

Church Office: 315.568.6636
 Hours: Thursday 7:00am-12:00pm
 Manse: 315.398.4356
 E-mail: firstpres13148@gmail.com
 Website: www.fpressf.com

Scan this code
 with your smart
 phone to visit our
 website



**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

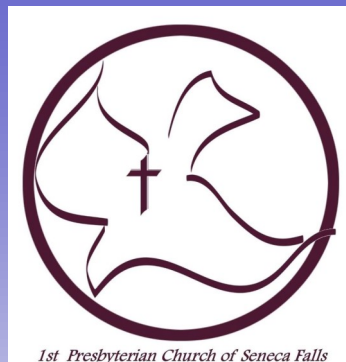
Presently serving Elders: Jim Clark, Marion Crull, Dick Damaske, Susan Derr, Michele Edmondson,
 Susan Harkey, Jay Hoyle, Ginny Konz, Marc Smith
 Joyce Lohr, Clerk to the Session and with Pastor Leah as Moderator

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



Happy New Year to

January Newsletter 2021



First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls

OUS

Toward a Church as GENER-



January Newsletter 2021

Inside this issue:	
Session Briefs	2
Birthdays	2
Reminders	2
Women's Circle	3
Synod of the NE Elects Transitional Leader	4
"I Have A Question"	5
Church Family News	6
Service Schedule	7
Liturgist List	7
Coffee Hour and Prayer List	7
Calendar	Insert

Pastor's Corner

For last year's words belong to last year's language and next year's words await another voice. ~ TS Elliot



Dearest Church Family,
 2021 has new words for us, like vaccine, herd immunity and connection. It will not be long until we can meet together in person, with or without masks, who knows, but inside and under the same roof. When in 2021? I don't know, and that is ok.

The last few years in the new year, we have begun a tradition of Star Words. It is a practice of the Epiphany. "On the day that we remember the star that led the magi to Jesus." We use star words as reminders that God is leading us too. We pick a word, or maybe it chooses us, to help us focus and be guided in the coming year.

Well, we are not in the church to choose words beautifully printed on stars, but thankfully someone has already thought of this and gives us the Star Word Wheel:

https://www.classtools.net/random-name-picker/47_PFKb2hfbclid=IwAR2VCrdooKyNj269u6BZ1e84tCJv9ABYFHH2MT2yz5Xus-1bjLH2DT9k7wE

Go to this site, spin the wheel and your word is chosen. I would encourage you to keep the word you receive, even if you don't want it. Yes, you can spin again, but maybe God wants you the have this word in 2021. Throughout the year, the meaning and the actions of this word will unfold. I enjoy learning about your word and where God is guiding you.

As you choose your words and as we enter 2021, hear this prayer:

God, we acknowledge that we are not always ready to receive your best gifts for us. You have given us an epiphany word in order that our searching will bring us to you. It is often our habit to turn aside, stumble over, or even reject experiences and encounters that we later understand to have been precious gifts. Help us to be open to the gift that you offer us now through our star words. We acknowledge that we do not fully understand what this word might mean for our faith, but we receive it from you with gratitude and pray that your spirit will enable us to live into our word with intention and faithfulness. Amen. (Michelle Thomas Bush)

Peace, Pastor Leah

Session Briefs

At its December 21, 2020 meeting, the Session:



- Reviewed budget report for November, listing Income: \$13,861.48; Expenses: \$12,672.82; expenses included payments in November for drive/parking lot paving and final payment for Manse energy-efficient window installation
- Prayed for the ill and those suffering from the pandemic; including thanks for arrival of life-saving and preventative vaccines
- Heard Clerk's report from Presbytery of Geneva for reports due
- Heard requests for Coffee Hour programs and report of Jim Clark's program on Solar Update planned for February
- Set date of new Elder Installation for Sunday, January 17th
- Learned of Eastman Hall door replacement and thermostat adjustment; Manse garage door-opener repair; parking lot issues and possible remedies and of need for Manse chimney repair and drive/parking lot sealing
- Heard plans for Christmas Eve service to be aired online, and of M&M delivery underway
- Heard Pastor's report for Back Pack program kids (52) getting new bicycles at Christmas, and of 900+ families now seeking help from the House of Concern
- Learned of continuing addition of memorial ribbons to church steps for Covid deaths
- Set Sunday, January 24, 2021 date for church Annual Meeting to take place, socially-distanced in the church social rooms with Zoom participation made available for those remaining at home
- Heard reminders to Ministry and Committee chairs for reports due in church office by January 10th
- Note: correction for Session Briefs for November 23, 2020 - the name of the descendant of Elizabeth Cady Stanton should have read "Coline Jenkins."

The next meeting of the Session will be on Monday, January 25, 2021

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- Iva Lay-1/1
- Honey Gilbert-1/4
- Barbara Lohr-1/5
- Leah Ntuala-1/6
- 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

Annual Meeting
January 24, 2020
following Service

February Newsletter
articles are due on
January 21st and
Newsletter will be sent out



Service Schedule



January 3rd- Communion-Psalm 30; Matthew 2:13-23
Joseph and Mary flee to Egypt to escape persecution from Herod.

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

January 10th-Psalm 31; John 1:(1-9) 10-18
Those who trust in Christ have the power to become children of God.

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

January 17th- Installation of Elders-Psalm 32; Matthew 3:13-17
Jesus is baptized; the Spirit descends; a voice says: This is my Son.

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

January 24th- Annual Meeting-Psalm 33; John 1:29-42
What is the cost of discipleship?

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

January 31st- Psalm 34; Matthew 4:12-23 (24-25)
Jesus calls four disciples: Follow me, and you will fish for people.

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

February 7th- Communion-Psalm 35; Matthew 5:13-20
Jesus says: You are salt and light; I have come to fulfill the law.

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



Liturgist List

- 3rd- Marc Smith
- 10th- Marion Crull
- 17th- Bob Seem
- 24th- Barry Porsch
- 31st- Claire Damaske
- 7th- Barb Van Kirk



Coffee Hour and Prayer List

- Jan 3rd:** No Coffee Hour- Happy New Year!
- Jan 10th:** No Coffee Hour
- Jan 17th:** Coffee Hour- It's Time to Reclaim Religion
- Jan 24th:** No Coffee Hour- Annual Meeting
- Jan 31st:** Coffee Hour TBD
- Feb. 7th:** Coffee Hour TBD

Know someone ill or hospitalized? This month, please call: Kae Hoyle 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; Pat Gordon; Tori Guerina; Crystal Hanes; Greta Hauser & Family; Rick Hendricks; 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



Annual Reports: The annual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 24th. If you are the head of a committee your annual reports are due by **January 10th**. If you have not turned in your report yet, please email it to the church if possible to save a lot of extra typing. Thank you!

Per Capita and Offering Envelopes— our church must pay \$50.00 *for each member* on the rolls again this year. 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. Because we aren't currently meeting in the Church due to Covid, we are doing things a bit differently with regard to the Offering Envelope boxes. You will be keeping the same number that you had last year and your box, labelled with your name, is currently in the office. To make arrangements to get your box, please contact the Church Office and leave a message for Laurie.

Outdoor Advent Wreath 2020

Many thanks to Bob Seem for creating our outdoor Advent Wreath, and to Dick Damaske for helping to set it up!



*Candles of joy despite all the sadness,
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch,
Candles of courage for fears ever present,
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,
Candles of love to inspire all my living,
Candles that will burn all year long.*

Howard Thurman



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	DeMay Living Center, 100 Sunset Drive - c/o Wolf Unit, Newark, NY 14513
Liza Merriam	Heritage Hill 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 194, 7009 Rumsey Street Ext. Bath NY 14810



Women's Circle



Circle meeting was opened on December 7th with our lighting of the Advent Wreath; the Hope and Peace candles with prayers and a reading from Maya Angelou by Barbara. We chatted while we lunched on sandwiches and holiday cookies. It was good to be together in person as we tried to maintain "social distance" in the Hawley Room at church. Kae, Barb, Ginny and Joyce were present. Michele had sent word of a last-minute appointment and would be unable to attend.

We then continued with the discussion begun in November of the first chapters in *Waking Up White* by Debby Irving, and some of the questions asked by the author about our own early lives and the values and principles learned in our families. We discussed also some of the conclusions we may have drawn about those people who didn't share our views. Another question asked what stereotypes we may have heard about people of another race when we were children, and if we were ever encouraged to question stereotypes. Growing up in the 1940s and 1950s as all of us did, there were some common responses. As impressionable youngsters taught to listen and accept, often without argument, what our elders in effect **taught** us (either by words or actions), made it harder to unlearn as we reached ages where we could be more questioning and form our own conclusions. We could begin to see more clearly how people become prejudiced; ourselves included!

In the business portion of the meeting, Barb gave us a treasury report. As agreed last month (November), she had bought another case of baby formula and taken it to the House of Concern. Our treasury is now getting low. We had each brought packages of infant and toddler diapers and Joyce moved them all up to the back door entry, where it is hoped people looking through the doors or coming into the church building will be reminded to donate more. Pastor Leah also makes announcements during the Zoom worship on Sunday mornings. People may take diapers directly to the House of Concern or leave them at church in/near the basket in the back hallway.

