



First Presbyterian Church, Niagara Falls, NY Newsletter May 2022



Dear Friends,

I went to Evangola State Park the other day. As I walked onto the beach I was greeted with this amazing pile of logs. Trees that had fallen somewhere far away and ridden the waves of Lake Erie to arrive on the sandy beach about fifty miles away. The size of the logs made me think they had lived a long life. They had provided shade, maybe for a community or people, maybe for a forest. Certainly wildlife found their home within its branches and bark.

There is research these days that tells us that trees talk with each other. Their root systems support each other. Smaller trees are given better access to the resources of the soil than the larger trees. When predator organisms attack one tree, it is able to send out a warning to trees nearby. Trees thrive more fully when there is a variety of species growing together rather than growing on a single species plantation.



And then Sunday morning I was reminded of this tree on NPR. As old-timers go, the Methuselah tree in California's White Mountains takes some beating. According to research released last week, this ancient bristlecone pine will be 4,851 years old this year. Not a bad performance when it comes to avoiding the Grim Reaper. Can you imagine what this old tree has lived through during all of these years?

As I was walking along the beach looking at these tree pieces, I wondered what it would take for us humans to learn from the trees. How can we learn to be better at supporting one another rather than destroying each other? How can we give up a "growth at any cost" and instead sacrifice a bit so that the good of the community might be supported?

Continued

Continued

During these weeks between Easter and Pentecost we encounter Jesus as he appears to the disciples. We find him encouraging them to live as people who are loved and known and who know there can be a different way of life. They do not need to buy into the Roman system of domination and exploitation. They can live as those who know what it is to be known and to be loved. During this season we have a chance to show the world the same thing. We can live as if we are known and loved. As if our choices make a difference. Whether we are choosing to fight to protect creation or spending our money with local and ethical vendors. Whether we support the newcomers in our community or feed the hungry who are already here.

During this season of Easter, may we all live with new eyes for the world around us.

Blessings, Cathy

Niagara Area Presbyterian Churches (NAP) Dinner will be hosted by Riverside Presbyterian, Wednesday , May 4, at 5:00 pm. Come and enjoy dinner, fellowship, and good conversation.

Memorial Day

Memorial Day is Monday, May 30th. Have a safe holiday as we honor and remember those who serviced in the armed forces. The office will be closed Memorial Day in observance of the holiday day.

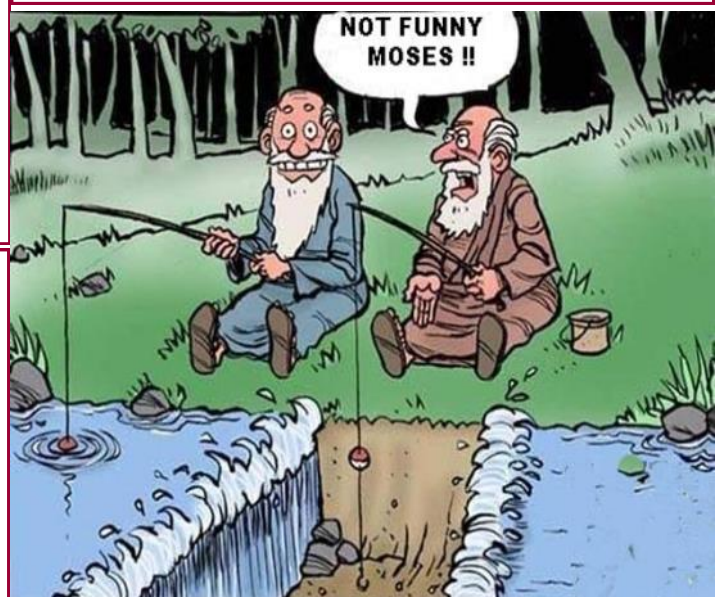
Mother's Day

May 8th



Fish Boxes

Thank you to all who participated in the Fish Boxes. The fish boxes support the One Great Hour of Sharing. One Great Hours of Sharing provides relief from natural disaster, food for the hungry and support for those who are in need.



Seeking to be an Anti-Racist: Living the Love of Jesus

Myths About Racism

In 2019, Carolyn B. Helsel, who teaches preaching at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, wrote an article for Christian Century magazine entitled: "Ten myths about Racism." In her opening, she explains the purpose of the article. She believes that predominantly white churches may be reluctant to talk about racism because they don't want to say the wrong thing, or that they may feel there is no need to do so because they don't hear members saying overtly racist things. By presenting and discussing the myths she presents in the article, she hopes to encourage dialogue and to help people better understand the complexity of the issue of racism. The article is based on her book: *Preaching about Racism*, published by Chalice Press. This week we will look at two of the 10 myths she discusses.

