



Presbyterian Church

311 First Street, Niagara Falls, NY

March Newsletter 2025

From the Pastor's Study

Easter, otherwise more appropriately called the Resurrection of the Lord Sunday, falls late this year. The date has to do with the lunar calendar. In the Western world, we operate by a different calendar. This newsletter is published monthly, we celebrate communion on the first Sunday of the month, and January 1st is the beginning of the year. But either way, a week is seven days. As Christians, we rest on the first day of the week and then we work within the next six days. Every Sunday is the Lord's Day—it is a day for celebrating the Lord's resurrection. It is worth noting that even Christian traditions that observe the season of Lent still acknowledge that every Sunday is a mini-Easter. Every Sunday, whether during Lent or not, is a feast day. Some may practice forty days of fasting, but the fast is broken every Sunday because Sundays aren't included among the forty days of Lent.

Sunday actually is doing double duty. It is both the first day of the week and the eighth day of the week. Yes, I know I just said that there are only seven days in a week. The story of creation is a seven-day week. The first three days answered the original condition of creation being a desert and the next three days answered the original condition of creation being deserted or empty. The seventh day is a day of rest. This seventh day refers to Saturday—the Jewish Sabbath. The seventh day in Genesis does not have the ending formula that you find used for each of the other days. The church has long understood that this is because we are still living in the seventh day of creation. However, we are also told that there is an eighth day—the day of the Lord, even, yes, Judgment Day. The eighth day is the Lord's Day. The eighth day has already begun because Jesus already has experienced the final judgment—the final resurrection. Thus, we live in this awkward time when the eighth day has already begun but it is not yet fully here. Indeed, we belong to the new creation but still live in this old age.

Some things that are meant to go together are called the Lord's. The Lord's Day. The Lord's Supper. The Lord's Table. The Lord's Cup. Sundays are feast days. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

As we journey through these weeks leading up to Easter, let me encourage you to embrace every Sunday as a mini-Easter. Remember the resurrection of the Lord on every Lord's day. Take the opportunity to gather as a community. Break bread together on the first Sunday of each month in the Lord's Supper and find opportunities to break bread together for fellowship. And reflect on the resurrection power to transform lives. Let's find joy and hope as we celebrate together—living as people of the eighth day—citizens of the new creation—even as we walk together through this world.

Pastor Justin Marple

Ash Wednesday Service March NAP Dinner

Ash Wednesday service and the March NAP dinner will be combined and held at Riverside Presbyterian, 815 84th Street, Niagara Falls, NY, March 5th, 5:00 PM. The Ash Wednesday Service will immediately following the meal. The NAP dinner is a nice way to meet your neighbors, enjoy fellowship, share a meal and attend the Ash Wednesday Service. All are Welcome

The Belltower Restoration Project

As you may have noticed, work on the belltower has tapered off during the cold weather. Re-pointing the masonry can only be done when it's warm enough for the lime grout to cure, typically above 40 F. This is what the scaffolding and weather shroud are primarily for. The top part of the tower was done last fall. Work continued inside the tower but that has been curtailed for weather and construction issues. Interior demolition is largely complete. The attic catwalk has been modified to accommodate a new interior door to the tower. The bell itself is still at Chime Masters in Ohio for restoration and rebuilding of its steel support system. Work has progressed slowly but we expect it will return for reinstallation this spring. Other work left for the tower includes installation of new structural components at the belfry floor and roof areas, reframing and installation of new louvers in the belfry, and installation of all roofing membranes. Apart from the bell tower, the turret on the southwest corner of the church has been disassembled stone by stone and will be rebuilt with the original stones. While demolition of the building to the south of the church revealed no serious structural issues with our south wall, long hidden from view, there will be some re-pointing of the brick masonry which was largely above the roof line of the demolished building. We believe the Belltower Project will be completed by the end of this summer.

Thank You!

Following worship service on Sunday, February 9, the Marple family hosted a waffle buffet breakfast for First Pres Members and friends. Thank you Marple family. The waffles were delicious!

Thank you to the helpers who helped serve the waffles and the clean up crew.

It was a day of fellowship and a nice meal on a cold snowy February Sunday.

Goodbye Winter

by Emily Verse

**Winter's last breath lingers,
Warmth stirs beneath snow.
Frost-kissed boughs dream,
Winter bows, taking its bow.**

**Goodbye crisp nights, stars bright,
Silvery shroud over meadow.
Farewell long, cold night,
Welcome spring's gentle echo.
Hello daffodil's smile,**

**Symphony of life with thaw.
Buds unfurl mile by mile,
World reborn, winter's flaw.**

**Brooks murmur under sun's gaze,
Birds weave songs in azure dome.
Nature dances in spring's ways,
Spring whispers softly, "Welcome home."**



Daylight Savings Time

Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday March 9th. Be sure to move your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed Saturday night. It is also a good time to check the batteries in your fire and carbon monoxide alarms.

Please Pray for Those Who are Sick or Shut-in



Shut-Ins

Dolores Coleman Jane McNaughton
 Bob McNaughton

Prayer List

Bill Karches Jillian Horner
 Mark Tarbell Collette Sorg
 Brian Tarbell Rita Horner
 Cathy Rieley-Goddard Gary Horner
 Christine Malinowski Toni Pryor

March Volunteer Schedule

Lay Readers

March 2 - John Goddard
 March 9 - Carol Dashineau
 March 16 - Lis Slenk
 March 23 - John Goddard
 March 30 - Carol Dashineau

Communion Servers

March 2 - 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/@FPCNFNY.

March Birthdays

March 19 Christine Kine
 March 24 Jeffery Street, Jr.



Happy Birthday

Budget Report for January 2025

	<u>Actual \$</u>	<u>Year to Date \$</u>	<u>Budget YTD \$</u>
GIVING	3,672	3,672	3,346
Investment Income, Other	57	57	3,500
TOTAL INCOME	3,729	3,729	5,846
EXPENSES	11,020	11,020	11,562
NET (Deficit)	(7,291)	(7,291)	(5,716)

Expenses this month included \$3807 for insurance and \$1704 for gas heat.

March 2025

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

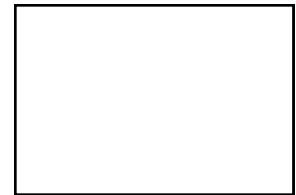
Sat

	<p><i>The Season of Lent</i></p> 					1
<p>2</p> 	3	4	<p>5 NAP Dinner Ash  Wednesday</p>	6	7 World Day of Prayer	<p>8</p> 
<p>9</p>  <p>First Sunday in Lent</p>	10	11	12	13	14	15
<p>16</p> <p>Second Sunday in Lent</p>	<p>17</p> 	18	19	<p>20</p> <p>First Day of Spring </p>	21	22
<p>23</p> <p>Third Sunday in Lent</p>	24	25	26	27	28	29
<p>30</p> <p>Fourth Sunday in Lent</p>	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/@FPCNFNY>

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

Office Telephone: 716-285-3555

Sunday Worship 10:00 AM

Communion First Sunday of Month

Pastor: Rev. Justin Marple

Pastor's Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 4 PM-8 PM

Saturday 9AM-12 noon and by appointment.



May your blessings
outnumber
The shamrocks that
grow,
And may trouble avoid
you
Wherever you go.

Irish Blessing

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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