



First Presbyterian Church, Niagara Falls, NY February 2023 Newsletter

Dear Friends,

I turned on some music to have in the background in my office this morning and the first song that came on was "Be Thou My Vision." This is such a lovely hymn. And what a prayer. Read these words:

- 1 Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art;
Thou my best thought, by day or by night;
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light
- 2 Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true Word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father and I, Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.
- 3 Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise;
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart;
O King of glory, my treasure Thou art.
- 4 O King of glory, my victory won;
Rule and reign in me 'til Thy will be done;
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall;
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Hymns and songs are a way we internalize so many ideas, almost without conscious thought. I have always been moved by the music rather than words, but I am carried away with these well-known words. You may be more of a words person and have all the verses committed to memory. This prayer -- Be Thou my vision, O Lord, of my heart reminds us to see with the eyes of God. If we were to say it differently it might be -- let me see with your eyes, O God. Help to see the world as you do. If we were to practice these words alone for the coming weeks, we would begin to see and experience the world differently.

Continued

Continued

I encourage you to take these words and use them as part of your prayers for the month of February. Meditate upon them, repeat them as a mantra, rewrite them to convey a similar meaning with your own way of speaking. You can pray and make them yours in any number of ways. Perhaps you will journal about your experience. Send a report of your experience to be included in the next newsletter.

Blessings to you as you reflect and learn.

Cathy

ASH WEDNESDAY *Worship*

On Ash Wednesday, February 22, we will gather for a simple supper at 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall followed by a short worship service in the Sanctuary. Please join us as we enter into this holy time of year. This year we will be using the devotional booklet [*Rise, by John Pavlovitz*](#) for our daily readings. If you would like to get a copy, click [here](#). We will post recordings of the readings each day on the NAP Facebook page.



JFS Opportunities

We are continuing our work with JFS this spring. The Niagara Area Presbyterian are now becoming the Circle of Care for a family from Ukraine. There is a husband, wife and 13 year old daughter. The daughter likes to do crafts. The mother likes to volunteer and the father is looking forward to getting to know more English and becoming a truck driver. We will be supporting this family with supplies of household items, some food, and with activities and trips during the coming months. If you would like to help out, please let Rev. Cathy know. We are setting up their apartment and need to have it ready by Feb 10. If you have lamps, end tables, area rugs, curtains, or similar household items to donate, let Rev. Cathy know. Thank you!

Presidents Day is Monday, February 20th. Presidents Day is a federal holiday. Government offices, post office, banks and most schools will be closed.



Thank You!

First Pres received a letter of thank you and appreciation from the Jewish Family Services of Western New York for First Pres' support of the JFS.

The JFS offers critical social systems support to individuals and families regardless of their beliefs or backgrounds.

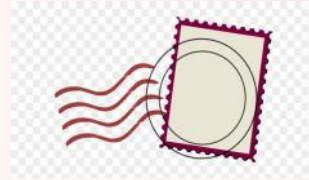
Most recently, First Pres has collected items for dignity totes for JFS to hand out to individuals and families arriving in the United States.

Caught in the Act 

- * Selena sharing jokes at the congregational meeting
- * Carolyn insulating the kitchen windows.
- * Pastor Cathy and Lis cleaning out a Sunda School room.
- * Tracy and John carrying items from the Sunday School room to Lis' car to get to Goodwill

Island Presbyterian will host the Niagara Area Presbyterian Dinner, Wednesday, February 1st, at 5:00 PM. Following dinner, we will assemble Dignity Totes for JFS to distribute to families and individuals who have recently arrived in the United States. We would like to put together 36 bags. First Pres is responsible for tooth brushes, tooth paste and lotion. The basket in the vestibule is overflowing with donations but more items are still needed. Please donate full size items.

Everyone is Welcome



The Card Ministry is still accepting donations to the Stamp Fund. If you have not made a donation, please consider making a donation and support the Card Ministry. Be sure to mark your envelope Stamp Fund.

Bell Ringing Circle
Wednesdays, 5:30 PM.

No musical talent needed,
All are welcome.



Riverside Presbyterian Church

February 4th, 2023

Frontier Fire Hall

2176 Liberty Drive

Niagara Falls

Doors open at 6:00 PM, \$10.00 entry per person, pop. beer, and door prize chance included. Call 716-283-9752 for more information

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 Jockline Pryor
 Micheline Bevacqua Christine King

February Birthdays

February 11 Jonathan Bush

Happy Birthday



February Volunteer Schedule

Lay Readers

February 5 - Carol Dashineau
 February 12 - John Goddard
 February 19 - Lis Slenk
 February 27 - John Goddard

Communion Servers

February 5 - 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.

Thank you John Hazel for shoveling the walks at First Pres after the Christmas Blizzard of 2022.



"Lose some weight, quit smoking, move around more and eat the carrot."

Budget Report for December 2022

	<u>Actual \$</u>	<u>Year to Date \$</u>	<u>Budget YTD \$</u>
GIVING	1,937	33,606	43,990
Investment Income, Other	20,522	43,800	28,000
TOTAL INCOME	22,459	77,406	71,990
EXPENSES	12,290	115,114	133,730
NET (Deficit)	10,169	(37,708)	(61,740)

We were positive \$10,169 for December due to investment income from the permanent endowment (\$9690), special funds (\$2965) and the Marshall Trusts (\$6867). Expenses for December included \$2610 for gas heat. Our year-end deficit was \$37,798. This was covered by withdrawals from the permanent endowment account.

February

2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 NAP dinner, Island Presbyterian 5:00 PM	2  Ground Hog Day	3	4
5 Communion	6	7	8 Bell Ringing Circle 5:30 PM	9	10	11
12	13	14 Valentine's Day	15 Bell Ringing Circle 5:30 PM	16	17	18
19 Transfig- uration of the Lord	20  Presidents' Day	21 Session 7:00 PM	22 	23	24	25
26	27	28				

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

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Return Service Requested

Happy Valentine's Day



We're on the Web:

www.firstpresnfny.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 10:00 am
to 2:00 pm

Telephone: 716-285-3555

Sunday Worship 11:15 AM

Communion First Sunday of Month

Ash Wednesday Service, February 22, 5:30 PM

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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Editor/Publisher: Janet Roat

Reporters: John Goddard, Janet Bianca, Lis Slenk

Newsletter deadline is the 15th of the month.

February 2023

