

September
2024

Inside This Issue:

Pastor's Corner -1

Reminders -1

Contact List - 2

Session Briefs - 2

Birthday List -2

Women's Circle -3

Members to Keep in
our Thoughts - 3

Church Family
News -4

Worship Schedule -5

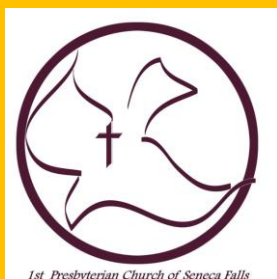
Liturgist List – 5

Coffee Hour -6

Prayer List – 6

Other News -7

Calendar -Insert



1st Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls



October
Newsletter Articles
Are Due on September 26th

The First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls Pastor's Corner

Dearest Church Family:

We have finally reached the time in my Doctoral Studies for the project. The research is still awaiting approval, but I wanted to share with you the overview. Thank you for holding me in prayer throughout this process and your help will be needed to get to the finish line. It will involve many coffee hours, a 10-week sermon series on stewardship, journal entries, and lots of conversations. Rest assured, the only one to be graded on their answers is me. You are only being asked to bravely be you. After project approval, I will be able to begin. This process starts with all of us signing confidentiality agreements. The goal is to conduct research and do no harm. We will have a longer discussion about this at a future date but, in the meantime, here is a preview of what is to come.

Peace, Pastor Leah

Title

Serving God with Our Whole Lives: A Study of Stewardship

Primary Question

How can a congregation embody stewardship as a foundation of mission to participate in the local community in service of God?

One Hundred Word Abstract

Over the course of 10 weeks, the worshipping congregation of The First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls will reflect upon the meaning of stewardship as embodied worship and faith in action. Using *Beyond the Offering Plate* as a guideline for the sermon series, the church members will keep journals on each topic of stewardship in the book. This will allow us to connect on a deeper level and understand stewardship as mission. This missional work becomes another way to worship God. We will reflect on this in small groups, coffee hours, and individually. We will discover a deeper understanding of the meaning of steward, our gifts of the Spirit, and the ways God is calling us to use the gifts to serve the wider community.

Thesis Statement

In this project, I will argue that we tell the story of who we are as God's people in every action or inaction as embodied people, created in the image of God. Our church is to think about its life cycles in relationship with the current membership and community; remembering the call in the past may not be the present call. I will argue that the goal of this work isn't about saving souls, for that is God's work, but rather to be the future, the Kingdom of God, in the present community of Seneca Falls, NY; planning for the future as we live as people prepared to die.

Working Hypothesis

This project is about empowering the congregation to understand they have everything they need to do the work of God. Understanding this as the theology of enough, knowing we have enough to take care of ourselves and our neighbors. It is the Missio Dei or God's love in action. Those actions are our stewardship practices. God calls us to action and sends us out to serve God's creation. It is my hope that we feel more connected to one another, more fully understanding that we are part of one another; even if one never sits in the church pews, that level of care or stewardship as mission is another form of worship. It is an embodied practice because it requires our whole selves in service to God. Intentional engagement with stewardship and the variety of meanings will result in a deeper connection with God and a stronger relationship with the community.

Statement of Purpose

I hope this project will help us to find ways to work alongside the community and deepen our lives through strengthening our interconnectedness, strengthening our interconnectedness. I hope it makes our actions intentional, in that they are following in the direction of God. I hope this project develops our awareness of our gifts, our power, and our ability to create equity as a foundation of the community for future generations.

