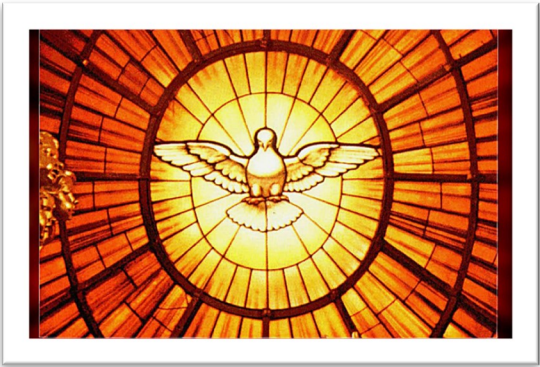


Church Office: 315-568-6636
Hours: Tuesday-Thursday 7-12pm
Manse: 315-398.4356
E-mail: firstpres13148@gmail.com
Website: www.fpressf.com



Rev. Leah Ntuala-Pastor
Rev. Dr. Peter J. Crego-Pastor Emeritus
Karen Beals– Office Manager
Marion Crull-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: James Clark, Marion Crull, Dick Damaske, Susan Derr, Michele Edmonson, Susan Harkey, Jay Hoyle, Marc Smith and Peter Snyder.
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



Wishing Warm Spring Weather to:

May Newsletter 2020



First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls

Toward a Church as GENEROUS
and JUST as God’s Grace....



May Newsletter 2020

Pastor’s Corner

Friends,

As you may have guessed by now, I will not be taking my Sabbatical June 21-September 6. I cannot leave in the middle of a pandemic for a variety of reasons. We will look at another time in the future for this to take place, thank you for your understanding.

As the weeks have turned into months I have discovered many things, as I am sure you have too. I would love to hear from you about what you have learned in this ‘pause’. Have you deepened the love of a passion? Have you read a new book? Is there a tv show or movie you would recommend?

Every week, I have been checking in using the following method: I feel.... I need....I forgive.....I celebrate.....I release....I trust. This practice enables me to stay grounded in the present, check in on how I am doing and have a space to grieve. I encourage you to find a practice that helps you too, feel free to use this one.

It is important to create space to grieve, because we have all lost out on something that we wanted to do or are losing out on activities we enjoy, activities that just can’t happen or aren’t the same virtually. My friend has a cry closet. It is a beautiful decorated corner of her closet purposefully designed for her to cry. We need release valves, so I hope you are finding ways to release your grief, your tensions, your anger and your worries.

In our lives at home my boys continue to school. They do an hour of academic time in the morning and an hour in the afternoon. We have exercise time, creative time, music time, outside time, down time (because you always need down time) and play time. We have watched movies, played games, had deep conversations like ‘If you could invent a candy what would it be?’ and thrown our share of tantrums. We have had to learn the times we need hugs, a walk or space.

I don’t know what decisions will be made in the month of May. I don’t know when buildings will open again, please continue to hold one another in prayer, check in on each other and help, in whatever ways you can, to support the local economy (people, business and services).

Please let me know if you are in need of anything. You are in my daily thoughts and prayers.

Peace, Pastor Leah



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Session Briefs

At its Monday, April 27, 2020 meeting, the Session [via Zoom]



