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 website



Sunday School (K-12th grade) 9-9:45am
Sunday Worship at 10am. Nursery Care available
Coffee Hour following worship.

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



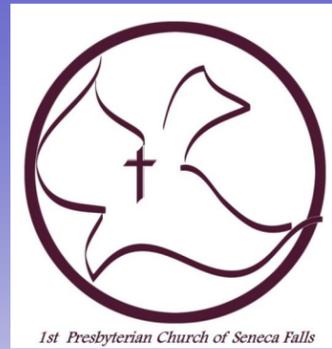
Session meetings are usually on the 4th Monday of each month at 7pm.
 Presently serving Elders: Matthew Crull, Susan Derr, Susan Harkey, Jay Hoyle,
 Ginny Konz, Wayne Lohr, Marc Smith, Peter Snyder.
 Joyce Lohr, Clerk to the Session and with Pastor Leah as Moderator

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



Happy New Year to

January Newsletter 2020



First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls

Toward a Church as **GENEROUS**
 and **JUST** as God's Grace....



January Newsletter 2020

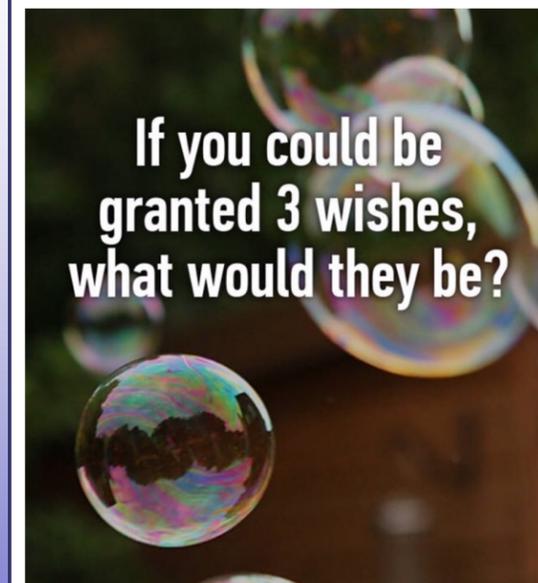
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Pastor's Corner

Recently my sons and I, watched the live action movie version of *Aladdin*. We loved all the singing and dancing! We also loved talking about what our three wishes would be, if we were to ever come across a genie and a lamp. The genie reminds us that we can't wish for more wishes. We can't bring anyone back from the dead and we can't force someone to fall in love.

These questions help us to dream big! We are offered the opportunity to think way outside the box. I love structure, but like the genie says about his lamp. 'Greta power, but itty bity living space.' Our structure gives us power, but we can also become trapped by our structure and we do the same things, the same way, all the time. What would you do or wish for, if it could be anything in the world? Given almost no boundaries, limits or expectations- what would you do with the power at your fingertips?

A new year has a similar effect. As we prepare for the start of 2020, what do we wish for in the coming year? What would we do as individuals, as a church, if we could do anything? As we prepare for the Annual Meeting these are the questions we are asking ourselves. What did we do? What do we want to do?



We don't have a genie with a lamp, it won't be so easy as making a wish. Anything we do will take time, talents and treasures. However, we do have something even better. We have the gifts God has given us to make miracles happen every day. 'Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.' -Desmond Tutu

We don't have to wait for a genie to give us power, God has given us power. God has given us the power to love one another as Christ has loved us. In loving one another we can overwhelm the world with kindness. May you find ways this year to share the good news- God loves you.

Peace, Pastor Leah



Session Briefs

At its December 16, 2019 meeting, the Session:

- Received the November 2019 budget report of \$14,621 in total revenue and \$13,885 in expenditures
- Discussed 2020 Church Pledge campaign and late-coming pledges [Stewardship will send letters]
- Heard report that six people in our congregation have undergone updated Red Cross AED training on December 6 : Cherie Clark, Ginny Konz, Susan Derr, Jay Hoyle, Peter Snyder, and Pastor Leah
- Received a note thanking the church for her Christmas poinsettia from Dorothy Dickieson
- Was alerted to the increasing accumulation in the church, of “plarn” [from plastic bags] and the crocheted mats being made for emergency shelters and of the need to get them delivered and to end the project
- Was advised that the church has signed the Charter to sponsor Boy Scout Troop #88 for another year
- Learned of Pastor’s visit to son Atticus’s school where she talked to students about Christmas in Kenya and of her plans to become an Elf distributing gifts from Santa on December 19.
- Heard plans for church school students’ program on December 22nd “The Sounds of Christmas” and Manse Open House, to follow
- Settled on names for Pastor’s Sabbatical Team [three people] to serve in her absence
- Learned of Geneva Presbytery’s search for new office space and considered some possibilities
- Talked about new fund-raising ideas for 2020
- Were reminded about the Longest Night service on December 21st and of its meaning and significance
- Discussed ideas for Annual Meeting [January 26, 2020] format and plans for Elder Ordination and Installation on January 19th

