# First Presbyterian Church of Niagara Falls, NY FIRST PRES Newsletter

May 2021



#### Dear Friends

A few years ago, Jon and I went on a pilgrimage in Spain. We spent six weeks there, most of the walking across the northern part following the trail that people have been walking for over a thousand years. We started in France crossing through the Pyrenees into Spain on our second day. It is called the Way of St James.

Tradition tells us that James taught about Jesus in the area we call Spain. When he returned to Rome, he was killed. Someone got hold of his remains and put them on a boat hoping to send them back to Spain, the land he loved. They ended up there and were buried and forgotten for many years. At one point they were found and transferred to where they are now, in Santiago de Compostella. People from all over the world make pilgrimages to Santiago to pay their respects to the remains which are now located within the cathedral there.

It is amazing to me how much simpler life becomes when we leave behind the everyday. We carried most of what we needed in backpacks. Much of the time we actually paid a service to move our belongings from where we started to where we planned to finish our days. We got up and walked. We had time to see our surroundings, to admire the farmland and animals, the buildings, the flowers, the snails. We had time to think about our lives, our regrets. We had time to settle into God's grace. One morning we were walking and came upon concrete picnic tables (they were 8 x 8) in the middle of nowhere, near a forest of poplar trees. We sat for a while just marveling at the grandness. It was as breathtaking as the most ornate sanctuary ever built.

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I have been thinking about that trip a lot over the past few weeks. I think partly because we had always planned to go back. I think partly because I long for that feeling of being able to let go of everyday concerns and letting my mind wander as my feet wander.

A pilgrimage can happen anywhere or any time. My challenge to myself for these coming summer months is to make this time a pilgrimage. What can I do to make my time holy? What can I do to explore this place where I live and work and discover something new? Where can I find sanctuary outdoors that rivals any that we might create indoors?

I will be on a journey of discovery. I hope you will consider being on one yourself. What do you need to discover? Where might you find a new sense of God's grace? Maybe you can tell us about it when we gather for worship or activities now that the weather will allow for outdoor gathering. I look forward to our times of exploration and sharing during the coming months.

Blessings,

Cathy



The
Japanese
Lilac
April 21,
2021,
looks like
it is in
bloom
but it is
snow.

## Please Pray for Those Who are Sick or Shut-in

#### Shut-Ins

Dolores Coleman Elizabeth Ochab

#### **Prayer List**

Monique Wilson Rev. Jon Rieley-Goddard Robert Smith Charlene Bush Ronnie Felstead

Charlene Bush
Carolyn Goddard
Bill Karches
Christine King
Bonnie Felstead
Mark Tarbell
Joseph Barber
Pearl Durham

#### May Birthdays

May 3 - Demonte Lamorie

- 4 Darlene Naccarato
- 6 Carolyn Goddard Lis Slenk
- 12 Jon Rieley-GoddardDori Parry
- 13 Miranda Durham Jockline Pryor
- 24 Cameron Watts
- 30 Kina Jackson

#### Church Repairs

Repairs to the outside church stone work and chimney are completed. The roof air conditioner has been installed. The Church parking lot is now available for full parking.

First Pres received a beautiful thank you note from Christine King thanking her church family for all the lovely cards and prayers. Please keep Christine in your prayers.

#### **May Volunteer Schedule**

#### **Lay Readers**

May 2 - Carol Dashineau

May 9 - John Goddard

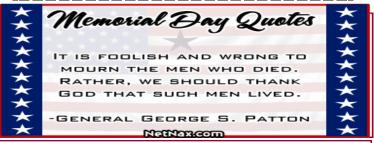
May 16 - Lis Slenk

May 23 - Bill Karches

May 30 - Carol Dashineau

#### **Communion Servers**

May 2 - Lis Slenk, John Goddard



Memorial Day is Monday, May 31. We remember and honor the men and women who have served and now serve in our armed forces.



#### **Budget Report for March 2021**

	Actual \$	Year to Date \$	Budget YTD\$
GIVING	490	7,671	7,374
Investment Income, Other	240	688	7,674
TOTAL INCOME	730	8,359	15,048
EXPENSES	7,154	25,307	30,990
NET (Deficit)	(6,424)	(16,948)	(15,942)

Expenses for March included \$1729 for gas heat.

The office will be closed Monday, May 31, in observance of Memorial Day



# 

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Communion Sunday 11:15 am	3	4	5	6 Nation Day of Prayer	7	8
9 Mother's	10	11	12	13 Ascension of the Lord	14	15
16 Sunday Worship 11:15 am	17	18 Session 7:00 pm	19	20	21	22
23  Day of  Pentecost	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 Trinity Sunday	31 Office Closed memorial DAY					

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

First Press

First Presbyterian Church

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### Sunday May, 9th

#### We're on the Web:

#### www.firstpresny.org

You Tube https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LSk4U35pl2l Face Book <a href="https://www.facebook.com/First-Presbyterian">https://www.facebook.com/First-Presbyterian</a> -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 <a href="https://www.facebook.com">https://www.facebook.com</a> 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

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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.

*May* 2021

