



First Presbyterian Church of Niagara Falls, NY

FIRST PRES Newsletter

March 2021



Dear Friends,

I read a book by Ursula Leguin, a literature professor and author, a few years ago in which she explained one of the first exercises she would assign in all of her literature classes. She asked the students to choose a poem that they would read and reflect on everyday. I do not remember how many days she expected that they would do this. I think it was at least thirty; it may have been for the entire semester. I was struck by the idea. I think I told myself I should try it. And I probably read the same poem for a couple of days and then moved on.

The idea is back for me, because for Lent this year I am reading Psalm 115 every day. Sometimes I read silently. Sometimes out loud. I try to change up the pace and the inflection. I think about who the psalm is meant for and who it is speaking about. How am I like them? The good and the bad? In the end, I hope I will have learned something about myself and about people and about how the Spirit interacts with us. Whether you choose Psalm 115 or something else, I encourage you to choose something and try the practice of reading it again and again for a season. It will become part of you and you will become part of it.

Psalm 115

*115 Not to us, Lord, not to us—
no, but to your own name give glory
because of your loyal love and faithfulness!*

*2 Why do the nations say,
“Where’s their God now?”*

*3 Our God is in heaven—
he can do whatever he wants!*

*4 Their idols are just silver and gold—
things made by human hands.*

Continued

Continued

*5 They have mouths, but they can’t speak.
They have eyes, but they can’t see.*

*6 They have ears, but they can’t hear.
They have noses, but they can’t smell.*

*7 They have hands, but they can’t feel.
They have feet, but they can’t walk.
They can’t even make a noise in their throats!*

*8 Let the people who made these idols
and all who trust in them
become just like them!*

*9 But you, Israel, trust in the Lord!
God is their help and shield.*

*10 Trust in the Lord, house of Aaron!
God is their help and shield.*

*11 You who honor the Lord, trust in the Lord!
God is their help and shield.*

*12 The Lord remembers us and will bless us:
God will bless the house of Israel;
God will bless the house of Aaron;*

*13 God will bless those who honor the Lord—
from the smallest to the greatest.*

*14 May the Lord add to your numbers—
both you and your children.*

*15 May you be blessed by the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth!*

*16 The highest heaven belongs to the Lord,
but he gave the earth to all people.*

*17 The dead don’t praise the Lord,
nor do those who go down to silence.*

*18 But us? We will bless the Lord
from now until forever from now!
Praise the Lord!*

May God bless you on this journey.
Cathy

Kudos

While the building at First Pres was closed this past year due to the Covid 19 virus, the heart of the Church was still beating. It takes members to keep the heart of a church going so thank you to those Members who cared for First Pres during the shut down.

Thank you to the Members of the Session, who have met each month by way of Zoom. They have tended to the business of the church during very changing times.

Thank you to all who helped bring Sunday worship services to followers of First Pres each Sunday via YouTube. Lay Readers, Carol Dashineau, John Goddard, Lis Slenk and Bill Karches. Music Director Mark Tarbell and the choir, Lis Slenk, Janet Bianca, and Young Sook Kim. Abraham McLarahmore for his presentation of the Prayers of the People. Rev. Cathy Rieley-Goddard for her inspirational sermons each week and for creating the Sunday worship video and uploading the video on YouTube each week.

First Pres Choir Practice



Continued

Continued

Thank you to Carolyn Goddard, who wore many hats this past year. She managed the Church financials. She was available for fire, city and insurance inspections. She cleaned the kitchen for the city health department inspection and shoveled and salted the church walks.

Thank you Carol Dashineau for sending cards wishing members Happy Birthday or to bring a little cheer to members who were experiencing a difficult time or just to stay in touch with members.

Thank you Lis Slenk for lending your artistic talents in making the cards for Carol to send. Also, for using your talents to care for the Sanctuary as the seasons changed.

Thank you Deacons for calls made to shut-ins and for reaching out to members who requested prayers from our faithful members.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support First Pres financially by honoring your stewardship pledges.

As First Pres begins another year of building closures, the future looks brighter than it did at this time last year. When it's safe to return to Sunday worship and other Church activities, First Pres will be ready to safely welcome everyone back to gather together.

An Irish Prayer:

May God give you, For every storm, a rainbow,
For every tear, a smile,
For every care, a promise,
And a blessing in each trial.
For every problem life sends, A faithful friend to share,
For every sigh, a sweet song,
And an answer for each prayer.



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

Lay Readers for March

March 7 - John Goddard
March 14 - Carol Dashineau
March 21 - Lis Slenk
March 28 - Bill Karches

March Birthdays



March 9 - Shyann Durham
10 - Helyna Durham
19 - Christine King
20 - Jasmine Street
27 - Korena Jackson



Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 14.
Be sure to turn your clocks forward one hour before you go to bed Saturday night.

March Dates to Remember

Inspirational Wednesday during Lent, Music and Prayer can be viewed on YouTube after 4:00 PM.

Lent Study Group each Sunday on Zoom at 7:00 PM.

Wednesday, March 17, St Patrick Day

Saturday, March 20, First Day of Spring

Wednesday, March 24, Movie night.

Sunday, March 28, Palm Sunday, Holy week begins.

Holy week Services and Easter Service will be announced at a later day.



Mrs. Jones got a little too used to watching online worship from home.

Budget Report for January 2021

	<u>Actual \$</u>	<u>Year to Date \$</u>	<u>Budget YTD \$</u>
GIVING	5,970	5,970	2,458
Investment Income, Other	0	0	2,558
TOTAL INCOME	5,970	5,970	5,016
EXPENSES	10,411	10,441	10,270
NET (Deficit)	(4,441)	(4,441)	(5,254)

Expenses for January included church and van insurance premiums (\$2599) and National Fuel (\$2001).

March 2021

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

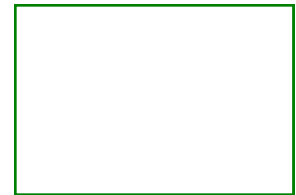
Sat

	1	2	3 <i>Music and Prayer</i>	4	5 <i>World Day of Prayer</i>	6
7 <i>Study Group</i> <i>Third Sunday of Lent</i>	8	9	10 <i>Music and Prayer</i>	11	12	13  <i>Day light Savings begin</i>
14 <i>Daylight Savings Begins</i> <i>4th Sunday of Lent</i>	15	16 <i>Session 7:00 pm</i>	17 <i>Music and Prayer</i> 	18	19	20 
21 <i>Study Group</i> <i>Fifth Sunday of Lent</i>	22	23	24 <i>Music and Prayer</i> <i>Movie Night</i>	25	26	27
28 <i>Palm Sunday</i> 	29		31 <i>Music and Prayer</i>	1 	2 	3 <i>Vigil of Easter</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.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 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.

Editor/Publisher: Janet Roat

Reporters: John Goddard, Janet Bianca, Lis Slenk

Newsletter deadline is the 15th of the month.

March 2021

*Daylight savings,
Sunday March 14.
Turns clock ahead*

