

June  
2022

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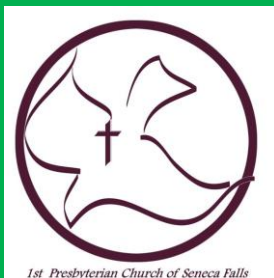
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July/August Newsletter Articles  
Are Due on June 23rd

# The First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls

## Pastor's Corner

**"God, grant me the patience with changes that take time, appreciation of all that I have, tolerance of those with different struggles, and the strength to get up and try again, one day at a time."**

**-Reinhold Niebuhr-**



I have a good friend who would argue that if you are running late, it is because you were trying to control time. In other words, you were trying to get something done before you had to go to the next thing and in doing so, you thought the clock would stop and allow you to get it finished. But this isn't how time works. Time only moves forward, and we can only take it one day at a time. How are you choosing to spend your time?

As a church family, we decided to spend our time in four ways:

1. Be Welcoming
2. Be Compassionate
3. Be You (bravely)
4. Be Community

Everything we do can be placed under one of these time increments or priorities. I will ask us again, "How are you choosing to spend your time? How do we practice this mission as children of God and as members of this faith community? How are we prioritizing our time?"

All of us are busy. All of us have the same amount of time in every given day. How are we using the gift of time to honor God? I have my own answers, but I encourage you to find your own. I look forward to hearing your answers.

Peace, Pastor Leah

## Contact Us

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Seneca Falls, NY

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### Email:

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### Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday  
8am-1pm

### Staff

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

### Session

Session meets every  
3<sup>rd</sup> 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, May 26, 2022 Meeting, the Session:**

- Received the April Financial Report for the church for review.
- Heard notes of thanks from: 1) Joanne Elysee for flowers sent in memory of her husband George; 2) Sue Charles for flowers sent for her medical concerns and 3) group sponsoring Antonio Varacalli Day for providing Hero's Blessing.
- Learned that church received gracious gift of \$50.00 from Ruth Ann Ziehm, in memory of Liza Merriam.
- Heard report regarding all of our accounts from accountant Judith Selover, who completed an audit for 2021. She said that even with the time span since our last audit, all is in order. She gave all a list of Six General Audit Key Points, so we would have them for general review and consideration.
- Bill Kunda with NBT Wealth Management gave a report on our financial portfolio. Inflation is persistent, but we are still very financially sound. Our stocks have out-performed. He did move minimal funds from a few accounts, enabling some liquidity during this unknown economy.
- Heard from Jay Hoyle that Finance Committee requests \$144,000 be moved to our Generations Bank operating account from the Cowan-Matthews Fund at NBT. This is for expenses incurred due to approved work done at Church buildings. Session approved.
- Current Bible Study being led by Elder Michele Edmondson is "Discerning the Voice of God, How to Recognize When God Speaks," by Priscilla Stirer. The group has completed four of seven weeks.
- Heard of Liza Merriam's service and burial, which occurred on May 14<sup>th</sup>, and of service and burial on May 27<sup>th</sup> at Seneca #9 for Robert Mosich.
- A concert in memory of Hedra Harrison will take place on Friday, August 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm; more information forthcoming.
- Jay Hoyle and Michele Edmondson interested in pursuing Matthew 25 in our studies. More information will be provided at a later date.
- Approved moving June Session meeting to June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Submitted by Susan Sholar as Clerk Pro Tempore

**The next meeting of the Session is Thursday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10am**



Louis Grant Brown-6/2

Claire Damaske-6/6

Wayne Lohr-6/7

Andrea (Day) Silverman-6/15

Marvin Lay-6/19

Aryanna Dugan-6/23

## 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 Lankford  
3120 Patton Road  
Seneca Falls, NY 13148

Jean Morris  
5465 Upper Mountain Rd.  
Lockport, NY 14094

Jean Stenlake  
Steuben County  
Healthcare Facility  
Room 194, 7009 Rumsey  
Street Ext.  
Bath, NY 14810



## Women's Circle



Will meet on Monday, June 6<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am  
At Wolffy's Grill & Marina

Only three of us were able to get to the May meeting. We discussed the biblical story of Hannah and her fervent wish to have a child, as told in *The Women of the Bible Speak* and I Samuel 1:1-21. We then read from Marc Zvi Brettler, PhD's book *How to Read the Bible* (Jewish Publication Society, Philadelphia 2005). He discusses Hannah's prayer in the Book of Samuel wherein she pronounces herself the Lord's maidservant and asks the Lord to look upon her misery (at being childless) and to give her a son. "I will give him to the Lord for all the days of his life..." And, when this son, named by her, "Samuel" was indeed given to Hannah, we read that when he was weaned, he was taken by Hannah to the Temple and turned over to the priests, and her saying "...the Lord has granted me what I asked of him. So now I give him to the Lord. For his whole life he will be given over to the Lord." I Samuel 1:26-28. And Samuel would become a priest, a judge, a prophet and would anoint kings, including King David, "Hannah's decision...set the foundation for the nation of Israel to one day be united under King David, identified as a man after God's own heart..." p. 115 *Women of the Bible Speak*.

Marc Brettler describes Hannah's recitations as prayers, dividing them into prayers of request or petition and prayers of thanksgiving. His is an interesting book and we read some of his discussion of Psalms. We felt a closeness to the past because an acknowledgement sticker in front of the book told us it was given to the Seneca Falls Library in honor of a long-time Circle member (now deceased), Marion Baker, by her daughter Janet (Baker) Jennison, in 2005.

For the cultural diversity segment of this meeting, Joyce played some Polish music and gave us each a song sheet translated from Serbian (Cyrillic) to the Roman alphabet, so we could sing a folk song, "Coban Tera Ovice." It's such a pretty melody and we did pretty well!

The May meeting was our last until September. We hope to see Circle members on June 6<sup>th</sup> for an informal get-together at Wolffy's, and we'd love to have lots of others join us. Wolffy's no longer takes reservations and they open at 11am, so as many of you as can, please come early so we can save some tables.

**Readers: Be looking for a phone call soon from someone in Circle inviting you to join us!**

**Let's remember The House of Concern over the summer months  
Special items are:**

**JUNE - Canned Fruits & Veggies    JULY - Condiments  
AUGUST - Peanut Butter & Jelly/Jam**

Our sincere thanks to the folks who donate on Communion Sundays to help with Circle works and projects, to everyone who faithfully helps fill the food baskets, and to Peter Snyder who so kindly delivered the May Donations. **THANK YOU!!**



## Church Family News



- **2022 Graduates** - the following members of First Pres will be graduating in June: Keara Dugan, Mynderse Academy; Ben Jessop, Romulus High School; Sean Walsh, Mynderse Academy. Congratulations and best wishes to all!
- **Pentecost Sunday** - is on June 5<sup>th</sup>. We invite everyone to wear red, or any color that lifts your Spirit. Communion will be served.
- **Our Rummage & Bake Sale, held on Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>** - the event was well attended, and we hope you noticed our new signage that will be used again in September. Many thanks to Sue Derr and the committee, who worked very hard to put this event together.
- **Hymn Sing** - Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am. Come and sing your favorite church songs!
- **Furnace in the Manse** - is 19 years old and, because its useful life is 20 years, it is being replaced with new, more energy and cost efficient heat pumps. We will receive rebates, and value will be added to our manse. Win-Win!
- **Ice Cream Social** - will be held immediately following worship on Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome to join us.





## Worship Schedule

Join us online: [www.fpressf.com](http://www.fpressf.com) or our YouTube Channel

**June 5<sup>th</sup> - Communion - Pentecost Sunday** - Acts 2:1-21;  
Philippians 4:4-7; John 14:16-17  
Gift of the Spirit as a miracle of communication (Acts); Rejoice  
in the Lord always. The peace of God (Philippians).

