

November  
2022

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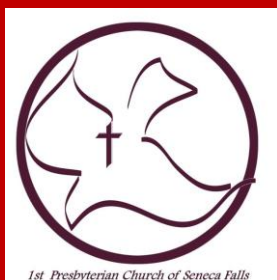
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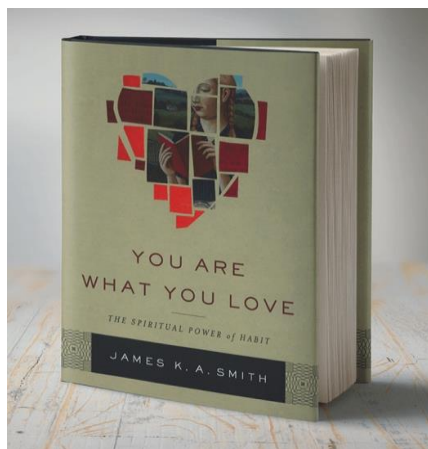
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December Newsletter Articles  
Are Due on November 23rd

# The First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls

## Pastor's Corner



In January, one of the courses I will be taking is called Practicing Communal Discernment. Our reading, writing and class time is designed to create a space to cultivate habits and practices for listening to God in everyday life. One of the books for the course is *You Are What You Love: The Spiritual Power of Habit*, by James K.A. Smith.

I am enjoying reading this book and want to share a few of the gifts I have received while reading it. November is often a month where we lift up all that we are thankful for in our lives. I am thankful for books; they are a gift that keeps on giving!

Smith says, "You need to curate your heart. You need to worship well. Because you are what you love. And you worship what you love. And you might not love what you think. Which raises an important question. Let's dare to ask it." We are what we love, so what do you love? Who do you love? How do you spend your time showing this love and sharing it with others?

James K.A. Smith feels that our answer to this question speaks to our discipleship. "Discipleship, we might say, is a way to curate your heart, to be attentive to and intentional about what you love." Shorthand, if the people "will know we are Christians by our love," what do we love? Spend some time this week, this month, thinking about what you love. What is your discipleship? Smith feels we aren't what we think; not "I think therefore I am," but rather "I love therefore I am." "What if, instead of starting from the assumption that human beings are thinking things, we started from the conviction that human beings are first and foremost lovers?"

Our discipleship, our worship, our habits, and practices are informed and shaped by what we love. "We learn to love, then, not primarily by acquiring information about what we should love but rather through practices that form the habits of how we love." Thus, "The practices of Christian worship train our love." How are we training our love? What do we need to do more of or less of, to train our love and develop healthy habits?

I look forward to hearing your thoughts. Peace, Pastor Leah

### Contact Us

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Seneca Falls, NY

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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

#### Session

Session meets every  
3<sup>rd</sup> 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, October 20, 2022 Meeting, the Session:

- Received the Treasurer's Financial Report for September showing Income of \$10,967, Expenditures of \$69,963.71 and Net Income from the two rummage sales of 1,172
- Received note of thanks from Hope and Becky Wilson for flowers sent following Becky's hospital stay and following the death of Hope's mother
- Heard report of new heat pump use in Eastman Hall and request for Creative Choices staff to record daily room temperatures to determine effectiveness of new technology
- Heard plans for Trunk or Treat (church parking lot) on Sunday, October 30th
- Learned of new thermostats installed in sanctuary, Hawley and Social Rooms, which can be remotely controlled
- Received notice of 2023 Stewardship letters going out this month and request for all committee budget needs to be submitted by November 1<sup>st</sup> to Finance and Stewardship Committee
- Heard plans for one more Ice Cream Social to take place during Coffee Hour on November 13<sup>th</sup>, Advent Decorating scheduled for Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup> and Caroling on December 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Approved proposal for Sunday worship on Christmas Day at 10am, following 9 am Breakfast; both to take place in the Social Rooms
- Approved Sunday, January 1, 2023 worship to be recorded ahead for everyone to view at home
- Heard plans to return to using glass Communion cups and to leave offering plates at entrances to sanctuary, instead of passing pew to pew

Prepared by Joyce Lohr, Clerk to the Session

The next meeting of the Session is Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at 10am



Keara Dugan - 11/18

Muriel Horle - 11/18

Dave Kain - 11/25

Sarah Walsh - 11/29

Laurie Weller - 11/30

## 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 Morris  
5465 Upper Mountain Rd.  
Lockport, NY 14094



## Women's Circle

Will meet on Monday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at 12:30pm  
In the Hawley Room

Kae led the Circle meeting in October and read to us from Habakkuk 1:2-4; 13 and from an article, "Keeping Watch in a Broken World" - with the message "GOD is always in charge!"

