

RIVERSIDE REPORTER

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

Phone 716-283-9752

Visit us at www.riversidepresnf.org

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PASTOR'S PONDERINGS....

Love Over Hate

To me, the gospel of Jesus Christ has always been about love, acceptance, and forgiveness—not hate for the other. Scripture again and again reminds us to love our enemies, to care for the vulnerable—the poor, the elderly, those with disabilities, racial and ethnic minorities, the mentally ill, the homeless, children, women, indigenous peoples, immigrants, and so many others who are often pushed to the margins of society.

And yet, here in the United States, there remains a deep divide over what the Gospel calls us to. Too often, in the very name of Jesus, some choose words of rejection and hate instead of welcome and grace. A quick scroll through social media reveals how easily anger and hostility spill over into the public square. But what purpose does hate serve?

Hate is destructive. It consumes and corrodes. At its root, it may spring from greed, jealousy, vengeance, fear, or even from a lack of self-worth. Whatever the cause, it is the opposite of the life Jesus came to bring.

Voices through history have reminded us of this truth:

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that.” – Martin Luther King, Jr.

“Hate is too great a burden to bear. It injures the hater more than it injures the hated.” – Coretta Scott King

Article continues on page 3



Rev. Laura Norris Buisch

THANKS FOR ALL YOU DID in SEPTEMBER

YOU STEPPED UP BIG

The DeMarcos
Peggy Geist
The Zaffrans
Patty Geist
Lisa Granieri
James Cowe
Fran Bailey
Kevin Kernin
Sunday AM Ushers
The Soos'
Linda Hayes
Jean Westmoore
Sue Boyce
Suzette Spagnolo
The Fischers
Barb Vollick
Kimberly Yung
Christine Stevenson
Kristen Maggi
Bob Kelly
Cindy Willaims
Lori Winker
Deanna Rosinski
Mike Roth
Sherman Wallace
Barbara Rodgers
Dave Spagnolo
Deedee Wilson
Dawn Ralph
Cindy Cook
Jill Kubiba
Diane Holt
Linda Hayes

We are thankful

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

October Flowers



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.

October 5th

In loving memory of
Herb & Dorothy Bailey
given by
Craig Bailey

October 12th

(still available)

October 19th

(still available)

October 26th

In loving memory of
Michael Johns
given by
Suzette & Joe Spagnolo

Let us pray -

O Lord, lead us from death to life,
from falsehood to truth
from despair to hope,
from fear to trust, from hate to love,
from war to peace.

Let peace fill our heart,
our world, our universe

Amen

**NOVEMBER
NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE IS...
OCTOBER 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, David Brodie (Bills's brother), 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), Terry (Patty Geist's boyfriend), Sally (Kristi Murawski's mom), Doris (Carolyn Slessor's sister in law), Paul Westmoore



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

Rev Laura's article continued from front page

Scripture is even more direct:

"Those who say, 'I love God' and hate their brothers or sisters are liars. After all, those who don't love their brothers or sisters whom they have seen can hardly love God whom they have not seen! This commandment we have from him: Those who claim to love God ought to love their brother and sister also." – 1 John 4:20-21

The call is clear. We are invited to rise above hatred and journey toward love and grace in the way we live. As followers of Jesus, we are called to care for the vulnerable with all our heart, mind, and spirit. In doing so, we not only draw nearer to one another—we also move closer to God.

My prayer is that our lives may be marked more by love than by hate, by light rather than darkness, by grace instead of fear. May we embody the gospel not as a weapon of division, but as a gift of welcome and healing for all.

Blessings! *Laura*

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
6:30PM TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8TH

Tuesday talks

**Under the Tree
HERE at Riverside**

**from 10:00AM - 11:00AM
Every Tuesday**

& continuing weekly weather permitting

Bring a chair & let's chat!



2025-2026

the 2nd & 4th Sunday in October

(NO CLASSES October 12th)

October 26th

ages 4 yrs & UP

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

WE'RE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!

***MARK
YOUR CALENDAR!***

***Sunday, November 2nd
All Saints Remembrance
during the 10:00AM service***

***Veterans Day Tuesday, November 11th
Fun Day @ Riverside
NO School... 9AM - 2PM
Ages 4 & up \$10***

A MESSAGE FROM THE RIVERSIDE WORKERS

Please remember to donate to
our Mission Giving table by the Coat Room.
We are looking for the following:

Non-perishable food items,
especially peanut butter & jelly

Cleaning supplies

Baby care items: diapers, wipes, blankets, onesies,
small toys

Pet care items: dog/cat food, small toys

Following are just some of the personal hygiene
products that have been requested by Gaskill Prep,
LaSalle Prep and Niagara Falls High School:

Tampons/Pads (Original box/package)

Deodorant

Shampoo & Conditioner

Soap, Body Wash, Face Wash & Washcloths

Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Dental Floss
& Mouthwash

Our next Business Meeting is scheduled for
10:00AM at the church on Tuesday, October 14th.

