

**May
2024**

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1st Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls



June
Newsletter Articles
Are Due on May 24, 2024

The First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls Pastor's Corner



General Assembly takes place every 2 years. It is chance for the church as whole to discern the will of God. GA represents the unity of the whole church. Every Presbytery elects two members to attend the General Assembly. We are there to do work in Plenary Sessions on the committee to which we are randomly assigned. In Preparation, will need to do online training, attend zoom meetings to discuss our committee's business, and answer all registration services.

This year the theme of GA226, "Live into Hope", is based on the hymn of the same name by Jane Parker Huber. Daily themes have been chosen based on verses of the hymn. The Stated Clerk of the General Assembly chose the theme as an opportunity to charge the denomination after being in a space of lament and hope. We are now being charged to live into that hope.

The Committee I will be serving on is General Assembly Entity Coordination (GAEC). This Committee receives all items related to the operation and functions of assembly entities, including amendments to the Organization for Mission, reports from the Unification Commission, and approval of workplans. Moderator: Franzetta Turner | Vice Moderator: Ralph Clingan.

As I look forward to attending General Assembly, I realize that I have only ever attended one other GA. This is my first time as a commissioner. The only other time I have attended it was for an initial job interview with Diana Becker because she was the chair of the Pastoral Nominating Committee. GA was being held in Minneapolis, MN so Mason, Simon and I drove from Fergus Falls for me to interview with Diana. It was a life changing moment.

I am attending this GA for an entirely different purpose. I will be a voting member representing you and the Presbytery of Geneva. I pray it will also be a life changing moment and I look forward to sharing what I learned with you upon my return.

Peace, Pastor Leah

SAT.	SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.
June 29 <i>Live Into Hope</i>	June 30 <i>...and hear God's word</i>	July 1 <i>...of captive's freed</i>	July 2 <i>...the right to be</i>	July 3 <i>...the end of greed</i>	July 4 <i>...to faith, hope, and peace</i>
YAAD Training	Worship in area congregations	8:30 am Worship	8:30 am Ecumenical Worship	8:30 am Worship	8:30 am Worship
6:00-8:00 pm	1:30 pm <i>Meet the Agencies</i>	9:30 am Plenary	9:30 am Plenary	9:30 am Plenary	9:00 am Plenary
Opening Reception	2:30 pm Worship	12:00 pm Lunch	12:00 pm Lunch	12:00 pm Lunch	12:00 pm Closing Worship
Hosted by Presbytery of Utah	3:00 pm Plenary	1:30 pm Plenary	1:30 pm Plenary	1:30 pm Plenary	1:00 pm Assembl Adjourn
<i>Meet (Co)Moderator Candidates</i>	5:30 pm Dinner	5:30 pm Dinner	5:30 pm Dinner	5:30 pm Dinner	
<i>Meet the Agencies</i>	<i>Meet the Agencies</i>	7:00 pm Plenary	7:00 pm Plenary	7:00 pm Plenary	
	8:00 pm Moderator Election	9:00 pm Recess	9:00 pm Recess	9:00 pm Recess	

Contact Us

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Seneca Falls, NY

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Monday, Tuesday and
Thursday
8am-3pm

Staff

Rev. Leah Ntuala-Pastor
Rev. Dr. Peter J. Crego-
Pastor Emeritus
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, April 18th 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 \$21,113.59 and Total Expenditures of \$19,523.30. She reminded all that Per Capita is due. The Finance Committee recommends withdrawal of \$20,000 from NBT account to pay for budgeted, new furnace at Eastman Hall. NBT accounts are now in the process of being transferred to Fidelity.
- Session approved the wedding service of Cyrus Phillips and Channing Taylor on July 3rd. The wedding will be officiated by Rev. Milne from the Waterloo Presbyterian Church, as Pastor Leah will be attending the General Assembly meeting.
- Luke Choi, our Church Consultant from the Board of Pensions, attended the Session meeting via Zoom to explain upcoming changes in the health care coverage program that will take effect in 2025. The Board of Pensions will no longer require churches to provide coverage for families of Pastors. Mr. Choi reviewed the two packages that will be available and explained the structure and pricing for each. Questions from Session members and discussion followed.
- Jim Clark with the Property Committee reported that the budgeted replacement of the furnace at Eastman Hall is complete, and all went well. Some work was done on the sump pump located below the elevator pit in the church. It is now working, but we are still waiting for one part which is on order.
- The group We Exist FLX, that currently holds bi-monthly meetings in the Hawley Room, is planning to hold a Table of Found Souls gathering on Saturday, June 22nd in celebration of Pride Month and to promote community. All First Pres members are invited to attend and have been asked to provide desserts and a dish to pass.

Prepared by Laurie Weller, Clerk Pro Tem to the Session

The next meeting of the Session is Thursday, May 23rd at 10am



Sue Charles - 5/05	Hope Wilson- 05/10
Marya Virgil- 05/16	David Lay - 5/17
Karen Kelley-05/18	Dick Damaske- 05/28
Jase Clark- 05/29	Gerald Gray- 5/30
Lisa Lopez- 5/30	

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



Women's Circle

Meets on Monday, May 6th at 12:00 NOON in the Hawley Room
We're meeting a half hour earlier this month so some of us can get to appointments

Circle's April meeting took place on April 15th; postponed from the 1st. Following our lunch-chat time, Kae opened the meeting with prayer and Barb read poet Amanda Gorman's very moving, *The Hill We Climb*. Gorman was named National Poet Laureate (the youngest at age 22 years) and recited the poem at the inauguration of President Joe Biden in January of 2020.

We then moved on to discussing the assigned chapters in the C.S. Lewis book, *Mere Christianity*, MacMillan Publishing Co., Inc. New York, NY originally published 1943. The chapter, Christian Marriage, drew a lively discussion in response to Lewis's conviction that one of the couple should be the "head" and when the two in a couple cannot agree on a matter, it should fall to the "head" for a decision, with which the other will abide (Lewis uses the terms "husband" and "wife". His belief is that the wife's primary impulse is to protect the children and the husband must therefore be the one to deal with matters of the wider world). The chapter on Forgiveness also talked about love and the Christian rule "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." Because "neighbor" is not limited to the people living next door, but to everyone, really, it would include those who are our enemies. (At this point, we got into discussing certain politicians and foreign leaders.)

Since Circle has one more regular meeting before the summer break, this May meeting we'll try to read and discuss:

Chapter 8...The Great Sin

Chapter 9...Charity

Chapter 10...Hope

Chapter 11...Faith

We'll talk about where to have the annual Spring Luncheon to take place on Monday, June 3rd and each plan to call a list of women in the church, inviting them to join us.

Our thanks go out to everyone in the congregation who brings food and other items for the Neighbors in Need crates (for the House of Concern) and to the anonymous soul who often makes a generous cash donation to the Women's Circle on Communion Sundays. In March, Circle was able to send a \$100 check to One Great Hour of Sharing, designating it for Ukrainian, Israeli, and Palestinian aid.

**Special item for the House of Concern in MAY:
Non-Food Items**

**Personal Care, Laundry, Paper Products, Dish Detergent
Please also remember the ongoing need for Spaghetti Sauce**

Church Family News

- **Game Night and Potluck:** bring a dish to pass and your competitive spirit to the church on **Friday, May 3rd at 5:30pm**. Be ready to win.
- **Learn to Knit** with Barb Van Kirk is still going strong, every **Wednesday at 10am** in the Hawley Room. It's a good way to keep your mind - and your fingers - nimble.
- **Monthly Coffee and Conversation** with Pastor Leah will be happening at Café 19 on **Tuesday, May 21st at 10am**. Please come by for a beverage and a chat.
- Michele Edmondson's next **Bread Baking Class** is on **May 17th at 10am**. Please come and learn how to make your house smell heavenly.
- The United Way in Seneca Falls will be attending a Policy Workshop in Washington, DC from **Monday, May 13th through Friday, May 17th**. They want to take a community partner along and of course have chosen Pastor Leah - all expenses for the trip will be paid by the United Way. This workshop is offered by the *Policy Academy for Implementing Community-Level Policies to Prevent Alcohol Misuse*; this is a groundbreaking opportunity to improve the health and well-being of people living in the U.S. We look forward to hearing about it when she returns.
- **Baptism:** Conrad, Athena and Lucyanne, the children of Cyrus Phillips and Channing Taylor, were baptized here at First Pres on **April 14th** (see photo at left). They were so excited!
- On **April 14th**, the **Ecumenical Youth Group** met at the Pathway Home for a service project. Doing good work in the community!
- **Coffee Hour** : Dr. Rose Niles, our Ministry Relations Officer with the Presbyterian Foundation, was the speaker at our Coffee Hour on **Sunday, April 21st**. Dr. Niles is our resource for questions and information regarding stewardship, endowment, and ways to develop yearlong, spiritual discipline for giving. She will be meeting with our Finance Committee soon.





Worship Schedule

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



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

**May 12th - 1 Corinthians 15:1-26, 51-57; Mark
12:26-27a**

May 19th - Acts 2:1-4; 1 Corinthians 12:1-13

May 26th - Isaiah 6:1-8; Luke 5:8-10.

June 2nd - Communion - Isaiah 9:1-7; John 8:12.



May 5th - Michele Edmondson

May 12th - Ginny Konz

May 19th - Susan Sholar

May 26th - Barb Van Kirk

June 2nd - Marion Crull

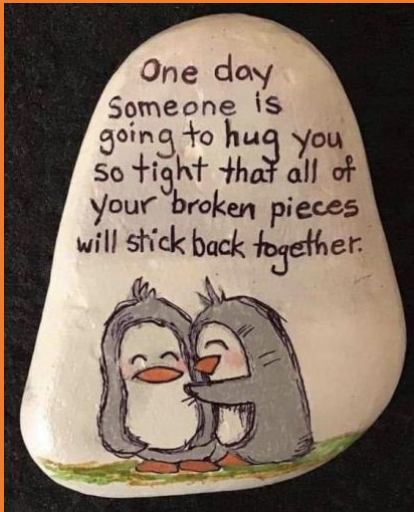
Coffee Hours

May 5th - Committee Meetings

May 12th - No Coffee Hour - Happy Mother's Day

May 19th - To Be Announced

This will be our last Coffee Hour until September



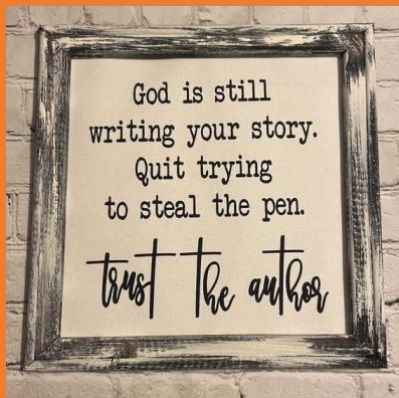
To Keep in Our Prayers: Kathleen Albert; Reatha Bishop; Robin Blundin; Jennifer Colbert; Peter Crego; Norine Crull; Cindy Danielson; Joanne Elyseev; Carl Feltus; Joanna Fuller; Walt Gable; Honey Gilbert; Diane and Cal Goodman; Pat Gordon; Rev. Deborah Grohman; Amy Guarino; Tori Guerina; Crystal Hanes; Susan Horton; 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; Linda Parker; Paula Paxton; Gene and Dean Potter; Justine Saunders; Mary Sceney; Dale Shaw; 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



It's almost time for
CAMP WHITMAN!!
150 Whitman Road
Penn Yan, NY 14527
315-220-0084
camp@campwhitman.org



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FIRST PRES OF SENECA FALLS
A MATTHEW 25 CHURCH!

In Other News...

The PC(USA) church that became a library

The former Clinton Presbyterian Church in Louisiana now serves its community as a public library

by Bill Williamson | Special to Presbyterian News Service

“I was glad to see that the church building has become a library to serve the community,” said Sara Jean Jackson as she attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Audubon Regional Library in Clinton, Louisiana, a town of 1,275 people about 45 minutes northeast of Baton Rouge.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony was the culmination of the transformation of what had been the Clinton Presbyterian Church into a library to serve the community. The library has additional branches in the nearby towns of Jackson and Greensburg.

The Clinton church was founded in 1855 but had been losing members for years. With four members remaining in 2020, the congregation made the difficult decision to close its doors. The church building was given to the city, which then made it into a space for the town library.

