

First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls



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



November Newsletter 2020

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Pastor's Corner

November is a month of gratitude, bookended by two holidays. It begins with All Saints' Day, a day when we give thanks for those people we have loved and lost. It is a day to pause and thank God for the people who have gone before us, to join the great cloud of witnesses. We pause to remember, to laugh, to weep and to rejoice for their lives and the stories, gifts and memories that have been left with us.

The month ends with Thanksgiving, a day set aside to name all the things we are thankful for, either throughout the year or on that particular day. Our friends gave us a tradition of writing down what we are grateful for, placing them in the cornucopia and reading them at dinner time. The letters of thanks are kept from year to year; a scrapbook of thanks, if you will.

This year, the month has a new tone. We will not gather together to read the names of those whom we have lost this year, though we will do so at the online worship service. We will not gather around a Thanksgiving Table with friends from near and far. This year will be different, but it can be and is still a month of thanks.

I wanted to take a moment to lift up some things I am grateful for:

1. For this congregation and the way in which you have all called, written letters and checked in with one another.
2. For Zoom, which has allowed for check-ins, Bible Study, coffee hours, Session and other committee meetings.
3. For a staff, who is gracious, creative, hard-working and understanding.
4. For the people in this community who have supported local businesses, essential workers and maintained essential services for the most vulnerable.
5. For the outdoor gatherings we have managed to have, for continuing worship online, though it is not the same, and for sharing your gifts with readings and music.

Life looks different than it did a year ago. We will continue to persevere. We will continue to be safe and healthy. We do not know what the end of 2020 looks like, but every day we can find three things to be grateful for on that day. I hope you will join me this month in being grateful. Thank you.

Peace, Pastor Leah

GRATITUDE PROMPTS

1. A **strength** of mine for which I am grateful is...
2. Something **money can't buy** that I'm grateful for is...
3. Something that **comforts me** that I'm grateful for is...
4. Something that's **funny** for which I'm grateful for is...
5. Something **in nature** that I'm grateful for is...
6. **A memory** I'm grateful for is...
7. Something that **changes** that I'm grateful for is...
8. A **challenge** I'm grateful for is...
9. Something **interesting** that I'm grateful for is...
10. Something **beautiful** I'm grateful for is...

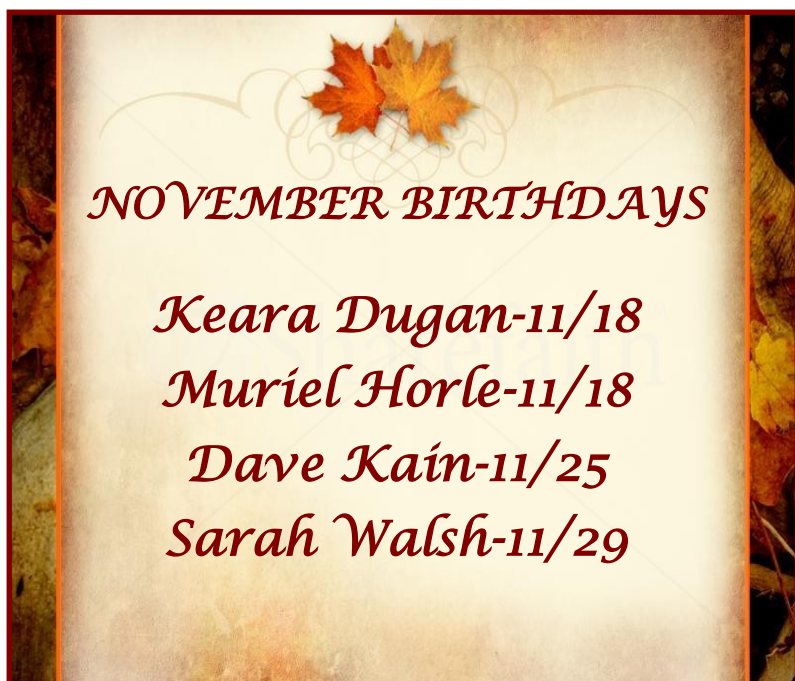
Session Briefs



At its meeting on Monday, October 26, 2020 the Session:

- Received the church financial report for September showing \$13,109.37 Income, and Expenses of \$16,399.47, with discrepancies due to some paving cost carry-overs from 2019, unexpected repairs and new door installation.
- Heard of need for additional Coffee Hour programs for November.
- Moved for a Congregational Meeting “in-person” (and Zoom option) on November 15th, to elect new Elders.
- Heard plans for Music and Worship ministry for Covid memorial banner strips at church front.
- Heard issues from Property ministry regarding church parking lot, and of difficulties with contractor.
- Moved to book Doug’s Fish Fry truck for April 2021 for fund-raising.
- Heard of savings realized from use of LED lighting in Eastman Hall and from solar panels there and on the Manse roof.
- Heard that Presbytery of Geneva is looking at office space offers, including ours.
- Learned of gladiola bulb sales with money raised to go to House of Concern.
- Approved sale of pecans from Georgia, by Membership & Parish Life.
- Heard concerns for keeping connected with church members and friends during the continuing pandemic.