Manse Open House



Ushers, Nursery and Candle Lighters

January 5th– Communion/Baptism of the Lord

Ushers: Mason Ntuala and Keara Dugan
Candle Lighter: Rachel Olsowske



January 12th

Ushers: Marion Crull and Susan Derr
Candle Lighter: Atticus Ntuala

January 19th– Installation of Elders

Ushers: Ginny Konz and Barry Porsch
Candle Lighter: Anne Olsowske

January 26th– 3rd Sunday after Epiphany & Annual Meeting

Ushers: Jim and Cherie Clark
Candle Lighter: Keara Dugan



February 2nd– Communion

Ushers: Aryanna Dugan and Keara Dugan
Candle Lighter: Isabella Dugan

Please trade dates with someone if you are unable to serve on your designated Sunday. Thank you for serving.



Liturgist List

- 5th— Barb VanKirk
- 12th— Ginny Konz
- 19th— Barry Porsch
- 26th—Karen Kelley
- 2nd—Marion Crull

Coffee Hour and Prayer List

- Jan 5th:** Fellowship Hour in the Social Hall; Host: Marion Crull
- Jan 12th:** Coffee Hour: Niagara Falls– The Lobdells ; Host: Barb VanKirk
- Jan 19th:** Coffee Hour– **TBD**; Host: Ginny Konz
- Jan 26th:** No Coffee Hour- Annual Meeting and Brunch hosted by Membership/Parish



Feb. 2nd: Social Hour; Host: **TBD**

Know someone ill or hospitalized? This month, please call: Sue Charles 315.224.2364

To Keep in our prayers: Kathy Cole; Sue Ellen and Peter Crego; Cindy Danielson; Tony DeSarro; Cindy Felice; Joanna Fuller; Cassandra Fuller; Tony Ganzon; Betty Geraghty; Pat Gordon; Tori Guerina; Crystal Hanes; Greta Hauser & Family; Minni Hergert; Kae and John Hoyle; Gary Ippolito; Max Jessop; Debra Kemp; Timothy Kent; Lucy and Nancy Lopez; Peggy McIntyre; Liza Merriam; Tyler Morgan; Patsy Mott; Cheri Murphy; Ken Poormon; Dean Potter; Jean Stenlake; Tina Tuttle; Linda Warner; Paul Wasicek; Darryl Wells; Gretchen Whittacre; Linda Zona; and all those suffering in the world.

Church Family News



Annual Reports: The annual meeting is going to be held on Sunday, January 26th. If you are the head of a committee your annual reports are due by **January 14th**. If you have not turned in your report yet, please email them to the church if possible to save a lot of extra typing. Thank you!

Per Capita and Offering Envelopes—This year our church must pay \$50.00 *for each member* on the rolls. Early payment of this Per Capita Apportionment will enable us to meet this obligation due during the first six months of 2020. Thank you for your assistance and understanding. If you haven't picked up your offering envelope box, please check the Narthex. They are there with your last name on the box. If you don't find your name, there are extra boxes in the office. If you want to make other arrangements to get your box, please contact Karen.

Stewardship Update—Thank you all for your commitment to First Pres! Our total pledges have reached the \$79,522 mark for the church and \$6,396 for benevolences for a grand total of \$85,918. With your dollar commitment (and those pledges we have not received yet), reduction in expenses, generous endowments and a limited amount from reserves, we will have a balanced budget without asking for more assistance. Thank you!

For those of you who remember **Al Johnson**, his address has changed. He is still in Ferris Hills in Canandaigua but has moved to their Assisted Living Center. Cards and thoughts would be greatly appreciated just send to: 251 Clark Meadows, Canandaigua, NY 14424.

Thank you, Claire Damaske and Carolyn Seem for cleaning and organizing the Coffee Hour cabinet and counters and silverware drawers! Great work!

