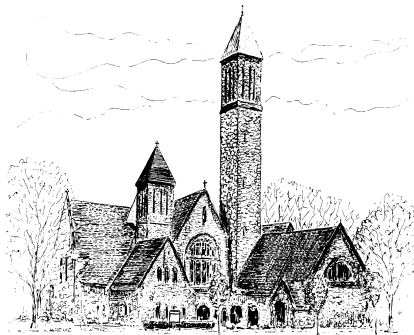


First Presbyterian Church

Founded 1812



Liftoff



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 worshiping 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.

FEBRUARY 25, 2024 – SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

PRELUDE

Pastorale

Louis Vierne

WELCOME & NEWS OF THE COMMUNITY

◇CALL TO WORSHIP

God welcomes the dreamers and the doubters,

the courageous and the fearful,

the hungry and the hopeful,

the impatient and the reserved.

God welcomes the young and the old,

the poets and the prophets,

the faithful and the tired,

the curious and the convicted.

Wherever you are on your journey, wherever your boat is at sea,

there is room for all to gather here.

This is God’s house.

Let us worship the one whom even the seas obey.

◇HYMN 562 (BLUE)

“Eternal Father, strong to Save”

Melita

◇PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

Holy God, Listening is always easier said than done. We shuffle into this space and try to quiet our minds, but the list of distractions is long. We need your help to listen. So today we ask that you would marinate us in your Word. Dust the cobwebs from our ears. Stir our souls awake. Crack open our hearts to make room for you. Scoop us up. Put us in your pocket. Carry us with you wherever you go. We want to hear you, really hear you, so speak to us now. With hope we pray, **Amen**

◇CONFESSION AND PARDON

Today, Peter is out on a boat with the disciples when a storm hits. Peter spots Jesus on the water and bravely crawls out of the boat to move closer to Christ. Friends, the prayer of confession is one way we do the same. In the prayer of confession, we are honest about the storms that rage within and around us. We speak honestly in an effort to move closer to God.

This is our moment to crawl out of the boat. So, let's be like Peter. Join me in being courageous truth-telling. It's time to get our feet wet.



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

Let us pray:

Gracious God, there are days that threaten to swallow us, days when the storms of life feel too big. In those moments, we often cling to the sides of our ships in fear, spending more energy hiding from storms than looking for you. Forgive us for doubting ourselves. Forgive us for doubting you. Rescue us from these storms and from the fears that trap us. With hope in our hearts we pray.

Silent prayer

Amen.

Family of faith, you could get out of the boat and walk on water like Peter, or fall to your knees and stay in one place. No matter what you do, Jesus Christ's love for you is unchanging. Fearful or brave, faithful or doubting, Christ is always walking toward you. So hear and believe this good news: God's love is stronger than any storms. On our best days, and on our worst days, we are seen, forgiven, and loved. God is always walking toward us. Thanks be to God! **Amen.**

◇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. _____

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, sometimes the wind is loud. The rain rips through the trees and the storms of life beg for our attention. So just as you stilled the wind and the sea, still our wandering hearts. Quiet our restless minds. Reach out your hand to us and pull us into your Word so that we might really hear your message to us today. With one foot out of the boat, we pray. **Amen.**

PSALTER READING:

Psalm 22:23-31

You who fear the Lord, give praise! all you of Jacob's line, give glory.
Stand in awe of the Lord, all you offspring of Israel;

**For the Lord does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty,
neither is the Lord's face hidden from them,
but when they cry out, the Lord hears them.**

From you comes my praise in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those
who worship the Lord.

**The poor shall eat and be satisfied; Let those who seek the Lord give praise!
May your hearts live forever!**

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;
all the families of nations shall bow before God.

For dominion belongs to the Lord who rules over the nations.

All who sleep in the earth shall bow down to the Lord.

All who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the Lord.

**Their descendants shall serve the Lord;
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,

Saying to them, "The Lord has acted!"

ANTHEM

O Lord, Listen

Chris J. Granias

*O Lord, listen, listen to my prayer, and let my cry reach you. Do not hide your face from me. Turn
your ear, towards me. My days are passing like a shadow, and I wither like the grass. But you, O
Lord, will last forever. O Lord, listen.*

—from Psalm 102

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 14:22-33

NT page 16

SERMON

"Danger? Really?"

Rev. Leslie Latham

◇HYMN

"O Lord, You Sent Your Friends Out"

Aurelia

**O Lord, you sent your friends out upon the sea one day,
then you went up a mountain to be alone and pray.
But soon their boat was shaken by mighty winds and waves.
They fought the storm that threatened and prayed to God who saves.**

**Soon, early in the morning, they saw you on the sea.
They thought a ghost was with them and cried out fearfully.
"Don't be afraid," you told them, "for it is I," you said.
You stayed with them and helped them when they were filled with dread.**

**"If it is you," said Peter, "Just give me your command
and I'll walk on the water as if it were dry land."
He bravely went to meet you, but soon he sank in fear.
He found it hard to trust you when danger was so near.**

**You reached your hand to Peter and then you stilled the storm.
They worshiped you in wonder as wind and waves grew calm.
May we your church have courage to trust in you alone.
In you we find safe passage and you will bring us home.**

◇AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in a God who moves toward me when storms rage. I believe in a God who invites me to be brave. I believe in a God whom the wind and waves obey. I believe in a God who knows my name. I believe in a God of love. I am not afraid.. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Christ has freely given us the gift of grace and salvation. Let us therefore freely bring our generous gifts of gratitude to him.

