

First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls

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



July/August Newsletter 2021

Pastor's Corner

Friends:

As I'm sure you are all aware, Pastor Leah is now off on her very overdue Sabbatical, which was delayed because of COVID. She won't be using social media apps during her time away, but has promised us a coffee hour presentation when she returns, and we will be holding her to that!

In Pastor Leah's absence, church members have agreed to lead the services this summer. They will be sharing a portion of their faith story, along with a scripture reading and a hymn that has shaped who they are as a beloved child of God. For the first time since March of 2020, services are now being held each Sunday at 10:00 am, inside the Sanctuary. For those who choose to do so, services will also continue to be available via online streaming. Please see Page 7 for our Indoor Summer Service Schedule.

Communion will also take place this summer, though not the first of every month. Ruling Elders will be available for visits, as needed. Please remember to use the chaplain resources available in the hospitals; COVID restrictions can make visitations difficult. If you are streaming services at home and would like communion, please contact the church office so that arrangements for pick-up or delivery can be made.

Have a safe and happy summer!!



Inside this issue:

Session Briefs	2
Birthdays	2
Women's Circle	3
Stewardship	3
Presbyterian Week of Action	4
First Fridays	5
Pledge Reminder	5
Church Family News	6
Prayer List	6
Summer Service Schedule	7
To Keep In Our Thoughts	7
Calendars	insert

Session Briefs



At its Monday, June 14, 2021 meeting, via Zoom, the Session:

- Received the May financial report for the church showing Revenues at \$7,924.78; Total expenditures of \$13,907 and end of May fundraising Net Income of \$525 from TOPS card sales and \$56 from Amazon; YTD fundraising Net Income is \$1,444 (pie sales, Amazon, TOPS); Fish Fry net income figures yet to be determined
- Received notes from Gary Ippolito in thanks for Pastor's sermons mailed to him and from Karen Kelley in thanks for flowers upon the passing of Miss Martha; also received thanks from a person grateful for the comfort of the church bench on Cayuga Street.
- Approved a three person Care Team for Pastor's absence during Sabbatical Leave: Elders Ginny Konz, Marion Crull and Jay Hoyle
- Learned that Bob Seem and Dave Sklair took training for seminar audio/visual apparatus to be used in outdoor summer worship
- Learned the Summer Backpack Program has 50 kids registered, to date
- Heard praise for recent Doug's Fish Fry fundraiser (organized by Elder Jim Clark) and reports of "best pies ever" from PI Day buyers, and discussed possible pricing, pre-sales and advertising for next year's pie sale
- Discussed FaceBook and Google ratings, which appear to be low for the church sites
- Heard report of Property Ministry's visit (Elder Dick Damaske) to local Historical Commission meeting for finishing manse window replacements-approval granted and work to begin in Fall; and study outcomes regarding church buildings and recommendations for heat pump technology, hot water tanks and LED lighting for Sanctuary
- Learned of Pastor's portrayal of Alice Paul in First Amendment program segment being added to area school curricula
- Heard praise for Community Covid Memorial Service, held on May 27th with United Methodist, Presbyterian, Episcopal and Roman Catholic clergy and parishioners participating
- Discussed choice for August Session meeting for which a Moderator would be needed, or to plan for early September meeting to take place September 13th after Pastor returns from Sabbatical Leave
- Addendum: A vote was taken via E-Mail on June 16th on motion by Elder Dick Damaske, seconded by Elder Jim Clark, for moving worship inside to Sanctuary for the summer, eff. Sunday, June 20th; motion passed

~Prepared by Joyce Lohr, Clerk to the Session~

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Samuel Rescorl-7/3
 Vivian Rescorl-7/11
 Lorraine Beals-7/12
 Eric Elyséev-7/13
 Isabella Dugan-7/16
 Christina Lopez-7/20
 Joyce Lohr-7/23
 Greg Dugan-7/24
 Michelle Geraghty-7/25
 Becky Jessop-7/26

Happy Birthday!

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Marika Beals-Kraus-8/4
 Dorothy Dickieson-8/6
 Marion Crull-8/10
 Tom Montgomery-8/20
 Paul Elyséev-8/22
 Cherie Clark-8/24
 Louis Lobdell-8/24
 Mason Ntuala-8/28
 Matt Crull-8/29

Women's Circle

We will not meet during the summer months - see you in September!



