

April
2024

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1st Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls



May
Newsletter Articles
Are Due on April 25th

The First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls Pastor's Corner

Did you know April is National Poetry Month? National Poetry Month is the largest literary celebration in the world, with tens of millions of readers, students, K-12 teachers, librarians, booksellers, literary events curators, publishers, bloggers, and - of course - poets marking poetry's important place in our culture and our lives every April. The goals of National Poetry Month are to:

- highlight the extraordinary legacy and ongoing achievement of American poets
- encourage the reading of poems
- assist teachers in bringing poetry into their classrooms
- increase the attention paid to poetry by national and local media
- encourage increased publication and distribution of poetry books, and
- encourage support for poets and poetry.¹

THE VOICE

There is a voice inside of you
That whispers all day long,
"I feel that this is right for me,
I know that *this* is wrong."
No teacher, preacher, parent, friend
Or wise man can decide
What's right for you—just listen to
The voice that speaks inside.

Some of the earliest poetry in my life came from the Psalms, Dr. Seuss, and Shel Silverstein. Who are some of your poetic influences?

Poetry has the power to articulate the feelings of an entire generation and people, like in the Psalms. Poetry makes us curious and imaginative like the works of Dr. Seuss. Poetry allows us to dig deep into our thoughts or laugh at absurdity like the works of Shel Silverstein. Poetry creates space for grief, anger, sadness, and joy.

This is an invitation to explore some poetry. Dive into T.S. Elliot or William Carlos Williams. Dust off your Emily Dickinson books or the works of William Shakespeare. Discover a new poet or two. Stretch your mind and try to memorize a new poem to share at the dinner table or church coffee hour.

I will leave you with one of my favorite poems: *Me We*.

It is the shortest poem ever written and it is engraved on the inside of a sibling ring. The story goes like this: Muhammed Ali delivered the poem during his Harvard commencement speech on 4 June 1975. When the students in the audience asked him to give them a poem, he said, *Me We*. In simple terms, *Me We* is a poem about one man's transition from one to the many, singularity to plurality, and selfishness to altruism. It is a story of an individual, in this case, the story of Muhammad Ali, who from the embraces of his former identity frees himself. He lets his soul free from the selfish "me" to the all-embracing "we." This poem does not contain a narration of events. Instead, it sounds like a proclamation of the speaker to the world.¹

We are because God is. We are connected to one another by the love of God. Poetry can be a powerful tool in reminding us of this deep connection.

¹ <https://poets.org/national-poetry-month/faq>

¹ <https://poemanalysis.com/muhammad-ali/me-we/>

Peace, Pastor Leah

Contact Us

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Laurie Weller- Office Manager

Kae Hoyle- Treasurer

Jim Clark-Sexton

Jen Braun- Music Director

Carol Millis- Bell Choir Director

Susan Sholar – Clerk of Session

Session

Session meets every
3rd Thursday at 10am

Presently serving

Ruling Elders:

Jim Clark, Marion Crull, Dick

Damaske, Susan Derr,

Michele Edmondson,

Jay Hoyle, Ginny Konz,

Anne Millis and Susan Sholar

Session Briefs

At its Thursday, March 21st Meeting, the Session discussed several issues. The following is a brief overview:

- Treasurer's report for February was received from Treasurer Kae Hoyle, showing Total Revenue of \$9,818.46 and Total Expenditures of \$14,895.64.
- Parish Life/Membership reported that a lunch will be held right after the Worship service on March 24th, Palm Sunday.
- Session approved the expenditure of \$1,500 for a Renewal and Revitalization Audit, to be performed by Mission Management Company. The information provided will enable the leadership team to engage in conversations about the future of the church and its Mission.
- Jim Clark with the Building and Property Committee is in the process of applying for a grant from Sacred Sites for miscellaneous repairs to the building. Session approved payment of \$6,000 to Crawford & Stearns Architects and Preservation Planners, to make C&S the "project manager" of the bidding, vetting of contractors, work inspection and sign off finished work. In addition, Session approved payment of \$10,000 to C&S for the cost of a historical preservation review and analysis.
- Pastor Leah informed Session that we are awaiting the results of grant application made to the Synod for Youth Group monies in the amount of \$7,500

