

First Presbyterian Church of Niagara Falls, NY

FIRST PRESS Newsletter

November 2019



Operation Christmas Child Shoebox

Thank you to all who took a shoebox (or two) to fill with goodies for Operation Christmas Child - Samaritan's Purse yearly effort for kids in need around the world.

The filled boxes should be brought to church by Sunday, November 10, when they will be blessed and started on their journey.

Perhaps you have neither the time nor the energy to fill a box. There is still a way to join the wave of caring: It costs \$9.00 to send each box. Please put your contribution in an envelope labeled "Operation Christmas Child" in the offering plate. Checks should be made out to Samaritan's Purse with a note on the memo line that the donation is for Operation Christmas Child.

A big thank you to one and all! Lis Slenk

Time Change

Daylight saving ends Sunday, November 3. Turn your clocks back one hour before going to bed on Saturday, November 2, or you may be late for church.

Loving Tree

The Loving Tree will soon go up in the Fellowship Hall. Mark Tarbell and Bill Karches will again head up this outreach ministry. See Mark or Bill for more information.

Election Day is Tuesday, November 5



Preaching Schedule for November and December

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

November 3 - Rev. Stacy Otto

November 10 - Lee Weinsheimer

November 17 - Rev. Stacy Otto

November 24 - Terry McIntyre

December 1 - Rev. Stacy Otto

December 8 - Terry McIntyre

December 15 - Rev. Stacy Otto

December 22 - Lee Weinsheimer

December 29 - TBA

See you in Church, Carol Dashineau

Fall Harvest Potluck

We met among the pumpkins and scarecrows and autumn leaves for yummy food and good fellowship. Yes, there was pumpkin pie and carrot cake.

Thank you Charlene who organized it all. A big thank you to Tracy who worked with the kids at the craft table. DeMonte won the tootsie roll tree.

We were delighted to have friends of Pastor Stacy and Vern join us.

Stewardship Campaign

The fall Stewardship Campaign ends Sunday, November 3, with "Victory Sunday", and a progress report.

Thank you for your participation in the life of our Church.



LETTERS FROM ROUTE 66

As I begin this new venture with the congregation of First Presbyterian as interim Minister of Worship and Outreach, I thought it appropriate to share my personal testimony about God's hand upon my life. I truly believe that one of the greatest ways we witness to Christ's presence among us is to share our faith journey with others. Though it is not always easily done, I hope these "Letters from Route 66" will provide a venue by which we connect as our life paths now converge at 311 First Street. And so, the story begins...

Arizona. Happy memories flooded my mind from four decades past – a time in which the saying "ignorance is bliss" had some real merit in my life. Arizona... A place where I had spent many months in those early years of aviation training – a mere fledgling to the greater intricacies of manned flight – but totally immersed in the mystical venues of ailerons, aerodynamics and aspect ratios. How fitting that I was again returning as a mere fledgling to the greater "intricacies" of a higher order of "flight." The beautiful, poetic words of a WW2 Aviator filled my thoughts:

High Flight

Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth
Of sun-split clouds - and done a hundred things
You have not dreamed of - wheeled and soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung
My eager craft through footless halls of air.
Up, up the long delirious, burning blue,
I've topped the windswept heights with easy grace
Where never lark, or even eagle flew -
And, while with silent lifting mind I've trod
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,
Put out my hand and touched the face of God.

*Pilot Officer Gillespie Magee
No 412 Squadron, RCAF
Killed 11 December 1941*

I was not "slipping the surly bonds," but felt a certain affinity with my new-found friend – Route 66... a pathway that brought me full circle to a place where I could now face myself as I was, and as I was becoming. How telling was this recollection of youthful exuberance at learning a new trade in light of the reality that was before me. Airports and the sound of jet engines once filled my heart with a special joy but, now, churches and the sound of steeple bells ringing enthralled me as I never would have imagined possible. I had entered into the magic of Route 66... not a place of escape, but of discovery. Where am I going? What am I doing? Why am I here? Then I turned the corner and saw the sign...

Continued on the next page

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“Welcome to Winslow Arizona” – the lyrics of an old and long-forgotten melody sprang easily from my lips as I cruised through the town’s center... *don’t say maybe... I’ve got to know that your sweet love is going to save me.* In the mind of the lyricist, these words were not meant to relate a religious sentiment, yet I began to ponder them in that light... Why am I here? Because Christ’s own love was trying to save me... and had been, no doubt, for many years. Why now? My heart was pierced as a more significant question than all the “whys?” came to the fore... What if? What if He didn’t care enough to send me on this seemingly fruitless venture along a once prestigious, and now diminishing, byway? What if – and what of – all *His* “whys?”

The car began to chug and buck... the gas gauge read “empty.” I coasted to a stop and into a moment of stillness. One thing I had vowed never to do as an aviator was to run out of fuel... yet here I was. He certainly was gaining my attention. I stared at the red “E” on the gauge... *He emptied Himself and took on the likeness of a servant...* I opened the car door and began walking down the road, searching for the nearest wayside stop where I might get assistance... and as I walked I realized that the “whys” emptied my spirit while the “what ifs” filled my soul with new possibilities... and as I went, I was filled with the glow of knowing I wasn’t “empty” anymore.

