



Presbyterian Church Niagara Falls, NY Newsletter January 2025



HAPPY NEW YEAR! We wish our entire church family a Happy, Healthy and Safe New Year.

May everyone know all God's goodness, love and blessings in 2025.

Our Capital Fund Drive continues in the new year. We hope you will continue to pray about making a donation to the drive.

The Restoration work has slowed down due to the cold weather. Some work will continue this winter when the weather cooperates!

We also ask you to keep Mark and Rev. Cathy in your prayers. They both are in need of God's healing. As of this writing, Rev. Cathy is receiving physical therapy. We will keep everyone updated as we receive more information.

A reminder that Rev. Marple and his family will be with us at least through February.

It is so important for Christians to worship together to be the family in Christ. We hope to see everyone. if you are able, in church.

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If you would like a visit from the Deacons, please call the church office Monday through Wednesday – 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM and let the Secretary know.

There will not be a NAP dinner in January. Save Wednesday February 5, 2025. We will let you know where the dinner will be as soon as it is determined.

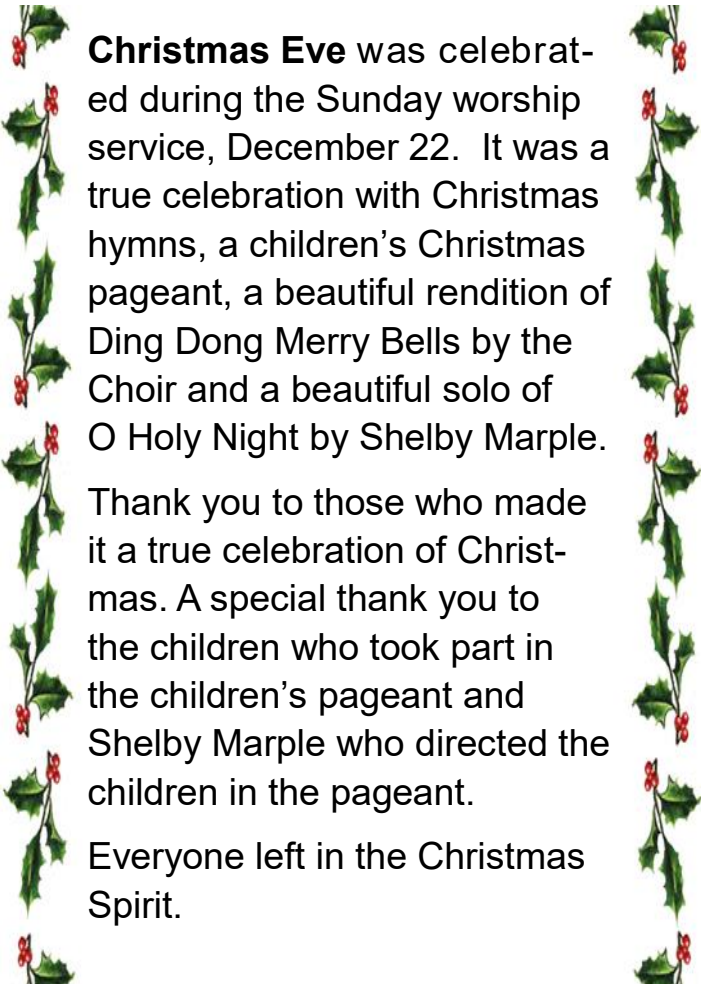
Thank you to everyone who donated to the Angel Box with Tops gift cards. There were 15 cards!! Thank you all!

Carol Dashineau

Clerk of Session

Bell Tower restoration - The restoration project is still ongoing and will not be completed in 2024 as hoped. The Session decided to wait until spring to celebrate our 200th Anniversary and the completion of the restoration with a dinner. We will ring the bell as soon as it is installed and made safe to ring!

Martin Luther King Jr Day is Monday, January 20th. Government buildings, the Post Office, banks and most schools will be closed.



Christmas Eve was celebrated during the Sunday worship service, December 22. It was a true celebration with Christmas hymns, a children's Christmas pageant, a beautiful rendition of Ding Dong Merry Bells by the Choir and a beautiful solo of O Holy Night by Shelby Marple.

Thank you to those who made it a true celebration of Christmas. A special thank you to the children who took part in the children's pageant and Shelby Marple who directed the children in the pageant.

Everyone left in the Christmas Spirit.

Preaching Schedule

For the months of January and February, Rev. Justin Marple will be in the pulpit. We hope to see everyone on Sunday morning. Remember it is an important concept in Christianity that Christians worship together!

FIVE PRAYERS THAT WILL CHANGE YOUR LIFE

1. Heavenly Father, renew my mind, awaken my spirit, cleanse my heart. Amen
2. Dear God, I choose not to fear or worry anymore. I surrender everything to you. Amen
3. Dear God, if it is your will, let it happen; nothing can stop it. If not, I trust you have a better plan. Amen
4. Heavenly Father, grant me wisdom and discernment to make the right decisions in my life. Amen
5. Heavenly Father, thank you for another day. Father, save me, guide me, strengthen me. Let me shine as a beacon in the dark world. In the name of Jesus, I pray. Amen

Dear First Presbyterian Church: Thank you for thinking of us this Christmas Season! Jesus is the King of Kings and I believe great things are coming for First Presbyterian Church!! You have been a great encouragement and blessing to our community!! MERRY CHRISTMAS!!
Joanne Lorenzo Lighthouse Women & Children



January

*Sparkling winter sunshine,
Faces all aglow
Making resolutions,
And angels in the snow -
Steaming cups of cocoa,
A year that's fresh and new...
All of this is magic -
Unfolding just for you.*

THIRD CENTURY CAMPAIGN

Capital Fund Drive

Our Church, formed 200 years ago, is entering its third century of existence. Our church building on this site dates to 1849. It is showing its age! In 2022, we applied for and received a NY Environmental Protection Grant of \$426,464 which at the time was estimated to cover 75% of the restoration costs for the historic building, focusing on the bell tower. That was the percentage that the grant was authorized to cover. We get those funds through reimbursement as the restoration program proceeds. In 2023, we were also awarded architecture and construction grants totaling \$45,000 from the NY Landmark Conservancy's Sacred Sites program. We have received those funds.

We are entering the construction phase of our bell tower restoration project. The tower scaffolding is now up, and the 1848 bell has been removed for restoration. Asbestos and lead abatement are underway now. The tower restoration work will begin shortly. The estimate for the actual construction is now \$970,000. This is exclusive of administration costs, architect fees, and other fees such as asbestos monitoring and abatement. The construction work is now almost exclusively confined to the bell tower and the south turret, although our original estimate provided for the 2022 grant (\$636,000) covered more items such as resealing all windows and extensive repointing of the masonry beyond the bell tower. Since covid, costs have escalated, and probably the original value supplied for the EPF grant was underestimated as well.

Beyond what the grants provide (\$471,464), the costs will be borne by the church, through donations and through our capital funds. This amount will be approximately \$600,000. The church's capital funds that we can spend on this project now generate investment income and (usually) capital gains which help us cover our deficit budgets. It has been and still is important to our existence that we maintain this reserve as much as possible.

We have initiated a low-key capital fund drive to attract donations for those who would like to contribute. There will be no pledge cards or mail solicitations. Donors will be kept confidential though amounts pledged or donated will be published. If you feel that this is a cause our Lord would like you to support and you are willing, please let the Church Treasurer (Carolyn Goddard) know. Gift checks may be made out to the church with "restoration" indicated as the purpose. Thank you, and may God bless the work of First Presbyterian Church of Niagara Falls in its third century!

Please Pray for Those Who are Sick or Shut-in



Shut-Ins

Dolores Coleman Tony Pryor
Jane McNaughton Bob McNaughton

Prayer List

Bill Karches Jillian Horner
Mark Tarbell Collette Sorg
Brian Tarbell Rita Horner
Cathy Rieley-Goddard

January Volunteer Schedule

Lay Readers

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

Communion Servers

January 5 - Jeanette Lamorie and
Dori Parry



Sunday Worship on You Tube

Each week the Sunday morning worship service is video-recorded. The video is uploaded to First Pres Niagara Falls early in the week. Check it out. The link to You Tube is youtube.com/channel/UCV8PmvV_gWm7wjgyl-g03g.

January Birthdays

January 13 Carol Restivo
January 28 Young Sook Kim



Happy Birthday

Budget Report for November 2024

	<u>Actual \$</u>	<u>Year to Date \$</u>	<u>Budget YTD \$</u>
GIVING	1,804	26,838	26,279
Investment Income, Other	378	37,737	34,837
TOTAL INCOME	2,182	64,575	61,116
EXPENSES	6,742	98,853	122,078
NET (Deficit)	(4,560)	(34,278)	(60,962)

Investment income was from the L>T> Marshall Trust. Expenses included \$1075 for substitute preachers and \$494 for gas heat.

JANUARY

2025

Sun

Mon





Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1 	2	3	4
5  Communion	6	7	8	9	10	11
12  BAPTISM OF THE LORD	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 <i>Martin Luther King Jr Day</i>	21 <i>Session 7:00 PM</i>	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	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.firstpresnfny.org

You Tube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L5k4U35p12I>

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 10:00 AM
Communion First Sunday of Month

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 firstpresnfny@gmail.com or may be dropped through the mail
slot of the church office.

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*Wishing you a
Blessed New Year*

JANUARY 2025

