

January
2024

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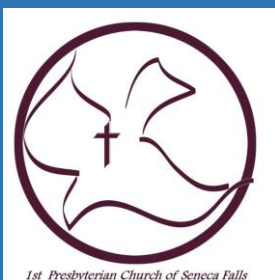
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1st Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls



February
Newsletter Articles
Are Due on January 25th

The First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls Pastor's Corner



Pastor Leah at her baptism, 2-12-78

Hear the words of our Lord Jesus Christ: *All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.* -Matthew 28:18-20

On December 24, 2023 our congregation baptized not one, but two children. What a joy! At those services, we make a promise as a congregation. We are a community of faith. We know God connects us to one another and to all living things. We affirm that responsibility at every baptism, even if the child being baptized grows up in another Christian community. Jesus calls us to welcome children into the full life of our community, opening our table and hearts to those most vulnerable, offering the wisdom of the ages to all who hunger for truth. "Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament on behalf of the church universal, promise your love, support, and care to this child being baptized as they live and grow in this Christian community? **We promise our love, support and care.**"

Remembering all of us are part of the Kingdom of God. We welcome one another and open God's table and our hearts to one another. We promise to love, support, and care for one another, as we help each other to live and grown in this Christian community. We hold the child in our prayers. We can check in to see how they are doing and what amazing things God is doing in their lives. Reminding them and us that we are connected in this family of God in this Christian community.

January 7, 2024 is the baptism of the Lord Sunday. It is a day we remember Jesus' baptism, Jesus' call for us to baptize, and our own baptisms. Some of you, like me, may have been baptized as infants. We don't remember this glorious day, but we still honor it every year on this Sunday. It is an opportunity to remember the promises we have made, remembering we are children of God, and part of the Kingdom of God. Remembering we are blessed with gifts that we use to serve in this Kingdom. Remembering we are created in the image of God and we are loved, unconditionally loved by God. Jesus commanded us to love one another in the way God loves us. May this new year be wrapped in the love of God.

Peace, Pastor Leah Ntuala

Contact Us

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Seneca Falls, NY

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Thursday
8am-3pm

Staff

Rev. Leah Ntuala-Pastor
Rev. Dr. Peter J. Crego-
Pastor Emeritus
Laurie Weller- Office Manager
Kae Hoyle- Treasurer
Peter Snyder-Sexton
Jen Braun- Music Director
Carol Millis- Bell Choir Director
Susan Sholar – pro tem 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 and
Anne Millis

Session Briefs

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

- Treasurer Kae Hoyle gave a short review of the November Financials. At last month's Session meeting, Kae and Laurie Weller, Office Manager introduced an updated method of Annual Budget Review, which will be done each year in November before the Budget is presented at the Annual Meeting in January. A draft will be presented to the Session, with each budget line item that can be modified highlighted in green, and those that can't be changed (such as taxes, insurance, etc.) in red.
- On December 11th, Pastor Leah did a presentation for the 1st Grade classes at Frank Knight school.
- Two baptisms will be held on December 24th, one at the 10am service and one at the 7pm service.
- Classes will be starting up again in January: Fix-It Café; Learn to Knit with Barb Van Kirk; Bread Making Classes with Michele Edmondson and Pet Class - CPR offered by Susan Sholar.

Prepared by Susan Sholar, pro tem Clerk to the Session

The next meeting of the Session is Thursday, January 25th at 10am



Iva Lay - 01/01
Honey Gilbert - 01/04
Barbara Lohr - 01/05
Pastor Leah Ntuala - 01/06
David Hall - 01/17
Barb Van Kirk - 01/20
Peter Snyder - 01/22
Nancy Rutz - 01/28

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



Women's Circle

Will meet on Monday, January 8th at 12:30pm - come, join us!

