First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls



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Toward a Church as GENEROUS

and JUST as God's Grace....



June Newsletter 2021

Pastor's Corner A sabbatical is the time for letting go of having to produce, and for considering how the Spirit leads. Friends: The time is quickly approaching for my Sabbatical. I was supposed to do this last year, but COVID changed the plans as it changed the world. I am equal parts nervous and excited about this adventure. In preparation for leaving, church members have agreed to lead the services this summer. They will be sharing a portion of their faith story, sharing scripture and a hymn that has shaped who they are as a beloved child of God. Selfishly, I am so happy these are being taped because it means I also won't miss out! 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 have made 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. The majority of the Sabbatical will be spent camping, because it is one of the few safe family experiences until our children are vaccinated for COVID. We will be traveling in the Northeast, to Acadia National Park and back. We will explore the area of the country we live in, enjoy a lot of uninterrupted time together, and see some family along the way whom we have not seen in over a year. I also completed the NY State First Responder Chaplain Course, to better serve our community. This also required me to complete a few FEMA courses. As part of my study time, this is my reading list: Trauma Stewardship- Connie Burk and Laura van Dernoot Lipsky **Resilient- Rick and Forrest Hanson** Permission to Feel-Marc Brackett My Grandmother's Hands- Resmaa Menakem

I will not be using social media apps during my time away either, in the hopes that I will really be able to unplug and connect, but I promise a coffee hour presentation of our adventures. I hope we continue to hold each other in prayer, and I look forward to hearing the ways God has worked in your lives when I return. June 20-Sept 6 are the Sundays I am away.

Peace, Pastor Leah

Session Briefs

At its Monday, May 24, 2021 meeting, via Zoom, the Session:

- Received the church financial report for April showing Revenue of \$11,073.12 and Expenditures of \$14,542.16
- Moved to make further investments in stocks and divest of some present bond holdings as recommended by Stewardship and Finance Committee and Presbyterian Foundation
- Heard report of Pastor and Hedra Harrison's arrangement of worship service for upcoming Presbytery meeting, which can be viewed on YouTube
- Learned of Pastor's certification as Crisis Chaplain to aid first responders in emergency situations
- Learned that Summer Backpack program is now set up with food donated by Food Link and our church will be the receiving site for food deliveries, beginning this week
- Learned that Worship and Music Ministry has arranged worship leaders for July and August
- Moved Communion to Sunday, June 27th from July 4th (August Communion will be on August 15th)
- Heard reminder for Doug's Fish Fry church fund raiser on Thursday, June 10th, and of the need for baked goods donations and people to work shifts from 11am to 6pm
- Heard that blacktop paving has been removed from water meter pit at Eastman Hall, and a credit received from Seneca Falls Water/Sewer Department to reconcile estimated and actual readings
- Heard reminder for Covid Memorial Service at outdoor church front on May 27th with area clergy members, at 6:30pm
- Learned that Seneca County will repave its section of drive and parking for Drop-in Center
- Discussed paint and scripture verses for fencing along driveway to State Street; volunteer painters may join Jim Clark, once plans are completed
- Moved to change next Session meeting date to accommodate Pastor's Sabbatical Leave

Prepared by Joyce Lohr, Clerk to the Session

The next meeting of Session is on Monday, June 14, 2021 at 7pm







Women's Circle

This, our last meeting until September, will be a social time out-of-doors, we hope on the deck at Wolffy's by beautiful Cauyga Lake. They do not take reservations at this time, so if we get there earlyish for lunch, we should be able to be on the deck. We invite all women (and men) of the church to join us. There is no buffet. We'll order from the menu, which can be viewed online, if anyone is interested.

At the May meeting, Kae, Ginny and Joyce (Barb was unable to be there) discussed Chapter 32 in the Debby Irving book, *Waking Up White: and finding myself in the story of Race*, Elephant Room Press, Cambridge MA 2014. Irving's overall message, stated or implied in the pages of this book is about the need for serious conversations to take place, as uncomfortable as they may be or become. Each person must be willing to see and admit to his/her own feelings and practices where



race is concerned. We must strive, each of us, to initiate or participate in those "courageous conversations" where we "learn to listen and speak across difference"; conversations which may become emotional and lack "polite" language. "Change requires tolerating the kind of emotions that arise when the constraints of nice conversations are lifted..." Irving tells us. And this is no small task.

"Embrace the discomfort of conflict..."

"Let go of your self-image..." Get over yourself!

We plan to continue with discussion of this book, probably into the Fall months. Circle will not meet during July and August. We hope people will continue to be aware of the **great need for donations to the House of Concern**, as an ever-increasing number of families apply there for food assistance. Children will spend more time at home, once school is out for the summer. If you can, try to donate some snack food, along with more nutritious items.

JUNE special item: Canned Fruits & Veggies

Please bring items to the House of Concern: 9:30am to 3:00pm

Our thanks to everyone who donated items and/or money for the Need to Feed Campaign!!

Here's wishing everyone a happy summer. Keep safe and keep well!

For lo the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come And the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. *The Song of Solomon 2:11-12*



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Pentecost Sunday - Outdoor Service

"Pentecost was the day everyone understood. What did they understand? 'You are loved because God is love and God is in you and you are in God.' This is a gift, and when we accept this gift we are no longer thirsty. We are forgiven and 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.' Amen.



Get involved! Contact the Heritage and Tourism center at director@senecamuseum.com



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Church Family News



Need to Feed Campaign: thanks so much to all members donated money and/or food items for this worthy cause!

FAMILY NEWS **Summer Backpack Program:** Once again we will participate in this program, designed to feed hungry children in Seneca Falls. This year, food is being donated by Food Link and First Pres will be the receiving site for food deliveries. We need six volunteers to deliver from our church June 28, July 1, July 5 and July 8 at 9am. Please call the church if you are available to help.

Congratulations to Marc Smith: Marc's first grandchild, Ronan William Janiszeski, arrived on March 19th! Marc's daughter Alexi and her husband, Jordan are the proud and happy parents. The family lives in Lancaster, NY (near Buffalo) and we suspect that Marc, a frequent traveler, will be planning a few trips out West.

Sarah Snyder Snags Dream Job: Peter Snyder tells us that his niece will be working in Retail this summer at Disneyworld in Orlando. Congratulations, Sarah!

Pledges: Even though we haven't been holding services, and staff are still working from home on a part-time basis, we do continue to have ongoing expenses. Please consider paying your pledges by check (mail-PO Box 383, Seneca Falls, NY), PayPal, VANCO, or through your bank bill paying service. Let us know if you have questions or need any assistance with setting up these various payment methods.

Name Dorothy Dickieson	Address 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 Avenue, 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 Street Ext., Bath, NY 14810

Members and Friends to Keep in Our Thoughts

Outdoor Summer Service Schedule

June 6– Communion- Psalm 52; Matthew 5:21-37 Jesus interprets the laws on murder, adultery and making vows. Join us <u>https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMY7YsXpd6ybud2LmWCoijA</u>

June 13– Psalm 53; Matthew 12:1-14 Jesus shows us the wideness in God's mercy. Join us <u>https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMY7YsXpd6ybud2LmWCoijA</u>

June 20– Leader: Bob Seem Join us <u>https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMY7YsXpd6ybud2LmWCoijA</u>

June 27– Communion- Leader: Rev. Jim Gerling Join us <u>https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMY7YsXpd6ybud2LmWCoijA</u>

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

July 11– Leader: Ginny Konz Join us <u>https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMY7YsXpd6ybud2LmWCoijA</u>

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

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

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

August 8– Leader: Sue Derr Join us <u>https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMY7YsXpd6ybud2LmWCoijA</u>

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

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

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



Liturgists

June 6th– Marc Smith June 13th– Joyce Lohr

Prayer List

Know someone ill or hospitalized? This month, please call: Sue Derr - 315-568-1918



To Keep in our prayers: Jennifer Colbert; Matthew Cramer; Sue Ellen and Peter Crego; Norine Crull; Cindy Danielson; Susan Derr; George Elyseev; 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.

Church Office: 315-568-6636 Manse: 315-398.4356 E-mail: firstpres13148@gmail.com Website: www.fpressf.com

Scan this code to visit our website!



Sunday Worship Outside at 10am

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 Edmonson, 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 P.O. Box 383 23 Cayuga St Seneca Falls, NY 13148



Happy Summer to: