

Lent 2020

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BUFFALO

NEWSLETTER

“A DIFFERENT KIND OF LENT”

By Rev. Dr. Ken Hughes

Don't be alarmed. Lent will still be observed at First Church. It's just that we're using the 6-week framework from Ash Wednesday to Easter morning to include a lot of church activities that are not strictly Lenten.

Why are we doing this? One reason is to pursue the goal we proclaim on our website, boasting that First Church is “A Place of Worship and Community”. And so Lent will begin with traditional Ash Wednesday worship, incorporating a simple meal of soup and bread into the service that also includes Holy Communion and the imposition of ashes.

And a number of similar observances of the season will follow, all of them intended to work toward Lent's purpose of providing opportunity to examine our faith, and reshape our lives.

For example, we will offer a six-week Wednesday-night course called “Faithful Citizenship,”

which reaches beyond the hyper-partisanship of a presidential election year to understand our role as citizens, and Christians, from the standpoint of covenant, community, and the common good. So we'll leave behind the candidate debates, Fox News, and MSNBC, and focus instead on how scripture and Christian tradition form “faithful citizens.”

That's a typical educational offering in Lent. But where this season differs are in the other events that will populate the Lenten calendar, activities and gatherings not religious in nature but very much designed to bolster First Church's reputation as “a place of community”.

There will be a wide offering of musical concerts, from the Amherst Bel Canto youth choirs, to anniversary performances on the Noehren organ, to “Jazz on the Circle” gatherings.

The new Chapel Labyrinth will provide a regular opportunity to engage the public during Lent. In inviting our neighbors to take

advantage of some of our most tranquil space, we're looking to underscore how this ancient practice of “kinetic meditation” crosses all sorts of faith boundaries to bring healing wherever someone might be stuck – emotionally, spiritually, intellectually.

All of this culminates in Holy Week, the seven days from Palm Sunday to Easter.

Our abiding hope is that members and friends of First Church will take advantage of all that this different Lenten season brings. But we add to that the prayer that you will be ambassadors of hospitality for First Church in Lent, and extend warm and sincere invitations to family, friends, and yes, even strangers, to the richness of the season that God has created for us to share.

Faithful Citizenship

HOW OUR FAITH SHAPES US AS CITIZENS OF DEMOCRACY

Each week at 6:00 PM beginning Wednesday, March 4 in the Pastor's Study, this class aims to reach beyond the hyper-partisanship of a presidential election year to understand our role as citizens, and Christians, from the standpoint of covenant, community, and the common good.

So we'll leave behind the candidate debates, Fox News, and MSNBC and focus instead on how scripture and Christian tradition form "faithful citizens."

March 4

March 11

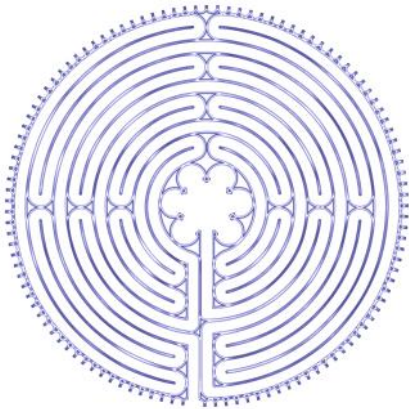
March 18

March 25

April 1



A Lenten class designed to get beyond partisan bickering.



Walk the Labyrinth

ONE STEP AT A TIME. ONE STEP AT A TIME.

A labyrinth is a patterned path, often circular in form, used as a walking meditation or spiritual practice. A single winding path leads to the center. Then, when you are ready, you retrace the path out of the labyrinth, taking with you resolution, healing, or peace. Labyrinth walks are an ancient practice found in numerous world cultures. The new chapel labyrinth opens Wednesday, March 4. Schedules will be posted on our website.

Ash Wednesday



FEBRUARY 26

6:30 PM IN THE CHAPEL

WORSHIP, SUPPER &
IMPOSITION OF ASHES

“A Different Kind of Lent” is a work in progress. Additional exciting and meaningful events are still being planned. Check the Sunday bulletin, church website, and social media regularly for updates.

