

# First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls



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

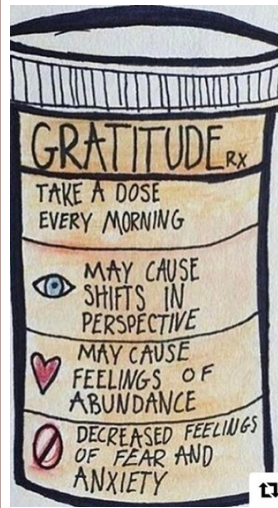


## November Newsletter 2021

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### Pastor's Corner



**Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ~ Philippians 4:6-7**

It is November, which always makes me think about gratitude and reflecting on the things I am thankful for. It has also meant a 30-day gratitude challenge. Some of these gratitude challenges have involved taking pictures of things I am grateful for, and sometimes it has been a journaling or art challenge. I enjoy the deep dive, but the day to day has helped me to be more grounded.

November is bookended by All Saint's Day and Thanksgiving. We begin the month of November thanking our Ancestors who have gone before us. We reflect on our family tree and our deep roots and connections. Some of them we have met, some we only know through photos and stories, and some we have never known. We give thanks for the empty spaces on our family trees, too; Ancestors unknown to us.

We end the month preparing the recipes that have been passed down to us for generations. Maybe your meal is served on your great grandmother's serving platter? Perhaps that pie recipe is over a century old? It is a time to gather as family and friends, give thanks and break bread. I am a fan of most holidays, but Thanksgiving is one of my favorites. I love the food, the company, the games, the laughter, the stories and even the arguing. I am grateful for the traditions I inherited and the new ones we have begun. A day entirely devoted to saying thank you!

Prayer is a wonderful tool for practicing gratitude. We can pray in so many ways, too. We can take a prayer walk, where we thank God for those things we see or think of as we walk. We can pray in dance or song. We can pray with our words or with pen to paper. We can pray with a paint brush or a knitting needle. However you pray let us give thanks to God, for we are beautifully and wonderfully made.

Peace,  
Pastor Leah

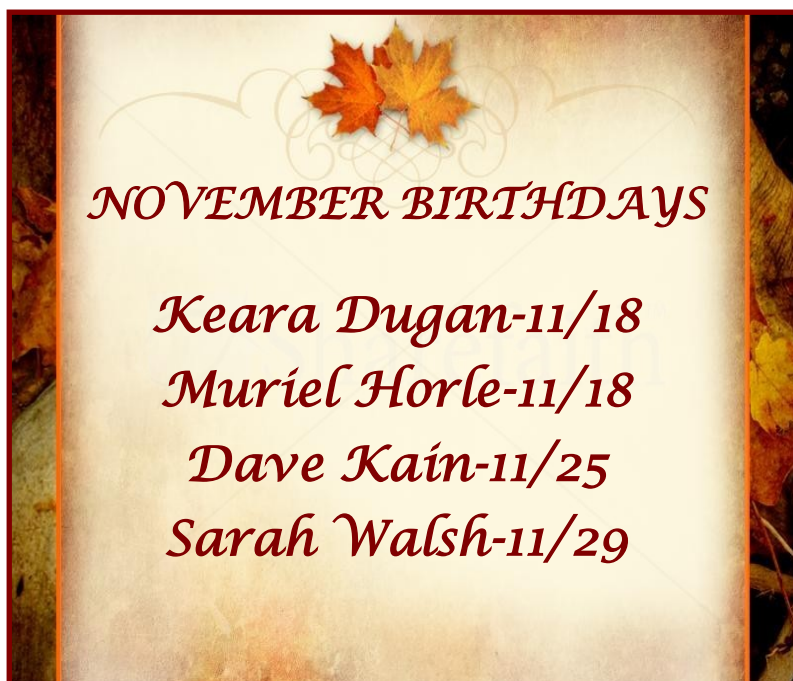
## Session Briefs



### At its Monday, October 25, 2021 meeting the Session:

- Received the church financial report for September showing \$106,001.89 in total Revenues, and \$13,761.29 in Expenditures
- Heard notes of thanks from Elaine Ritter and Dorothy Dickieson for flowers received
- Removed the names of recently deceased members Gary Ippolito and Shirley Sage from church rolls
- Learned of Pastor's participation in Seneca CARES, working to support health and wellbeing of youth and families in Seneca County
- Moved to send a Letter of Transfer of Membership for Stephen and Karen Beals to the United Church of Christ in Westfield, MA
- Heard plans for church participation in *It's a Wonderful Life* weekend in December, to include church bell tower ringing, Pastor Greg Asimakoupoulos coffee hour, and social room art show
- Moved to apply for mission grant which, if received, would enable church to partner with other organizations in providing resources and mental health training where needed in schools and community
- Approved \$5,500 donation to the House of Concern with Presbytery Mission and church funds
- Discussed moving Session meeting time to either Sunday after worship or a week day
- Discussed possible planning of a 1st Sunday in Advent musical program similar to West Fayette Church
- Heard report of parking lot work done by Hart Paving, Geneva, NY which is nearly completed