Please join us for final
Snowflake Bazaar preparations.

Christine Soos, President



October 1	Julie Kalita
October 3	Emma Chapman
October 4	Tyler Wells
October 6	Anna Leffler
October 12	Julie Kephart
	Mark Putaski
	Julie Spagnolo
October 13	Linda Hayes
October 14	Emilie Carrig
	Lori Winker
October 15	Dominic Burke
October 19	Chris Loncto
October 24	Dylan Rosinski
	Rachel Sherwood
October 26	Stuart Buisch
October 31	Kristina Zaffran



October 6	Chris & Paul Soos	★	35 years
October 14	Lori & Chris Winker		46 years
October 15	Lynn & Mike Emmick		42 years
October 20	Chantel & Steve Hulsizer		13 years
October 21	Dorothy & Dan Jones		36 years
October 25	Sheila & Terry Hare	★	50 years
	Regina & Kevin Kernin		39 years
October 31	Elisa & Roger Poole		4 years

HAPPY
Anniversary

celebrating
50
YEARS



Sheila & Terry Hare
who will celebrate
50 years together
on October 25th

Chris & Paul Soos
who will celebrate
35 years together
on October 6th

Send Us Your News
We wanna hear
all about it!



RIVERSIDE WORKERS BAZAAR



The Snowflake Bazaar, Basket Auction & Fish Fry

Friday, November 7th - 10:00AM - 7:00PM

Fish Fry 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (Fish-\$17 - Chicken-\$13)

Saturday, November 8th - 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM



Preparations for our Annual Snowflake Bazaar are in full swing! Riverside's Snowflake Bazaar is one of the best in the area and is a wonderful fundraiser to help with church projects and expenses. In the last year, we have funded the stripping/re-waxing of our main floor tiled areas as well as our lower level book room and a storage room. We also had the Coffee Hour area repainted. Four of our young adults were recipients of our Riverside Workers Scholarships. Heart, Love & Soul, St. John's Food Pantry and Meals on Wheels have received donations as part of our annual Mission Giving. With everyone's help on the Bazaar, more projects are on our agenda for the coming year.

Now accepting donations for the following:

Basket Auction:

Baskets MUST CONTAIN NEW ITEMS. We would appreciate COMPLETED BASKETS! Or we can construct a basket for you that contains NEW items. Gift cards or monetary donations are always appreciated. We also are looking for 'Big Ticket' items, such as Bills, Sabres or Bandits tickets, signed jerseys, tickets to Sheas or BPO, etc. Regular baskets should have a value of at least \$25.00. 'Big Ticket' baskets/items should be valued at least \$60.00.

Trash & Treasures & Jewelry:

We will accept your donations of gently used items in working condition.

We do not accept clothing. CUT-OFF DATE FOR DONATIONS IS OCTOBER 12TH!!

Books:

CUT-OFF DATE FOR DONATIONS IS OCTOBER 12!!

Crafts & Christmas:

If you crochet, knit, sew or create other hand-made items, please consider donating them to our Bazaar. Also, Christmas decor you no longer use is greatly appreciated.

Kitchen & Dining Room:

Pie bakers are always needed!

Bake Sale:

This is a very popular area! Pies and fruit breads are always requested. Gluten-free items are also becoming more popular. We will have a drop-off time for your baked goods as the date gets closer. All your donations should be properly labeled if they contain nuts of any kind.

GREATLY NEEDED:

Workers!!! We will have sign-up sheets available October 12th near the coffee hour!

If you can spare an hour or two to work in one of the above areas, please do not hesitate to call the office and give your name to Lynda or leave a message and we will return your call.

SO MUCH HAPPENING AT RIVERSIDE!!!

HALLOWEEN
MOVIE NIGHT

Now Showing
HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA

7:00PM
SUNDAY OCTOBER 12th
(No SCHOOL Monday!)

Bring a chair/blanket/snacks
Weather permitting we'll be outside (indoors if needed)



Blessing of the Pets

To all 'Pet Parents'...
Bring your 'Furry Family'
Saturday, October 11th
11:00AM here at the church!
... on a leash please!



**RIVERSIDE'S FIRST...
TRICK-OR-TREAT**
A NEIGHBORHOOD OUTREACH EVENT

in our main parking lot
4:00PM - 7:00PM
Friday, October 31st
Come by for some popcorn & candy
while Hocus Pocus will be playing.
Want to help? Stop by!
Want to donate candy? That would be great!



**RIVERSIDE'S
FISH FRY FUNDRAISER**

Friday, November 7th
5:00PM - 7:00PM
Dine In OR Take Out

Fish Dinner \$17
Includes Beer Battered Fish,
Potato Salad, Coleslaw, Rye Bread

Chicken Finger Dinner \$13
Includes 4 Chicken Fingers,
Potato Salad, Coleslaw, Rye Bread

FOR TICKETS
SCAN THE QR CODE
CALL THE OFFICE
OR
GET THEM ON SUNDAY



**TUESDAY
FUNDAY**

9:00AM - 2:00PM
VETERANS DAY, NOVEMBER 11
Ages 4-10 Cost is \$10
Please bring your lunch
If interested, PLEASE call
or email the church



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!



**6:30PM Monday October 6th
@ DeMarco's**



DAILY ONLINE PRAYER SERVICE

**12:00PM
Monday thru Friday**

PRAY FOR PEACE



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

October Scripture Readings ...

October 5, 2025

17th Sunday after Pentecost

Lamentations 1:1-6
and Lamentations 3:19-26
or Psalm 137

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4

and Psalm 37:1-9

2 Timothy 1:1-14

Luke 17:5-10-33



October 12, 2025

18th Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7
and Psalm 66:1-12

2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c

and Psalm 111

2 Timothy 2:8-15

Luke 17:11-19

October 19, 2025

19th Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 31:27-34

and Psalm 119:97-104

Genesis 32:22-31

and Psalm 121

2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

Luke 18:1-8

October 26, 2025

20th Sunday after Pentecost

Joel 2:23-32

and Psalm 65

Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22

and Psalm 84:1-7

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

Luke 18:9-14



for October...

ST JOHNS FOOD PANTRY

Thank you for your generosity

Financial Snapshot for July 2025

WEEKLY GIVING:

7/06/2025: \$2,123.00

7/13/2025: \$1,519.00

7/20/2025: \$2,440.00

7/27/2025 \$1,419.00

Int/Investment Income: \$410.51

Tithely: \$490.00

TOTAL INCOME: \$8,401.51

MONTHLY EXPENSES:

Salaries/Benefits \$5,367.95

Utilities \$ 335.33

Other \$3,271.16

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$8,974.44

Deficit -\$ 572.93

Mission: \$ 72.00

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

**FELLOWSHIP
DINNER**

5:00PM

**Wednesday,
October 1st**

@ Island Presbyterian

when members of Bacon Memorial,
First Pres Lewiston,
First Pres N F, and Riverside
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, October 28th

Mooneys Sports Bar & Grill

11 Main St, in Tonawanda

**...for a DUTCH TREAT MEAL TOGETHER
EVERYONE'S INVITED!**

**COMMUNITY
PRAYER**

6:00PM

**Saturday October 18th
HERE at Riverside**



**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!!!**



**FREE
Annual Seniors
Pancake Breakfast**

9:00AM - 12:00PM

Sunday, October 26th

Town of Wheatfield Lions Club
6535 Ward Rd
(next to the American Legion)



**LUNCH
12:00PM BUNCH**

Tuesday, October 21st

Judi's Lounge

2057 Military Rd. Niagara Falls

Dutch Treat! Everyone is invited !

OCTOBER 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
SNOWFLAKE BAZAAR & BASKET AUCTION Friday November 7th 10AM - 7:00PM FISH FRY/CHICKEN DINNER 5PM - 7PM Saturday November 8th 10:00AM - 2:00PM <i>Lunch/Desserts served BOTH days</i>			1 <u>NO</u> Online Prayer Service 5:00PM NAP Dinner @ Island Pres	2 <u>NO</u> Online Prayer Service	3 9:30AM TGIF Coffee <u>NO</u> Online Prayer Service	4
5 10AM Worship w/Communion  Flowers/Bailey	6 12PM Online Prayer Service 6:30PM Bible & Brew	7 12PM Online Prayer Service	8 12PM Online Prayer Service 6:30PM Session Mtg	9 12PM Online Prayer Service	10 9:30AM TGIF Coffee 12PM Online Prayer Service	11 11:00AM Pet Blessing
12 10AM Worship <u>NO</u> Sunday School Books Jewelry Trash/Treasure DEADLINE 7PM Movie Nite	13 12PM Online Prayer Service	14 10:00AM R'Workers Mtg 12PM Online Prayer Service	15 12PM Online Prayer Service	16 12PM Online Prayer Service	17 9:30AM TGIF Coffee 12PM Online Prayer Service	18 6:00PM Community Prayer
19 10AM Worship	20 12PM Online Prayer Service	21 12PM Online Prayer Service 12:00PM Lunch Bunch @ Judi's	22 12PM Online Prayer Service	23 12PM Online Prayer Service	24 9:30AM TGIF Coffee 12PM Online Prayer Service	25
26 10AM Worship w/Sunday School Reformation Sunday Flowers/Spagnolo	27 12PM Online Prayer Service	28 12PM Online Prayer Service 6:00PM Supper Club @ Mooneys	29 12PM Online Prayer Service	30 12PM Online Prayer Service	31 9:30AM TGIF Coffee 12PM Online Prayer Service  4PM - 7PM @ the CHURCH	

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Return Service Requested



The Riverside Reporter

October 2025

