



1st Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls

First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls

Toward a Church as **GENEROUS**
and **JUST** as God's Grace...



March Newsletter 2020

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PASTOR'S CORNER

MANIFESTO FOR **OUTER ORDER**

1. Outer order contributes to inner calm.
2. Nothing is more exhausting than the task that is never started.
3. Something that can be done at any time is often done at no time.
4. It's easier to keep up than to catch up.
5. When in doubt, toss it out—or recycle it, or give it away.
6. Remind yourself: I have plenty of room for the things that are important to me.
7. If you can't retrieve it, you won't use it.
8. One of the worst uses of time is to do something well that need not be done at all.
9. Accept yourself, and expect more from yourself.
10. What you do every day matters more than what you do once in a while.
11. Creating outer order isn't a matter of having less, or having more; it's a matter of wanting what you have.
12. Things often get messier before they get tidier.
13. There's no one "right" way to create and maintain order.
14. Little by little, you can get a lot accomplished.
15. Without delay is the easiest way.
16. Clutter attracts clutter.
17. Store things at the store.
18. The days are long, but the years are short.



Outer Order, Inner Calm
by Gretchen Rubin

“By getting rid of the things I don't use, don't need, or don't love, as well as the things that don't work, don't fit, or don't suit, I free my mind—and my shelves—for what I truly value.”

~ Gretchen Rubin, *Outer Order, Inner Calm: Declutter and Organize to Make More Room for Happiness*

I recently finished this book by Gretchen Rubin. This isn't the first book of hers I have read, but I was intrigued to read this book during Lent, because decluttering is one of the main points of this season. It is about

decluttering our minds, bodies and souls to make more room for God. By clearing the clutter, by making space, by learning what matters, then it all becomes easier to maintain. Also, our space because a place we want to be in. Our relationship with God can become a space we want to be in, because we know we are worthy of the love and the grace we have received. We are no longer turning our backs on God, we are looking toward God.

I know Covid has felt like one big year long season of Lent. Nearly one year ago, we spent our last Sunday in the Sanctuary and the last gathering at the church selling pies. It has been hard, and has felt more like controlled chaos verses inner calm. I know that when we shut down, many people cleaned up their junk drawers, shelves and closets. I know this because it is sitting in the church basement, waiting for a rummage sale.

But friends, I have seen the beauty in this time too. We have learned we can still worship God, even if we don't have a building. We still care for one another, even though we don't see each other once a week. We can still do ministry and service at a six-foot distance. We are creative, kind and resilient. This year was a beautiful mess. We worked on new ways of creating outer order and finding inner calm.

I know we always want the Season of Lent to often be over before it gets a chance to begin. I know for many of us it is the Fish Fry and the Girl Scout cookies that help us through, but everything has a time and purpose under heaven. There is a time for every season. May we use the time we are in do our best, grow closer to God and learn how to live with an inner calm.

Peace, Pastor Leah

Session Briefs

At its Monday, February 22, 2021 meeting, the Session:

- Reviewed the budget report for January showing Revenue: \$24,402.25; Expenses \$15,275.19 and heard that fund-raising Income currently is limited to sale of TOPS cards and Amazon purchases
- Elected Kae Hoyle to the position of Church Treasurer for 2021
- Heard Pastor’s hopes for a Summer rummage sale
- Made plans for a pick-up Communion kit available Saturday, March 6th at the church
- Heard of Pastor’s participation in the General Assembly Judicial Commission on February 28th
- Heard plans for Christian Ed camp-out this summer for church youth and possible Movie Night
- Heard idea for possibly building a network of area historical churches
- Learned that Building/Property people are dealing with leaks at steeple, small area of roof at Eastman Hall and in the church document storage room
- Brain-stormed for “can’t fail” church outreach and moved to buy gift cards (which we’ll donate) for use at local businesses; this to help struggling people and businesses during pandemic
- Discussed how and when we may re-open church building for worship; Session Covid Task Force will meet to consider precautions and formats
- Discussed possibility of participation in land fill organic farming using community collection of composting material
- Talked about social/cultural/racial diversity and ways in which the church could explore and learn
- Moved to engage Taitum Engineering to conduct study of church buildings for heating and cooling needs
- Heard reminder for congregation that Per Capita assessment is \$55 each enrolled member



The Next Meeting of the Session is Monday, March 22, 2021 at 7:00 pm



MARCH

BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

Carol Rook-3/8

Betty Geraghty-3/25

Virginia (Lay) Brady-3/10

Tim Geraghty-3/25

George Elysée-3/11

Susan Derr-3/28

Jim Clark-3/13

Elaine Ritter-3/30

Rebecca Wilson—3/17

Wendy Kain-3/31

Marjorie Fahrenholz-3/23

Happy birthday!

Happy birthday!



April
Newsletter
articles are due on
March 18th-
It will be sent out
On March 26th



Women's Circle



Meets on Monday, March 1st at 12:30 PM in the Hawley Room

Following the usual sandwich lunch and “chat time” we each signed a cheery card to Ruby, who continues to shelter in place at home; we miss her. We heard from Michele that she and Susan will soon close on their house purchase. They have been in our prayers all winter. Barb opened our study time with prayer and a reading from Samuel. Following through with this year’s plan to increase our social awareness and sensitivity, Ginny read to us from Toni Morrison and Harriet Tubman. We then discussed more from the first chapters of the Debby Irving book, *Waking up White...and Finding Myself in the Story of Race*, and looked to some of the questions at the end of each chapter. For upcoming meetings, we each chose one or more chapters to read or re-read and to lead a discussion.

March...Joyce...Chapter 22 “Why Do I Always End Up With White People?”
April...Kae...Chapter 24 “Everyone is Different; Everyone Belongs”
 Also in April...**Ginny...Chapter 30 “Feelings and the Culture of Niceness”**
May...Barb...Chapter 32 “Getting Over Myself”

During the business portion of this meeting we decided we hadn't quite enough in the treasury to buy a case of infant formula for the House of Concern, but could possibly do so next month. We each put in \$1.00 every meeting and “least coins,” so it does take awhile to build up a nice balance. We’ve been bringing our House of Concern food and non-food items to Circle meetings each month, and Joyce delivers them. Donations from the congregation are noticeably missing, so we hope people are still donating and delivering things on their own. **The House can take donations Mon-Fri, 9am to 3:30pm.**

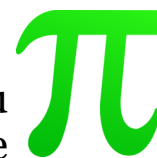
**Special item in MARCH for House of Concern:
 CANNED MEATS & FISH**

We invite others to join us on March 1st. Let one of us know and we’ll be sure to keep the door unlocked until everyone has arrived. Bring your lunch and your mask!

* * *



Pi Day Excitement - Pi Day Fundraiser



Pi Day is coming up, on Sunday, March 14th! If you have questions or would like to donate pies, please contact Ginny Konz (315-712-4182) or Barb Van Kirk (315-568-9908). **Pie sales will be held on the 14th, from 12-3pm.** On Saturday, March 13th from 12-4pm, and again on Sunday, March 14th at 11am, someone will be at the church for pie drop-off. If you can bake but can’t deliver to the church, please call either Ginny or Barb. Notice we said “bake them” – please don’t go to the store and buy them, as the lure is for homemade pies. We sold out early last year, so do what you can to bake one or more, and help us make this year’s sale a success!!

International Women's Day



Together, we help to empower

In recognition of the vital role women play in all societies, the Presbyterian Giving Catalog offers gifts specifically selected to help empower women and girls around the world. From supporting education and entrepreneurship to reducing the burdens of daily tasks and enhancing dignity, every gift makes an important contribution to expanding opportunities for women and girls.

This year, as you plan to recognize International Women's Day (March 8) in your church, turn to the category of gifts for Empowerment of Women and Girls in the Giving Catalog to find the perfect gift for your congregation to make together.

These gifts include:

Health for Mothers and Newborns

Women's Empowerment Project

Latrine

Teacher Training

Jerry Cans



PI DAY PIE SALE

3.14 | Sunday

12pm-3pm

First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls

23 Cayuga St

315.568.6636 | www.fpressf.com

MASKS REQUIRED



Church Family News

- ◆ **AmazonSmile:** For those of you who order from Amazon, please remember to do so on AmazonSmile and indicate First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls as YOUR charity. We receive 5% of your online purchase. Anyone can help, so if you have loved ones and friends who shop on Amazon, encourage them to buy their items through Amazon Smile.
- ◆ **Communion Pick Up:** On March 6th from 11am to 1pm, we will be having communion pick up in the Church parking lot. Be sure to add this event to your calendar!
- ◆ **TOPS CARDS are available!** You can always leave a message on the answering machine in the Church Office, and Laurie will call you back. Just let us know how many and what denominations you need (\$100, \$50 or \$25), and we will make arrangements.
- ◆ **That New Lady in the Office:** Laurie Weller, our new Office Manager, attended high school in Owego and, after graduating from Elmira College with a degree in English Literature and Education, moved to Stamford, CT to take a job in publishing. On a whim, she went to Washington, DC for a party, met a “guy,” and decided to move! She spent 20 years managing commercial real estate, while raising a son, Eddie. In 1997, she married her current (and keeper) husband, Joe, who worked for Homeland Security until they retired in 2014. They moved home to New York state, and chose Auburn so she could be close to her best friend on Owasco Lake. Not one to REALLY retire, she spent four and a half years as the Office Manager at the Vineyard Church in Auburn. She also worked part time as Land of Lakes Realty, and has earned her Real Estate License. Last spring, while apparently bored for two minutes, she was scrolling, found our ad on Indeed, applied, and here she is. We are so lucky to be able to welcome her and hopefully before this year is out, more of you will have the chance to meet this delightful person. *-Submitted by Ginny Konz*



Daylight Savings Time!

