

First Presbyterian Church of Niagara Falls, NY

FIRST PRES Newsletter

June 2021



Dear Friends

I just got done listening to a presentation by Valerie Kaur. She is an activist, a writer and a speaker. She has committed her life to working for justice and helping all of us learn to cross the divides that seem to keep us apart. She recently released a book entitled, *See No Stranger*. In it she outlines ten areas we can work on to find ways to heal the brokenness in our world. She encourages all of us to find our place in this work. Just as we believe God has called and created us for a purpose, so does Valerie believe we have a role to play in healing the world. Not just the human portion of the world, but all of creation.

At the heart of her work is the notion of love as a verb. Love is the work we do in healing creation. It is not easy. We must embrace the notion that the other is not a stranger but a friend we do not yet know. It is up to us to make those friendships. To love that person who seems different, who looks and speaks differently. We have to take risks to get to know them.

This first step is easy compared to the second part of what she tells us. In the second step we have to practice loving those we might think of as enemies. Those with whom we disagree. These days we have all found friends and family who disappoint us with what they believe. About the pandemic, vaccines, politics, and community. We have known them for years and now do not know how to even talk with them. When we find ourselves in such positions, we tend to their wounds. What are they afraid of? How did they get where they are? How has their heart been broken? It is not easy. When we are able to look at this deeper level, leaving aside the disagreements, but binding their wounds, we begin to transform our connections with them. Love begins to bloom.

The third thing she suggests we can do is to make sure we are working within community. Supporting one another. Sharing joy and grief. Love and sorrow. But making sure we are working together, supporting one another as we move into a rhythm of work and rest, work and rest.

Continued

Continued

This is not easy work she outlines for us. I am convinced it is the work of the gospel. Welcome the stranger. Forgive your enemies. Love one another. These ideas all sound familiar. They are the toolkit for changing the world. For repairing the world. There is no better time for embracing these tools than the coming weeks and months. Let's get busy.

Blessings
Cathy

First Pres Happenings

1. Pastor Cathy will be on vacation from June 14 through June 21.
2. The June Session meeting will be June 22, 2021.
3. June 8 is the first Niagara Area Presbyterians picnic of the summer. We are gathering at 5:00 PM at Island Presbyterian (1822 Huth Rd., Grand Island). All you have to bring is a chair and a donation for the basket. We will eat together and have a short prayer meeting. There will be others throughout the summer. Check the newsletter and bulletin along with Facebook for more information.
4. We are starting something new this summer! We are going to host a drumming circle in our parking lot! Abraham has agreed to lead us. This is an activity for all ages and abilities. You know we all have rhythm; we all have joy. Our heartbeats are the foundation of our lives and give us a place to start. Join us on Wednesday, June 23 as we start a new tradition in our lives together. We will learn, laugh, play and feel the grace of our lives together through our beats and our laughter. We will gather around 5:30 pm. Bring a chair, bring a drum if you have one. We will have something for you to use if you need one. Come, join the community!
5. We are setting up an area for sitting and chatting outside. If you have lawn furniture gathering dust in your garage, why not donate it to First Pres? We will put it to good use! If you need someone to pick it up, call the office and we will make arrangements.

Please Pray for Those Who are Sick or Shut-in



Shut-Ins

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 Joseph Barber
 Christine King Pearl Durham
 David Pytlik

June Volunteer Schedule

Lay Readers

June 6 - John Goddard
 June 13 - Lis Slenk
 June 20 - Carol Dashineau
 June 27 - Bill Karches

Communion Servers

June 4 - Lis Slenk, Carol Dashineau

June Birthdays



June 6 Bonnie Felstead
 7 Joyce Braham
 29 Jeanette Lamorie

Happy Birthday !

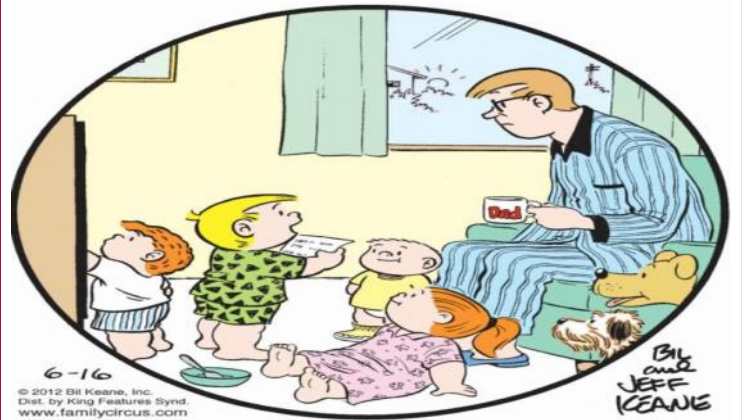
Video equipment has been installed in the Sanctuary. Sunday worship service is now being recorded and will be on First Pres' YouTube channel after 4:00 pm on Sundays for viewing. The YouTube link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LSk4U35p12I>

Keys were found in First Pres' parking lot. Two keys on a black stretchy bracelet. If they are your keys contact the office.

Congregational Meeting

First Pres Congregational Meeting was held Sunday, May 16. The Annual Report for 2020 was accepted. Janet Bianca, John Hazel and Carl Slenk were elected to the Nominating Committee. They will submit a slate of names for Deacons and Session members at the next meeting. If you are a member and would like to serve either as a Deacon or a member of the Session please contact Janet, John or Carl.



6-16
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 www.familycircus.com
"It's your day! What do you wanna watch first? Doc McStuffins, SpongeBob, Bubble Guppies...?"

Happy Father's Day, June 20

Budget Report for April 2021

	<u>Actual \$</u>	<u>Year to Date \$</u>	<u>Budget YTD \$</u>
GIVING	5,488	13,159	9,832
Investment Income, Other	5,356	6,043	10,232
TOTAL INCOME	10,844	19,202	30,064
EXPENSES	9,571	34,878	41,320
NET (Deficit)	1,273	(15,676)	(21,256)

We were positive \$1,273 for April due to quarterly pledge giving and the quarterly investment income. Expenses include \$2,580 for church and van insurance and \$832 for gas heat.



JUNE

2021

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

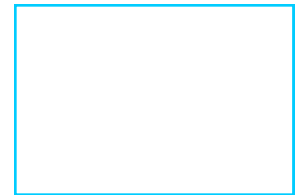
Sat

		1	2	3	4	5
6  D Day 1944	7	8 Niagara Area Presbyterian picnic	9	10	11	12
13 Deacons' Meeting 10:30 am	14  Flag Day	Pastor Cathy will be on vacation June 14 to June 21				
20  First Day of Summer	21	22 Session Meeting 7:00 pm	23 Drum Circle 5:30 pm	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 Drum Circle 5:30 pm			

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=LSk4U35pI2I>

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: 285-3555

Sunday Worship	11:15 am
Fellowship	On Hold
Communion	First Sunday of Month
Children Sunday School	On Hold
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.

Rev. Cathy Rieley-Goddard office hours are Tuesday
9:30 am to 1:00 pm and Thursday by appointment.

Mask and social distancing are required at Worship
Service.

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.

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Reporters: John Goddard, Janet Bianca, Lis Slenk

Newsletter deadline is the 15th of the month.

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