



First Presbyterian Church Niagara Falls, NY Newsletter April 2024

Dear Friends,

I have friends from college who live in Houston, TX. They have lived there for nearly thirty-five years. I cannot imagine living there, though I have visited a few times. The thing that fascinates me about being there is the early arrival of spring. I have been so taken by the idea that spring will arrive here any minute and at the same time know that we still have a ways to go. Part of the problem is that I hardly know what day or month it is, but that is a different story. My friend, Leslie, from Texas, begins posting photos of flowers budding and blooming in February and then March and then April. Each photo being of bigger and brighter blooms. In the meantime, here in Buffalo, I am thrilled to see a crocus popping out its little bloom at the end of March.

Flowers are just one way we note the passing of time. they are one of the prettiest ways, if you ask me. We have others, holidays, birthdays, the change of seasons, the phases of the moon, the way the water changed with the freezes and the thaws. We have seasons in the religious calendar as well. We have just entered into Eastertide, the time between Easter and Pentecost. Then we will have ordinary time until we start up again with Advent. Most of us do not pay much attention to the church seasons, but they help us mark the year as it unfolds.

No matter how you mark your days with the seasons or a calendar or by the seat of you pants, I hope you spend some time on each of them being quiet, giving thanks, preparing for the next day. It is amazing to me how much better my days are when I spend time this way. If you already do it, good for you. If you are not yet doing it, give it a try. It will change your experience of the small things in life. I have learned to enjoy the photos of the friend's flowers rather than regretting that I do not have any of my own. When we practice grace and gratitude, our lives change in ways we cannot imagine. Give it a try! you will be glad you did.

Blessings,
Cathy

First Pres Turns 200 in April

This month, April 2024, our church reaches a milestone, our 200th year of existence in Niagara Falls. It had five original members, transfers from other local churches. The following is a record from the first pages of our session minutes. It includes the first three articles (of 13) of our original covenant.

The Presbyterian Church at Niagara Falls was formed April 3rd, 1824, by the assistance of the Rev. David M. Smith.

The Church was comprised of Mr. Isaac Smith and his wife; Mrs. Isaac Smith, Junior; Mrs. Stephen Childs; and Mr. Abraham Mesler. The first two above named were received by letter of recommendation from the Presbyterian Church of Bolton, NY, and the other three by letters of recommendation from the Presbyterian Church of Lewiston. At the time of forming the Church, Mr. Abraham Mesler was chosen clerk.

The Church then adopted the confession of faith and mode of government and discipline of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States; and for their own convenience, they adopted also the following Confession of Faith and Covenant which has been adopted by the Presbytery of Niagara and recommended to the churches under their care.

Confession of Faith

Article 1st: We believe there is one only living and true God, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth; subsisting in a mysterious and incomprehensible manner, in three persons; the Father – Son – and Holy Ghost; the same in substance and in all divine attributes equal.

Article 2nd: We believe that God is the Creator and Governor of the universe, that he has foreordained whatsoever comes to pass, and that in his providence he works all things according to his own infinitely wise, holy and eternal purpose.

Article 3rd: We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament were given by inspiration of God, and that they are a perfect rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him.



200 year Anniversary



April 14, 2024

9:30 AM

There will be a Congregational Meeting before worship service on Sunday, April 14 at 9:30 AM for the purpose of accepting the 2023 Annual Report, and the change of Deacons from six to three.

It is very important that members attend the Congregational Meeting. Please mark your calendar.

Solar Eclipse

On Monday, April 8, Western New York will experience a total eclipse of the sun. Events planned by NASA scientists and astronauts, fireworks and the eclipse itself, will draw many to Niagara Falls and surrounding areas in the days leading up to the big event. It is estimated by the Niagara Falls tourist agencies that a million people will visit Niagara Falls to view the eclipse of the sun. Because of the estimated influx of visitors to this area, First Pres will be closed Monday, April 8. For a listing of NASA events go to

[2024 Solar Eclipse | Niagara Falls USA](#)



NAP April Dinner

The April NAP Dinner will be hosted by Lewiston Presbyterian, 505 Cayuga Street, Lewiston, NY, Wednesday, April 3, 5:00 PM. The NAP dinners are a nice way to get to know your neighbors and enjoy fellowship and a meal.