Christmas Pageant and Longest Night

Thank you all for making our services wonderful and memorable!



Members and Friends to Keep in Our Thoughts:



Name	Address
Ed Chase	1 Leland Drive, Seneca Falls, NY 13148
Dorothy Dickieson	303 Ferris Hills, Canandaigua, NY 14424
Betty Geraghty	8 Iroquois Lane, Waterloo, NY 13165
Liza Merriam	369 E. Main Street, Huntington Living Ctr Rm 108, Waterloo, NY 13165
Jean Morris	Lockport Presbyterian Home, 305-327 High Street, Lockport, NY 14094
Jean Stenlake	Steuben County Healthcare Facility, Room 194, 7009 Rumsey Street Ext. Bath NY 14810

Women's Circle



At the November meeting, Circle members heard a request from the Community Action Agency office in Waterloo seeking emergency baby supplies for its Center Street pantry. We agreed to support this effort and Circle treasurer Barb Van Kirk will send a check for \$60. Barb also read a letter of thanks for our recent donation to the R.I.P. Medical Debt organization. Since donations of items for the Newark shelter are piling up in the social room, Ginny Konz and Joyce Lohr said they would get them delivered. Plans were made for the Holiday Luncheon in December to which all the women of the church are invited on December 2nd in the Hawley Room, and are asked to bring a dish to share and infant/toddler size diapers.

In the study portion of the meeting we discussed several chapters of the Jen Wilkin book, *Women of the Word* and will finish reading for discussion at the January 2020 meeting.

In looking forward to a new year in Circle, let us bear in mind this statement from the National Office of Presbyterian Women:

Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study, to support the mission of the Church world-wide, to work for justice and peace, and to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church [U.S.A.] and witnesses to the promise of God's Kingdom.

We continue to be grateful for everyone's donations of food and other items to the House of Concern each month and to Wayne Lohr, for delivering them. We'd sometimes like to see the baskets a bit fuller because each item combined with others, help so many families looking to the House of Concern for help. **We ask Newsletter readers to be reminded as the worship bulletin asks each Sunday: "Please remember the House of Concern when doing your shopping!"** We always greatly appreciate the donations from congregation members on Communion Sundays; Thank You!

In January please bring: Pasta & Sauce for the House of Concern

We hope you'll join us for the next Circle meeting on Monday, January 6, 2020 at 12:30 in the Hawley Room. Bring your lunch!

Wishing every one blessings and grateful hearts in the New Year !

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- Iva Lay-1/1
- Honey Gilbert—1/4
- Barbara Lohr-1/5
- Leah Ntuala-1/6
- Kiersten Dunbar -1/12
- Barb Van Kirk— 1/20
- Peter Snyder- 1/22
- Jean Stenlake-1/22
- Karen Beals-1/28
- Nancy Rutz— 1/28
- Ben Jessop-1/29

Happy Birthday everyone!



Annual Meeting
January 26, 2020
Brunch following Service

February Newsletter
articles are due on
January 23rd.

Newsletter will be sent out
On January 29th.

Ministry is Done Together

By John McCall | Presbyterians Today

I got off the train after a four-hour ride along the Pacific Ocean and headed to the exit to be met by a pastor from Bunun Presbytery, an aboriginal presbytery on Taiwan’s east coast. I was on my way to lead the fourth pastors retreat in three weeks.

The Bunun tribal pastor (Bunun means “person” and is the name of one of the 16 tribes among Taiwan’s indigenous people) greeted me and drove us to a nearby noodle restaurant, where we met four other pastors for lunch. We then left the small town of Yuli and headed up steep mountain roads to the farming hut of one of the church elders. Other pastors were waiting for us there in the middle of a mango grove. The view from the hut was spectacular, a deep blue sky with white clouds hanging over high mountains.

Many of the church gatherings tend to have a main speaker lecturing and the participants passively listening. I try to craft a retreat that gives plenty of time for small group sharing and a good amount of time to pray, sing and worship together. I do give a few talks, but I encourage them to respond to the talks.

Aboriginals love to sing, so we began our time together with one pastor leading us in song. We sang in both the Bunun tongue and in Mandarin. These pastors serve churches in villages sprinkled throughout these eastern coastal mountains. Many of their members are farmers, but a good number are also teachers or police officers or are working at other jobs. It is easy for me to tell the different aboriginal people apart both by their looks and their customs. The Bunun tribe tends to be a communal tribe that enjoys doing things together.