Holy Week

Palm Sunday



Sunday, April 5

It's known as Palm Sunday, marking Jesus' entry into Jerusalem amidst adoring crowds. It's also known as Passion Sunday, ushering in a week of deepening shadows. Sunday will reflect this dual identity, blending elements of jubilation and the reality of what Holy Week will bring.

Maundy Thursday worship

Thursday, April 9

A solemn service of communion and reflection, commemorating Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples, at 7 pm.



Good Friday joint service

Friday, April 10

Ecumenical service at St. John's Grace Episcopal Church, featuring homilies by the pastors of Buffalo churches on the Seven Last Word of Christ. The service begins at noon and concludes at 3 pm. All are welcome to drop in at any time.

The First Church sanctuary will be open from noon to 3 pm for individual prayer.



Easter morning worship

Sunday, April 12

The Lord is risen! Alleluia!

We don't need to embellish this day, it brings all the joy we need. Dr. David Bond leads the organ and brass ensemble in a grand Easter prelude at 10:45 am and our celebration culminates in Resurrection Worship at 11 am, with communion.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PRESENTS

THE NOEHREN

@ 50

DR. DAVID BOND, ORGANIST

A RECITAL OF 200 YEARS OF FRENCH MUSIC



First Presbyterian Church of Buffalo
1 Symphony Circle
www.firstchurchbuffalo.org

Sunday, March 22
5:00 PM | Free and
open to the public

JAZZ

FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF
BUFFALO

CHURCH
MEMBER
TICKETS
JUST \$5!

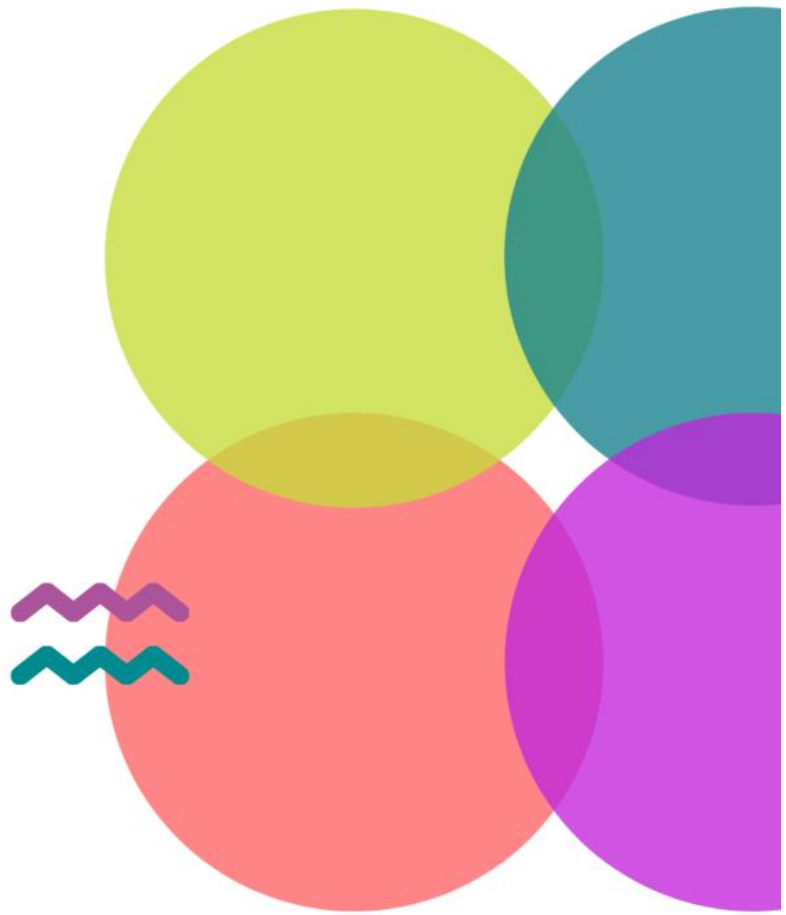
ON THE
CIRCLE

FEATURING
THE ED CROFT
QUARTET

FUTURE
CONCERTS:
APRIL 26
MAY 31

SUNDAY, MARCH 29
6:00 - 8:00 PM
IN THE SANCTUARY

TICKETS
\$10 GENERAL | \$7 STUDENTS



Book Group

“THE UNGRATEFUL REFUGEE: WHAT IMMIGRANTS NEVER TELL YOU”

by Dina Nayeri

"Nayeri combines her own experience with those of refugees she meets as an adult, telling their stories with tenderness and reverence." —The New York Times Book Review

Location: Christina Banas's home
(176 College St. in Buffalo)

(Parking tips will be printed in the Sunday bulletin prior to the event.)