The next meeting of the Session is on Monday, November 23rd, 2020



Reminder

**December Newsletter
Articles are due on
November 19th**

**The Newsletter will be
sent out on
Wednesday, November 25th**

Women's Circle



At the October meeting, four were present. We continued with our reading and discussion of the Book of Ruth in the Good News (GNT), and in other translation print-outs from Michele. We came to a new appreciation for this poor widow and her devotion and loyalty to her mother-in-law, Naomi. Through this relationship, and Ruth's marriage to Boaz, a relative of her deceased father-in-law, the family inheritance was preserved and perpetuated. Ruth bore a son (Obed) to Boaz and Obed became the ancestor of Jesse and David; the forefathers of Jesus in the house of Israel! And all or much of this came about because of Ruth's and Naomi's great faith and faithfulness. We could see the importance of the close-knit fabric that is woven by family connections and loyalty. (We could also appreciate that as women, both Naomi and Ruth had themselves no rights for land ownership, except through males in the family). One of their future grandsons would be our Lord Jesus.

Also of interest to our group are the many words in the various translations which are foreign to us. In the TLV or Tree of Life version, for example, in 3:10 Boaz tells Ruth that although "I am a goel...there is one who is a closer goel than me."

Kae looked up the word "goel" for us and found it to mean "redeemer" in Hebrew and one such goel was a kinsperson responsible for redeeming or buying back property owned or lost; or to right wrongs or seek justice for another kinsman.

We went on to talk about our local Circle mission projects. Following the September meeting, Barb bought a case of infant formula and we took it and several bags of personal care items to the House of Concern. Joyce talked with the people at the shelter in Waterloo which opened in January of this year and run by C.A.P. They take in homeless people and people in in-between situations, as well as those escaping domestic violence and youth who, for various reasons, cannot live at home. And yes, they are always in great need of donations. She took the 10 personal kits we assembled in September, and they were gratefully received.

Circle members also wanted to learn more about race and to better understand why many of us, as white people, feel ourselves different and see and experience many parts of life differently than do people of color. Ginny suggested we all read *Waking Up White*, by Debby Irving, a white author. We made plans to find books for everyone. Joyce read to us a short story from *Maud Martha*, by Gwendolyn Brooks, a black poet and author, and we discussed that briefly; especially the part about going into neighborhoods which we've been taught to fear. We agreed to have someone at each of our next meetings bring a short reading pertaining to race or racism, to present before we begin our main study. Barb volunteered for November.

Kae will give our opening prayer. We hope Michele will be able to join us. We wrote a card to her today because she couldn't join the meeting due to injuries she suffered in a recent fall.

The next Circle meeting is on Monday, November 2nd at 12:30 pm in the Hawley Room at the Church. We invite interested others to join us. Bring a lunch and your mask!



Also, bring something for the House of Concern! Special item for November is non-food (detergents, paper products, bath soap, cleaning products, etc).

Newsletter readers are reminded that the House now serves increasing numbers of families affected by losses during this long pandemic. Food items are always needed, and you may take items directly to the House of Concern, Mon-Fri, 9am-3pm.

Justice and Peace Calendar (see presbyterianwomen.org/justice)

November Native American Heritage Month

- 8 Caregiver Sunday
- 13 World Kindness Day
- 15 Hunger and Homelessness Sunday
- 20 Universal Children's Day
- 25 Int'l Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women
- 25-D.10 16 Days of Activism against Gender





COMMUNITY
Thanksgiving Dinner
 Hosted by SF Elks Lodge #992
 SC House of Concern & United Way of SC

Due to COVID-19 Restrictions
Pick-up & Delivery ONLY
 open to all Seneca County Residents in need of a holiday meal

**Pre-Registration Required for
 pick-ups & deliveries (315) 568-2433**

Interested Volunteers:
 (315) 539-1135 or uwseneca@uwseneca.org

Please direct all donations to SC House of Concern
 33 State St, Seneca Falls 13148 or houseofconcern.org






Congregational Meeting

The Session has called a meeting of the Congregation of the First Presbyterian Society and Church of Seneca Falls, NY on Sunday, November 15, 2020 for the purpose of hearing nominations and electing Elders. It will be held at 11:00 am, “in person” and with Zoom option.



Stewardship/Finance

The past several years our church has expanded our resource base from pledges and investments to include various fund raisers. Here are some samples so far in 2020 (gross figures):

Tops Cards	\$2,795
Amazon Smile	\$ 55
Stampin Up Greetings	\$ 37
Pecans	\$ 56
Pies for Pi Day	\$ 685

And our latest financials condensed:

First Presbyterian Church Seneca Falls					
Budget vs. Actuals: FY 2020 - FY20 P&L					
January - September, 2020					
	Sep 2020		Total		Annual
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Budget
Revenue					
43300 Direct Public Grants			0.00	0.00	
43340 Nonprofit Organization Grants			21,215.00	0.00	
Total 43300 Direct Public Grants	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 21,215.00	\$ 0.00	
Total 45000 Investments	\$ 5,596.85	\$ 4,166.00	\$ 49,873.12	\$ 37,502.00	50,000
Total 46400 Other Types of Income	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 300.00	400
Total 47000 Pledges	\$ 6,897.52	\$ 7,996.00	\$ 76,466.97	\$ 72,942.00	97,130
Total 47500 Rentals	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,166.00	\$ 4,885.00	\$ 10,502.00	14,000
47700 Rev Released from Restrictions		608.00	0.00	5,466.00	7,290
Total 49000 Special Events Income	\$ 200.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 3,646.71	\$ 3,870.00	6,200
Sales			-7,221.10	0.00	
Total Revenue	\$13,109.37	\$ 14,236.00	\$153,301.70	\$130,582.00	175,020
Gross Profit	\$13,109.37	\$ 14,236.00	\$153,301.70	\$130,582.00	
Expenditures					
Total 62100 Contract Services	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 815.22	\$ 0.00	-
62800 Facilities and Equipment			1,016.26	0.00	-
Total 64600 Ministry Expenses	\$ 456.86	\$ 225.00	\$ 9,795.14	\$ 2,225.00	2,800
Total 64900 Office Supplies	\$ 159.32	\$ 309.00	\$ 1,690.86	\$ 2,673.00	3,500
Total 65000 Operations	\$ 197.52	\$ 384.00	\$ 2,881.02	\$ 3,273.00	4,125
Total 65100 Other Types of Expenses	\$ 3,528.58	\$ 1,875.00	\$ 14,023.22	\$ 17,125.00	22,750
Total 66000 Payroll Expenses	\$ 9,111.21	\$ 9,498.00	\$ 88,695.50	\$ 85,451.00	113,945
Total 66700 Professional Fees	\$ 0.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 332.66	\$ 3,250.00	4,000
Total 68300 Travel and Meetings	\$ 0.00	\$ 166.00	\$ 138.19	\$ 1,502.00	2,000
Total 68500 Maintenance and Repairs	\$ 1,086.89	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 82,847.81	\$ 9,900.00	13,000
Total 68600 Utilities	\$ 1,670.61	\$ 700.00	\$ 11,826.51	\$ 6,300.00	8,400
69000 Miscellaneous		41.00	0.00	377.00	500
Total Expenditures	\$16,399.47	\$ 14,448.00	\$216,705.22	\$132,076.00	175,020
Net Operating Revenue	-\$ 3,290.10	-\$ 212.00	-\$ 63,403.52	-\$ 1,494.00	
Net Revenue	-\$ 3,290.10	-\$ 212.00	-\$ 63,403.52	-\$ 1,494.00	

We are showing greater than budgeted balance for Total Revenue, primarily due to a Paycheck Protection Program Loan received in May. This is offset by greater than budgeted expense in Maintenance and Repairs for projects such as roof, tower and organ repair, parking lot paving, and replacement of the windows in the Manse.

Please use this when considering and completing your pledge form.

Thank you from your
Stewardship/Finance Team

“I HAVE A QUESTION”

We would like to announce a new activity where everyone is invited to participate - children, youth, adults and seniors alike! Using a verse from the Bible, ask a question that you can relate to. Share your answers and be included in the Big Reveal, an upcoming Zoom presentation. Email a response, send a text message, drop a note, or send an Mp3 or Mp4. Make sure to contact us if you want to be included in the upcoming Zoom presentation. Reply to Michele Edmondson at encantapet@gmail.com or at 760-445-1975. You can also let her know if you have a question for us to ponder!

Here is the first verse to consider:

Zephaniah 3:17: “The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, **but will rejoice over you with singing.**”

Have you ever wondered what the voice of Jesus sounds like or what the voice of God rejoicing and singing over you will sound like?

I imagine it could be “sweet, full, and clear, like a bird singing in the woods,” as **Burl Ives’s** voice has been described.

Could it be the “soft, sweet, silky smooth baritone voice” that **Nat King Cole** was blessed with? Warm, soothing, and comforting?

Or could it be the energetic R&B/gospel style of **Kirk Franklin’s** inspiration messages of Agape love?

These are the voices that came to my mind and spoke to my heart when I first started wondering about what God’s voice will sound like.

Can you hear God’s voice singing over you? What type of voice do you imagine that God has? We would love to know!



Members and Friends to Keep in Our Thoughts

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>
Dorothy Dickieson	303 Ferris Hills, Canandaigua, NY 14424
Betty Geraghty	8 Iroquois Lane, Waterloo, NY 13165
Gary Ippolito	DeMays Living Center, 100 Sunset Drive-c/o Wolf Unit, Newark, NY 14810
Liza Merriam	Heritage Hall 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 Street Ext. Bath, NY 14810



Service Schedule

November 1st—All Saints -Psalm 22; Preaching text: Hebrews 9:1-14

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

Use your own cup and bread to join us for communion

November 8th—Psalm 23; Preaching text: Hebrews 11:1-16 (12:1-2)

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

November 15th—Psalm 24; Sermon on the Mount-Matthew 25 Lectionary: Gospel of Matthew (5:1-7:29); Matthew 5:1-16

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

November 22nd—Christ the King-Psalm 25; The 10 Miracles-Matthew 25 Lectionary: Gospel of Matthew (8:1-9:34)

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

November 29th— Advent 1- Psalm 26; Matthew 24:36-44 The Lord is coming; keep awake; no one knows the day or hour.

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

December 6th— Advent 2-Psalm 27; Matthew 3:1-12 John calls for repentance: prepare the way of the Lord.

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



Liturgist List

- 1st– Barry Porsch
- 8th– Dick Damaske
- 15th– Norma Fink
- 22nd– Claire Damaske
- 29th–Susan Sholar
- 6th–Barb Van Kirk

Coffee Hours



- Nov 1: Church Social Time
- Nov 8: Tara Montoney, Seneca Falls Library
- Nov 15: Congregation Meeting to elect Officers
- Nov 22: Lesson for Theoacademy, Pastor Leah
- Nov 29: No Coffee Hour, Thanksgiving

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82474187958>

Know someone ill or hospitalized?

This month, please call: Kae Hoyle 585.330.0904



To Keep in Our Prayers: Frank Bocek; Gloria Chandler; Kathy Cole; Jennifer Colbert; Matthew Cramer; Sue Ellen and Peter Crego; Norine Crull; Cindy Danielson; Susan Derr; Chesterdaniel Freeman; Joanna Fuller; Betty Geraghty; Honey Gilbert and family; Marvin Gordon; Pat Gordon; Tori Guerina; Crystal Hanes; Greta Hauser & Family; Gary Ippolito; Al Johnson; Bea Jones; Debra Kemp; Timothy Kent; our Law Enforcement Officers; Carson Lankford; LewAnn Backus Lawhorn; Bruce Levine; Louis Lobdell; Lucy and Nancy Lopez; Liza Merriam; Tyler Morgan; Patsy Mott; Cheri Murphy; Dean Potter; Shirley Sage; Jean Stenlake; Linda Warner; Darryl Wells; Paul Wenderlich; Gretchen Whittacre; Hope Wilson; Linda Zona; and all those suffering in the world.

Church Office: 315-568-6636
Church Fax: 315-568-6616
Hours: Thursday 7:30am-12:30pm
Manse: 315-398-4356
E-mail: firstpres13148@gmail.com
Website: www.fpressf.com

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

Rev. Leah Ntuala-Pastor
Rev. Dr. Peter J. Crego-Pastor Emeritus
Marion Crull-Treasurer
Laurie Weller-Office Manager
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: Jim Clark, Marion Crull, Dick Damaske, Susan Derr, Michele Edmondson,
Susan Harkey, Jay Hoyle, Marc Smith, Peter Snyder
Joyce Lohr, Clerk to the Session and with Pastor Leah Ntuala as Moderator

First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls
P.O. Box 383
23 Cayuga St
Seneca Falls, NY 13148



Happy Thanksgiving to:

November Newsletter 2020