



# MARCH 2026

## Pastor's Corner



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**We did it!! We set an intention in 2026 of SERVICE. It is grounded in the Matthew 7:12, "In everything you do to others, as you would have them do to you, "**

**The theme song is Bob Dylan's 'You Gotta Serve Somebody'.**

**Service looks like:**

1. Housing (working alongside the Town's housing strategies)
2. Feeding People (The Gathering, HOC, Neighbor's Dinner Out)
3. Building Community (Hangout, Women's Circle, We Exist FLX, Tops, STAR, Child and Family Resources, Mosaic, Creative Choices and more)
4. Singing (adding hymn samples to ENews, looking into a contemporary music time)
5. Transitional help and support (in partnership with SC Jail)
6. Supporting the school and life-long education .

**Mother Teresa said, "Prayer in action is love, love in action is service." We are going to be returning to this theme all year, asking ourselves if our actions are in service to God; our actions prayers of love of God and God's people. I am looking forward to seeing what God will guide us to do in 2026.**



# SESSION BRIEFS

## Contact US

### The First Presbyterian Church

of Seneca Falls, NY

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Seneca Falls, NY 13148

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315-568-6636

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firstpres13148@gmail.com

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www.fpressf.com

Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday and

Thursday

8am-3pm

## Staff

Rev. Dr. 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

Anne Millis – Clerk of Session

## Session

Session meets every

2nd Thursday at 10am

Presently serving

Ruling Elders:

David Hall, Jim Hinman,

Kae Hoyle, Ginny Konz,

Anne Millis, Carol Millis and

Susan Sholar

At its Thursday, February 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting, the Session discussed several issues. The following is a brief overview:

- Pastor Leah opened the meeting with a reading and a prayer. A quorum was present; the Agenda and the January meeting minutes were approved.
- Clerk reported that a Thank You card was received from Bob Seem.
- Treasurer Kae H. provided an update regarding the New Covenant Fund and Fidelity Accounts. Total Revenue \$23,876.30 and Total Expenditures \$23,493.52.
- Pastor Leah led services with communion at Huntington and at the Seneca County jail. She attended the Town Board Presentation and Housing Meetings, the Youth Group sledding and Souper Bowl Sunday events and is helping the Senior High students with their class project. Pastor Leah discussed the ideas presented at the Annual Meeting, which was held on February 1<sup>st</sup>, and applied for a grant to attend a Con Ed wellness retreat in South Korea from July 28<sup>th</sup> - August 1<sup>st</sup>. She will be on vacation from April 23<sup>rd</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Christian Education - The Youth Group to meet on February 13<sup>th</sup> at "The Hangout."
- Outreach - will meet quarterly in 2026.
- Parish Life/Membership - Soup and sandwiches were served at the Annual Meeting.
- Personnel - The Committee will meet once a month.
- Stewardship/Finance - The 2025 Audit will be scheduled with Judy Selover. Kae H. and Laurie spoke to our rep from Church Mutual regarding church insurance policy; payments are going up due to national expenses. Church has comprehensive coverage.
- Worship & Music - An online Ash Wednesday service will be held on February 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Other Business - Discussed concerns regarding political conversations.

*Submitted by Anne Millis, Clerk to the Session*



The next Session meeting will be held on Thursday, March 12th at 10am



## March Birthdays

Carol Rook 03/08

Virginia Lay Brady 03/10

Jim Clark 03/13

Susan Derr 03/28

Wendy Kain 03/31



# WOMEN'S CIRCLE



Members and Friends  
to Keep in Our  
Thoughts

Jean Morris  
3094 Andrews Road  
Ransomville, NY 14131

Carol Rook  
2878 Hopewell-  
Manchester  
Townline  
Clifton Springs, NY 14432

Bea Jones  
Living Center at Geneva -  
North  
75 Mason Street  
Geneva, NY 14456  
Room #233

Please remember  
(personal care items,  
dish & laundry  
detergents, paper  
napkins, bathroom  
paper, cleaning  
supplies, etc.)  
as you shop



Will Meet on Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 12:30pm  
At Barb Van Kirk's House

We were, each of us feeling numbed and discouraged from stepping outside by the relentlessly *cold* weather which carried over into early February from the entire month of January. So we cancelled the February meeting. We're told by the weather people that we're now out of the grips of that polar vortex and we're already seeing more bearable temperatures on our outdoor thermometers. Praise God!

Barb has invited us to meet for lunch and the March Circle meeting at her cozy house on Auburn Road. It's the big gray house where you saw beautiful flowers lining the driveway all summer; across from the minimart/gas station. Bring your books. We'll talk about the first few chapters in *How We Learn to Be Brave: Decisive Moments in Life and Faith*, by Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde. We'll look at some of the scriptural references from both the New and First Testaments.

Be thinking about needful situations for which we can pray and take action. Remember to pick up some extra items for the HOUSE OF CONCERN when you're out shopping.

Special Item for MARCH is CANNED MEATS  
(Chicken, Beef, Pork, Fish)

All canned and packaged food items are welcomed  
every month; as well as  
cleaning supplies and personal care items.

We thank everyone who donated in February.

Here's a recipe to try:

### *Stuffed Jalapenos*

*Ingredients: 8 oz (1 pkg) Cream Cheese, softened*

*2 Cups shredded sharp cheddar cheese*

*1 Clove garlic, minced*

*16 Jalapenos, halved and seeded*

*Crushed French-fried onions, for topping*

*Instructions: Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. In a bowl, combine cream cheese, cheddar, and garlic. Fill pepper halves with cheese mixture and place on prepared baking sheet. Top with French-fried onions and bake for 15 minutes. Makes 16 servings.*

*From the Old Farmer's Almanac...Cozy Winter Recipes*

# CHURCH FAMILY NEWS



- The first Lenten Lunch was held on Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>. The group is reading and discussing Separation of Church and Hate, by John Fugelsang, and they will continue to meet until March 31<sup>st</sup>. It's not too late to join in - you don't want to miss this.
- The Youth Group - On Sunday, February 8th the Youth Group met at the UMC for Souper Bowl Sunday, and they got together again at "The Hangout" for their monthly Arcade Party on Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup>. The next meeting at "The Hangout" is scheduled on Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup> - Middle School from 6pm to 8pm and High School from 8pm to 10pm.
- Coffee and Conversation will be held on Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at Café 19. Come by, order your favorite beverage, and chat with with your church friends.

## Some of us sprang for the opportunity to vent about The Winter of '26...

- Michele Edmondson was the designated snowblower operator in her family – when she could find gloves to match the seven right-handed ones she fished out of a drawer. Things do go missing and she wonders if those glove mates “ran off with all the sock” mates that also disappeared this winter.
- Kae and Jay said that in addition to finding it hard to get around with tasks of shoveling and housekeeping without extra help, they suffered constant anxiety that the giant icicles clinging to their roof would come crashing down, bringing the gutters with them! Joyce Lohr said the extreme cold always puts her in an emotional /mental freeze or suspended animation feeling which she struggles to overcome by lapsing into puzzle-solving (she now has 437 Spelling Bee Geniuses and a nearly 10 week WORDLE winning streak). Wayne says he doesn't “think much about the cold.” He wears woolen socks to bed and the fleeced-lined shirt he got for Christmas, which he insists on putting back on as soon as it comes out of the washer & dryer. They were also greatly cheered and helped by a Cayuga Street neighbor, Jim; who when he cooks, makes huge quantities and brings them some. “We have a good life,” Wayne says.



**LENTEEN LUNCH  
& LEARN**

Beginning on Tuesday, February 24th from 12pm to 1pm in the Social Hall and ending on March 31st, Pastor Leah will be leading a Lenten Lunch Bible Study featuring the New York Times Bestseller Separation of Church and Hate, by John Fugelsang.

The First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls  
23 Cayuga St, Seneca Falls, NY  
www.fpressf.com



coffee and conversation



WE MEET THE 4<sup>TH</sup> TUESDAY  
OF THE MONTH AT CAFE 19.

WE CHAT ABOUT WHATEVER  
IS ON OUR MINDS THAT DAY  
AND WE WOULD LOVE TO  
HAVE YOU JOIN US.

# WORSHIP

Join us online: [www.fpressf.com](http://www.fpressf.com) on our YouTube Channel

March 1 - Communion - Psalm 51:7-12; John 13:1-17

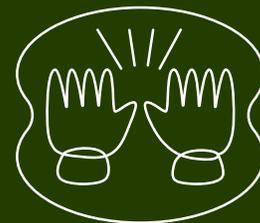
March 8 - Psalm 17:1-7; John 18: 12-27

March 15 - Psalm 145:10-13; John 18:28-40

March 22 - Psalm 146; John 19:1-16a

March 29- Palm Sunday - Psalm 24; John 19:16b-22, [12:12-27]

April 5- Easter Sunday - Communion - Psalm 118:21-29; John 20:1-18



## LITURGISTS

March 1 - Susan Derr

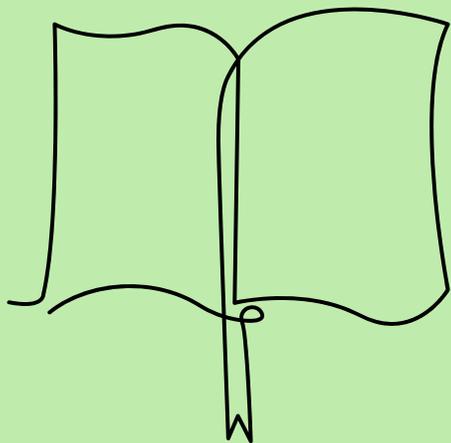
March 8 - Carol Millis

March 15 - Dick Damaske

March 22 - Susan Sholar

March 29- Ginny Konz

April 5- Marion Crull



## GREETERS

March 1 - Carol Millis and Anne Millis

March 8 - Marion Crull

March 15 - Claire and Dick Damaske

March 22 - Mason Ntuala and Atticus Ntuala

March 29- To Be Determined

April 5- Susan Sholar and Kae Hoyle



## NURSERY

March 1 - Ginny Konz

March 8 - Carol Millis

March 15 - Zoe Van Kirk

March 22 - Anne Millis

March 29- Marion Crull

April 5- Ginny Konz



## COFFEE HOURS



March 1 - No Coffee Hour - Committee Meetings

March 8 - Matthew Cramer Presentation

March 15 - Barmen Declaration

March 22 - Simon Sinek & Trevor Noah

March 29 - Palm Sunday - Luncheon

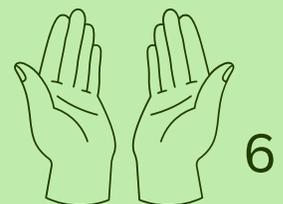
April 4 - No Coffee Hour - Easter Sunday

Please let us know if you have any suggestions  
for Coffee Hour Programs!

## TO KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS

Kathleen Albert; Reatha Bishop; Robin Blundon; Lori and Steve Clayton; Jennifer Colbert; Peter Crego; Cindy Danielson; Joanie Duval; Michele Edmondson; Carl Feltus; Joanna Fuller; Diane and Cal Goodman; Cary Gordon and Family; Pat Gordon; Tina Graef; Gerry Gray; Amy Guarino; Tori Guerina; Crystal Hanes; Cindy Hinman-Cosola; Susan Horton; Bea Jones; our Law Enforcement Officers, Firefighters and EMTs; Bob Lamphere; Josh Lenard; Stephanie Lesinski; the Lobdell family; Wayne and Joyce Lohr; the Lopez family; the Mack family; Kim Martin; Ken Mell; Kathy Minnier; Tyler Morgan; Roger Morin; Timothy Mosher; Joy Novack; Paul Novack; Linda Parker; Paula Paxton; Gene and Dean Potter; Justine Saunders; Ken Saunders; Bob Seem; Susan Sholar; Nora Sibley; Shelley Vanderbogart; Lori Varallo; Barb and Jack Wagener; Robert Wagner; Linda Warner; Gretchen Whittacre; the Wilson family; and all those suffering in the world.

Know someone ill or hospitalized?  
Please call Anne Millis 315-246-6264



## IN OTHER NEWS...New Members

### JIM AND DIANA HINMAN

No surprise, both Jim and Diana are from this area. Diana lived in Interlaken; Jim lived on Yerkes Road in Romulus. Yerkes Road happens to be named for his mother's family. They both graduated from high school in 1966, Diana from Interlaken, Jim from Romulus. They met at the South Seneca Ambulance headquarters where their shifts overlapped. They were both EMTs and, as we know, are still involved in helping the community. They were married on April 17, 1975 at the Presbyterian church in Romulus.

Joyce Novack, the last pastor of that church, had been in high school with Jim, so it's not surprising that they joined the Romulus church and were very involved in its operation. They are still very frustrated with the way the Presbytery handled the closing of that church, which was very poorly. They followed the Novacks here when that church closed and stayed when the Novacks left to retire in Florida. For years they resisted joining us officially, wanting to keep their membership connected to Romulus, but just recently they decided to officially join us - undoubtedly won over by our delightful, outgoing personalities. We look forward to more active participation from them. Jim also agreed to join Session, and he will be a great asset there also.

### PAUL DILL

Paul grew up in the Rochester area - mostly in Irondequoit. The family had moved from Pittsford, and his mother found this new area to be much more friendly, a real neighborhood, which is how Paul feels about Seneca Falls. He was born into a Catholic family and spent his school days in parochial schools, but here in Seneca Falls he had been attending a Lutheran church and was nearly a daily visitor at the drop-in center next door to us, with Christina Lopez. He found us through her and now feels like he has truly found his neighborhood. He and Christina team up to be greeters or to provide treats for coffee hours, and we're delighted to have both of them.

*~ submitted by Ginny Konz ~*





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**HAPPY St. Patrick's Day to you, a fearfully and wonderfully made child of God:**

