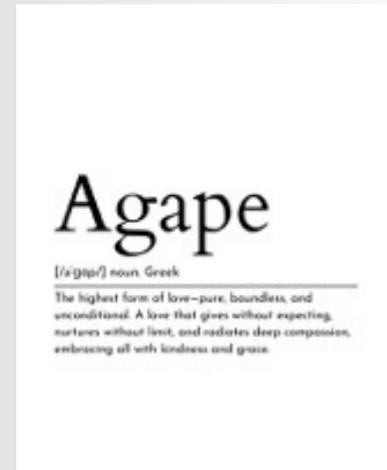




FEBRUARY 2026

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Because of Valentine's Day, February is often seen as the month of love. Truly, truly I tell you that every month is a month of love, for we are always, daily, and forever loved by God.

According to *Medium* there are five ways we know we are truly loved. I have made them into statements from God.

1. *God sees you as you are.* "You are fearfully and wonderfully made." - Psalm 139:14
2. *God's love is unconditional.* "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness." - Jeremiah 13:3
3. *God sees the best in you and seeks your best interest all the time.* "And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge - that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God." - Ephesians 3:17-19
4. *God encourages your personal growth and development.* "For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God." - Colossians 1:9-10
5. *God's love endures life challenges.* "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." - Romans 8:38-39

In this season of love may you remember you are loved by God, fully and completely. May we share this love with all we meet.

Peace, Pastor Leah



SESSION BRIEFS

At its Thursday, January 8th 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 December meeting minutes were approved.
- Anne Millis was elected Clerk of Session and Kae Hoyle was elected Treasurer.
- Clerk reported that Thank You cards were received from Susan Avery and Jean Morris. Camp Whitman sent a letter requesting donations.
- Treasurer Kae H. provided an update regarding Stewardship funds and Funds Development. Total Revenue \$8,956.82 and Total Expenditures \$27,435.93.
- Pastor Leah led services with communion at Huntington and at the Seneca County jail. Three baptisms were done on December 24th. Pastor Leah will conduct a funeral on January 10th, a wedding on January 24th and she attended several meetings. She wants to apply for a grant for a Continuing Education wellness retreat; Pastor made a motion which was seconded and approved. In addition, Pastor Leah will take a weekend vacation from April 23rd to 26th.
- Christian Education - Youth Group to meet on January 9th at "The Hangout." They will also attend the MLK March in Geneva on January 19th.
- Outreach - will meet quarterly in 2026.
- Parish Life/Membership - will be serving soup and sandwiches at the Annual Meeting. Pastor Leah will be doing visitations and phone calls on Thursdays.
- Personnel - will meet once a month.
- Property - will put down flooring in Eastman Hall and shampoo the carpet. The estimate is approximately \$3,500.
- Stewardship/Finance - the donation of 4 Seneca Lane is now complete. Would like to look over the 2026 Budget before the Annual Meeting. A discussion was held regarding Per Capita - each member to pay \$51.00. A motion was made, seconded and passed. Funds will be transferred from Fidelity.
- Worship & Music - will think about whether or not to have a service the day after Christmas in 2026. There will be Lenten Lessons beginning after Ash Wednesday, which is on February 18th.

Submitted by Anne Millis, Clerk of the Session



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



February Birthdays

Barb Wagener 02/09
Elizabeth Lohr Olmstead 02/17
Susan Sholar 02/20
Jan Day 02/29

Contact US

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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:

Marion Crull, David Hall, Jim
Hinman, Kae Hoyle, Ginny
Konz, Anne Millis, Carol Millis
and Susan Sholar

WOMEN'S CIRCLE

Will Meet on Monday, February 2nd at 12:30pm
In the Hawley Room

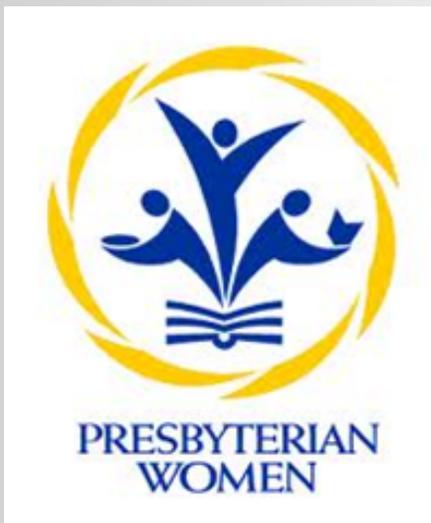
Circle's plans for meeting in January "fell through" for weather and health reasons and at this writing the outlook for February is a little *bleak*, shall we say? The above heading may sound determined on our part, but the frigid temperatures that have greeted us in recent mornings have often failed to rise much during the day, so we'll remain flexible about meeting on February 2nd!

We do have a book. *How We Learn to Be Brave: Decisive Moments in Life and Faith*, by Mariann Edgar Budde, Avery/Penguin/Random House 2023. The author is Episcopal Bishop of Washington, DC. As another Episcopal bishop, the Most Reverend Michael B. Curry has said, "...Bishop Mariann Budde reminds us that extraordinary courage is possible for ordinary people." Her book offers us "the faith and the tools that make such courage possible for us," he adds.

In response to a letter from the House of Concern, Circle made a donation of \$150.00 in early January.

Special Item for FEBRUARY is SOUPS
Canned and packaged food items are welcomed
every month; as well as
cleaning supplies and personal care items.

We thank everyone who donated in January.



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



CHURCH FAMILY NEWS



- Due to very cold and inclement weather, the Annual Meeting and Luncheon was postponed until Sunday, February 1st after the worship service. We will approve the 2026 budget, renew the Pastor's contract, and discuss other business. Please be sure to bring a dessert to share. See you there!
- The Youth Group - On Friday, January 9th the Youth Group got together at "The Hangout" for their monthly Arcade Party, and they met again on January 19th at 9am at the UMC and carpooled to Geneva, NY for the Annual MLK, Jr. March.



- The next Youth Group meeting at "The Hangout" is scheduled on Friday, February 13th - Middle School from 6pm to 8pm and High School from 8pm to 10pm.
- Coffee and Conversation will be held on Tuesday, February 27th at Café 19. Come by, order your favorite beverage, and chat with with your church friends.
- Pastor Leah will be leading a Lenten Lunch and Learn in the Social Hall from 12pm to 1pm, beginning on Tuesday, February 24th and ending on March 31st. Please see the *In Other News* section on Page 7 for more details - you won't want to miss this.



WORSHIP



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

February 1 - Communion - Psalm 42:1-3; John 4:1-42

February 8 - Psalm 40:1-5; John 4:46-54 [5:1-18]

February 15 - Psalm 27:1-4; John 9:1-41

February 22 - Psalm 104:27-30; John 11:1-44

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



LITURGISTS

February 1 - Ginny Konz
February 8 - Marion Crull
February 15 - Anne Millis
February 22 - Michelle Edmondson
March 1 - Sue Derr

GREETERS



February 1 - David Hall & Jim Hinman
February 8 - Barb & Zoe Van Kirk
February 15 - Christina Lopez & Paul Dill
February 22 - Ginny Konz
March 1 - Carol & Anne Millis



NURSERY

February 1 - Carol Millis
February 8 - Zoe Van Kirk
February 15 - Anne Millis
February 22 - Marion Crull
March 1 - Ginny Konz

COFFEE HOURS



February 1 - No Coffee Hour - Annual Meeting/Lunch

February 8 - Valentine Sunday

February 15 - To Be Determined

February 22 - To Be Determined

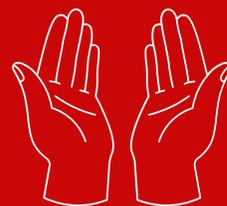
March 1 - No Coffee Hour - Committee Meetings

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....

Lenten Lunch and Learn

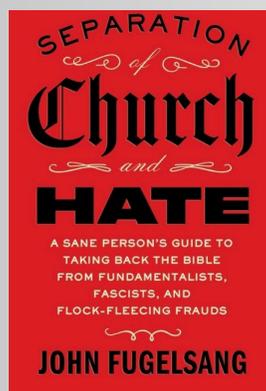
Beginning on Tuesday, February 24th from 12pm to 1pm in the Social Hall and ending on March 31st, Pastor Leah will be leading a Lenten Lunch and Learn featuring the *New York Times* Bestseller *Separation of Church and Hate*, by John Fugelsang.

“In the spirit of George Carlin and Christopher Hitchens, the son of a former Catholic nun and a Franciscan brother delivers a deeply irreverent and biblically correct takedown of far-right Christian hatred - a book for believers, atheists, agnostics, and anyone who’ll ever have to deal with a Christian nationalist.

“For more than two centuries, the United States Constitution has given us the right to a society where church and state exist independently. But Christianity has been hijacked by far-right groups and politicians who seek to impose their narrow views on government, often to justify oppressive and unequal policies. The extremists who weaponize the Bible for earthly power aren’t actually on the side of Jesus - and historically they never have been. How do we fight back against those acting - literally - in bad faith?

“Comedian and broadcaster John Fugelsang finally offers the answers. In this informative, perspective-shifting book, Fugelsang takes readers through common fundamentalist arguments on abortion, immigrations, LGBTQ rights, and more - exposing their hypocrisy and inaccuracy through scripture, common sense, and deeply inappropriate humor. It offers practical tips on how to debate your loved one, coworker, or neighbor on the issues that divide us using that Bible they claim to follow.

“But Fugelsang’s message is about more than just taking down hypocrites. It’s about fighting for the love, mercy, and service that are supposed to make up the heart of Christianity. Told with Fugelsang’s trademark blend of radical honesty, comedy, and deep political and religious knowledge, *Separation of Church and Hate* is the book every American needs today. It’s a rallying cry for compassion and clarity for anyone of any faith who’s sick of religion being used as a cloaking device for hate.”





The First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls
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23 Cayuga
Seneca Falls, NY 13148

HAPPY Valentine's Day to you, a fearfully and wonderfully made child of God:

