



First Presbyterian Church

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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.

EPIPHANY SUNDAY JANUARY 6, 2019

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

PRELUDE

We Three Kings
Hand Bell Choir

arr. John Klein

WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE COMMUNITY

INTROIT *The Spirit of the Lord filleth the world. O come, O come let us adore him. Alleluia.*

♦CALL TO WORSHIP

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

The brightness of God's light shines upon all the nations.

All are welcomed to the brightness of God's dawn.

God gathers us from far away and carries us.

With radiant eyes, with rejoicing hearts, we receive the abundance God gives.

We respond in praise. With our gifts, with our very selves, we worship God.

♦HYMN 66

"We Three Kings of Orient Are"

Three Kings of Orient

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Elder Maria Oakley

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

O Lord our God, your glory shines as far as the east is from the west, from the north to the south, so that all people may see and be radiant, so that every heart might thrill and rejoice.

Overwhelm us with the joy of your presence. May we enter your house and pay homage to the Messiah that all might be gathered in. In the name of Christ, we pray. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND PARDON

In the light of Christ, we see the shadows of our world and of our hearts. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sins before God and one another:

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Let us pray:

Merciful God, you have given light to the world in Jesus Christ, but we have preferred to live in darkness. Your justice protects the weak and the distressed, yet we seek the status of wealth and possessions. Your peace upholds the oppressed and the defenseless, yet we seek the security of weapons and retribution. Forgive us our sins, and lead us to true repentance, that we may trust you in all things; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Friends, God is for us and not against us. For that very reason God sent the Son into the world— not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. In Christ, we are forgiven! **Thanks be to God.**

◇CANTICLE

“Glory to the Father”

Richard Wetzel

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
as in the beginning, so now, and forever. Amen.**

◇PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Anticipating the blessings of the one whose light still shines, let us offer one another signs of Christ’s peace: The peace of Christ be with you, always. **And also with you.**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 60:1-6

OT page 690

ANTHEM

Arise, shine for your light is come

Robert Lehman

Arise, shine for your light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen, is risen upon you. Nations will stream to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawning. Your gates will always be open; by day or night they will never be shut. They will call you the City of the Lord, The Zion of the Holy One of Israel. Arise, shine, for you light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen, is risen upon you.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 2:1-12

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MEDITATION

“The Forgotten Christmas Miracle” *Rev. Dr. Kenneth E. Hughes*

◇HYMN 68

“What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright” *Puer Nobis Nascitur*

◇AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from the Confession of Belhar

**We believe that God has entrusted the church
with the message of reconciliation
in and through Jesus Christ.**

**We believe that the church is called to be
the salt of the earth
and the light of the world.**

**We believe that the church is called blessed
because it is a peacemaker.**

**We believe that the church is witness
both by word and by deed
to the new heaven and the new earth
in which righteousness dwells. Amen.**

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!

The Pastor continues and says:

Filled us with gratitude overflowing for these gifts of heaven, so we now follow the model of Christ Jesus, who taught us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS & COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord of yesterday, today and tomorrow, we have celebrated communion this first Sunday of the New Year in a mixture of hope, fear, excitement, and expectation. Whatever the year holds for us, we trust you and we place every day of this year in your care knowing that, as in the past, you are with us. And so Lord, we dedicate our lives to your service through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

◇HYMN OF RESPONSE: 63 "As with Gladness Men of Old"

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◇CHARGE & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE



CALL TO CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A special congregational meeting will be held at the end of worship today, Sunday, January 6, to vote on the sale of the church manse as required by the Book of Order. The manse sale to Christina Banas for \$125,000 has been endorsed by the Corporate Board and the Session. In addition to the congregation, the sale of church property requires the approval of the Presbytery of Western New York.

Agenda for Special Congregational Meeting January 6, 2019

Opening Prayer

Lord, in the opening days of this new year, help us to live with vision and not fear, to live for others and not self, to live with joy and not regret, to live with compassion and not resentment. In other words, help us to live fully and abundantly in your grace. Give us confidence that, no matter what we face in this new year, "nothing will be able to separate us from your love" -- nothing. Amen.

- Declaration of Quorum
- Statement of Agenda:
 - To vote on sale of church manse to Christina Banas for \$125,000
- Questions and discussion
- Motion on manse sale and vote
- Motion to Adjourn

*Charge and Benediction

*Closing Prayer

Sheltering God, as we depart this place we dare pray that you will do for us and among us and through us what is needed for rebirth. Make us servants of your kingdom, through which all Creation is made new. Amen.

Household Prayer: Morning

Glorious God, each day provides opportunity to awaken to the radiance of your presence, and to welcome your blessing into my life. How often I forget that I am your home! Help me to draw more closely to you, that I may manifest your love more deeply in the world. May every bright place and darkened corner grow ever more luminous as I bear your light this day. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Holy Jesus, I thank you for sharing your life with me today. As darkness comes and blankets the earth, be with all who suffer from sickness, hunger, or lack of shelter. Kindle in them the warmth of your presence, and surround them with your steadfast care. I am grateful for the blessings of this day. And in the light of your love I rest this night. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6, 2019

Today's liturgist is Jean Hess.

The **Three Kings** are portrayed by Mark Armesto, Gregg Borland, and Rev. John Long.

TODAY IS FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY

The first Sunday of the month is designated "Food Pantry Sunday." Donations of canned goods can be placed in the cart on the Narthex. Monetary donations to the Lyon Food Pantry are also appreciated. First Church feeds an average of 20 hungry people every Tuesday, right here in our neighborhood. This is an opportunity for hands-on mission that helps many.

Handy grocery lists are available in the Narthex to keep with you or give to a friend!

NAMING THE OLD LIBRARY

The renovations on the old historic library located on the Wadsworth St. side of the building are almost complete. Reclaiming this space creates a multi-use area for meetings, small group gatherings, and meditation. **Have a suggestion for naming the room? Submit your ideas in the basket on the information table in the Narthex.**

2019 CHURCH DIRECTORY

An updated church directory will be printed at the end of January. If you have changes to your contact information, please complete a Contact Information Form available on the information table in the Narthex and return it in the offering plate or in the Church Office.

NEW CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Beginning January 2, Church Office hours will be Monday through Friday, 9 AM to 5 PM.

THANK YOU

The Deacons want to thank everyone who donated so generously to our winter hat, sock and mitten drive. On Dec. 19, Deacons Mary Field and Lou Ann Luther Riegle delivered the items for men to the Buffalo City Mission. Articles for women and children were taken to Cornerstone Manor. Items also went to Elder Jose Gomez for his ministry with persons recovering from addiction. Donations are still welcome and will be given to Friends of the Night People. Thanks to all!

PUBLICATION DEADLINES

The 2018 Annual Report and Winter Newsletter deadlines are **Monday, January 14.**

JOYS & CONCERNS

- Elijah, a young boy healing from an eye injury related to a school bullying incident
- Dave K. with esophageal cancer
- David B. with medical issues and hoping to avoid an invasive procedure
- Susan Cummings for less pain
- Roch Harmon at Orchard Heights
- Pat Harmon
- Alan McCausland
- Jeff Wichtowski
- John Burgess at HighPointe on Michigan
- Bob Kerwin
- Elaine Tinch
- Ramona Brown
- Asylum seekers at the Mexican border, especially those families who are separated.

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, January 6

11:00 a.m.

12:00 p.m.

Epiphany Sunday

Worship & Communion, Rev. Dr. Ken Hughes preaching — Sanctuary

Congregational meeting — Sanctuary

Fellowship time to follow in the Narthex

Monday, January 7

1:30 p.m.

6:00 p.m.

Worship & Music Committee Meeting — Pastor's Study

One Symphony Circle Board Meeting — Historical Hall

Tuesday, January 8

12:30 p.m.

Food Bag Assistance — Historical Hall

Wednesday, January 9

10:00 a.m.

12:00 p.m.

4:30 p.m.

Staff Meeting — Pastor's Study

The Serendipity Shoppe open until 5 PM — Basement

Literacy tutoring — Chapel

Thursday, January 10

12:00 p.m.

3:00-7:00 p.m.

The Serendipity Shoppe open until 5 PM — Basement

Native Offerings Crop Share Pickup — Courtyard

Friday, January 11

12:00 p.m.

The Serendipity Shoppe open until 6 PM — Basement

Saturday, January 12

12:00 p.m.

1:00 p.m.

The Serendipity Shoppe open until 5 PM — Basement

Memorial service for Maureen Leahy — Chapel

Sunday, January 13

11:00 a.m.

11:15 a.m.

12:00 p.m.

Worship, Rev. Dr. Ken Hughes preaching — Sanctuary

Sunday school — Classrooms

Congregational meeting — Sanctuary

Fellowship time to follow in the Narthex

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OFFICERS



SESSION 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)
Jose 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

FIRST CHURCH STAFF LIST

Rev. Dr. Kenneth E. Hughes, Pastor

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The Reverend John Long, D.D.,

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