OFFERTORY

Almighty and Everlasting God

Orlando Gibbons

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities, and in all our dangers and necessities, stretch forth thy right hand to help and defend us: through Christ our Lord. Amen.

◇DOXOLOGY 591

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

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

We give thanks to you, O Lord, for your sustaining presence and abundant grace. Receive now these gifts we bring to you out of your generous provision in our lives. May they be used to satisfy the hungry in famine, relieve the oppressed in time of trouble, and proclaim everywhere the good news of your Son in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

◇HYMN 332 (BLUE)

“Live Into Hope”

Truro

◇CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Festival Voluntary

Flor Peeters

The annual meeting of the First Presbyterian Society of the town of Buffalo is called for Sunday, February 25, 2024 in the sanctuary immediately following worship. The purpose of the meeting is to receive Session's budget for 2024, reports of the staff, and committees of the congregation.

By order of the Session

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2024

The liturgist this morning is Bruce McCausland.

'THANK YOU'

Thank you to all of you who made soup for Ash Wednesday, There were all delicious! And thanks to the bread makers/bringers. It was an enjoyable, contemplative meal.

EASTER FLOWER ORDERS

The deadline for ordering Easter plants is March 17th. There is a tear-off order form included with this bulletin.

LITURGISTS NEEDED!

Thanks to all of you who signed up to be liturgists through January & February. We will need liturgists beginning in March so check your calendars. A script is provided ahead of time and no special skills are needed. Join in worship in a new way! Contact Jean Hess at 716-713-4274 or Dr. David Bond at 716-884-7250, ext.204

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 Mike M. & family whose elderly father is very ill.
- 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 Israel & Jordan.

For prayer requests:

dbond@firstchurchbuffalo.org or **716-884-7250, Ext. 204.**

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, February 25, 2024` 10:30 a.m.	2nd Sunday in Lent In person and livestreamed - Rev. Leslie Latham preaching Annual Meeting of the congregation immediately following worship
Monday, February 26, 2024	No events
Tuesday, February 27, 2024 12:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Food Bag Distribution—Courtyard Friends of Harmony rehearsal—Hindman Chapel
Wednesday, February 28, 2024 12:00 - 5:00 p.m.	Serendipity Shoppe open — Basement
Thursday, February 29, 2024 12:00 - 5:00 p.m.	Serendipity Shoppe open — Basement
Friday, March 1, 2024 12:00 - 5:00 p.m.	Serendipity Shoppe open — Basement
Saturday, March 2, 2024 12:00 - 5:00 p.m.	Serendipity Shoppe open — Basement
Sunday, March 3, 2024` 10:30 a.m.	3rd Sunday in Lent In person and livestreamed - Rev. Leslie Latham preaching

Household Prayer: Morning

Lord Jesus, help me walk with you this day. If you lead me where I fear to go, give me courage and keep me true, that I may bear my cross without shame and live in the promise of life eternal. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Jesus, if I stray, show me my fault, forgive my sin, and set me rightly on your path. Keep me on the way of the cross, and lead me to the eternal joy of Easter. Amen.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OFFICERS

SESSION BY CLASS AND TERM

Class of 2023

Janet Hill (2)
Quinton Meyer (1)
Tim Hess (1)
Kailee Van Brunt (1)

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)

OFFICERS OF THE CORPORATION

James Gardner, President
Don Houck Vice President
Mark Armesto, 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 2023

Ilsa Cooper (1)
Mark Armesto (1)
Eli Van Brunt (1)

Class of 2024

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

Class of 2025

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

The Reverend Leslie Latham

Pastor, Head of Staff
Revleslie@firstchurchbuffalo.org

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

Contact Information

First Presbyterian Church

www.firstchurchbuffalo.org
www.facebook.com/1stChurchBuffalo

Presbytery of Western New York

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

EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM

*Help decorate our sanctuary with flowers,
while honoring your loved ones.*

PRICE: \$15 each

ORDER DEADLINE: Sunday, March 17, 2024

METHODS OF ORDERING:

By order form: Place completed order form in either the offering basket or in David Bond's mail slot in the church office.

By phone call or email to David Bond: 716-884-7250, x204, or dbond@firstchurchbuffalo.org. Provide him with info as is requested on below order form.

METHODS OF PAYMENT:

Via check: make payable to *First Presbyterian Church of Buffalo*, with "*Easter plants*" legibly written in memo section at bottom of check. Please mail check to First Church to David Bond's attention, or place in his mail slot in the church office.

Via online: access First Church website: <https://www.firstchurchbuffalo.org>. Scroll to bottom & click "DONATE". Type total amount in box labeled "**non-charitable payments**", 1-time donation. Log in using email address & password. Follow instructions. In "**notes**" section, under credit card info, type "*Easter plants*".

DEDICATIONS: Names will be printed in bulletin on **Easter Sunday, April 9th**.

Your Name (PRINT LEGIBLY):

Phone # & Email Address (PRINT LEGIBLY):

Phone: _____ Email address: _____

Number of Easter plants you wish to order: _____

Name(s) of loved one(s) being honored or memorialized: (PRINT LEGIBLY):

Dedications: (PRINT LEGIBLY - "in honor of" or "in memory of"):

I will take home my plant(s) on March 31st, Easter Sunday: (Y or N): _____