January House of Concern item: Pasta & Sauces

For January, we will read and discuss the next six chapters of the Debby Irving book. That meeting should take place on Monday, January 4, 2021 at 12:30pm in the Hawley Room, weather permitting...stay tuned!

We invite interested others to join us. Bring a mask and your lunch!

**May the Lord watch between me and thee
While we are absent, one from the other**



HAPPY NEW YEAR WISHES TO ALL!!

Synod of the Northeast Elects Transitional Leader

By Mike Ferguson, Presbyterian News Service

The Reverend Dr. SanDawna Gaulman Ashley was elected on Friday, December 18, 2020 as transitional leader of the Synod of the Northeast (<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/synod-of-the-northeast-elects-transitional-leader/>). She'll begin in her new role on March 1, 2021.

Ashley, a pastor and former staff member for both the Office of the General Assembly and the Presbyterian Mission Agency, is currently executive presbyter for the Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys. The seventh child of Dorothy and Freddie Gaulman, Ashley was born in Frankfurt, Germany, to a military family. She spent her formative years in Columbia, South Carolina and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She's been married 33 years to her partner in life and ministry, the Rev. Murphy Ashley, Jr. They have a son and two grandchildren.

For the past 21 years, Ashley has served as a local pastor and on the national staff of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). In her various roles, she provided training, consultation, coaching and resources to support committees on ministry, call seekers and calling organizations.

Her experience includes serving as the denomination's associate for Leadership Development, with direct responsibility for equipping adaptive pastors. As the associate for Gender and Racial Justice, she facilitated ministries and programs at all church levels that helped the PC(USA) on its journey to becoming an inclusive, diverse and racially just denomination. Her work included advocating for the full inclusion of all people to serve the church and preparing church organizations to welcome the gifts of diverse leaders.

Her pastoral service includes serving as senior pastor and solo pastor of congregations in Pennsylvania, Delaware and Illinois.

She's an executive board member for the PC(USA)'s Transitional Ministry Education Consortium and has served as faculty for transitional ministry education for conference centers and mid councils, training transitional pastors and new executive leaders. Ashley is experienced working in cross-cultural ministry settings and is an experienced consultant, diversity trainer, policy developer and conflict mediator and serves the city of Wilmar, Minnesota on the Zoning Appeals Board.

She earned a bachelor's degree in social work at Georgia State University, a Master of Divinity in the psychology of religion and pastoral care from Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary, and a doctorate with a concentration in leadership development and congregational transformation from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.



“I HAVE A QUESTION”

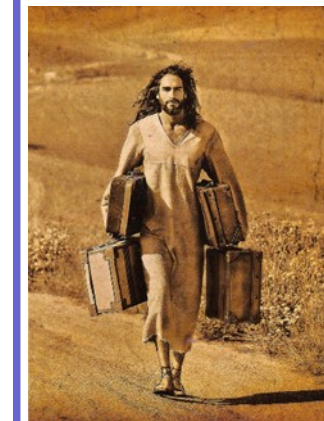
We would like to invite our congregation to participate in our 2nd in a series of “I HAVE A QUESTION” activities. Children, youth, adults and seniors are welcome to participate. You can email a response, send a text message, drop a note or send an Mp3 or Mp4. Send responses to: encantapet@gmail.com, 760-445-1975 (cell - Michele Edmondson).

Here are the verses to consider when answering the question:

Ephesians 3:17 “That Christ may make his home in your hearts through faith.”

Ezekiel 37:27 “My dwelling place will be with them; I will be their God, and they will be my people.”

Leviticus 26:11-12 “I will put my dwelling place among you, and I will not abhor you. I will walk among you and be your God and you will be my people.”



QUESTION #2

A) How would your life be different if Jesus moved into your home to live with you?

B) What If He promised to fulfill all of your prayers from the week before?

If Jesus came into your room, after living with you for a couple weeks and said,

“I am going to fulfill all the prayers you prayed last week.” How might other lives, and your own life have been impacted through those prayers?

Here are a few of the thoughts & emotions that came to my mind and to my heart when I first started wondering, what If Jesus came to live in my house?

MY ANSWERS TO (A)

I would eat more fish.

I would spend more time with Jesus, every day.

He would be my absolute best friend.

I would introduce Him to everyone I know.

MY ANSWERS TO (B)

Sadly, not as many people would or could have benefited from my prayers (or lack of). I need to increase the love in my heart & pray for others, often, with intensity & sincerity.

I stand CONVICTED!

ANSWERS TO QUESTION #1: What will the voice of God singing over you sound like?

Answers: Sam Cooke, George Burns, Nat King Cole, James Earl Jones

