

First Presbyterian Church of Niagara Falls, NY

FIRST PRESS Newsletter

February 2020



Valentine Potluck

The Valentin Potluck will be Sunday, February 16, following Worship Service. If you are able, please bring a dish to share and a place setting for everyone in your group. All are welcome.



Niagara Area Presbyterian Events

Bacon Memorial Presbyterian Church is having a Basket Auction and Pasta and Meatball dinner Friday February 22. See the flyer on bulletin board.

The annual Niagara Area Presbyterian Bowling Party will be 11:00 am, March 21, at Rapids Bowling Alley, 9524 Niagara Falls Blvd, Niagara Falls. The cost is \$15.00 per person for bowling and lunch. If you would just like to socialize and have lunch the cost is \$8.00. The menu includes pizza, wings and soda. Must RSVP by March 1st. Come and enjoy a fun activity for the whole family.

A golf outing at the Paddock Dome in Tonawanda is planned for April.

A trip to a Bison baseball game in Buffalo in May is also being planned.

More information about the golf outing and the baseball game will be available when the date and cost of each event is finalized.

The Niagara Area Presbyterian group gives members of each Church the chance to meet, socialize and enjoy family activities.

For further information and RSVP see Carol Dashineau, Clerk of Session.

Preaching Schedule for February and March

Below is the Preachers' schedule for February and March. The continuity of leadership in worship will benefit our congregation. Everyone is urged to attend worship, and support our Church.

February 2 - Rev. Stacy Otto

February 9 - Lee Weinsheimer

February 16 - Rev. Stacy Otto

February 23 - Terry McIntyre

March 1 - Rev. Stacy Otto

March 8 - Lee Weinsheimer

March 15 - Rev. Stacy Otto

March 22 - Terry McIntyre

March 29 - Rev. Stacy Otto

See you in Church, Carol Dashineau

Adult Evening Bible Study

Adult Evening Bible Study meets Wednesdays at 6:00 pm. The Bible Study group will help you to read, share and grow in understanding God's living word. The group will be lead by Rev. Bob DeFazio. Enjoy a light meal while you study.

All are Welcome.



**The first ever
Cordless Phone
was created by
God.
He named it
"Prayer" ...
It never Loses its
Signal and U never
have to Recharge it.
Use it Anywhere...!**



Letters From Route 66 February 2020

One-hundred and twelve dollars and 56 cents. I counted it again. One-hundred and twelve dollars and 56 cents. After months on the road working the occasional odd job, that was the sum total left in my pocket. Time to find more consistent work and build up a reserve if I had any hopes of continuing my venture. I looked up from the small stack of dollars in my hands and surveyed the landscape of Albuquerque, New Mexico. I sat in my car at a crossroads - both literally and spiritually - trying to decide what to do. Which way to go? Right, towards Oklahoma where I had found lucrative work before, or left, back into the Southwest region of the country? I pulled out a map, said a prayer, and began scanning town names seeking some inspiration... and there it was, just south of Route 66 - a small yellow star blazing like a beacon, marking the city center of Phoenix, Arizona. There was a place that promised more than minimum wage and meager tips.

Memories from decades past suddenly flooded my mind as I reminisced about the flight school I attended there when I was eighteen years old. It had taken nearly a year for me to convince my parents that moving half way across the country to train was the most efficient and economical way to achieve my flight certifications. They simply would not believe that my interest in aviation was more than a passing infatuation. I smiled as I thought about the "infatuation" that still held my heart... Suddenly, the blast of a tractor trailer rig rushing by brought me out of my reverie. I needed to stay focused, for I was out here on a mission that was more important than any job... I needed to find *the* One whose grace gave meaning to life. I pulled out the bible that was stashed in the glove box, cracked open its pages and found my eyes resting on a passage from Proverbs: *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not upon your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths.* I pulled back onto the road and turned left, invigorated with a renewed sense of purpose...