After we sang, I shared with them Jesus’ words from John 15:15: I do not call you servants any longer ... but I have called you friends. We spent the rest of the retreat thinking about what it means to be a friend of Jesus and not just a servant. In Asia’s hierarchical society, it’s much easier to think of Jesus as the teacher and to see ourselves as the students. So for us to be considered Jesus’ friend is a rather radical thought. We also talked about how Jesus calls us to be friends to one another. Again, this is not easy in a context where confidentiality is often not honored, and there is not always deep trust between pastors or

other co-workers in the church. On the second day of the retreat, the oldest pastor in the presbytery had been invited to lead the morning devotions. I had not met Pastor Ma before, but as he began to preach, I could tell that, at age 86, he is a man of great faith, hope and love. He has served in these mountains for 50 years, and he has a dynamism that is infectious. He said that the church has enough critics, and that instead we need to be people of one heart and mind, people of deep and faithful prayer, and people who recognize the power of the gospel to change lives and communities. As I listened to him preach and looked around at the younger pastors, I gave thanks for such a wonderful leadership model. When he began his service, there were no paved roads in the mountains. It could take a day or more to hike to the next village. And yet, he still showed up.

As I boarded the train back to Taipei, my body was tired, but my spirit was thankful for the opportunity to be with Taiwan’s pastors. Their roads are not easy in this non-Christian land, and they need encouragement and someone to speak hope, but they get up every day and seek to live out the love of Christ in their families, churches and communities.

John McCall is a PC(USA) pastor who has been serving in Taiwan for more than 20 years. He spends a lot of time on trains, buses and subways as he travels throughout Taiwan teaching courses on ministry and spiritual formation.

Yuli



2020- Church Events



January

- Won't You Be My Neighbor- 1/8
- Game Night/Potluck-1/10
- Ordination of Elders- 1/19
- Women's Panel-1/19
- Seneca Nursing & Rehab Service-1/19
- Annual Meeting- 1/26
- Session-1/27

Feb

- Won't You Be My Neighbor- 2/5
- Valentine's Sunday- 2/9
- Blood Drive- 2/12
- Seneca Nursing & Rehab Service-2/23
- Session-2/24
- Ash Wednesday-2/26

March

- Game Night/Potluck-3/6
- Won't You Be My Neighbor- 3/11
- Pi Day- Pie Sale- 3/14
- Session- 3/23
- Seneca Nursing & Rehab Service-3/29

April

- Palm Sunday Brunch-4/5
- Won't You Be My Neighbor- 4/8
- Maundy Thursday Service-4/9 7pm
- Good Friday Service-4/10, 7pm
- Easter-4/12
- Session-4/27

May

- Seneca Nursing & Rehab Service-5/3
- National Day of Prayer- 5/7
- Game Night-5/3
- Won't You Be My Neighbor- 5/13
- Session-5/18
- Memorial Day Bell Ringing- 5/25
- Pentecost-5/31

June

- Seneca Nursing & Rehab Service-6/7
- Last Day of Sunday School-6/14
- Session-6/15
- Pastor Leah's Sabbatical begins-6/21-9/6

July

- Seneca Nursing & Rehab Service-7/12
- Youth Convention-7/17-7/19
- Girl Scouts-7/18
- Muslim Declaration of Rights-7/18

August

- Seneca Nursing & Rehab Service-8/16
- Session-8/24

September

- Sunday School Begins-9/13
- Blessing of the Backpacks-9/13
- Seneca Nursing & Rehab Service-9/20
- Session-9/28

October

- Game Night/Potluck Dinner- 10/2
- World Communion Sunday- 10/4
- Pumpkin Sunday- 10/25
- Seneca Nursing & Rehab Service-10/25
- Session-10/26

November

- All Saint's Sunday- 11/1
- Congregational Meeting- 11/15
- Session-11/23
- Thanksgiving-11/26
- 1st Sunday in Advent- 11/29
- Seneca Nursing & Rehab Service-11/29

December

- It's a Wonderful Life-12/12
- Christmas Pageant/Manse Party- 12/20
- Session-12/16
- Longest Night Service-12/21, 7pm
- Christmas Eve Service- 12/24, 7pm

UPCOMING EVENTS



Calendar Mark Your Calendar Mark Your Calendar