We resumed discussion of *The Women of the Bible Speak*...as Kae talked to us about God's plan and Esther's part in it and a demonstration of the power of collective prayer. We also discussed Rahab's faith, and more importantly - her actions; without which, "faith is lifeless."

**Joyce reported on her calls to the Women's Shelter and House of Concern.** The Personal Care Kits we assembled and took to the shelter before the pandemic were gratefully received at that time and still remembered and appreciated by staff there. We all agreed we should do kits again and made plans to each shop for specific items. We also checked in our left-overs supply. **We'll put kits together at this next meeting. Each kit (in a zip-lock bag) will hold: Wash Cloth/Towel, Comb, Tooth Brush/Paste, Shampoo/Conditioner, Tissues, Bar Soap, Deodorant and Lotion.** We had planned to buy another case of infant formula for the House of Concern. We learned they have an adequate supply at the present time and asked us to wait because they cannot keep formula very long because of its short shelf life. **What they need most, they said, are items for their "NEEDS" room, where people may take personal care items: deodorants, tooth paste, bathroom paper, bar soap, body wash, and shampoo, etc.** We'll ask for those items from the congregation for November.

Before leaving the meeting we wrote notes and signed Get Well cards to Elaine Ritter and Michele Edmondson.

**Ginny will lead the November meeting and lead discussion of Chapter 7 - Mary and Martha of Bethany: Two Pathways** in *The Women of the Bible Speak*...we have two more chapters to discuss in this book and will resume discussion in January.

At the November meeting we'll also make plans for the **Holiday Pot Luck** luncheon in December, to which all of the women of the church are invited. We look forward to this time, which we haven't enjoyed since December of 2019!

**As always: We invite all women of the congregation to join with us whenever you can, at Circle meetings.**

**Those attending in November, please bring one or more non-food items for the House of Concern.** These will go to their NEEDS room and can include household paper and cleaning products, as well as personal care items.

**HOUSE OF CONCERN SPECIAL ITEM IN NOVEMBER IS NON-FOODS**





## Church Family News



- **S'mores and Bonfire:** a wonderful time was had by all at the Fall bonfire and S'more-making party, held on **October 16<sup>th</sup>** at the Olsowske Homestead in Waterloo. Yummy treats were shared, and the Olsowskes were such wonderful hosts that planning for the next Bonfire event started right on the spot - stay tuned for details!
- **Doug's Fish Fry:** We will be hosting another of our great Doug's Fish Fry events from 11am to 6pm on Wednesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> at Five Star Bank on Route 5/20, right across from Tops. Not only will we have all of your favorite Doug's items, we will be selling our FAMOUS First Pres Pies. Be sure to get there early - they go fast!! ~Jim Clark~



- **Trunk or Treat/Pumpkin Sunday:** was celebrated on October 30<sup>th</sup>, with costumes abounding and Trunk or Treat held in the parking lot right after worship services.



- **2023 Stewardship and Estimate of Giving:** please be sure to return your completed Estimate of Giving form by November 10<sup>th</sup>. *Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 2 Corinthians 9:6-8*
- **"Extra Life" Fundraiser and Overnight in the Manse Attic:** join us on Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup> for games, snacks and fun!
- **Backpack Program:** many thanks to Dick & Claire Damaske, Sue Derr, Lewis & Romona Lobdell, Barb Van Kirk and Zoe Van Kirk for making deliveries to local kids!