- Received March financial report of \$4,387 Income; \$18,326 Expenses; and year to date Special Events income [TOPS cards, Amazon, cards, pies, pecans] of \$1904
- Was advised that the April financial report will show less disparity in income/expenses as the Payroll Protection Plan will have covered payroll and utilities
- Received acknowledgement and thanks from Presbyterian Mission for Christmas Joy, One Great Hour of Sharing, and Peace & Global Witness offerings totaling \$1850 in 2019
- Received notes of thanks from the House of Concern for donations and on-going church support and from Marion Crull for a sunshine basket
- Moved to share \$2000 gift from Hayssen Family Fund with House of Concern and Backpack Program
- Learned of Girl Scout action to register lending library [near sidewalk at Cayuga St] on the National Registry of Lending Libraries and of Scouts’ plans to paint a mural on the Ludovico Sculpture Trail using donated materials
- Learned that cards and notes have been written, and phone calls made, by the Pastor and others to members of the congregation during the weeks of being apart from worship and other church activities
- Learned of donation of I-Pad devices [2] by Sue Ellen and Peter Crego for whomever would use them
- Discussed possible ways of reaching congregation in absentia, for on-line worship and Wednesday morning meetings
- Considered waiting two extra weeks beyond New York State’s lifting of group meeting bans in mid-May
- Approved wedding in August 2020 for Jennifer Hinman [daughter of Jim & Diane] and her fiancé, Jeff, in our church, with Joy Novack officiating
- Heard report from Pastor of “best [attended] Maundy Thursday service, ever!” [on-line]
- Heard in a letter from Gary Ippolito at DeMay Living Center in Newark that he is well and likes his new home
- Learned that Property Chair, Dick Damaske is looking into solving the leak over the balcony store room and its subsequent mold condition

Prepared by Joyce Lohr, Clerk to the Session



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

Sue Charles-5/5
Hope Wilson-5/10
Marya (Lohr) Vigil-5/16
David Lay-5/17
Karen Kelley-5/18
Shirley Sage-5/20
Al Johnson-5/23
Richard Damaske-5/28
Paul Damaske-5/28
Jase Clark-5/29
Gerry Gray-5/30



June Newsletter
articles are due on
Thursday, May 21st.

The Newsletter will be sent out
On Thursday, May 28th

Ushers, Candle Lighters & Communion



May 3rd– Communion

Join us <https://fpressf.com/online-worship>
Use your own cup and bread to join us for communion



May 10th– Mother’s Day

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

May 17th—6th Sunday of Easter

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

May 24th—Memorial Day/7th Sunday of Easter

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

May 31st—Pentecost

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

June 7th– Communion/Trinity Sunday

Join us <https://fpressf.com/online-worship>
Use your own cup and bread to join us for communion



Liturgist List

May 3rd– Bob Seem
May 10th– Marc Smith
May 17th– Barry Porsch

May 24th– Marion Crull
May 31st– Barb VanKirk
June 7th– Ginny Konz

Coffee Hour and Prayer List



No Coffee Hour-Coffee Hour will resume in September.

Know someone ill or hospitalized? This month, please call: Iva Lay 315.568.8562



To Keep in our prayers: Ed Chase; Cherie Clark; Kathy Cole; Sue Ellen and Peter Crego; Cindy Danielson; Joanna Fuller; Betty Geraghty; Pat Gordon; Tori Guerina; Crystal Hanes; Greta Hauser & Family; Minni Hergert; Jay Hoyle; Gary Ippolito; Max Jessop; Al Johnson; Bea Jones; Debra Kemp; Timothy Kent; LewAnn Backus Lawhorn; Bruce Levine; Joyce Lohr; Lucy and Nancy Lopez; Peggy McIntyre; Liza Merriam; Tyler Morgan; Patsy Mott; Cheri Murphy; Dean Potter; Shirley Sage; Jean Stenlake; Linda Warner; Darryl Wells; Gretchen Whittacre; Linda Zona; and all those suffering in the world.

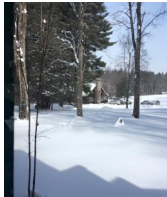
Church Family News

We had a wonderfully generous member purchase \$500 of our **Tops Gift Cards** to give to the House of Concern to distribute to those who might need them (or use to stock their shelves). AND faithful, Joyce Lohr, took orders and mailed out Tops cards to those who requested. So while we were not meeting and able to “sell” to our usual customers, we were in business and it had twice the benefit—helping our community members AND helping our church! Thank you and please know our supply has been replenished!



Note from **Tom and Donna Montgomery** to all: All is well on Ridge Road. Playing cards, doing puzzles, and reading newsletters... Our new puppy keeps us busy too. Thinking of you and will worship online with you on Sunday. Anyway-be safe and healthy. Miss you.

Be aware of scammers: This was shared with us by Bob and Carolyn Seems’ relatives in PA: *It is so amazing what kind of scams people come up with. On Monday, I got an email from our pastor, Becki, asking me to email her back when I was free. I noticed it wasn't the usual email address, from the church's domain, but it was a gmail account, and I figured she had a personal account, too. Anyway, I wrote back and said I was free, and did she want to call me? She wrote back right away and said she was on a Zoom call and couldn't talk, but would I be willing to do her a huge favor - she said the community shelter had some folks in need, and she had promised to buy some gift cards for them, and had completely forgotten. Could I go pick up 7 \$100 gift cards to Ebay right away? The Ebay thing stopped me, and I forwarded the whole thing to Becki's actual email through the church, and she sent out immediate notices to everyone that there was a scam and not to do it, and to report it. Unfortunately, several other people had already bought the cards. When they emailed the scammer, who they still thought was Becki, they were told to just scrape the backs of them and let her know the numbers, which she would forward on to the shelter. None of them went so far as to do that. One person stopped payment through her credit card on them, but one person had actually bought them with cash. The church is buying them from her, and will try to use them in some fashion. But, she felt just horrible about being so gullible. She shouldn't feel bad - these people are so deceitful!! Please be aware of scammers.*



Vanderkamp Future: Wendy Kain shared this letter knowing many have fond memories of Vanderkamp: *It is with great sadness I write to tell you that the Ecumenical Camp Association board of directors, who operate Vanderkamp on behalf of its owners, voted to cease operations immediately and permanently citing financial losses due to COVID-19. We are heartbroken...Penny and I are continuing to work towards creating a non-profit (Friends of Vanderkamp (find us on Facebook or email: FriendsofVanderkamp@gmail.com) to raise the funds and purchase the property so Vanderkamp can see a new day! Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns; we will do our best to see that they are addressed. Thank you and God Bless Bill & Penny James*

Members and Friends to Keep in Our Thoughts:

Name	Address
Ed Chase	1 Leland Drive, Seneca Falls, NY 13148
Dorothy Dickieson	303 Ferris Hills, Canandaigua, NY 14424
Betty Geraghty	8 Iroquois Lane, Waterloo, NY 13165
Carson Lankford	3120 Patton Avenue, Seneca Falls, NY 13148
Liza Merriam	369 E. Main Street, Huntington Living Ctr #108, Waterloo, NY 13165
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



COVID-19 MUSIC-(Where’s the Choir?)

Yes, the music has changed in the past six weeks, and there’s no one person who misses the choir as much as I miss them! We have tried a couple of things and are still seeking a presentable solution. The choirs and “remote” performances seen on TV are the result of solutions that are often times cost prohibitive or the result of many hours of behind the scenes sound engineering. There has been a lot of learning and goodness in what you have heard on a Sunday morning (assuming you ‘tune in’ at 10AM). Everything you hear is most likely a third generation recording, meaning: 1) The song is played and the accompaniment recorded, 2) The recording in step one was played and the lyrics were recorded, 3) The recording in step 2 was embedded into the PowerPoint slides, and 4) When the service was recorded for you all, the slides were run to generate the service file that you see each week.

The church in Cleveland decided this was a good time to paint the sanctuary so we lost use of the organ temporarily. Therefore, you have had a mix of music offerings in the online services. For example, your Gloria Patri is played on a pump organ, built in the 1890’s that has been passed down my father’s side of the house. While we are online, that recording will stay. To provide an organ sound the past three weeks, a keyboard has been used on one or two hymns. The nice thing about that is the transpose button; some hymns are written in higher keys and the transpose button lets you sing those hymns in lower keys. There was one song in the April 26th service that actually was sung and recorded at the same time. That is hard to do when there are several verses. You have also experienced some sound engineering, whereby, the original recording was a verse or two short and the solution was a successful ‘copy & paste’ to complete the hymn.

There have been so many changes in our lives relevant to the Coronavirus – even our worship music. There will be an anthem before we return to the sanctuary, but it has to be something that the choir can embrace. Until we get to that anthem, know that God has been and will forever be a constant in our lives. No change there. And we must all, joyfully continue to sing His praises and be grateful for all that is. - Hedra Harrison

Prayer by Louis Lobdell

Corona



Humans are in a panic all around the world
Of a virus that can infect each man, woman, boy and girl
Though it started in China, it stayed not on their shore
And so far has infected people by the score
Though it is respiratory, many have fallen for the hype
And are running in a panic in the search of toilet wipe
And with so many hoarding, and are toilet paper stacking
A truck full of toilet paper, a man was caught hijacking
Though we must work together to fight this unseen thing
We’re being told that we must practice social distancing
Some lay their hands for healing on others as they pray
But how do we lay hands on someone from 6 feet away
And now all of the restaurants from but one to four stars
Have been closed as have spas and gyms, social clubs and bars
This virus is contagious and lest it be spread about
We’re asked to stay in our homes unless we must go out
For now it is a waiting game as together we pray
That we get through this and all live to see another day
So let us all work together although we be bold or shy
That it will be the virus, and not us, that has to die.

Women's Circle



Greetings to One and All: Circle members and those who join us for luncheons and projects ! And here we are, nearly arrived at the month of May. How's everyone doing? Keeping well and still cautious, we hope!

In April, we urged one another to reach out, send a note, make a phone call or email. Circle members did communicate by phone and email, but with no provision for a 'conference' call, we agreed to share the content of some of our individual phone chats with each other and with Newsletter readers. So, here goes!

Some of us talked about the April reading in the Book of Ruth and wondered why Naomi's sons, Mahlon and Chilion went from Bethlehem in Judah, across the water to Moab to find wives! Out-of-town girls? And whence came the tradition [?] of a brother marrying or looking after his brother's widow?

Barb Van Kirk's daughter, Zoe has moved in with her and the two have been busy bird-watching, cooking, knitting socks [Barb], and reading. Barb says she brought home 'a big bag of library books' before the library closed and so far has read The Only Woman in the Room [Hedy Lamarr] and Ghost Fire, by Willis Smith. They've roasted tomatoes for a delicious sounding soup and cauliflower for a 'Pot Roast' . You may find a recipe elsewhere in this newsletter!

Ruby Anderson says daughter Debbie has 'put her in confinement' so she doesn't go out at all. Debbie lives in the same building and is good company. Ruby's been going through her files and shredding things; some of which she says she wonders why she "ever saved..." Another resident in her building has made masks for everyone there, Ruby says. Because of her glaucoma, she is not able to read as much as she'd like. For exercise, Ruby says she walks the halls. She misses the Circle meetings and looks forward to seeing everyone again; hopefully soon! And she says she doesn't mind sharing with readers that she is 94 years old this year.

Ginny Konz recently finished reading all 400 pages [!] of Ben Hur, by Lew Wallace, 1880. Although it is a fictionalized account of 'probably a composite character' and his association with Jesus, Ginny found it fascinating reading. She'd seen the movie version in the 1950's. She's since given the book to Kae. Ginny hasn't kept herself housebound. She and Peter Snyder have been working on the flower beds along the church driveway fence. Ginny's dug 'one third!' of the dandelions and has thought of cooking greens ...She and Joyce discovered they'd both lived in Des Moines, Iowa but probably not in the same years. Joyce was familiar with Ginny's Beavertdale neighborhood and Rice School.

