

RIVERSIDE REPORTER

Riverside Presbyterian Church
815 84th at Lindbergh Avenue
Niagara Falls, NY 14304

Phone 716-283-9752

Visit us at www.riversidepresnf.org

E-mail: riversidepres@msn.com



PASTOR'S PONDERINGS....

Rev. Laura Norris Buisch

The themes of Advent—**hope, peace, joy, and love**—meet us each Sunday as we gather for worship. Yet in our daily lives, when we look around, we see so much brokenness and pain. Wars rage across our screens, filling newspapers and TVs with images of destruction. And closer to home, we witness the war of words—language used not to build up, but to tear down; words that push people into corners of fear, anger, and hatred.

So how do we live out the themes of Advent in a world so wounded by violence—both physical and spoken?

Perhaps Advent invites us to pause and truly reflect on these gifts: **hope, peace, joy, and love**. This season calls us to look for the **light of Christ** breaking into the darkness. For Christ came into the world as a fragile babe—God's answer to suffering, God's promise of redemption and love. And each one of us, in our own way, carries struggles, griefs, and burdens.

Advent reminds us that we are called to embody the message of Christ in a hurting world:

- To **love** those who feel unloved.
- To bring **joy** to children and adults who have forgotten what joy feels like.
- To offer a **peaceful place**—even for a moment—to those who know no peace.
- And above all, to kindle **hope** for the hopeless.

This is the work of Advent.

This is the invitation of Christ.

This is the light we are called to carry into the world.

That is Advent.

Blessings!

Laura

THANKS FOR ALL YOU DID in NOVEMBER

BAZAAR VOLUNTEERS

Peggy Geist

The Zaffrans

Patty Geist

Lisa Granieri

James Cowe

Fran Bailey

Kevin Kernin

Sunday AM Ushers

The Soos'

The DeMarcos

Jean Westmoore

Sue Boyce

Suzette Spagnolo

The Fischers

Barb Vollick

Kimberly Yung

Christine Stevenson

Kristen Maggi

Mike Roth

Cindy Williams

Bob Kelly

Lori Winker

Sherman Wallace

Deanna Rosinski

Dave Spagnolo

Deedee Wilson

Barbara Rodgers

Cindy Cook

Jill Kubiba

Dawn Ralph

Linda Hayes

Diane Holt

Debbie Hansen

Cheryl Toth

We are *thankful*

...if we forgot anyone PLEASE let us know!

December Flowers in the Sanctuary



If you would like to offer flowers for a loved one or for a special occasion, the 2025 Flower Chart is posted on the bulletin board.

You are welcome to BRING YOUR OWN.

If so, please specify when signing up otherwise they will be ordered thru Evergreen Florist.

Call the Church Office anytime with your request, your favorite flower/color & any questions you may have.

Finally, please let us know if you will be taking the flowers home or leaving them for a shut-in to enjoy.

December 7th
(still available)

December 14th
(still available)

December 21st
In loving memory of
Mary Carlson
given by
Debbie Hansen

December 28th
(still available)



**Watch the Bulletin Board for the
2026 Flower Chart**

*Deadline for the
January Newsletter
is **DECEMBER 15th***

Prayer Requests



Our Shut-Ins: Jean Aureli,
Mary Bauer, Wade Bowen,
Shirley Brocious, Sylvia Davis,
Bettie LaMacchia, Jodi Masters,
Jane Siever, Joan Swearngen,
Dorothy Swick, Kay Vance

Prayer List: Mike Emmick, John (family of Kristi Murawski), Bob Davis (Sylvia's son), Corinne Kernin, Cindy Ransom, Dawn Ralph, Anita, Tim & Jeremy Heary, George (friend of Lynn Emmick), Linda Johnson, Carol (friend of Chris Soos), Barb Vollick, Sara Sroufe (Pam & Mark's daughter in law), Kimberly Yung, Shirley Jones, Bob Bull (friend of Barbara Rodgers), Debbie Hansen, Elaine McCombs (Elisa Poole's mom), Linda Johnson, Sue Fallon, Fiona (friend of Rev. Laura), Sally (Kristi Murawski's mom), Doris (Carolyn Slessor's sister in law), Paul Westmoore, Margaret Quarantiello, Matt Bernat (friend of Grozios), Lesa Richmond's Mom & Uncle, Shirley Jones, Chris Scrivano (friend of Winkers)

Office Hours

Rev. Laura Norris-Buisch

Cell ~ 716-713-6365 Church ~ 283-9752

**Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Fridays
9:30AM - 2:00PM**

Other times available. For an appointment, call to schedule.