Contact Us

The First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls, NY

Address:
23 Cayuga Street
P.O. Box 383rd
Seneca Falls, NY 13148
Phone:
315-568-6636

Email:
firstpres13148@gmail.com

Website:
www.fpressf.com

Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday and
Thursday
8am-3pm

Staff

Rev. Leah Ntuala-Pastor
Rev. Dr. Peter J. Crego-
Pastor Emeritus
Laurie Weller- Office Manager
Kae Hoyle- Treasurer
Jim Clark-Sexton
Jen Braun- Music Director
Carol Millis- Bell Choir Director
Susan Sholar – Clerk of Session

Session

Session meets every
3rd Thursday at 10am

Presently serving
Ruling Elders:

Jim Clark, Marion Crull, Dick
Damaske, Susan Derr,
Jay Hoyle, Ginny Konz,
Anne Millis and Susan Sholar

Session Briefs

- While Session did not meet during the months of July and August, we did have an online Zoom meeting on August 22nd with Mission Management Company to review the results of the online scored survey that was taken by all church members in July. This survey is part of the Renewal and Revitalization Church Audit being conducted by Mission Management, and will assess our Financial Health, Transformation Readiness and Property Potential. Survey results will be reviewed by Session during their September meeting, and then shared with the entire congregation.

**The next meeting of the Session is Thursday,
September 5th at 10am**



Other News

- **Come to the Table** - on October 6th at 10:30am, World Communion Sunday, the **First Presbyterian Church of Elmira** will host Rev. Dr. Marielis Barreto-Hernandez, PCUSA's International Peacemaker from Puerto Rico. A light luncheon will follow; please RSVP to office@firstpreselmira.org or 607-734-1614 by October 1st.
- **Community Bible Study in Romulus** - this 30-week study of the book of Matthew begins on September 10th and is offered via Zoom and in person. It is specifically designed for women and men of all ages, from a variety of backgrounds and different levels of Bible knowledge. For more information, contact Margaret Brewster at 607-229-5524, mbrewster160@gmail.com, or check the website at <https://www.communitybiblestudy.org>.



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

Joanne Elyseev
Living Center at Geneva
North
75 Mason Street, Room 138
Geneva, NY 14456

Jean Morris
5465 Upper Mountain Rd.
Lockport, NY 14094

Carol Rook
2878 Hopewell-Manchester
Townline
Clifton Springs, NY 14432

Our Law Enforcement
Officers, Fire Fighters and
EMTs



Women's Circle

Will meet on Monday, September 9th at 12:30pm in the Hawley Room
(...and, we have to ask: Where did the Summer go?)

At Circle's last meeting of discussion of our C.S. Lewis book, *Mere Christianity/What one must believe to be a Christian*, Macmillan Publishing Co. Inc.; orig. Copyright 1943; 27th printing 1978 we had read through Book III Christian Behavior, chapter 11 on Faith. Chapter 12 also is titled Faith. Let's start there and finish with Book IV - Beyond Personality.

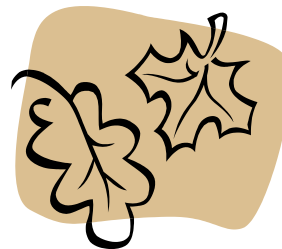
It would be good if one of our present Circle members would come prepared to give an opening prayer. And let's everyone be thinking of what we could read and discuss this coming Fall and Winter/Spring 2025. Also, be thinking of what we can do in the service of others. We'll discuss what we've done in the past and how/if to continue with those and do we have any new ideas for projects to undertake. Barb will give a Treasurer's Report. This will help in determining what we can do.

It was good to see the "Needy Neighbors" baskets and crates nicely filled over the summer months. People answered our call for SNACKS, in consideration of school kids being at home all summer. We took two separate trips to the House of Concern in July and August ! The call for SPAGHETTI SAUCE has also been heeded. The notice in the Sunday worship bulletin was helpful in this regard.

Big THANKS to everyone who donated !

HOUSE OF CONCERN special item for SEPTEMBER: Breakfast Cereals (hot and cold)

We continue to invite all women in the congregation to join us in the Women's Circle. Meetings are on the first Monday of each month; excepting September LABOR DAY Monday. Bring a sandwich or salad and a drink or we can make coffee or hot water for tea . . . Come check us out !



*For everything there is a season and a time
For every matter under heaven...
Ecclesiastes 3:1*



Church Family News

- The monthly **Coffee and Conversation** meetings with Pastor Leah will begin again at Café 19 on **Tuesday, September 24th at 10am**. Please plan to come by to visit and enjoy your favorite beverage.
- Our **Stewardship Letters for 2025** will be coming out to you a bit later than usual this year, due to Pastor Leah's Doctoral research project. Information in the Stewardship letters will be used as part of the project methodology and, until the project is approved, the letters can't go out. Thanks very much for your patience!
- Thanks to a **\$7,500 grant** received by the **Youth Group** from the Synod, the "Rugless Room" has been transformed into "**The Hangout**." We will host monthly social gatherings for Middle School and High School students. Stop by and take a look - it really is fantastic.

Finger Lakes Faith Journey

Are you a woman of faith who is living or has lived in the Finger Lakes region? Were you able to persevere through difficult or demanding situations because of your faith? Are you willing to share your story to help other women?

Do you like shoes? Have you ever shopped for shoes at a thrift store? Did you ever wonder if the woman that owned those shoes walked a path of faith? Did she encounter difficulties in her path and endure because of her beliefs?

If you are like me, I answer yes to the above questions, which is why I am writing a non-fiction book documenting the journeys of faith women have led while living in the Finger Lakes. I am in the process of collecting these stories from women that will also include a pair of their shoes!

I have much more information to share and already have women participating, but I am looking for more! If you are interested in learning more about this project, please contact me, **Jill Sandroni**, at 315-224-3291 or fffaithjourney@gmail.com. I look forward to hearing from you and thank you.

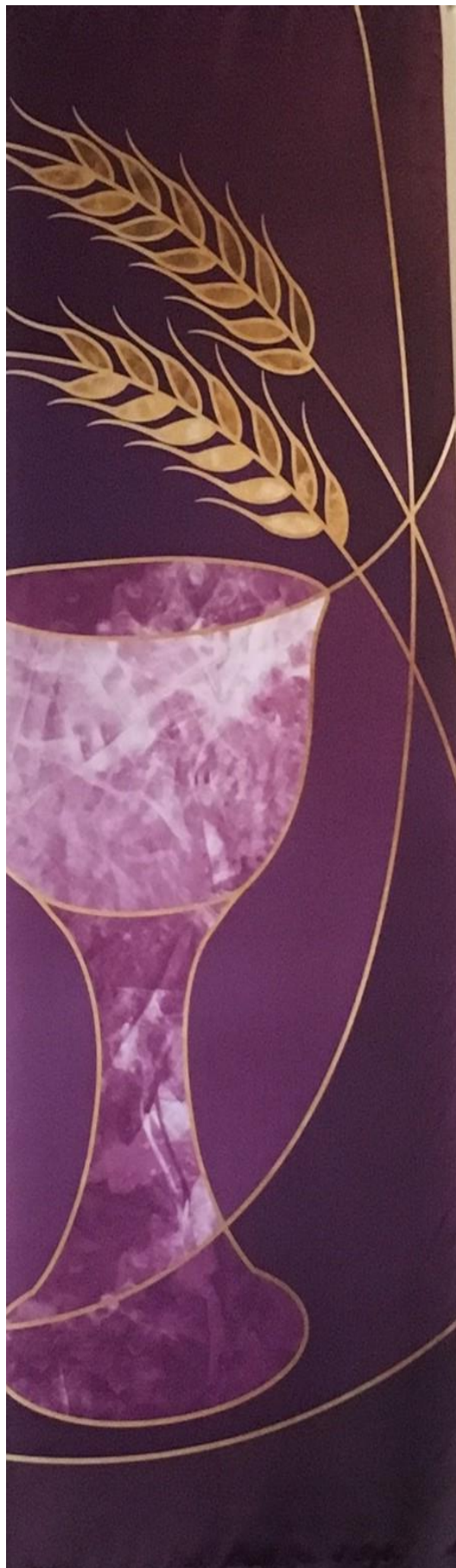


Coffee



& Conversation





Worship Schedule

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

September 1st - Communion - Deuteronomy 5:12-15; Matthew 11:28-30.

