First Presbyterian Church of Niagara Falls, NY FIRST PRES Newsletter

April 2021



Pastor Cathy's Letter

Dear Friends,

I am so glad the ice is melting and the spring flowers are poking through the ground. I think that the change of seasons this year is bringing good news for all of us. We have the usual changes that we are accustomed to and we have the changes that COVID has brought to us.

Having access to vaccines has made it possible for us to break out of the isolation so many of us have been living with over the past year. I think we all have discovered that isolation really does play with our minds. I cannot tell you how many times I have talked with people who are not sure what day it is or what part of the month we are in. All of us lose track of days now and then, but somehow this kind of losing track of time has been different. This isolation we have all been living with also has an impact on our memory. Things that always seemed easy to remember now slip our minds and we don't even notice.

I am looking forward to getting together with family and friends. I am looking forward to having worship services in person. I am looking forward to getting to know all of you a little more than I have been able to since I joined with you in October.

We have learned some things during the pandemic. Several of us have learned how to make videos that we use for worship together. We have learned to share leadership of the worship services. We have connected with people who do not live in our area. We are preparing the sanctuary for reaching out to those near and far, even when we are also meeting in person.

Continued

Continued

As we continue into spring and summer, I encourage you to find ways to gather with friends and family, to gather with your church family. We are planning some fun activities for the summer. We are working with other congregations to reach out and show God's love and grace to people in our community. Reflect upon your experience during the pandemic and think about what you missed the most, what you wish you could have done, how you found comfort in the midst of challenge. Share those ideas with us. Help us learn from our experiences

If you have not already done so, please get the COVID vaccine. Your efforts protect all of us. In the meantime, we will continue to wear masks covering our nose and mouth while we are at church. We will also maintain physical distance from one another. Hugs are not yet part of our gathering time. Our separation now will make hugs possible sometime in the future.

We will be back in the sanctuary for worship on Easter Sunday at 11:15. Please plan to join us and celebrate God's great love for all of us.

Blessings, Cathy



Easter Sunday Worship
11:15 AM

ADVI 50 Days of Spiritual Practices: Easter Themes

Week 1

Resurrection

On your Monday walk, what are the

> What were signs you saw today? of resurrection

signs of new life

you see?

note to someone Send a card or little cheer

Move more than you're used to Get moving!

phone, email, or friendship—by even Zoom! Renew a rest quietly) to Take a nap (or

renew

Resurrect an old been avoiding chore you've

Week 2

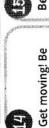
Practicing MindFulness

On your walk, be aware of Creation's During worship,

be attentive to

your prayers

argument (this baited by an Don't be television) includes



meditate for Be still and

> body movements attentive to your





Week 3

Promise Amidst CHaos; Signs of Hope made you angry 20 What has recently? Push to move a bit more than you're used to

What signs of

witness during

worship?

hope did you

What can you do about it?

Reach out to reconciliation (IF someone in a IT'S SAFE) spirit of

Watch a video on

chair yoga and

Get moving!

Pandemic social hour: in person, virtually, or by Have a phone

a whole closet. Eliminate chaos! Clean out the junk drawer-or

Week 4

of faith, and your your community Appreciate

Community, Darkness, and Light someone you've loved and lost Light a candle As you walk, who lives in your

think about

Smile with your neighborhood.

and dark interact (such as sunrise 26 Observe or sunset)

Who needs a respite? Can you bring them food or flowers?

Think about those never patronized. restaurant you've Order food who serve you

you lighten your Thinking about your load?

May 50 Days of Spiritual Practices: Easter Themes

THINKING About God's Love (I AM.) Week 5

grateful? Bored? worship, I AM. A child of God! During

this body of

mine.

you may have hurt another. I AM thankful for today, consider:

As I walk

strength? Consider how

5 Get moving! experience your How do you I AM strong.

(good) stuff bless S / I AM blessed with stuff. How can my another?

I AM tired. How will you rest in God's love?

you spread God's 1 AM... ?? How will ove today?



Week b

Abide

abide with you? Mothering God How does a

garden

Who or what is missing in your Abide in God's amazing creation by walking in a

God's peace as 42 Abide in

comfortable and contemplate 13 Get



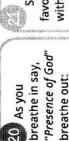
make your home How can you temple to God? a symbolic

how God abides 20 As you

stretch deeply

you breathe

slowly and



prayer: pray The Movement Movement

Pray for your

Prayer Practices

Week 7

Lord's Prayer

those who hate

you

enemies and

As you walk, be

in attentive

"Jesus, remember

lesus prayer:

Recite the

prayer

into your kingdom"

me as you come

with your whole

body

with gusto and favorite hymn Sing your

"abide in me"



you did it! gratitude: Prayer of

Day of Pentecost

Don't forget to wear red to church!

May 23

Prepared for the <u>Presbytery of Western New York</u> and the <u>Center for Christian Growth of Western New York</u> by Rev. Leslie Latham and Rev. Dorothy Burton Pearman. Designed by Monika Toney No permission is needed to copy or distribute the content of this publication. Credit is appreciated but not required.



Please Pray for Those Who are Sick or Shut-in

Shut-Ins

Pearl Durham

Dolores Coleman Elizabeth Ochab

Prayer List

Monique Wilson Rev. Jon Rieley-Goddard

Margaret Smith Robert Smith
Charlene Bush Bonnie Felstead
Carolyn Goddard Mark Tarbell

Bill Karches

April Birthdays



April 7 - Dylan Mott

22 - Janet Roat

24 - Carol Dashineau

27 - Robert MacNaughton

29 - Sihyean Kim

Holy Week Schedule

Maundy Thursday service, April 1, will be by video and can be viewed after 5:00 pm

Good Friday service, April 2, will be held near the far parking lot on Goat Island 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. It will be a self directed service featuring the Stations of the Cross.

Easter Sunday Worship Service, April 4, will be held Sunday in the Sanctuary of First Pres at 11:15 am! Communion will be Served. Mask and social distancing will be required.

April Volunteer Schedule

Lay Readers

April 4 - John Goddard (Easter Sunday)

April 11 - Carol Dashineau

April 18 - Lis Slenk April 25 - Bill Karches

Communion Servers

April 4 - Lis Slenk, Carol Dashineau

Church Repairs

Repairs to the outside church stone work is schedule to begin as soon as the weather permits. The church's large roof air conditioner unit quit last summer and is scheduled to be replaced before warm weather gets here.

Easter Lilies

Donations for Easter Lilies to decorate the Sanctuary for Easter Sunday are being accepted. Lilies cost \$10.00 each.

Future Sunday Worship Service Video

The Session is working on the ability to video the Sunday Worship Service and having the video available Sunday afternoons for those who cannot attend Worship Service on Sunday.

Budget Report for February 2021

	Actual \$	Year to Date \$	Budget YTD\$	
GIVING	1,211	7,181	4,916	
Investment Income, Other	394	447	5,116	
TOTAL INCOME	1,605	7,628	10,032	
EXPENSES	7,741	18,152	20,660	
NET (Deficit)	(6,136)	(10,524)	(10,628)	

Expenses for February included \$2280 for gas heat.

The office is now open Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

April 2021

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Sun

Mon

Tue

Guii		140	Wou	IIIG		out
				1 Maundy Thursday	2	3
4 Worship Service 11:15 am	5	6	7	8 International Day of Prayer	9	10
11 Worship Service 11:15 am	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 Worship Service 11:15 am	19	20 Session 7:00 pm	21	22 EARTH DAY	23	24
25 Worship Service 11:15 am	26	27	28	29	30	

The Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Niagara Falls, N.Y.

First Press

First Presbyterian Church

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We're on the Web:

www.firstpresny.org

You Tube https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LSk4U35pl2l Face Book https://www.facebook.com/First-Presbyterian -Church-Niagara-Falls-117888153453785/

CHURCH OFFICE

Hours: Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 9:00 am

to 1:00 pm

Telephone: 285-3555

Sunday Worship 11:15 am Fellowship On Hold

Communion First Sunday of Month

Children Sunday School On Hold Food Pantry & Clothes Closed

Closet

BOARD MEETINGS

Deacons — 2nd Sunday of month—10:30 a.m. Session — 3rd Tuesday of the month—7:00 p.m.

Rev. Cathy Rieley-Goddard office hours are Tuesday 9:30 am to 1:00 pm.

Mask and social distancing are required at Worship Service.

Visit us on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com First-Presbyterian-Church-Niagara-Falls 117888153453785/ News and letters may be submitted by mail to:

First Presbyterian Church, 311 First St., Niagara Falls, NY 14303

ATTN: First Press

Newsletter Deadline

News may also be submitted via e-mail to the Church Secretary at firstpres2@verzon.net or may be dropped through the mail slot of the church office.

First Press is published monthly by First Presbyterian Church of Niagara Falls, N.Y., U.S.A.

Editor/Publisher: Janet Roat

Reporters: John Goddard, Janet Bianca, Lis Slenk

Newsletter deadline is the 15th of the month.

April 2021

Awake, thou wintry earth
Fling off thy sadness!
Fair vernal flowers,
laugh forth
Your ancient gladness!
Christ is risen.

- Thomas Blackburn

