



First Presbyterian Church, Niagara Falls, NY Newsletter July 2022



Dear Friends

This month we awake to a different world than the one we knew last month. We are less safe. We are less able to decide what our own bodies need and how we should treat them. It is an alarming trend. I saw a meme on Instagram that said something like – why do guns have more rights than I do? A valid question. Especially since the court made the decision to overturn access to abortion because of the need to protect life. Protecting life would also limit access to weapons that are made for the very purpose of taking human life.

I try not to spend much time thinking and reflecting on these decisions. I am fortunate. I don't have to.

But I know that younger people, people of color, people of the LGBTQ+ community live with more fear. What other decisions will the court overturn? Who else will they scapegoat while pressing an agenda that reflects a wealthy minority of our country?

It is easy to get caught up in the us and them. How can they do that? As if they are not us. Our tradition teaches that we are all created in the image and likeness of God. That we bear God's imprint in our very being. That we are made to love one another.

Listen to these words from the Gospel of John

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Friends, even in these days when it is easier to see what divides us, when it is easier to turn our backs, to forget the spark of the spirit that lives in each of us, we are reminded again and again that we are made to love one another. Even those we do not like. It is never easy. It often makes no sense. But, we are made for love. And while so often those who clearly do not know the meaning of the word love, seem to win, we do know that love always wins in the end.

We are in this together. Both sides. Together.

We have work to do. We have love to give. Let's get busy.

Cathy



Life is about rhythm. We
vibrate, our hearts are
pumping blood, we are a
rhythm machine, that's what
we are. -- Mickey Hart

COME JOIN OUR Drum Circle

WEDNESDAYS AT 5:30
CHURCH PARKING LOT

First Pres members Young Sook Kim and Sang Bae Kim own the Pyung Taik, a Korean Restaurant at 420 Niagara Street, Niagara Falls. After Sunday worship you may find some members of First Pres having lunch at the restaurant.

Stop in for a freshly made and plentiful Korean meal and support a member of First Pres and a local small business owner.



The Office will be closed July 4th to July 8th.
The Secretary will be on vacation. There will
be Drum Circle Wednesday, July 6
Have a happy and safe 4th of July

The Niagara Area Presbyterians (NAP) are gathering for a joint worship service and picnic at the Sandy Beach Club (Grand Island) on July 10. We will have shared worship with communion led by the pastors of the three congregations. We will start worship around 11:00. There is limited parking at the beach club so we ask folks to park at Island Presbyterian and First Presbyterian will provide their van for shuttle service. There is a beach so everyone, especially kids can go swimming. We ask that you bring lawn chairs, a dish to pass and your own plates, cups and cutlery. Come join the fun!

NAP Churches

We are having a joint
worship service followed by
a picnic.

Everyone is welcome.

PICNIC

Sandy Beach
Club on
Grand Island



We are gathering at
10:30 with worship
at 11:00.
Picnic to follow.



Give me your tired, your poor,
your huddled masses
yearning to breathe free.

- written on the Statue of
Liberty in New York harbor

Please Pray for Those Who are Sick or Shut-in



Shut-Ins

Dolores Coleman

Prayer List

Charlene Bush Margaret Smith
Bill Karches Cissy Malinowski
Monique Wilson Joe Mallory
Mark Tarbell
Abraham McLarahmore

July Volunteer Schedule

Lay Readers

July 3 - Lis Slenk
July 10 - John Goddard
July 17 - Carol Dashineau
July 24 - Lis Slenk
July 31 - John Goddard

Communion Servers

July 3 - John Goddard, Dori Parry

July Birthdays

July 4 - Carol Lasoux
July 8 - Sang Bae Kim
July 22 - Kirk Parry
July 30 - Abraham McLarahmore



Sunday Worship on You Tube

Each week Session makes a video for the week's Sunday Service. The Sunday video is available at 4:00 PM Sundays on You Tube. The link to You Tube is [youtube.com/channel/UCV8PmvV_gWm7wiggyl-q03g](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCV8PmvV_gWm7wiggyl-q03g).



Budget Report for May 2022

	<u>Actual \$</u>	<u>Year to Date \$</u>	<u>Budget YTD \$</u>
GIVING	1,435	16,384	18,330
Investment Income, Other	283	5,703	11,665
TOTAL INCOME	1,718	22,087	29,995
EXPENSES	6,888	48,930	55,755
NET (Deficit)	(5,710)	(26,843)	(25,760)

Investment income was from the L.T. Marshall Trust. Expenses included \$356 for Maid Brigade and \$236 for gas.



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3	4 	5 Office closed	6 Drum Circle 5:30 PM Office closed	7	8	9
10 NAP Picnic 10:30 AM	11	12	13 Drum Circle 5:30 PM	14	15	16
17	18	19 Session 7:00 PM	20 Drum Circle 5:30 PM	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 Drum Circle 5:30 PM	28	29	30
31 Service of Healing and wholeness						

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

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Return Service Requested



We're on the Web:

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: Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 9:00 am
to 1:00 pm

Telephone: 716-285-3555

Sunday Worship 11:15 am
Communion First Sunday of Month

BOARD MEETINGS

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 and Thursday by appointment.

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.

**July
2022**

