



First Presbyterian Church, Niagara Falls, NY



December 2023 Newsletter

Dear Friends,

We have come to December, the end of our calendar year. It is also the beginning of the liturgical year. We start telling the story of God's people through the perspective of another gospel — this year it is Mark. Mark is the shortest of the gospels, it leaves out the birth narrative. We have to add things we learn from others to make sure we get a bigger picture.

That is kind of what happens in our lives as well. We know a bit about something, but we want to know more. So we talk with others, find out what they have heard, try to see what the situation is. This is how we develop a sense of belonging. We all want to belong somewhere, at church, at home, in the community. We want to fit. And so often there is one place where we do not seem to fit.

Let's make this coming year a year of belonging. Helping people find their place with us. As members, teachers, visitors, whatever their gifts deem to be, let us help them belong with us. This will take work for all of us. We will have listen, talk, take risks. It is not always comfortable. But belonging changes us. It gives us courage and hope and a new willingness to invite others to belong.

During this season of hustle and bustle, take some time to consider how and where you belong. How can you make space others to belong as well. You are a beloved child of God. How can you help someone realize they are too?

Cheers!

Cathy





Annual Congregational Meeting

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be Sunday, December 10, 9:30 AM to elect elders, Deacons, and to vote on changing the number of Deacons from six to three Deacons. It is important that members attend the meeting. Please try to attend

Samaritan Christmas Shoeboxes

44 filled boxes were sent on their way Sunday, November 5. Thank you for participating in this ministry.

NAP December Dinner

The December NAP Dinner will be hosted by First Pres, Wednesday, December 6, 5:00 PM. Please come and help welcome members from other Niagara Presbyterian Churches. The NAP dinners are a nice way to get to know your neighbors and enjoy fellowship and a meal.

All are Welcome



Christmas Concert Road Trip

Choraleers Christmas concert Saturday, December 9, 1:00 PM at St John deLaSalle, RC, Church, 8477 Buffalo Avenue, Niagara Falls. The choir will present traditional Christmas hymns, contemporary and international Christmas music. Because the concert is local and in Niagara Falls we will meet at St. John de LaSalle Church at 1:00 PM. The concert is \$5.00, children under 12 are free. One of our own, Lis Slenk, is a member of the Choir.



Angel Tree



First Pres is sponsoring a family in need this Christmas. Angel ornaments are on the tree in front of the church with a child's name, age and gift wish. Gifts must be returned by Sunday, December 10. Please help to make Christmas a little brighter for a child this Christmas season.



A Candle lite Christmas Eve Service will be held Sunday, December 24, during the 10:00 AM worship service. There will be special Christmas music and readings.

There will be no evening service and no Christmas Day service so members can celebrate the Christmas holiday with their families.

Christmas Blessing to all. May your Christmas be merry and bright



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



Shut-Ins

Dolores Coleman
Abraham McLarahmore
Dom DeFazio

Prayer List

Bill Karches	Christine King
Jillian Horner	Christine Goddard
Mark Tarbell	Rita Horner
Collette Sorg	Cathy Rieley-Goddard
Jordan Street	

December Volunteer Schedule

Lay Readers

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

Communion Servers

October 1 - 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_gWm7wjggyl-q03g](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCV8PmvV_gWm7wjggyl-q03g).

December Birthdays



December 23 - Sophia Bush
December 31 - Charlene Bush
Happy Birthday!

Budget Report for October 2023

	<u>Actual \$</u>	<u>Year to Date \$</u>	<u>Budget YTD \$</u>
GIVING	4,214	24,123	24,740
Investment Income, Other	8,828	30,849	27,290
TOTAL INCOME	13,042	54,972	52,030
EXPENSES	12,939	102,589	113,220
NET (Deficit)	103	(47,617)	(61,190)

We were positive \$103 this month. Investment income was from the quarterly Permanent Endowment dividends and interest. Expenses included \$3288 for church and van insurance and \$900 for the annual audit.

December 2023

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

					1	2
3 <i>First Sunday of Advent Communion</i>	4	5	6 <i>NAP Dinner, First Pres 5:00 PM</i>	7	8	9 <i>Christmas concert group trip</i>
10 <i>Second Sunday of Advent Congregational meeting 9:30 AM</i>	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>	18	19 <i>Session 7:00 PM</i>	20 <i>Office Closed</i>	21  <i>The First Day of Winter</i>	22	23
24  <i>Christmas Eve Service 10:00 AM</i>	25 	26 <i>Office Closed Kwanzaa Begins</i>	27 <i>Office Closed</i>	28	29	30
31 	January 1 <i>Office Closed</i>					

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

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Return Service Requested



We're on the Web:

www.firstpresnfny.org

You Tube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L5k4U35pl2I>

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

Rev. Cathy Rieley-Goddard office hours are Monday and Wednesday.

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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Reporters: John Goddard, Janet Bianca, Lis Slenk

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December

2023