

# First Presbyterian Church of Niagara Falls, NY

## FIRST PRESS Newsletter

October 2020



### **WELCOME REV. CATHY RIELEY-GODDARD**

The Pastor Nominating Committee is pleased and honored to welcome Rev. Cathy Rieley-Goddard to our church as our Temporary Part Time Pastor. Rev. Cathy is familiar to many of us as she has been our Session Moderator for several periods of time and she has been with us each week during our closure. She has not only preached but she has coordinated each week's You Tube presentation.

Rev. Cathy is originally from Pittsburgh. She went to Florida State University where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and a minor in Music. She attended Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary and earned a Master of Divinity.

From Rev. Cathy's Church Leadership Connection profile, we learn more about her!

Rev. Cathy has served several churches in the Presbytery of Western New York as a Traditional Pastor and Co-Pastor. She also serves as the Executive Director of Concerned Ecumenical Ministry in Buffalo. This agency has served families and seniors on Buffalo's West side. It was started by churches in the neighborhood and became a separate organization in 1970. Rev. Cathy supervises a staff of 35 and manages the budget of \$700,000. She has been with the agency since 1998.

Rev. Cathy's ministry over the Past several years has been to connect people with their community and to connect community with the people. She enjoys working with inner city churches and people. She feels called to support and work with a congregation as it navigates through uncertain waters that are the church of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. She feels called to journey with a congregation wrestling with its

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future while honoring the past. Since we are living in a time of great anxiety in the church and in our culture, she feels called to serve in a way that helps a congregation embrace who they are, dream about who they can become and commit to becoming a new creation together.

Part of her Statement of Faith reads... "In a world that is broken by the choices we make, I believe God calls us to wholeness, to peace. God invites us again and again to rest in the beauty of creation – to protect, to repair, to remember the oneness, connectedness of everything. God invites us to remember that we are intertwined with one another, that no matter where we travel, we do not escape God's love and grace. The Scriptures of the Old and New Testament remind us again and again, do not be afraid. They are the story of God's people, our record of how God has connected with God's people for generations. The stories, poems, songs and covenants reveal God to us in ways no other literature does. Through his life, death and resurrection, Jesus reveals God's love in ways that no other has before or since. As followers of Jesus, we are called to break down the barriers that divide us. We are called to turn the tables on the "everyday", raise up the lowly, release the captive, love the unlovable. We are called on to put the needs of all people before the needs of a few. We are called to repair the broken places in the world. We do these things, not to

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earn our way into God's grace, but to respond to God's great love for us."

Of course, we know Rev. Cathy's husband Rev. Jon who has led worship for us many times over the last few years. We now pray for him each week as he fights a serious illness. We will continue to pray for him and are glad he has joined us on our You Tube services.

We, here at First Presbyterian Church, look forward to Rev. Cathy's tenure with us as she leads us to fulfill our hopes and dreams as we continue serve the Niagara Falls community as we have for 196 years!!!

Welcome Rev. Cathy!!!!

### Stewardship Campaign

It is time once again for our fall Stewardship campaign, the third "T" (Time, Talents, Treasures) in our service to our Lord. Our schedule is outlined below.

October 1: Kickoff announcement in October Newsletter

Sunday, October 4: "Inspiration Sunday" Announcement about the Campaign.

Sunday, October 11: "Gratitude Sunday". The 2022 Pledge Card packets with letter are available for pick-up. Steward Sermon.

Monday, October 12: Pledge card packets not picked up are mailed.

Sunday, October 18: Make pledges if ready.

Sunday, October 26 : "Consecration Sunday", dedication of pledges.

Sunday, November 1: "Victory Sunday", with progress report.

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

Your Stewardship Committee

### Samaritan's Purse Christmas Shoe Box Drive

During these uncertain times during the Covid19 pandemic, this year's the Samaritan's Purse Christmas Shoe Box Drive will be on line. For \$25.00 you can fill a shoe box. First Pres has always had a generous heart when it came to filling shoe boxes. Let's keep this tradition going.

