

May
2025

Inside This Issue:

Pastor's Corner -1

Reminders -1

Contact List - 2

Session Briefs - 2

Birthday List -2

Women's Circle -3

Members to Keep in
our Thoughts - 3

Church Family
News -4

Worship Schedule -5

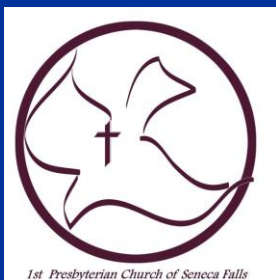
Liturgist List – 5

Coffee Hour -6

Prayer List – 6

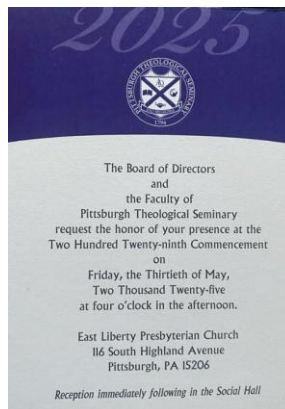
Other News -7

Calendar -Insert



June
Newsletter Articles
Are Due on May 27th

The First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls Pastor's Corner



Dearest Church Family,
I finished the doctorate program! (There will be a link to the graduation).

What is it? A Doctorate of Ministry (DMin) is a professional doctorate in ministry, designed to equip practitioners with advanced knowledge and skills in specific areas of ministry. It focuses on applying research and scholarship to practical ministry settings, rather than solely on advanced research.

What did I accomplish? This is a link to the [Final Project](#)¹ on stewardship. This program uses a cohort model focused on specific themes of Christian spiritual formation or church leadership, facilitating peer relationships and shared leadership throughout the D.Min. journey.¹

Why did I do it? I answered yes to these three questions about why I would pursue a D Min Program and why at PTS.

- Is the work of ministry raising questions you never thought to ask in seminary?
- Are you craving a deep learning community where you can develop practices that better equip you to serve God's people?
- Is there a revelation written on your heart that you need help from a community of care and learning to birth into reality?

What does it mean? It means I love coffee and research. It also means I want to dig in deeper into the community of Seneca Falls, utilizing what I learned in school, but also throughout the research process. It means implementing what I learned from you as we discerned together what God is calling us to do as a church.

It means participating in the Outreach Ministry, working with the Youth Group and Hangout, partnering with other organizations to do more impactful work, writing grants for funding, being the chair of the SF Housing Committee, chaplaincy, and being a faith leader for the NYS Office of Faith & Nonprofit Development Services and the NYS Executive Committee for the Interfaith Council.

I love working with you all and I am so grateful to celebrate this accomplishment with you. It would have been impossible without your understanding, support, and participation

Peace, Reverend Dr. Leah Ntuala

¹ <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zotQsPO4nm5ZJ9f2ZNOZOLuG9mHYnWzE/view?usp=sharing>

¹ <https://www.pts.edu/doctor-of-ministry>

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
Anne Millis – Clerk of Session

Session

Session meets every
3rd Thursday at 10am

Presently serving
Ruling Elders:

Jim Clark, Marion Crull, Dick
Damaske, Susan Derr,
David Hall, Kae Hoyle, Ginny
Konz, Anne Millis and Susan
Sholar

SESSION



At its Thursday, April 17th Meeting, the Session discussed several issues. The following is a brief overview:

- Received thank you notes from House of Concern and Claire Damaske, and verbal thanks from Hope Wilson and Michele Edmondson. Pathway Home holding annual Butterfly Release.
- Letter of Transfer received for Penny and Ken Saunders from West Fayette Church. Accepted.
- Request received from Mynderse Academy for Project Graduation - donation to be sent from Coffee Hour fund.
- Treasurer's report for March was received from Treasurer Kae H.; Total Revenue \$13,799.52 and Total Expenditures of \$24,734.84. Check returned from Habitat for Humanity as Seneca County group has disbanded; funds to be included in house purchase. Deed received, written agreement for donation of house to Land Bank needs to be done. Fee for donation est. \$500-900, Session approved. Letter received from Horle estate, will receive 10% of estate income; 2024 amount approximately \$6,000.00.
- Pastor Leah served communion and conducted services at Huntington on April 6th & 8th. Will attend GAPJC and training; Wednesday Jail Ministry asking for Daily Bread to read.
- Chaperone needed for the Youth Game Night in "The Hangout" on April 25th; Dick Damaske volunteered.
- Outreach Meeting on April 22nd at SF Methodist Church; Town Committee House Meeting will be held at FPSF on May 8th.
- Parish Life/Membership held a lovely brunch on Palm Sunday.
- Property - thank you to Sue Charles for garden work. Information given regarding different solar tables for Memorial Garden; Session approved purchase. Set will remain outside all year and will be paid for out of Memorial Fund.
- Worship & Music will change sanctuary from Lent to Easter season.
- Will prepare a Press Release regarding house purchase.

The next meeting of the Session will be held on Thursday,
May 15th at 10am



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

Members and Friends to Keep in Our Thoughts

Jean Morris
5465 Upper Mountain Rd.
Lockport, NY 14094

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

Our Law Enforcement
Officers, Fire Fighters and
EMTs



Women's Circle

Meets on Monday, May 5th at 12:30pm in the Hawley Room

In April, following sandwiches or salads and our usual chat time, Barb opened Circle's meeting with prayer. Joyce shared some information about Muslim history in the United States*, in keeping with our efforts toward cultural bridging. Ruby mentioned the new (Federal) administration's banning of DEI (Diversity, Equity & Inclusion) efforts in government, education, and business. In January of this year, President Trump called DEI efforts "illegal and immoral discriminating programs" and "public Waste". He rescinded President Lyndon Johnson's 1965 executive order # 11246. We talked about the benefits and possible drawbacks created by DEI measures.

In our discussion of *Breathing Under Water* (Richard Rohr, 2011) we talked about chapter 5: **Accountability IS Sustainability** or sin or evil is to be punished and justice restored. The punishment is either retributive or restorative. In chapter 6: **The Chicken or the Egg: Which Comes First?** God's grace can help us with our defects but we first have to, ourselves, work to recognize and take responsibility for them. **Grace and responsibility both come first!**

Barb shared some interesting information about English Anglican Clergyman, John Newton. As a seaman, Newton experienced frightening storms. Following service in the Navy, Newton participated in the slave trade. He later came to Christianity and was ordained to the priesthood. He also had become an abolitionist. He wrote *Amazing Grace* acknowledging his own sinful past and the "amazing grace" that saved him.

Our treasury is growing a bit. To date there is a balance of \$199.76 and \$100 was sent to the Seneca Falls Fire Dept. for its Ovid fire recovery fund.

For the May 5th meeting, Kae will offer our opening prayer. Ruby will share something for cultural bridging. Everyone should finish reading *Breathing Under Water* and we'll make plans for the Spring Luncheon always taking place in early June.

Our thanks to whoever took the March donations to the House of Concern, and to anyone who brought Breakfast Items in April or helped us with \$\$ donations!

**Special Item for May is Non-Food Items
(personal care items, dish & laundry detergents, paper napkins,
bathroom paper, cleaning supplies, etc.)**

*Muslims were among slaves brought to the Americas from West Africa in the 1700s. Muslim Philipinos were brought here to participate in the World Fair in St. Louis 1904.



Coffee



& Conversation

Church Family News

- **Chaplain Service at Seneca County Correctional Facility:** Pastor Leah continues to serve as Chaplain and, with assistance from Peter Guarino, is leading services each week on Wednesdays for both men and women.
- **The Little Black Dress - Angels Among Us:** the Seneca County House of Concern presented The Little Black Dress reception and fashion show at the Lux Hotel in Waterloo, on **Friday, April 11th and Saturday, April 12th**. Pastor Leah was part of the show, and a good time was had by all - thanks to all who attended.



- **Easter Service:** First Pres had a beautiful service on Easter Sunday, with many flowers and plants placed in the sanctuary in memory or honor of loved ones.



- **On Friday, May 9th, the Youth Group** will once again meet at The Hang Out to play games and have snacks. The Middle Schoolers will be here from 6pm to 8pm, and the High School crew will hang out from 8pm to 10pm.
- **A Memorial Service for Joanne Elysée** will be held here at the church on **Sunday, May 11th at 11:30am**, with a reception to follow in the Social Hall.
- **Coffee and Conversation:** don't forget to join Pastor Leah at Café 19 on **Tuesday, May 27th at 10am** - meet up with your church friends and order your favorite goodies.
- **Pastor Leah Graduation:** Pastor Leah will officially become Rev. Dr. Leah Ntuala on Friday, May 30th! A link to the graduation will be provided.



Worship Schedule

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

May 4th - Communion - Luke 23:33-34a, 46; Acts 6:1 - 7:2a, 44-60.

May 11th - Luke 24:44-47; Acts 8:26-39.

May 18th - Luke 2:29-32; Acts 15:1-18.

May 25th - Luke 18:9-14; Galatians 1:13-17, 2:11-21.

June 1st - Communion - Luke 1:68-79; Galatians 3:1-9, 23-29.



May 4^h - Carol Millis

May 11th - Susan Sholar

May 18th - Barb Van Kirk

May 25th - Anne Millis

June 1st - Marion Crull



May 4th - Zoe Van Kirk

May 11th - Marion Crull

May 18th - Anne Millis

May 25th - Susan Sholar

June 1st - Carol Millis



Coffee Hours



May 4th: No Coffee Hour - Committee Meetings

May 11th: No Coffee Hour - Joanne Elysée Memorial

May 18th: Ryan Staychock - Recycle/Compost

May 25th: To Be Determined

June 1st: No Coffee Hour - Committee Meetings



To Keep in Our Prayers: All those impacted by the recent fire in Ovid; Kathleen Albert; Reatha Bishop; Robin Blundon; Lori and Steve Clayton; Jennifer Colbert; Peter Crego; Cindy Danielson; Joanie Duval; Carl Feltus; Joanna Fuller; Diane and Cal Goodman; Cary Gordon and Family; Pat Gordon; Gerry Gray; Rev. Deborah Grohman; Amy Guarino; Tori Guerina; Crystal Hanes; Cindy Hinman-Cosola; Susan Horton; Bea Jones; the Jopek family; our Law Enforcement Officers, Firefighters and EMTs; Bob Lamphere; Josh Lenard; Stephanie Lesinski; Ronnie Lobdell; 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; Mary Sceney; 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



The Presbytery of Geneva, in a combined effort with the Presbyterian Hunger Program, "Cents-Ability" initiative needs your support. Once monthly, Presbyterian churches are asked to collect the equivalent of five cents per person per meal per day. These funds go to benefit the Matthew 25 grant program, specifically donated to food insecurity. Please visit the website:

<https://pcusa.org/resource/cents-abilityguide>.



Building Congregational Vitality
 Dismantling Structural Racism
 Eradicating Systemic Poverty
 FIRST PRES OF SENECA FALLS
 A MATTHEW 25 CHURCH!

Preaching Politics from the Pulpit

www.pewforum.org

During every election cycle, many religious congregations find themselves wondering what role, if any, they can play in the political process. Can a minister, rabbi, imam or other member of the clergy endorse a candidate from the pulpit or speak on political issues of interest to voters? Is a church or other house of worship legally permitted to register voters or distribute voter guides? Answers to these and many other questions are contained in this guide.

The guide sets out in plain English the rules governing political activity that apply to nonprofit organizations (including churches and other religious groups) that are exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The 2012 edition of the guide updates versions published by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life in 2002, 2004 and 2008. The original report was written by Deirdre Dessingue, associate general counsel of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and a leading expert on the taxation of religious organizations. The latest edition of the guide has vetted by a number of other prominent legal experts in this field...click the link below:

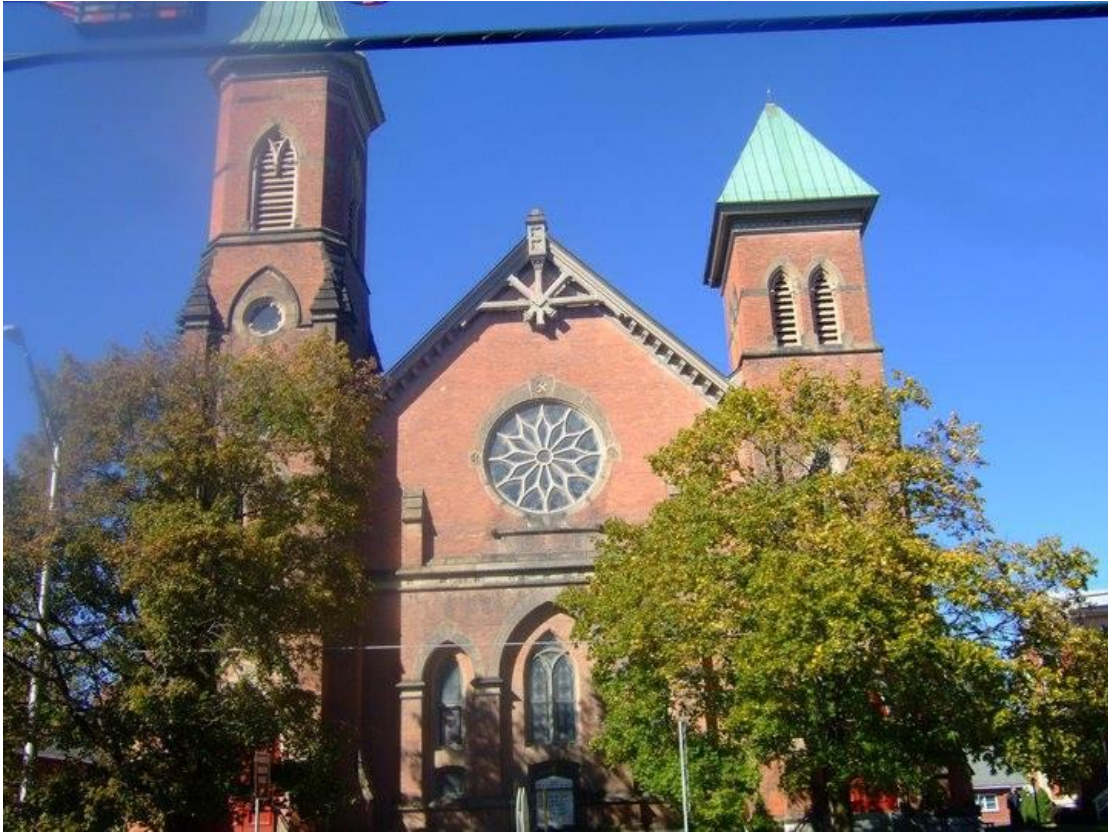
<http://pewrsr.ch/14gr2IQ>

**Marching in the Light of Christ
 Standing up for what Jesus taught**

**Sunday, June 8, 2025, 2:30pm
 at the Bicentennial Park in Geneva, NY**

Modeling the Ministry of Jesus, in service of the least of these, we:

- Feed the hungry food-addressing food insecurity, farmers, and SNAP
- Give the thirsty a drink- access to clean, safe environments and climate change
- Welcome in the stranger-deportation with no due process, immigration
 - Care for the sick- ensuring Medicaid/Medicare
- Do not steal- maintaining Social Security and closing tax loopholes
 - Visit the prisoners- privatization and detention centers
- Blessed are the Peacemakers- reducing military spending and invasions
 - Make disciples of all Nations- Diversity is beautiful



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

Happy Memorial Day to you, a fearfully and wonderfully made child of God:

