



First Presbyterian Church Niagara Falls, NY Newsletter June 2024



Dear Friends,

Many of you have heard me talk about the fig tree I have in my yard. It was a bare root stick I planted in an empty space back in 2016. No one believed anything would come of it. It is too cold here in WNY to have such a tender plant. Why bother? That first year, when it was just a baby, it produced four figs. I was so excited. The figs were delicious and they held the promise of more in the coming years.

Since then, it is always a wonder. When will it start showing new growth? Will there be any fruit before the first frost? Should I give up and just buy figs at the store?

A couple of days ago as I was leaving the house, I looked down at the tree to notice there are already leaves bursting from last year's stems. Figs only grow on new growth. The new leaves are a good sign. Usually I do not see much evidence of anything until late June or early July. It is possible I will have ripe figs in September!

We all have things we are fond of. Gardening, books, woodworking, hiking, yoga, meditation, running, walking. The list goes on and on. And every time we get into it, there is something new or different to observe about it. It reminds me of the scriptures. There are stories in the Bible we have read again and again. Pentecost, Easter, Christmas, the woman at the well, Noah and the ark, Isaiah being called to ministry. We could all list one after another. When we hear the story, sometimes our minds fill in the information and we do not really notice anything new. But, now and then, our ears or eyes find the new thing. We get a glimpse of God that is different than what we had before.

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During these past months, I have been practicing kindness, or we could call it love. In moments when I get gray with people, I work on letting the anger go and grabbing on to the notion of love. The truth about all of us is that we are doing the best we are able to. How can we hold on to anger about that? I say this as if it is easy to let go of my feelings. It is not easy. With practice it gets easier. It is a challenge though. The best way to do it that I have found is with deep breathing. Counting breaths. Changing what I am thinking about. And then beginning to have positive thoughts for the person who has interrupted my day.

The truth is that we all have to learn how to manage our feelings when they are good and when they are not so good. We have to learn how to be in connection with those we are fond of and those we are not so fond of. Together we make up the household of God. When one of us is missing, we are not whole. Our faith calls us to lives of love, whether we feel it or not.

I hope each of you has something that gives you hope every day like my fig tree is giving me hope these days. May you find in that hope the knowledge of God's grace and love for you!

Blessing,

Cathy



Juneteenth

Juneteenth is a national holiday in the United States. It commemorates the end of slavery and is observed annually on June 19. Juneteenth National Independence Day Act went into effect in 2021. Juneteenth is also known as Emancipation Day, Freedom Day, Jubilee Day. In observance of the holiday government offices, banks, the Post Office and some schools will be closed for the day. Celebrations typically include prayer, speeches, educational events, family gatherings, and festivals with music, food, and dancing.



NAP June Dinner

The June NAP Dinner will be hosted by First Pres, Wednesday, June 5, 5:00 PM. The NAP dinners are a nice way to get to know your neighbors and enjoy fellowship and a meal. Come help welcome members from area Presbyterian Churches to First Pres. All are Welcome



Mark you Calendar

First Pres is planning a group trip to visit the Daredevils of Niagara Falls: The spectacle of and Tragedy exhibition at the Castellani Art Museum at Niagara University, 7 Varsity Drive, Niagara University, NY, Friday, June 28 at 11:30 AM. The group will meet at the Castellani Art Museum to tour the exhibit. After touring the exhibit and the art galleries the group will meet for lunch at a local restaurant. Members will be responsible for their own lunch. The exhibit is free. All are welcome.

The display chronicles over a century of such bold endeavors, highlighting the over 5,000 souls who have challenged the falls, whether for thrill, despair, or by misfortune. It spotlights figures such as Annie Edson, the first known survivor from a barrel journey in 1901, and Kirk Jones, whose fatal 2017 attempt marked a somber chapter in this history.

If you would like more information on the exhibit visit the Castellani Art Museum at:

<https://facebook.com/CastellaniArtMuseumOfNigaraUniversity>

June

The sun is rich
And gladly pays
In golden hours,
Silver days,
d long green weeks
That never end.
School's out. The time
Is ours to spend.
There's Little League,
Hopscotch, the creek, And, after
super,
Hide-and-seeK.
The live-long light
Is like a Dream,
And freckles come
Like flies to cream.
John Updike

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



Shut-Ins

Dolores Coleman Dom DeFazio
Jane McNaughton Bob McNaughton
Toni Pryor

Prayer List

Bill Karches Jillian Horner
Mark Tarbell Rita Horner
Collette Sorg Jordon Street

June Volunteer Schedule

Lay Readers

June 2 - John Goddard
June 9 - Carol Dashineau
June 16 - Lis Slenk
June 23 - John Goddard
June 30 - Carol Dashineau

Communion Servers

June 2 - 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_gWm7wiggyI-q03g.

June Birthdays

June 7 Joyce Braham
June 14 Rev. Cathy Rieley-Goddard
June 15 River Devline
June 29 Jeanette Lamorie
Happy Birthday!



Budget Report for April 2024

	<u>Actual \$</u>	<u>Year to Date \$</u>	<u>Budget YTD \$</u>
GIVING	3,858	12,313	9,556
Investment Income, Other	7,663	8,671	12,668
TOTAL INCOME	11,521	20,984	22,224
EXPENSES	13,278	40,822	44,392
NET (Deficit)	(1,757)	(19,838)	(22,168)

Investment income was predominantly from the permanent endowment first quarter dividends. Expensed included \$3292 fro insurance quarterly premium, 746 Danforth semiannual maintenance, and \$1600 for a new 40 gallon water heater

June

2024

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

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2 <i>Communion</i>	3	4	5 <i>NAP Dinner 5:00 PM at First Pres</i>	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 <i>Flag Day</i> 	15
16 <i>Happy Father's Day</i>	17	18 <i>Session 7:00 PM</i>	19  <i>Juneteenth</i>	20  <i>First Day of Summer</i>	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28 <i>Castellani Art Museum Trip 11:30 AM</i>	29
30						

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

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Return Service Requested



We're on the Web:

www.firstpresnfy.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	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:
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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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