In June, the last meeting of the Women's Circle until September was held on the deck at Wolffy's Grill and Marina, on lovely Cayuga Lake. A wonderful lunch was enjoyed by all!



Please continue to support the House of Concern by taking your donations of food and household products directly to the house on State Street. **Its hours are 9:30 a.m.— 3:00 p.m. Special items for July/August are: Condiments** (mayo, salad dressing, mustard, pickles, olives, relish, etc.) and **Peanut Butter, Jam and Jelly**. We wish you all a happy and healthful summertime!

Stewardship



Dear Church Friends,

Happy Summer! We have all been missing gathering (in person) to worship but, as of June 20th, it is soul nourishing to be able to attend services either in-person OR virtually!

All throughout the past year, the business and expenditures of the church have been ongoing and, as things slowly get back to normal, all will continue. This is a friendly reminder to please keep paying your pledge. It is easy to pay on the church's website (www.fpressf.com); scroll down until you see DONATE NOW. Then click on that, fill out an easy form and designate the amount. Or, of course, you can still "snail mail" your check. Laurie is in the office to process either of the above.

Thanks so much!



September Newsletter articles are due on **Aug 19th**
The newsletter will be sent out on Aug 28th.

Presbyterian Week of Action slated for August 23-29 2021 theme focuses on oppression, resistance and liberation

by Darla Carter | Presbyterian News Service

LOUISVILLE - Excitement is building for this year's Presbyterian Week of Action, which takes place August 23-29. It will lift up not only Black Lives Matter but other marginalized groups, such as Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, who have been the target of hatred and discrimination.



“Shades of Oppression, Resistance and Liberation” is the theme of this year's event, which is being coordinated by the Rev. Shanea D. Leonard with the Presbyterian Mission Agency's Bearing Witness team and other interested parties.

“The areas we will touch are the plight of poverty; the AAPI issues that have arisen, especially this year; gun violence and mass shootings; LGBTQIA resistance and resilience; murdered and missing Indigenous women; and then also international struggles,” said Leonard, Associate for Gender and Racial Justice in the Presbyterian Church (USA) Office of Gender, Racial & Intercultural Justice. “And then finally, we will, as always, cover the issues concerning Black Lives Matter.”

The Week of Action, which made its debut last year amid a rash of racialized violence, including the deaths of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, is meant to be a visible arm of justice throughout the denomination as the PC(USA) stands on the foundations of the Matthew 25 invitation and the Hands & Feet initiative.

“This is the work of the Christian; this is the work of the believer in Jesus Christ—to love—and what is justice but love in public, says Cornel West, and that's what we're doing,” said Leonard, who also cited Micah 6:8.

That Scripture says, “O mortal, what does God require of you, but to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly before your God,” Leonard noted, “and so we are called to literally do this work. Sometimes, it's fearful. Sometimes we walk and lay our feet down without knowing what the next step is going to be, but regardless, we know that we are moving, and that the Spirit has required (this) of us.”

Like last year, the Week of Action is expected to include Bible studies, webinars, and community activities. But new things will be added, such as daily Scriptures and possibly a poetry slam. This year's events will be a hybrid of both in-person and virtual opportunities to connect. More details will be released as events are finalized, but in the meantime, Leonard is encouraging everyone, including mid councils, churches and community activists, to get engaged.

“If it's tuning in to one of the virtual broadcasts, or if it's you getting out and doing something in community that is inspired by the Week of Action, or if it's you tapping in and giving me an email, or a call and saying, ‘Hey, we want to join up and do what we can,’ I encourage you to do what Christ has called us to do, to do the work of ministry, to be more than insular-focused, and sometimes, we get to navel-gazing,” Leonard said. “But God has called us to look beyond our walls, to look beyond our pews into the world that is hurting, that is marginalized, and that needs the light and love of Christ now more than ever—and so how will you step up to do that?”

The event dovetails with the Presbyterian observance of #Give828, a day of giving that will support leadership development for leaders of color by helping to fund the Katie Geneva Cannon Scholarship and the Conference for Seminarians of Color. #Give828, which is named after a date that has great significance in Black history, is part of the Week of Action as well as a national campaign and was kicked off this week in honor of Juneteenth.

