



First Presbyterian Church, Niagara Falls, NY

Newsletter June 2022



Dear Friends,

As I write this, I have just learned about another mass shooting, this time in Texas. I had just read an article that was so helpful to me in thinking about these shooting events. It was in the Christian Century, written by Rabbi Yehiel E. Poupko. Each of these shootings is an attack on the image of God. When I read the headline, I said of course, but as he wrote about it, I realized he was seeing it in a different way.

He particularly lifted up the notion of the group of people who have become known as the “nones.” These are people who claim to have no affiliation when asked about their religion. He mentions the research of Ryan Burge who tells us that 73 percent of those who are part of that “nones” group have no higher education. They have a tendency to become loners. And these loners become socially isolated, thus also ethically and morally isolated. This isolation is deadly. We see it in these shootings. There is a tacit permission given to engage in these horrific acts through social media and even over the airwaves on TV. When our elected officials spread lies and dream up stories to support those lies, it is hard for some people to know the difference. Without a community to have discussions with, or to provide an ethical framework for life, we have young men without empathy picking up guns and killing people.

The need for the community one finds in a church is greater than ever. We develop love, acceptance, encouragement, empathy, curiosity, and connection with one another in a way that other organizations do not. We are inter generational. We are multi-racial. We are known and loved and we know how to share those gifts.

The need for church is so great that the women who founded Soul Cycle an exercise company that was all the rage in large cities across the country, have started something new called Peoplehood. The Washington Post describes it this way — Peoplehood is the spiritual practice of connected conversation. Our Gathers are 55 minute group conversation experiences led by trained Guides in our digital sanctuary. Their goal is to fill that space the is longing for connection to something more. They have not called it GOD, but they are doing the things churches do. They are helping people connect with each other and find meaning beyond themselves.

Friends the need for our capacity to help people connect with one another and with God is greater than ever. The fields are ripe and our calling is to join the harvest.

Blessings, Cathy

This poem was written by James Forbes, former pastor of the Riverside Church in New York City. The earth cries out for us to change.

The Sound Out of the Ground

Cain murdered and buried his brother
No one knew Abel's blood had been shed
Out of the ground came a mournful sound
Abel's blood cried out in his stead

Our precious children of Newtown
Ask us all for this one sacrifice
Grieve our demise with your eyes on the prize
Save the children, our blood paid the price

Young brother and sister died asking
Must we fall so that others seem tall
When we all see, we are one family
Life will be so much better for all

What is that sound coming out from the ground
It's the blood of God's fallen children
The blood in our veins should be crying
With their blood that's still crying today
Rise above fear, speak out loud and clear
For our children, put weapons away

What is the sound coming out of the ground

It's the blood of God's fallen children
What is their crying trying to say
We've got to stop this senseless killing
We've got to stop this senseless killing
We've got to stop this senseless killing
We've got to stop this senseless killing

What is their crying trying to say
We've got to stop this senseless killing
We've got to stop this senseless killing

—James A. Forbes Jr.

Let's Reach Out!

The tourist season has started back with greater crowds than in recent years. People from around the world are walking by our building and participating in all kinds of events in our community. Dori Parry is leading a team to help us reach out. We might have some kind of event coordinated with those planned for Old Falls Street. We might send post cards to people living in our ZIP code. We might include flyers about the church in information kiosks at the hotels or the visitor centers. You can help. Let us know your ideas. Tell us about events you know are on the horizon.

If you have ideas, please reach out to Dori or Pastor Cathy



First Pres Member, Janet Bianca, with her prize winning quilt, Proud as a Peacock

Hosting the World Korean Presbyterian Church

June 6 - 9 we will welcome members from the World Korean Presbyterian Church to our building. They will be meeting here, worshipping here, and praying here during their annual meeting.

We are so glad that First Presbyterian Church is able to share our beautiful building with them while they are here.

Drumming Circle

Drumming Circle will begin Wednesday, June 22nd, 5:30 PM. Everyone is welcome. No musical experience needed.

NAP Dinner

The June Niagara Area Presbyterian dinner will be at Island Presbyterian June 1, 5:00 PM. All are welcome

Kudos to Janet Bianca

Janet's love of quilting began at a young age. Each fall her mother would begin a quilt in the dining room by the windows. By the age of eight or nine, Janet was quilting with her mother. In 1990, River Lea Historical Society of Grand Island started a quilting guild called River Lea Quilt Guild. Janet joined the guild and is still a member.

At the 2022 River Lea Quilt Guild Quilt Show, Janet entered her Proud as a Peacock quilt along with 8 other quilts. Her Proud as Peacock quilt won two awards. The Judges Best Use of Color and the Venders Choice Award. Congratulations Janet.

Please Pray for Those Who are Sick or Shut-in



Shut-Ins

Dolores Coleman

Prayer List

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

June Volunteer Schedule

Lay Readers

June 5 - Lis Slenk
June 12 - John Goddard
June 19 - Carol Dashineau
June 26 - Lis Slenk

Communion Servers

June 5 - John Goddard, Dori Parry

June Birthdays

June 6 Bonnie Felstead
7 Joyce Braham
29 Jeanette Lamorie



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).



FATHER'S June 19, DAY

Happy Father's Day



Budget Report for April 2022

	<u>Actual \$</u>	<u>Year to Date \$</u>	<u>Budget YTD \$</u>
GIVING	6,255	14,949	14,664
Investment Income, Other	4,532	5,368	9,332
TOTAL INCOME	10,787	20,317	23,996
EXPENSES	10,506	42,042	44,604
NET (Deficit)	281	(21,725)	(20,608)

We were positive for April by \$281, though the year-to-date deficit is \$21725. Investment income was from the first quarter permanent endowment income. Expenses included \$3069 for church and van insurance, and \$1260 for gas heat.

June

2022

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



1

2

3

4

5

Day of
Pentecost
Communion

6 World

Korean
Presbyterian
church

7 World

Korean
Presbyterian
church

8 World

Korean
Presbyterian
church

9 World

Korean
Presbyterian
church

10

11

12

Trinity
Sunday

13

14



Flag
Day

15

16

17

18

19



20

21



First Day of
Summer
Session 7 PM

22

Drumming
Circle
5:30 PM

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

Drumming
Circle
5:30 PM

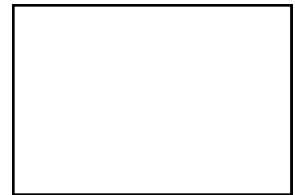
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The Newsletter of First Presbyterian
Church of Niagara Falls, N.Y.

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Return Service Requested

Happy
Father's
Day

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: 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.

Mask and social distancing are recommended 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.

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Editor/Publisher: Janet Roat
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Newsletter deadline is the 15th of the month.



**June
2022**