Jackson was present at the ribbon cutting, along with her siblings Paul, Nancy and Patsy. All four grew up in Clinton and attended the church. Their parents, Paul and Mittie Jackson, had come to Clinton early in their marriage and had made sure that all four children attended the church regularly.

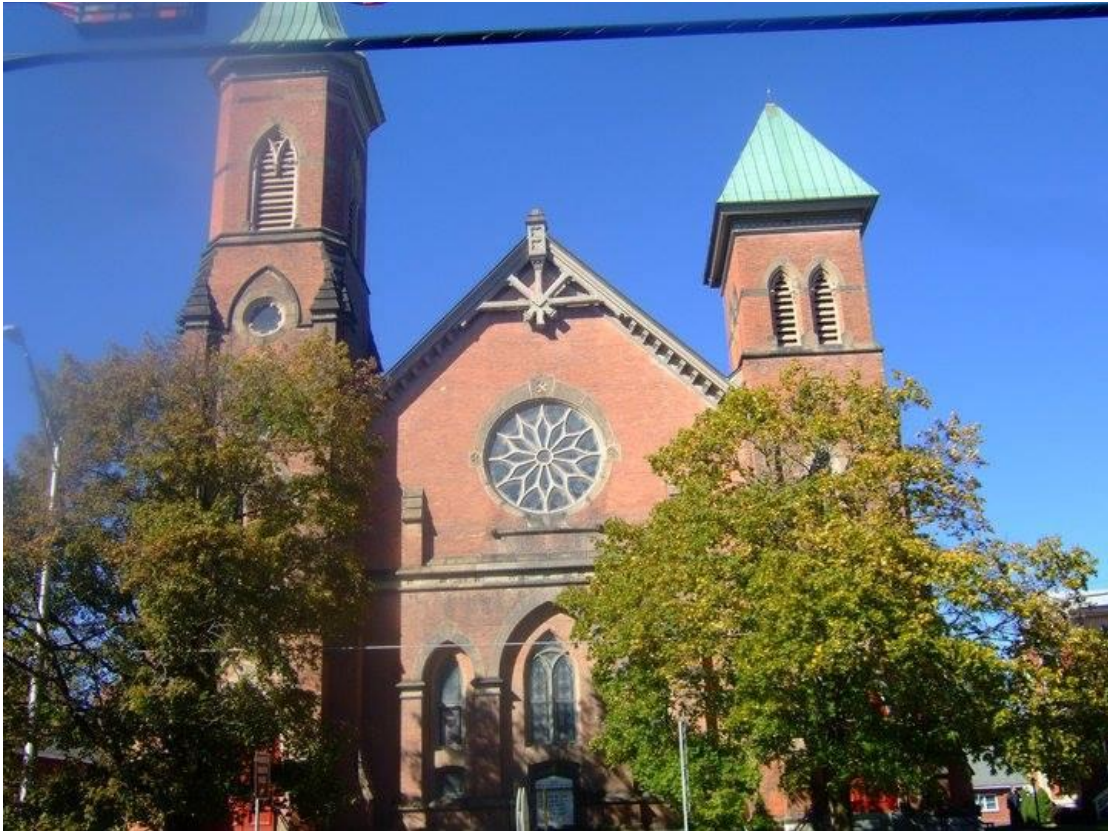
The four Jackson children continue to be active members of Presbyterian churches. Sara Jean and Paul are members of St. Philip Presbyterian Church in Houston. Patsy was the last clerk of session of the Clinton church, and now attends Pines Presbyterian Church in Houston. Nancy and her retired minister husband, Bill Williamson, attend Bardstown Road Presbyterian Church in Louisville, Kentucky. Nancy and Bill were married in the Clinton church.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), like many other denominations, has seen the closure of some of its smaller churches. When a church closes, the question becomes what to do with the now-vacant building. Former church buildings have been reconditioned and turned into restaurants, event centers, and even private residences.

The members of the former Clinton church were glad that their church was turned into a library. “It was a bittersweet day,” said Patsy Jackson, who guided the transfer of the property to the city. “Of course we were saddened to see this church close its doors after it had meant so much to our family and many others. But on the day of the ribbon-cutting, we saw children playing and reading books, adults conversing, poems being read, and a community coming together.”

“It’s not church,” she said, “but it’s close.”





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