**June 12<sup>th</sup> - Hymn Sing**

**June 19<sup>th</sup> - Ephesians 2:11-22; Matthew 28:16-20**

**June 26<sup>th</sup> - Ephesians 4:1-16; John 15:1-4**

**July 3<sup>rd</sup> - Communion** - Ephesians 6:10-20; Matthew 10:28-31



### Liturgist List

June 5<sup>th</sup>- Joyce Lohr  
June 12<sup>th</sup>- Susan Sholar  
June 19<sup>th</sup>- Barb Van Kirk  
June 26<sup>th</sup>- Dick Damaske  
July 3<sup>rd</sup>- Ginny Konz

## Coffee Hours - on YouTube

No new Coffee Hours for the summer. You can watch the videos from our website, or under the Coffee Hour Playlist on our Church YouTube Channel.



**To Keep in Our Prayers:** Reatha Bishop; Sue Charles; Jennifer Colbert; Bev Cowan; Sue Ellen and Peter Crego; Norine Crull; Dorothy Dickieson; Michele Edmondson; Joanna Fuller; Betty Geraghty; Pat & Marvin Gordon; Amy Guarino; Tori Guerina; Crystal Hanes; Teall Harkey; Jack Hassler; Greta Hauser & family; Rick Huntington; Al Johnson; Bea Jones; Wendy Kain; Ginny Konz; our Law Enforcement Officers, Firefighters and EMTs; Carson Lankford; Romona Lobdell; David Lobdell; Ronald Lobdell Jr.; Lucy and Nancy Lopez; the Lowry family; Eleanor Mirabito; Tyler Morgan; Cheri Murphy; Jinny Noone; Joy Novack; John Schavemaker; Barb Squires; Jean Stenlake; Linda Warner; Darryl Wells; Gretchen Whittacre; and all those suffering in the world.

**Know someone ill or hospitalized?  
Please call:**

**Church Office 315-568-6636**

## In Other News...

### **Buffalo Pastors Say Community Connections Key to Responding to Mass Shooting** *By Rich Copley / Presbyterian News Service*

Lexington, KY - In the hours after a gunman killed 10 people and injured three others in a racist attack on a Buffalo, New York grocery store, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance contacted the Presbytery of Western New York to offer support to the community.

Since then, PDA has been in dialogue with Presbyterians in the Buffalo area, and veteran National Response Team member the Rev. Pat Ashley was deployed to Buffalo.

"I found my own self overwhelmed," said the Rev. Micah Nutter Dowling, an active pastor in the Presbytery of Western New York. "And it was at that point in the middle of the week that PDA arrived and was there to hold my hand through the emotion of having people contact me who had not reached out in quite a while, who wanted to do something, and trying to provide the wisdom on how to do that well, and the sensitivity that's needed."

Dowling and his wife, the Rev. Katelyn Nutter Dowling, associate pastor for Christian Education at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Buffalo and in-coming council moderator for the Presbytery of Western New York, spoke to Presbyterian News Service Thursday in a video interview to discuss how churches and PDA have been responding in the Buffalo area since the May 14 attack. Joining them were Ashley and the Rev. Jim Kirk, PDA Associate for National Disaster Response.

The Dowlings, who live just a few blocks from the grocery store where the massacre took place, say one of the keys to their response has been relationships that were already established, particularly in Buffalo's Black community.

"When the George Floyd shooting happened two years ago, the presbytery formed an anti-racism task group, and our church, Westminster Presbyterian Church, has an anti-racism task group going back, I think, to the 80s," Katelyn said. "And so, we weren't just plopping down in Black communities, trying to make relationships immediately in the aftermath of such a horrific shooting. We were actually building on relationships that, thank God, we had already started." This was especially important, she said, given the racist motivation for the attack.