Making #Give828 gifts is “a way that you can support the work of liberating oppressed communities without actually getting directly involved in work on the ground,” Leonard said. “Some people are not physically able to do maybe a march or go to something that requires you to go outside of your home, but what we can do is help and give in those ways.” **For more information, email shanea.leonard@pcusa.org.**

Seneca Falls
Heritage Area Commission Presents:

FIRST FRIDAYS

5PM-8PM • DOWNTOWN SENECA FALLS



Themes:

June 4th Think Green

July 9th Christmas in July

August 6th Dog Days of Summer

September 3rd Come Dance With Me

October 5th Celebrate Our History

November 5th Gratitude

December 3rd Home for the Holidays

Reminder to keep your pledges up to date over the summer and pay your per capita (\$50 each) if you have not already. Thanks!

Church Family News



Summer Backpack Program: for the past several years, our community has provided meals to over 90 children for the entire summer, twice a week from the end of June until the beginning of September. Families in need have already signed up. This year, food is being donated by Food Link, and our church will be the receiving site for food deliveries. First Pres is scheduled to deliver on Monday, June 28th and Thursday, July 1st, and then again on Monday, July 5th and Thursday, July 8th. Volunteers will meet at our church at 9:00 am. Thanks so much to all who are helping out!

TOPS Gift Cards: Just a reminder that Tops gift cards, in the amount of \$25, \$50 or \$100, are available in the church office. Thank you for your continued support of this fundraiser. They make great gifts!

2 Cents a Meal/Cents-Ability: if you don't like returning all your plastic bottles and cans to the redemption center, think about donating them. There is a bin in the Social Hall to put them in. Peter Snyder has been bringing them to the redemption center for us, and the money is then donated to the 2 Cents a Meal/Cents-Ability program through Presbyterian Mission Foundation.



Congratulations to Aryanna Dugan and Matthew Walsh, our high school graduates. We are so proud of them, and wish them both all the best that life has to offer. God bless!

Hello from Honey Gilbert: I'm happy to report my sinus infection is gone with antibiotics and a lot of thoughts and prayers. Today (June 17th) is my grandson Dalton's 5th birthday, he is my daughter Gabby's first child. I'm so proud of her! She is working at a Pizza Hut in Texas, she got a promotion to manager a month ago. Cool. Great! Thank you for all the thoughts and prayers.

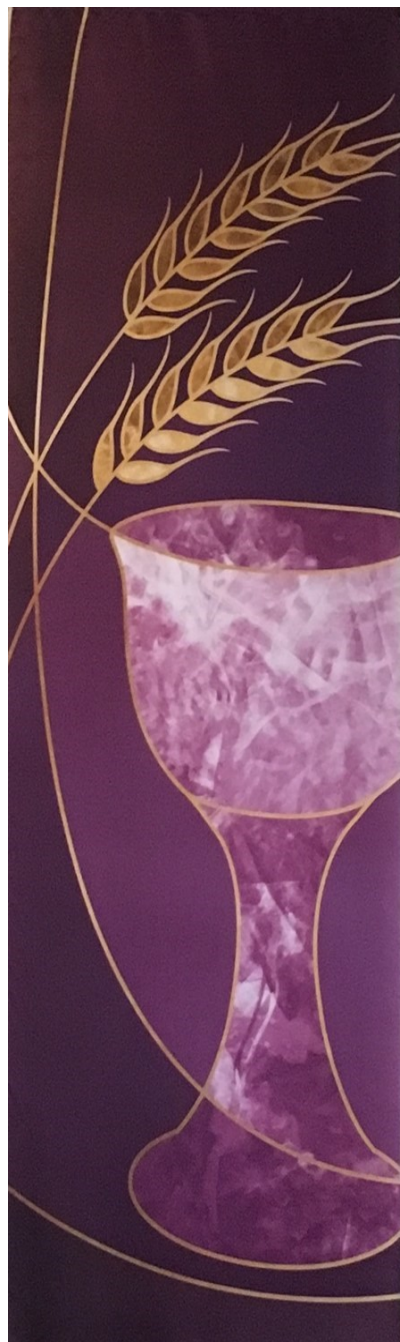
Doug's Fish Fry and Pie Sale Fundraiser: "Just want to thank everyone who supported our first Doug's Fish Fry & Bake Sale. It was a huge success. We sold out of all the baked goods before 5 pm. These are all unofficial numbers, but we netted approximately \$375 from the bake sale. Also, we tested our kitchen for mass pie production for our next Pi Day Sale next March, and I think we can make it work. When I left the Doug's stand they told me that they had grossed \$6300+, which I think is a pretty successful day based on the facial reaction the Doug's employee made when she told me the number. They donate based on a gross sales number, and have a higher "commission" rate as the sales increase. Based on this number, we maxed out our commission rate and they have 5 tiers of commission rates. I believe we will net \$760. Not a bad day's work for the church. I thank you all for your support and participation. I really want to thank Stu & Cathy Olsowske, for not only donating their time to make pies, but for hauling all their items to the church to make it happen. They also donated ingredients, which was way beyond the call of duty and not what we agreed to (yes I am calling you out), but I know it is all out of love and that is what this church is all about. So if you see them out and about, thank them and buy them a cup of coffee. Thank you and Brandy, thanks to you as well." ~Submitted by Jim Clark~

