

October
2022

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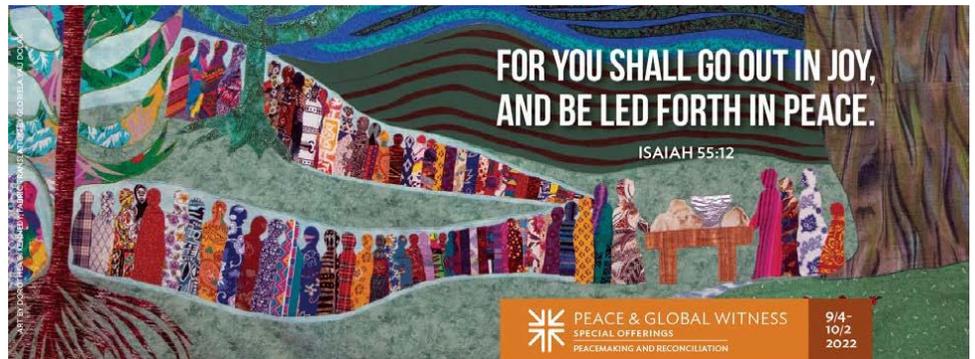
1st Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls



October Newsletter Articles
Are Due on September 25th

The First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls

Pastor's Corner



October 2 is World Communion Sunday and I have been thinking a great deal about our world family this year. I think about conflict in places like Ukraine, Taiwan, and Iran. I think about the lack to access of basic needs like clean water, food, and housing around the world. I think about access to education, health care, and employment. My heart is heavy and I turn to God in prayer:

God of all nations, you have poured out your blessings upon all the peoples of the earth. Grant us eyes to see your gifts of faith and love. Appoint us as heralds of your mercies that are new every morning. Empower us to write the vision of your peaceable kingdom, where destruction and violence are no more, where suffering and wars shall cease. Through our worship empower us to be sent out with joy as bearers of your hope in a hurting world; through Christ. Amen.¹

World Communion Sunday is a chance for us to pause in solidarity with people around the world. It began in 1936, another time of great conflict and strife in our global community. It serves as a reminder that we are joined together at God's table and reminded that we were created by God and called to love one another. I am grateful for the people around this table.

However, while we are aware of the suffering everywhere we cannot be a first responders everywhere. We can't solve the conflicts, mentioned above, on a global scale. We can help. We can give, we can pray, and we can hope. **BUT** we can effect change in our community.

We can see the needs of our neighbors and respond. We don't know the ripple effect of these acts of service. We don't know how God will multiply these gifts or grow the seeds we have planted. **BUT** we do know that God has called us to go out and be disciples. How are we bearing witness to Christ's love? How are we serving the people of the God? How are we evangelizing-telling the good news- to the people we encounter each and every day?

We want to fix housing insecurity in Seneca Falls- God can make it happen. We want to ensure no human is trafficked here- God can make it happen. We want to help those who are struggling with addiction get the help they need to heal- God can make it happen. We want to address the growing mental health crisis in our community- God can make it happen. With God's help all things are possible.

Peace, Pastor Leah

¹ Rev. Katie Owen Aumann, senior pastor, Morningside Presbyterian Church, Atlanta

Contact Us

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Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday
8am-1pm

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
3rd 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, September 15, 2022 Meeting, the Session:

- Received the August Financial Report for the church showing Income: \$22,922.44 and Expenses: \$21,040.47
- Heard of Clerk of Session Minutes review scheduled for October 22nd
- Heard invitation from AmeriCorps Seniors seeking volunteers aged 55 or older of Seneca and surrounding counties to become Senior Companions to older adults (65 yrs. and older) who are living more isolated lives. Companions could provide transportation and companionship for social outings, church worship, appointments, and grocery shopping. An hourly stipend and reimbursement for mileage is provided.
- Heard summary of Pastor's service on General Assembly's Permanent Judicial Commission* in Louisville KY in early September
- Learned of Pastor Leah and Simon Ntuala's participation as Ambassadors for National Women's Hall of Fame Induction ceremonies
- Heard request for Elders to consider options for worship on the two Sundays of Christmas and New Years
- Learned annual staff reviews will soon be planned and conducted
- Discussed and completed Presbytery of Geneva Self-Assessment form from Presbytery's Church Vitality Committee
- Heard receipt of \$10,000 grant through church for mental health training for professionals in Seneca Falls, Romulus, South Seneca, and Waterloo school systems
- Heard update from Property Committee on driveway/parking lot work, new thermostats in Hawley and Social Rooms, and Sanctuary
- Heard plans for November 2nd Doug's Fish Fry and request for baked goods to sell along with Doug's
- Heard of Service Award from Pancreatic Cancer research organization to Mason Ntuala for concert he organized
- Learned of Pastor and Elder Jim Clark's meeting with Chris Sweet of Creative Choices board to discuss mutual information, plans, and concerns and of hopes to meet on a quarterly basis
- Heard plans for Stewardship Campaign beginning in October

