

# First Presbyterian Church of Niagara Falls, NY

## FIRST PRESS Newsletter

### January 2020



#### A special December Sunday

Sunday, December 15, was a blessed day beginning with the lighting of three Advent candles and Pastor Stacy's Advent message, then meeting our Savior in His Gift of communion, followed by a Sunday School Christmas.

Thanks to all who were there and who helped, each in his or her own special way: Angels Maleena and Nelles along with volunteer angels Tracy and Judy, Rhomiah with baby Jesus, Korena and Kinasia holding up the donkey and the dove, Bill reading the wonderful old story and Mark at the piano all made it sparkle and touch our hearts. How about that clapping and snapping. Well done one and all.

The Christmas Potluck followed worship service and A Sunday School Christmas. There was plenty of good food, good cheer and the first ceremonial awarding of the Golden Pine Cones..

Rev. Stacy awarded Golden Pine Cones to the children who participated in the Sunday School Christmas. Golden Pine Cones were also awarded to those who were part of the program and for those who were part of the support team. The Golden Pine Cone awards were popular attire for the day. It was a fun time.

Thank you to the Deacons for the beautifully decorated tables. The decorations added to the festivities. Thank you Stacy Hazel for providing crafts for the children. Thank you to everyone who brought food and helped clean up.

It was truly a special December Sunday.



#### Preaching Schedule for January and February

Below is the Preachers' schedule for January and February. The continuity of leadership in worship will benefit our congregation. Everyone is urged to attend worship, and support our Church.

January 5 - Rev. Stacy Otto

January 12 - Rev. Stacy Otto

January 19 - Lee Weinsheimer

January 26 - Terry McIntyre

February 2 - Rev. Stacy Otto

February 9 - Lee Weinsheimer

February 16 - Rev. Stacy Otto

February 23 - Terry McIntyre

See you in Church, Carol Dashineau

#### Loving Tree

A big thank you to all who participated in the Loving Tree. Due to your generosity, the tree in the sanctuary was filled with angels. Your participation in this outreach ministry helped a family who needed assistance this Christmas. You were the family's angels.

#### Congregational Meeting

A Congregational Meeting was held Sunday, December 15. Lis Slenk will serve a three year term on the Session for the class of 2022. Jeanette Lamorie and Abe McLaramore will service as Deacons for 3 year terms for 2022. Jane MacNaughton will service as Deacon for 2 year term for 2021.

The Session will be reduced to 6 members in 2022 and the Deacons will also be reduced to 6 members in 2022.



## Letters From Route 66 2020

Christmas had come and gone so swiftly that I hardly noticed its passage until exiting a wayside store with a new calendar... January of another year! The thought filled me with a deep sense of loss as I walked to the car, feeling like I was carrying a great weight rather than the compact calendar book clutched in my hand. Christmas... how had I so completely missed it? No cards. No phone calls. No tokens of love from family and friends, who acted as if I had disappeared into the twilight zone. I was nothing but a lost soul unremembered by those who disapproved of my quest. My mind reeled with holiday memories past, seeking comfort but, instead, being left in a spiritual desert of longing and loneliness. Why was I still out on this confounded road wending its way through the back country of America? What was I seeking that I was willing to suffer this deprivation? As I sat in the parking lot pondering such questions my attention was soon drawn to a rusty old Chevy clunking its way down the road. For whatever reason, perhaps curiosity or mere distraction, I felt compelled to follow it. With my car engine roaring to life, I quickly gave pursuit.

A mile down the road the Chevy pulled into an overflowing parking lot nestled against a small, stone church. Soft white light spilled out of the open doors creating a carpet of illumination on the threshold. It was if the building itself was beckoning the world outside to come in. I waited for the traveler in the Chevy to disappear inside, then clamoured up the steps and onto the threshold unseen. The voice of an unknown speaker filled the sanctuary, reading from the Book of Job: "Oh, that I knew where I might find God, that I might go to His dwelling place! But if I go forward, He is not there; if I go back, I do not find Him." Job's lament gave voice to my own troubled soul as it searched in the darkness for a God who seemed so very absent.

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*Continued*

The reader continued on... "And Job exclaimed, 'But He knows the way I take!'" With a simple change of perspective, Job discovered the reality beyond his limited vision... God knew the way Job took because God was present with him after all!

Such truth struck me like a bolt of lightning as I, myself, awakened to the same realization - God is not in the far off future or the distant past, but right now, in each and every moment...and always has been.

