

March
2023

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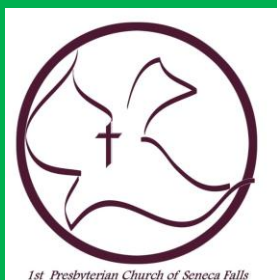
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1st Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls



March Newsletter Articles
Are Due on February 23rd

The First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls

Pastor's Corner



Pinnacle Hill in Rochester, NY



Bell at the Seneca Falls Historical Society

Dearest Church Family:

Henri Nouwen said in his book *Discernment*, "When we are truly listening, we come to know that God is speaking to us, pointing the way, showing the direction. Discernment is a life of listening to a deeper sound and marching to a different beat, a life in which we become 'all ears.' Setting the intention to be mindful forces me to listen, no matter the activity."¹

One of the first steps is figuring out how and when you listen best. I am an active rest-er. Anything that requires me to be still to gain the deepest knowledge is generally not my most natural pathway to God. I am a better listener and processor when I am active. Walking, reading, singing, dancing, and playing have always been more natural pathways for me to listen to God.

In preparing for my Lenten practice, I began the formal practice of a prayer walk. Stephanie Soderstrom defines a prayer walk as, "On a personal prayer walk, you can walk in silence, observing the scenery around you. You can pray for people and situations that are on your mind. You can talk things out with God, sharing your thoughts and emotions and leaving space for the Spirit to respond. You can give thanks for the blessings in your life."

During Lent, these prayer walks will be a daily practice. I am looking forward to what God is saying to me. I look forward to seeing places in God's world that cause me to pause, like these photos from recent prayer walks I have taken. So far, this practice has helped me to pay closer attention and see beauty in small things.

I invite you to join me in the practice of prayer walks. If you can't physically move, there are virtual prayer walks. There is also a practice of noticing something new every day in your daily routine. This ensures we don't live our lives on autopilot, but that we are listening to the deeper sounds of God. I look forward to hearing or seeing what you discern in this Season of Lent.

Peace, Pastor Leah

¹ Nouwen, Henri. *Discernment: Reading the Signs of Daily Life*. HarperOne, 2013.

Henri

Contact Us

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Seneca Falls, NY

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Hours:

Wednesday & Thursday
8am-3pm

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
Susan Sholar – pro tem Clerk of
Session

Session

Session meets every
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

At its Thursday, February 16, 2023 Meeting, the Session:

- Treasurer reported that dividends from investment accounts are coming in and pledges are up; this is a good sign for the beginning of the year.
- Received a letter from the First Congregational Church United Church of Christ, requesting the transfer of Marc Smith's membership to their church. We also received a request from past members of Fayette Presbyterian Church to join the First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls. That request has been sent to the Presbytery of Geneva for approval of Bonnie and Dave Saunders's membership.
- Discussed upcoming events: PI Day Pie Sale on March 14th; May 13th Children's activities at the Montezuma Wildlife Refuge with United Methodist Church; Joint Youth Groups to continue at the manse; on June 3rd Pastor Leah will perform a wedding; August 13th and 22nd GAPJC meetings.
- Lent and Lunch Lenten study being held on Wednesdays from 12:00 - 1:00 pm; all to bring a bag lunch.
- Jay Hoyle, Chair of the Stewardship/Finance Committee, reported a change in our insurance. The new insurance company has a \$1,000 deductible, versus a \$5,000 deductible with our previous insurance company. It will cover the church, Eastman Hall and the manse, as well as our solar panels.
- Jim Clark reported that some of the lights in the sanctuary need to be replaced. He has received quotes for painting the manse siding, trim and garage; the quote is \$15,000. Windows in Eastman Hall need to be replaced and the quote for 36 windows is \$14,000 installed.
- Report of online participation: Go Daddy - 137; Instagram - 231; Facebook - 408.

Prepared by Susan Sholar, pro tem Clerk to the Session

The next meeting of the Session is Thursday, March 16th at 10am



Carol Rook - 03/08

Jim Clark - 03/13

Marge Fahrenhol - 03/23

Elaine Ritter - 03/30

Virginia Lay Brady - 03/10

Rebecca Wilson - 03/17

Susan Derr - 03/28

Wendy Kain - 03/31

Members and Friends to Keep in Our Thoughts

Dorothy Dickieson
303 Ferris Hills
Canandaigua, NY 14424

Carson Lankford
3120 Patton Road
Seneca Falls, NY 13148

Jean Morris
5465 Upper Mountain Rd.
Lockport, NY 14094

Our Law Enforcement
Officers, Fire Fighters and
EMTs.



Women's Circle



Will Meet on Monday, March 6, 2023 at 12:30pm

Circle opened its February meeting with four of us in attendance; two were unable to join us that day. We began by listening to a short list of observations from David Leonhardt's morning greeting in the *New York Times*:

1. "The planet keeps warming.
2. The US Immigration system is a mess.
3. Police violence continues.
4. Crime although down slightly is still far above its pre-COVID levels."

