

First Presbyterian Church of Niagara Falls, NY

FIRST PRESS Newsletter

March 2020



St Patrick Potluck

Celebrate the wearing of the green at the St. Patrick Potluck, Sunday, March 15, 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

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 March and April

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

March 1 - Rev. Stacy Otto
March 8 - Lee Weinsheimer
March 15 - Rev. Stacy Otto
March 22 - Terry McIntyre
March 29 - Rev. Stacy Otto

April 5 - Palm Sunday - Rev. Stacy Otto
April 12 - Easter Sunday - Robert Defazio
April 19 - Rev. Stacy Otto
April 26 - TBA

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.



Lenten To Do List

1. Wait Patiently - Psalm 27:14
2. Have Faith - 2 Corinthians 5:7
3. Pray - Philippians 4:6
4. Think of Others - Philippians 2:4
5. Trust in the Lord - Proverbs 3:5
6. Read God's Word - Psalm 119:12
7. Give Thanks - Psalm 136





Letters From Route 66 March 2020

Spring was on its way and though Route 66 seemed relatively unchanged thus far, I could sense a certain shifting... or, perhaps, it was only I that was being changed, bit by bit, mile by mile. I was noticing things that had never before captured my attention - the subtle scent of rain-soaked earth, the increasing number of smiles on the faces of passersby, the full church parking lots on weekday evenings, with people bustling from their cars with all manner of dishes in hand (undoubtedly the infamous Lenten potlucks I had heard about). A deep sense of longing suddenly overcame me. I pulled off onto the shoulder of the road (an act that had become a frequent ritual) and began to ponder the implications... "Lent" - a word meaning "Spring," the time of nature's transformation and renewal. "Lent" - derived from the German root "long" for, indeed, the days were growing longer... and so was my sojourn on Route 66. "Lent" - a spiritual journey of 40 days and nights... I had traversed many more days and nights that that on Route 66... and how had I been renewed? How had I been transformed? What had I learned?

Week upon week I had been given opportunity to travel upon another byway - that of the soul - moving within something much greater than the demands of daily living which often steered me away from devoted time with God. Roadblocks were also put up by my resistant human nature that preferred "parking" in known spaces, rather than driving deep into the mysterious depths of the immortal, where God's own truth resides... a truth that cannot be denied no matter how uncomfortable its insights might be. As I sat there pondering, the infamous words of Jesus suddenly flashed into my mind: "Whoever desires to come after Me, let them deny themselves. Take up your cross and follow Me." My heart was pierced with the intensity of that call... "Follow Me!" What would the cost be to embark upon a road that could not be navigated until first taking up my cross?

continued

Continued

Feeling the tangible weight of that question, I sank deeper into the driver's seat, seeking relief from the overwhelming realization that I didn't know the first thing about carrying a cross... Or did I?

I glanced at the map next to me, noting all the criss-crossed lines that highlighted my rather haphazard travels, and it began to dawn on me that Route 66 was my cross. Through all the lonely miles and seemingly endless hours striving to quell my uneasy soul, I had finally come to a monumental realization - Surely I wasn't the first one to make such a quest... surely, taking up one's cross was the challenge facing every believer who took these words of our Lord seriously... Surely through suffering and deprivation, as well as happiness and abundance, millions of crosses had been carried successfully throughout the history of humankind. It was not an impossible task. Indeed, was this not the very core of the Christian faith - That the cross of Christ stands empty and, because it does, the gates to the Kingdom of God stand open? Has it not been made clear that we are invited to walk through those gates into abundant life, but must first go with a willing spirit to our own Calvary? Have we not been told that, through the power of God's unconditional love, each of us shall gaze upon an empty cross... the cross that we brought there, having followed Christ to a place where heaven and earth meet?

Heaviness turned to elation as I thought further... Jesus was not issuing a request, but was giving a command. Who was I to disobey? He wouldn't issue the order unless it could be carried out. Pick up your cross! Follow Me! Yes sir! I looked around me once more, taking in the vast solitude of the Arizona high desert that lay before me... and, for the first time in as long as I could remember, I felt free.

May the blessedness of this holy season be yours.

In Christ,

Pastor Stacy

Valentine Celebration at First Pres

A Valentine Celebration at First Pres began when Rev. Stacy was surprised by friends from the Springville Presbyterian Church where she was the Pastor before coming to First Pres. First Pres welcomed the Springville friends at the Valentine Potluck where Rev. Stacy was able to visit with old friends.

The Valentine Celebration continue during the Sunday Service, when Rev. Stacy blessed Valentine refrigerator magnets that the Sunday School Children had made. The children then surprised the congregation by giving each person a Valentine magnet. Thank you Sunday School Children for the beautiful gift.

The day ended with "God's Love Valentine Potluck". The day was filled with fellowship, good food and surprises.

Thank you to all who brought food for the potluck, helped with the children crafts , decorated our hall and helped cleaned up.



Children's Sunday School

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

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.

Did You Know

Most people are accustomed to seeing religious symbols in the church. But, do you know what they mean?

Carved in the wood face of the pulpit at First Pres is a cross, representing the Gospel, surrounded by the symbols of the writers of the four Gospels.

Upper left: Matthew-Winged Man with halo.

Lower left: Mark—Winged Lion with halo.

Lower right : Luke—Winged Ox with halo.

Upper right: John—Eagle with halo

These all indicate what is to be preached from the pulpit is not mere human ideals and opinions but the saving cross of Christ as set forth in the four Gospels of the New Testament.

People don't always need advice. Sometimes all they really need is a hand to hold or an ear to listen, and a heart to understand them

Crabby Road

3-12-07



Daylight Savings time begins Sunday, March 8. Turn your Clock ahead one hour.

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
Charlene Bush Bob DeFazio
Carol Dashineau



March Volunteer Schedule

Ushers

March 1 - Carl Slenk, Kirk Parry
March 8 - John Hazel, Robert MacNaughton
March 15 - Carl Slenk, Kirk Parry
March 22 - John Hazel, Robert MacNaughton
March 29 - John Goddard, Carl Slenk

Lay Readers

March 1 - Lis Slenk
March 8 - John Goddard
March 15 - John Goddard
March 22 - Bill Karches
March 29 - Bill Karches

Communion Servers (Intinction)

March 1 - Lis Slenk

Lewiston Choraleers 2020 Spring Concert
Once Upon a Tree Pepper Choplin

March 28, Saturday, 2:00 pm, Frist Presbyterian Church, 100 Church St, Youngstown, NY

March 29, Sunday, 2:00 pm, St. John de LaSalle Church, 8477 Buffalo Ave, Niagara Falls, NY

April 4, Saturday, 2:00 pm, First Presbyterian Church, 505 Cayuga St, Lewiston, NY

April 5, Sunday, 2:00 pm, Messiah Lutheran Church, 915 Oneida St, Lewiston, NY.

Adult tickets \$5.00 , children under 12, free.

Join the Lewiston Choraleers as they welcome spring with an afternoon of music and entertainment.



March Birthdays

March 9 Shyann Durham
March 10 Helyna Durham
March 19 Christine King
March 20 Jasmine Street
March 27 Korena Jackson



Budget Report for January 2020

	<u>Actual \$</u>	<u>Year to Date \$</u>	<u>Budget YTD \$</u>
Giving	4,005	4,005	2,451
Investment Income, Other	0	0	3,427
TOTAL INCOME	4,005	4,005	5,878
EXPENSES	12,458	12,458	8,999
NET (Deficit)	(8,453)	(8,453)	(3,121)

Expenses this month included \$2,395 for repair/refinishing of the Sanctuary wood door. \$1965 for gas heat, and \$3174 for church and van quarterly insurance premiums.

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

MARCH

2020

Sun

Mon





Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

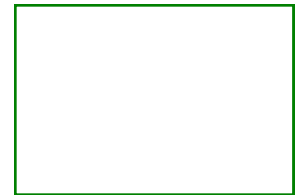
Sat

1 <i>1st Sunday of Lent</i>	2	3 <i>F.A.C.T. 9 am-Noon</i>	4 <i>Bible Study 6:00 pm</i>	5	6 <i>World Day of Prayer</i>	7 <i>Turn clocks ahead one hour.</i> 
8 <i>Deacons' Meeting, 2nd Sunday of Lent, Daylight Savings begins</i>	9	10 <i>F.A.C.T. 9 am-Noon</i>	11 <i>Bible Study 6:00 pm</i>	12	13	14
15 <i>Potluck 3rd Sunday of Lent</i>	16	17 <i>F.A.C.T. 9 am - noon Session 7 pm Saint Patrick's Day</i> 	18 <i>Bible Study 6:00 pm</i>	19	20 <i>First Day of Spring</i> 	21
22 <i>4th Sunday of Lent</i>	23	24 <i>F.A.C.T. 9 am-Noon</i>	25 <i>Bible Study 6:00 pm</i>	26	27	28
29 <i>5th Sunday of Lent</i>	30	31 <i>F.A.C.T. 9 am-Noon</i>				

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

First Press
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Return Service Requested



Sunday, March 8

We're on the Web:
www.firstpresnfn.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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