**HAPPY THANKSGIVING to all - and don't forget to "FALL BACK" on Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup>!**

## Worship Schedule

Join us online: [www.fpressf.com](http://www.fpressf.com) on our YouTube Channel

**November 6<sup>th</sup> - All Saints -Communion** - 1 Kings 19:1-18; John 12:27-28; Elijah at Horeb; the prophet in despair, God speaks in the silence.

**November 13<sup>th</sup>** - Amos 1:1-2, 5:14-15, 21-24; John 7:37-38; Let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

**November 20<sup>th</sup>** - Isaiah 9:1-7; John 8:12; People who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**November 27<sup>th</sup>**-Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14, John 14:27; Seek the welfare of the city; I know the plans I have for you.

**December 4<sup>th</sup>**-Ezekiel 37:1-14; John 11:25-26; Ezekiel prophesies to the dry bones and they are raised to new life.



### Liturgist List

November 6<sup>th</sup> - Dick Damaske

November 13<sup>th</sup>- Ginny Konz

November 20<sup>th</sup>- Barry Porsch

November 27<sup>th</sup>- Marion Crull

December 4<sup>th</sup> - Michele Edmondson

Let

## Coffee Hours

November 6<sup>th</sup> - Committee Meetings

November 13<sup>th</sup> - "Wedding Planning" - Matthew Cramer  
Ice Cream Social in Social Rooms

November 20<sup>th</sup> - No Coffee Hour - Congregational Meeting  
and Advent Decorating

November 27<sup>rd</sup> - No Coffee Hour



**To Keep in Our Prayers:** Kathleen Albert; Reatha Bishop; Rachele and Goskel Canscillar; Sue Charles; Jennifer Colbert; Michael Collinsworth; Sue Ellen and Peter Crego; Norine Crull; Sue Derr; Dorothy Dickieson; Joanna Fuller; Betty Geraghty; Pat & Marvin Gordon; Amy Guarino; Tori Guerina; Crystal Hanes; Robert Harkey; Sue Harkey; Teall Harkey; Jack Hassler; 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; Eleanor Mirabito; Tyler Morgan; Roger Morin; Cheri Murphy; Jinny Noone; Joy Novak; family of John Schavemaker; Barb Squires; the family of Jean Stenlake; Shelley Vanderbogart; Linda Warner; Darryl Wells; Gretchen Whittacre; and all those suffering in the world.

**Know someone ill or hospitalized? Please call:**

**Church Office 315-568-6636**

## In Other Presbytery News...



### *A Per Capita Primer Presbytery of Geneva*

**What is Per Capita?** In essence, per capita is a set amount of money (apportionment) per member that is paid to the Presbytery of Geneva, the Synod of the Northeast, and the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Just as a train cannot move without an engine, our church councils require a power source to enable them to provide basic services which support our mutual mission as the Body of Christ. Per capita covers the ecclesiastical expenses of the denomination: the coordination and evaluation of mission, and the performance of ecclesiastical, legislative, and judicial functions. Per capita is an opportunity for all members of the Presbyterian church to participate equally, responsibly, and interdependently by sharing the organizational costs of the larger church.

**What does the Book of Order say about Per Capita?** “Each council above the session shall prepare a budget annually for its operating expenses, including administrative personnel, and may fund it with a per capita apportionment among the particular churches within its bounds. Presbyteries are responsible for raising their own funds and for the timely transmission of per capita funds to their respective synods and to General Assembly. Presbyteries may direct per capital apportionments to the sessions within their bounds but in no case shall the authority of the session to direct its benevolences be compromised.” (G-3.0106)

**How is per capita paid to the Synod and General Assembly in the Presbytery of Geneva?** Different denominations have different ways of collecting revenue. Some receive a “head tax” of more than \$50 per member. Others receive a certain percentage of a congregation’s receipts (up to 25%). In the Presbyterian Church (USA), per capita is an obligation of the Presbytery. The Presbytery of Geneva affirms the interdependent nature of our church by allocating funds in the annual operating budget for Presbytery, Synod, and GA per capita regardless of income from the churches.

**What are the consequences if a Church does not contribute to the Presbytery?** The majority of congregations in the Presbytery generously contribute funds every year. When particular churches do not contribute, a greater burden of responsibility is placed on sister churches in the Presbytery to fund our mutual mission including our partnership with Synod and General Assembly.

