

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.

Continued

Continued

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

May Birthdays

May 3 - Demonte Lamorie
 4 - Darlene Naccarato
 6 - Carolyn Goddard
 Lis Slenk
 12 - Jon Rieley-Goddard
 Dori 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 Quotes

IT IS FOOLISH AND WRONG TO MOURN THE MEN WHO DIED. RATHER, WE SHOULD THANK GOD THAT SUCH MEN LIVED.

-GENERAL GEORGE S. PATTON

NetNet.com

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

	<u>Actual \$</u>	<u>Year to Date \$</u>	<u>Budget YTD \$</u>
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



2021

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

						1
2 <i>Communion Sunday 11:15 am</i>	3	4	5	6 <i>Nation Day of Prayer</i>	7	8
9 	10	11	12	13 <i>Ascension of the Lord</i>	14	15
16 <i>Sunday Worship 11:15 am</i>	17	18 <i>Session 7:00 pm</i>	19	20	21	22
23 <i>Day of Pentecost</i>	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 <i>Trinity Sunday</i>	31 <i>Office Closed</i> 					

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

First Press
First Presbyterian Church
311 First St

Phone: 716-285-3555
Fax: 716-285-3482
E-mail: firstpres2@verizon.net



Return Service Requested



Sunday
May, 9th

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.

Editor/Publisher: Janet Roat
Reporters: John Goddard, Janet Bianca, Lis Slenk

Newsletter deadline is the 15th of the month.

May
2021

