



Spring 2021

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BUFFALO

NEWSLETTER



THE SEASON OF EMERGING LIFE

By Rev. Dr. Ken Hughes

I mentioned in a P.S. to my Easter meditation that I have been thinking of the 50 days from Resurrection Sunday till Pentecost as a season of emerging life. Emerging life as in Jesus' departure from the tomb, of course. But also emerging in all that is coming to bud in our yards, and parks, and neighborhoods.

I even got a reminder the other day that this season includes the return of cicadas above ground in the eastern U.S. after a 17-year hibernation. Talk about emerging life!

Equal to any of those senses is our emergence from more than a year of dismal circumstances probably none of us has ever experienced. A stretch in time that has been one of denial, isolation, and distance, none of it welcome.

Whether we have come through this crucible with deep wounds or only superficial scrapes, it has had a dampening effect on body, mind, and spirit. The cost to worshipping communities has been especially harsh as both the week-to-week communion of believers and the special occasions they mark – Christmas, Easter, funerals, and weddings – have had to be scaled back, restricted, or canceled altogether.

But ever so slowly and cautiously we are putting such sacrifices behind us, and thanks be to God for that! I think that encourages a new way of thinking about Jesus' resurrection. A new way of appreciating the promise and hope coming out of what appeared terminal instead being a portal to something revolutionary and life-giving.

And so in these warming and lengthening days, I pray you will take the time to notice and savor how life is emerging for you. Whether it is in the long-delayed embrace of a loved one, in a return to gatherings and recreation, in the delight of a spirit relieved of gloom, or even in the din of cicadas making their noisy presence known.

All of this comes from the hand of God, and what more is there to say than that.



CHURCH LIFE NEWS

By Elder Jean Hess

The Church Life Committee would like to express its thanks to all who donated supplies or money towards our Lenten project. We were able to create 115 personal care supply bags to share with homeless or needy neighbors.

The resealable bags were packed with soap, a washcloth, toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, dental floss, hand sanitizer, tissues and a 5 pack of cloth face masks. The masks were a gift from Brad Hahn and Explore Buffalo and were also shared with the Food Pantry. Thanks, Brad!! These items will go a long way towards making the recipients feel cared about and can be easily carried.

Each bag had a First Presbyterian Church label attached which said “You are loved! Here are a few things to brighten your day. We want you to know that we care and that you matter to God. We are praying for you.”

The majority of the bags went to Hearts for The Homeless who run a mobile soup kitchen downtown 5 days a week, a thrift shop and food pantry. Additional bags were shared with the migrant/refugee group who spoke at church a few weeks ago. Excess items were given to our food pantry for their clients.

Special thanks to Karen Lewis, Rama and Christina for their assistance.



You are loved!

Here are a few things to brighten your day.

*We want you to know that we care
and that you matter to God.*

We are praying for you.

Your Friends at First Presbyterian Church of Buffalo

1 Symphony Circle, 14201 | 884-7250

Sunday worship 10:30 AM

www.firstchurchbuffalo.org

MEMBERSHIP

By Elder Liz Kamke



One session meeting years ago we spent quite a bit of time talking about the concept that people were just waiting for someone to invite them to church! I chuckled all the way home. It must have been the next night that I was sorting exquisite buttons on one of the girls' baptismal tray, thinking there must be other people who like to do this. We need a hobby night! I started listing possible hobbies and realized I needed a database. Who did I know who could help me? I had never chatted with the tenant downstairs, but she worked with computers, so I went down and knocked on her door.

When I explained what I wanted to do at my church she said “What church is that? I’ve been looking for a church.” It hadn’t been 24 hours! She ultimately joined the church, but moved away not long after.

When is the last time you invited anyone to church?

I’ve been so lucky to be a member of First Presbyterian Church all these years. I’m proud that “all are welcome in this place”. We’ve been God’s hands in Buffalo since 1812 and we want to continue the work. We have come this far by Faith, and I pray we have a long way to go. Invite a friend!

CLERK'S CORNER

By Elder Janet Hill

The following actions were taken by Session at its regular meetings in January, February, and March.