Godspeed, *Pastor Stacy*

News from the Session –

We want everyone to know that after several years without a regular minister, we now have a wonderful Worship Leader – Rev. Stacy Otto. Rev. Stacy is preaching the first, third and fifth Sundays. On the second and third Sundays will have our regular pulpit supply preachers. We encourage everyone to attend worship on Sunday to hear Rev. Stacy – you will certainly hear God’s Word preached and you will be inspired! Of course, we hope you will come every Sunday – it is so important to worship God in community with our members and friends. Please consider making church attendance a priority in your life!!

We also have a Pastoral Care Minister –Rev. Beth Hennessy. She is visiting our shut-ins and those who are sick. She has two other jobs with this Presbytery so she is very busy but if you know someone who needs or would like a visit, please call the church office and let our Secretary know or call Jane MacNaughton (285-2261) and they will contact Rev. Beth.

Several major maintenance issues are being addressed at this time – one set of the front doors is being refinished and will soon be rehung. The other set of doors will then be refinished. Several issues with the Bell Tower have been seen – such as water damage, holes in the stone work, bad flooring –to name a few!! The Session is in the process of finding contractors to estimate the cost of the various repairs.

The church will celebrate Thanksgiving with the other three Niagara Falls Churches on Sunday, November 24th at Niagara Presbyterian Church on Military Road (they have a BIG parking lot). The service will begin at 2:00PM and be followed by a pot luck Thanksgiving Dinner! We hope you will plan on joining us for this special time.

We are concluding our annual Stewardship Campaign but it is NOT too late to make a pledge for 2020. It is so important for us to support our church and its work in downtown Niagara Falls. If you haven’t made a pledge, please prayerfully consider doing so.

SEE YOU IN CHURCH!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Carol Dashineau, Clerk of Session

Please Pray for Those Who are Sick or Shut-in

Shut-Ins

Jean Hackenheimer Pearl Durham
Dolores Coleman Elizabeth Ochab



Prayer List

Mark Tarbell Monique Wilson
Antonino Thomas Family Clary Wilson
Rev. Jon Rieley-Goddard Margaret Smith
Richard Welch Robert Smith
Victoria Stewart Gianna Horner
Ed Van Valkinburgh



Thanksgiving is Thursday,
November 28.

Have a happy and safe
Holiday.

The office will be closed
Thanksgiving day.



Thank you to those who have served and to
those who now serve. May God Bless you.

November Volunteer Schedule

Ushers

November 3 - John MacNaughton, John Hazel
November 10 - Carl Slenk, John Goddard
November 17 - John Goddard, Kirk Parry
November 24 - John Hazel, Robert MacNaughton

Lay Readers

November 3 - John Goddard
November 10 - Bill Karches
November 17 - Carol Dashineau
November 24 - John Goddard

Communion Servers (by intinction)

November 3 - John Goddard

November Birthdays

November 7 John Goddard
8 Rita Horner



Sanctuary Decorating for Christmas

Come help decorate the sanctuary for Christmas
Saturday, November 30. See Lis Slenk for more
information.

Budget Report for September 2019

	<u>Actual \$</u>	<u>Year to Date \$</u>	<u>Budget YTD \$</u>
Giving	1,238	21,743	25,218
Investment Income, Other	290	19,351	28,656
TOTAL INCOME	1,528	41,094	53,874
EXPENSES	5,766	63,735	89,505
NET (Deficit)	(4,238)	(22,641)	(35,631)

Expenses this month included \$645 for half of the heating/cooling service contract with Danforth and \$196 to Bryck Plumbing for toilet repair.

Adult Classes, Sunday, 10:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room

The unit for November, is "Jesus Teaches Wisdom" with Discipleship the value emphasized.

November 3: "Forgiving as God's People" (Matthew 5:17-26)

November 10: "Loving as God's People" (Matthew 5:43-48)

November 17: "Praying as God's People" (Matthew 6:5-15)

November 24: "Putting Worry in Its Place" (Matthew 6:25-34)

Please join us for this exciting adventure into God's Word. All are welcome!



NOVEMBER

2019



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



1
All Saints'
Day

2 Daylight
savings ends



3 Turn
clocks back
an hour.
Communion

4

5
Vote
F.A.C.T.
9 am-Noon

6

7

8

9

Church
Breakfast
Club 9 am

10 Deacon
Meeting
Shoe boxes
due

11



12
F.A.C.T.
9 am-Noon

13

14

15

16

17

18

19
F.A.C.T.
9 am- Noon
Session
7 pm

20

21

22

23

Church
Breakfast
Club 9 am

24

Christ the
King

25

26
F.A.C.T.
9 am-Noon

27

28

Thanksgiving
Office Closed



29

30

Sanctuary
Decorating

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

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Return Service Requested



We're on the Web:

www.NiagaraChurch.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.
Adult Education	10:00 a.m.
Communion	1st Sunday of each month
Church Breakfast Club	9:00 a.m.- 2nd & 4th Saturdays of the month
Food Pantry & Clothes Closet	Tuesdays from 9:00 a.m.—12 noon

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
Falls, NY 14303
ATTN: First Press

News may also be submitted via e-
Church Secretary at
firstpres2@verzon.net or may be
the mail slot of the church office.



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