

Presbyterian Church

Niagara Falls, NY Newsletter

September

2024



Welcome to September and autumn full of God's glory! We are grateful to the Lord for all His blessings.

Hopefully, with the new season upon us, we will see you on Sundays to worship with our church family. Our worshipping together is an important part of our relationship with the Lord!

The Bell Tower Restoration continues – the bell has been removed and has been sent for some restoration work. The rest of the tower restoration continues – just look at all the scaffolding that surrounds the front of the church!!

Please remember the Capital Fund Drive! As the Restoration continues, please pray about donating to the Drive – your donation is entirely between you and the Lord! We have received one substantial donation.

The demolition of the surrounding building also continues.

Remember, we can park FREE in the open city lot at First St. and Niagara St. Just bring the ticket with you to church and it will be scanned.

Please continue to pray for our shut-ins and all those on the prayer list – especially for

Rev. Cathy, Mark, Jeff and Jordan Street and Christine Malinowski.

Wishing everyone all God's blessings. See you in church!! Carol Dashineau, Clerk of Session

NAP September Dinner

The September NAP Dinner will be hosted by Lewiston Presbyterian Church, 505 Cayuga St, Lewiston, NY, Wednesday, September 4, 5:00 PM. The NAP dinners are a nice way to get to know your neighbors and enjoy fellowship and a meal. All are Welcome



Samaritan Christmas Shoeboxes

Again this year First Pres will participate in the Samaritan Christmas Shoeboxes. Shoeboxes are available at the front of the Sanctuary. School supplies are now on sale in the stores. Items like pencils, pens, crayons, small note pads are less expensive now than in October when you will be shopping for your shoebox. Get an early start on your shoebox and pick up a few sale items. You will be happy you did come October



*And just like that
summer falls into September*



THIRD CENTURY CAMPAIGN

Capital Fund Drive

Our Church, formed 200 years ago, is entering its third century of existence. Our church building on this site dates to 1849. It is showing its age! In 2022, we applied for and received a NY Environmental Protection Grant of \$426,464 which at the time was estimated to cover 75% of the restoration costs for the historic building, focusing on the bell tower. That was the percentage that the grant was authorized to cover. We get those funds through reimbursement as the restoration program proceeds. In 2023, we were also awarded architecture and construction grants totaling \$45,000 from the NY Landmark Conservancy's Sacred Sites program. We have received those funds.

We are entering the construction phase of our bell tower restoration project. The tower scaffolding is now up, and the 1848 bell has been removed for restoration. Asbestos and lead abatement are underway now. The tower restoration work will begin shortly. The estimate for the actual construction is now \$970,000. This is exclusive of administration costs, architect fees, and other fees such as asbestos monitoring and abatement. The construction work is now almost exclusively confined to the bell tower and the south turret, although our original estimate provided for the 2022 grant (\$636,000) covered more items such as resealing all windows and extensive repointing of the masonry beyond the bell tower. Since covid, costs have escalated, and probably the original value supplied for the EPF grant was underestimated as well.

Beyond what the grants provide (\$471,464), the costs will be borne by the church, through donations and through our capital funds. This amount will be approximately \$600,000. The church's capital funds that we can spend on this project now generate investment income and (usually) capital gains which help us cover our deficit budgets. It has been and still is important to our existence that we maintain this reserve as much as possible.

We have initiated a low-key capital fund drive to attract donations for those who would like to contribute. There will be no pledge cards or mail solicitations. Donors will be kept confidential though amounts pledged or donated will be published. If you feel that this is a cause our Lord would like you to support and you are willing, please let the Church Treasurer (Carolyn Goddard) know. Gift checks may be made out to the church with "restoration" indicated as the purpose. Thank you, and may God bless the work of First Presbyterian Church of Niagara Falls in its third century!

As part of the bell tower restoration on August 20th, the bell in the bell tower was removed. The bell will make a trip to Ohio where it will be refurbished. The bell will return to First Pres and be reinstalled in the bell tower so once again the bell of First Pres will call members and friends to worship service as it has for over two centuries.



Bell removed from the tower



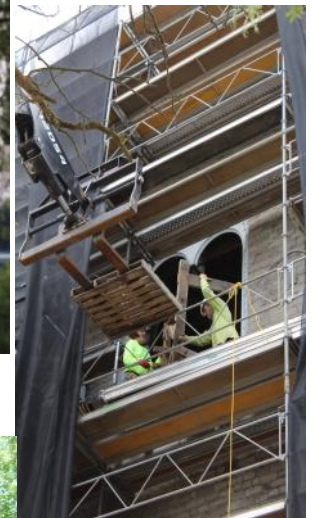
Bell free of the tower



Bell descending



Close pictures of the Bell with the date and foundry markings



Removing the frame work that held the bell.

Bell on the truck bed to be transported Hammer that strikes the outside of the bell

Please Pray for Those Who are Sick or Shut-in



Shut-Ins

Dolores Coleman Tony Pryor
Jane McNaughton Bob McNaughton

Prayer List

Bill Karches Jillian Horner
Mark Tarbell Rita Horner
Collette Sorg Jordon Street
Cathy Rieley-Goddard Brian Tarbell
Christine Malinowski Jeffery Sweet

September Volunteer Schedule

Lay Readers

September 1 - Carol Dashineau
September 8 - John Goddard
September 15 - Lis Slenk
September 22 - Carol Dashineau
September 29 - John Goddard

Communion Servers

August 4 - Jeanette Lamorie and
Dori Parry

Sunday Worship on You Tube

Each week the Sunday morning worship service is video-recorded. The video is uploaded to First Pres Niagara Falls early in the week. Check it out. The link to You Tube is youtube.com/channel/UCV8PmvV_gWm7wiggyl-q03g.



September Birthdays

September 5 Bill Karches
September 11 Jillian Horner
September 12 Blanche Belin
September 20 John Hazel
 Monique Wilson
September 28 Janet Bianca



Happy Birthday!

Budget Report for July 2024

	<u>Actual \$</u>	<u>Year to Date \$</u>	<u>Budget YTD \$</u>
GIVING	3,999	19,124	16,723
Investment Income, Other	16,575	26,320	22,169
TOTAL INCOME	20,574	45,444	38,892
EXPENSES	10,470	65,732	77,686
NET (Deficit)	10,104	(20,288)	(38,794)

We had a \$10,104 surplus his month due to the quarterly permanent endowment income (\$9547) and the January-June Special Funds income (\$7,028). Expenses included \$3571 for the quarterly insurance premium.

September



2024

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1

Communion

2 Office Closed



3

4 NAP

Dinner
Lewiston
Presbyterian
5:00 PM

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

Session
7:00 PM

18

19

20

21

International
Day of
Peace

22



23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30



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

First Presbyterian Church
311 First St
Niagara Falls, NY 14303

Phone: 716-285-3555
Fax: 716-285-3482
E-mail: firstpresnfy@gmail.com



Return Service Requested



We're on the Web:

www.firstpresnfy.org

You Tube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L5k4U35p12I>

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 10:00 AM
Communion First Sunday of Month

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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SEPTEMBER

2024