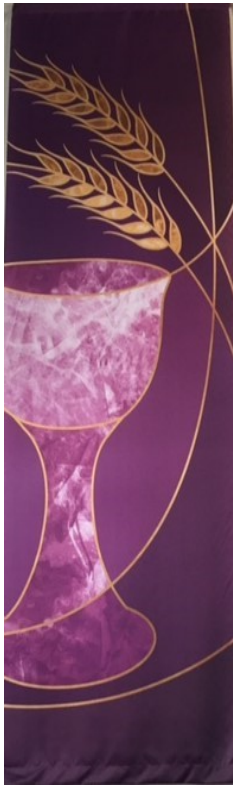


Sunday, March 14th is the beginning of Daylight Savings Time. Set your clocks **ONE HOUR AHEAD** when you go to bed on Saturday, March 13th. Spring is on the way...let's hope the snow and cold are coming to an end soon!!

Members and Friends to Keep in Our Thoughts

Name	Address
Dorothy Dickieson	303 Ferris Hills, Canandaigua, NY 14424
Betty Geraghty	8 Iroquois Lane, Waterloo, NY 13165
Gary Ippolito	DeMay Living Center, 100 Sunset Drive - c/o Wolf Unit, Newark, NY 14513
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 St Ext, Bath NY 14810

Service Schedule



March 7th– Communion-Psalm 39; John 4:5-42
Those who seek God’s kingdom must be born of water and Spirit.

Join us <https://fpressf.com/online-worship>



March 14th– Psalm 40; Matthew 20:17-34
The sons of Zebedee; healing two blind men.

Join us <https://fpressf.com/online-worship>

March 21st– Psalm 41; Matthew 26:1-13
A woman anoints Jesus; a dispute about the poor.

Join us <https://fpressf.com/online-worship>

March 28th– Palm Sunday-Psalm 42; Matthew 21:1-11
Jesus enters Jerusalem on a donkey; the people shout: Hosanna!

Join us <https://fpressf.com/online-worship>

April 4th– Easter Sunday-Communion-Psalm 43; John 20:1-18
At the empty tomb, the risen Lord appears to Mary Magdalene.



Liturgist List



March 7th– Bob Seem

March 28th– Marion Crull

March 14th– Barry Porsch

April 4th– Marc Smith

March 21st– Claire Damaske

Coffee Hour and Prayer List

March 7th: Coffee Hour: A Year in the Life of a Black Bear - John Van Niel

March 14th: Coffee Hour: How Childhood Trauma Affects Health Throughout Our Lifetime - Host, Rev. Leah Ntuala

March 21st: Coffee Hour: Who is the Church? - Host, Rev. Leah Ntuala

March 28th: No Coffee Hour: Palm Sunday



Know someone ill or hospitalized? This month, please call: Cherie Clark – 315.568.8987

To Keep in Our Prayers: Frank Bocek; Jennifer Colbert; Matthew Cramer; Sue Ellen and Peter Crego; Norine Crull; Cindy Danielson; Susan Derr; George Elyseev; Chesterdaniel Freeman; Joanna Fuller; Betty Geraghty; Pat Gordon; Tori Guerina; Crystal Hanes; Greta Hauser & Family; Rick Hendricks; Gary Ippolito; Al Johnson; Bea Jones; Timothy Kent; our Law Enforcement Officers; Carson Lankford; Ross Leland & Family; Lucy and Nancy Lopez; Liza Merriam; Tyler Morgan; Patsy Mott; Cheri Murphy; Jinny Noone; Jolene Olsowske; Dean Potter; Shirley Sage; Jean Stenlake; Linda Warner; Darryl Wells; Gretchen Whittacre; Linda Zona; and all those suffering in the world.

Church Office: 315-568-6636
Hours: Thursday 7-12pm
Manse: 315-398-4356
E-mail: firstpres13148@gmail.com
Website: www.fpressf.com

Scan this code
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website



**Sunday Online Worship at 10am.
Coffee Hour via Zoom at 11am.**

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

SPRING

Session meets 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, 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 Spring to



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