church.

This is an all-hands-on-deck event! Chiavetta's BBQ will be on site grilling chicken. Volunteers are asked to provide cakes (9 x 13") for dessert. If you are able to provide dessert or help in other ways, please contact Jean Hess 716-883-5351 or [hessjb290@yahoo.com](mailto:hessjb290@yahoo.com).

TUESDAY

May 21

4:00-8:00 PM



FIRST & LAFAYETTE CHURCHES

## Joint Worship

875 Elmwood Avenue  
(corner of Lafayette)

SATURDAY, MAY 25

5:30 PM POTLUCK MEAL & WORSHIP

*There will be no worship service at First Church on  
May 26 due to the Buffalo Marathon.*

## Worship Highlights

**Communion** will be served on May 5 and June 9.

**Pentecost**—the birthday of the Church—is June 9. **Wear red!**

**Summer worship** begins June 30 at 10:00 AM in the chapel





## Sacred Sites Open House & Buffalo PorchFest

FIRST CHURCH IN THE COMMUNITY

### Sacred Sites Open House Weekend

The public is invited to tour our architecturally significant chapel and sanctuary as part of the New York Landmarks Conservancy's annual state-wide program. Guided tours provided. Self-guided tour booklets will be available as well.

### Buffalo PorchFest

First Church will participate in this grassroots music festival on the Narthex porch with two live music ensembles (details to be announced). We will be grilling hot dogs and enjoying a beautiful spring day in Buffalo!



SATURDAY  
May 18  
10:00 AM to  
2:00 PM

## Buffalo Marathon

We are exploring the possibility of opening as a hospitality site during the Buffalo Marathon on **Sunday, May 26**. Stay tuned for details!