Also: news of a powerful earthquake and its after-tremors, wreaking death in Turkey and Syria.

We prayed. We asked God to be with all those who were suffering in our own country and around the globe. We asked for guidance and wisdom to lead us in knowing God's will for our work. The scripture in the February 6th *These Days* was taken from Matthew's Gospel, chapter 5:14 "...you are the light of the world..." and 5:16 "...let your light so shine...". With God's help, we would not shy away from difficult or uncomfortable situations, using our limited abilities as an excuse; but push ahead doing whatever we could do, to help where we saw a need. We would not hide our lights "under a basket".

We looked at a flyer from Presbyterian Women containing seven books dealing with justice and peace. Each would be available via ZOOM discussion, with pre-registration required. Discussions were scheduled for evenings, 6:30pm to 8:30pm EST. Ginny had picked up *Mere Christianity*, by C.S. Lewis and suggested we all read it. We agreed. We will each order a book.

Joyce suggested upcoming PBS TV programs for February's Black History Month: *The Freedom Riders*, *Behind the Woman*, *Finding Your Roots*, *The Magic of Spirituals*, and *Zora Neale Hurston* (PBS Passport required).

Barb's **Treasury** report was \$502.51. Joyce talked with people at the **House of Concern**. They are still good with Infant Formula but need items for their "NEEDS ROOM": dish detergent, men's deodorants, laundry detergent, toothpaste, and Toddler DIAPERS sizes 4, 5 and 6. They do not need Infant sizes. **The Women's Shelter** always needs: razors, shampoos, conditioners, feminine hygiene products and cleaning supplies. In addition to seeking donations from the congregation to the House of Concern each month, Circle will send a check in February for \$100. We will also send \$100 to **The Potter's Hands** and **Survivor Advocacy Center of the Finger Lakes** (for survivors of human trafficking and domestic violence).

Lastly, we assembled ten personal care kits for the Women's Shelter (see photos to the left). Joyce and Barb will deliver them.

MARCH ITEM for the House of Concern is: Canned Meats and Fish. There are crates in the Social Rooms and a basket under the TOPS Sales table for your donations.

We thank those in the congregation who donate food, paper, and personal care items each month. We are also grateful for monetary help with our work.

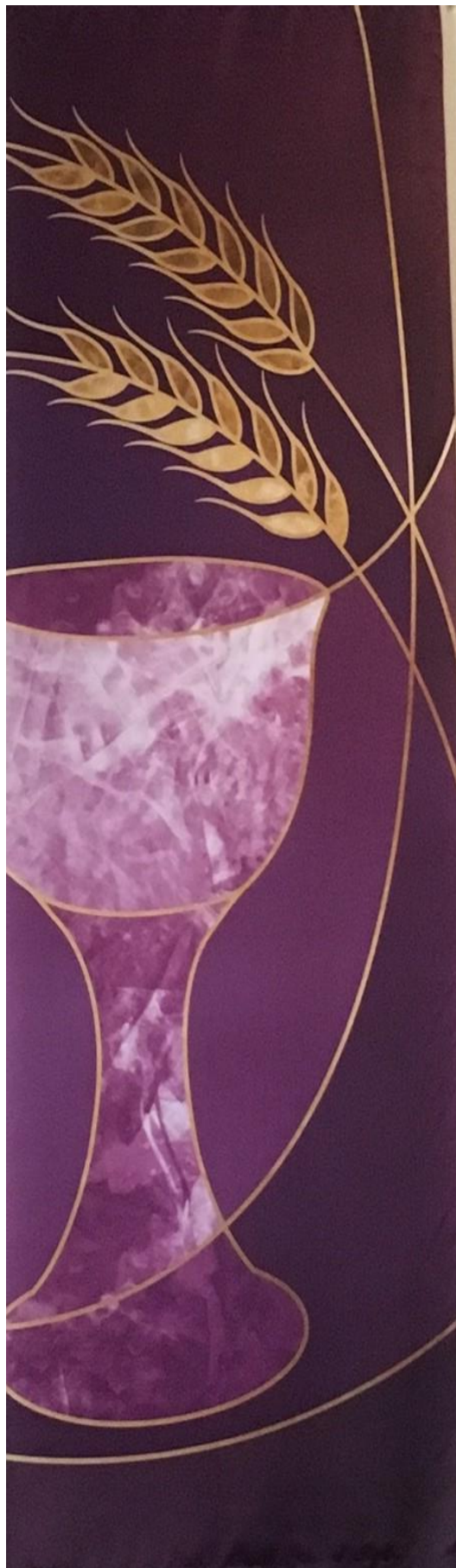


Church Family News

- **Lent and Lunch:** join us in the Social Hall every Wednesday from 12pm to 1pm through April 5th for the Lenten study *Bless the Lent We Actually Have*, by Kate Bowler. Bring a brown bag lunch - all are welcome!
- **Bottle and Can Drive:** being sponsored by Mason Ntuala's 8th Grade class. Please save your empties and either bring them to the church on **March 5th** or let Pastor Leah know and she will pick them up from you.
- **PI Day is Coming Up on March 14th, from 11am to 6pm:** please plan to bake a few of our famous "Presbyterian Pies" for our annual sale. This was a HUGE HIT last year, and we plan to do it again in 2023. We're famous! Stay tuned for more details.
- **Community Youth Group Events for 6th thru 12th Graders:**
 - March 12th, 3pm-5pm** - Game Day in the Manse Attic (no video games)
 - March 26th, 3pm-5pm** - Youth Group in the Basement of the United Methodist Church
- **Haiti Tea and Silent Auction:** Waterloo United Methodist Church will be having their Haiti Tea and Silent Auction on April 29th at 2:00pm. Please RSVP to 315-539-9665. Proceeds to benefit their education program and to feed students in Verrettes, Haiti.

HAPPY St. Patrick's Day!





Worship Schedule

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

March 5th - Communion - Psalm 16:5-8; Matthew 20:1-16; Parable of laborers in vineyard.

March 12th - Psalm 45:6-7; Matthew 22:1-14; Parable of wedding banquet.

March 19th - Psalm 43:3-4; Matthew 25:1-13; Parable of the bridesmaid.

March 26th - Psalm 98:7-9; Matthew 25:31-46; Parable of the last judgment.

April 2nd - Communion - Palm Sunday - Psalm 118:25-29; Matthew 21:1-17



Liturgist List

March 5th - Carol Millis
March 12th - Dick Damaske
March 19th - Marion Crull
March 26th - Peter Snyder
April 2nd - Ginny Konz

Coffee Hours

March 5th - Committee Meetings

March 12th - Epilepsy - Matthew Cramer

March 19th - Narcan - Lindy Powers

March 26th - Story Telling - Pastor Leah



To Keep in Our Prayers: Kathleen Albert; Reatha Bishop; Rachele & Goskel Canscillar; Sue Charles; Jennifer Colbert; Michael Collinsworth; Sue Ellen and Peter Crego; Norine Crull; Dorothy Dickieson; Tina Epp; Joanna Fuller; Walt Gable; Pat Gordon; Amy Guarino; Tori Guerina; Crystal Hanes; Sue Harkey; Greta Hauser & family; Al Johnson; Bea Jones; our Law Enforcement Officers, Firefighters and EMTs; Bob Lamphere; Carson Lankford; David Lobdell; Ronald Lobdell Jr.; the Lowry family; Kim Martin; Ken Mell; Eleanor Mirabito; Tom and Donna Montgomery; Tyler Morgan; Roger Morin; Cheri Murphy; Jinny Noone; Joy Novack; Teresa Santoski; Peter Snyder; Barb Squires; Shelley Vanderbogart; Linda Warner; Darryl Wells; Gretchen Whittacre; the Wilson family; and all those suffering in the world.

Know someone ill or hospitalized? Please call:

Carolyn Seem 315-568-5637

In Other FIRST PRES and PC(USA)News...

Water Water Nowhere

**We humans need our water as we go through each day,
As we use it in our lives as we eat and cook and play.
And when for any reason we, of water are deprived,
We wonder how without it, man could have survived.**

**We use water to cook in, for drinking and for bathing,
We go into the lakes for fun, or maybe misbehaving.
We use water for mopping for maybe to wash our cars,
The booze is made with water that we drink in the bars.**

**So for whatever reason we, from us have water taken,
It seems to make us upset, or perhaps a little shaken.
Water is essential for each mom, dad, son or daughter,
Has a body that is made up with seventy percent water.**

~ Louis L. Lobdell ~



MATTHEW 25 STORIES A BOLD VISION AND INVITATION First Presbyterian Church of Fort Collins

First Presbyterian Church of Fort Collins cleared more than \$1.2 million in medical debt for more than 1,200 Colorado families in December. Through its Mission and Outreach Center, the church made a \$5,000 donation to RIP Medical Debt, a nonprofit that has developed the capacity to retire medical debt at pennies on the dollar.

“Our church is committed to putting our faith into action, spreading God’s compassion and justice in the world,” said Senior Pastor Corey Nelson. “The partnership with RIP provided an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of our neighbors. One of our priorities is working to eradicate poverty, and this is a meaningful step. The RIP donation is one of many steps the church is taking under its Matthew 25 initiative, designed to address issues of poverty, race and congregational vitality.

Approximately half of the retired debt was held by families in Larimer, Weld and Boulder counties, with the remainder spread across Colorado.



The First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls
P.O. Box 383 Cayuga Street
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Happy St. Patrick's Day to You, a fearfully and wonderfully made child of God:



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