Prayer List

Know someone ill or hospitalized? This month, please call: Joyce Lohr 315-568-9639

To Keep in our prayers: Jennifer Colbert; Matthew Cramer; Sue Ellen and Peter Crego; Norine Crull; Cindy Danielson; Susan Derr; George Elyseev; James Enslow; Chesterdaniel Freeman; Joanna Fuller; Betty Geraghty; Honey Gilbert; Pat Gordon; Tori Guerina; Crystal Hanes; Hedra Harrison; Greta Hauser & Family; Gary Ippolito; Al Johnson; Bea Jones; Timothy Kent; our Law Enforcement Officers; Carson Lankford; Ross Leland & Family; Angel Lobdell; Lucy and Nancy Lopez; Liza Merriam; Tyler Morgan; Patsy Mott; Cheri Murphy; Jinny Noone; Dean Potter; Shirley Sage; RE Barb Squires, in need of an organ donor; Jean Stenlake; Linda Warner; Darryl Wells; Gretchen Whittacre; Linda Zona; and all those suffering in the world.

Indoor Summer Service Schedule



July 4– Leader: Marc Smith
 Join us
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMY7YsXpd6ybud2LmWCoijA>

July 11– Leader: Sue Derr
 Join us
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMY7YsXpd6ybud2LmWCoijA>

July 18– Leader: Jay Hoyle
 Join us
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMY7YsXpd6ybud2LmWCoijA>

July 25– Leader: Barry Porsch
 Join us
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMY7YsXpd6ybud2LmWCoijA>

August 1– Leader: Marion Crull
 Join us
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMY7YsXpd6ybud2LmWCoijA>

August 8– Leader: Ginny Konz
 Join us
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMY7YsXpd6ybud2LmWCoijA>

August 15– Communion- Leader: Rev. Stephen Beals
 Join us
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMY7YsXpd6ybud2LmWCoijA>

August 22– Leader: Barb Van Kirk
 Join us
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMY7YsXpd6ybud2LmWCoijA>

August 29– Leader: Michele Edmondson
 Join us
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMY7YsXpd6ybud2LmWCoijA>

September 5– Leader: Sue Harkey
 Join us
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMY7YsXpd6ybud2LmWCoijA>

Members and Friends to Keep in Our Thoughts

Name	Address
Dorothy Dickieson	303 Ferris Hills, Canandaigua, NY 14424
Betty Geraghty	8 Iroquois Lane, Waterloo, NY 13165
Gary Ippolito	Clifton Springs Hospital & Clinic, Nursing Home, 2 Coulter Road, Clifton Springs, NY 14432
Carson Lankford	3120 Patton Road, Seneca Falls, NY 13148
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 Center, Room 125, 7009 Rumsey St. Ext., Bath, NY 14810



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Manse: 315-398-4356
E-mail: firstpres13148@gmail.com
Website: www.fpressf.com

Scan this code to
visit our website



Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary at 10:00 am

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



Session meetings are 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 and Marc Smith
Joyce Lohr, Clerk to the Session and with Pastor Leah as Moderator

First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls
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Happy 4th of July to:



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