



First Presbyterian Church Niagara Falls, NY Newsletter May 2024



Dear Friends,

I have noticed more flowering trees this season that I had in recent years. As I thought about that today, I wondered if the trees are just blooming more fully this year or if I had just not been paying attention. I suspect it is more my inattention rather than the trees not being beautiful every year.

What are the things that get in the way of our attention, that keep us from seeing the wonder of creation all around us? For me it is so many things — problem solving, taking care of Jon, meeting up with friends, sadness or depression, reflecting on the past, wondering about the future. So many things distract us that we often miss the beauty of the current moment.

This year, because I have had a few challenges, I have had time and energy and intention to look at the world as a new place everyday. I noticed flowering trees that I never noticed before on my block. They are breathtaking. I have seen flowers and other ground cover growing and blooming and changing the landscape in places I had not seen before.

Imagine if our lives of faith were so new. If we were to notice every time it seemed like God had intervened in our lives or someone else's life. What if we were able to give credit to God for the amazing things that happen that we have not noticed before. Poets have such a great way with words. They are able to put a collection of words together that cause us to see things differently. They often cause me to notice God's activity in the world more often than I would have before. Maybe we all need to work on our own capacity to be poets in the world.

Mary Oliver was a poet, she wrote *Sleeping in the Forest*. Read it. See where you fall in the world of the forest.

Continued

Continued

Sleeping on the Forest Floor

By Mary Oliver

I thought the earth remembered me,
she took me back so tenderly,
arranging her dark skirts, her pockets
full of lichens and seeds.

I slept as never before, a stone on the river bed,
nothing between me and the white fire of the stars
but my thoughts, and they floated light as moths
among the branches of the perfect trees.

All night I heard the small kingdoms
breathing around me, the insects,
and the birds who do their work in the darkness.

All night I rose and fell, as if in water,
grappling with a luminous doom. By morning
I had vanished at least a dozen times
into something better.

Cathy



First Pres held a Congregational Meeting Sunday, April 14, 9:30 AM. The Congregation approved the 2023 Annual Report, voted to reduce the Deacons from six members to three members and elected members to the nomination committee.

On Saturday, May 11, Wedding Bells will ring at First Pres. The church has been reserved for 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Please be respectful of the times reserved for the wedding if you need to be at the church on Saturday, May 11th.

Congratulations to the wedding couple



City of Niagara Falls
Clean-up Day
Saturday May 4, 10:00 AM

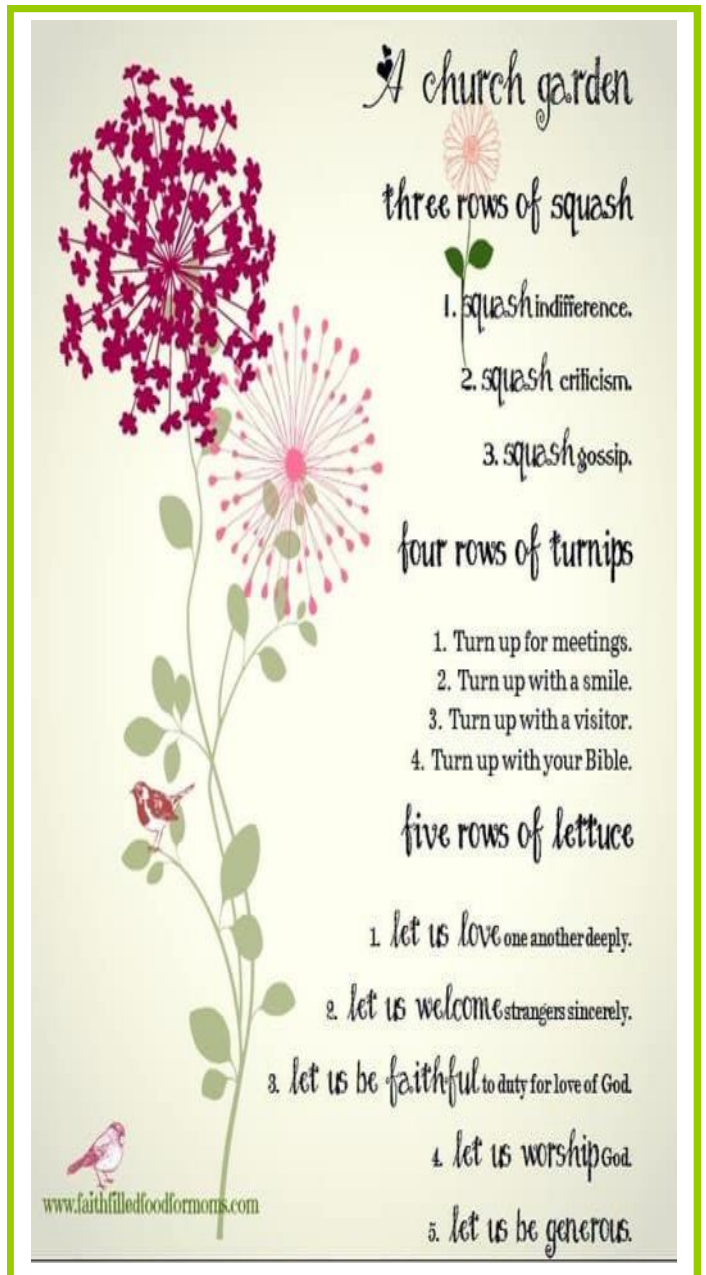
On May 4, the City of Niagara Falls will hold its 17th annual city wide beautification cleanup. Get to know your neighbors while planting flowers and getting outside work done. Garbage bags, gloves and water will be provided for volunteers. There will be an after party at the Niagara falls aquarium for volunteers. For more information contact Jockline Pryor at 716-481-



Thank you Pastor Cynthia Wickwire Lundquist from the Presbytery anti-racism group for coming to First Pres on March 18, 2024 to meet with Pastor Cathy, Liz Campbell, and Jockline Pryor. Lunch was provided by Crossroads of Niagara

NAP April Dinner

The May NAP Dinner will be hosted by Island United Presbyterian Church, 1822 Hurth Road, Grand Island, Wednesday, May 1, 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



A church garden

three rows of squash

1. *squash* indifference.
2. *squash* criticism.
3. *squash* gossip.

four rows of turnips

1. Turn up for meetings.
2. Turn up with a smile.
3. Turn up with a visitor.
4. Turn up with your Bible.

five rows of lettuce

1. *let us love* one another deeply.
2. *let us welcome* strangers sincerely.
3. *let us be faithful* to duty for love of God.
4. *let us worship* God.
5. *let us be generous*.

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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 Christine King
 Jillian Horner Christine Goddard
 Mark Tarbell Rita Horner
 Collette Sorg Jordon Street

May Volunteer Schedule

Lay Readers

May 5 - John Goddard
 May 12 - Carol Dashineau
 May 19 - Lis Slenk
 May 26 - John Goddard

Communion Servers

May 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_gWm7wiggyI-q03g.

May Birthdays

May 3 DeMonte Lamoire
 May 6 Lis Slenk
 May 6 Carolyn Goddard
 May 12 Dori Parry
 May 25 Jockline Pryor



Happy Birthday!

Budget Report for March 2024

	<u>Actual \$</u>	<u>Year to Date \$</u>	<u>Budget YTD \$</u>
GIVING	2,097	8,455	7,167
Investment Income, Other	334	1,008	9,501
TOTAL INCOME	2,431	9,463	16,668
EXPENSES	7,119	27,544	33,294
NET (Deficit)	(4,688)	(18,081)	(16,626)

Investment income was from the J>G> <arshall Trust. Expenses included \$840 for gas heat.



2024

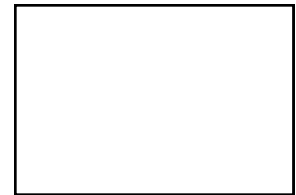
Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			<p>1 NAP Dinner 5:00 PM Island Presbyterian</p>	<p>2</p> 	<p>3</p>	<p>4  Niagara Falls clean- up Day</p>
<p>5 Communion</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 Ascension of the Lord</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11  Wedding</p>
<p>12 <i>Mother's Day</i></p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19</p> 	<p>20</p>	<p>21 Session 7:00 PM</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26</p> 	<p>27</p>  Office Closed	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	

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/>

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

Newsletter deadline is the 15th of the month.

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/>

May 2024

