



Westminster Presbyterian Church of Buffalo

Photo courtesy of Westminster Presbyterian Church of Buffalo

Dear Friend of Sacred Sites,

Welcome to the Conservancy's fifth annual *Sacred Sites* Open House Weekend!

This year we mark the 50th Anniversary of the New York Landmarks Law and are proud to celebrate the diversity of the state's historic houses of worship.



New Yorkers travel the world to explore art, architecture, and history. On May 16th and 17th, just go out your door.

Over 125 churches, synagogues, and meeting houses throughout the city and state will be open for you to explore their wonderful religious architecture.

You'll also learn about the cultural and essential social programs many of these institutions provide. Whether you are religious or not, you'll see why it is important to preserve these neighborhood anchors.

So, be a tourist in your own town. You'll be amazed at what you can discover.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Peg Breen". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Peg Breen

THE NEW YORK LANDMARKS CONSERVANCY

Sacred Sites Open House Weekend 2015

A Special THANK YOU to the 2015 Sacred Sites Open House Weekend Sponsors!



Morgan Stanley





Angel of Light, First Unitarian Congregational Society

Please be an “angel” and share your thoughts about the Open House Weekend by completing a brief survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2WP79TY>

Thank you!

Guide to Participating Sites Upstate and Long Island

Sites in Buffalo

Blessed Trinity Catholic Church

317 Leroy Avenue

Buffalo, NY 14214

www.Blessedtrinitybuffalo.org

Saturday, May 16th: 2:00 – 4:00 pm

Sunday, May 17th: Noon – 2:00 pm

The congregation was founded in 1906 on land provided by German and Irish immigrant farmers, in what was not yet within the boundaries of the City of Buffalo. The current church, constructed in 1923-1928, is built in the 12th Century Lombard Romanesque style, one of the finest examples of that style in the US.

Recognizing that the congregation has multiple roots, the church holds prayer services in the Taize style, i.e. in various languages. In addition to tours, visitors can also view a video of the history of the church from the perspective of long-time members of the congregation.

Buffalo Religious Arts Center, formerly St. Francis Xavier Church

157 East Street

Buffalo, NY 14207

www.buffaloreligiousarts.org

Saturday, May 16th: 11:00 am – 3:00 pm

This church was founded in 1849 by German immigrants who wanted to provide a solid education for their children, which led to a school being opened at the site even before the church was built. The present building of the church dates back to 1913. In 2008 the church was closed due to lack of members who could not afford to heat the 12,000 sq. foot structure.

Thankfully, the building was purchased and donated to become the Buffalo Religious Arts Center. Its purpose is to collect and display artifacts from other closed Sacred Sites, whose artifacts can be attributed to the hard work of Italian, German, Polish, Hungarian, and Danish immigrants.

Corpus Christi Church

199 Clark Street

Buffalo, NY 14212

www.corpuschristibuffalo.org

Saturday, May 16th: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Sunday, May 17th: Noon – 5:00 pm

Constructed in 1901-1907, the church was the cultural center for Buffalo's Polish community. In 2004 the Friends of Corpus Christi was formed and launched a campaign to restore the church complex after it was threatened with closure in 2003. Today the interior of the church retains much of its original fixtures, murals, decorative paintings, and stained glass windows. For the last several years, *Dozynki*, a popular Fall Harvest/Polish Cultural festival, draws hundreds of participants from the greater metropolitan area to celebrate the lasting cultural heritage of Corpus Christi.

First Presbyterian Church

1 Symphony Circle

Buffalo, NY 14201

www.firstchurchbuffalo.org

Saturday, May 16th: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Sunday, May 17th: 11:15 am worship service (visitors welcome), and following service, tours until 2:00 pm

Completed in 1891, the current home of the First Presbyterian Church of Buffalo is an outstanding example of Richardsonian Romanesque architecture as interpreted by E. B. Green. The congregation is the oldest religious organization in the city, founded in 1812. The building stands on Symphony Circle in Buffalo, next to the Eliel and Eero Saarinen-designed Klein Hans Music Hall and down the street from the State Hospital designed by H. H. Richardson. The church contains several Tiffany windows, and the chapel windows were designed by Philadelphia's Willet Studio. It also houses the last organ built by the noted American organ builder, Robert Noehren. Theodore Roosevelt and Grover Cleveland worshiped at the church, and the church hosted the primary memorial services for Millard Fillmore.

Westminster Presbyterian Church

724 Delaware Avenue

Buffalo, NY 14209

www.wpcbuffalo.org

Sunday, May 17th: Noon – 2:00 pm

Westminster Presbyterian Church, located in the Delaware Avenue Historic District dubbed "Millionaire's Mile" circa 1900, was designed in Italianate style by Buffalo architect H. M. Wilcox and constructed in 1858-1859 of yellow Milwaukee brick, with a limestone foundation and trim. The church substantially predates the Historic District's turn-of-the-twentieth century mansions, many now in institutional or commercial use. The church features a prominent, 200' tall, five-stage, tapered polygonal steeple centered at the front façade, flanked by monumental arched windows. The trapezoidal tower base incorporates a tripartite entrance. In 1903, the increasing affluence of the neighborhood led to redecoration of the sanctuary by Tiffany Studios. The ornate Art Nouveau painted finishes were overpainted in 1954, but restored in 1992. Neo-Gothic style sanctuary stained glass was installed from the 1930s through the 1960s, with round arched side aisle windows modified with shallow Gothic arches. Highly intact at the front façade, the church is one of the few remaining mid-19th century buildings within the Historic District. A Norman Revival style parish hall wing was added in 1918 at the rear of the church. The church complex also includes a restored Victorian stable, which houses the church preschool.

We will offer a tour of our beautiful and historic Sanctuary and explain the history and meaning of the stained glass windows. Refreshments will be served.