Church Office ~ Lynda Grozio

**Mondays & Wednesdays
8:30AM - 3:00PM**

JOIN US THROUGHOUT THE ADVENT SEASON



Advent Bible Study

Beginning 6:00PM
Monday, December 1st
@ DeMarco's

THE WILL TO DREAM

Awaken your imagination with *The Will to Dream*. When the world feels weary—divided and uncertain—hearts ache, communities long for justice, and souls hunger for hope. In these moments, while many search for a way forward, the act of dreaming becomes holy resistance. Dreams remind us of possibility: there is enough love, mercy, and courage for all.

The Will to Dream highlights the stories of Advent–Epiphany as witnesses to God's dream of a new world. From Isaiah's visions to Mary's song, from Zechariah's prophecy to the defiant journey of the magi, these scriptures call us to nurture prophetic imagination. *The Will to Dream* provides everything you need to plan worship, equip classrooms, and support families at home, guiding your community to live into God's kingdom of justice and joy.

As we journey through Advent's holy longing into the wonder of Christmas and the revelations of Epiphany, we learn to dream not as escape, but as sacred action. This season, gather your community to lament honestly, hope boldly, and imagine together the world God is making.

5:00PM every Monday

ADVENT
SONG &

Scripture



6:00PM
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21ST

Blue Christmas

A SERVICE OF HEALING & HOPE

at First Presbyterian Church
505 Cayuga St. Lewiston

Come
Celebrate
Christmas
with us!

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

10:00AM ~ Sunday, December 21st

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Wednesday, December 24th

7:00PM ~ Family Service

10:00PM ~ Communion/Candlelight Service



The Church Session

maintaining the spiritual government of the church

CLASS OF 2026

David Spagnolo
Christine Stevenson
Jean Westmoore

CLASS OF 2027

Robert Kelly
Deedee Wilson

CLASS OF 2028

Jake Fischer
Diane Holt
Deanna Rosinski

NONIMATING COMMITTEE

Lisa Granieri
Barbara Rodgers
Session Member TBA



NEXT MEETING

6:00PM WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 10



RIVERSIDE WORKERS

Thank you to everyone in the church for all your work to make our Snowflake Bazaar so successful. Everyone's contributions of time and donations helps our church thrive! It was our best Bazaar ever! We have been so blessed!

Our Riverside Workers **Christmas Luncheon** will be held on **Tuesday, December 2, 2025** at **My Tomato Pie** on Niagara Falls Boulevard, Amherst. The time is **12:00 noon** and we will be having a Wrap Buffet with 2 salads and a Mediterranean Platter. We are taking reservations before church up to Sunday, November, 30, 2025. Or you may call the office. The cost is \$20.00.

Christine Soos, President



December

BIRTHDAYS

December 4	Brooks Panza
December 5	Barbara Rodgers ★
December 7	Mike Roth
December 10	Liz Sanderson
December 11	Carter Feidt
	Sherman Wallace
December 12	Joyce Wiefert ★
December 15	Craig Boyce
	Nick Yung
December 16	Kristen Hudson
December 20	Lisa Granieri ★
December 28	Amy Feidt
December 29	Mary Bauer
	Kathy Kalita
December 30	Tina Jackson

★
See pg #10



December

ANNIVERSARIES

December 19	Bev & Larry Weatherston ★	55 years
December 23	Alexis & Shaun Kudiba ★	10 years



POINSETTIA SALE



If you would like Christmas Poinsettias to display in the Church during the holiday, then take home or give to a shut-in, please fill out the form below.

