

September  
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



Who made the world?  
Who made the swan, and the black bear?  
Who made the grasshopper?  
This grasshopper, I mean -  
the one who has flung herself out of the grass,  
the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,  
who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down -  
who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.  
Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.  
Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.  
I don't know exactly what a prayer is.  
I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down  
into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,  
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,  
which is what I have been doing all day.  
Tell me, what else should I have done?  
Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?  
Tell me, what is it you plan to do  
with your one wild and precious life?  
-Mary Oliver-

The summer slipped on by. I hope you were able to pause and give thanks to God for the beauty of the earth and the wonders of the sky. I hope you were able to find rest in books, in walks, and time spent with family and friends. I hope you ate good ice cream and were able to splash in the lake. I hope you were able to take a vacation or a staycation. I hope you were able to roast some marshmallows, the BBQ, or the warmth of a fire. Summer is also a time to think about what to do with our wild and precious life together as a family of God. What do you hope we do together? What would you like to see us do or be?

I am hoping we get to spend more time together this year doing activities, like baking communion bread and making communion grape juice. I want to hang out at a bonfire. I want to find more ways to be in fellowship with one another and the community. What do you want to do with our wild and precious life together as a family of God?

We know who made the world, the swan, the black bear, and the grasshopper. Maybe we don't always know exactly what prayer is, but we do know the prayers: Help, Thanks, and WOW! We also know how to pay attention, and to fall, to be idle and blessed. God doesn't stop calling us to do things with our one wild and precious life because the summer has slipped on by. God is with us and calling us in every season of our lives.

I look forward to hearing about your summers and your plans.  
Peace, Pastor Leah

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  
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, August 18, 2022 Meeting, the Session:

- Received the July Financial Report for the church showing Income: \$22,865.15 and Expenses: \$12,845.28
- Heard notes of thanks from Nancy Rutz for flowers received and from Right to Run 19K for church sponsorship
- Learned of upcoming *Finger Lakes Times* article for August 26<sup>th</sup> Hedra Harrison concert
- Heard recommendation from Pastor for Pulitzer Prize winning book *Evicted*, by Princeton University sociologist Matthew Desmond, on the housing crisis
- Heard plans for Blessing of School Backpacks scheduled for Sunday, September 4<sup>th</sup>
- Heard about Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup> Ice Cream Social, following worship
- Discussed a return to in-person Coffee Hours this Fall
- Heard plans for Elders Michele Edmondson and Susan Sholar to participate in inter-generational retreat at Camp Whitman on August 20<sup>th</sup>; theme is Spiritual Disciplines
- Heard plans for Doug's Fish Fry church fund raiser to take place on Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup>
- Learned of final work completed on church parking lot in July and of arrival of back-ordered condensers for heating pump splits for Eastman Hall and Manse
- Agreed to offer building-use application form to Sarah Smolinski for Aisha's Closet
- Heard plans for Pastor to be in Louisville for September meeting of General Assembly Peace and Justice Commission

Prepared by Joyce Lohr, Clerk to the Session

The next meeting of the Session is Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at 10am



Michele Edmondson - 9/03  
 Joy Novack - 9/05  
 Jessica Seem-Walsh - 9/07  
 Sean Walsh - 9/07  
 Mike Day - 9/10  
 Georgeanne Elyseev Hauf-9/11  
 Barry Porsch - 9/12

## 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, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 12:30pm  
On the patio at Joyce Lohr's house



Shall we make it a little POTLUCK lunch? Joyce will supply drinks and a main dish. Y'all can fill in around with fruit, chips, whatever...we'll have paper plates on hand.

Plans are being made for a **Fall Gathering** of Presbyterian Women around the Geneva Presbytery to take place on **Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 10am - 1pm** at Ovid Federated Church in Ovid, NY. All women in Geneva Presbytery churches are invited for devotions, a short business meeting, program, lunch, and a "hands on" Matthew 25 mission opportunity. This surely will be interesting and if some of us here at First Pres are interested, we could carpool that day. We probably need to make reservations.

This, from *The Lighthouse*, the August newsletter of Synod of the Northeast:

"I pray that God watch over all of you; that God enrich your lives with joy, peace, friendship, love; and that God give you strength so you will never be tired to do God's will, but encouraged by miracles - great or small - that you encounter each and every day..." from Bisi. (Adebisi A. Shofu), Moderator of Presbyterian Women in Synod of the Northeast.

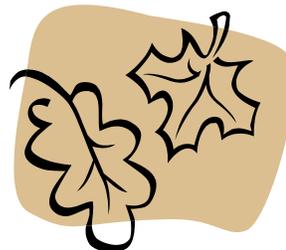
The Synod serves Presbyteries of Geneva, Albany, Southern New Jersey, the Hudson Valley, and others.

We thank those people in our congregation who faithfully donate items for **The House of Concern** each month. And we thank those who make a monetary donation on Communion Sundays.