## Master Gardener Plant Sale

**Friday, May 24**

8:30 AM to 3:00 PM

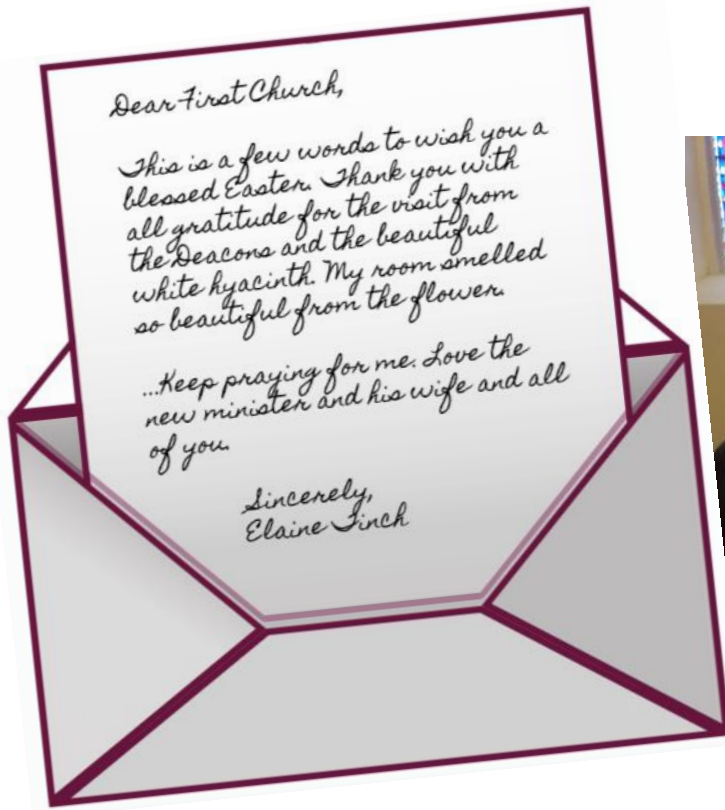
**Saturday, May 25**

8:30 AM to 2:00 PM

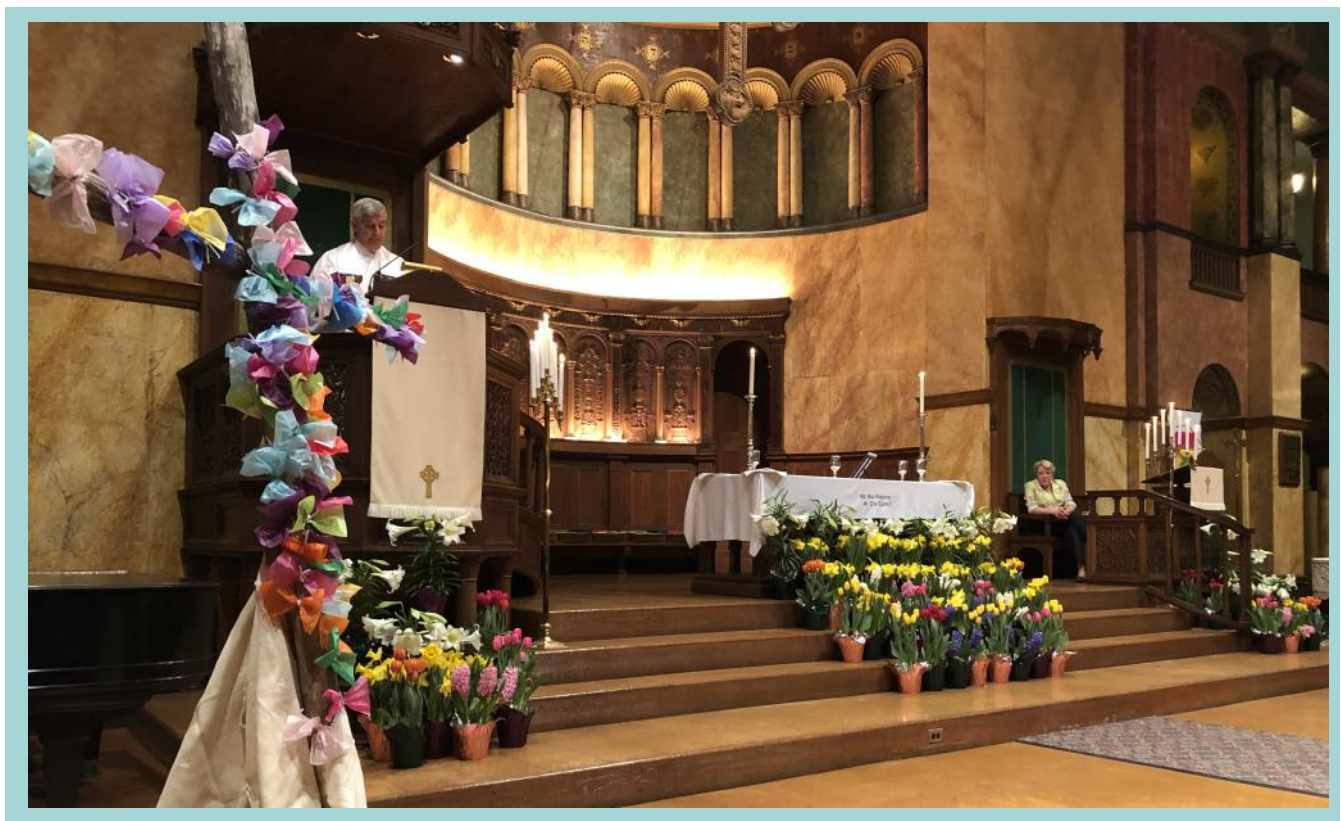
In the chapel at First Church



# News in the Family



Palm Sunday 2019



# Church Business

## Clerk's Corner By Janet Hill

THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS WERE TAKEN BY SESSION AT ITS REGULAR MEETINGS IN MARCH AND APRIL:

- ✓ Agreed to hire Cory Connell to the position of Maintenance Supervisor effective May 1, 2019
- ✓ Approved budgeting for the Blue Cross Blue Shield Standard Plan for five employees, effective June 1 for the remainder of 2019
- ✓ Agreed to host the next meeting of the Presbytery of WNY at First Church on Tuesday, May 21, at which time Rev. Dr. Hughes will be installed as moderator
- ✓ Approved the vacation request of Rev. Dr. Hughes for April 22 -28
- ✓ Approved communion by intinction on May 5 and June 9
- ✓ Approved moving the worship service to the chapel on June 30 with a 10:00 A.M. start time for the summer
- ✓ Approved the Mothers' Day basket raffle on behalf of the Women's Association
- ✓ Agreed to permit Lauren Hill to digitize First Church records as outlined in her email.
- ✓ Approved that First Church proceed with preparations to sell the manse at 176 College on the open market. Initial steps would include hiring a building inspector and engaging a realtor to assess the structural and system condition of the manse and its marketability.

## Building News

The Corporate Board and Session voted to conclude the church's contract for building management with 716 Ministries (formerly Westside Ministries). The change was effective May 1.

Questions or comments can be addressed to Dr. David Bond, Facilities Coordinator.

## Welcome Cory!

Cory Connell may be a familiar face, as he's been sprucing up the building since 2013. He has been officially hired by the church as our new Maintenance Coordinator.

Cory has lived in Buffalo since 2001; he is originally from Myrtle Beach, SC. He and his fiancé, Katie, will be married this September.

In his free time, Cory enjoys doing anything outdoors and is very into music. Cory's favorite thing about the church building is its history. Welcome to the staff!



## FIRST CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Ken Hughes, *Pastor*

RevKen@firstchurchbuffalo.org

Voicemail extension: 203

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: 204

Christina Banas,

*Communications & Office Manager*

CBanas@firstchurchbuffalo.org

Voicemail extension: 201

Rama Salim,

*Custodial & Security Assistant*

RSalim@firstchurchbuffalo.org

Voicemail extension: 202

Cory Connell, *Maintenance Coordinator*

Email and voicemail to be announced

Church Office, extension 200

## SUNDAY SCHEDULE

11:00 AM	Worship in the Sanctuary
11:15 AM	Children's Sunday school
12:00 PM	Fellowship time

## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday

9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

*Staff meetings are held each*

*Wednesday from 10:00 to 11:30 AM*

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

One Symphony Circle, Buffalo, NY 14201-1213

(across from Kleinhans)

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www.firstchurchbuffalo.org

email@firstchurchbuffalo.org

Facebook.com/1stChurchBuffalo

Instagram: @1stChurchBflo

Twitter: @1stChurchBflo

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OFFICERS

### SESSION AND TRUSTEES BY CLASS AND TERM

#### *Class of 2019*

Mark Armesto (1)

Don Houck (1)

Liz Kamke (1)

Maria Oakley (2)

#### *Class of 2020*

Lucas Lloyd (2)

Janet Hill (1) *Clerk*

Henry Porter (2)

Sue Snyder (2)

#### *Class of 2021*

John Darby (2)

José Gomez (1)

Jean Hess (1)

Tina Osei (1)

### BOARD OF DEACONS BY CLASS AND TERM

#### *Class of 2019*

Gifty Koramoah (2)

June McGrath (1)

Denis Wettlaufer (1)

#### *Class of 2020*

India Asplundh (1)

Barry Farmer (1)

Madeline Mason-Brandon (2)

Suzanne Pilon (1)

Lou Ann Luther Riegle (2)

#### *Class of 2021*

Mary Field (2)

Jim McKeel (1)

Sheila Miller (2)

Shannon Rogers (1)

## OFFICERS OF THE CORPORATION

Michael Henry, President

Rebecca Whipple, Vice President

Mark Armesto, Treasurer

Janet Hill, Secretary



*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.*