

First Presbyterian Church of Niagara Falls, NY

FIRST PRES Newsletter

September 2021



Dear Friends,

The summer has flown by. Time always seems to move so much more quickly than we want it to. And there are other times when it seems to creep by at a pace that is slower than slow. We would all like to have time slow down when we are in the midst of an adventure or visiting with loved ones we have not seen in awhile. We would like time to move faster when we are waiting for test results or working through an onerous task.

I took an online class this summer to help me become better with meditation and mindfulness. These are two practices that I have used at different times in my life. They are great tools for helping us manage the ups and downs in our lives. So many of us spend time looking back or looking forward and we forget to cherish the very moment we are in. They also help us to remember the impermanence of so much in the world. These skills help us become more able to stretch when we need to, to contract where it is necessary. Kind of like time does.

As we move into the fall, we are going to take time to think about our future. Where is God calling us? How can we use our property to be a blessing to others? Our presence here for nearly two-hundred years is a testimony to God's grace. How do we use our history to help us move into the future? I am sure many of you have participated in these kinds of conversations in the past. The answers have often been the same year after year.

Now is the time for us to be bold and creative, to remember that God works in ways that are often mysterious. We need to have courage as well, for this is not an easy journey. I am confident that as we work together, as time marches forward, we will discover together what God has in store for us. We may find ourselves surprised. We might become energized. We might have a

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sense of new purpose and connection with the community around us. Who knows where our discussions will lead us? **What I am sure of is that we need you to participate.** We need to open our hearts to the work of the Holy Spirit. We need to be ready to be scared and disappointed and thrilled and hopeful. Bring your whole selves to this work of the church. The time is now.

See you soon!

Cathy

Church Building Meeting

Our Church building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Our congregation has been here for nearly 200 years. We will be meeting at 6:30 pm on Thursday, September 23 to start talking together about the future. All are invited to attend. See Carl Slenk for more information

Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas

Shop now for your Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child shoebox! By shopping now and adding one or two items a week till collection day in November spreads the cost out and might even make two boxes possible this year. Back-to-School items are now in the stores. Walmart, has a great section at minimal cost. Hobby Lobby has a section for Samaritan items. Dollar stores are a good source for toothbrushes, kid themed band aids and hair goods. Boxes and information are available at First Pres!! Please let Lis Slenk know if you would like 1 (or 2 or 3?). Let's share the joy and love with kids and their families around the world. Together we make a huge difference in so many lives

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

September Volunteer Schedule

Lay Readers

September 5 - Carol Dashineau
 September 12 - Lis Slenk
 September 19 - John Goddard
 September 26 - Christine King

Communion Servers

September 5 - John Goddard, Lis Slenk

September Birthdays

September 5 Bill Karches
 11 Jillian Horner
 12 Blanche Belin
 18 Mark Tarbell
 20 John Hazel
 Monique Wilson
 28 Janet Bianca
 29 Robert Smith



Anniversaries

Margaret and Robert Smith

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=L5k4U35p12I>

Niagara Area Presbyterian Church Picnic

First Pres will host the September Niagara Area Church Picnic, September 7, at 5:00 pm.

The picnic will be in the Fellowship Hall. Come enjoy an evening of fellowship and help extend a warm welcome to the visitors from the other Niagara Area Presbyterian Churches.

Drumming Circle

Drumming Circle will be held each Wednesday at 5:30 pm in First Pres Parking Lot during the month of September. Come learn, laugh and enjoy an evening of fellowship



"I can't believe the first day of school is on my birthday. This could have an adverse impact."

Budget Report for July 2021

	<u>Actual \$</u>	<u>Year to Date \$</u>	<u>Budget YTD \$</u>
GIVING	4,071	20,736	17,206
Investment Income, Other	7,455	14,042	17,906
TOTAL INCOME	11,526	34,778	35,112
EXPENSES	10,633	59,349	72,310
NET (Deficit)	893	(24,571)	(37,198)

We were positive \$893 for July. Investment income was \$5574 from the permanent endowment (quarterly) and \$1881 from Special Funds (semi-annually). Expenses included church and van quarterly insurance premium (\$2889) and the annual maintenance contract with Danforth (\$1335)

SEPTEMBER

2101

oSun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			1 Drum Circle 5:30 pm Pastor Cathy on vacation.	2 Pastor Cathy on vacation	3 Pastor Cathy on vacation	4 Pastor Cathy on vacation
5 Communion Pastor Cathy on vacation	6  Office Closed	7 NAC Picnic 5:00 pm First Day of School Week	8 Drum Circle 5:30 pm	9	10	11 
12 Grandparent Day	13	14	15 Drum Circle 5:30 pm	16	17	18
19	20 International Day of Prayer	21 Session 7:00 pm	22 Drum Circle 5:30 pm 	23 Building Meeting 6:30 pm	24	25
26	27	28	29 Drum Circle 5:30 pm	30 		

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

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Return Service Requested

*Happy Labor
Day!!*




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.

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Editor/Publisher: Janet Roat
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Newsletter deadline is the 15th of the month.



*September
2021*