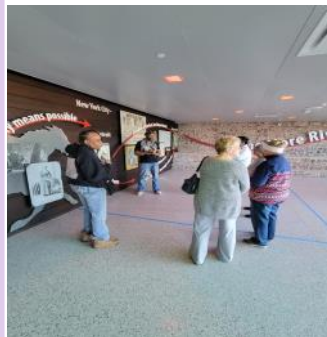
All are Welcome



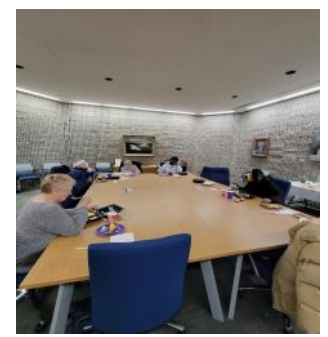
Underground Railroad Heritage Tour

In recognition of Black History month, on February 24, members of First Pres and members from area Presbyterian Churches toured the Underground Railroad Heritage Museum. After the tour, the group met at the Niagara Falls Library for a breakfast meal catered by Hyde Park Café and provided by Crossroads of Niagara Falls. A special thank you to Ester Freedman Rice of True Bethel Baptist Church for a prayer and song.

Thank you Jockline Pryor for organizing this event. For further tours of the Underground Railroad Heritage Museum contact Jockline Pryor.



The group touring the Underground Museum



The group meeting at the Niagara Falls Library

A concert of classical and traditional music will be held at First Pres, April 12 at 7:00 PM. The concert will include traditional Philippine music. The group is affiliated with the University of Buffalo. More information about the concert will be forthcoming. Stay tuned.

Please Pray for Those Who are Sick or Shut-in



Shut-Ins

Dolores Coleman Dom DeFazio
 Jane McNaughton Bob McNaughton
 Toni Pryor

Prayer List

Bill Karches Christine King
 Jillian Horner Christine Goddard
 Mark Tarbell Rita Horner
 Collette Sorg Jordon Street
 Cathy Rieley-Goddard

April Volunteer Schedule

Lay Readers

April 7 - John Goddard
 April 14 - Carol Dashineau
 April 21 - Lis Slenk
 April 28 - John Goddard

Communion Servers

April 7 - Jeanette Lamorie and
 Dori Parry

Sunday Worship on You Tube

Each week the Sunday morning worship service is video-recorded. The video is uploaded to First Pres Niagara Falls early in the week. Check it out. The link to You Tube is youtube.com/channel/UCV8PmvV_gWm7wiggyI-q03g.



April Birthdays

April 22 Janet Roat
 April 24 Carol Dashineau
 April 27 Robert McNaughton
 April 29 Sihyeon Kim



Happy Birthday!

Budget Report for February 2024

	<u>Actual \$</u>	<u>Year to Date \$</u>	<u>Budget YTD \$</u>
GIVING	1,359	6,359	4,778
Investment Income, Other	619	674	6,334
TOTAL INCOME	1,978	7,033	11,112
EXPENSES	8,354	20,230	22,196
NET (Deficit)	(6,376)	(13,197)	(11,084)

Investment income was from the L.T. Marshall Trust. Expenses included \$1010 for gas heat, \$383 for color printer cartridges, and \$542 fro sound system repair.

April 2024



Sun

Mon





Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	<p>1</p> 	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p><i>Nap</i></p> <p><i>Dinner</i></p> <p><i>5:00 PM</i></p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7</p> <p><i>Communion</i></p>	<p>8</p>  <p><i>Office closed</i></p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p><i>Concert</i></p> <p><i>7:00 PM</i></p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14</p>  <p><i>ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING</i></p> <p><i>9:30 AM</i></p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p> <p><i>Session</i></p> <p><i>7:00 PM</i></p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p><i>Earth Day</i></p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>				

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

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Niagara Falls, NY 14303

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Return Service Requested

*April Showers bring
May Flowers*



We're on the Web:

www.firstpresnfny.org

You Tube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L5k4U35pI2I>

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: 716-285-3555

Sunday Worship 10:00 AM

Communion First Sunday of Month

Rev. Cathy Rieley-Goddard office hours are Monday
and Wednesday.

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



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 2024

