

March
2024

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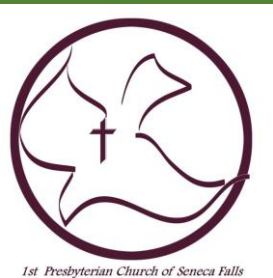
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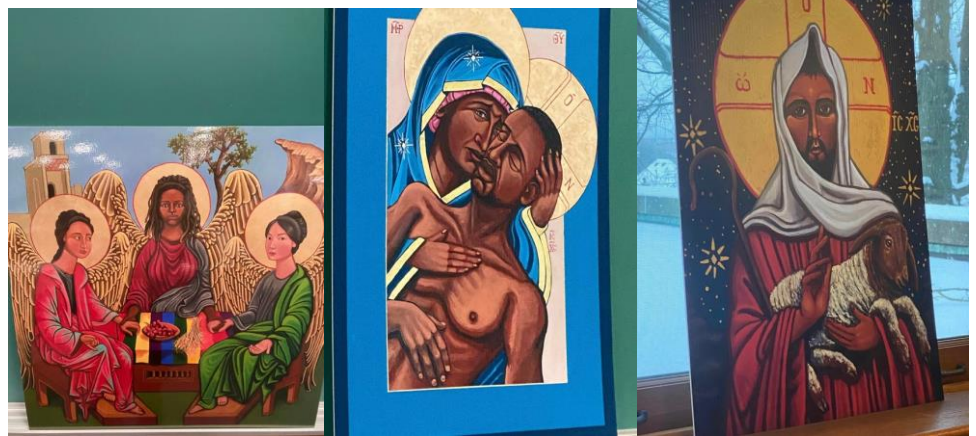
1st Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls



April
Newsletter Articles
Are Due on March 26th

The First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls Pastor's Corner

Visio divina is a form of divine seeing in which we prayerfully invite God to speak to our hearts as we look at an image. As you gaze at an image, you will be offered some questions for silent reflection, some of which may speak to you, while others you may choose to ignore. As you gaze at the image, notice your breath and your body. Simply be present to the image and allow it to speak to your heart, without any particular agenda. It might speak to you in words or wordlessly.¹



- How do you feel looking at the image?
- If you had to describe the image in a sentence or two silently to yourself, what would you say?
- If you were in the image, where would you place yourself?
- Do you get a glimpse of the sacred from this image?
- Is God speaking to you in this image?
- Does a name for God arise for you from this image? In silence, sit with what you have received.¹

Artwork is from Kelli Lattimore: I started painting icons in 2011 while I was a member of the Common Friars from 2009-2013. Our collective work was about being more connected: to ourselves, each other, our surrounding community and the land. This manifested itself as a place called "The Good Earth Farm" where we held weekly services and meals and grew produce for our community and local food pantries. My friend, and fellow farmer, Paul often posed the question, "how do we become people who, in Jesus's words, 'consider the lilies of the field'?" This became the focus of my first attempt at an icon entitled: "Christ: Consider the Lilies." Iconography has since become a practice of more considerations: of color and light, of brush stroke and form, symbol and meaning. I am trying to become a better painter. However, I do not wish to approach Iconography as an art form that simply follows an inherited tradition, knowledge and practice. I want it to be a creative process, meditation, and practice that brings about new self-knowledge for the viewer and myself. Who are the saints that are among us here and now? I feel the need for new images. In some icons I wish to embrace the traditional forms and image but for many icons the image needs re-shaping, re-imagining, and re-wondering. There are icons here that people may find theologically unsound and wrong, or for others, helpful and inspiring. I think both reactions are important. My hope is that these icons do what all art can potentially do, which is, to create more dialogue. By transcending our biases, listening, and having inner silence about our convictions, our inherited traditions, or our favorite ideas we can become open to the patterns of work, knowledge and experience we may not have seen in the other or buried in ourselves. The other may have something to teach us about what we know, about who God is, the world we live in and who are our neighbors. This is the real work of being human and of art. Being more present. It is an ongoing journey of spirituality, craft, and considering lilies. ¹ (photos taken by Rev. Leah Ntuala)

Contact Us

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Pastor Emeritus

Laurie Weller- Office Manager

Kae Hoyle- Treasurer

Jim Clark-Sexton

Jen Braun- Music Director

Carol Millis- Bell Choir Director

Susan Sholar – 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,

Jay Hoyle, Ginny Konz,

Anne Millis and Susan Sholar

Session Briefs

At its Thursday, February 15th Meeting, the Session discussed several issues.
The following is a brief overview:

- Treasurer's report for January was received from Treasurer Kae Hoyle, showing Total Revenue of \$28,024.91 and Total Expenditures of \$20,367.67.
- Kae updated the Session on the 2024 Budget.
- Session approved moving \$5,000 from the Jewel Fund at the Presbyterian Foundation into the Jewel Howland checking account at Generations Bank. \$4,000 will be placed in a CD, until it is needed. Finance Committee suggested this because it is difficult to move the money from one account to another.
- Huntington Services resuming on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 10am, from September to May.
- Building and Property Committee is discussing the design of a public play and art space in the green area near the Daycare.
- The Covid Memorial was moved to the green space near the Daycare. In the spring, the sculpture will be painted and new, colored ribbons designed to be used outside will be added, as the fabric was not intended to hold up in the elements.
- Worship and Music has decorated for Lent using candles and rocks.
- Highlights from Presbytery Meeting: 1) The General Council voted to direct the Committee on Operations to revise/rewrite the Presbytery's policy on the distribution of remaining funds from churches that close to follow the following guidance: 10% of remaining funds would be distributed by the congregation to the missions/programs of their choice; 40% would be used by the Presbytery to fund new/innovative ministries (new can mean new communities altogether, or outreach/programs to entirely new people, groups, etc.; it is not support of existing programs, but a huge encouragement for innovation from existing congregations or wholly new communities); 40% would be used by the Presbytery to fund existing ministries and/or discretionary needs within the Presbytery; and 10% would be used by the Presbytery to support PCUSA global missions. Any alternatives to this formula of distribution of remaining funds requested by a closing church would require the approval of the Committee on Operations and the General Council. 2) Approved a Presbytery Policy of Parental leave/family leave - 12 weeks paid. 3) Approved a Policy for Background Checks for all pastors and staff.

Next meeting is on March 21, 2024



Carol Rook - 03/08

Virginia (Lay) Brady - 03/10

Jim Clark - 03/13

Becky Wilson - 03/17

Marjorie Fahrenholz - 03/23

Susan Derr - 03-28

Wendy Kain - 03-31

Members and Friends to Keep in Our Thoughts

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 4th at 12:30pm in the Hawley Room

We began the February meeting with discussion of the C.S. Lewis book and heard comments regarding placement of the chapters and book sections. Many felt as Kae did, that the section on "the perfect penitent" should have appeared in the beginning pages of the book. We hurried along as Ginny would be leaving to take part in congregational interviews shortly after 1pm.

For March we'll read: *Book 111...Christian Behavior.*

1. The Three Parts of Morality
2. The "Cardinal Virtues"
3. Social Morality

We then followed our usual order for the meeting. Ruby offered an opening prayer and Kae told about the young men students from the Heal Sciences College. She and Jay have employed Cumar (from Syria) and Antonio (Sudan) for the last year and a half to help with yard work and heavy tasks at their home. Both young men are members of the Coptic church. A young woman, Inen, also from Sudan, and a friend to both, sometimes joins in the work at the Hoyle's.

For the March meeting, Kae will give the opening prayer and Ginny will have something of another culture to share. Joyce has promised to find how Circle could help Ukrainian refugees. She and Wayne took all the congregational and Circle donations of food items to the House of Concern in late February.

**Special item for The House of Concern in MARCH:
Canned Meats & Canned Fish**

Spaghetti Sauce & Personal Care Items are always welcome.

If our readers remember excerpts we printed last month from the House of Concern letter, you'll recall the **high number of families** assisted each month (an average of 6,000 and food for nearly 400,000 meals). The House depends heavily on *donations* of FOOD ITEMS and money. We can all help...

Let's fill those baskets and crates!

and

Come, join us in Women's Circle!



Church Family News



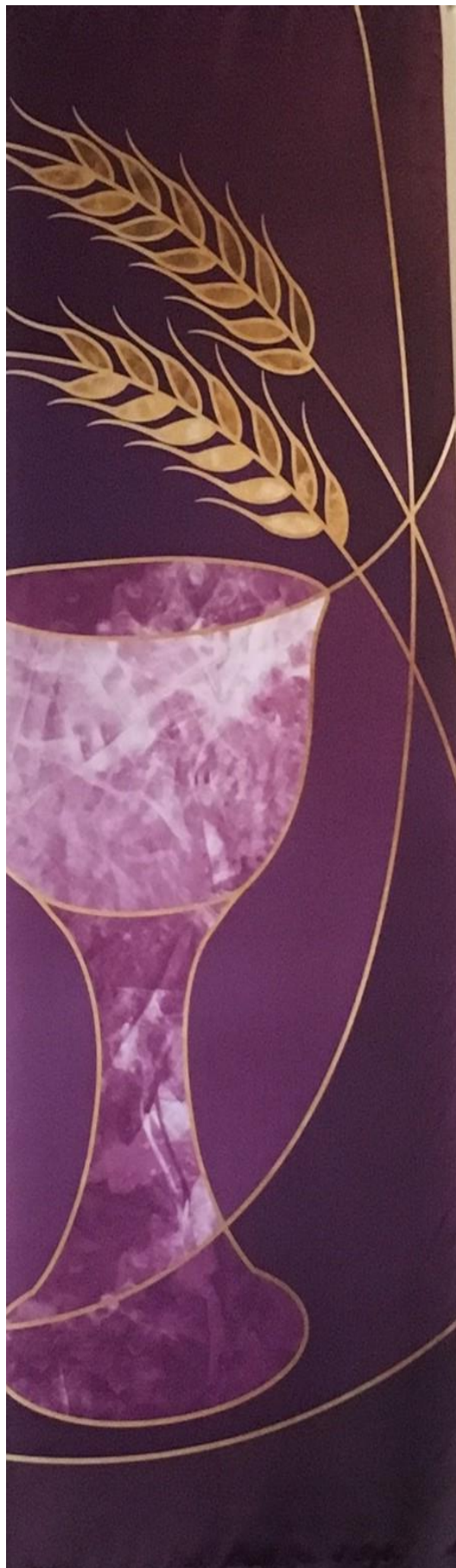
- **Game Night is back:** plan to come to the church on **Friday, March 1st at 5:30pm** - be prepared to compete, and please bring a dish to pass.
- **Learn to Knit** with Barb Van Kirk is still going on every **Wednesday at 10am** in the Hawley Room. Bring those nimble fingers and learn how to use them.
- **Lenten Study:** our Lenten Study, *Meeting Jesus at the Table*, will be on held each **Wednesday at 10am through March 27th**. All are welcome to join us in the Hawley Room.
- **Fix-It Café**, scheduled every 2nd Saturday of the month from 10am-1pm, is coming up on **March 9th**. If you have an item that needs to be repaired, bring it to our experts!
- **Winter Splash Party:** after you stop by the Fix-It Café, go on over to Cayuga Lake State Park and see what's happening at the Cold Water Plunge fundraiser, sponsored by the Bonafiglia Family Foundation. All proceeds benefit the Seneca Falls Library, so don't hesitate to donate to this special cause. And maybe take a dip?!?!?
- **PI DAY IS COMING Up on March 14th!** Please bake a few delicious "Presbyterian Pies" for the annual sale. AND buy a few. This was a HUGE HIT last year - we're famous! Stay tuned for more details.



- **Monthly Coffee and Conversation** with Pastor Leah will be happening at Café 19 on Tuesday, March 20th at 10am. Come on by and have some coffee and a chat.
- Michele Edmondson's next **Bread Baking Class** is on March 20th at 10am. Who can resist it? Bring your friends - they will thank you.



Happy St. Patrick's Day!



Worship Schedule

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



March 3rd - Communion - Psalm 86:8-13; Mark 12:1-12 [13-17].

March 10th - Psalm 89:1-4; Mark 12:28-44.

March 17th - Psalm 102:12-17; Mark 13:1-8, 24-37

March 24th - Palm Sunday - Psalm 118:25-29; Mark 11:1-11, 14:3-9.

March 28th-Maundy Thursday- Worship at 7pm at the UMC, 2 Chapel Street.

March 31st - Easter - Psalm 118:21-27; Mark 16:1-8.

April 7th - Communion - Acts 1:1-14; Mark 6:7-13.



March 3rd - Susan Sholar
March 10th - Ginny Konz
March 17th - Marion Crull
March 24th - Barb Van Kirk



God as we walk through
 Holy week toward the cross,
 May we remember
 the wonder of who you are.
 Beyond sin
 your love is inexhaustible,
 Beyond brokenness
 your forgiveness is
 incomprehensible.
 Beyond betrayal
 your grace is poured out
 eternally,
 Beyond death
 your life is unimaginable.
 Beyond human
 understanding,
 Your ways are always
 higher than ours.
 (c) Christine Sine 2013
<http://godspace.wordpress.com>



Holy Week

The power of prayer is such
 that the laying on of hands
 becomes the very conduit
 for God's healing power.

Coffee Hours

March 3rd - Committee Meetings

March 10th - Backpack Pantry - Paula Coffey

March 17th - House of Concern - Delores Morgan

March 24th - Palm Sunday - Brunch

March 31st - No Coffee Hour - Happy Easter!



To Keep in Our Prayers: Kathleen Albert; Reatha Bishop; the family of Katy Changkakoti; Jennifer Colbert; Peter Crego; Norine Crull; Cindy Danielson; Joanne Elyseev; Carl Feltus; Joanna Fuller; Walt Gable; Honey Gilbert; Pat Gordon; Rev. Deborah Grohman; Amy Guarino; Tori Guerina; Crystal Hanes; Susan Horton; Jay Hoyle; Bea Jones; our Law Enforcement Officers, Firefighters and EMTs; Bob Lamphere; Carson Lankford; Josh Lenard; Stephanie Lesinski; the Lobdell family; the Lopez family; Ana Marcias; Kim Martin; Ken Mell; Tyler Morgan; Roger Morin; Timothy Mosher; Jinny Noone; Joy Novack; Paula Paxton; Gene and Dean Potter; Teresa Santoski; Justine Saunders; Mary Sceney; Nora Sibley; Shelley Vanderbogart; Linda Warner; Robert Wagner; Gretchen Whittacre; the Wilson family; John Yells; and all those suffering in the world.

Know someone ill or hospitalized? Please call:

Anne Millis 315-246-6264

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Flowers Brighten the Décor - by Ginny Konz

You may have noticed, from looking at your own yards or at the bouquets in church, that the flower season is winding down. There isn't much left in my garden, or Barb Van Kirk's or Damaske's, either. This presents an opportunity for you to become more involved in this beautifying process.

We now have a sign-up chart on the table next to Leah's office, where you can sign up for a day to be responsible for providing some sort of flowers or foliage for the altar area.

Along with your name on a date, please write in the person, event, or whatever it is you are honoring or remembering.

Birthdays, anniversaries, and graduations are all good thoughts. You can bring in flowers from your yard in season, from the grocery or pharmacy, or a pretty house plant from home. You can also visit Sinicropi's, order something and have them deliver it - they have the fob for the back door and can easily do this.

It actually doesn't even have to be floral; we've had some incredible altar decorations that weren't.

Thanks for your help!

In Other FIRST PRES News...PI DAY!!!

π PI (Pie) Day

**On March 14 in our church we employ Pi in this way,
As we bake and sell homemade pies upon this day.
The ratio of a circumference of a circle to its diameter.
Is said to be 3.14 as defined by its parameter.**

**We use it as a way of raising money for our church,
In order to lift God's dove of peace upon its perch.
These pies were all made for God's family and friends,
So that as the word Pi, we form a love that never ends.**

~Louis L. Lobdell ~

**ANOTHER REMINDER
FROM GINNY KONZ,
OUR PI DAY CHAIRMAN
PI DAY IS MARCH 14TH!!**

March is here!

This has been a very successful fund-raiser for the church, and since it was decided not to have Bargains in the Basement any longer, it is really the only one. I suggest that each of us bakers pledge to make one or two more pies than we usually do. Remember - pumpkin pies don't seem to sell well at this time of year.

Thanks So Much - and LET'S START BAKING!!

PS: Pie boxes are available at the church (there's a stack in the kitchen), so no need to buy any.





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

Happy St. Patrick's Day to you, a fearfully and wonderfully made child of God:

