

First Presbyterian Church of Niagara Falls, NY

FIRST PRES Newsletter

October 2021



Dear Friends,

I was looking at some resources for stewardship this week and I came across an idea that was new to me. I think it is a great way for us to think about our lives together for the coming months. There is "spoon" thinking and "ladle" thinking. Spoons are for helping us eat; they are for individuals. They are part of our place settings at the table. Ladles are for serving others. We use a ladle to serve up soup or stew for another person. It is true that sometimes we are ladling into our own bowls, but often we are serving others as well.

A few years ago I met with a young woman who had just left her job working in the culinary department at the arena in downtown Buffalo. I wanted to talk with her about opening a restaurant where people pay what they can for a meal. The idea is simple. It is a restaurant where everyone is welcome, office workers, students, seniors, people who are having a rough patch in their lives. The menu is simple -- soups, breads, stews, salads. Those who can afford \$10 for lunch pay it. Maybe they even pay more. Those who cannot, pay a dollar or two dollars, or even eat for free. They may volunteer to help clean up the tables or wash some dishes. Even that is not a requirement. Everybody eats, everybody gives, everybody matters. It has taken this woman and her team nearly ten years to get to the point where they are ready to open. She has been dedicated to ladle living for all these years. I would have given up long ago, but she did not. She is determined and focused and generous.

As you think about how you want to support First Presbyterian Church for the coming year, I encourage you to think about ladle living. The

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kind of living that causes you to stretch, to never give up, to know you have a place and purpose in our community. If you are not sure what that purpose might be, we may need to have a conversation. We may need to look at the scriptures. We may need to dream a little more about what God may be calling you to do and to become.

Friends, during these coming months, may our ladles always be spilling over for those who are in need. May we know God's generous love and grace in our lives. May we share it with those we meet everyday.

Blessings,

Cathy

Let's Help Each Other Stay Healthy!

Do you remember how many colds you caught last winter? Many people did not have their usual colds during the pandemic. Most of us did not miss them either! Part of the reason for so few was because we were staying away from each other, and we were wearing masks when we were out. It is so important for us to learn from last year. If you are feeling sick with a cold or the flu, please stay home. You can always catch our worship services on our YouTube channel. For extra protection, wearing a mask while inside is always a good idea. I know it has been a relief to not wear them these past summer months, but you may want to start up again now that we will be spending more time inside. Remember, we are caring for each other as we make these choices. As always, if you have not been vaccinated, please consider getting the vaccine. Also, please wear a mask whenever you are at church events.

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.

Sunday, October 10: "Inspiration Sunday"
Announcement about the Campaign.

Sunday, October 17: "Gratitude Sunday". The 2022 Pledge Card packets with letter are available for pick-up. Stewardship Sermon.

Monday, October 18: Pledge card packets not picked up are mailed.

Sunday, October 24: Make pledges if ready.

Sunday, October 31: "Consecration Sunday", dedication of pledges.

Sunday, November 7: "Victory Sunday", with progress report.

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

Your Stewardship Committee

Niagara Area Presbyterian Church Dinner

Riverside Presbyterian Church, 815 84th Street, Niagara Falls, will host this month's Niagara Area Presbyterian Church dinner, Wednesday, October 6, at 5:00 pm.

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

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 McLaramore, children can go to the table where they can color their coloring sheets and bulletins. Crayons and markers are provided.

Healing Services

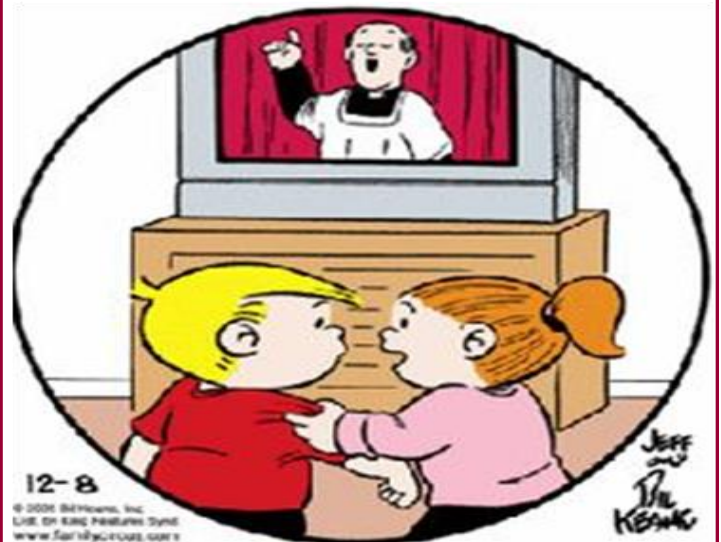
Starting in October Healing Services will again be offered. If a month has a fifth Sunday, there will be a Healing Service. There will be a Healing Service on Sunday, October 31,

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



Columbus Day

Columbus Day is October 11th. Federal, State, local government offices and banks will be closed. The Post Office will be closed and there will be no mail delivery. Most schools will also be closed.



"Hear that? People in heaven have ever-laughing life."



Happenings in First Pres' Neighborhood

St. James Lutheran Church, 2437 Niagara Road, Niagara Falls, NY 14304 is having a Dinner and Basket Benefit, Sunday, October 24, 2021, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. The Church will host a benefit for Lori Haseley, a recent liver transplant recipient, for her ongoing medical expenses.

A Barbecue Dinner will be provided by BW's Barbecue. Chicken or Rib dinner for \$13.00 will include 1/2 chicken or 1/4 rib, potato salad, lettuce salad, roll and butter. A children's chicken nugget dinner will be provided for those 8 and under for \$4.00.

All food will be served from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. Take out will be available.

There will be a wine pull with over 25 bottles of wine with prizes attached. Over 200 gift card baskets will be in the auction. The auction ends at 2:00 pm and you need not be present to win.

Niagara Gospel Rescue Mission is in need of food donations and volunteers for its annual "Feed the Falls". The Niagara Gospel Rescue Mission's "Feed the Falls" has been an annual event since 2007. Dozens of volunteers prepare and deliver hundreds of holiday dinners with all the fixings, making sure those in need in Niagara Falls have a hot meal on Thanksgiving. But they need help.

If you would like to help, following is a list of ways to help.

Donations of frozen turkeys for the Mission to cook.
People to answer the phone to make reservations.
People to scoop the food into food containers.
People to help bag up the dinners to be sent out.
People to deliver the meals.
People to pray over the meals before they go out.
Monetary donations.

If you can help, please contact Donna Stevens at dstevens@niagaragrm.org or call 716 205-8805 or 716 946 6163.

Crop Hunger Walk—October 12, 12:00 pm, Lockport Second Presbyterian Church, 71 Van Buren St, Lockport, NY. Contact William Hardy 716-433-5905

Seeking to be an Anti-Racist: Living the Love of Jesus

Looking with our heart

In Luke chapter 17, we are told about Jesus' healing of ten lepers. He tells them to go to their priests and nine rush off. But one "turned back and praised God." What makes this story meaningful? The one who turned back was a Samaritan. In those days, Samaritans were considered to be unclean betrayers of all that it meant to be a good Jew, though they were descended from one of the original tribes. Who do we as a society find the most questionable, the least trustworthy, the most suspicious? As we mark the 20th anniversary of 9/11, some might say the answer to this question is Muslims, even though white males are the greatest perpetrators of domestic terrorism in our country today. The answer for others may include a person of another color.

In her July 2021 edition of "The Monastic Way," [Joan Chittister](#) tells a story about her own surprising encounter. She was traveling in the Middle East and got separated from her group in a large confusing bazaar. She was suddenly surrounded by leering men and was desperate to find the cab and driver transporting her group. She was lost and disoriented and suddenly a "toothless, ragged, dirty beggar" started running toward her and screaming at her in a language she did not know. She turned away, terrified, when a young boy ran up saying, "It is okay, he is just telling you your taxi is over there."

This is one part of the tragedy of racism. We usually talk about racism as a sin because we are to love one another. But it is also about what we, and our communities, lose through racism. We cut ourselves off from what the other may have to tell us or teach us. God speaks to us not just through scripture but also through those around us. As Chittister says, "Scripture is teaching us not to count anybody out... Scripture is telling us that every person we meet is a potential source of life for us if there is only enough heart in us to accept it."

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 csl12wickwire@gmail.com or Cathy Rieley-Goddard at cathriego@gmail.com.

Please Pray for Those Who are Sick or Shut-in



Shut-Ins

Dolores Coleman Elizabeth Ochab

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



October Birthdays

October 9 Judy Covil
13 Victoria Steward

Happy Birthday!

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 outreach ministry, donations are welcome. Be sure to mark your donation envelope Christmas Child shoebox. See Lis Slenk for more information.



October Volunteer Schedule

Lay Readers

October 3 - Carol Dashineau
October 10 - John Goddard
October 17 - Lis Slenk
October 24 - Carol Dahineau
October 31 - John Goddard

Communion Servers

October 3 - John Goddard, 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=LSk4U35pl2I>

Niagara Area Presbyterian Church Picnic

First Pres hosted the September Niagara Area Church Picnic, September 7th. An enjoyable evening was had by all. Thank you to all who helped make the picnic a success. Special thank you to Lis Slenk for chairing the picnic. Thank you Carolyn Goddard for taking care of the food. Thank you to everyone who brought a desert.

Thank You Carolyn Goddard and Dale Roat for the fall clean up of the church grounds and the parking lot. Thank you Lis Slenk for painting the handicap door to the church and the blue circles.

Budget Report for August 2021

	<u>Actual \$</u>	<u>Year to Date \$</u>	<u>Budget YTD \$</u>
GIVING	2,571	23,307	19,664
Investment Income, Other	245	14,340	20,464
TOTAL INCOME	2,816	37,647	40,128
EXPENSES	8,635	67,985	82,640
NET (Deficit)	(5,819)	(30,338)	(42,512)

Expenses for August included \$850 for annual audit, \$356 for Maid Brigade, and \$600 for cleaning the carpet in the Fellowship Hall and Fireside Room.

October 2021

Sun

Mon



Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

					1	2
3 World Communion Sunday	4 Office Closed	5	6 NFAC Dinner Riverside	7	8	9
10 Stewardship Kick off	11  Columbus Day	12	13	14	15	16
17 Gratitude Sunday	18	19 Session 7:00 pm	20	21	22	23
24 Pledge Sunday	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 Consecration Sunday, Healing Service Halloween						

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.firstpresny.org

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

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: 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 or may be dropped through the mail slot of the church
office.

First Press is published monthly by First Presbyterian Church of Niagara Falls,
N.Y., U.S.A.

Editor/Publisher: Janet Roat
Reporters: John Goddard, Janet Bianca, Lis Slenk

Newsletter deadline is the 15th of the month.

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