*correction: in the September newsletter Session Briefs, the Commission was incorrectly named as General Assembly Peace & Justice Committee

Prepared by Joyce Lohr, Clerk to the Session



The next meeting of the Session is Thursday, October 20th at 10am



Marc Smith - 10/06

Peter Crego - 10/18

Bob Seem - 10/22

Don Ritter - 10/27

Sue Ellen Crego - 10/28

Kae Hoyle - 10/29

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

Jean Stenlake
Steuben County
Healthcare Facility
Room 194, 7009 Rumsey
Street Ext.
Bath, NY 14810



Women's Circle

Will meet on Monday, October 3rd at 12:30pm
In the Hawley Room

At last month's meeting on September 12th, the Women's Circle met happily in the warm, dry church after abandoning our plans for an outdoor get-together. It was a rainy time. Barb, Ginny, Kae, Joyce, and Pastor Leah were there. Ruby and Michele were unable to join us.

We read from the section of *Becoming Loving Community* from *These Days*, July, August, September issues and discussed Jeremiah 9:1, in which the prophet Jeremiah offers one of his lamentations. A lamentation, we learned, was an ancient spiritual practice of truth-telling about brokenness: personal, communal, "...and in the whole of creation." Jeremiah reminds us that God was always ready to hear our laments and will give us hope for the future.

What shall we do this year, as Women's Circle? Choose a theme? Read scripture? Read a book? What projects could we undertake? We discussed all of the above and realized we'd never finished discussing last season's book *The Women of the Bible Speak*, by Shannon Bream. Kae volunteered to lead us in talking about the chapter on Esther and Rehab at the October meeting. In November, Ginny will finish with Mary and Martha. We'll have a holiday potluck in December.

Barb reported we have \$389 in the Circle treasury. Yay! She will buy another case of infant formula and deliver it to the House of Concern. We agreed to take turns planning and leading the meeting each month and contacting everyone. Joyce will continue to see to the newsletter Circle news. We'll check in with the Waterloo shelter, House of Concern, and Newark Resource Center to ask for their special needs. We are encouraged to look at the May/June *Presbyterians Today* issue and to read *Presbyteries say: Anti-racism training is no longer optional*, by Mike Givler, Communications Coordinator for the Synod of the Trinity.

In September, Pastor Leah talked with us about her time with the GAPJC (General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission) in Louisville. A person can nominate her/himself at Synod to go to Louisville, she told us.

Before leaving the meeting we each signed a card for Sue Charles, Susan Harkey, and Peter Snyder - all have been recently hospitalized.

**Let's all remember the House of Concern, now located in Waterloo.
IN OCTOBER, the special item is
Canned Soups and Stews**

**Items may be placed in the basket at the TOPS table in the rear entry OR
in the crates located in the Social Rooms**





Church Family News



- **Bargains in the Basement: two rummage sales in one year?** Yep. That's what we did. We had a wonderful assortment of household items and toys donated for last Spring's sale and put away all the leftovers to sell this Fall. Saturday, September 17th was a beautiful day - sunny and mild, and the church basement was open for business. We had our big sandwich board signs in three locations, including out on Cayuga Street in front of the church and on the island intersection down the street.

With the great weather and the Library Book Sale happening, not a lot of people were looking for bargains that day, but we did have a few enthusiastic shoppers and took in \$720!

Susan Derr, who lead us in the work required for the two sales, says she is grateful for everyone who worked and/or donated items, baked cookies, breads, pies, or made applesauce. She opened the sale again the next day and Sunday worshippers were invited to shop. On Monday, she and Pastor Leah saw to all the clean-up and packing up of another supply of leftovers. The sole remaining leftover on the Sweets table, an Apple Crumb Pie, went promptly over to Creative Choices across the driveway and was happily received.

