



**First Presbyterian Church,
Niagara Falls, NY
September 2023 Newsletter**



Dear Friends,

By this time of the summer, I have started noticing the days are getting shorter. The sun sets earlier. The color of the sky is a deeper blue. And I long to redo those days back at the end of June that seemed to have so much promise. But alas, I cannot go back. So we look to the future. I do love the fall and the things we return to after the lazy days of summer. The routine seems comfortable and we begin to work our way toward the new year.

This summer I worked with people around two issues, both of which seem so important for our days. Anti-racism and climate change. They are both so important and call us to reflect on our lives and the choices we make. They are also so big it is hard for us to imagine our decisions will really make a difference. The truth is that our decisions do make a difference. So let's get focused. I suspect one or the other has more appeal for you. Maybe both are interesting, maybe you are interested in something completely different. Wherever you fall on the spectrum, you are called to something, to DO something.

If you are a climate activist, maybe you can work with others who feel the same calling to learn more about our community, where does our recycling go? What happens if we enroll in the solar electric plan? What if you decide to buy an electric car? Maybe you would like to try composting and wonder if there is a large-scale program you can bring to Lewiston. There are all kinds of options. You can reach out to other climate activists through the Interfaith Climate Justice Community.

If you are working to change how we treat people who look different and dress differently, you might want to meet up with others who are doing that. Maybe you would like to read about other people's experiences. Perhaps you can look through our building and notice how many pictures we have of Jesus and how many of them look like a white person was the model. You can join a book group. Start your own book group. There are so many ways to join in with others who want to become less racist.

No matter your cause, you are called and equipped with what you need to make a difference in the world. Chances are good that there are others who feel like you do in our community. Listen and look for ways to connect with others. It is in these connections that we begin to build relationships and bring change to our community. If you have ideas or questions, please share them with me. Together we CAN make a difference.

Blessings,

Cathy

NAP September Dinner

The September NAP Dinner will be at Island Presbyterian Church Wednesday, September 6, 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



School is Starting

Area schools start Tuesday, September 5, the day after Labor Day. School buses will be on the move. As a reminder, in New York state you must stop for a school bus when its red lights are flashing, even if it is on the opposite side of a divided highway. You must stop 20 feet from the bus. You can only drive again when the lights stop or you are signaled to proceed. Lets keep our kids safe.



Let your life be filled
with the joy &
harvest of Autumn

Happy
First Day Of Autumn

Samaritan Christmas Shoeboxes

Again this year First Pres will participate in the Samaritan Christmas Shoeboxes. There are a few shoeboxes available at the front of the sanctuary. Why not pick up a box and start filling it now.

School supplies are now on sale in the stores. Items like pencils, pens, crayons, small note pads are less expensive now than in October when you will be shopping for your shoebox.



Jordon and Israel visited Niagara Falls with their parents and grandparents in late July. It is nice to see how the babies have grown. Before we know it, they will be starting school.



First Pres had a grounds cleanup day the first of August. The parking lot was cleaned of debris, the walks were swept, the flower gardens were weeded, flowers planted and flower beds mulched. Thank you Jocklyn Pryor for heading up this project. Thank you to all who helped. Pictures of the crews' hard work.



On August 16, a ceremony was held on Old Falls Street in Niagara Falls, to unveil a Pomeroy Foundation marker to honor Niagara Falls suffragist Charlotte Washington Dett, an African American social justice warrior. She owned a guest house near the site of the marker. Charlotte Washington Dett was a member of First Pres. A representative from the Governor's office, state representatives and representatives of Niagara Falls, spoke at the ceremony.

Mrs Dett had a son, R. Nathaniel Dett, who was a prominent composer. At one time he was an organist at First Pres. Two spiritual hymns of Nathaniel Dett was preformed by Juman Dunn, former associate conductor of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra.

The Charlotte Washington Dett marker is around the corner from First Pres on Old Falls Street across from the convention center. When you have time, take a stroll around the corner and see the marker commemorating a member of First Pres.



Pictured at the right:
James E. Dunn, Vocalist
Lillian S. Williams, PHD
Robin G. Schulze, Dean,
College of Arts and Sciences
University of Buffalo

**Charlotte
Washington Dett**
1862-1937



*Suffragist, Human Rights
Advocate, Community
Leader and Businesswoman*
Dedicated: **August 16, 2023**

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 Micheline Bevacqua

September Volunteer Schedule

Lay Readers

September 3 - Carol Dashineau
 September 10 - Lis Slenk
 September 17 - Carol Dashineau
 September 24 - John Goddard

Communion Servers

September 3 - Jeanette Lamorie and
 Dori Parry

September Birthdays



September 5 Bill Karches
 September 11 Jillian Horner
 September 12 Blanche Belin
 September 20 John Hazell
 September 20 Monique Wilson
 September 28 Janet Bianca
 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.

Grounds Keeper Needed

First Pres is in need of a volunteer who can devote a few hours a month to the church outdoor areas. Well tended grounds will make First Pres look vital and welcoming



Budget Report for June 2023

	<u>Actual \$</u>	<u>Year to Date \$</u>	<u>Budget YTD \$</u>
GIVING	3,666	18,279	17,318
Investment Income, Other	8,540	21,289	19,103
TOTAL INCOME	12,206	39,568	36,421
EXPENSES	12,132	74,638	79,254
NET (Deficit)	74	(35,070)	(42,833)

We were positive \$74.00 for July. Investment income was mainly from the permanent endowment 2nd quarter income (\$8,485). Expenses include \$3,288 for church and van insurance and \$239 for Nation Grid.

September



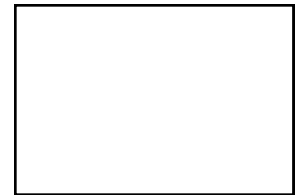
2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 <i>Communion</i>	4 LABOR DAY <i>Office closed</i>	5 	6 <i>NAP Dinner Island Presbyterian 5:00 PM</i>	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 <i>Session 7:00 PM</i>	20	21	22	23 
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

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

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Return Service Requested

*Happy Labor
Day!!*



We're on the Web:

www.firstpresnfny.org

You Tube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L5k4U35pI2I>

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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Newsletter deadline is the 15th of the month.

September 2023