You can mail your order with payment to the church office or order-forms can be found in the pews and placed in the offering plate.

We will only be offering red poinsettias.

Orders are due no later than December 14th

Number of 6" plants at \$7.00 each

_____ (red only)

Please have bulletin read... (indicate one)

_____ Dedicated to the Glory of God or

_____ In Memory of _____
(please print name to be listed in bulletin)

Check one:

_____ I will pick up after Church

_____ Please deliver to Shut-In

Given by:

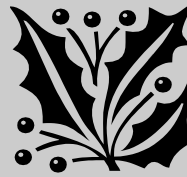
Name _____
(please print name to be listed in bulletin)

Phone _____

Total amount enclosed \$ _____



Hanging of the Greens



9:00AM

Saturday, November 29th

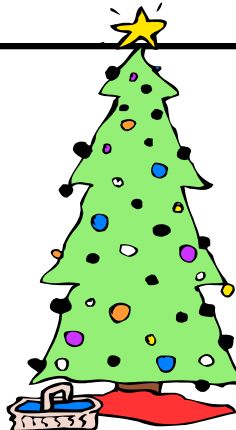
An intergenerational event ~ all ages are welcome!
Come help "**hang the greens**" as we decorate the church for Advent and Christmas.

The early Christians placed evergreens in their windows to indicate that Christ had entered the home. Holly and ivy, along with pine, and fir are called evergreens because they never change color.

They are ever-green, ever-alive, even in the midst of winter.

They symbolize the unchanging nature of our God, and they remind us of the everlasting life that is ours through Christ Jesus.

Come join in this time of fellowship!



The Giving Tree

The Christmas season is almost upon us.

Let us celebrate the birth of Christ.

Many of us will be spending special times with family and friends, baking, decorating, and sharing gifts with our loved ones.

Unfortunately for some, there would be no gifts if not for the generosity of others.

Help celebrate this joyous time by sharing with those less fortunate.

Our "**Giving Tree**" will be set up

Sunday, Nov. 16th thru Sunday, Dec. 14th.

It will be decorated with "ornaments" labeled with wishes from area children whose names come to us confidentially through local charities.

We would also like to thank the congregation for their very generous support during the past Christmas seasons.

If you wish to select an ornament, please return the wrapped gift with the labeled ornament attached to the church

by December 14th

With your generosity, we can make a difference!

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY PAGE...

THE MONTH OF DECEMBER/ADVENT



...WILL BE HELD EVERY SUNDAY!

ages 4 yrs & UP

The Nursery is available
for children ages birth thru 4 yrs.

WE'RE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

Advent for Kids

Children's Advent Activity Day

Saturday, December 13th

10:00AM - 12:00PM

Ages 4yrs - 10yrs

\$10

Kids will enjoy a morning of crafts, fun & snacks

Children's Christmas Pageant



**Sunday,
December 21st
@ 10:00AM Worship**

*Interested?
Let Us Know!*

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18TH

(NO School on Martin Luther King Jr's Bday)

**MOVIE
POPCORN
PAJAMAS**



MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW

...more details to come!

Greg & Stephen Kudiba's Annual Train Display

...will be set up the month of December!

A must SEE for every child—young & old




**A lot of thought and heart has gone into creating
these special events at Riverside.**

It'd be a blessing to have you join us for ONE or ALL!



**WILL RESUME
IN JANUARY**



DAILY ONLINE PRAYER SERVICE

12:00PM
Monday thru Friday




AT THE CHURCH

9:30AM
Every Friday

**Join us for coffee
& conversation!**

Volunteers Needed!

**If you would like to volunteer and
JOIN OUR BAKER TEAM or LAY READ
there's a sign up board at church!**

DID YOU KNOW? ...you can send your offering to the church online through Tithely?

It's a site where you can pay with your credit card & even set up recurring payments weekly or monthly.

