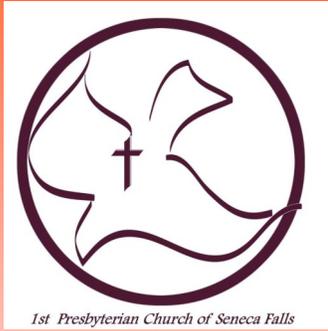


# First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls



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



## October Newsletter 2021

### Inside this issue:

Session Briefs	2
Birthdays	2
Women's Circle	3
House of Concern News & CE Update	4
Stewardship	5
Church Family News	6
"Green Amendment" Presentation	6
Members & Friends	6
Service Schedule	7
Liturgist List	7
Keep in Our Prayers	7
Calendar	insert

### Pastor's Corner

My sabbatical was wonderful, but I missed you. As we re-engage, I came across these five questions that I would love to know your answers to. I am free to chat about them on the phone, receive answers via email, go for a walk together and you can see me face to face, or we could meet on your porch (or mine). I want to know what is happening in your life at this moment.

Recently, I finished a series comparing people to books. "People are like a book. As we flip each of the pages, we know more about them. And it's really exciting. Whether they are good or not. Never mind. It's just a story written for them, for us to learn." I thought it was a beautiful sentiment, maybe because I love books. I liked the idea of meeting a book called *Leah*, and asking her these questions. I am equally excited to meet a book called (*Insert Your Name*) and hearing the answers to these questions.

Church

**Five Great Questions to Ask Your ~~Team~~**  
by Andy Stanley

1. What are you most excited about right now?
2. What do you wish you could spend more time on?
3. What is most challenging for you right now?
4. Is there anything bugging you?
5. What can I do to help?

I know it feels like we are all still so separate. Zoom, YouTube, masks, virtual meetings, no coffee and snacks, elbow bumps and no seen smiles are tough. It can feel like we are distanced, even while being in the same room. It has been a very lonely time. However, it is my hope that we can begin to build bridges and reconnect. I thank you in advance for sharing your lives with me. I am grateful for your vulnerability.

Peace, Pastor Leah

## Session Briefs

### **At its Monday, September 13, 2021 meeting, the Session:**

- Received August financial report for the church showing Total Revenues of \$34,153.62; Total Expenditures of \$37,274.10, which included \$22,681.38 for maintenance and repairs (steeple, manse window replacement, organ and rest rooms)
- Heard notes of thanks from Matthew Walsh and Aryanna Dugan (Mynderse grads) and Kae Hoyle
- Heard update on Pastor’s sabbatical leave and plans for coffee hour presentation
- Approved annual sale of Pecans for this Fall
- Heard present total of 670 ribbons at church front; each representing 1,000 US COVID deaths
- Heard plans for Pastor’s General Assembly Permanent Justice Committee work, October 7-10
- Made plans to look at PCUSA’s Congregational Vitality Survey and to participate
- Heard review of recent church property work, including cleaning and painting in all rest rooms and new floor installation in men’s and narthex rest rooms
- Heard updated on church parking lot issues and possible contractors and remedies
- Heard request for donations to “cake wheel” at House of Concern’s Grand Opening, October 16th

**The next meeting of the Session is October 25, 2021**



### October Birthdays

- Kris (Lohr) Witherspoon-  
10/2*
- Zachary Rescorl-10/10*
- Peter Crego-10/18*
- Bob Seem-10/22*
- Don Ritter-10/27*
- Sue Ellen Crego-10/28*
- Kae Hoyle—10/29*
- Matthew Walsh- 10/31*

## **Reminder**

November Newsletter  
articles are due on  
**October 21st**  
Thank you!

It will be sent out  
**On October 28th**



## Women's Circle

**Will meet on Monday, October 4, 2021 at 12:30 pm in the Hawley Room**

At its September meeting, the Women's Circle met at the home of Ginny Konz. We arrived happy to be comfortably seated on Ginny's wonderful screened porch; we sipped lemonade and then moved to her picnic table. Pastor Leah joined us for lunch, which included some very tasty zucchini bread that Ginny had baked (some of us even took some home!). We were most happy to have Leah with us for this first Circle get-together since June. Following lunch, everyone moved to a chair or couch and Joyce read from Psalms and a prayer:

*Divine Source, flow through me and keep me grounded. Amen.*  
 Laura Alary, Toronto, Ontario

We then discussed what we would study this year and most agreed that we should move on from the last book, *Waking Up White: and Finding Myself in the Story of Race*, but we would continue to seek sources of racial and cultural diversity in our lives and share experiences and insights as we move through the year together.

We discussed options for ordering the new book by Shannon Bream, *The Women of the Bible Speak*, which was published only last spring 2021. Used copies from online book sellers do not seem to be available. Suggestions were made for Cokesbury, inter-library loan, eBay, Alibris and Amazon. Joyce will also check with Presbytery and its Resource Center, and Presbyterian Supply in Louisville. By the time of the October meeting, we hopefully will each have found a copy of the book.

Reports were given for organizations Circle supports. Ginny (serves on the Board) told us of the move presently in progress for the **House of Concern**. Help is needed and people may volunteer to stock shelves, sort and hang clothing, etc., beginning Monday, September 20th-October 15th, between the hours of 9:30 am and 3:30 pm at the former Save-A-Lot store in Waterloo (turn left at the light at LaFayette Park). She will also call the **Resource Center** in Newark to ask about their present needs. Joyce has talked with the people at the **Women's Shelter** (CAP) in Waterloo. They always need bathroom cleaning supplies and personal care items (shampoos, bath soap, etc.). Women stay at the shelter anywhere from a few nights to several weeks, we were told. Each room has its own bath.

Ginny also asked us to consider donating a cake or other baked goods to the **Cake Wheel** that The House of Concern will offer at its Grand Opening on Saturday, October 16th at the new location. These may be dropped off on the Saturday morning of the Opening, scheduled for 11 am to 3 pm.

Once the House has moved to Waterloo, we'll take turns delivering our church donations. Ginny volunteered herself and Peter Snyder for October. Barb Van Kirk will do September.

Because our treasury has been low during the pandemic, Circle has been unable to continue with some donations, including baby formula for the House of Concern. With worship resuming in the church sanctuary, we will suggest donations as in the past, on Communion Sundays. Notice will again appear in the worship bulletin.

**All women of the church are invited to join the Women's Circle.** Come for a sample visit! Bring your lunch and a mask, and join us in October. **Everyone also please bring an item for the Women's Shelter.**

**House of Concern Special item for OCTOBER: CANNED SOUPS & STEWS**  
 (all canned and packaged food items are always welcome; also non-food household items)



## House of Concern News

*Submitted by Ginny Konz*

### The House of Concern



The House of Concern is moving from Seneca Falls to a much larger, more suitable spot in Waterloo that most of you know as the old Save-a-Lot grocery store. To make the move go more smoothly they would love volunteers to help, beginning September 20th until October 15th, any time between 10 am and 3:30 pm. If you have the time and energy, give them a call to set up a time.

October 16th is the Grand Opening of the new facility, from 11 am - 3 pm. There will be free hot dogs and hamburgers, music, a “duck” pond for the kids (probably turtles but you get the idea), a cake wheel and a silent auction. The term “cake wheel” is being used loosely, as they are hoping for pies, cookies, breads, anything you might be willing to contribute. Stu and Cathy Olsowske have agreed to contribute four or five items, and you all know how good those would be! I will be taking over three items. All baked goods need to be brought to the location, ideally that morning, but they would take them on Friday before 3:30 pm if necessary. They also would welcome any contributions to the silent auction. Session has agreed to create a dog-themed basket, starting with a generous \$50.00 gift certificate from Michele Edmondson for grooming, to which the rest of us will add dog food, treats, toys, bandanas, etc. I have two books to put in as well.

The new House will open for business on October 18th at 10 am, and could begin taking donations at that time. Regular hours will be 10 am - 4 pm weekdays; the pantry hours will be 10 am - 3:30 pm.

Any questions? Call the HOC or Ginny Konz (315-712-4182).

## Christian Education Update

*Submitted by Michele Edmondson*

We, the CE committee are brainstorming new ideas to incorporate within our CE department activities. We welcome any suggestions or ideas, as we begin to plan out our Fall 2021-2022 calendar.

**Confirmation Classes:** If there are any middle school and older young people (12-14ish) who want to participate in confirmation classes, please contact the office.

**Adult Bible Study:** We are looking at starting an adult Bible study with a “popcorn” style of leadership. This will allow different people to lead a Bible study of their choice, by topic, book, chapter, etc. If you are interested, we would like to know what days and times would be best for you. We do have the flexibility to hold the Bible Studies on different days and times, so as to serve those who are interested.

We are looking at a lot of different ideas where we can have inter-generational activities. We believe that mentoring relationships between generations is a wonderful way to share the love of Christ with each other.

Some ideas we discussed were: holding a “Fix It Café”, learning to cook a “VERY SPECIAL” banana bread, teaching/learning knitting, and raised bed gardening, to name a few.

This is a great time for CE to look to our futures together in Service, playful fellowship and community service projects.

We look forward to including your ideas in our upcoming Christian Education activities and events!

## What If Stewardship Was a Reason Instead of a Season?

*by Nancy Crowe for the Presbyterian Foundation | Special to Presbyterian News Service*

CINCINNATI, Ohio - The averted gaze when a member of the stewardship committee approaches. The neglected pledge forms. The Stewardship Sunday sermon the pastor secretly (or not so secretly) dreads giving.

The annual stewardship campaign is a rite of autumn that must be endured. Right? Or, could stewardship be about abundance rather than scarcity? What if stewardship was a reason instead of a season?

It can be, but not without creative thought and action, says Olanda Carr, Jr., the Presbyterian Foundation's Ministry Relations officer for the East Region. In Monday's "Creating a Culture of Generosity" workshop at Stewardship Kaleidoscope in Cincinnati, Ohio, he offered a way forward.

When cultivated as a joyous discipline, grateful giving is the church's theological antidote to the consumerism and materialism of our age. It's about how we live our lives and spend our money - all year long. Because, he says, hopefully we're grateful to God year-round.

Making choices about our giving helps us grow spiritually. One choice churches may want to consider is forming what Carr calls a generosity team instead of the traditional stewardship committee. The team could be chartered by the session and include a member from each program or mission committee to coordinate all storytelling, requests and thanks.

And don't just put the congregation's bankers, accountants and financial planners on the team, he cautioned. Include a variety of voices and people, including age and length of membership, around the table.

"You don't want a band with all the same instruments," he said.

Sessions can support the generosity team by sharing their own stewardship stories — who taught them to give, for example — and by being the first to pledge. "Leaders lead," Carr said.

Pastors, naturally, are stewardship storytellers too, but "the best stewardship sermon is one that's not given during a yearly campaign," Carr said.

A church's story can begin with what it does well in the community and world. What difference does it make with its members, in the community and even in the world? It can't be about self-congratulation, Carr said: "We don't just do nice things because we're nice people."

Instead, he encouraged an approach to storytelling that will not only raise awareness but invite people to engage in the church's ministry.

Storytelling must also take different audiences into account. Church "insiders" and casual members will not hear any given story the same way, Carr said. Nor will baby boomers and millennials. Stories also won't be told or heard the same way in virtual and in-person contexts.

The ways to tell a story are many. Virtual means include emails, the church's website, social media and video, to name a few. In-person ways include preaching, minutes for mission, town hall meetings and informal gatherings.

A church's budget is not the "why" of stewardship, Carr said, but a byproduct. A narrative budget — in addition to, not instead of, a line-item budget — can be an engaging storytelling tool. A narrative budget uses easy-to-read, descriptive terms to translate the numbers into a picture of the church's ministry and its impact. It helps givers reframe dollars and cents as being about ministry.

"Church members give to ministry because ministry matters," he said.

The narrative budget can present a more complete picture of how the pastor and even volunteers invest their time. It can also highlight specific events and programs.

"A good picture or two helps," Carr said — and it's also a way to involve younger people skilled at taking photos with their phones.

## Church Family News

- ♦ **Many Thanks to Sue Charles** for the beautiful **Fall garden** that she has created in front of the church. If you haven't seen it, be sure to take a look. Such a lovely way to celebrate the season!
- ♦ **Chicken & Pork BBQ: On Saturday, October 2nd**, we will have a chicken & pork BBQ in the parking lot at Five Star Bank in Waterloo, from 11 am until sellout. Cost will be \$12.00 and the meal will include a choice of chicken or pork BBQ, two sides, a roll, and a cookie or brownie. Delivery will be offered, so please let us know if you can't be there in person.
- ♦ **Pecan Sale:** Pecans are now available for sale on Sunday after worship, at a cost of \$12.50 per bag. Supplies are limited, so don't wait too long!
- ♦ **It's Stewardship time again - keep an eye out for your letter and pledge form, as these will be going out in October!** Stewardship is an ethic that embodies the responsible planning and management of resources. In actions of love for God and God's people, we use our financial resources, creativity, energy, grace and compassion in service to the community. This results in a multitude of ministries, including feeding the hungry, clothing the needy, visiting the elderly, serving at the Table and caring for the church. Please consider how you can support our ministries this year. As you do, keep in mind all the people we touch as a community; with your help, our stewardship will ensure that even more will be served. Thank you for your service!



## “Green Amendment” Presentation

*Submitted by Ginny Konz*

“Each person shall have the right to clean air and water and a healthful environment.”

Those 15 words make up the proposed amendment to the New York State Constitution that will be on the ballot when you vote this Fall. It's quite simple and straightforward. The Assembly passed this in 2017, but it took the NY State Senate four more years to get it done and to put on the ballot for this year.

This amendment would encourage sound green decision-making and help prevent harmful environmental actions, something we in the Finger Lakes have been working on constantly for years.

Bob Meek will be presenting a brief talk on this amendment and will answer questions you may have, at 11 am on Sunday, October 24 (one day after early voting begins), in the meeting room of the First Presbyterian Church. Bob serves on several boards that have been working toward this for some time, and he is well-qualified to present this information. Invite your friends to get informed.

## 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	Clifton Springs Hospital & Clinic, Nursing Home, 2 Coulter Road, Clifton Springs, NY 14432
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

**October 3rd – World Communion Sunday** – Genesis 37:3-8; 17b-22; 26-34; 50:15-21; Luke 6:35 ~ Joseph’s dreams lead to family conflict and he is sold into slavery. In the end Joseph forgives. God works for good.



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

**October 10th** - Guest Preacher - Rev. Dr. Barbara Schwartz (Rev. Ntuala at GAPJC from October 7th-10th)

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

**October 17th** - Exodus 32:1-14; Luke 23:34 ~ Golden calf shows unfaithfulness at Mt. Sinai. Moses intercedes, God forgives.

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

**October 24th** - 1 Samuel 1:9-11, 19-20; 2:1-10; Luke 1:46-55 ~ Samuel is God’s answer to Hannah, who sings of God’s care for the needy.

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

**October 31st** - 2 Samuel 7:1-17; Luke 1:30-33 ~ God’s promise to David concerning his heir, who will be God’s Son and whose kingdom will endure forever.

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

**November 7th** - 1 Kings 17:1-16, 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>



- 3rd - Bob Seem
- 10th - Marion Crull
- 17th - Susan Sholar
- 24th - Barry Porsch
- 31st - Barb Van Kirk
- 7th - Michele Edmondson



### Know someone ill or hospitalized?

This month, please call: Kae Hoyle 585.330.0904



**To Keep in Our Prayers:** Jennifer Colbert; Matthew Cramer; Sue Ellen and Peter Crego; Norine Crull; Cindy Danielson; Susan Derr; George Elyseev; Chesterdaniel Freeman; Joanna Fuller; Betty Geraghty; Pat & Marvin Gordon; Tori Guerina; Crystal Hanes; family of Teall Harkey; family of Sue Harkey; Hedra Harrison; Greta Hauser & family; Gary Ippolito; Al Johnson; Bea Jones; Timothy Kent; our Law Enforcement Officers, Firefighters and EMTs; Carson Lankford; Ross Leland & Family; Romona Lobdell; Lucy and Nancy Lopez; Liza Merriam; Tyler Morgan; Patsy Mott; Cheri Murphy; Jinny Noone; Dean Potter; Shirley Sage; John Schavemaker; RE Barb Squires; Jean Stenlake; Linda Warner; Darryl Wells; 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 8:00am-1:00pm  
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  
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, 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



*Wishing a Happy Fall to:*

**October Newsletter 2021**