**The next meeting of the Session is on Thursday, November 18th at 10:00 am**



## Reminder

**December Newsletter  
Articles are due on  
November 18th**

**The Newsletter will be  
sent out on  
Monday, November 29th**

## Women's Circle

### Will meet on Monday, November 1st at 12:30 pm in the Hawley Room

There were five of us at the October Women's Circle meeting and, yay! Hooray! Michele was even able to join us! She'd had to leave her cold house where the furnace was out in their flooded basement. During our lunch time, we each wrote a greeting to Hedra and included her and Norma in prayer.

For the study part of the meeting, we opened our new book *The Women of the Bible Speak: the Wisdom of 16 Women and Their Lessons for Today*, Fox News Network LLC, 2021, by Shannon Bream. We were pleased to each have found a copy in time for this month's meeting. In discussing the author's background, we all agreed that we could learn from her book, while at the same time being mindful and open to consideration of a conservative viewpoint.

The first chapter was titled **Sarah and Hagar - Women of the Covenants** and we discussed **Sarah**. Because Sarah was a wife of Abraham, we talked about him, too. The author points out: "Sarah herself is voiceless until Chapter 16 (in Genesis) of the narrative, when for the first time, she has something to say..." Because Sarah has aged and never borne children, she tells Abraham to join with her slave, Hagar to produce offspring; this because God has promised that Sarah will be *a mother of all nations; kings of peoples shall come from her... Genesis 17:16*. Sarah, we decided, was practical and probably lacked Abraham's unquestioning faith. Hagar conceived with Abraham and then turned against Sarah and eventually left her. We discussed what may have happened, and our history made different, if the two had remained friendly to each other.

In November, Kae will offer an opening prayer and read Scripture, and Joyce will have a cultural diversity item. Michele will lead us in discussing **Rachel and Leah: Sisters and Rivals**.

**We invite more women to join us! If you need a book, we'll find one. Bring your lunch on November 1st!**

**Everyone please bring an item for the Women's Shelter. We are still collecting personal care and cleaning supplies.**

**HOUSE OF CONCERN special item in NOVEMBER is SOUPS & STEWS.**



### Presbyterian Women Justice and Peace Calendar

(see [presbyterianwomen.org/justice](http://presbyterianwomen.org/justice))

#### November - Native American Heritage Month

7 Caregiver Sunday  
 13 World Kindness Day  
 14 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 Violence





## Church Family News

- ♦ **Pecan Sale:** Pecans are still available for sale on Sunday after worship, at a cost of \$12.50 per bag. Supplies are limited, so don't wait too long!
- ♦ **A "Green Amendment" Presentation** was held during the Coffee Hour at the Church on Sunday, October 24th. Bob Meek gave a brief talk on the proposed amendment to the New York State Constitution, which will be on the ballot when we vote on November 2nd. This amendment would encourage sound green decision-making and help prevent harmful environmental actions. We in the Finger Lakes have been working on this for years, so please keep this in mind as you cast your votes this month.
- ♦ **Again this year, we will be collecting hats, mittens and scarves** for distribution to those in the community who are in need. You may bring your donations to the Church Office until December 24th, so please check your closets for any items you can spare.
- ♦ **Shirley Sage and Gary Ippolito** - please keep the families of Shirley Sage and Gary Ippolito in your thoughts and prayers. Shirley passed away on October 10, 2021 after a brief stay in the ICU at F.F. Thompson Hospital in Canandaigua. Gary passed on October 15, 2021 at Clifton Springs Nursing Home, where he had been a resident for several months. Both were dedicated members of First Pres, and will be greatly missed. Shirley's family has requested that those wishing to make donations in her memory please mail or bring them to our Church Office.
- ♦ **Stewardship** - Thank you to all who have supported First Pres this year through service, donations, and many tasks. In 2021, we promoted mission both locally and on a more widespread level, and many improvements were made to our three properties. As we look forward to 2022, we hope to give a one-time donation to the House of Concern, the window replacement project at the Manse will continue, and several upgrades will be addressed at Eastman Hall. As you fill out your pledge form, keep in mind all of the people we touch as a community; with your help, our stewardship will ensure that even more will be served. Thank you for doing your part in our church's life-changing work.

*1Peter 4:10 Based on the gift each one has received, use it  
to serve others, as good managers of the varied grace of God.*



## 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 21, 2021 for the purpose of hearing nominations and electing Elders. It will be held in the Sanctuary at 11:00 am, and attendance may be in person or by Zoom.





## 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 2021 (gross figures):

Tops Cards	\$1,200
Amazon Smile	\$ 80
Stampin Up Greetings	\$ 0 (sales temporarily suspended due to Covid)
Pecans	\$ 25
Pies for Pi Day	\$ 895
Doug's Fish Fry	\$ 1,242
BBQ - K&R	\$ 515

And our latest financials condensed:

First Presbyterian Church Seneca Falls					
Budget vs. Actuals: FY 2021 - FY21 P&L					
January - September, 2021					
	Sep 2021		Total		2021
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Budget
<b>Revenue</b>					
Total 45000 Investments	\$ 4,944.89	\$ 4,584.00	\$ 50,345.96	\$ 41,248.00	55,000.00
46400 Other Types of Income			0.00	0.00	0.00
Total 46400 Other Types of Income	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 300.00	400.00
Total 47000 Pledges	\$ 5,907.00	\$ 7,850.00	\$ 69,512.65	\$ 70,650.00	94,200.00
Total 47500 Rentals	\$ 1,175.00	\$ 1,166.00	\$ 9,120.00	\$ 10,502.00	14,000.00
47700 Rev Released from Restrictions	93,349.00	2,807.00	110,981.00	25,263.00	33,682.00
Total 49000 Special Events Income	\$ 225.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 3,441.87	\$ 3,740.00	5,000.00
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 106,001.89</b>	<b>\$ 16,707.00</b>	<b>\$ 247,503.48</b>	<b>\$ 151,703.00</b>	<b>202,282.00</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>\$ 106,001.89</b>	<b>\$ 16,707.00</b>	<b>\$ 247,503.48</b>	<b>\$ 151,703.00</b>	<b>202,282.00</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>					
Total 62100 Contract Services	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,500.00	1,500.00
Total 64600 Ministry Expenses	\$ 485.84	\$ 225.00	\$ 7,133.54	\$ 2,225.00	2,800.00
Total 64900 Office Supplies	\$ 135.20	\$ 309.00	\$ 3,398.33	\$ 2,673.00	3,500.00
Total 65000 Operations	\$ 210.46	\$ 359.00	\$ 2,707.80	\$ 3,423.00	4,350.00
Total 65100 Other Types of Expenses	\$ 1,556.40	\$ 709.00	\$ 10,533.99	\$ 17,873.00	23,750.00
Total 66000 Payroll Expenses	\$ 9,593.08	\$ 10,085.00	\$ 90,836.54	\$ 90,741.00	121,000.00
Total 66700 Professional Fees	\$ 400.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 3,250.00	4,000.00
Total 68300 Travel and Meetings	\$ 0.00	\$ 125.00	\$ 14.00	\$ 1,125.00	1,500.00
Total 68500 Maintenance and Repairs	\$ 1,068.19	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 40,058.60	\$ 27,532.00	30,632.00
Total 68600 Utilities	\$ 94.12	\$ 729.00	\$ 9,064.58	\$ 6,561.00	8,750.00
69000 Miscellaneous		41.00	0.00	377.00	500.00
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 13,761.29</b>	<b>\$ 13,832.00</b>	<b>\$ 166,976.38</b>	<b>\$ 157,280.00</b>	<b>202,282.00</b>
<b>Net Operating Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 92,240.60</b>	<b>\$ 2,875.00</b>	<b>\$ 80,527.10</b>	<b>-\$ 5,577.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Net Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 92,240.60</b>	<b>\$ 2,875.00</b>	<b>\$ 80,527.10</b>	<b>-\$ 5,577.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>

We are showing greater than budgeted balance for Total Revenue, primarily due to funds transferred to the Operating account from the Knight Investment Fund. This is offset by expense in Maintenance and Repairs for projects such as steeple and organ repair, and replacement of the windows in the Manse.

Please use this when considering and completing your pledge form this month.

Thank you from your  
Stewardship/Finance Team

## First Woman Ordained by Presbyterian Church Reflects on 65th Anniversary

by Rich Copley | Presbyterian News Service - Excerpt taken from: *Weekly News Briefing from the PC(USA)*, October 27, 2021

October 21, 2021 - Rev. Dr. Margaret Towner, the first woman ordained as a minister of word and sacrament in the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, put stories on the record in Thursday's episode of "A Matter of Faith: A Presby Podcast." The episode dropped just three days before the 65th anniversary of her ordination on October 24, 1956, by Cayuga-Syracuse Presbytery in New York.

Towner grew up active in the church, but did not feel called to ministry until later, she told co-host Simon Doong. Her first job was as a medical photographer at the Mayo Clinic, a job that lasted until Towner suffered poisoning from the darkroom chemicals photographers had to work with in those days. She moved to Syracuse with her mother and had "a breakthrough" working with the Rev. Dr. Harry Taylor at First Presbyterian Church in Syracuse, who helped her deal with deep anger over her father's infidelity and her parent's divorce.

"Harry allowed me to express my anger," said Towner, 96, who now lives in Florida. He was a great supporter and counselor and got me help, helped get me on the road to health and to ministry."

She started working for the church as a substitute secretary, and then began to help with youth ministry at a neighboring church.

"The more I got involved in that ministry, the more I began to sense a call," Towner said, recalling encouragement from people like Taylor, the Rev. Herb Schrader, the Chair of the Committee on Ministry for the Cayuga-Syracuse Presbytery; and others. Towner recounted some of the men who doubted her and stood in her way, from fellow students at Union Theological Seminary in New York City to the senior pastor at one church who accused her of "hanky panky" with men in the church, to church leaders...who branded her a Communist and told her to leave when she explained the church's support of activist Angela Davis in the 70s. But she lingered the longest on people, including many men, who supported her as she followed the uncharted path to ministry.

Over the years, Towner transitioned from counselee to counselor as she was a trailblazer for many women who followed her into ministry. Towner said in 65 years, she has certainly seen progress with more women taking leadership roles in all levels of the church, though there are still many inequities, particularly when it comes to salaries.

"One thing I did observe in seminary and afterwards is that women worked harder, we excelled. I didn't, but we excelled and worked harder than the men," Towner said. "We did things with more vigor and detail, whereas it seemed like some of the men just thought, well, I just do what I could to get by, and that was it. But I think that women have won the prizes at seminaries now. They're winning the preaching prizes, winning the theology prizes in the seminaries, so that they're working more diligently and winning those things, working harder in their presentations."

## 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
Carson Lankford	3120 Patton Road, Seneca Falls, NY 13148
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



**November 7th - Communion** - 1 Kings 17:1-6, 17-24; Luke 4:24-26 ~ Elijah and the widow; God's care for those on the margin.

Join us <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMY7YsXpd6ybud2LmWCoijA>

**November 14th** - Jonah 1:1-17, 3:1-10, 4:1-11; Luke 18:13 ~ Jonah's attempted escape from God, God's mercy on the people of Nineveh.

Join us <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMY7YsXpd6ybud2LmWCoijA>

**November 21st** - Isaiah 6:1-8; Luke 5:8-10 ~ Call of Isaiah: Holy, holy, holy is God; the prophet's sin, cleansing, and sending.

Join us <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMY7YsXpd6ybud2LmWCoijA>

**November 28th - Advent** - Daniel 6:6-27; Luke 23:1-5 ~ Daniel in the lions' den; deliverance; God's kingdom shall never be destroyed.

Join us <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMY7YsXpd6ybud2LmWCoijA>

**December 5th - Advent** - Joel 2:12-13, 28-29; Luke 11:13 ~ Turn to a merciful God, promise of the Spirit.

Join us <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMY7YsXpd6ybud2LmWCoijA>



7th - Michele Edmondson

14th - Ginny Konz

21st - Claire Damaske

28th - Mark Smith

Dec. 5th - Joyce Lohr



**Know someone ill or hospitalized?**  
This month, please call: Kae Hoyle 585.330.0904



**To Keep in Our Prayers:** Jennifer Colbert; Sue Ellen and Peter Crego; Norine Crull; Dorothy Dickieson; George Elyseev; Joanna Fuller; Betty Geraghty; Pat & Marvin Gordon; Tori Guerina; Crystal Hanes; family of Teall Harkey; family of Sue Harkey; Hedra Harrison; Jack Hassler; Greta Hauser & family; Diana Hinman; family of Gary Ippolito; Al Johnson; Bea Jones; Karen Kelley; our Law Enforcement Officers, Firefighters and EMTs; Carson Lankford; Lucy and Nancy Lopez; Liza Merriam; Tyler Morgan; Joy Novack; Elaine Ritter; family of Shirley Sage; John Schavemaker; Linda Schavemaker; Barb Squires; Jean Stenlake; the Swick family; Linda Warner; Darryl Wells; Gretchen Whittacre; Hope Wilson; 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 In-Person and Online Worship at 10am**

Rev. Leah Ntuala-Pastor  
Rev. Dr. Peter J. Crego-Pastor Emeritus  
Kae Hoyle-Treasurer  
Laurie Weller-Office Manager  
Peter Snyder- Sexton  
Jen Braun-Pianist  
Joyce Lohr- Clerk to the Session



*Session meetings are on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 10 am.*  
Presently serving Elders: Jim Clark, Marion Crull, Dick Damaske, Susan Derr,  
Michele Edmondson, Susan Harkey, Jay Hoyle, Ginny Konz and Marc Smith.  
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 2021**