



First Presbyterian Church of Niagara Falls, NY

FIRST PRESS Newsletter

November 2020

Dear Friends,

It has been such a joy for me to begin working with you “officially.” Our relationship is not new, but it has changed. I am so looking forward to getting to know you and learning about you and your families. I want to hear your stories of the “good old days,” and your hopes for the future.

I came across some old photos in a binder while I was checking out the file cabinets in the pastor’s study. Some of you were in them. I know many of those in the photos have already joined the Church Triumphant leaving us behind to carry on until we too join that great cloud of witnesses.

The church has changed so much between the days in those photos and today. Much of the change has just happened to us. The culture has moved in one direction and the church has failed to move at all, doing the same things year after year, hoping for a different outcome

I remember so vividly a magazine cover that I saw several years ago. It was of a road sign that said “Change or Die.” The article went on to suggest that the odds are nine to one against actual change. There have been studies. When given the choice, knowing that without a substantial change, one will die sooner than expected, people still do not change. And while I wish it were not so, I believe it. I know, for myself, that I am able to sustain some changes in life for a few weeks, but they rarely stick. Change is hard. It requires us to be uncomfortable.

Maybe that is why the spiritual leaders of Jesus’ time did not like the things he was doing. Healing on the Sabbath, talking to people who were sinners, it was all unacceptable

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The truth is that the church has become part of the establishment in our time. We find ourselves trying to maintain the status quo rather than letting the transformative power of the Spirit move us. The Hebrew people of Jesus’ day were looking for a traditional king to overthrow the occupying force. Jesus showed them time and again that it was going to be different. That the force was love — for neighbors, for those who don’t count, for enemies. While the church has gained plenty of power since the days when Jesus walked among us, we have lost many of the lessons Jesus came to teach us.

Jesus said, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your strength, with all your mind. And love your neighbor as yourself.” I think he could have said, “Change or die,” and meant the same thing. I hope you all will commit with me to journey to become the change the world needs in this time and place.

Blessings

Cathy

Stewardship Campaign

The fall Stewardship Campaign ends Sunday, November 1, with “Victory Sunday”, and a progress report.

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

Stewardship Committee

Sing to Me, Autumn

Sing to me, Autumn, with the rustle of your leaves.

Breathe on me your spicy scents that flow within your breeze.

Dance with me, Autumn, your waltz that bends the boughs of trees.

Now tell me all the secrets you've whispered to the seas.

Sleep with me, Autumn, beneath your starlit skies.

Let your yellow harvest moon shimmer In our eyes.

Kiss me, Autumn, with your enchanting spell-bound ways

That changes all you touch into crimson golden days.

Love me, Autumn, and behold this love so true that I'll be waiting faithfully each year to be with you.

Patricia L. Cisco



Church Opening

First Pres successfully re-opened its doors on Sunday, September 20, for worship service after a five month pause due to the Covid 19 pandemic. Many precautions were put in place to assure the safety and health of returning members.

Members were greeted by First Pres' new Pastor, Rev. Cathy Rieley-Goddard. How nice it is to have Rev. Cathy at the Pulpit each Sunday.

As more Members attend Sunday worship service, each Sunday is a happy reunion.



Samaritan's Purse Christmas Shoe Box Drive

First Pres' Samaritan's Purse Christmas Shoe Box Drive ends this November. However, for a donation of \$25.00, you can fill a shoe box any time. The web site for Samaritan's Purse

<https://www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/>

Thank you to all who participated in this year's Samaritan's Purse Shoe Drive.

Sanctuary Decorating

Advent begins Sunday, November 29th. The Sanctuary will be decorated for the Christmas season on Saturday, November 28th, beginning at 10:00 am. Volunteers are needed to help decorate. If you would like to help with the decorations please see Lis Slenk.



Niagara Area Habitat for Humanity

The Niagara Area Habitat for Humanity will have a pop up sale Saturday, November 7, 2020, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM, at 460 Third St, Niagara Falls.

The Niagara Area Habitat is accepting household items and furniture donations for the sale. If you have items you would like to donate call please call 716-265-9010.



Macy's 94th Thanksgiving Day Parade
Last March when New York State started to close down because of the Covid 19 pandemic, most of us thought we would be returning to normal by summer and definitely by the start of the holiday season. But, here we are, months later, still waiting for the chance to return to our normal lives.

