



First Presbyterian Church, Niagara Falls, NY Newsletter December 2022

Christmas Eve is Coming!

The number one way that people give when trying a new church is a friend or family member inviting them. There are all kinds of other things congregations do to reach out to people; friends and family are still the best way to bring people in. So this year we are asking you to invite folks to worship with us on Christmas Eve. We have postcards ready for you to pick up at church. All you have to do is address them and write a short personal note. You can even bring them back to church for us to put the stamp on and mail. Pick some up on Sunday morning or stop by during the week and pick them up. Help us celebrate the birth of Christ together this year!

Dear Friends,

Several years ago I came across an academic booklet called "Hardwired to Connect." It was a study of young people and how they grow and develop emotionally. The evidence was clear that when young people had significant relationships with adults other than their parents, they were more likely to thrive as they grew into adulthood. As the title suggests, connections with other people were fundamental to their growth and development. This makes sense to those of us who are part of a church community. We know the benefits of being connected with one another and the larger world around us.

As our culture has grown more and more individualized, these connections have become less prevalent. Churches are one of the few places left in our communities where generations regularly intermingle. It is easy to lament the changes in our society, and it is important for us to think of ways to respond to the deficits we identify. Individualism has become such a powerful driver in our culture. We choose the shows and when to watch them on TV. We eat individual meals while doing other things. We drive places alone in our cars. I was completing a survey a few weeks ago and it asked about what time I first interacted with another person. For many people the answer is lunchtime, dinner, or maybe not at all.

Service agencies often have as a goal for people receiving service "self-sufficiency." I think that is the wrong goal. We are made to connect with each other. We are made for community. The idea of self-sufficiency seems to suggest that we can get along on our own, that we are not dependent on one another. The truth is that we do need other people. We will always be interdependent. Let us find ways to embrace our connections, to build stronger ones and even new connections with each other and our community. In so doing we are becoming who we are meant to be.

Blessings,

Cathy

SNOWFLAKE GIVING TREE

Please take a snowflake off the tree at the front of the church and buy a gift for a family in need. Gifts are due December 11th. Thank you for making Christmas a little brighter for a family.

Riverside Presbyterian will host the Niagara Area Presbyterian Dinner, Wednesday, December 7th, at 5:00 PM

Fellowship, good conversation and a meal will be enjoyed by all. Everyone is welcome



Christmas Eve Service 7:00 pm



Join us at First Pres for Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 PM., December 24th . Bring the family and friends and share an evening of prayer, hymns and goodwill.



Lewiston Choraleers' Christmas Concert 2022

The Lewiston Coraleers are back after a hiatus during covid. Following is their 2022 Christmas Concert schedule.

December 3 , 1:00 PM St. Peters RC Church 620 Center Street, Lewiston

December 4 , 2:00 PM- St James Lutheran Church 2437 Niagara Road , Bergholz

December 10 , 1:00 PM St John's Delasalle RC Church 8477 Buffalo Ave, Niagara Falls

December 11, 2:00 PM Messiah Lutheran Church, 915 Oneida, St, Lewiston



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, December 11th.
Immediately following Worship Service. It is important that you try to attend.

Please Pray for Those Who are Sick or Shut-in



Shut-Ins

Dolores Coleman
Abraham McLarahmore
Dom DeFazio

Prayer List

Margaret Smith Bill Karches
Mark Tarbell Jockline Pryor
Micheline Bevacqua Christine King

November Birthdays

December 19 Jane MacNaughton
23 Sophia Bush
31 Charlene Bush



December Volunteer Schedule

Lay Readers

December 4 - John Goddard
December 11 - Carol Dashineau
December 18- Lis Slenk
December 24 - Christmas Eve
John Goddard, Lis Slenk,
Carol Dashineau

Communion Servers

December 4 - 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_gWm7wiggyl-q03g](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCV8PmvV_gWm7wiggyl-q03g).



The office will be closed Monday, December 26, for the Christmas holiday.

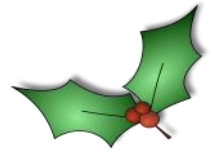
Budget Report for October 2022

	<u>Actual \$</u>	<u>Year to Date \$</u>	<u>Budget YTD \$</u>
GIVING	5,387	30,356	36,660
Investment Income, Other	6,481	22,967	23,330
TOTAL INCOME	11,868	53,323	59,990
EXPENSES	12,535	94,434	111,510
NET (Deficit)	(667)	(41,111)	(51,520)

Investment income for October was all from the 3rd quarter permanent endowment earnings. Expenses included \$874 for gas, \$850 for the annual audit, and \$3069 for church and van insurance premiums.



December 2022



Sun

Mon



Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

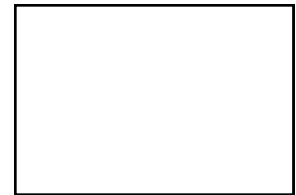
Sat

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4 <i>Second Sunday of Advent Communion</i>	5	6	7 <i>NAP Dinner 5:00 PM Riverside Church</i>	8	9 <i>Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra van trip 9:00 AM</i>	10
11 <i>Third Sunday of Advent Congregation Meeting</i>	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>	19	20	21  <i>The First Day of Winter</i>	22	23	24  7:00 PM Christmas Eve Service
25  <i>Christmas</i> 	26 <i>Office Closed</i>	27 <i>Kwanzaa Begins</i>	28	29	30	31  Happy New Year

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

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Return Service Requested



We're on the Web:

www.firstpresnfny.org

You Tube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LSk4U35pI2I>

Face Book <https://www.facebook.com/First-Presbyterian-Church-Niagara-Falls-117888153453785/>



CHURCH OFFICE

Hours: Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 10:00 am
to 2:00 pm

Telephone: 716-285-3555

Sunday Worship 11:15 AM

Communion First Sunday of Month

Christmas Eve Service 7:00 PM

(No Christmas Day Service)

Rev. Cathy Rieley-Goddard office hours are Tuesday
10:00 am to 1:00 pm and by appointment on other
days.

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.

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Newsletter deadline is the 15th of the month.

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