

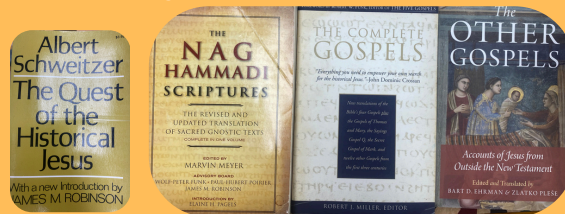


# JULY & AUGUST 2026

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## Pastor's Corner

Summer is a Season of Reading (but aren't they all). I wanted to share a few of the books I am reading, because the theological readings impact you, via sermons, lenten study, and newsletters.



**The Quest:** *The Quest of the Historical Jesus* is a review of all prior work on the question of the "historical Jesus" starting with the late 18th century. The author points out how Jesus' image has changed with the times and with the personal proclivities of the various authors. He concludes with his own synopsis and interpretation of what had been learned over the course of the previous century. The author takes the position that the life and thinking of Jesus must be interpreted in the light of Jesus' own convictions, which he characterizes as those of "late Jewish eschatology", and that Jesus defies any attempt at understanding him by making parallels to the ways of thinking or feeling of modern men.

**Nag Hammadi:** The landmark compilation of ancient manuscripts that constitute *The Nag Hammadi Scriptures* is a discovery that challenges everything we thought we knew about the early Christian church, ancient Judaism, and Greco-Roman religions.

**The Complete Gospels:** First publication ever to collect the canonical gospels and their extracanonical counterpoints under one cover. The selected extracanonical gospels date from the first and second centuries, are independent of the canonical gospels, and significantly contribute to our understanding of the developments in the Jesus tradition leading up to and surrounding the New Testament gospels. Two additional texts, the Gospel of Judas and the Gospel of the Savior.

**The Other Gospels:** This comprehensive collection contains Gospels describing Jesus's infancy, ministry, Passion, and resurrection, and includes the controversial manuscript discoveries of modern times, such as the Gospel of Thomas and the most recent Gospel to be discovered, the Gospel of Judas Iscariot.

September  
News Articles  
are due by  
8/24

# SESSION BRIEFS

## Contact US The First Presbyterian Church

of Seneca Falls, NY

Address:

23 Cayuga Street

P.O. Box 383rd

Seneca Falls, NY 13148

Phone:

315-568-6636

Email:

firstpres13148@gmail.com

Website:

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, June 11<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 meeting minutes for April and May were approved.
- Clerk reported that the House of Concern was asking for a donation. Jim Hinman made a motion to give \$300.00, which was unanimously approved.
- Treasurer Kae H. reported that funds were moved from one account to another. Total Revenue \$41,459.38 and Total Expenditures \$17,110.26.
- Pastor Leah led communion services at Huntington (30 people), and at the Seneca County jail (18 people). She had various meetings during the month, and on June 21st will be performing the baptism of Trevor Thomas Simzer, Jr. The Youth Group played arcade games at their monthly Hangout in May and Walked for Hope on June 7<sup>th</sup>. Confirmed that Communion in August will be moved to the 9<sup>th</sup>. A letter was received from Peter and Amy Guarino, asking to borrow \$6,000 to purchase a lift for Amy, for use in the swimming pool. Kae H. made a motion to give the money to them. Carol M. seconded, and all approved. They will only be asked to repay \$3,000. Diane H. provided information about Joy and Paul Novack, and the situation they are going through. Kae H. made a motion to give them \$500 to help. David H. seconded and all approved. Kae H. will ask the Women's Circle if they would also consider giving a donation, as Joy was a Circle member.
- Christian Education - the Youth Group's monthly Hangout will be on June 12<sup>th</sup>. There will be a Foam Party on June 13<sup>th</sup>. Other events in Pastor's report.
- Outreach - there will be a meeting on June 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Parish Life/Membership - Ice Cream Social following worship on June 21<sup>st</sup>, for Father's Day and to honor our graduates.
- Personnel - no report.
- Property - Roof, masonry and painting projects are all either in progress or starting soon.
- Stewardship/Finance - Finance Committee held a meeting to discussion money situation.
- Worship & Music - Change of decoration from Pentecost to Summer Rainbows and Greens is done. Reminder of August communion moved to August 9<sup>th</sup> due to Pastor Leah's trip.
- Other Business - We had an update on the Jewell Fund that could help with Food Sense. There was discussion of using grant monies for Mental Health Services. Carol M. made a motion to get a list giving us different organizations to donate to. Kae H. seconded it and all approved.

Submitted by Anne Millis, Clerk to the Session



There will be no Session meetings in July or August unless needed.

## July Birthdays

Isabella Dugan - 7/16

Christina Lopez - 7/20

Joyce Lohr - 7/23

Greg Dugan - 7/24

Becky Jessop - 7/26



## August Birthdays

Jim Hinman - 8/4

Marion Crull - 8/10

Paul Dill - 8/12

Cherie Clark - 8/24

Louis Lobdell - 8/24

Mason Ntuala - 8/28

Matt Crull - 8/29





# 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:  
pasta, sauce  
as you shop**

**Also, they need used  
blankets, sheets,  
towels, and  
silverware.**



It was the 1st of June; a *perfect* day. Circle members and Pastor Leah were joined by six friends from the congregation, all enjoying lunch in the glorious sunshine on Wolffy's deck overlooking beautiful Cayuga Lake. *Praise God from whom all blessings flow...*

Our church family has learned from Jim and Diana Hinman about the health conditions of Joy and Paul Novack. Joy, as many will recall, was our Circle leader for many years after Jean Morris moved away. The Hinmans and Novacks are close friends and keep in touch with each other since the Novack's move to Florida a few years ago. Joy now suffers from a severe, physically debilitating condition and requires costly medical care and equipment. The Women's Circle will send a note expressing our concern and a gift which we hope will be helpful.

We will not be meeting as a group over the summer months. Our *Fall meeting* will take place on Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup> because Labor Day is on the first Monday.

We're asking the congregation to continue to makw donations in July and August to the House of Concern. Children are home from school and families already struggling to buy groceries will need to make lunches at home. At a recent Coffee Hour program, House of Concern Director, Delores Morgan told us about a renewed shortage of PASTA and SPAGHETTI SAUCE. We've added these items to the needed donations for July and August.

Let's all be praying for the situation in Iran and the Middle East; for the thousands of displaced people there and in Ukraine, and for the humanitarian aid groups and countries who are working to feed and shelter them. Pray for the families in The Democratic Republic of Congo and the health care workers, all affected by the spread of the Ebola virus.

**HOUSE OF CONCERN special items for JULY and AUGUST,  
In addition to PASTA and SPAGHETTI SAUCE,  
Will be SNACK FOODS:**

**Chips, Popcorn, Pretzels, Cookies, Dried Fruit, Fruit Drinks and Juices.**

**Our Sincere THANKS to Everyone who gave Canned Fruits and Vegetables, and other donations to the House of Concern in June.**

**We also thank those who made financial donations to the WOMEN'S CIRCLE.**



*May the Lord watch between Me and Thee  
While we are absent;  
One from the Other.*



# CHURCH FAMILY NEWS



"Persevering Toward Wholeness"  
June 22 - July 2, 2026 | Milwaukee, WI  
Committee meetings, plenaries, &  
worship will be livestreamed.

Youth Group - had a busy month! On Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup> they participated in "Walking With Hope" to support the Seneca County Suicide Prevention Coalitio; on June 12<sup>th</sup> the Middle and High Schoolers got together for their monthly Hangout at First Pres; and the following day was the Community Foam Party at Academy Square. Check out the action shots below. BIG FUN.



**LIBERTY EQUALITY SISTERHOOD**

## SENECA FALLS-1848 CONVENTION DAYS

CELEBRATING THE 178<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE WOMEN'S RIGHTS CONVENTION

**SATURDAY, JULY 18, 2026**

**★ FREE OUTDOOR CONCERT • 1:00 PM ★**

**THE COOL CLUB & LIPKER SISTERS**  
 ROCHESTER, NY

"Down Home Chic... big city sound with small town charm."  
 Their music is an infectious blend of intricate harmonies including jazz, soul/R&B, show tunes, amazing old rock and roll, and classic songs.

**OUTSIDE THE COMMUNITY CENTER**  
 35 Water St., Seneca Falls, NY

BRING YOUR OWN CHAIRS

FOOD & BEVERAGE VENDORS AVAILABLE

**Make a Day of It!**  
 Purchase a ticket to also join us at the Convention Days Luncheon.

**★ ADVANCED ★**  
**★ TICKETS REQUIRED ★**  
**★ \$35 ★**

<b>MARY MASCINGELLO</b> A Real Rosie the Riveter	<b>GLORIA "COACH" PEEK</b> 1st Female Olympic Boxing Coach	<b>PENNY COLMAN</b> Award-Winning Author
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**★ FEATURED GUESTS AT THE CONVENTION DAYS LUNCHEON ★**

**FRAN BARBIERI** 315-568-5066

**HOLLY ANNE WAYE** 585-474-7627

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM: **VOTES FOR WOMEN**

Ice Cream Social - we celebrated Father's Day and our Graduates on Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup> with an Ice Cream Social right after worship. Many congragulations to all!

Driving for Equality: on May 26<sup>th</sup> the ERA stopped by First Pres again, as part of their re-enactment of the epic 10,700 mile drive for Women's Rights made by Alice Snitjer Burke and Nell Richardson in 1916. As always, we were more than happy to participate. Thanks to Louis Lobdell for the great photos!



The First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls, NY  
 Ministry Theme for 2026

## SERVICE

IN EVERYTHING DO TO OTHERS AS YOU WOULD HAVE THEM DO TO YOU.  
 -MATT 7:12

**WWW.FPRESSF.COM**

# WORSHIP

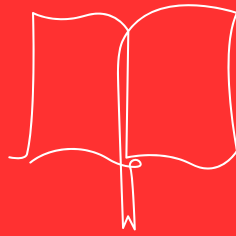
Join us online: [www.fpressf.com](http://www.fpressf.com) on our YouTube Channel

July 5 - Jeremiah 33:14-18; 31:31-31; John 17:1-8  
July 12 - Genesis 1:1-5; Matthew 6:30-34  
July 19 - John 1:1-18; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25  
July 26 - Deuteronomy 5:12-15; Matthew 11:28-30  
August 2 - Geneva Outdoor Joint Worship  
August 9 - Deuteronomy 15:1-2, 7-11; Luke 15:11-32  
August 16 - Proverbs 1:1-7, 3:1-8; Matthew 13:34-35  
August 23 - Proverbs 8:1-11, 22-36; John 8:56-58  
August 30 - Song of Solomon 2:10-13, 8:6-7; Mark 8:35-37  
September 6 - Genesis 1:1-2:4a; John 1:1-5



## LITURGISTS

July 5 - Anne Millis  
July 12 - Shauna O'Toole  
July 19 - Susan Sholar  
July 26 - Hymn Sing  
August 2 - Geneva Outdoor  
Joint Worship



August 9 - Ginny Konz  
August 16 - Marion Crull  
August 23 - Dick Damaske  
August 30 - Michele Edmondson  
September 6 - Susan Derr



## GREETERS



July 5 - Carol Millis and Kae Hoyle  
July 12 - Susan Derr  
July 19 - Louis and Romona Lobdell  
July 26 - Barb Van Kirk and Zoe Van Kirk  
August 2 - Geneva Outdoor Joint Worship

August 9 - Ginny Konz and Jim Hinman  
August 16 - Jim and Diana Hinman  
August 23 - Dick and Claire Damaske  
August 30 - Ginny Konz  
September 6 - Jim Hinman and David Hall



## NURSERY



July 5 - Marion Crull  
July 12 - Anne Millis  
July 19 - Zoe Van Kirk  
July 26 - Anne Millis  
August 2 - Geneva Outdoor Joint Worship

August 9 - Marion Crull  
August 16 - Ginny Konz  
August 23 - Zoe Van Kirk  
August 30 - Anne Millis  
September 6 - Ginny Konz

## COFFEE HOURS



Our coffee hour series is taking a break for the summer months. Please see Sue Derr if you have any suggestions for Coffee Hour Programs!

## TO KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS

Kathleen Albert; Reatha Bishop; Lori and Steve Clayton; Jennifer Colbert; Peter Crego; Cindy Danielson; Six Anthony Davison; Joanie Duval; Carl Feltus; Joanna Fuller; Diane and Cal Goodman; Pat Gordon; Gerald Gray; Amy Guarino; Tori Guerina; Crystal Hanes; Cindy Hinman-Cosola; Susan Horton; Bea Jones; 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; Fred Morganti; Roger Morin; Timothy Mosher; Joy and Paul Novack; Linda Parker; Paula Paxton; Gene and Dean Potter; Bob Seem; Susan Sholar; Nora Sibley; Shelley Vanderbogart; Lori Varallo; 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...



**Before the Revolution:** As “Dissenters” from the established Church of England, Presbyterians mistrusted British colonial power—and were not afraid to assert a right to religious freedom when it was threatened. Presbyterian influence in the colonies grew markedly in the middle decades of the 1700s, shaped by the Great Awakening and an influx of Scottish and Scots Irish immigrants, most of whom were Presbyterian. With words and actions—and sometimes with violence—these religious dissenters challenged colonial rule, and many felt moved to defy the status quo in the name of God.

**During the Revolution:** Presbyterian response to the war was far from monolithic—there were Patriot, Loyalist, and neutral Presbyterians. But the majority of Church leaders supported the rebels. Twelve of fifty-six signers of the Declaration of Independence were Presbyterian, including the only clergyman, John Witherspoon. George Duffield of Philadelphia’s Third Presbyterian Church (today’s Old Pine Church, next door to the Presbyterian Historical Society) served as chaplain to the Continental Congress, and patriot pastors supported the war effort from their pulpits in every state. Everyday Presbyterians felt the war’s impact in their communities and houses of worship. British troops occupied Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Charleston, and Savannah. From New England to the Carolinas Presbyterian churches were seized to quarter troops or damaged by forces loyal to the Crown who saw the revolution as primarily a “Presbyterian Rebellion.”

**After the Revolution:** America’s victory in the war benefited the many Presbyterians who supported the Patriot cause. John Witherspoon remained in the nation he helped create, leading efforts to formalize the Articles of Confederation and the U.S. Constitution. Antislavery views gained proponents, and in 1787 the Presbyterian Church came close to calling for immediate abolition. African American Presbyterians began organizing their own congregations with First African Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia the first in 1807. Women built on their public involvement in the Patriot cause, forming missionary societies and establishing schools. By the time of the Second Great Awakening in the 1830s, women were the majority of members in most Presbyterian congregations—although still barred from ordained ministry. Americans had guaranteed their religious freedom but this victory did not shield them from the social and political tensions that played out as the new country struggled over the meaning of freedom and equality for all.

[Explore each exhibit page](#)



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

**A Blessed SUMMER to you, a fearfully and wonderfully  
made child of God:**

