

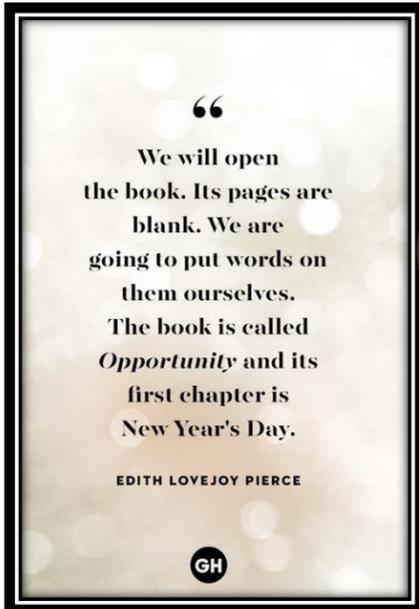
# The First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls, NY

## Newsletter

### Pastor's Corner

Rev. Leah Ntuala

Dearest Church Family- As the New Year has begun, I want to share these two quotes.



I invite you to read them, a few times and think of them. Ask yourself what new opportunities God is opening to you in 2022? What new things are you welcoming in 2022? What words are you writing on the blank pages of this chapter in your life? As you reflect, I offer up this prayer:

*God of the beginnings and the endings, God of the first and the last, we thank you for the opportunities you gave to us in 2021. We thank you for the gift of blank pages and new opportunities in 2022. We ask that you keep us open to being guided by your Spirit. We know that as we step into new things that have never been, you step with us. You are our comforter and our friend. We give you thanks for the strength and courage you will provide as we welcome, show compassion, be brave and be a community of your people. In your holy and loving name we pray. Amen.*

Peace, Pastor Leah

### Church Family News

**Annual Reports:** The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 23rd. If you are the head of a committee, your annual reports are due by **Monday, January 10<sup>th</sup>**. If possible, please email it to church, as this will save a lot of extra typing. The email address is: [firstpres13148@gmail.com](mailto:firstpres13148@gmail.com). Thank you!

**Per Capita:** again this year, our church must pay \$50.00 *for each member* who is on our rolls. Early payment of this Per Capita Apportionment will enable us to meet this obligation due during the first six months of 2022. We appreciate your understanding.

**Offering Envelope Boxes:** will be available again for 2022. You will be keeping the same number that you had last year and your box, labelled with your name, will be available for pickup in the Narthex beginning on Sunday, January 9<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions, please call the Church Office at 315-568-6636, and leave a message for Laurie.

**It's a Wonderful Life at First Pres:** we played a very big part in the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration this year. Many visitors came by to ring the church bell, sign the bell wall and add their names to the guest book. In the Social Hall, we hosted an exhibit of paintings by Paul Abate called "I want to live again! Reflections and lessons from George Bailey," as well as activities sponsored by RISE (Resilience & Inclusion for Students Everywhere), and the Seneca County Suicide Prevention Coalition. **Special kudos to Matthew Cramer, who received multiple compliments from our guests regarding his building tours!!**



- |                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 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  | Nancy Rutz- 1/28   |
| Ben Jessop-1/29     |                    |

### Reminders

**Annual Meeting**  
January 23, 2022  
following Service

**February Newsletter** articles are due on  
**January 20th**



**Session Briefs**

At its December 16, 2021, meeting, the Session:



- Received church financial report for November showing Total Revenues of \$9,820.16; Total Expenditures of \$12,045.26 and Year End Net Income from Fundraising Events of \$3,480 (Tops Cards, Amazon, BBQ, Pecans, Raffle/Fish Fry and Pies); Total Net Revenue from Pecan Sales is not yet available
- Received note of thanks from Carolyn Seem for flowers.
- Received letter of acknowledgement for membership transfer from First Presbyterian Church of Waterloo, New York for Ann Millis and Carol Millis
- Learned that Lindsay Kate Brown (opera) concert scheduled for December 23<sup>rd</sup> is cancelled
- Heard report of Parsons Co. for organ tuning twice a year, instead of the usual four times
- Moved to remove the name of Liza Merriam from church rolls, due to death
- Learned of poinsettia plants ordered from Sinicropi Florist for out-of-town members and of poinsettia plants purchased from Mynderse Drama Club for homebound area members, to be delivered by church members
- Approved Pastor's ten day leave in June 2022, taking unused 2021 vacation time
- Heard favorable reports for church participation in annual *It's a Wonderful Life* (75<sup>th</sup> anniversary) celebration in mid-December
- Learned of annual Staff Reviews to take place in early 2022
- Learned that Statistical Reports are due (membership numbers, gains, losses in 2021) at Presbytery of Geneva by mid-January 2022 (Per Capital assessments are based on statistics)