Myth: "Racism is about hateful actions and words" – Helsel points out that if racism was just about mean actions and words, then many white Christians might easily dismiss the idea that they could be racist. After all, don't Christians speak kindly of others and avoid speaking in hateful ways? But, she points out, the problem is that white people may not be able to judge whether they are racist, whether they carry racist beliefs, or say racist things. They may not be aware of their own biases. Also, she reminds white people that racism is much more than saying racist things. It is also found in differences in pay, housing availability, mortgage lending, education, policing and incarceration which go beyond personal behavior and choices.

Myth: "Racism has to do with intentions" – As Helsel says, "If we have no intention of offending someone else and no consciousness of racial bias, then we may feel resentful for being accused of racism." A Christian might say that if one is doing good deeds, how could one be racist? Helsel points out that white people can do great harm to others not just by their intentions but by their "inattentions." If white people ignore how others are harmed by the systems of racism, if white people refuse to acknowledge that harm, they participate in it. It is not a matter of being crippled by guilt but accepting that there is much to learn about the realities of racism and that, as Christians, we are all called to do something about it.

Consider whether either of these myths have influenced your thinking and how you might move beyond them. Also, can you find some way to help others understand that these are unhelpful myths?

This is a weekly feature by the Presbytery of Western New York's Anti-Racism Task Group. This task group is made up of local Presbyterians who are seeking to grow in understanding of the issue of racism in our communities and churches. We seek to learn about the issues, listen to voices that need to be heard, and explore ways that we and others might respond to, and actively engage in the work of anti-racism. For more information contact Cynthia Wickwire Lundquist at cs112wickwire@gmail.com or Cathy Rieley-Goddard at cathriego@gmail.com.

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	

May Volunteer Schedule

Lay Readers

May 1 - Carol Dashineau

May 8 - Lis Slenk

May 15 - John Goddard

May 22 - Lis Slenk

May 29 - John Goddard

Communion Servers

May 1 - Lis Slenk. Dory Parry

May Birthdays

May 3 Demonte Lamorie

May 6 Carolyn Goddard

Lis Slenk

May 12 Dori Parry

May 24 Cameron Watts

May 25 Jockline Pryor

May 30 Kina Jackson

Happy Birthday



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_gWm7wjggyl-q03g](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCV8PmvV_gWm7wjggyl-q03g).

Bell Ringing Circle

Hand Bell Ringing Circle is on Wednesdays at 5:30 pm. All are welcome. Come join the group for laughs, learning and fellowship. Musical talent not needed

Budget Report for March 2022

	<u>Actual \$</u>	<u>Year to Date \$</u>	<u>Budget YTD \$</u>
GIVING	2,570	8,694	10,998
Investment Income, Other	240	836	6,999
TOTAL INCOME	2,810	9,530	17,997
EXPENSES	7,375	29,924	33,453
NET (Deficit)	(4,565)	(20,394)	(15,456)

Investment income was from the J.G. Marshall Trust. Expenses included \$1849 for gas and \$360 for annual security monitoring, and \$356 for Maid Brigade.



2022

Sun

Mon




Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

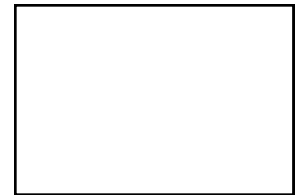
Sat

1 <i>Communion</i>	2	3	4 <i>NAP</i> <i>Dinner</i> <i>Riverside</i> <i>5:00 PM</i>	5	6	7
8  <i>Mothers Day</i>	9	10	11 <i>Bell</i> <i>Ringin</i> <i>Circle</i> <i>5:30 PM</i>	12	13	14
15	16	17 <i>Session</i> <i>7:00 PM</i>	18 <i>Bell</i> <i>Ringin</i> <i>Circle</i> <i>5:30 PM</i>	19	20	21
22	23 <i>Canada</i> <i>Victoria</i> <i>Day</i> 	24	25 <i>Bell</i> <i>Ringin</i> <i>Circle</i> <i>5:30 PM</i>	26	27	28
29 <i>Ascension of</i> <i>the Lord</i>	30 	31				

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: 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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**May
2022**

