

February
2023

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March Newsletter Articles
Are Due on February 23rd

The First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls

Pastor's Corner



Dearest Church Family:

I wanted to keep you in the loop about my Doctorate of Ministry program in Pittsburgh. The classes were Discernment (Dr. Oden) and Race, Scripture and Response (Dr. Kaalund).

Nouwen defines discernment as follows: "Discernment is a spiritual understanding and an experimental knowledge of how God is active in daily life that is acquired through discipline's spiritual practice. Discernment is faithful living and listening to God's love and direction so that we can fulfill our individual calling and shared mission" (3).¹

For the next three weeks, we are to do what is called an Examen. I wanted to give you the outline, for you to practice too. Looking over the last six days, ask yourself these five questions:

1. What bubbled up for you this week and got your attention?
2. When did you feel alive, most yourself, or energized?
3. When did you feel deadened or drained?
4. What did you discover about yourself?
5. What might God be showing you as you go forward? Do you sense any holy invitations?

Dr. Kaalund told us to "feel comfortable getting it wrong." I appreciated this reminder that the work we do is messy. We all have "blind spots in awareness, but we can relax knowing God's revelation will occur." Without engaging with our assumptions, we perpetuate not only marginalization (insiders and outsiders), but an understanding that they need us. We are not the Savior in this story; that is Jesus. Part of our work is to de-couple the assumptions we hold from the work God has called us to do.

We were encouraged and taught to do communal reading of the text. Practicing this together as a community reminds us, helps us to see the possibilities of the text when we don't privilege a lens and are honest in our approach. Asking, "Who is centered in this story and why? Who is centered in my research and why? Who is not present? Who is excluded?" As part of my homework, we will need to do this together. The scripture we will focus on comes from Matthew 25, and I will lead this conversation during the Coffee Hour. It may take more than one week. I can't wait to do this work together.

Peace, Pastor Leah

¹ Nouwen, Henri. *Discernment: Reading the Signs of Daily Life*. HarperOne, 2013.

Contact Us

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Rev. Leah Ntuala-Pastor

Rev. Dr. Peter J. Crego-

Pastor Emeritus

Laurie Weller- Office Manager

Kae Hoyle- Treasurer

Peter Snyder-Sexton

Jen Braun- Music Director

Carol Millis- Bell Choir Director

Joyce Lohr- Clerk of Session

Susan Sholar – pro tem Clerk of
Session

Session

Session meets every
3rd Thursday at 10am

Presently serving

Ruling Elders:

Jim Clark, Marion Crull, Dick

Damaske, Susan Derr,

Michele Edmondson,

Susan Harkey, Jay Hoyle, Ginny

Konz, and Susan Sholar

Session Briefs

At its Thursday, January 12, 2022 Meeting, the Session:

- Received the December Financial Report for the church showing Total Revenue of \$15,794.99; Total Expenditures of \$22,600.13; and Special Events YTD Income (Tops cards, Amazon, Cards, Pecans, Pies, Bake/Rummage sales) of \$6,526
- Elected Susan Sholar as pro tem Clerk to the Session, and Kae Hoyle as Treasurer
- Moved to remove the name of Don Ritter from church rolls, due to his death on January 9, 2023
- Continued Session study of Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations, Results (SOAR)
- Discussed upcoming events: Valentine Sunday on February 12th; Pi Day; and Lent and Lunch Lenten study, to begin the week of February 22nd and end the week of April 5th
- We will be collecting cans of soup for the Souper Bowl of Caring food drive being sponsored by the Youth Group; cans may be dropped at the church until February 12th
- Jay Hoyle, Chair of the Stewardship/Finance Committee, shared the good news that we have now received almost as many pledges as last year

Prepared by Sue Derr, in the absence of Susan Sholar, pro tem Clerk to the Session

The next meeting of the Session is Thursday, February 16th at 10am



Barb Wagener - 02/09

Elizabeth (Lohr) Olmstead - 02/17

Susan Sholar - 02/20

Jan Day - 02/29

Members and Friends to Keep in Our Thoughts

Dorothy Dickieson
303 Ferris Hills
Canandaigua, NY 14424

Carson Lankford
3120 Patton Road
Seneca Falls, NY 13148

Jean Morris
5465 Upper Mountain Rd.
Lockport, NY 14094

Our Law Enforcement
Officers, Fire Fighters and
EMTs.



Women's Circle



Meets on Monday, February 6, 2023 at 12:30pm

As of this writing, January is nearly gone by and the frightful weather we traditionally anticipate has not happened! Well, there were some low temperatures, and some wind, snow, ice and *rain*; actually lots of rain and we all kept busy writing our annual reports and putting away the Advent and Christmas decorations at home and at church, and perhaps we set a soup or stew bubbling in a crock pot or atop the stove. Some of us got the oven going to bake some bread and add some warmth to take off a damp chill, but we did not meet as a Circle and follow through with assembling those Personal Care Kits (for which we had such good intentions!)

So, barring the event of some unforeseen bad weather, let's all turn out for a meeting to discuss the final two chapters of our study book and talk about what we'd like to begin reading. Perhaps Kae and Joyce can tell us more about the Presbyterian Women's Fall Gathering they attended in late October. If you read the church Annual Report for 2022, you'll have noticed the Circle's hefty treasury balance. Be thinking about how we could work some good with some of those dollars. Bring your ideas!

Lastly, let's roll up our sleeves and get the kits done. One of us will deliver them to the Women's Shelter.

Everyone please remember to bring one or more CANS OF SOUP. We always designate Soups as the special item for February and this year we'll add our donations to the **Souper Bowl** collection already begun in the church social rooms.

House of Concern special item in February is SOUPS



*Always seek to do good to one another and to all.
Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.
Give thanks in all circumstances ...*

*The First Epistle of Paul to the Thessalonians
Chap. 5:15b-18*

SEE YOU IN FEBRUARY!!



Church Family News

The House of Concern



Strike out Hunger: plan to have **Fun With a Purpose** on Saturday, February 11th at the Sunset Bowling Alley at 341 Border City Road in Waterloo. The festivities begin at 11:00am and the cost is \$25 per person. This includes two games, shoe rental, pizza and soda. Basket raffle tickets will also be available - cash only, please. Tickets are available at the House of Concern, and all proceeds will benefit the SFHOC. Call 315-568-2433 for more information!

- **Souper Bowl of Caring:** we are collecting cans of soup for a drive being sponsored by the Youth Group - you may drop them off at the church until February 12th.
- **Bottle and Can Drive:** being sponsored by Mason Ntuala's 8th Grade class. Please save your empties and either bring them to the church on **March 5th**, or let Pastor Leah know and she will pick them up from you.
- **PI Day is Coming Up on March 14th:** please plan to bake a few of our famous "Presbyterian Pies" for our annual sale - this was a HUGE HIT last year, and we plan to do it again in 2021! Stay tuned for more details.
- **Movie Night for Middle School:** will be held in the Social Hall on Sunday, February 5th at 3:00pm. First Pres is partnering with the Seneca Falls United Methodist Church for this event, and the movie will be *Blue Miracle*.
- **Lent and Lunch:** this Bible Study will be held at the church every Wednesday during Lent - see the flyer on Page 7 for more details!
- **Haiti Tea and Silent Auction:** the Waterloo United Methodist Church will be having their Haiti Tea and Silent Auction on April 29th at 2:00pm. Please RSVP to 315-539-9665. Proceeds to benefit their education program and to feed students in Verrettes, Haiti.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY to all!



Worship Schedule

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

February 5th - Communion - Psalm 37:16-18; Matthew 7:1-14, 24-29; Speck in the eye, narrow gate, wise man builds house on rock.

February 12th - Psalm 84:1-7; Matthew 13:24-43; Parable of wheat and weeds.

February 19th - Transfiguration - Psalm 41:7-10; Matthew 16:24-17:8; Passion prediction, bearing the cross, Transfiguration.

February 22nd - Ash Wednesday - Psalm 146:7c-10 or 51:1-3; Matthew 18:1-9; Debate about who is the greatest, become like a child; if your right hand causes sin cut it off.

February 26th - Psalm 32:1-2; Matthew 18:15-35; Church discipline, forgiving 70 times 7, parable of unforgiving servant

March 5th - Communion - Psalm 16:5-8; Matthew 20:1-16; Parable of laborers in vineyard.



Liturgist List

February 5th - Ginny Konz
February 12th - Susan Sholar
February 19th - Anne Millis
February 22nd - Barb Van Kirk
February 26th - Peter Snyder
March 5th - Carol Millis

Coffee Hours

February 5th - Committee Meetings

February 12th - Valentine Sunday

February 19th - Matthew 25

February 26th - Pastor Leah's D Min Updates



To Keep in Our Prayers: Kathleen Albert; Reatha Bishop; Rachele & Goskel Canscillar; Sue Charles; Jennifer Colbert; Michael Collinsworth; Sue Ellen and Peter Crego; Norine Crull; Sue Derr; Dorothy Dickieson; Joanna Fuller; Pat & Marvin Gordon; Amy Guarino; Tori Guerina; Crystal Hanes; Sue Harkey; Greta Hauser & family; Al Johnson; Bea Jones; our Law Enforcement Officers, Firefighters and EMTs; Bob Lamphere; Carson Lankford; Louis Lobdell; David Lobdell; Ronald Lobdell Jr.; the Lowry family; Kim Martin; Eleanor Mirabito; Tom and Donna Montgomery; Tyler Morgan; Roger Morin; Cheri Murphy; Jinny Noone; Joy Novack; Ramon; the family of Don Ritter; Teresa Santoski; Barb Squires; Shelley Vanderbogat; Linda Warner; Darryl Wells; Gretchen Whittacre; the Wilson family; and all those suffering in the world.

Know someone ill or hospitalized? Please call:

Joanne Elysée 315-568-9993

In Other FIRST PRES News...

Lenten Study - Bless the Lent We Actually Have Kate Bowler

Beginning on Wednesday, February 22nd

From 12pm - 1pm and

Continuing each Wednesday through

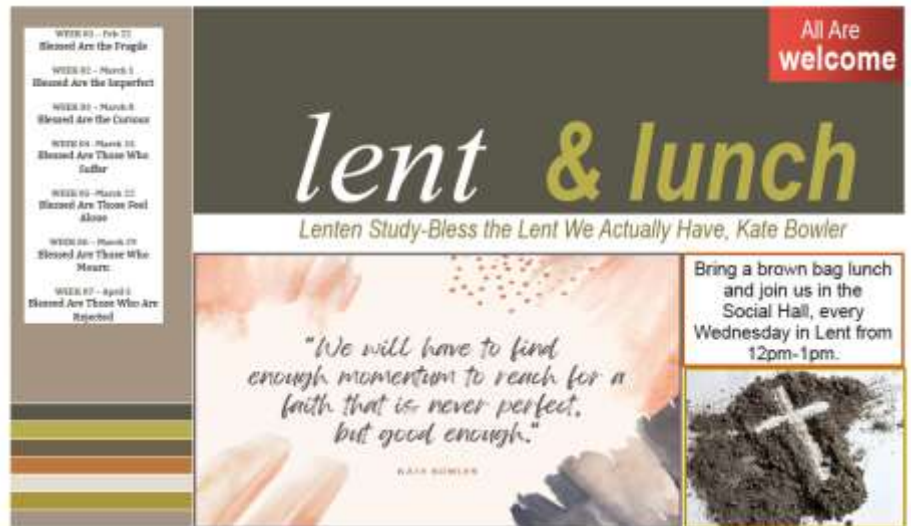
April 5th, we will be holding a

Lent & Lunch Bible Study!

Bring a brown bag lunch and

Join Us in the Social Hall

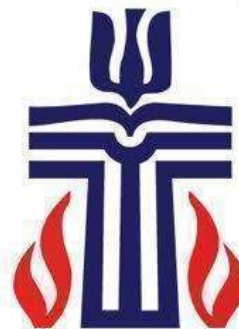
ALL ARE WELCOME



The poster is for a Lent & Lunch Bible Study. It features a dark grey background with the title "lent & lunch" in a large, white, serif font. Below the title, it says "Lenten Study-Bless the Lent We Actually Have, Kate Bowler". On the left, there is a list of weeks and themes: WEEK 01 - Feb 22: Blessed Are the Fragile; WEEK 02 - March 1: Blessed Are the Imperfect; WEEK 03 - March 8: Blessed Are the Curious; WEEK 04 - March 15: Blessed Are Those Who Suffer; WEEK 05 - March 22: Blessed Are Those Who Alone; WEEK 06 - March 29: Blessed Are Those Who Mourn; WEEK 07 - April 5: Blessed Are Those Who Are Rejected. On the right, there is a red box that says "All Are welcome". Below the title, there is a quote: "We will have to find enough momentum to reach for a faith that is never perfect, but good enough." by KATE BOWLER. At the bottom right, there is a small image of a cross in the dirt and a text box that says "Bring a brown bag lunch and join us in the Social Hall, every Wednesday in Lent from 12pm-1pm."



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Happy Valentine's Day to You, a fearfully and wonderfully made child of God:



Toward a Church as Generous
and Just as God's Grace