We had a nice turn-out for our Holiday Luncheon on December 4th. Several tables were set with festive covers and candles and a buffet table stood nearby, bearing casseroles, salads, fried chicken, baked vegetables, scalloped potatoes, and meatloaf. We were 15 at table and happy to have Jim, Dick, Wayne, and Peter joining us, as well as Laurie and Pastor Leah. Kae gave a Christmas reading and Santa (Jim) made his rounds with a sack full of gifts for all. There was laughter and gift-swapping (and more laughs as some of us tried to swap with reluctant swappers!) We sang *We Wish You a Merry Christmas* and some of us retired to the kitchen where the guys had got the dish-washing underway. It was an all-around warm and lovely time.



At the upcoming January meeting, Ruby will offer our opening Prayer and Kae will have a cultural diversity item. We'll continue with discussion of C.S. Lewis's *Mere Christianity: what one must believe to be a Christian*.

We thank everyone who brought infant and toddler diapers in December for the House of Concern. Circle members also collected personal care items: face cloths and towels, body wash, deodorants, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap bars, and shampoo for the Women's Shelter and delivered the latter before Christmas. We expect to deliver the diapers before the end of the month.

Special item for The House of Concern in January: Canned Soups & Stews

We continue to be grateful for donations for our neighbors in need from the congregation and for monetary offerings on Communion Sundays. **There was a wonderful, generous response to the shortage of pasta SAUCE in November.** Lots of people brought jars for the baskets and crates in the church and some delivered their donations directly to the House.

Thank you!

Wishing Everyone a Happy New Year 2024

"...the whole human race is, in a sense, one thing - one huge organism ..."

-C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*, Macmillan Publishing 1952



Church Family News

- A festive time was had by all at the **Manse Open House** on Sunday, December 17th, with fellowship and goodies galore.



- “The 2023 Caroling Around Town Crew” shared their Christmas Spirit on December 20th!



- **Learn to Knit** with Barb Van Kirk will begin again on January 3rd at 10am in the Hawley Room.
- Michele Edmondson’s next **Bread Baking Classes** will be held on January 17th and 31st at 10am. Don’t forget to keep practicing all those skills you’ve been learning!
- Our **Fix-It Café**, held every Saturday of the month from 10am-1pm, is on Saturday, January 13th. Bring whatever you have that needs some TLC.
- On **January 15, Martin Luther King Day**, there will be an opportunity to put together **Gifts for the Heart**. Stay tuned!
- **CPR for Pets**: Susan Sholar will teach this very important class on **Saturday, January 20th at 10:30am**. This is a don’t-miss event for all pet owners.

Worship Schedule

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



January 7th - Communion - Baptism of the Lord
Sunday - Psalm 103:1-5; Mark 1:21-45.

January 14th - Psalm 103:6-14; Mark 2:1-22.

January 21st - Psalm 126; Mark 4:1-34.

January 28th - Psalm 89:1-4; Mark 5:1-20.

February 4th - Communion - Psalm 131; Mark
5:21-43.



January 7th - Marion Crull

January 14th - Barb Van Kirk

January 21st - Barry Porsch

January 28th - Dick Damaske

February 4th - Michele Edmondson

ANOTHER REMINDER
From Ginny Konz, our Pi
Day Chairman
Pi Day Plans

I know March seems to be far in the future, but I'd like to suggest you be looking at baking supplies on sale during this season - sugar, pie tins, whatever you will need.

This has been a very successful fund-raiser for the church, and since it was decided to not have Bargains in the Basement any longer, it is really the only one. Remember, we lost our incredibly prolific baker in Stu this fall, and we really can't expect Cathy to pick up the slack on her own. I suggest that each of us bakers pledge to make one or two more pies than we usually do. Starting now, you can do this and keep them in your freezer (or mine if need be). People have pointed out the rising cost of ingredients, which is why I'm suggesting you watch the sales. Sugar and apples come to mind, and cranberries, too. Also remember - pumpkin pies don't seem to sell well in March but are big at this time of year.

