

MARCH

2022

Inside This Issue:

Pastor's Corner -1

Reminders -1

Contact List - 2

Session Briefs - 2

Birthday List -2

Women's Circle -3

Members to Keep in
our Thoughts - 3

Church Family
News -4

Worship Schedule -5

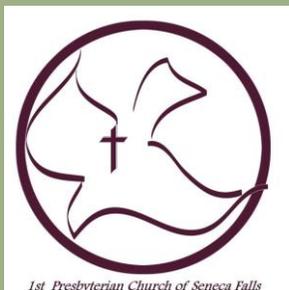
Liturgist List - 5

Coffee Hour -6

Prayer List - 6

Other News -7

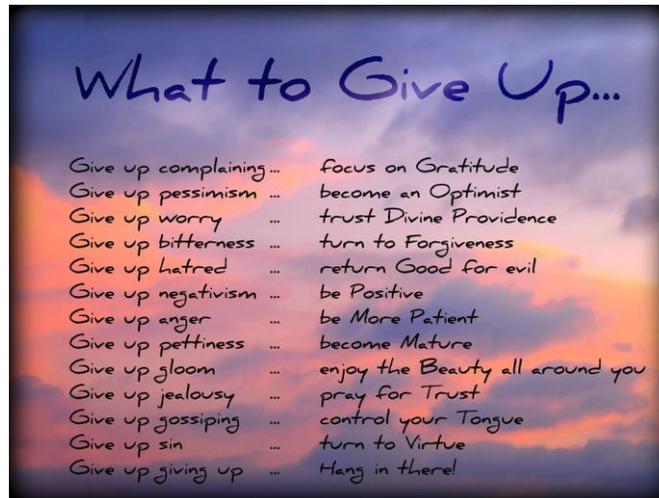
Calendar -Insert



April Newsletter Articles
Are Due on March 20th

The First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls

Pastor's Corner



The Season of Lent is almost upon us. I love this time of year, not because the church is decorated in my favorite color, BUT because it is a reminder to be intentional.

A season to be intentional in our relationship with God and repent. To be intentional in our relationship with ourselves and ask for forgiveness. To be intentional in our relationship with our community and be aware of what we are eating (maybe you give up chocolate), what we are engaging in (maybe you fast from social media), and we are aware of the countdown until Holy Week.

We are called to be intentional about our actions and to fast from those things that make us feel distanced from God. What makes you feel distanced from the love of God? Is it talking negatively about yourself and others? Is it the amount of energy you spend on worry? Is it the amount of time you spend trying to numb your emotions and feelings?

We are called to be intentional about our giving. Where is God calling you to give? Is God asking you to give time, talents, or treasures? Is God asking that you give someone space to forgive you or space to forgive another? Is God calling you to serve in a new way? Is God calling you to give a "yes" when you would like to say "no?" Is God calling us to be more mindful with our words?

The Season of Lent is a gift, a time set aside to pause and make sure our priorities are in order. How will you use this gift in 2022? You might not have answers to these questions and the others you have for God in 40 days. This is OK. Lent isn't a homework assignment to see who has done the most repenting, forgiving and charity work. I look forward to hearing about these 40 days spent intentionally engaging with God, and about how it has changed you. Peace, Pastor Leah

Contact Us

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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 meetings are the 3rd 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



- Received the church financial report for January showing Total Revenues of \$20,540.65; Total Expenditures of \$17,809.57 and Net Fundraising: \$250 (TOPS Cards)
- Received a note of thanks from Wendy Kain for flowers
- Learned of Pastor’s work with Presbytery of Geneva’s Vitality Committee in grief planning for closed churches and a suggestion for reviving church clusters
- Heard news of local Clergy Group members: Father Brad Benson, Pastor Val White, Father Jim Hennesy, and our own Pastor Leah working to fill gaps in social services to needy persons
- Learned of local mentoring program to assist needy families in doing their own financial planning
- Approved transferring monies from Jewell Fund to Clergy Group Fund
- Learned that re-painting of all Eastman Hall rooms is underway, to be followed by floor work
- Learned of enthusiastic response to Stewardship’s “What I like About First Pres” Valentine Cards
- Learned of clipboard sign-up sheets for volunteer pie makers for PI Day on March 14th
- Discussed church parking lot ice issues and plan for next winter arrangement with plow contractor
- Heard plan to schedule a Doug’s Fish Fry fundraiser in early summer

The next meeting of the Session is on Thursday, March 17th at 10am



- Carol Rook - March 8th*
- Virginia (Lay) Brady- March 10th*
- George Elyseev - March 11th*
- Jim Clark - March 13th*
- Rebecca Wilson - March 17th*
- Marge Fahrenholz - March 23rd*
- Betty Geraghty - March 25th*
- Tim Geraghty - March 25th*
- Susan Derr - March 28th*
- Elaine Ritter - March 30th*
- Wendy Kain - March 31st*

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



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

Women's Circle

Will meet on Monday, March 7th at 12:30pm

In February we discussed Deborah and Jael in *The Women of the Bible Speak* and in the story of Jael we saw an example of a woman's violence against a man. The author points out "...most often in Bible stories, the violence runs in a different direction..." citing Genesis 19 and Judges 19. Violence done by women was for reasons of defense; their own or for an entire family or people. The violence inflicted by men to women was punitive and meant to demonstrate power. Women were, in effect, the property of men. Since a part of the chapter's title was *Women of Valor*, we talked about our individual understandings of that word, valor and agreed that valor was, yes: bravery; but bravery in the cause of good.

Kae shared that she had experienced some "a-ha" moments in reading about Deborah and read to us from The Song of Deborah. Deborah was a prophetess and spiritual leader and creator of "one of the longest poetic compositions in all of the Bible." P. 82 *Women of the Bible Speak*

February was Black History month and Barb recommended an essay by Elizabeth Alexander, *Embracing Black Freedom*. We talked about the experiences of Brian Flores who for three years took over coaching the Miami Dolphins and had winning records over two of those years, and then was fired. No other team would hire him. He was invited to interview for a team, unaware that the position had already been filled. On February 1st of this year, Flores sued the NFL for racial discrimination. In the world of college sports, some progress appears to have been made toward respect for indigenous peoples as the Washington Football team, the Redskins, re-named itself The Commanders.

In the business segment of our Circle meeting, we heard Barb's treasury report and asked her to buy another case of infant formula (which has gone up in price!) for The House of Concern. Planning for March, Barb will lead the discussion of Chapter 5: Hannah and Miriam: Speaking God's Truth. Kae will offer an opening prayer and Joyce will have a diversity item.

We are grateful for donations from people in the congregation on Communion Sundays, using the Communion envelopes in the pews. Laurie has been good about getting notice into the worship bulletins.

Special item for The House of Concern in March Canned Meats & Fish

All donations of canned or packaged food, household cleaning and paper products, personal care products and diapers are always appreciated, any month!!

See you on Monday, March 7th in the Hawley Room - Come join us!

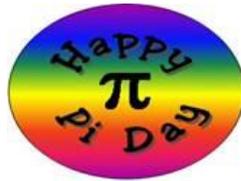


Church Family News



Daylight Savings Time: Sunday, March 13th is the beginning of Daylight Savings Time. Be sure to set your clocks ahead one hour when you go to bed on Saturday, March 12th! Spring is on the way, and let's hope the snow and cold will be coming to an end SOON.

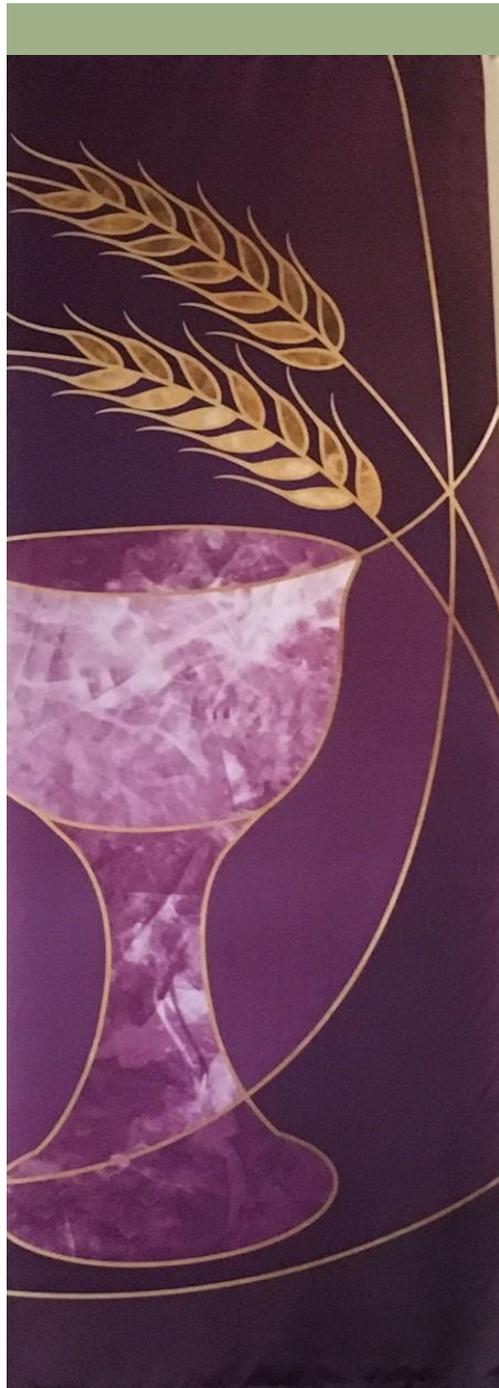
“Tread Lightly for Lent” is a Presbyterian Hunger Program. There is a calendar of daily things that connect choices you make that could impact the planet. In the United Kingdom, there is a sign-up website called 40acts.org.uk, which challenges participants to 40 Acts of Kindness throughout Lent. If you sign up, each day you'll receive an email with a kindness suggestion.



