

# First Presbyterian Church of Niagara Falls, NY

## FIRST PRES Newsletter

### November 2021



Dear Friends

November has become a time when people think about how they are grateful. I have seen pictures of mason jars filled with pieces of paper with phrases of thanksgiving on them. I have seen pumpkins with writing all over them listing things people are giving thanks for. However we do it, it is a great practice.

This time last year, we had thought we might be coming out of the isolation of the pandemic. We were gathering together and keeping our distance from one another. It was good to be in person with each other again. Then it seemed the wiser choice was to go back to staying apart. With the arrival of vaccines earlier this year, we have been able to be with each other in person. But it is sometimes still a bit awkward. Handshakes and hugs are something we think about rather than automatically jumping in with them. Large groups of people we do not know well, sometimes keep us from joining activities we once loved. In spite of our caution with each other, we have much for which we can be thankful.

What does your list include? I am thankful for science and vaccines. I am thankful for medical care. I am thankful for all of those who worked through the pandemic risking their own health to make our lives easier. I am thankful for good health. I am thankful for the beautiful water that is all around us. I am thankful for people who surprise me with kindness. I am thankful for faith. I am thankful for each of you.

As we have been emerging from the pandemic, I think so many people have discovered a new way to see their lives. Work is not so all-consuming. Connections with the world around us have become more important. More people than ever are taking advantage of our amazing outdoor spaces and getting outside to enjoy and care for creation. How have you changed and

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been changed by the pandemic. What is different for you now compared to a couple of years ago. Do you have any pandemic stories to share? Take a few moments this month to be thankful. Reflect on where you are in your life these days. What spiritual practices have you picked up along the way? What other practices do you have?

This is a great season for reflection. Open your hearts and minds and see where the spirit leads you. You never know what you might learn about yourself.

Blessings,  
Cathy

Pastor Cathy will be on vacation from  
November 8 to November 15.

### Advent

Advent began Sunday, November 28. Advent is designed to prepare Christians for the annual commemoration of Christ's birth. Each Sunday of Advent, a candle on the Advent wreath is lit. Special prayers are said when lighting the candles.

#### Advent Candle Lighting Schedule

November 28, candle of Hope

December 5, candle of Peace

December 12, candle of Joy

December 19, candle of Love

December 24, Christmas Eve, Christ candle

Christmas Eve Service at First Pres 7:00pm



### Stewardship Campaign

Sunday, November 7, is "Victory Sunday" with a progress report of the 2021 Stewardship Campaign.

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

Your Stewardship Committee

### Niagara Area Presbyterian Church Dinner

Island United Presbyterian Church, 1822 Huth Road, Grand Island, will host this month's Niagara Area Presbyterian Church dinner, Wednesday, November 3, at 5:00 pm.

Come join an evening of fellowship and good conversation. A good will offer will be taken.

### Thanksgiving Service

Youngstown Presbyterian Church will host a Community Thanksgiving Service, the Sunday before Thanksgiving, November 21, at 7:00 pm.

### Children's Special Bulletins

Special Sunday bulletins and coloring sheets are now available for children who attend worship service with their parents or an adult. A space with a small table and chairs has been created at the back of the church for the children. After the prayer by Abe McLarhamore, children can go to the table where they can color their coloring sheets and bulletins. Crayons and markers are provided.

### Pulpit Exchange

Niagara Area Presbyterian Churches will have a Pulpit Exchange November 21, 2021.

First Pres will welcome Rev. Lisa Giacomazza, from Bacon Memorial, to the pulpit on November 21.

### Samaritan's Operation Christmas Child Shoebox

Shoeboxes are due by November 7th. Shoeboxes can be dropped off at the office or at Sunday Worship Services. If you did not take a shoebox but wish to participate in this ministry, donations are welcome. Be sure to mark your donation envelope Christmas Child shoebox. See Lis Slenk for more information

### Hand Bell Ringing Circle

Hand Bell Ringing Circle will be on Wednesdays at 5:30 pm. All are welcome. Come join the group for laughs, learning and fellowship. Musical talent not needed.

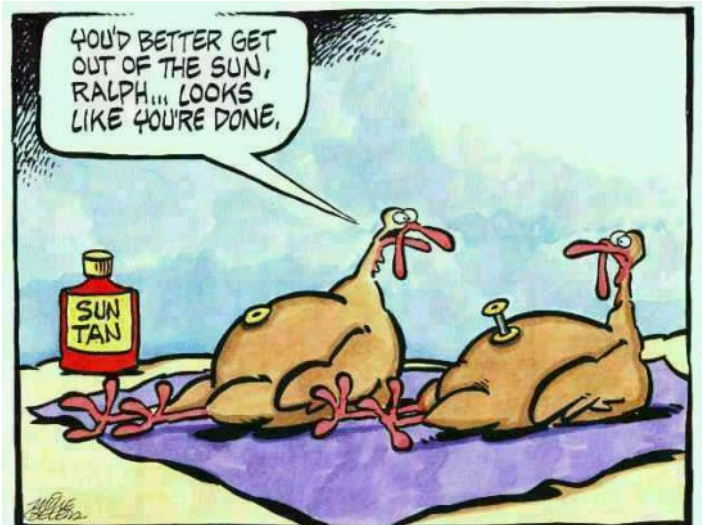
The November 3rd Hand Bell Circle is canceled so member can attend the NAPC dinner at Island Presbyterian, Grand Island.

The November 24th, Thanksgiving Eve, Hand Bell Circle is canceled so member can prepare for Thanksgiving.