Thanks to members of the Congregation who came to shop!

~ Article Submitted by Joyce Lohr ~



- **S'mores and Bonfire:** we are in search of a good location to hold a wonderful Fall bonfire and S'more-making party on **October 16th**. Pastor Leah will be happy to host at the manse, but if anyone can offer a place big enough for a bonfire instead of a fire pit, please let us know!
- **Trunk or Treat/Pumpkin Sunday:** Halloween is coming! Right after worship on October 30th, Pumpkin Sunday, we will also be having a Trunk or Treat event in the parking lot. In order to participate, all you need to do is decorate the trunk of your car in the Halloween theme of your choice, and have your favorite candy on hand to give out to Trick or Treaters who come by. We would like to get members of the community involved, so please let us know if you're interested.

Worship Schedule

Join us online: www.fpressf.com on our YouTube Channel

October 2nd - World Communion Sunday - Exodus 2:23-25, 3:1-15, 4:10-17; John 8:58; God's name is revealed: "I Am." Moses is a reluctant messenger, but God uses him to deliver Israel.

October 9th - Exodus 16:1-18; John 6:51; People complain, God provides manna. Manna requires faith in what God gives.

October 16th - 1 Samuel 3:1-21; John 20:21-23; God calls Samuel in the night. He says, "Speak Lord for your servant is listening."

October 23rd - 1 Samuel 16:1-13, Psalm 51:10-14; John 7:24; God does not look on outward appearance but on the heart; create in me a clean heart.

October 30th - 1 Kings 5:1-5, 8:1-13; John 2:19-21; Solomon's temple - a place of sacrifice and divine presence.

November 6th - 1 Kings 19:1-18; John 12:27-28; Elijah at Horeb; the prophet in despair, God speaks in the silence.



Liturgist List

October 2nd - Marion Crull
October 9th - Barb Van Kirk
October 16th - Susan Sholar
October 23rd - Claire Damaske
October 30th - Michele Edmondson
November 6th - Dick Damaske

Coffee Hours

October 2nd - Committee Meetings

October 9th - "Welcome Back!" - Pastor Leah

October 16th - "Extra Life" - Pastor Leah

October 23rd - "Our Camp Whitman Experience"
Susan Derr & Mason Ntuala

October 30th - Pumpkin Sunday and Trunk or Treat



To Keep in Our Prayers: Kathleen Albert; Reatha Bishop; Sue Charles; Jennifer Colbert; Michael Collinworth; Sue Ellen and Peter Crego; Norine Crull; Gerry Damaske; Dorothy Dickieson; Joanna Fuller; Betty Geraghty; Pat & Marvin Gordon; Amy Guarino; Tori Guerina; Crystal Hanes; Robert Harkey; Sue Harkey; Teall Harkey; Jack Hassler; Al Johnson; Bea Jones; family of Tim Jopek; our Law Enforcement Officers, Firefighters and EMTs; Carson Lankford; David Lobdell; Ronald Lobdell Jr.; the Lowry family; Kim Martin; Eleanor Mirabito; Tyler Morgan; Roger Morin; Cheri Murphy; Jinny Noone; Joy Novak; John Schavemaker; Peter Snyder; Barb Squires; Jean Stenlake; Shelley Vanderbogart; Linda Warner; Darryl Wells; Gretchen Whittacre; and all those suffering in the world.

Know someone ill or hospitalized? Please call:

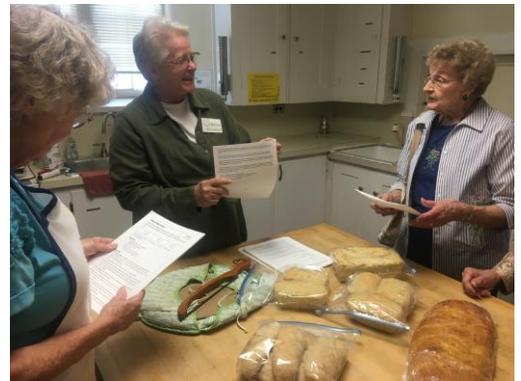
Church Office 315-568-6636

In Other First Pres News...

Bread and Grape Juice-Making Day September 18th

On September 16th, members of the congregation got together at the church to make supplies for upcoming Communion Sundays. Michele Edmondson brought six different types of bread and gave out recipes for future bakers to use. The consensus was that all of the breads were fantastic, with the exception of the gluten-free choice, so if anyone has a good recipe to share, please be sure to share it.

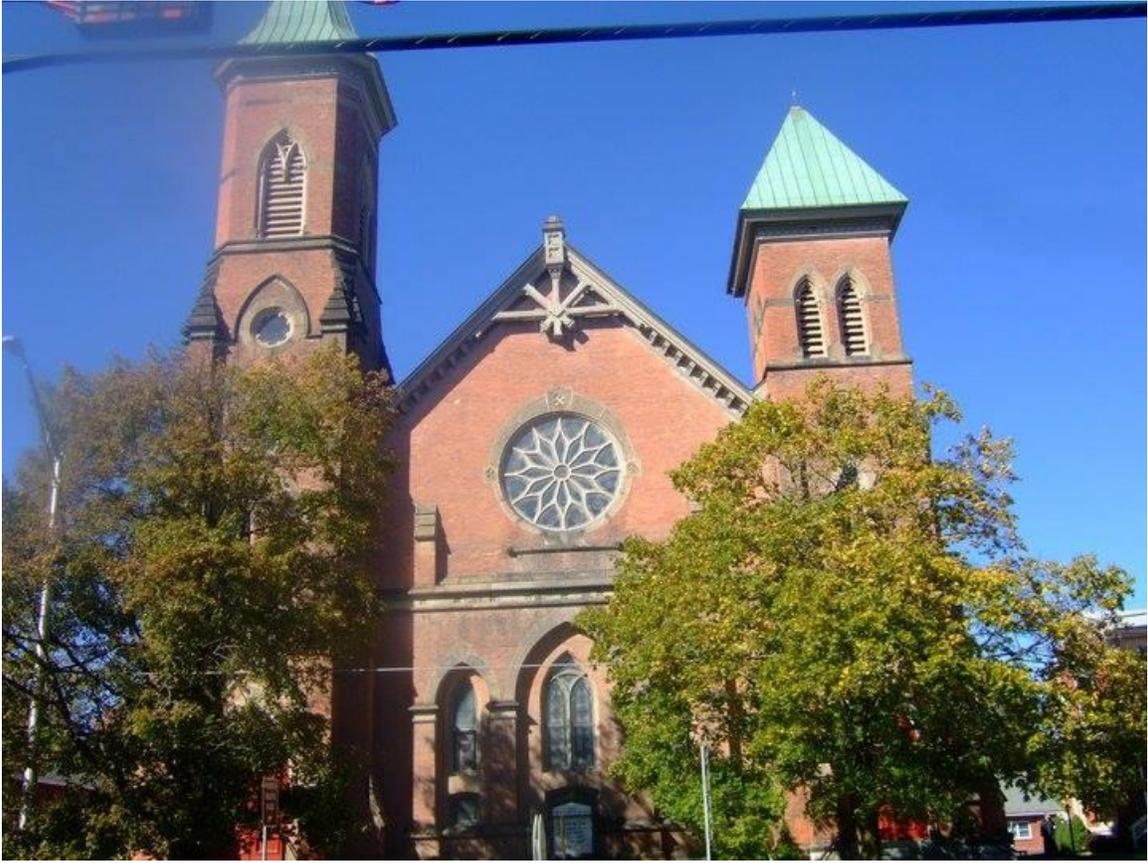
Grape juice-making was also part of the festivities, and we now have plenty on hand.



2022-2023 First Pres Activities

- October 16th - S'mores and Bonfire
- October 30th - Trunk or Treat/Pumpkin Sunday
- November 11th - "Extra Life" fundraiser and overnight in the manse attic
- December 4th - Advent Workshop
- December 18th - Christmas Program
- January 14th - Ice Skating or Sledding
- January 29th - Souper Bowl Sunday
- February 12th - Random Acts of Kindness/Valentine's Sunday
- March 19th - Montezuma Audubon
- April TBD - Camp Whitman Volunteer Day
- May 21st - High Ropes Course
- June 18th - Ice Cream Social - to celebrate graduates
- August TBD - Summer Fun

Other Programs: Learn to Knit/Sewing class; Pie Making for Pi Day; Confirmation Retreat (6th-9th grade); Fix-It Day



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