**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE SESSION TO BE HELD ON JANUARY 20, 2022**

**Women's Circle - Will Not Meet in January -**

At our December meeting, we walked into the Hawley Room to find a pretty table decorated by Kae with festive table cover, plates, centerpiece, and candles. Ginny added her gingerbread cookies and Joyce added a plate of cold melon cuts, grapes, and pineapple. A plate of Lotus ginger cookies also appeared. We'd each brought our own sandwich or salad and alas, our "Holiday Luncheon" was underway. Needless to say, we all missed having the women who joined us in former (pre-pandemic) years and expressed hopes for next year!

Ginny then led us in prayer and discussion of "Tamar and Ruth: Outsiders," in *Women of the Bible Speak*, by Shannon Bream. We hadn't any of us ever heard much mention of Tamar in the Bible. We all agreed, "she was smart!" and to this day, we can see how God is always working through us; sometimes in ways that make us uncomfortable and unwilling.

We had a short business meeting. Barb reported she took our donation of a case of infant formula to the House of Concern in Waterloo. We'd each brought one or more packages of infant or toddler diapers and agreed that we'd wait for congregational donations before we delivered them to the House. We hope there will be many more in the coming days of December.

Because of New Year's Day, unforeseen winter weather and medical appointments, we agreed to skip a January meeting and not meet until Monday, February 7, 2022. Barb will lead us in discussion of "Chapter 4: Deborah and Jael: Women of Valor," in which Deborah, a prophetess of God, is seen to have guts and wisdom (author's words) and Jael is considered by Deborah to be a real hero in killing Sisera, long a cruel oppressor of the Israelites.

**We wish everyone Blessings of Good Health and Love, given and received, and Gratitude for all things in the New Year 2022!!**

**Please remember our needy neighbors with your donations to the House of Concern in JANUARY: Pasta & Sauce**

Donations of Food, Personal Care Items and Cleaning Supplies are welcome!

**Members and Friends to Keep in Our Thoughts**

Dorothy Dickieson  
303 Ferris Hills,  
Canandaigua, NY 14424

Betty Geraghty  
8 Iroquois Lane, Waterloo, NY 13165

Carson Langford  
3120 Patton Road,  
Seneca Falls, NY 13148

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



**Worship Schedule**

Join us online:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMY7YsXpd6ybud2LmWCojA>

January 2-Communion-  
Behold the Lamb of God, call of  
Disciples, "Come and See."  
Scripture: Psalm 66:1-5; John 1:35-51

January 9- Wedding at Cana, water  
into wine.  
Scripture: Psalm 104:14-16; John 2:1-11

January 16- Jesus cleanses the temple,  
signifying the destruction and raising of  
his body.  
Scripture: Psalm 127:1-2; John 2:13-25

January 23- Jesus and Nicodemus,  
being born anew, God's love for the  
world.  
Scripture: Psalm 139:13-18; John 3:1-21

January 30- Jesus meets a Samaritan  
woman at well, speaks of living water  
and true worship.  
Scripture: Psalm 42:1-3; John 4:1-42

February 6- Communion- Healing  
official's son, faith in the word of  
promise; Jesus heals one who shows no  
faith.  
Scripture: Psalm 40:1-5; John 4:46-54  
[5:1-18]

**Liturgist List**

Jan 2 – Bob Seem  
Jan 9 – Susan Sholar  
Jan 16 – Barry Porsche  
Jan 23 – Marc Smith  
Jan 30- Peter Snyder  
Feb 6- Claire Damaske

**Contact Us**

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

**Staff**

Rev. Leah Ntuala-Pastor  
Rev. Dr. Peter J. Crego-Pastor Emeritus  
Kae Hoyle-Treasurer  
Laurie Weller-Office Manager  
Peter Snyder—Sexton  
Jen Braun-Pianist  
Carol Millis- Bell Choir Director  
Joyce Lohr- Clerk to the Session

**Session Members**

Session meetings are held on the 3rd  
Thursday of each month at 10am

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

**Coffee Hours**

The next 6 Coffee Hours will be hosted by: Dr. David Gambrell  
on YouTube: An Introduction to Reformed Worship

January 2: The Meaning of Life...and Worship

January 9: The Service of the Lord's Day

January 16: Baptism

January 23: Leadership & Participation

January 30: The Christian Year

February 6: Daily Prayer

**Know someone ill or hospitalized?  
Please call: Sue Charles - 315-224-2364**



**To Keep in our prayers:** Reatha Bishop; Jennifer Colbert; Sue Ellen and Peter Crego; Norine Crull; Dorothy Dickieson; George Elyseev; Joanna Fuller; Betty Geraghty; Pat & Marvin Gordon; Tori Guerina; Crystal Hanes; Teall Harkey; Hedra Harrison; Jack Hassler; Greta Hauser & family; Al Johnson; Bea Jones; our Law Enforcement Officers, Firefighters and EMTs; Carson Lankford; David Lobdell; Ronald Lobdell Jr.; Lucy and Nancy Lopez; the Lowry family; Eleanor Mirabito; Tyler Morgan; Jinny Noone; Joy Novack; Elaine Ritter; John Schavemaker; Linda Schavemaker; Barb Squires; Jean Stenlake; Linda Warner; Darryl Wells; Gretchen Whittacre; and all those suffering in the world.

**“It’s all that easy and it’s all that hard”****The Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow speaks of kindness, coronavirus and hybrid worship***By Mike Ferguson | Presbyterian News Service - Excerpt taken from: PC(USA) Weekly News, December 15, 2021*

LOUISVILLE – After surviving a stay in the hospital following a COVID-19 diagnosis despite being fully vaccinated, the Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow says he now counts “competent days as a win.” “What gives me life now is writing,” Reyes-Chow, pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Palo Alto, California, and the Moderator of the 218<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2008), told the Rev. Dr. Lee Hinson-Hasty. This spring, Chalice Press published Reyes-Chow’s latest book, “In Defense of Kindness: Why It Matters, How It Changes Our Lives, and How It Can Save the World,” and he’s already at work on his next book. Writing “feeds my soul these days,” he said.

Reyes-Chow, a social media legend in PC(USA) circles who’s inspired many with talks on topics including holding meaningful and effective online worship, told Hinson-Hasty he posted extensively during his hospital stay in order to “normalize” what it means to be hospitalized because of the coronavirus. “So many people have it, and not everyone dies from it, thankfully. What I discovered is many pastors and others had COVID and didn’t have the resources or the platform or the flexibility to heal and share their story. There are a lot of people healing in silence.”

As First Presbyterian Church has added an in-person worship option despite the presence of the omicron variant, Reyes-Chow said he’s hopeful “it doesn’t create a sense where we are cavalier about this or we give up” on being vigilant about safety, “but that it actually reinvigorates our diligence. I’m not sure which way we’re going to head (with the new variant), but I do think it is exhausting to hear about another one.”

“We do a little bit in person and quite a bit on Zoom to try to get people more comfortable with different ways of interacting,” Reyes-Chow said. “We are trying to create a sense of ‘how do we stay in community and be responsible,’ which means some inconvenience but also some discovery. There have been some real revelatory things happen because of the pandemic – not silver linings by any means, but we’ve revealed some things about ourselves, both good and bad, things that were a little static and calcified as well as places that we’re fairly adaptable at.”

Reyes-Chow has a word he finds himself using increasingly of late: enough. “It’s not ‘I have had enough,’ he said, but “what is enough?” when it comes to productivity, a nagging he ascribes to “toxic productivity gremlins. When they “come into your world, you are only as good as what you accomplish...it’s a cultural phenomenon in the US and we need to break that because it’s not sustainable.”

“All these things are forcing us to ask questions, and for me it’s ‘what is enough?’” he said. “How in shape do I need to be? How much do I need to be working? How much do I need to be managing my way through the pandemic for the church? What does success mean? All these great questions have become more real for everybody over the past 18 months.” He said his most recent book isn’t overtly religious, “but it does regard the beauty of Creation and the created.” Reyes-Chow offered a charge and benediction: “Go forth into the world with compassion and justice in your heart. Hear voices of the long silenced. See strength in that which has been deemed weak. See one another, hear one another, care for one another and love one another. It’s all that easy and all that hard. May the grace of God, the love of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit be with us all now and forever more. And all God’s people say, ‘Amen!’”

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



Scan this code  
with your  
smart phone to  
visit our  
website



*1st Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls*

Greetings To:



A Member Congregation of the  
Covenant Network of Presbyterians

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