Thanks,
Ginny

Coffee Hours

January 7th - Committee Meetings

January 14th - To Be Determined

January 21st - To Be Determined

January 28th - No Coffee Hour - Annual Meeting



To Keep in Our Prayers: Kathleen Albert; Reatha Bishop; Jennifer Colbert; Michael Collinsworth; Peter Crego; Norine Crull; Carl Feltus; Joanna Fuller; Walt Gable; Pat Gordon; Amy Guarino; Tori Guerina; Crystal Hanes; Susan Horton; Bea Jones; our Law Enforcement Officers, Firefighters and EMTs; Bob Lamphere; Carson Lankford; Josh Lenard; Stephanie Lesinski; David Lobdell; Ronald Lobdell Jr.; Lucy, Ephraim and Juan Carlos Lopez; the Lowry family; Kim Martin; Ken Mell; Tyler Morgan; Roger Morin; Timothy Mosher; Jinny Noone; Joy Novack; Teresa Santoski; Justine Saunders; Mary Sceney; Shelley Vanderbogart; Linda Warner; Gretchen Whittacre; the Wilson family; John Yells; and all those suffering in the world.

Know someone ill or hospitalized? Please call:

Church Office 315-568-6636

Flowers Brighten the Décor - by Ginny Konz

You may have noticed, from looking at your own yards or at the bouquets in church, that the flower season is winding down. There isn't much left in my garden, or Barb Van Kirk's or Damaske's, either. This presents an opportunity for you to become more involved in this beautifying process.

Beginning in January, there will be a sign-up chart in the back lobby of the church, right off the parking lot, where you can sign up for a day to be responsible for providing some sort of flowers or foliage for the altar area. Along with your name on a date, please write in the person, event, or whatever it is you are honoring or remembering.

Birthdays, anniversaries, and graduations are all good thoughts. You can bring in flowers from your yard in season, from the grocery or pharmacy, or a pretty house plant from home. You can also visit Sinicropi's, order something and have them deliver it - they have the fob for the back door and can easily do this.

It actually doesn't even have to be floral; we've had some incredible altar decorations that weren't. Thanks for your help!

Gifts of the Heart Kits for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

When a disaster happens, these kits are shipped immediately to help those in need. We invite you to help fund these kits. They will be assembled on MLK Day (January 15th). You can help fund this project in a couple of ways:



Your church donates directly, OR church members donate as alternative gifts for friends and family.

Hygiene Kit - \$17
School Kit - \$17

Donations or pledges for this project are needed by January 5th so that the kit contents can be purchased in time.

Send donations marked "Gifts of the Heart" to Presbytery of Geneva, PO Box 24393, Rochester, NY 14624

For more information on the Gifts of the Heart project, go to: <https://pda.pcusa.org/page/kits/#bucket>

Questions? Email Jeff Richards at jeffreyhrichards@gmail.com

Suicide Loss Support Group
Beginning January 29th 2024

Many people who have suddenly lost a family member, friend, classmate or colleague find that sharing openly with fellow survivors can help with the healing process. Twice a month support group meetings will take place. These groups are not treatment or therapy based groups, more support based and offer emotional support, healing and hope in a confidential and safe space.



Suicide Loss/Sudden Loss Support Group
WHEN: 1st & last Monday of each month
First Monday: VFW: 7068 NY-96, Ovid, NY 145216
WHEN: 5:30-7:00 PM
Last Monday: VFW: 29 W Elisha St, Waterloo, NY 13165
WHEN: 5:30-7:00 PM
Note: Please enter through front door and go up stairs



For more information:
Judy Mellgard: 814-762-6928
Holly Doe: 315-909-4667



Visit us online at:
<https://www.facebook.com/SenecaSuicidePrevention>



United Way
of Seneca County



The First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls
P.O. Box 383 Cayuga Street
Seneca Falls, NY 13148

Happy New Year to you, a fearfully and wonderfully made child of God:

