

Church Office: 315-568-6636
 Hours: Thursday 8-1pm
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 E-mail: firstpres13148@gmail.com
 Website: www.fpressf.com

**Sunday Online Worship at 10am
 Coffee Hour via Zoom at 11am**

Rev. Leah Ntuala-Pastor
 Rev. Dr. Peter J. Crego-Pastor Emeritus
 Marion Crull -Treasurer
 Laurie Weller – Office Manager
 Peter Snyder– Sexton
 Hedra Harrison—Music Director
 Joyce Lohr- Clerk to the Session

Session meetings are held on the 4th Monday of each month at 7pm.
 Presently serving Elders: Jim Clark, Marion Crull, Dick Damaske, Susan Derr, Michele Edmondson,
 Susan Harkey, Jay Hoyle, Marc Smith, Peter Snyder.
 Joyce Lohr, Clerk to the Session and with Pastor Leah as Moderator

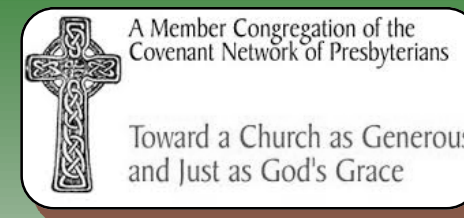
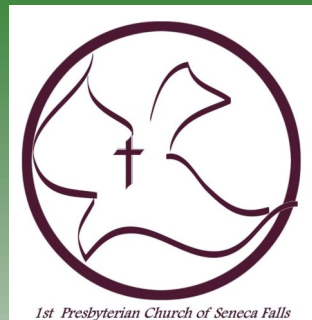
First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls
 P.O. Box 383
 23 Cayuga St
 Seneca Falls, NY 13148



Happy Holidays to You

December Newsletter 2020

First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls

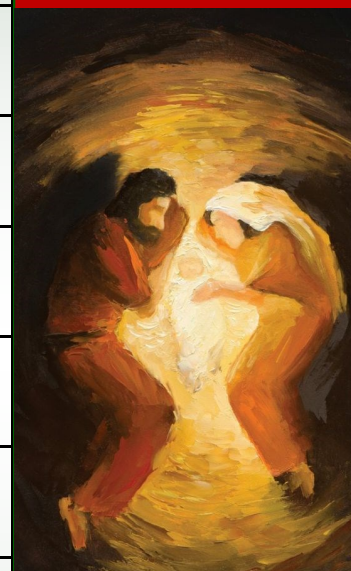


December Newsletter 2020

Inside this issue:	
Session Briefs	2
Birthdays	2
Women's Circle	3
Advent Wreath	4
Christmas Eve	4
Presbyterian Women	5
Church Family News	6
Members & Friends	6
Congregational Meeting	6
Service Schedule	7
Liturgist List	7
Coffee Hour & Prayer List	7
Calendar	insert

Pastor's Corner

As we enter Advent and our Christmas season begins, I know we had all hoped to be able to gather in the Sanctuary and be with our family and friends. So many of our traditions will have to be rethought and done differently. Please honor the grief you are feeling.



We will gather to light the Advent Candles, every Sunday at 4pm in front of the church. Bob Seem has constructed an advent wreath for us to enjoy and Dick Damaske has made sure it will shine. Thank you!! If you can't join us in person, we will be taping it and sharing it with you. On Christmas Eve we will gather at 4pm to light the Christ Candle. We ask that you also bring a candle from your home. Our Lessons and Carols Service will be online. Feel free to gather virtually with your family to watch and listen.

I wanted to share this photo with you this year. I wish I knew the artist, but it was not tagged with credit. So often we see the whole nativity, so many people gathered to welcome the new born King. What struck me about this painting is the intimacy of Mary, Joseph and Jesus. I assume Mary and Joseph are equal parts exhausted and elated. Jesus, as a newborn, has no idea where he is, but he does know he is surrounded by love. Everything he needs in the whole world is already there. He wants for nothing. I hope you find yourself surrounded by love and wanting for nothing.

We have been given an opportunity this Christmas to slow down. Cards can still be sent, cookies can still be baked, songs can still be sung, movies watched and games played. Lights can be seen and presents can be given. Food can still be enjoyed. I am also going to invite us all to do something new. I stumbled across this Christmas List. Without all the hustling and bustling, we might have time to dedicate to the items on this list. Peace, Pastor Leah



Session Briefs



At its Monday, November 23, 2020 meeting, the Session:

- Reviewed budget report for October, listing Income of \$16,456.23 and Expenses of \$12,507.54 and were advised that the discrepancy in utilities is now resolved.
- Heard Pastor’s recommendations for reading: *The Preaching of Jesus*, by Mark Moore & Jon Weece, 2002; *Releasing the Power of the Smaller Church*, by Shawn McMullen, 2007; and *Reading Judas*, by Elaine Pagels and Karen L. King, 2007.
- Heard news of TV station WCNY recently (Nov. 21) recording segment regarding historical figures Alice Paul and Rhoda Bement, with Colleen Wilkins (descendant of Elizabeth Cady Stanton) present in our sanctuary, and of US Archivist hopes for celebratory event for ERA.
- Learned of plans being considered by Worship & Music ministry for Advent and Christmas Eve, including Advent Kits; and moved to conduct Christmas Eve service out-of-doors at front of church, other churches to be invited.
- Heard report of Personnel’s staff reviews and plans for new Music Director search.
- Learned of Membership/Parish Life’s sale of Gladiola bulbs totaling \$107, donated to House of Concern.
- Heard report of septic issues at Eastman Hall, and Manse garage door malfunction that was resolved; and of construction of outdoor Advent Wreath by Dick Damaske and Bob Seem. Moved to keep wreath lighted 4:00-10:00pm beginning Sunday, November 29th (First Sunday of Advent).
- Received reader offers from Elders for Christmas Eve, to record the Lessons and Carols, to be streamed on-line during Christmas Eve.
- Moved for Session to meet on December 21st, instead of on December 28th.

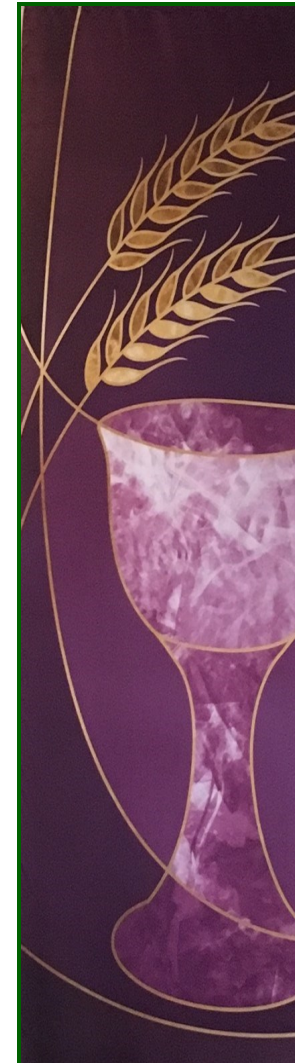
The next meeting of the Session will be on Monday, December 21, 2020

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| <i>Bea Jones-12/2</i> | <i>Ericka Walsh- 12/19</i> |
| <i>Neil Walsh- 12/3</i> | <i>Connie Richardson</i> |
| <i>Jean Morris-12/6</i> | <i>12/22</i> |
| <i>Joanne Elysée-12/11</i> | <i>Mary Beth Day-12/22</i> |
| <i>Peter Seem-12/17</i> | <i>Megan Derr-12/27</i> |
| <i>Jay Hoyle-12/18</i> | <i>Michelle Dugan- 12/27</i> |



Service Schedule



December 6th—Advent 2-Psalm 27; Matthew 3:1-12
John calls for repentance: prepare the way of the Lord.

Join us <https://fpressf.com/online-worship>

Use your own cup and bread to join us for communion.



December 13th—Advent 3-Psalm 28; Matthew 11:1, 2-15
Jesus praises John, the messenger who has prepared the way.

Join us <https://fpressf.com/online-worship>

December 20th—Advent 4-Psalm 29; Matthew 1:18-25
Mary is with child; an angel visits Joseph; Jesus is “God with us.”

Join us <https://fpressf.com/online-worship>

Christmas Eve—Join us at 4:00pm in front of the Church and bring your own candle. The Lessons and Carols service can be watched online, at your convenience.



Join us <https://fpressf.com/online-worship>

December 27th—Psalm 148 ; Luke 2:21-38

Join us <https://fpressf.com/online-worship>

January 3— Psalm 30; Matthew 2:13–23

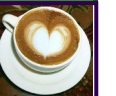
Join us <https://fpressf.com/online-worship>



Liturgist List

- 6th– Barb Van Kirk
- 13th– Marion Crull
- 20th– Ginny Konz
- 27th—Joyce Lohr
- 3rd—Marc Smith

Coffee Hours



- Dec 3: Christmas Memories
 - Dec 13: Christmas Hymns
 - Dec 20: Marc Smith’s Trip to Chile
 - Dec 27: No Coffee Hour, Christmas
- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82474187958>

Prayer List



Know someone ill or hospitalized? Please call Kay Hoyle at 585.330.0904

To Keep in Our Prayers: Frank Bocek; Kathy Cole; Jennifer Colbert; Matthew Cramer; Sue Ellen and Peter Crego; Norine Crull; Cindy Danielson; Susan Derr; Chesterdaniel Freeman; Joanna Fuller; Betty Geraghty; Honey Gilbert and family; Marvin Gordon; Pat Gordon; Tori Guerina; Crystal Hanes; Greta Hauser & Family; Gary Ippolito; Al Johnson; Bea Jones; Debra Kemp; Timothy Kent; our Law Enforcement Officers; Carson Lankford; LewAnn Backus Lawhorn; Bruce Levine; Louis Lobdell; Lucy and Nancy Lopez; Liza Merriam; Tyler Morgan; Patsy Mott; Cheri Murphy; Dean Potter; Shirley Sage; Jean Stenlake; Linda Warner; Darryl Wells; Paul Wenderlich; Gretchen Whittacre; Hope Wilson; Linda Zona; and all those suffering in the world.



Church Family News

Thank you to all who have submitted their **pledge forms**, as this is a tremendous help when making plans for 2021. If you haven't yet sent yours in and would like to, do so, we will still accept them. If you need a new form, just let us know and we will be happy to provide one for you.



Per Capita amount has stayed the same as last year. Our church must pay \$50.00 for each member on our rolls. Early payment of this Per Capita Apportionment will enable us to meet this obligation, due during the first six months of 2021. Thank you for your assistance and understanding.

Members and Friends to Keep in Our Thoughts

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>
Dorothy Dickieson	303 Ferris Hills, Canandaigua, NY 14424
Betty Geraghty	8 Iroquois Lane, Waterloo, NY 13165
Gary Ippolito	DeMays Living Center, 100 Sunset Drive-c/o Schultz Unit, Newark, NY 14810
Liza Merriam	Heritage Hall West, 61 Cooper Street, Agawam, MA 01001
Jean Morris	Lockport Presbyterian Home, 305-327 High Street, Lockport, NY 14094
Jean Stenlake	Steuben County Healthcare Facility, Room 125, 7009 Rumsey Street Ext., Bath, NY 14810



Congregational Meeting Sunday, November 15, 2020

A meeting of the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls, New York was opened with a prayer by Pastor and Moderator, the Reverend Leah Ntuala at 11:05am. Zoom teleconferencing technology was used. Six people were present with the Pastor in the rear entryway of the church, and there were ten or more people present on the Zoom screen. A quorum was declared. Minutes from the November 20109 Congregational Meeting were read and approved.

The purpose of the meeting was to elect three elders for three-year terms, to begin in January, 2021. The following names were presented: Ginny Konz, Sue Harkey and Marc Smith. Nominations were called from the floor and there were none. Those named above were approved.

Pastor thanked the outgoing Nominating Committee of Marion Crull, Susan Derr, Ginny Konz, Gary Ippolito and Barbara Van Kirk, and the committee was dismissed.

The congregation next approved a Nominating Committee for 2021, to work on 2022 nominations: Marc Smith, Jay Hoyle, Bob Seem, Susan Sholar and Matthew Cramer will serve.

In other business, Pastor Leah announced that there will be no Christmas Eve service in our sanctuary this year. She expressed concern for the welfare of Gary Ippolito, who is now a resident at DeMay Living Center in Newark, NY. The center is experiencing a surge in Covid 19 infections. Pastor requested prayers for Gary.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by the Pastor at 11:25am.

Women's Circle



At our November meeting, the Women's Circle discussed *Waking Up White*, by Debby Irving. Since everyone had not read the same chapters (we skipped around), we agreed to all read and discuss the first six chapters for the December meeting as follows:

CHILDHOOD IN WHITE 1. What Wasn't Said; 2. Family Values; 3. Race Versus Class; 4. Optimism; 5. Within the Walls; 6. From Confusion to Shock. Irving hadn't ever considered herself to be "a racist" and held onto this conviction for the first several years of her life. She never considered that she, herself, had a race. *Race* was for "other people, brown-and-black-skinned people..." White was the "raceless race"...the one against which all others were measured. In other words: whites must be superior. Whether anyone said this aloud or not, the underlying assumption was there.

For the December meeting we will hear a reading done by Barb Van Kirk, from the poet Maya Angelou. Kae will bring cards to sign. We'll also each bring a small gift to swap with each other and a package of diapers for the House of Concern. Barb will have bought another case of baby formula (using money from Circle treasury) and delivered it to the House of Concern, which Ginny suggested we try to do on a regular basis. Everyone agreed to do this, if and when our funds allow.



DECEMBER special item for the House of Concern is DIAPERS (infant and toddler sizes).

Food and non-food household items are welcome any time!

At the November meeting, Circle members all agreed that, regrettably, we could not meet for a Holiday Luncheon this year.

We wish all women of the church and their families a blessed

Advent and Christmas!

Women's Circle will have a regular meeting on Monday, December 7th at 12:30pm, in the Hawley Room. Bring a lunch and your mask!





**You are invited to join us in front of
The First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls
to light the Advent Wreath. Please wear a mask.**

Sunday, Nov 29, 4pm

Sunday, Dec 6, 4pm

Sunday, Dec 13, 4pm

Sunday, Dec 20, 4pm

Christmas Eve at 4pm.

**On Christmas Eve we invite you to bring a candle
from home. Please join us online, at your
convenience, for the Lessons and Carols Service:**

<https://fpresf.com/online-worship>

Presbyterian Women

Advocacy at the global and national levels



PW chooses UN advocate Former PW board member Magdalene Lewis, Synod of the Northeast, has been appointed PW's ECOSOC and CSW Advocate at the United Nations. PW participates in the annual UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) as an NGO recognized by the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Magdalene will serve in this volunteer position through June 1, 2022.

100th anniversary of women's suffrage One hundred years ago, on August 18, 1920, the 19th Amendment to the Constitution was finally ratified, declaring for the first time that women deserve all the rights and responsibilities of citizenship, including the right to vote. However, restrictive state and local laws still prevented women of color from voting. It took 45 more years before the Voting Rights Act was passed, August 6, 1965. This was "the civil rights law that John Lewis was willing to die for," NAACP President Derrick Jones says, adding: "Current challenges to voting are as daunting as they come" (Politico, August 6, 2020). He says, "We should use this anniversary to double down on fulfilling its promise of participatory democracy." See <https://politi.co/3hg9eVh>.

Ecumenical Women promoting Thursdays in Black Ecumenical Women at the UN promotes women's empowerment, women's rights and gender equality all over the world. Fresh off their 10th anniversary, they are raising awareness of violence against women especially during the COVID19 pandemic. They are asking us to make a pledge to support and advocate for those who experience rape and other violence at www.ecumenicalwomenun.org/thursdays-in-black. PW's Joy Durrant is in the video



**January newsletter articles are due
on December 17th and mailing will
be on December 29th, due to the
Christmas holidays.**