Prepared by Susan Sholar, Clerk to the Session

The next meeting of the Session is Thursday, April 18th at 10am



Carolyn Seem - 04/05
Atticus Ntuala - 04/18
Ginny Konz - 04/22
Simon Ntuala - 04/24
Romona Lobdell - 04/30

Members and Friends to Keep in Our Thoughts

Carson Lankford
3120 Patton Road
Seneca Falls, NY 13148

Jean Morris
5465 Upper Mountain Rd.
Lockport, NY 14094

Our Law Enforcement
Officers, Fire Fighters and
EMTs



Stop All the Clocks

-W.H. Auden

Stop all the clocks, cut off the telephone,
Prevent the dog from barking with a juicy bone,
Silence the pianos and with muffled drum
Bring out the coffin, let the mourners come.

Let aeroplanes circle moaning overhead
Scribbling on the sky the message He Is Dead,
Put crepe bows round the white necks of the puffed-up
Let the traffic policemen wear black cotton gloves.

He was my North, my South, my East and West
My working week and my Sunday rest,
My noon, my midnight, my talk, my song;
I thought that love would last for ever: I was wrong.

The stars are not wanted now: put out every one;
Pack up the moon and dismantle the sun;
Pour away the ocean and sweep up the wood.
For nothing now can ever come to any good.

Women's Circle

Will meet on Monday, April 1st at 12:30pm in the Hawley Room

When Circle met in March, Ginny talked to us about Mandalas; their construction and use as a form of prayer. She also had pictures to show. Ruby spoke of George Washington Carver and his contributions to agriculture and science. Although Iowa State at Ames, Iowa claimed him as a graduate, Carver had first attended Simpson College in Indianola, Ruby told us. Interesting cultural diversity information from both Ginny and Ruby; the last item because at least three of us in Circle have lived in Iowa!

We continued in our discussion of the C.S. Lewis book: essays first presented on British radio in 1943. Everyone agreed that "C.S. Lewis could be writing (about) today."

At the April meeting coming up, we'll discuss chapters 4, 5, 6, & 7 of **BOOK 111:**

Morality and Psychoanalysis
Sexual Morality
Christian Marriage
Forgiveness

In the business part of the meeting, we heard Barb's treasury report and balance. She also shared news of a sizeable cash donation from an anonymous source in the congregation. We talked about buying a few canned hams for the House of Concern. A search on-line by Kae revealed Walmart as one possible source. Circle members agreed to buy five hams and Joyce will shop for them. Ginny reminded us that the House director was scheduled to give a Coffee Hour program here on March 24th.

Women in Geneva Presbytery are invited to "Spring Fling" on May 17th at The Presbyterian Church of Geneva. We'll talk more about this in April. Ruby will offer our opening prayer and Barb will have something of cultural diversity to share at the April meeting.

**Special item for The House of Concern in APRIL:
Breakfast Cereals**

**Please also remember the ongoing need for Spaghetti Sauce
and items for the "needs room":**

**Men's deodorants and other
Personal care items and laundry detergents**

**We thank everyone who makes a point of donating food and other
items each month!**





Church Family News



- **PI DAY 2024** was a rousing success! We had 125 pies up for sale, both sweet AND savory, and there were only three left at press time. A HUGE thank you to all our Bakers AND our Buyers!
- **Coffee Hour - House of Concern:** On Sunday, March 17th, Delores Morgan, Director at Seneca County House of Concern came to our Coffee Hour. She gave a good deal of information about the workings of the House and the growing numbers of people it serves. One takeaway: We always need personal care items...we can't keep up and we need laundry detergent as well!" Another takeaway: "We always need **DIAPERS!**" Our congregation is urged to stretch its individual and group generosity as much as possible. Bring some items for the "Remember Our Needy Neighbors" crates and make monetary donations! \$\$
- **Palm Sunday:** Close to 30 people enjoyed lunch together in the church social rooms following worship on Palm Sunday. There were hot soups, delicious deli sandwiches, macaroni salad, a spring greens salad, lovely brownies with walnuts and a very large, chocolate **BUNNY CAKE!** (Pies left over from PI Day were also promised but they had all frozen solid!) **Big Thanks to the Membership & Parish Life people who organized and prepared much of the food for this annual Palm Sunday congregational meal.**
- **Learn to Knit** with Barb Van Kirk is still going strong, every **Wednesday at 10am** in the Hawley Room. It's good exercise for your fingers.
- **Monthly Coffee and Conversation** with Pastor Leah will be happening at Café 19 on **Tuesday, April 16th at 10am**. Come on by and have some coffee and a chat.
- Michele Edmondson's next **Bread Baking Class** is on **April 17th at 10am**. Please come and learn how to make your house smell heavenly.
- **Pastor Leah** will be out of the office from April 1st through April 7th, to attend the meeting of General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission (GAPJC) in Louisville, KY. Susan Sholar will lead the Sunday Service on April 7th.
- **Fix-It Café** will not be happening in April, but please save up your items that need to be repaired and bring them to our experts on May 11th.

Worship Schedule

Join us online: www.fpressf.com on our YouTube Channel



April 7th - Communion - Acts 1:1-14; Mark 6:7-13.

April 14th - Acts 3:1-10; Mark 6:53-56.

April 21st - Acts 17:1-9; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10.

April 28th - Acts 18:1-4; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18.

May 5th - Communion - 1 Corinthians 13:1-3; Mark 12:28-31.



April 7th - Barry Porsch

April 14th - Anne Millis

April 21st - Carol Millis

April 28th - Dick Damaske

May 5th - Susan Sholar



Coffee Hours

April 7th - Committee Meetings

April 14th - To Be Announced

April 21st - Presbyterian Foundation - Dr. Rose Niles

April 28th - To Be Announced



Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters.
He restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
forever.

To Keep in Our Prayers: Kathleen Albert; Reatha Bishop; Jennifer Colbert; Peter Crego; Norine Crull; Cindy Danielson; Joanne Elyseev; Carl Feltus; Joanna Fuller; Walt Gable; Honey Gilbert; Pat Gordon; Rev. Deborah Grohman; Amy Guarino; Tori Guerina; Crystal Hanes; the Horton family; Jay Hoyle; Bea Jones; the Jopek family; our Law Enforcement Officers, Firefighters and EMTs; Bob Lamphere; Carson Lankford; Josh Lenard; Stephanie Lesinski; the Lobdell family; the Lopez family; Ana Marcias; Kim Martin; Ken Mell; Tyler Morgan; Roger Morin; Timothy Mosher; Jinny Noone; Joy Novack; Paula Paxton; Gene and Dean Potter; Justine Saunders; Mary Sceney; Nora Sibley; Shelley Vanderbogart; Linda Warner; Robert Wagner; Gretchen Whittacre; the Wilson family; John Yells; and all those suffering in the world.

Know someone ill or hospitalized? Please call:

Anne Millis 315-246-6264

Poems
~Nikki Grimes~

I am hardly ever able
to sort through memories
and come away whole
or untroubled.
It is difficult
To sift through the stones,
The weighty moments and
know
which is rare gem,
which raw coal,
which worthless shale or slate.
So, one by one,
I drag them across the page
and when one cuts into the
white,
leaves a trail of blood,
no matter how narrow the
stream,
then I know
I've found the real thing,
the diamond,
one of the priceless gems
my pain produced.
"There! There," I say,
"is a memory worth keeping."



Building Congregational
Vitality

Dismantling Structural Racism

Eradicating Systemic Poverty

FIRST PRES OF SENECA FALLS
A MATTHEW 25 CHURCH!

In Other FIRST PRES News...

National Poetry Month

SPRING

~Louis L. Lobdell ~

The crocuses are popping up as daffodils are showing,
As after a long winter we will soon see no more snowing,
With the ground unthawing and trees showing each bud,
Spring rains are again turning, thawed ground into mud.