- ✓ Approved the Membership Rolls adjustments.
- ✓ Approved the election of Daniel Culross to the OSC Board.
- ✓ Approved the request of OSC to have Mark Armesto rejoin the board.
- ✓ Changed the regular meeting of Session from Wednesday to Tuesday, February 16.
- ✓ Agreed to reopen the church for worship on Sunday, March 14 unless conditions warrant otherwise.
- ✓ Approved the 2020 Church Statistical Report.
- ✓ Approved the changes to the Congregational Bylaws.
- ✓ Called the Annual Meeting of the Congregation for May 16.
- ✓ Approved the request from the Master Gardeners to hold a basket auction in conjunction with their plant sale on the Friday and Saturday of Memorial Weekend.
- ✓ Approved the request of One Symphony Circle to hold a drive-thru Texas Chili and barbecue dinner featuring Fat Bob's on April 8.
- ✓ Approved the baptism of the baby of Lucas and Connie Lloyd on Sunday, June 13.
- ✓ Approved the request of Rev. Dr. Ken Hughes for vacation April 8-26 with Elders on pulpit supply on April 11, 18, and 25.
- ✓ Rescheduled the regular meeting of Session from April 21 to April 28.
- ✓ Agreed to hold a collection for the One Great Hour of Sharing on Palm Sunday.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION AND CORPORATION of the First Presbyterian Society of the Town of Buffalo will take place Sunday, May 16, 2021 immediately following worship in the Sanctuary.



PENTECOST
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS

SUNDAY, MAY 23

Supporting Young Women of Color through the Pentecost Offering

The world certainly looks different than it did this time last year. In addition to the coronavirus pandemic, we have been reminded of the harmful realities of the pandemic of racism, one that has plagued our country since its founding. In Matthew 25, we are called to address the inequities we see in the world, including confronting deeply ingrained racist systems and structures.

An example of a church utilizing their Pentecost Offering is First Presbyterian Church in Tecumseh, Michigan. They have begun taking action to dismantle structural racism in their community. The congregation used their retained portion of the Pentecost Offering to organize an outreach committee that included members of their predominantly white congregation as well as members of color throughout the community. Since last year's Pentecost Offering, they have worked with a Black-woman-owned business to provide blazers to 25 young women for job interviews. They are currently working to provide mentorship communities for young women who are preparing to graduate from college, as well as young survivors of domestic violence who are moving to transitional housing.

First Presbyterian Tecumseh's commitment to supporting young women of color in their community is just one example of how congregations can live out the call to be a Matthew 25 church. The Pentecost Offering is church-wide, and supports children at risk, ministries with youth, and Young Adult Volunteers, and 40% of the offering remains within your congregation. Please give generously on May 23, because when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

God of all people,

stir in us a commitment to help shape the lives of our children, youth and young adults, especially those who are marginalized due to the color of their skin.

Help us to make sure all have opportunities to thrive and be exactly who you call them to be. Amen.



CHICKEN BBQ DRIVE-THRU

TUESDAY, 6/8 | 4-7 PM

@ 1st Presbyterian Church
1 Symphony Circle, Buffalo
Enter on Pennsylvania St. for pickup

Tickets: \$12 presale | \$13 day of

**Meal includes a half chicken,
homemade potato salad & cole slaw, roll & butter**

Purchase tickets online at www.explorebuffalo.org
or by calling (716) 245-3032.

Proceeds benefit One Symphony Circle, Inc. & Explore Buffalo





Discover Camp Duffield

Location: 11740 Worden Rd. Delevan, NY 14042
Mailing Address: P.O.Box 55, Kenmore, NY 14217
716-440-9833



Does your family need to get away? Consider a vacation at beautiful Camp Duffield! Camp Duffield has long been associated with our Presbytery. It's a perfect place to avoid large crowds, hike the woods, and star gaze at night. Breathe the fresh air of the forest. Explore the 135 acres of woodland, hike the trails, swim in the spring fed lake, and star gaze away from the city lights.