Please bring a dish to share for a potluck meal.



THURSDAY

March 26

6:00 PM

ABC Bel Canto Choir

MUSICAL TREATS CONCERT — FREE!

All three children's choirs will perform music ranging from early renaissance to the latest pop hits.

See Dr. David Bond on piano!



SUNDAY

March 1

3:00 PM

in the Sanctuary



As is our tradition, we will participate in the special One Great Hour of Sharing offering on **Palm Sunday, April 5**. This year marks the 71st anniversary of the fund that enables the greater Church to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and helping to empower the poor and oppressed.



SCRABBLE® FEST 2020 FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ALL ARE WELCOME

Join us for a fun game
while supporting a
great cause!



Thursday, March 12th
Light Dinner 6:30 PM
Games Begin 7:00 PM



*First Presbyterian Church
1 Symphony Circle
Buffalo, NY 14201*

***\$5.00 suggested donation to support
Literacy NY Buffalo-Niagara, Inc.***

Games can also be played for fun and will not be part of the
big "Contest"!

For more information or to RSVP: Liz Kamke (716) 400-3770



EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM

Order deadline
Palm Sunday,
April 5

Help decorate the sanctuary with flowers on Easter,
and take the opportunity to honor a loved one.

NAME _____

PHONE OR EMAIL _____

NUMBER OF PLANTS _____ @ \$8.00 EACH TOTAL \$ _____

DEDICATION

Dedications will be printed in the bulletin on Easter Sunday.

Flowers will be a variety of lilies, tulips, daffodils and other spring plants.

- I will take my flower(s) on Easter Sunday.
- Please use my flower(s) for the church gardens.
- Please donate my plant to our homebound members.
- I volunteer to deliver my flower to a homebound member.

Please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church and
indicate "Easter flowers" in the memo.

FIRST CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Ken Hughes, *Pastor*

RevKen@firstchurchbuffalo.org

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The Reverend John Long, D.D.

Parish Associate for Community Outreach

JohnRLong17@verizon.net

The Reverend Jack Smiley, *Pastor Emeritus*

Christina Banas, *Communications & Office Manager*

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Dr. David Bond, *Organist/Choirmaster, Bookkeeper*

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Cory Connell, *Maintenance Coordinator*

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Voicemail extension: 200

Rama Salim, *Custodial & Security Assistant*

RSalim@firstchurchbuffalo.org

Voicemail extension: 202

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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Instagram: @1stChurchBflo

Twitter: @1stChurchBflo

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OFFICERS

SESSION AND TRUSTEES BY CLASS AND TERM

Class of 2020

Lucas Lloyd (2)

Janet Hill (1) *Clerk*

Henry Porter (2)

Sue Snyder (2)

Class of 2021

John Darby (2)

James Gardner (1)

Jean Hess (1)

Tina Osei (1)

Class of 2022

Mark Armesto (2)

Don Houck (2)

Liz Kamke (2)

Gifty Koramoah (1)

BOARD OF DEACONS BY CLASS AND TERM

Class of 2020

India Asplundh (1)

Barry Farmer (1)

Madeline Mason-Brandon (2)

Suzanne Pilon (1)

Lou Ann Luther Riegler (2)

Class of 2021

Mary Field (2)

Jim McKeel (1)

Sheila Miller (2)

Shannon Rogers (1)

Class of 2022

Russell Carlson (1)

Olga Rico-Armesto (1)

Denis Wettlaufer (2)

OFFICERS OF THE CORPORATION

Michael Henry, President

[Vacancy], 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 worshiping God, fostering spiritual growth and serving the community.