### Sanctuary Christmas Decorating

Volunteers are needed to help decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas Saturday, November 27th, 10:00 am. If you can help, contact Lis Slenk



## Please Pray for Those Who are Sick or Shut-in



### Shut-Ins

Dolores Coleman

### Prayer List

Monique Wilson	Rev. Jon Rieley-Goddard
Margaret Smith	Robert Smith
Charlene Bush	Mark Tarbell
Bill Karches	Joseph Barber
Pearl Durham	David Pytlik
Christine King	Andrew Hinchliffe



### November Birthdays

November 7 John Goddard  
8 Rita Horner  
13 Rhomihia Jackson  
Happy Birthday!



### Election Day

Tuesday, November 2nd,

Your vote is your voice.



## November Volunteer Schedule

### Lay Readers

November 7 - Christine King  
November 14 - Lis Slenk  
November 21 - Carol Dashineau  
November 28 - John Goddard

### Communion Servers

November 7 - Carol Dashineau, Lis Slenk

Sunday worship service is recorded and is on First Pres' YouTube channel after 4:00 pm on Sundays for your viewing. The YouTube link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LSk4U35pI2I>

Daylight Savings ends Sunday November 7th. Set your clocks back one hour. It is also a good time to check smoke and carbon monoxide detectors batteries.



November 11th is Veterans Day. Federal, State and local governments, banks, the post office and some schools will be closed in observance of the day. Remember our Veterans



## Budget Report for September 2021

	<u>Actual \$</u>	<u>Year to Date \$</u>	<u>Budget YTD \$</u>
GIVING	1,147	24,454	22,122
Investment Income, Other	215	14,555	23,022
TOTAL INCOME	1,362	39,009	45,144
EXPENSES	8,088	76,072	92,970
NET (Deficit)	(6,726)	(37,063)	(47,826)

Expenses for September included \$1762 for fire alarm box repair and \$373 for electric.

# November

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Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1	2 	3 NAPC Dinner 5:00 pm	4	5	6 
7 All Saints Communion Victory Sunday Daylight sav- ings ends	8	9	10 Bell Ringing Circle 5:30 pm	11 	12	13
14	15	16	17 Bell Ringing Circle 5:30 pm	18	19	20
21 	22	23	24	25 	26	27
28  First Sunday in Advent	29	30 				



Seeking to be an Anti-Racist:

Living the Love of Jesus

### Steps on the Road to Racial Equity

Sometimes, it can feel that everywhere you turn, there is another list of resources, classes and podcasts about racism, systemic racism, and achieving racial equity. For those who want to learn about these vital issues, it can be overwhelming to navigate all the suggestions.

To help, [The United Way of Buffalo and Erie County](#) is now offering an overview of these issues in a creative format. This program is called [The 21-day Racial Equity Challenge](#). The program is “a powerful opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of how inequity and racism affect our lives and our community.” Several members of the Anti-Racism Task Group have completed the challenge and recommend it highly. When you sign up on the website, you will receive a daily email for 21 days with a link to a short article, podcast or video. The topics are varied, and each activity only takes about 10 to 15 minutes.

This resource is designed for people living in Western New York with over 60 local community partners having proposed, vetted, and selected the content that is used in this regional Challenge. So, this isn't just another resource. This is our resource.

We invite you to accept the challenge for 21 days, on your own or with a partner or group. Note that once you receive the email, you decide when to open it, so if you need to skip a day, you can catch up easily. Our understanding, however, is that this challenge may not be available after the New Year, which is why we are sending it out now.

As we approach the holidays, life can get very busy. But, as Christians, obviously, our preparations are to be more than shopping and decorating. Perhaps this can be a more meaningful way to prepare yourself for the holy days ahead.

To accept the challenge, go to the [WNY 21 Day Racial Equity Challenge](#) and click on **Accept the Challenge** and fill out the form as described and hit submit.

*This is a weekly feature by the Presbytery of Western New York's Anti-Racism Task Group. This task group is made up of local Presbyterians who are seeking to grow in understanding of the issue of racism in our communities and churches. We seek to learn about the issues, listen to voices that need to be heard, and explore ways that we and others might respond to, and actively engage in the work of anti-racism. For more information contact Cynthia Wickwire Lundquist at [cs112wickwire@gmail.com](mailto:cs112wickwire@gmail.com) or Cathy Rieley-Goddard at [cathriego@gmail.com](mailto:cathriego@gmail.com)*

The Newsletter of First Presbyterian  
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Return Service Requested



**We're on the Web:**

[www.firstpresny.org](http://www.firstpresny.org)

**You Tube** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LSk4U35pl2I>

**Face Book** <https://www.facebook.com/First-Presbyterian-Church-Niagara-Falls-117888153453785/>

**CHURCH OFFICE**

Hours: Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 9:00 am  
to 1:00 pm

Telephone: 716-285-3555

Sunday Worship	11:15 am
Fellowship	On Hold
Communion	First Sunday of Month
Children Sunday School	On Hold
Food Pantry & Clothes	Closed
Closet	

**BOARD MEETINGS**

Deacons — 2nd Sunday of month—10:30 a.m.

Session — 3rd Tuesday of the month—7:00 p.m.

Rev. Cathy Rieley-Goddard office hours are Tuesday  
9:30 am to 1:00 pm and Thursday by appointment.

Mask and social distancing are required at Worship  
Service for those who are **not** vaccinated.

Visit us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/First-Presbyterian-Church-Niagara-Falls-117888153453785/>

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](mailto: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.**



**November  
2021**