It is fun and easy to fill a shoe box on line. You are able to pick either a boy or girl, their age and what items you want in the box.

The web site for Samaritan's Purse

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

### Church Re-Opening

The Church Re-opened on September 20th for Sunday Worship Service. Because of the Covid 19 pandemic there were some changes.

To ensure Members health safety mask were required. Those who did not have a mask were provided with one. Hand sanitization stations were provided and Members were encouraged to use them. Seating allowed for social distancing. Members were asked not to wander in the church and stay only in the Sanctuary.

There was no coffee hour or Sunday School.

All in all it was a good day even with all the restrictions. It was so nice to see old friends and to worship together.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Breast Cancer Awareness aims to raise awareness about the disease and to raise funds for research into its cause, prevention, diagnosis, treatment and cure. Please schedule your mammogram if you have not already done so.





September 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is reeling along with the rest of the world as we continue to face the dilemmas and challenges before us. As we have all out of necessity become accustomed to the new reality ushered in by COVID-19, we have also seen how the pandemic lays bare our nation's structural racism and systemic poverty — issues at the heart of our Matthew 25 invitation — in its disproportionate impact on Black and brown people. In the wake of the nationwide protests following the senseless and violent deaths of Black people this year at the hands of police, activists and citizens everywhere are urging us to take action. Many are calling us to let our voices be heard — both by voting and by getting out the vote.

This November, we will have one of the most important elections of a lifetime. We must encourage people to vote, work the polls and participate in voter education. We face a dwindling number of voters in a time when the need is the greatest.

Civic responsibility is rooted in our identity as Presbyterian Christians. In a saying attributed to the great Reformed theologian Karl Barth, we must preach with the Bible in one hand and the newspaper in the other. In the Matthew 25 invitation to dismantle structural racism and eradicate systemic poverty, the call to challenge current voter disenfranchisement and the government's collusion with corporate wealth is abundantly clear. This very call continues to be at the center of our Presbyterian special emphases, on Christian and Citizen Sunday (Sept. 20, 2020) and throughout the PC(USA)'s Season of Peace, which began on Sunday, Sept. 6, 2020.

We have enclosed a list of resources along with a copy of *Seeking to be Faithful Together: Guidelines for Presbyterians in Times of Disagreement* so that the work of Jesus might continue through you as Christ's hands and feet in the world. Jesus' claim on us continues — only the stage from which we serve has changed. We are still called to feed the hungry, give water to the thirsty and clothe the naked. Especially during this critical time of civic engagement, we must pray to God for the energy necessary to discover innovative and effective ways to engage the world as the Matthew 25 Church we are called to be.

On behalf of all of God's children who have been impacted by the egregious injustices revealed by COVID-19 and by the needless deaths of Black and brown people, we must all do our part in society, with God's help, to strengthen our relationships, transform the Church and bring alive our commitment to "serve the least of these" and to actively engage in our respective communities, across our nation and around the world. Above all, we are called to pray — to pray, and as we do, to remember that it is our sacred duty to vote.

Grace and peace,

Rev. Jimmie Hawkins, Director  
PC(USA) Office of Public Witness  
jimmie.hawkins@pcusa.org

100 Witherspoon Street | Louisville, KY 40202-1396 | (800) 728-7228 | www.presbyterianmission.org

### Election Day

National election day is Tuesday, November 3. Have you planned your vote?

There are three ways to vote this election.

1. You may vote on Election Day.
2. You may vote during the nine-day Early Voting Period which starts on October 24, 2020 and ends November 1, 2020
3. You may vote by absentee ballot .



### Building Repairs

Tuesday, September 22nd. the Morris Masonry Company made masonry repairs to the Church. They repaired the stonework on the tower and repaired the lintels on the two basement windows on the First Street side of the church. This is the beginning of much needed masonry repairs to the church

### F.A.C.T.

The food pantry and clothes closet opened Tuesday, September 22nd. after being closed since March due to the Covid 19 pandemic. If you or anyone you know visits the food pantry please let them know that the pantry and clothes closet are now open. Face masks and social distancing will be required. One client at a time will be permitted in the building.



