



First Presbyterian Church, Niagara Falls, NY April 2023 Newsletter

Dear Friends

I am so happy that Spring is here. It comes around every year, so it is not as if we have not had spring before. And still, I am always glad when it arrives. This winter was strange. There were so many big storms, while in between we often had relatively mild weather. I saw some photos of the outer harbor area in Buffalo that showed the devastation from the wind and snow. A whole woodland has been leveled. As one person I was talking with said, it will grow back. The trees may take awhile and we may not see the return of the old habitat for many years, but it will regenerate.

We have moved into a season in which storms seems to be happening with more frequency and in areas that used to be immune to crazy weather. As the earth continues to grow warmer the effects are felt in different ways around the world. April is the month in which we celebrate the environment with Earth Day on the 22nd. Here is a little background.

The seeds that grew into the first Earth Day were planted by Wisconsin Senator [Gaylord Nelson](#). An ardent conservationist and former two-term governor of Wisconsin, Nelson had long sought ways to increase the potency of the environment as a political issue. The extraordinary attention garnered by [Rachel Carson](#)'s book, *Silent Spring*, the famous [1968 Earthrise NASA photograph](#) of the earth from the moon, the saturation news coverage given to the Santa Barbara oil spill^[18] and the Cuyahoga River catching fire in early 1969^[19] led Nelson to think the time was ripe for an environmental initiative. As a result of interactions with his staff and with [Fred Dutton](#),^[20] a prominent Democratic operative who had been Robert Kennedy's presidential campaign manager, Nelson became convinced that environmental [teach-ins](#) on college campuses could serve as such a vehicle.

Earth Day has grown into a worldwide movement that calls us to consider the changes we need to make to protect and preserve this creation God has entrusted to our care. While it is true that the individual changes we make are like a drop of water into the ocean, they are still important. Change is change. As we consider how we can best protect this precious gift of the creation for our children and grandchildren, we can support legislation that requires more efficient vehicle emissions, the requires companies the clean up the messes they make, reduce the use of plastics in packaging, encourages the use of renewable energy. The list goes on and on. It can be overwhelming and a cause for us to get stuck and do nothing.

Psalm 8 reminds us of God's goodness and connection to creation.

Psalm 8

For the music leader. According to the Gittith. A psalm of David.

8 LORD, our Lord, how majestic
is your name throughout the earth!
You made your glory higher than heaven!
2 From the mouths of nursing babies
you have laid a strong foundation
because of your foes,
in order to stop vengeful enemies.
3 When I look up at your skies,
at what your fingers made—
the moon and the stars
that you set firmly in place—

Continued

Continued

- 4 what are human beings
that you think about them;
what are human beings
that you pay attention to them?
5 You've made them only slightly less than divine,
crowning them with glory and grandeur.
6 You've let them rule over your handiwork,
putting everything under their feet—
7 all sheep and all cattle,
the wild animals too,
8 the birds in the sky,
the fish of the ocean,
everything that travels the pathways of the sea.
9 LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name throughout the earth!

Let us give thanks to God for all of creation. Let us commit to care for God's creation with our choices, with our actions, with our souls.

Blessings,

Cathy



Rev. Cathy will be on vacation April 10th to the 17th.

Have a Happy Vacation Rev. Cathy

Welcome Home

Our NAP folks have been busy setting up apartments for two families from Ukraine over the past few weeks. Each family has three members — a mom, a dad, and one child. The children are both 11 and there is a boy and a girl. They have been so excited when they move into their newly furnished apartments. It has been such a good experience for all of us to help make a home for them.

We are also committed to supporting them socially and with rides over the next few months. We are encouraged to visit with them to help them practice speaking English. We are able to take them on outings to help them get to know the area. We have taken them to the Aquarium. We hope to make additional trips over the coming weeks. As the weather improves, we may go hiking along the gorge, visit the zoo, attend a baseball game, ride the Erie Canal boat. The families are open to whatever we think will help them get to know our community.

Thanks to everyone who has donated to this effort. It truly takes all of us together to help provide a new home for a new friends.



Holy Week

Holy Week starts with worship on April 2, Palm/Passion Sunday. We will remember Jesus' festive entry into Jerusalem followed by the story of Jesus' last days.

Wednesday, April 5, we host the monthly NAP dinner at 5:00 PM. After a simple supper of soup, bread, and dessert, we will move into the sanctuary for a short worship service. We will read from the scriptures, sing, and pray. The service will be highlighted by the growing darkness as we move toward betrayal and disappointment.

Friday, April 7, we reflect on Jesus' words from the cross. Pastors and preachers from across the community will reflect on the words Jesus spoke during his final hours. The service will last from noon until 3:00 PM. You are welcome to come and go as you feel led.

