

# First Presbyterian Church of Niagara Falls, NY

## FIRST PRES Newsletter

### January 2021



Dear Friends,

I have not talked with anyone who was sad to see the end of 2020. It was a rough year for so many. The global pandemic interrupted so many of our plans -- travel, birthdays, picnics, holidays, regular visits to the gym or salon or wherever we went to get pampered. Everything changed seemingly overnight. And perhaps because we had a different perspective on the world, the injustices of our society became more and more clear. We noticed that the deaths from COVID-19 were disproportionately affecting communities of color. We realized more fully how militarized our police forces have become. We watched as groups seemed to threaten the foundations of our communities.

And so let's welcome 2021 as a year of opportunity. An opportunity to connect with friends and family more regularly. I am planning to support the post office with sending actual letters to people. Maybe you can too. We have a chance to take advantage of technology to reach out in ways that we have never tried before. And the question we ask ourselves is how do we use technology and make it feel personal? We can all work on figuring out the answer.

In 2020 we decided our food pantry was no longer serving the community in the way it once did. In 2021 we will be listening for the Spirit's guidance to us for a new ministry we might support. What are the needs that correspond with our gifts. How can we unleash the gifts that are within our congregation?

The changing of the year reminds me of these verses from Genesis 8 --

*While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.*

*Continued*

*Continued*

As we go on into the coming year, may the Spirit be unleashed within our lives together that we may demonstrate God's love to those who are seeking, both near and far.

Blessings,

Cathy

#### COVID Closing

As you all know, the number of cases of COVID-19 in our area is on the rise. Our presbytery has encouraged us to return to remote worship until it is safe to gather again. Also, our public health officials are telling us this course of action is the best way we have of taking care of one another during these uncertain days.

Please know that your church family is only a phone call away. Pastor Cathy is available by phone (716-310-6860) or email ([firstpresnf@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresnf@gmail.com)). Members of the session or deacons would be glad to talk with you. If you do not know who to call, leave a message at the church office and someone will call you back.

If you did not receive a weekly email from the church earlier in the year while the building was closed, we would love to add you to our list. Call the office and leave a message with your email address. We will send a weekly email to provide information about the coming week's video worship service and to keep in touch while we are apart. Friends, stay safe, take care of yourselves and one another. We all look forward to the time when we will be together again.

#### Lay Readers for January

January 3 - John Goddard

January 10 - Carol Dashineau

January 17 - Bill Karches

January 24 - Lis Slenk

January 31 - John Goddard

**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 Guiana Horner  
Jackie Harrison-Richardson



It is with saddens to announce that Jean Hackenheimer passed away December 8th. Jean was a life long member of First Pres. Jean was 101 years young when she passed away. A memorial service will be held for Jean at a later date.



**January Birthdays**

January 13 - Carol Restivo  
17 - Kinasia Jackson  
28 - Young Sook Kim  
26 - Devon Mott



**Facebook Connections**

We have a new face book page that we will use to update everyone during these coming weeks while the building is closed. Here is the link:

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

Please stop by the page and make sure you "like" it. Share it with you friends. The more people we have looking in the better! You can comment, post pictures, post a review of the church on the page. Everything you do will help you keep in touch with all of us and reach out to others who are looking for a community.

We are also part of Niagara Area Presbyterians which is a Facebook group. You can find the group by searching Facebook for the Niagara Area Presbyterians.

**Loving Tree**

Thank you to all who participated in the Loving Tree. Your gifts and monetary donations provided a family with a Christmas they would not have had without your help. Thank you Bill Karches for your help with this ministry.



**Wishing you Peace, Happiness and Good Health in the New Year**

**Budget Report for November 2020**

	<u>Actual \$</u>	<u>Year to Date \$</u>	<u>Budget YTD \$</u>
Giving	1,752	21,887	26,961
Investment Income, Other	408	29,166	37,697
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>2,160</b>	<b>51,053</b>	<b>64,658</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>7,827</b>	<b>78,644</b>	<b>99,011</b>
<b>NET (Deficit)</b>	<b>(5,667)</b>	<b>(27,591)</b>	<b>(34,353)</b>

Expenses for November included \$1068 for gas heat, and \$340 for cleaning (Maid Brigade).

# January 2021

Sun

Mon




Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

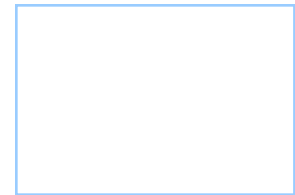
Sat

					1 New Year's Day 	2
3 Second Sunday of Christmas	4	5	6 Epiphany of the Lord	7	8	9
10 Baptism of the Lord	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 Second Sunday after Epiphany	18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	19 Session 7:00 pm	20 New President Inauguration 12:00 Noon	21	22	23
24 Third Sunday after Epiphany	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany						

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

First Press  
First Presbyterian Church  
311 First St

Phone: 716-285-3555  
Fax: 716-285-3482  
E-mail: [firstpres2@verizon.net](mailto:firstpres2@verizon.net)



Return Service Requested



**We're on the Web:**

[www.firstpresny.org](http://www.firstpresny.org)

**You Tube** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LSk4U35pl2I>

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

**CHURCH OFFICE**

Hours: Closed

Telephone: 285-3555

Sunday Worship	On YouTube
Fellowship	On Zoom
Communion	First Sunday of Month
Children Sunday School	On Zoom
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.

The building is closed due to the Covid 19 Virus Pandemic. Worship service can be viewed on YouTube Sundays at 11:00 am. The YouTube link is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LSk4U35pl2I>  
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](mailto:firstpres2@verzon.net) or may be dropped through the mail slot of the church office.

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Editor/Publisher: Janet Roat  
Reporters: John Goddard, Janet Bianca, Lis Slenk

**Newsletter deadline is the 15th of the month.**



*January 2021*