GO TO:
https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithe.ly/give-one-time/1861124

December Scripture Readings ...

December 7, 2025

2nd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10

and Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

Romans 15:4-13

Matthew 3:1-12

December 14, 2025

3rd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35:1-10

and Psalm 146:5-10

or Luke 1:46b-55

James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11

December 21, 2025

4th Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-16

and Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-25

December 28, 2025

1st Sunday of Christmas

Isaiah 63:7-9

and Psalm 148

Hebrews 2:10-18

Matthew 2:13-23



SPECIAL OFFERINGS
CHRISTMAS JOY



THE GIVING TREE

Thank you for your generosity

Financial Snapshot for September 2025

WEEKLY GIVING:

9/07/2025:	\$1,230.00
9/14/2025:	\$2,601.00
9/21/2025:	\$1,518.00
9/28/2025:	\$1,185.00

Per Capita:	\$ 235.00
Int/Investment Income:	\$ 394.73
Tithely:	\$ 260.00
Building Use:	\$ 250.00
Other:	\$ 523.00
TOTAL INCOME:	\$8,196.73

MONTHLY EXPENSES:

Salaries/Benefits *	\$19,772.09
Utilities	\$ 580.80
Other	\$2,176.66
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$22,529.55
Surplus/Deficit	-\$14,332.82

Mission:	\$ 82.00
Memorial	\$ 25.00



*Some August Salary items were recorded in September

JOIN US for our monthly **NAP Dinner**
and **Fellowship** (Niagara Area Presbyterians)

**FELLOWSHIP
DINNER**

5:00PM
Wednesday,
December 3rd
HERE at Riverside

when members of
Bacon, First Pres Lewiston,
First Pres N F and Island United
gather **TOGETHER**

No need to bring a dish,
the hosts take care of that!
A small donation is appreciated
but not necessary



RIVERSIDE'S
SUPPER CLUB

JOIN US
6:00PM Tuesday, December 16th



2050 Cayuga Dr. Ext. Niagara Falls
...for a DUTCH TREAT MEAL TOGETHER



Want to join us for
SUPPER CLUB
and/or LUNCH BUNCH?
PLEASE LET US KNOW
so the establishments can
accommodate us!
Patty Geist 716-417-3590
Rev. Laura 716-713-6365
NOT SURE? IT'S OK!
WALK Ins are also welcome!!!

Pray and gospel fellowship for
Christmas
Carol singing

*"Glory to God in the highest
heaven, and on earth peace
to those on whom his favor rests."*

Luke: 2:14

Sermon: Rev. Laura Norris-Buisch

worship will be led by Ps. Riaz Rehmat
in Urdu, Punjabi, and English language

Details:

December 20th, 2025 at 6:00 pm
Riverside Presbyterian Church
815 84th Street Niagara Falls, NY 14304

Program Organizer: Elder Albert Mall
Norman Francis 716-454-2683
Elder Albert Mall 716-579-5184

LUNCH

12:00PM

BUNCH

Tuesday, December 9th



2939 Hyde Park Blvd, NF
Dutch Treat! Everyone is invited !



**When sending out Christmas cards,
remember our Shut Ins & brighten their day!**

JEAN AURELI

7200 Williams Rd #108
Niagara Falls NY 14304

MARY BAUER

Mountview Assisted Living
5465 Upper Mountain Rd
Lockport NY 14092

WADE BOWEN

c/o Absolute Center
4540 Lincoln Drive
Gasport NY 14067

SHIRLEY BROCIOS

Schoellkopf Health Center
621 10th St
Niagara Falls NY 14301

SYLVIA DAVIS

Crestwood Assisted Living
2600 Niagara Falls Blvd
Niagara Falls NY 14304

CORINNE KERNIN

1346 97th Street
Niagara Falls NY 14304

BETTIE LAMACCHIA

Schoellkopf Health Center #2016
621 10th Street
Niagara Falls NY 14304

JODI MASTERS

Crestwood Assisted Living
2600 Niagara Falls Blvd #347
Niagara Falls NY 14304

JANE SIEVER

3719 Cole Mill Rd
Charlotte NC 28105

JOANIE SWEARENGEN

c/o Our Lady of Peace
5285 Lewiston Rd
Lewiston NY 14092

DOROTHY SWICK

Crestwood Assisted Living
2600 Niagara Falls Blvd
Niagara Falls NY 14304

CATHERINE VANCE

100 Elderwood Court #102
Penfield NY 14526

JOIN US FOR A TAILGATE PARTY



**@ the church
AFTER WORSHIP**



**Sunday,
December 28h**

Please bring your favorite appetizer!