Sunday, April 9, we celebrate the resurrection! Come join us to remember the story of the empty tomb and the wonder of new life. Our choir will have special music prepared and we will sing our favorite hymns. Invite friends and family to join us for this celebration.



Easter Memorial Flowers



If you like to donate an Easter Memorial flower to decorate the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, the cost is \$10.00 per flower. Fill out the form below along with your check and send it to the Church Office by Palm Sunday, April 2nd.

Circle one : In Memory of (list name(s)below)

In Honor of (list name(s) below)

Name(s) _____

From _____



April NAP Dinner

First Presbyterian (Niagara Falls) is hosting the April NAP dinner on April 5 at 5:00 PM. Please plan to attend. Bring friends and family. Following dinner we will reflect on that supper Jesus had with his disciples in the hours before he was betrayed. We will worship together in the sanctuary and feel the sense of foreboding as darkness descends upon us as we anticipate the crucifixion.



Congregational Meeting, April 2, immediately following worship Service. Mark your calendar. It is important that members attend.



Bell Ringing Circle
Wednesdays, 5:30 PM.
no musical talent needed.
All are welcome.

Did you know -

Easter is a movable feast and is the first Sunday following the Pascal Full Moon, which is the first full moon of Spring.

The first Easter eggs were colored red, in memory of the Blood Jesus shed during his crucifixion.

Author Bede in a book he wrote in the 8th century, wrote that Easter was named from the Anglo-Saxon goddess Eastre.

Over 90 million chocolate Easter bunnies and 700 million marshmallow peeps are sold during Easter.

Please Pray for Those Who are Sick or Shut-in



Shut-Ins

Dolores Coleman
Abraham McLarahmore
Dom DeFazio

Prayer List

Margaret Smith Bill Karches
Mark Tarbell Christine King
Micheline Bevacqua

April Volunteer Schedule

Lay Readers

April 2 - John Goddard
April 9 - Lis Slenk
April 16 - John Goddard
April 23 - Lis Slenk
April 30 - John Goddard, Service of Healing and Wholeness

Communion Servers

April 2 - Jeanette Lamorie and Dori Parry

April Birthdays



April 22 Janet Roat
April 24 Carol Dashineau
April 27 Robert MacNaughton
April 29 Sihyeon Kim
Happy Birthday

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.

A Priest, a rabbit and a Minister walked into a bar.

The rabbit said: "I think I am a typo".



The church office will be closed the week of April 23rd. The Secretary will be on vacation.

Budget Report for February 2023

	<u>Actual \$</u>	<u>Year to Date \$</u>	<u>Budget YTD \$</u>
GIVING	898	4,716	4,948
Investment Income, Other	518	518	5,458
TOTAL INCOME	1,416	5,234	10,406
EXPENSES	8,750	21,476	22,644
NET (Deficit)	(7,334)	(16,242)	(12,238)

Investment income was from the L.T. Marshall trust. Expenses included \$2,272 for gas heat and \$356 for Maid Brigade.



2023

Thu

Fri

Sat



Holy Week

Sunday, April 2 - Palm/Passion Sunday Service 11:15 AM

Wednesday, April 5 -NAP Dinner / Service, First Pres, 5:00 PM

Friday, April 7 - Good Friday Service , First Pres, 12 Noon to 3:00 PM

Sunday, April 9, Easter Sunday Service 11:15 AM

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5 NAP Din-
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service First
Pres 5:00 PM

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Good
Friday



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24

Office
Closed

25

Office
Closed

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Office
Closed

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30 Service
of Healing
and
Wholeness



Walk With Us!

Sunday, April 16th

Registration begins @ 1:30 p.m.

2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

@ Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Heritage Center

Sign Up @ healthierniagarafalls.org/events

The walk has two routes, both of which will launch from the Heritage Center at 825 Depot Ave. West. The first route is 1.5 miles and follows the Niagara Gorge Trail toward Whirlpool State Park where there are restrooms. The second route is about 3 miles total and goes to Devil's Hole and back to the Heritage Center.

Walk With Us is accessible for all participants in the community.

Mental Health



Social Connection



Physical Activity



Healthy Lifestyle



NIAGARA FALLS
NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA



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

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Return Service Requested



We're on the Web:

www.firstpresfny.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: 716-285-3555

Sunday Worship 11:15 AM
Communion First Sunday of Month

Rev. Cathy Rieley-Goddard office hours are Tuesday
10:00 am to 1:00 pm and by appointment on other
days.

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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Newsletter deadline is the 15th of the month.