A copy of the above letter was sent to all Presbyterian Churches. Churches were asked to share the letter with their Membership. Because the referenced list of resources is long, the list can be found at [www.presbyterianmission.org](http://www.presbyterianmission.org) or members can request a copy from the office.



**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  
Robert DeFazio Bill Karches  
Carolyn Goddard

**October Volunteer Schedule**

**Lay Readers**

October 4 - Lis Slenk  
October 11 - Janet Bianca  
October 18 - John Goddard  
October 25 - Bill Karches

**Thank you**

Thank you to those who helped with the re-opening of the Church. Thank you for setting up the check-in station before worship service and volunteering to staff the check-in station.

Columbus Day is Monday, October 12. Columbus Day is a Federal and State Holiday. Federal, State, City government offices, the Post Office and most banks will be closed. Many schools will also be closed.

October 11th is also Canada's Thanksgiving.



**October Birthdays**

October 9 Judy Covil  
10 Glen Durham  
13 Victoria Steward



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 November and would like to be listed with the November Birthdays and Anniversaries, call the Church office at 285-3555 or slip a note in the

**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



**Budget Report for September 2020**

	<u>Actual \$</u>	<u>Year to Date \$</u>	<u>Budget YTD \$</u>
Giving	403	15,550	19,608
Investment Income, Other	268	21,981	27,416
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>671</b>	<b>37,531</b>	<b>47,024</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>3,416</b>	<b>52,218</b>	<b>72,009</b>
<b>NET (Deficit)</b>	<b>(2,745)</b>	<b>(14,687)</b>	<b>(24,984)</b>

Investment income was from the L.T. Marshall trust, Expenses included \$229 for telephone usage and \$169 for fire alarm repair.



# 2020

Sun

Mon




Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<p><i>October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month</i></p>	<p><i>Daylight Savings ends November 1st. Turn clocks back one hour</i></p>			<p><i>1 Stewardship Campaign Kick off</i></p>	<p><i>2</i></p>	<p><i>3</i></p>
<p><i>4 Inspiration Sunday</i> <i>Welcome Rev. Cathy</i></p>	<p><i>5</i></p>	<p><i>6 F.A.C.T. 9 am- noon</i></p>	<p><i>7</i></p>	<p><i>8</i></p>	<p><i>9</i></p>	<p><i>10</i></p>
<p><i>11 Gratitude Sunday</i></p>	 <i>Columbus Day</i>	<p><i>13 F.A.C.T. 9 am- noon</i></p>	<p><i>14</i></p>	<p><i>15</i></p>	<p><i>16</i></p>	<p><i>17</i></p>
<p><i>18 Pledges</i></p>	<p><i>19</i></p>	<p><i>20 F.A.C.T. 9 am- noon</i></p>	<p><i>21</i></p>	<p><i>22</i></p>	<p><i>23</i></p>	<p><i>24</i></p>
<p><i>25 Consecration Sunday</i></p>	<p><i>26</i></p>	<p><i>27 F.A.C.T. 9 am- noon</i></p>	<p><i>28</i></p>	<p><i>29</i></p>	<p><i>30</i></p>	<p><i>31 Halloween</i> </p>

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

First Press  
First Presbyterian Church  
311 First St

Phone: 716-285-3555  
Fax: 716-285-3482  
E-mail: firstpres2@verizon.net



Return Service Requested



*We're on the Web:*

[www.firstpresnfny.org](http://www.firstpresnfny.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

St., Niagara

News may also be submitted via e-  
Church Secretary at  
[firstpres2@verzon.net](mailto:firstpres2@verzon.net) or may be  
the mail slot of the church office.



mail to the  
dropped through

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Editor/Publisher: Janet Roat

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**Newsletter deadline is the 15th of the month.**

*October 2020*