PI Day Pie Sale is on Monday, March 14th, from 2 to 5 pm. Sign up at the “Tops Table” if you'd like to help; pies can be dropped off on Sunday, March 13th from 9am to 1pm, or by 1pm on Monday. Cost this year will be \$12 per pie. Make sure to tell your family and friends to arrive early!

AmazonSmile: For those of you who order from Amazon, remember to do so on AmazonSmile, and indicate First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls as YOUR charity - we will receive 5% of the purchase!





Worship Schedule

Join us online: www.fpressf.com or our YouTube Channel

March 6th-Communion-Psalm 104:27-30; John 11:1-44
Raising Lazarus, Jesus as the resurrection and life.



March 13th-Psalm 51:7-12; John 13:1-17
Footwashing as a sign of Jesus' love and example.

March 20th-Psalm 17:1-7; John 18:12-27
Jesus' trial before Annas, Peter's denial.

March 27th-Psalm 145:10-13; John 18:28-40
My kingdom is not from this world.

April 3rd-Communion-Psalm 146; John 19:1-16a
Jesus is condemned, they have no king but Caesar.

Note: Pastor Leah will be away at a GAPJC meeting.



Liturgist

List

March 6th - Barry Porsche
March 13th - Barb Van Kirk
March 20th - Dick Damaske
March 27th - Bob Seem
April 3rd - Susan Sholar

Coffee Hours



Being Presbyterian:

Foundations of

Presbyterian Discipleship

March 6th: Lesson 4: Update Your Faith System

March 13th: Lesson 5: Blessed to Be a Blessing

March 20th: Janine Shepherd - A broken body isn't a broken person; https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_ItDJynTduY

March 27th: Andrew Solomon - How the worst moments in our lives make us who we are; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RiM5a-vaNkg>



To Keep in Our Prayers:

Reatha Bishop; Jennifer Colbert; Bev Cowan; Sue Ellen and Peter Crego; Matthew Crull; Norine Crull; Dorothy Dickieson; George Elyseev; Joanna Fuller; Betty Geraghty; Pat & Marvin Gordon; Amy Guarino; Tori Guerina; Crystal Hanes; Teall Harkey; Jack Hassler; Greta Hauser & family; Al Johnson; Bea Jones; Wendy Kain; 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; 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:**

Jan Owen 315-568-2541



IN OTHER NEWS.....

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR A FUN PROJECT!!

The congregation is working with Hot Art Studio in Romulus to create a Hope Sculpture. Session approved transforming the COVID Memorial into a piece of art for the community.

Your help is needed to create this work of art. No prior experience is necessary. We have 20 spaces available, first come/first served to weld a sculpture, with the instructor, Casey. At the same time, others will be creating pieces of pottery. While space is limited to create the art, others can witness the process in action and eat some snacks. This event will take place at Hot Art Studio on Sunday, March 27th from 1pm-5pm.

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Out of Chaos, Hope

The current Russian invasion that started on February 24 follows eight years of conflict between Russian and Ukraine. Hundreds of thousands of people across the country are enduring bombings and assault by Russian military forces; and have lost power, been cut off from water and fuel. As people head toward the western regions, there is a shortage of food and other basic supplies. The reports of displaced persons inside Ukraine continue to rise every day, already in the hundreds of thousands.

Our first priority is to provide funding to our partners on the ground. While the scale of this crisis is new, receiving refugees from Ukraine and other countries in Central and Eastern Europe is not, which means we have trusted, established partners with the knowledge and expertise to carry out this important work. In fact, One Great Hour of Sharing - the single largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to provide hope, help and relief - was started in response to refugees coming out of Europe.

Our response to the situation in Ukraine will include both financial and technical assistance as the network of faith communities providing humanitarian assistance grows in the months ahead.

The needs for the response will be great. God's people are called on to stand in the "GAP" - Give. Act. Pray. Gifts can be made online, by calling (800) 872-3283, by texting PDAUKR to 41444, or by check payable to Presbyterian Church U.S.A. with "DR000156-Ukraine" on the memo line.

Mail to: Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

P.O. Box 643700

Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700





The First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls
P.O. Box 383 Cayuga Street
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Greetings To You, a fearfully and wonderfully made child of God:



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