This holiday season many holiday traditions will be put on pause, but many will still be celebrated, but in different fashions. Thanksgiving has always been the kick off of the holiday season. One of the Thanksgiving day traditions has been the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. This year there will be a Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, but it will look different. The parade will be a television-only special presentation and will be a staged production in front of the New York Macy Store. The balloons will still be flown, but won't have any human handlers. Instead, they'll be carried by specially rigged anchor vehicles. Performances of local talent will be taped and presented. Out-of-town performers, including high school and college marching bands will be deferred until next year. Of course, Santa will make his annual appearance!

The Thanksgiving Parade will air on NBC on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday November 26 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Election Day is Tuesday, November 3rd.
It is important that everyone votes.



Thank you

Thank you to the cleaning crew that cleans the bibles, hymnals and the church on Saturday so that those who attend Sunday Worship have a clean safe environment to worship.

Lenten Fish Boxes

Have you been feeding your colorful First Pres fish? It's time for him to swim back to church. The offering plate will take him in and his contents will be sent along to help others by way of One Great Hour of Sharing. Thank you from all the grateful recipients for joining in this mission project



There will be a loving tree this year. See Bill Karches for more information.



Please Pray for Those Who are Sick or Shut-in

Shut-Ins

Jean Hackenheimer Pearl Durham
Dolores Coleman Elizabeth Ochab



Prayer List

Rev. Jon Rieley-Goddard Margaret Smith
Monique Wilson Robert Smith
Bonnie Felstead Charlene Bush
Bill Karches Carolyn Goddard
Mark Tarbell

November Volunteer Schedule

Lay Readers

November 1 - Lis Slenk
November 8 - Janet Bianca
November 15 - John Goddard
November 22 - Carol Dashineau
November 28 - Bill Karches

Communion Servers

November 1 - John Goddard, Lis Slenk

Veteran's Day is Wednesday, November 11th. Federal and State Holiday. Federal, State, City government offices, the Post Office and most banks will be closed. Many schools will also be closed.



November Birthdays

November 7 John Goddard
8 Rita Horner
13 Rhomiah Jackson



If we have forgotten your special day or our information is incorrect, please let us know so we can update our files. If you have a Birthday or Anniversary in December and would like to be listed with the December Birthdays and Anniversaries, call the Church office at 285-3555 or slip a note in the office mail slot by the 15th of December.

Snow Shoving

First Pres is looking to hire someone to keep the church sidewalks clear of snow this coming winter. Can you suggest someone for this job?

Call Carl Slenk 285-5717



Halloween

Halloween is Saturday, October 31st. If your area is having Trick or Treat night and you plan to hand out candy, the City and Town of Niagara Falls have a couple of suggestions to give out candy during the Covid 19 Pandemic. Put your treats in individual small plastic bags. Place a table in your driveway, put your candy on the table and let Trick or Treaters serve themselves. When handling treats be sure to wear a mask and gloves.

Have a safe and healthy Halloween



Budget Report for September 2020

	Actual \$	Year to Date \$	Budget YTD \$
Giving	1,135	16,685	22,059
Investment Income, Other	189	22,169	30,843
TOTAL INCOME	1,324	38,854	52,902
EXPENSES	5,284	57,502	81,009
NET (Deficit)	(3,960)	(18,648)	(28,107)

Expenses for September included \$975 for the Danforth annual heating contract and \$269 for a dehumidifier for the pit (clothes closet).



2020

SSeSun

Mon






Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<p>1 <i>All Saints Day</i> <i>Victory Sunday</i> <i>Communion</i></p> 	<p>2</p>	<p>3 <i>F.A.C.T.</i> <i>9 am-noon</i></p> 	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 <i>F.A.C.T.</i> <i>9 am-noon</i></p> 	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 <i>F.A.C.T.</i> <i>9 am- noon</i> <i>Session -</i> <i>7pm</i></p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 <i>Christ the King</i></p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 <i>F.A.C.T.</i> <i>9 am-noon</i></p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>  <p><i>Thanksgiving</i></p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 <i>Sanctuary Decorating</i></p>
<p>29 <i>First Sunday of ADVENT</i></p> 	<p>30</p>					

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

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Return Service Requested



We're on the Web:

www.firstpresnfnny.org

CHURCH OFFICE

Hours: Monday through Wednesday, 9 am -1 pm

Telephone: 285-3555

Sunday Worship	11:00 a.m.
Fellowship	On Hold
Sunday School	On Hold
Bible Study	On Hold
Communion	1st Sunday of each month
Church Breakfast Club	On Hold
Food Pantry & Clothes Closet	Tuesdays from 9:00 am to 12 Noon

BOARD MEETINGS

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

Mask are required to attend Worship Service.
Please enter through the side glass doors.
Please practice social distancing.

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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mail to the
dropped through

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