Amenities: 2 private bathrooms & showers, kitchenette (sink, mini fridge, microwave, coffee maker), grill, private campfire, porch, basketball, tetherball, volleyball court, playground, catch & release fishing, swimming, beach area, trails, canoes. Cabins are accessible.

MISSION NEWS: JUSTICE FOR MIGRANT FAMILIES

Justice for Migrant Families (JFMF) is a nonprofit agency that promotes justice for migrant families by providing support to individuals in the federal detention facility in Batavia, information and resources to families in the community, and advocacy both within and beyond the local community.

A representative from the organization presented a Minute for Mission recently and introduced the work being done. The Mission Committee, chaired by Tim Hess and Quinton Meyer, endorsed this organization becoming a mission of the church.

Currently, there is a need for Tops gift cards in any amount to assist with fresh groceries and personal care items. Gift cards may be placed in the Church Office and will be sent to the organization's contact. Questions about this ministry can be directed to Parish Associate Rev. John Long.



NEWS IN THE FAMILY

Dear Membership Committee,

Thank you so much for planning, organizing, and hosting our virtual baby shower. We had such a great time and felt the love from everyone. We would also like to thank you for the gorgeous flower arrangement and super yummy Indian food lunch! We are so blessed to be a part of this church family!

*Love,
Kailee & Eli Van Brunt*



I greatly appreciate the prayer shawl and I will treasure it and use it often! Thank you very much!

— Earl McColgin



Congratulations to Melissa Morton for completing the Easter Bible Quiz. She earned a \$25.00 gift card at Target. Great Job, Mel!



In Memoriam

With sadness, we share the names of friends and family who recently passed away:

Carlton Brownell
Art Hahn
Marguerite Kerwin
Betty Kinnen

Our deepest sympathies are with their loved ones.



An updated church directory will be published in May. Do you have a new email address? Want to add your cell phone? Email your directory updates to cbanas@firstchurchbuffalo.org.

Lyon Food Pantry Grocery List

- Cereal
- Pasta
- Pasta sauce
- Tuna fish
- Macaroni and cheese
- Rice
- Beans
- Canned vegetables
- Canned soup
- Ramen Noodles
- Toilet paper



Sketch by W. Haight, 1955

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*

Christina Banas, *Communications & Office Manager*

CBanas@firstchurchbuffalo.org

Voicemail extension: 201

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

DBond@firstchurchbuffalo.org

Voicemail extension: 204

Cory Connell, *Maintenance Coordinator*

Voicemail extension: 200

Rama Salim, *Custodial & Security Assistant*

RSalim@firstchurchbuffalo.org

Voicemail extension: 202

RESIDENT PARTNERS

More than “tenants” to us, these organizations share space in our building:

- Rise & Shine AA Group
- Explore Buffalo
- FBITES
- Friends of Harmony
- Houghton College Buffalo
- Native Offerings
- One Symphony Circle, Inc.
- The Serendipity Shoppe
- Village Church

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

One Symphony Circle, Buffalo, NY 14201-1213

(across from Kleinhans)

Sunday worship 10:30 AM via Zoom

Phone: (716) 884-7250

Fax: (716) 884-7253

www.firstchurchbuffalo.org

email@firstchurchbuffalo.org

Facebook.com/1stChurchBuffalo

Twitter & Instagram: @1stChurchBflo

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OFFICERS

SESSION AND TRUSTEES BY CLASS AND TERM

Class of 2021

James Gardner (1)

Jean Hess (1)

Tina Osei (1)

Class of 2022

Mark Armesto (2)

Don Houck (2)

Liz Kamke (2)

Gifty Koramoah (1)

Class of 2023

Janet Hill (2)

Quinton Meyer (1)

Tim Hess (1)

Kailee Van Brunt (1)

BOARD OF DEACONS BY CLASS AND TERM

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)

Class of 2023

Ilsa Cooper (1)

Earl McColgin (1)

Suzanne Pilon (2)

Eli Van Brunt (1)

OFFICERS OF THE CORPORATION

Michael Henry, President

Karen Lewis, 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.