Per capita establishes a minimum level of financial participation in the vital work of our connectional church as the Body of Christ, strengthening the sense of community among all Presbyterians. It is a moral obligation we share with one another. Some sessions encourage each member to contribute per capita beyond regular giving to the church. For more information about per capita:

<http://oga.pcusa.org/section/departments/per-capita/frequently-asked-questions/>

#### ***What is the Per Capita for 2022?***

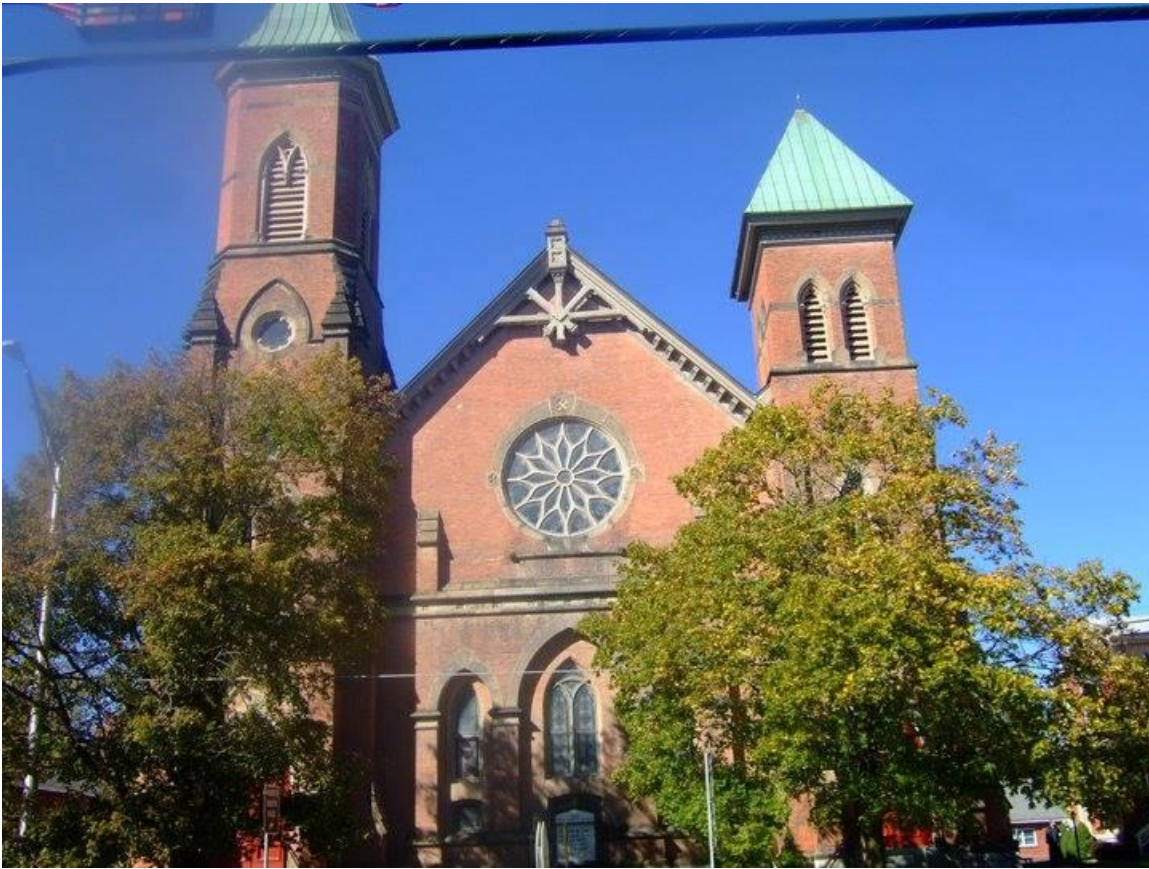
*Presbytery of Geneva: \$36.92*

*Synod of the Northeast: \$4.10*

*General Assembly: \$8.98*

*Total per Member: \$50.00*

**The Presbytery of Geneva is grateful for your congregation’s partnership in mission and ministry!**



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

Greetings to You, a fearfully and wonderfully made child of God:



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