Hurriedly, I got back into my vehicle and sank into the driver's seat, feeling overwhelmed, but also elated. I looked around the car's interior as if for the first time... my home away from home for so many months. Then my eyes fell upon the passenger seat, and I smiled in acknowledgement of the unseen presence that resided there - the One to whom the season, I so unwittingly missed, had been devoted. God was indeed traveling with me on Route 66, through all of the seemingly lonely miles. With such clarity I began to understand that the beauty and richness of life as God meant it to be was truly available. I need only drop the "old baggage" along the wayside and make room for God's Son to ride along with me. Yes, I was elated, but also apprehensive, for one day I knew I would have to switch seats and let Him do the driving.

May the blessedness of God's guiding hand be yours.

Pastor Stacy

### Big News

Beginning in January, there will be an EVENING BIBLE STUDY. Several people have been asking for an evening bible study. Rev. Robert DeFazio has agreed to lead the group. Time and day of the week will be announced soon.

Please, prayerfully consider joining the group!  
Carol Dashineau, Clerk of Session



The Nativity and Christmas Cactus in the office



Christmas Potluck 2019



A Sunday School Christmas



Golden Pine Cone Recipients

**Please Pray for Those Who are Sick or Shut-in**

**Shut-Ins**

Jean Hackenheimer Pearl Durham  
Dolores Coleman Elizabeth Ochab

**Prayer List**

Monique Wilson Bonnie Felstead  
Margaret Smith Robert Smith  
Victoria Stewart Gianna Horner  
Charlene Bush



**January Volunteer Schedule**

**Ushers**

January 5 - Carl Slenk, Kirk Parry  
January 12 - John Hazel, Robert MacNaughton  
January 19 - Carl Slenk, Kirk Parry  
January 26 - John Hazel, Robert MacNaughton

**Lay Readers**

January 5 - Lis Slenk  
January 12 - Carol Dashineau  
January 19 - Bill Karches  
January 26 - Carol Dashineau

**Communion Servers** (Intinction)

January 5 - Lis



**January Birthdays**

January 13 - Carol Restivo  
January 17 - Kinasia Jackson



**Budget Report for November 2019**

	<u>Actual \$</u>	<u>Year to Date \$</u>	<u>Budget YTD \$</u>
Giving	1,415	26,560	30,822
Investment Income, Other	333	27,881	35,024
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>1,748</b>	<b>54,441</b>	<b>65,846</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>9,265</b>	<b>84,838</b>	<b>109,395</b>
<b>NET (Deficit)</b>	<b>( 7,517)</b>	<b>(30,397)</b>	<b>(43,549)</b>

Expenses this month included \$3,450 for repair of the Sanctuary wood door.

**Adult Classes, Sunday, 10:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room**

At this time Sunday Adult Classes have been suspended.

First Pres has a new website. Check it out. You can view the newsletter on the website. The new website is [www.firstpresnfny.org](http://www.firstpresnfny.org)



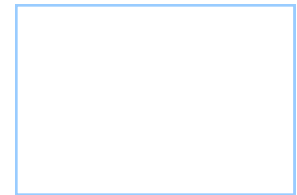
# 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<i>1</i> <i>New Year</i> <i>Office</i> <i>Closed</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>5</i> <i>Epiphany</i> <i>of the Lord</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i> <i>F.A.C.T.</i> <i>9 am–Noon</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i> <i>Breakfast</i> <i>Club</i>
<i>12</i> <i>Bap-</i> <i>tism of the</i> <i>Lord</i> <i>Deacon's</i> <i>Meeting</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i> <i>F.A.C.T.</i> <i>9 am–Noon</i> <i>Session</i> <i>7pm</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>19</i>	<i>20</i> <i>Martin</i> <i>Luther</i> <i>King Day</i>	<i>21</i> <i>F.A.C.T.</i> <i>9 am–Noon</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i> <i>Breakfast</i> <i>Club</i>
<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i> <i>F.A.C.T.</i> <i>9 am–Noon</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>	

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](http://www.firstpresnfny.org)

### CHURCH OFFICE

Hours: Monday through Thursday, 9 am -1 pm  
Telephone: 285-3555

Sunday Worship	11:00 a.m.
Fellowship	10:30 a.m.
Adult Education	10:00 a.m.
Communion	1st Sunday of each month
Church Breakfast Club	9:00 a.m.- 2nd & 4th Saturdays of the month
Food Pantry & Clothes Closet	Tuesdays from 9:00 a.m.—12 noon

### BOARD MEETINGS

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

For January the Session will meet Tuesday,  
December 14, 7:00 pm

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](mailto: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.**



*January 2020*