Phoenix, Arizona... Here I was again with lots of sunshine and an endless supply of sweat. I remembered how people would always say "oh... but it's a dry heat." Sorry, but hot is hot! I sat brooding in my idling car with the air conditioning trying, but failing, to keep things cool, and stared at the

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Continued

dilapidated shell of a building in front of me. A faded "Mesa Flight Training" still clung to the front wall and I, clinging to what was left of my small stash of money, groaned with disappointment. Yesterday's hope that my old flight school was still open for business, and possibly in need of another instructor, evaporated. The airport restaurant next door, however, seemed to be thriving. After several more deep sighs, I wandered inside, stopping at the bulletin board by the door to inspect it for any potential job listings. I don't know how long I was standing there, but long enough for one of the waitresses to notice and ask if I was alright. "Not really. Just looking for a job." Her response took me aback: "Oh honey. Don't you worry. The Lord will look after you." Maybe so... but I didn't think it was up to Him to get me out of the jam I had created for myself. *Trust in the Lord with all your heart...* That Proverb echoed in my head again. **ALL my heart. ALL.** How was I supposed to do that? I didn't know Him very well yet.

Just then, a man dressed like the typical charter pilot, complete with white shirt, shoulder boards and gold wings on his chest, sauntered past me and almost made it out the door before the waitress stopped him. "Hey Steve! Y'all have any jobs over at the hangar?" Steve, looking curious, replied: "You looking to get into another line of work Stella?" Smiling, she pointed at me. "Okay," he said, looking me up one side and down the other, "I don't suppose you can fly can you?" Now it was my turn to smile... "As a matter of fact, I can."

The next day I sat at a drab, metal desk in the corner of *Mesa Air Taxi's* hangar, aircraft manuals laid out in front of me with a cold diet coke in hand to stave off the heat. I was grateful yet anxious, relieved but also concerned... just a raw bundle of nerves rapid-firing one emotion after another. I wondered if this was how Peter felt when he decided to return to fishing even though he had been told by the Lord to *go and make disciples*. I felt oddly close to Peter in that moment, understanding his need to return to the familiar, and lucrative, business he had once engaged in. I looked at the Cessna 421 across the hangar from where I sat... my fishing boat. By the end of the month I would be casting off into the "Sea of Galilee," as a newly qualified air ambulance pilot carrying patients from the Apache, Pima and Navajo reservations to major cities where they could receive quality care. I could only pray that, with the Lord's help, the fishing would be good.

In Christ,

Pastor Stacy

Where to look in the Bible when you...

need rest and peace Matthew 11:28-30
worry Matthew 6:19-34
are lonely or fearful Psalm 23
need peace of mind John 14:27, Philippians 4:6-8
are disappointed by people Psalm 27
grow bitter or critical 1 Corinthians 13
have sinned Psalm 51, 1 John 1
are discouraged Psalm 34
feel God seems far away Psalm 139
think the world seems bigger than God Psalm 90
are sick Psalm 41
feel sorrowful John 14, Psalm 46
are in danger Psalm 91
want courage Joshua 1:1-9
need assurance Romans 8
forget your blessings Psalm 103
are looking for joy Colossians 3
leave home to travel Psalm 121
think of investments Mark 10:17-31
need guidelines for living. Matthew 5-7, Romans 12
need rules of conduct Exodus 20:1-17
need to know God's will for your life ... Proverbs 3:1-6

This article was submitted by a member

Children's Sunday School

Children's Sunday School is divided into Elementary School age children and Middle School and High School Children. The Elementary age group meets in the Library with Mrs. Lis Slenk. The Middle School and High School group meets in the Fireside Room with Mr. Abe McLarahmore. The children classes are for children only. Please respect this arrangement.

Front Doors

The South front church door has been refinished and installed. Both doors have now been refinished and installed. Thank you Carol Dashineau for heading up this project.