**The special item for The House of Concern in September is  
BREAKFAST CEREALS**

*And, by the way, if it's raining at lunch time on  
September 12<sup>th</sup> we'll go to the Hawley Room at church!*

*We'd love to have more women join us. Think about it!*





## Church Family News



- **A Concert Honoring Hedra Harrison** was held at First Pres on Friday, August 26<sup>th</sup>, to raise money for the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network. Hedra, our former Music Director and Organist, was an incredible musician who loved all genres and styles of music. She was a beautiful singer, and it would be easier to name the instruments she DIDN'T play. 10 performers participated in the concert, with 52 in attendance. To date, \$5,400 has been raised, which is \$3,900 over our target!! Thanks so much to all who were a part of this wonderful tribute to Hedra. She is greatly missed, and we're sure she was watching and applauding madly! If you wish, donations can still be made by clicking the link below:

<http://support.pancan.org/goto/Hedra>

and

The concert can be viewed on YouTube, at  
<https://www.youtu.be/e5P9CjCA6u4>



- **Seneca Falls Summer Backpack Program** was a success again this year - 576 meals were delivered to hungry kids by First Pres, the United Methodist Church, Knights of Columbus, Calvary Chapel, and Trinity Episcopal Church. Thanks to all volunteers!
- **Bargains in the Basement:** on September 17<sup>th</sup>, our annual Rummage and Bake Sale will be held in the Social Hall from 9am to 3pm. All may bring items to the Social Hall beginning on September 6<sup>th</sup> - we will not be accepting clothes, shoes, books, or large furniture. Please get in touch with Sue Derr if you would like to help with pre-pricing, or sales on the day of the event. Bakers are ALWAYS needed, so please mark your calendars, and get out your favorite recipes!



## Worship Schedule

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

**September 4<sup>th</sup> - Communion** - Revelation 21:1-6, 22:1-5; John 16:20-22

**September 11<sup>th</sup>** - Genesis 1:1-2, 4a; John 1:1-5; Creation by word; light, life; it was good.

**September 18<sup>th</sup>** - Genesis 21:1-3, 22:1-14; John 1:29; God gives Abraham and Sarah a son in their old age. Abraham is told to sacrifice his son, but God provides the ram.

**September 25<sup>th</sup>**- Genesis 27:1-4, 15-23, 28:10-17; John 1:50-51; Jacob gets a blessing by trickery, flees, dreams of a ladder with angels ascending and descending. Receives God's promise.

**October 2<sup>nd</sup> -Communion**-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.



### Liturgist List

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

September 11<sup>th</sup>- Bob Seem

September 18<sup>th</sup>- Dick Damaske

September 25<sup>th</sup>- Ginny Konz

October 2<sup>nd</sup> - Marion Crull

## Coffee Hours - on YouTube

Live Coffee Hours will begin again on October 2<sup>nd</sup>! In the meantime, you can watch the videos from our website, or under the Coffee Hour Playlist on our Church YouTube Channel.



**To Keep in Our Prayers:** Kathleen Albert; Reatha Bishop; the family of Peter Brown; Sue Charles; Jennifer Colbert; Michael Collinsworth; Sue Ellen and Peter Crego; Norine Crull; Gerry Damaske; Dorothy Dickieson; Joanna Fuller; Betty Geraghty; Pat & Marvin Gordon; Amy Guarino; Tori Guerina; Crystal Hanes; Sue Harkey; Teall Harkey; Jack Hassler; Greta Hauser & family; Al Johnson; Bea Jones; Jim Jopek; our Law Enforcement Officers, Firefighters and EMTs; Carson Lankford; Romona Lobdell; David Lobdell; Ronald Lobdell Jr.; Lucy and Nancy Lopez; 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; the family of Jamie Strobie; Shelley Vanderbogart; Linda Warner; Gretchen Whittacre; the family of Joyce Williamson; and all those suffering in the world.

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

**Church Office 315-568-6636**

## In Other First Pres News...

### *Good News Insurance* *Written by Louis Lobdell*

*Most of us have insurance on our house, our car, our life,  
Some of us even have it on our children and our wife.  
When you call up a broker, he comes over with all speed,  
Though most will try and sell you a lot more than you need.*

*Now if your house burns down or your car gets in a wreck,  
You go look at the policy, your coverage to check.  
And if indeed you're covered from totaled to only a scrape,  
You find to get your money, you must first cut some red tape.*

*Now the Good News insurance is different you see,  
For the benefits keep coming throughout all eternity.  
And with the Good New policy, no fear of cancellation,  
For on the cross in His blood Jesus purchased our salvation.*

*Now for but your acceptance and your repentance as well,  
You shall receive insurance against the fires of hell.  
You'll not be turned down because of race, creed, age or health,  
For you may be a beggar or a man of untold wealth.*

*There are no hidden clauses, no excess cost of fee,  
In order to receive your own salvation policy.  
For when you receive Jesus with that prayer that you prayed,  
He signs your name in His book, your policy's fully paid.*

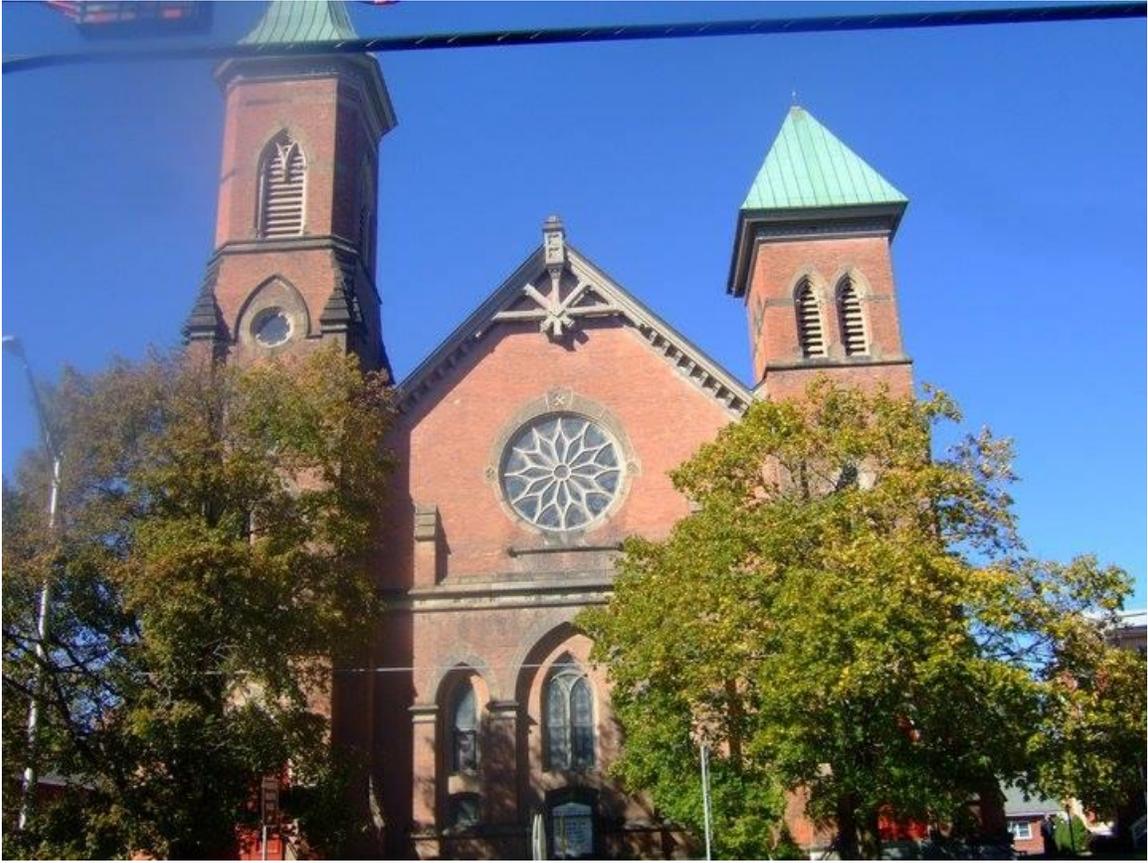
*Jesus put it plainly so friend you need not doubt,  
All who come unto me I will in no wise cast out.  
Most policies have premiums, shares or dividends,  
Jesus gives forgiveness and a life that never ends.*

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### 2022-2023 First Pres Activities

- September 4<sup>th</sup> - Blessing of the Backpacks
- September 11<sup>th</sup> - Ice Cream Social
- September 17<sup>th</sup> - Bargains in the Basement and Bake Sale
- September 18<sup>th</sup> - Bread and Grape Juice Making Day
- October 16<sup>th</sup> - S'mores and Bonfire
- October 30<sup>th</sup> - Trunk or Treat/Pumpkin Sunday
- November 11<sup>th</sup> - "Extra Life" fundraiser and overnight in the manse attic
- December 4<sup>th</sup> - Advent Workshop
- December 18<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Program
- January 14<sup>th</sup> - Ice Skating or Sledding
- January 29<sup>th</sup> - Souper Bowl Sunday
- February 12<sup>th</sup> - Random Acts of Kindness/Valentine's Sunday
- March 19<sup>th</sup> - Montezuma Audubon
- April TBD - Camp Whitman Volunteer Day
- May 21<sup>st</sup> - High Ropes Course
- June 18<sup>th</sup> - Ice Cream Social - to celebrate graduates
- August TBD - Summer Fun

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



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The First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls  
P.O. Box 383 Cayuga Street  
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Greetings to You, a fearfully and wonderfully made child of God:



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