DECEMBER

**Happy
Birthday
Jesus!**

**70th
Birthday**

Barbara Rodgers
turns 70
on December 5th

**75th
Birthday**

Joyce Wiepert
turns 75
on December 12th

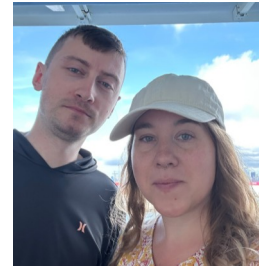
**60th
&
Fabulous**

Lori Grainieri
turns 60
on December 20th



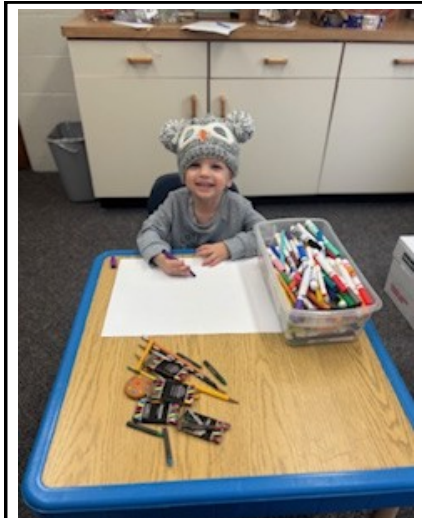
**Happy
55th
ANNIVERSARY**

**Beverly & Larry
Weatherston**
who will celebrate 55 years
on December 19th



Alexis & Shawn Kudiba
who will celebrate 10 years
on December 23rd

OUR RECENT LUNCH BUNCH



Special thanks to Lynda's grandson,
Landon Krzyskoski
for helping her get the
December Newsletter out on time!

DECEMBER 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 12PM Online Prayer Service ALL WEEK	2 12:00PM R'Workers Christmas Luncheon	3	4	5 9:30AM TGIF Coffee	6
			5:00PM N A P Dinner @ Riverside			
7 10AM Worship w/Communion & Sunday School	8 12PM Online Prayer Service ALL WEEK 5:00PM Song & Scripture 6:00PM Advent Bible Study	9 12:00PM Lunch Bunch @ Mr. M's	10 6:00PM Session Meeting	11	12 9:30AM TGIF Coffee	13  10:00AM - 12:00PM Children's Advent Activity (see pg 6)
14 10AM Worship w/Sunday School Giving Tree Gifts & Poinsettia Orders are due	15 12PM Online Prayer Service ALL WEEK 5:00PM Song & Scripture 6:00PM Advent Bible Study	16 6:00PM Supper Club @ El Cubilete	17	18	19 9:30AM TGIF Coffee	20  6:00PM Community Prayer & Christmas Carol Singing (see pg 8)
21 10AM Christmas Pageant 6:00PM Blue Christmas @ Lewiston Pres	22 12PM Online Prayer Service 5:00PM Song & Scripture 6:00PM Advent Bible Study	23 12PM Online Prayer Service	24 12PM Online Prayer Service  7:00PM 10:00PM	25 	26 NO TGIF Coffee	27
28 10AM Worship w/Sunday School followed by Tailgate Party 	29 12PM Online Prayer Service 5:00PM Song & Scripture	30 12PM Online Prayer Service	31 12PM Online Prayer Service			



DECEMBER NEWSLETTER



The Riverside Reporter

CHRISTMAS
BEGINS WITH

Christ

December 2025