Joyce Lohr had surgery in mid-April to replace a faulty aortic valve and reports feeling much better these days. She keeps busy reading, writing letters to her granddaughters, making 'care' packages for her daughter's family, doing crossword puzzles, writing emails and sometimes talking on the phone, which tends to tire her and she'll lapse into a nap during the early evening news. She is grateful for everyone's prayers and cards and emails over the past weeks. She and Wayne try to support local and area businesses ordering take-outs because Joyce's appetite is lacking and she can't think what to cook, except for popcorn and toast. Wayne makes grilled cheese sandwiches and is pretty good at heating left-overs, he says. [and please don't think Joyce is hinting for someone to cook something! she's just saying how it is for awhile and it's fine] Joyce is still reading Paul Theroux's The Pillars of Hercules [since December 2019] and Judith Viorst's poetry collection Unexpectedly Eighty!

Michele Edmondson says she is continuing on a limited basis with her pet grooming business, observing all pandemic safety measures. She has made a few masks. When asked if she cooks, Michele said she's probably "cooking a bit too much!" She continues to play the harp and has recently found an on-line teacher in South Africa. Also on-line, Michele has nearly completed a survey class in the Old Testament as part of a Christian Leadership Institute on-line program. She

hopes to go on to another course: A New Testament Survey of Women and Leadership in Early Christianity. Susan has been furloughed from her work, Michele tells us, but "over all, we are doing great!" There's a wild goose sitting on eggs on their pond and Michele and Susan look forward to seeing goslings soon!

Kae Hoyle sounds cheery as ever and we know she's had some rather persistent health issues over the last year. And now, husband Jay is awaiting cardiac surgery, but the two of them have not despaired during the dreary days of winter; they have enjoyed watching the ice fishermen on the frozen lake beyond their living room windows. Jay also keeps a telescope poised on the lake for the many surprise opportunities offered by nature, there. The Hoyles watch Good Morning America and Kae likes to read books she hears about there. Most recently she's read In Five Years, by Rebecca Serle and has ordered What You Don't Know About Your Father. "I have a daily work list", Kay says and the pandemic hasn't interfered with that. "It'll be great to see everyone and give them a hug!" Kae says about the hoped for end to social distancing imposed for the past seven or eight weeks. Jay will have surgery in early May at Rochester General.

We do thank everyone for sharing and we look forward to a *real in-person* meeting as soon as we safely can.

House of Concern donations are urged. Call the House to ask when you may bring in items. At this time, they are taking only Food and household supply items [bathroom paper, detergent, diapers, soaps, paper towels, etc.]

HOUSE OF CONCERN 315-568-2433

Our usual May item would be Non-food Items. The House will welcome food, as well.

Thank You !

Our thanks to those who make a monetary donation to Circle work on Communion Sundays and who support the House of Concern with donations of food and non-food items, and monetary gifts. Thanks always, to Wayne Lohr for gathering up our items and delivering to the House of Concern each month.

Delicious Recipe

Circle did not meet, but here is a great recipe to try from Barb VanKirk's daughter, Liz:

Tomato soup

Liz D.

1-1/2 Lbs. Roma tomatoes, halved
3 TBs. Olive oil
2TBs. Unsalted butter
1 medium onion, diced
4 garlic cloves, minced
2 C chicken broth (or veg. broth)

1 Tbs. Fresh thyme, minced
one 28 oz can crushed tomatoes
2 C fresh basil leaves, chopped
2 Tbs. Dried basil
One tbs. Sugar
2/3 c heavy cream (almond milk works fine)



S & P to taste

Heat oven to 375. Place tomatoes on baking sheet, drizzle with oil, S&P, roast about an hour.
2) Saute onion in butter about 5 min. in large pot over medium heat. Stir in garlic & thyme, another 5 min.
3) Add crushed tomatoes, chopped basil & sugar. Stir, lower heat, cover, simmer 10 min.
4) Add chicken (or veg) broth, roasted tomatoes. Simmer, covered, about 30 min. Stir occasionally.
5) Blend until smooth. Return to pot. Stir in cream (or almond milk)
6) Reheat. Garnish with crumbled goat cheese & dried basil, crusty bread or grilled cheese sandwiches.