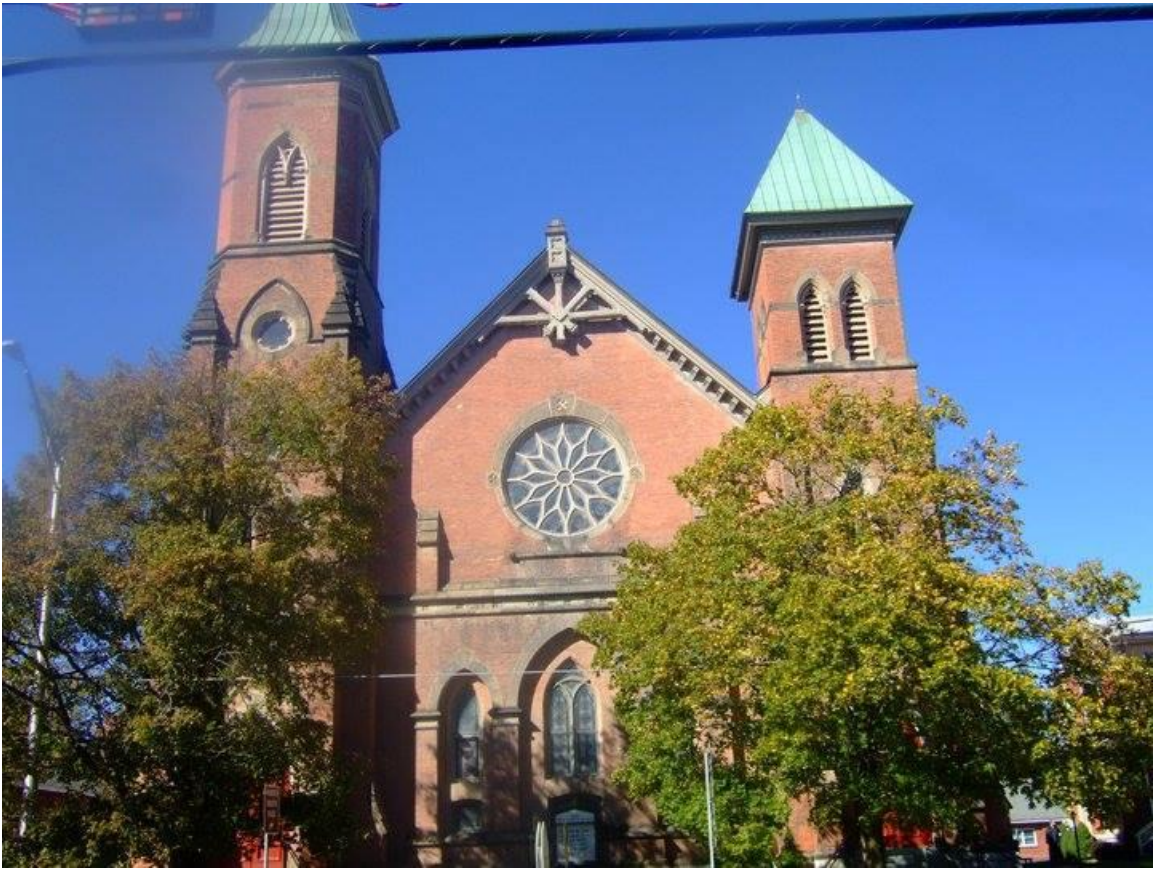
Ashley said the established relationships were immediately evident when she arrived in Buffalo. But the pastors acknowledge even though they and their church have been actively building relationships, they still had blind spots the shooting revealed, like the impact losing the neighborhood's one grocery store would have when it was closed after the shooting.

"I said this in my sermon on Sunday: How dare we call ourselves 'the City of Good Neighbors' when one grocery store closing could cause such food insecurity for thousands of Buffalonians," Katelyn said, referring to a popular nickname for Buffalo. "Black Buffalonians are six times as likely to not have a grocery store in their neighborhood as white Buffalonians."

The tragedy has reinforced to the Dowlings the need to be good neighbors and allies to people who are marginalized in their community to "help fight for a city that works for everyone," Micah said.

Katelyn said the last couple weeks have also given her a greater appreciation for the church at large. "I'm Presbyterian on purpose," she said. "And one of the purposes is because I believe in the connectional church, and when news was hitting here in Buffalo, what was happening, within 24 hours we received a letter from the Presbytery of Southern New England, which is where the Sandy Hook shooting happened 10 years ago, to let us know that they were in prayer for us walking alongside us. Offering us their resources was a healing balm. That was one of the only healing balms during that time."





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The First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls  
P.O. Box 383 Cayuga Street  
Seneca Falls, NY 13148

Greetings to You, a fearfully and wonderfully made child of God:



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