The warmth of spring helps chase out the chill to set us free,
As noses sneeze again as we suffer from some allergy.
Soon again we will go out and enjoy the warmth of spring,
As newborn birds do once again their sweet melodies sing.

So go forth with rejoicing with a new song in your hearts,
As winter's cold loosens its grip as the spring's warmth starts.
So as you go out into the world to face another spring,
Say thank you to its creator, Our Savior, Lord and King.

I Worried

~Mary Oliver~

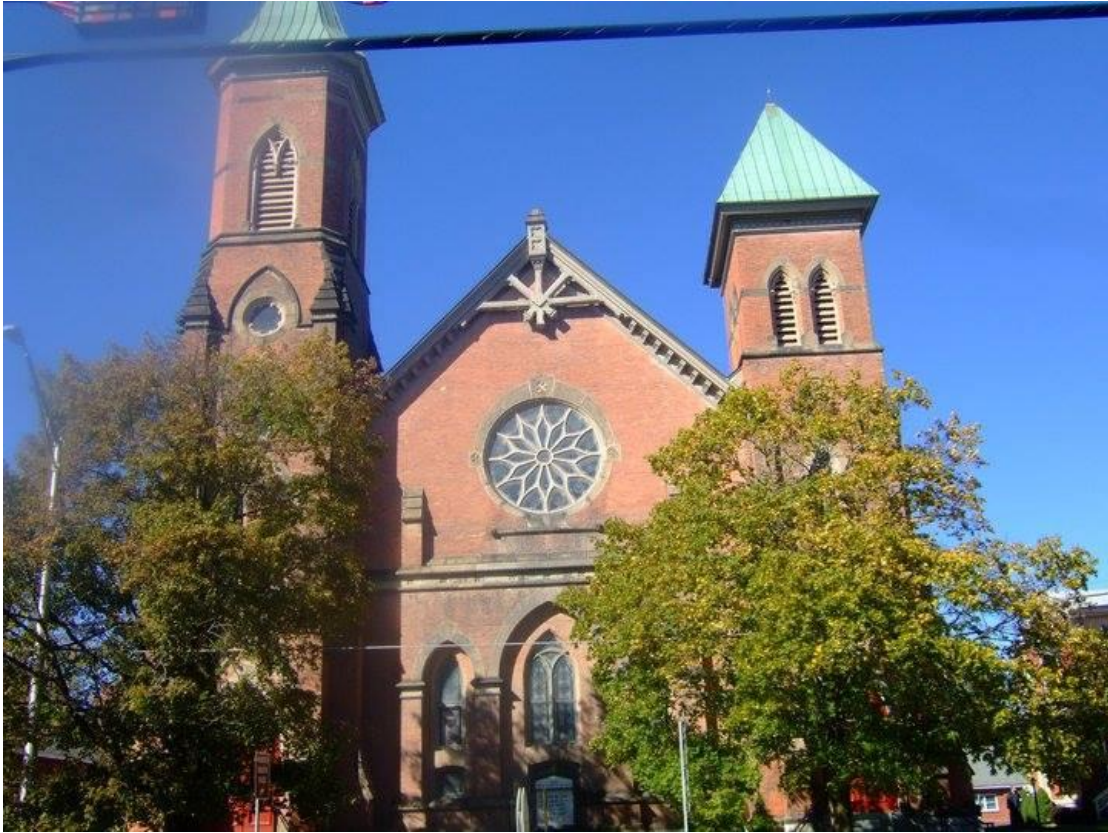
I worried a lot. Will the garden grow, will the rivers
flow in the right direction, will the earth turn
as it was taught, and if not how shall
I correct it?

Was I right, was I wrong, will I be forgiven,
can I do better?

Will I ever be able to sing, even the sparrows
can do it and I am, well,
hopeless.

Is my eyesight fading or am I just imagining it,
am I going to get rheumatism,
lockjaw, dementia?

Finally I saw that worrying had come to nothing.
And gave it up. And took my old body
and went out into the morning
and sang.



The First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls
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Happy Spring to you, a fearfully and wonderfully made child of God:

