

March
2025

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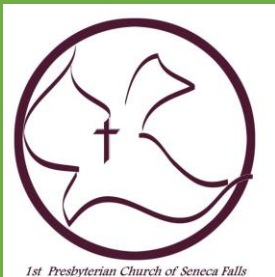
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April
Newsletter Articles
Are Due on March 27th

The First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls Pastor's Corner

In like a lion or out like a lamb.



I have no idea what kind of weather the month of March will bring, but I know it will bring the Lenten Season. I also know that Lent is this wonderful time of the year where we spend 40 days and nights preparing, repenting, confessing, and turning to God. In Lent we do this through praying, fasting, and giving. Why 40 days? One reason is because of Jesus' 40 days of fasting and temptation in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11). Also, because it takes this long to develop new habits. What new habits? Praying, Fasting, and Giving. It is a season spent looking away from those things in our lives and our world that separate us from God and looking toward the things in our lives and world that connect us to God. Lent will be as diverse as all of us who are created in God's image. But what are a few ways the church is offering connection?

- **An online Ash Wednesday worship service.** It can be found on our YouTube channel, our website, or our Facebook page on March 5th and beyond.
- **Lenten Lunch and Learn:** Every Tuesday from 12pm to 1pm in the Social Hall, you are invited to bring a lunch and a friend as we gather to study Kate Bowler's Lenten guide, *The Hardest Part*. In her own words: "Hi, I'm Kate. Let's untangle our culture's obsession with toxic positivity and self-help, shall we? I am a Duke professor, podcaster, and author with a single mission: giving you permission to feel human (and letting you have whatever weird or boring hobbies you can't explain to strangers. Do I love roadside attractions and exotic potato chip flavors? Yes. More than I should say.) I believe that the world would be a gentler place if we took apart the well-meaning cliches we use when life is hard (What doesn't kill you makes you stronger? Maybe what doesn't kill you might try again tomorrow 😊). I am determined to create a gentler world for everyone who wants to admit that they are not always "living their best life." After years of being told I was incurable, I was declared cancer-free. But there's no going back. I am forever changed by what I discovered: life is so beautiful, and life is so hard. For everyone."
- **Sanctuary Decorations:** Watch for the changes in this space throughout Lent, Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter. What do you notice? In what ways is God inviting you to engage?

I hope you find ways to participate, but mostly I hope you find ways to connect to God.

Peace, Pastor Leah

Contact Us

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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
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



Session met on Thursday, February 27th at 10am, too close to the newsletter deadline. February and March briefs will be in the April newsletter. In lieu of briefs, here you will find notes on the February budget and an overview of our Session member's training and responsibilities.

February Budget - Total Revenue as of January 31st was \$29,926.43, and Total Expenditures were \$26,088.20.

With new people joining Session and because education is always a great idea, Session was asked to watch 13 short videos between the January and February meetings. These videos, about the purpose and work of the Session, are resources put out by the PC(USA) Synod of Mid-Atlantic, with the generous support of the Synods of Lakes & Prairies, Lincoln Trails, the Southwest, and the Sun, as part of Theocademy: <http://www.theocademy.com/>.

Specifically, this video series is called "Preparation for Ordered Ministry." What is ordered ministry and why is it important to the Presbyterian Church? What does one need to know to be an effective leader in the Presbyterian church? These videos will explore and answer these and other questions about ordained leadership in the Presbyterian tradition. If you would also like to watch, they can be found in a playlist entitled *Ordered Ministry*, on our church You Tube channel: <https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLoIPQFQsKyweg4unERJLfKpf7C1le17U4&si=I5LHKDIFoMSS02Fj>.

In the Presbyterian Church (USA), the Session is a group of elders who guide the church and make decisions for its administration. The Session's responsibilities include:

- **Worship:** Planning and overseeing worship services, including the order of worship, music, and sacraments
- **Finances:** Establishing the budget, allocating funds, and receiving offerings
- **Membership:** Seeking out new members, receiving and dismissing members, and arranging baptisms
- **Education:** Training, examining, ordaining, and installing elders and deacons
- **Mission:** Planning for the church's mission and finding ways to discover God's work in the world
- **Stewardship:** Overseeing the church's property and material and spiritual resources
- **Discipline:** Maintaining discipline within the church
- **Policies:** Developing policies and manuals, and obtaining insurance

The Session is elected by the congregation and meets regularly to discuss and make decisions. The Pastor is the moderator of the Session.



Carol Rook - 3/08
Virginia (Lay) Brady - 3/10
Jim Clark - 3/13
Rebecca Wilson - 3/17
Marjorie Fahrenholz - 3/23
Susan Derr - 3/28
Wendy Kain - 3/31

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, March 3rd at 12:30pm in the Hawley Room

There were three of us at the February meeting. Weather and weather-related conditions left some of us to remain at home.

Joyce offered our opening prayer and gave some information on the origins of Black History Month. We wrote cards to some of our members and friends (hoping to brighten their days a bit during this very persistently cold and stormy winter weather)!

In our book discussion time we thought about two questions in the Leader's Guide:

1. Where do you instinctively make decisions? Head? Heart? Or Gut?
2. Where do you carry STRESS?

Ginny talked to us about the Food Pantry located in the new Administration Building on Butler Avenue. Drivers are needed for people without cars to get to the Pantry and back home again. Pastors Leah, Val, Brad and Jim have been lead organizers. Lou and Peter from our church have offered to be drivers, along with John Sandroni, of the Roman Catholic community.

Barb gave the Circle Treasury report. We have very little there at the moment. Our sincere thanks to the anonymous Angel, who donates a hefty sum on Communion Sundays. We talked about the Ovid fire and some of the fund-raising events scheduled. We made plans to donate to The Ovid Fire Relief Fund through the combined Ovid Branch, Community Bank/Village of Ovid/Town of Ovid and Ovid Federated Church using the church's 501c account.

For the March meeting, Kae is asked to give our opening prayer and Barb will share an item of cultural diversity. Circle members should continue reading the Richard Rohr book.

House of Concern Special Item for MARCH is
CANNED MEAT and FISH

We thank everyone who donated SOUPS and other items
in February.

"...Lord when did we see you hungry or thirsty..."
Matthew 25:44

*"...Then He will answer them saying: Assuredly, I
say to you, inasmuch as You did not do it to the least
of these, you did not do it to me..."*
Matthew 25:45

Church Family News

- **Chaplain Service at Seneca County Correctional Facility:** as of January 29th, Pastor Leah is serving as Chaplain, and she will be leading a service each week on Wednesdays.
- **Souper Bowl of Caring:** the Youth Group collected 900 items for the House of Concern, far exceeding their goal of 500 cans. This was a joint effort of the SF Middle School, Cady Stanton Elementary, SF UMC and First Pres. The staff at HOC was impressed to see the youth come together to meet a need in their community!
- **Lunch and Learn Lenten Study:** beginning on **Tuesday, March 4th** and continuing until **Tuesday, April 15th**, Pastor Leah will be leading a study of Kate Bowler's Lenten guide entitled *The Hardest Part*. Bring your lunch and a friend.

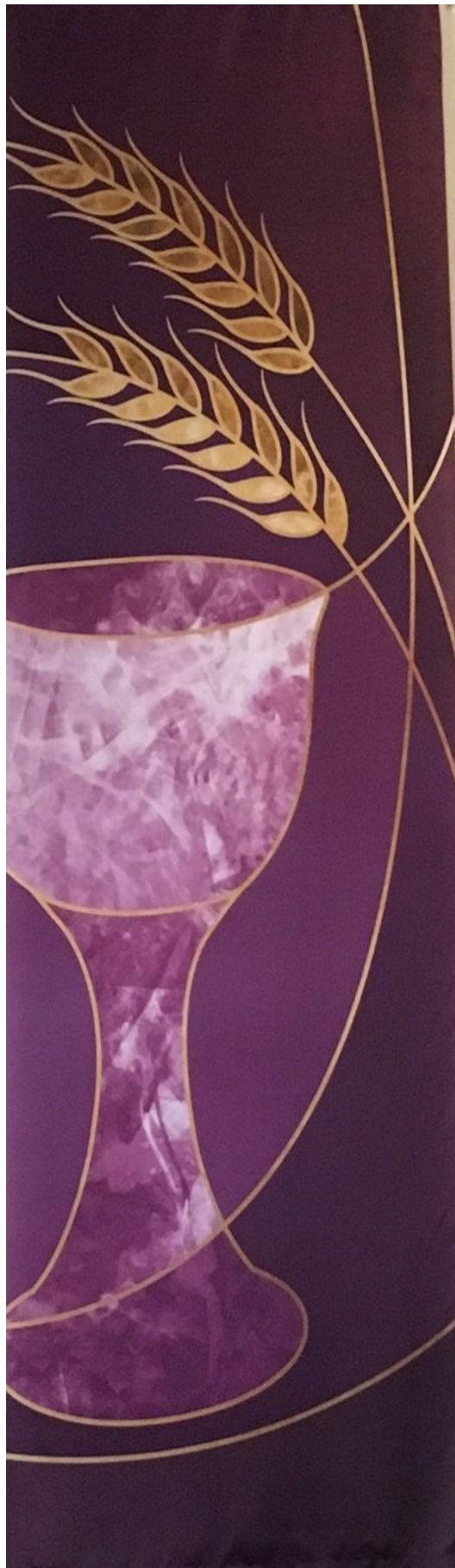


- **On Sunday, March 9th,** the Youth Group is planning an afternoon of bowling, laser tag and arcade games at Roseland Bowl. They will meet at the UMC, and the cost is \$15. Also, on **Friday, March 21st** the Youth Group will get together at the Hang Out to play games and have snacks. The Middle Schoolers will be here from 6pm to 8pm, and the High School crew will hang out from 8pm to 10pm.
- **Coffee and Conversation:** join Pastor Leah at Café 19 on Tuesday, March 25th at 10am and meet up with your church friends. Order your favorite beverage and maybe even breakfast.