Ash Wednesday is February 26. Ash Wednesday services at First Pres will be at 7:00 pm. The Ash Wednesday service, rich in ritual and symbolism, is the entry point for Lenten preparation.

The season of Lent leads up to the most holy of Christian days, Easter Sunday.

Session News

Session is exploring ideas for out reach ministries in downtown Niagara Falls. The Session welcomes your ideas. Please give a member of the Session your idea or better yet, attend a Session meeting and present your idea to the Session.

Welcome to Our New Members

We welcomed Tracy and John Hazel into membership during the Christmas Eve Service. We are thrilled that Tracy and John have joined our church family! John is already on the Usher Squad and Tracy is involved with youth arts and crafts. Welcome John and Tracy.

Please Pray for Those Who are Sick or Shut-in

Shut-Ins

Jean Hackenheimer Pearl Durham
Dolores Coleman Elizabeth Ochab

Prayer List

Monique Wilson Bonnie Felstead
Margaret Smith Robert Smith
Victoria Stewart Gianna Horner
Antonio Rosati Joyce Metzke



February Volunteer Schedule

Ushers

February 2 - Carl Slenk, Kirk Parry
February 9 - John Hazel, Robert MacNaughton
February 16 - Carl Slenk, Kirk Parry
February 23 - John Hazel,
Robert MacNaughton

Lay Readers

February 2 - Lis Slenk
February 9 - Carol Dashineau
February 16 - Bill Karches
February 23 - John Goddard

Communion Servers (In Pew)

February 2 - Carol Dashineau,
Robert MacNaughton



February Birthdays

February 8 - Shayna Durham
February 11 - Jonathan Bush
February 12 - Jean Hackenheimer
February 14 - Margaret Smith



Presidents' Day is Monday, February 17. Government offices, the Post Office, banks and most schools will be closed on Presidents' Day.



Budget Report for November 2019

	<u>Actual \$</u>	<u>Year to Date \$</u>	<u>Budget YTD \$</u>
Giving	1,415	26,560	30,822
Investment Income, Other	333	27,881	35,024
TOTAL INCOME	1,748	54,441	65,846
EXPENSES	9,265	84,838	109,395
NET (Deficit)	(7,517)	(30,397)	(43,549)

Expenses this month included \$3,450 for repair of the Sanctuary wood door.

First Pres has a new website. Check it out. You can view the newsletter on the website. The new website is www.firstpresnfn.org

February 2020



Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

						1
2 <i>Ground Hog Day Communion Super Bowl</i> 	3	4 <i>F.A.C.T. 9 am-Noon</i>	5 <i>Bible Study 6:00 pm</i>	6	7	8
9 <i>Deacon's Meeting 10:30 am</i>	10	11 <i>F.A.C.T. 9 am-Noon</i>	12 <i>Bible Study 6:00 pm</i>	13	14 <i>Happy Valentine's Day</i> 	15
16 <i>Valentine Potluck</i> 	17 <i>Presidents' Day</i> 	18 <i>F.A.C.T. 9 am-Noon Session 7pm</i>	19 <i>Bible Study 6:00 pm</i>	20	21	22
23	24	25 <i>F.A.C.T. 9 am-Noon</i>	26 <i>Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 pm</i> 	27	28	29

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

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Return Service Requested



Monday, February 17

We're on the Web:
www.firstpresnfny.org

CHURCH OFFICE

Hours: Monday through Thursday, 9 am -1 pm
Telephone: 285-3555

Sunday Worship	11:00 a.m.
Fellowship	10:30 a.m.
Sunday School	11:00 a.m.
Communion	1st Sunday of each month
Food Pantry & Clothes Closet	Tuesdays from 9:00 a.m.-12 noon
Bible Study	Wednesday - 6:00 pm

BOARD MEETINGS

Deacons — 2nd Sunday of month—10:30 a.m.
Session — 3rd Tuesday of the month—7:00 p.m.

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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Newsletter deadline is the 15th of the month.



February 2020

Happy Valentine's Day