- **PI DAY IS COMING Up on March 14th:** Please bake a few delicious "Presbyterian Pies" - we were a huge hit last year! The sale will begin at 11am and will last until sold out. There are plenty of boxes, and we have some pie plates, too - contact Ginny Konz if you have questions.





Worship Schedule

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

March 2nd - Communion - Psalm 36:5-10; Luke 9:28-45.

March 9th - Psalm 5:7-8; Luke 10:25-42.

March 16th - Psalm 122; Luke 13:1-9, 31-35.

March 23rd - Psalm 119:167-176; Luke 15:1-32.

March 30th - Psalm 41:1-3; Luke 16:19-31.

April 6th - Communion - Psalm 84:1-4, 10-12; Luke 18:31 - 19:10.



March 2nd - Susan Sholar

March 9th - Carol Millis

March 16th - Dick Damaske

March 23rd - Barb Van Kirk

March 30th - Anne Millis

April 6th - Barry Porsch



March 2nd - Ginny Konz

March 9th - Channing and Cyril Phillips

March 16th - Zoe Van Kirk

March 23rd - To Be Determined

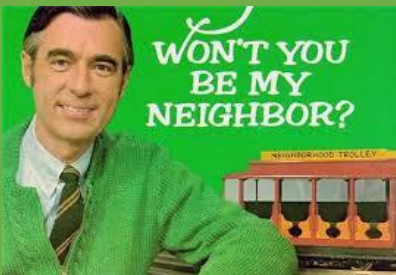
March 30th - To Be Determined

April 6th - To Be Determined

OID STRONG THRIFT SHOP

The United Way of Seneca County is looking for volunteers to help run #OvidStrong Thrift Shop 2.0 that is being set up at the Finger Lakes Premium Outlet, in between the Skechers and Kate Spade stores - Suite 79. The store will be open on Wednesday, 2/26 - Sunday, 3/2 from 10am to 6pm. Click on the link below to sign up for shifts to help run the store more often...feel free to sign up for more than one time slot or day. Any and all help will be GREATLY appreciated. Thanks so much!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080B45AEA829A1FA7-5514872-ovidstrong>



Mr. Rogers Day - March 20th!

Coffee Hours



March 2nd: No Coffee Hour - Committee Meetings

March 9th: Matthew 25 - Congregational Vitality

March 16th: Matthew 25 - Structural Racism

March 23rd: Matthew 25 - Generational Poverty

March 30th: Housing in Seneca Falls - Pastor Leah

April 6th: No Coffee Hour - Committee Meetings



To Keep in Our Prayers: all those affected by the recent fire in Ovid; Kathleen Albert; Reatha Bishop; Robin Blundon; Jennifer Colbert; Peter Crego; Cindy Danielson; Joanie Duval; Carl Feltus; Joanna Fuller; Diane and Cal Goodman; Pat Gordon; Gerry Gray; Rev. Deborah Grohman; Amy Guarino; Tori Guerina; Crystal Hanes; Cindy Hinman-Cosola; Susan Horton; Walt Hoyle; Bea Jones; the Jopek family; our Law Enforcement Officers, Firefighters and EMTs; Bob Lamphere; Josh Lenard; Stephanie Lesinski; Ronnie Lobdell; Wayne Lohr; the Lopez family; the Mack family; Kim Martin; Ken Mell; Kathy Minnier; Tyler Morgan; Roger Morin; Timothy Mosher; Joy Novack; Paul Novack; the Ntuala family; Linda Parker; Paula Paxton; Gene and Dean Potter; Justine Saunders; Mary Sceney; Susan Sholar; Nora Sibley; Shelley Vanderbogart; Jack and Barb 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

a



Building Congregational Vitality

Dismantling Structural Racism

Eradicating Systemic Poverty

FIRST PRES OF SENECA FALLS
A MATTHEW 25 CHURCH!



“Overturning Your Immunity to Change”

You are invited! The Center for Continuing Education, Andover Newton Seminary and Berkeley Divinity School are pleased to offer a **special virtual workshop**, “Overturning Your ‘Immunity to Change” with Dr. Robert Kegan on **March 3, 2025 from 12 - 3:30 pm Eastern**. The “Immunity to Change” is a novel approach to personal improvement - now being deployed all over the world - which surfaces and engages those aspects of a person's underlying mindset that prevent them from bringing about the very changes they most want to make. This world-renowned approach to personal improvement can also be applied to organizations. Join Harvard Professor Dr. Robert Kegan for a free virtual workshop. He will provide participants a fast-moving opportunity to try on this approach for themselves. Come with a personal improvement goal you most want to work on in mind! This virtual event is free, but you must register in advance. Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/overturning-your-immunity-to-change-tickets-1097302494299?> We hope you will join us for this exciting workshop in March!

Best Wishes from The Center for Continuing Education Team in partnership with Andover Newton Seminary and Berkeley Divinity School.



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

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