September 8th - Genesis 2:4b-25; Mark 1:16-20.

September 15th - Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-7; Mark 10:27.

September 22nd - Genesis 32:[9-13], 22-30; Mark 14:32-36.

September 29th - Exodus 1:8-14, [15-2:10], 3:1-15; Mark 12:26-27a.

October 6th - Communion - Deuteronomy 5:1-21, 6:4-9; Mark 12:28-31.



September 1st - Barb Van Kirk
September 8th - Ginny Konz
September 15th - Marion Crull
September 22nd - Susan Sholar
September 29th - Carol Millis
October 6th - Anne Millis



September 1st - Ginny Konz
September 8th - Marion Crull
September 15th - Zoe Van Kirk
September 22nd - Carol Millis
September 29th - Anne Millis
October 6th - TBD

Coffee Hours



September 1st - No Coffee Hour - Committee Meetings
September 8th - No Coffee Hour - Ice Cream Social
September 15th - To Be Determined
September 22nd - To Be Determined
September 29th - To Be Determined
October 6th - To Be Determined



To Keep in Our Prayers: Kathleen Albert; Reatha Bishop; Robin Blundon; Jennifer Colbert; Peter Crego; Cindy Danielson; Joanne Elyseev; Carl Feltus; Joanna Fuller; Diane and Cal Goodman; Pat Gordon; Gerry Gray; Rev. Deborah Grohman; Amy Guarino; Tori Guerina; Crystal Hanes; Cindy Hinman-Cosola; Susan Horton; Bea Jones; the Jopek family; our Law Enforcement Officers, Firefighters and EMTs; Bob Lamphere; Josh Lenard; Stephanie Lesinski; the Lobdell family; the Lopez family; Kim Martin; Ken Mell; Tyler Morgan; Roger Morin; Timothy Mosher; Jinny Noone; Joy Novack; Linda Parker; Paula Paxton; Gene and Dean Potter; Justine Saunders; Mary Sceney; Dale Shaw; Susan Sholar; Nora Sibley; Shelley Vanderbogart; Linda Warner; Robert Wagner; Gretchen Whittacre; the Wilson family; and all those suffering in the world.

Know someone ill or hospitalized? Please call:

Anne Millis 315-246-6264



Murals on the Overpass of the Veteran's Bridge Ludovico Sculpture Trail

Six years ago, Rev. Leah Ntuala, went to the Town Council seeking permission to paint murals on the overpass of the Veteran's Bridge along the Ludovico Sculpture Trail. They unanimously passed the resolution granting permission.

While the art on the trail is beautiful and the scenery at moments is breathtaking, there have always been moments on the trail that bring about a deep sadness and have me jogging quickly past the bridge overpasses. This structure has been littered with random drawings, words and images. Art has power in a public square. Joan Miro reminds us that, "A simple line painted with the brush can lead to freedom and happiness." People journey to our community from all over the world to look at the history, the artifacts and the art. This public square longed to be a place of welcome, compassion, inspiration and community.

After many failed attempts, and a lot of graffiti, we are pleased to introduce the Town of Seneca Falls' newest art murals. They were created by Lauren Olmstead, a recent Mynderse grad who will be attending Cayuga in the Fall. She is an incredibly talented and wonderful human being. The world is a better place because she exists. Lauren wanted to make sure you all know that she didn't work alone. Thank you to Phung Cao, for her vision, inspiration, and help. Thank you, Long Cao and Mason Ntuala, for help graphing and painting. Thank you also to Liz Olmstead for helping Lauren to finish the work.

Failure is a part of life, dreams are worth pursuing, and everything has a time and a season. This is the time and season for this piece of art. We dedicate it to the community of Seneca Falls. May it inspire everyone to dream big, to pursue your vision in the face of failure, and know that the timing is not only ours. Thank you!

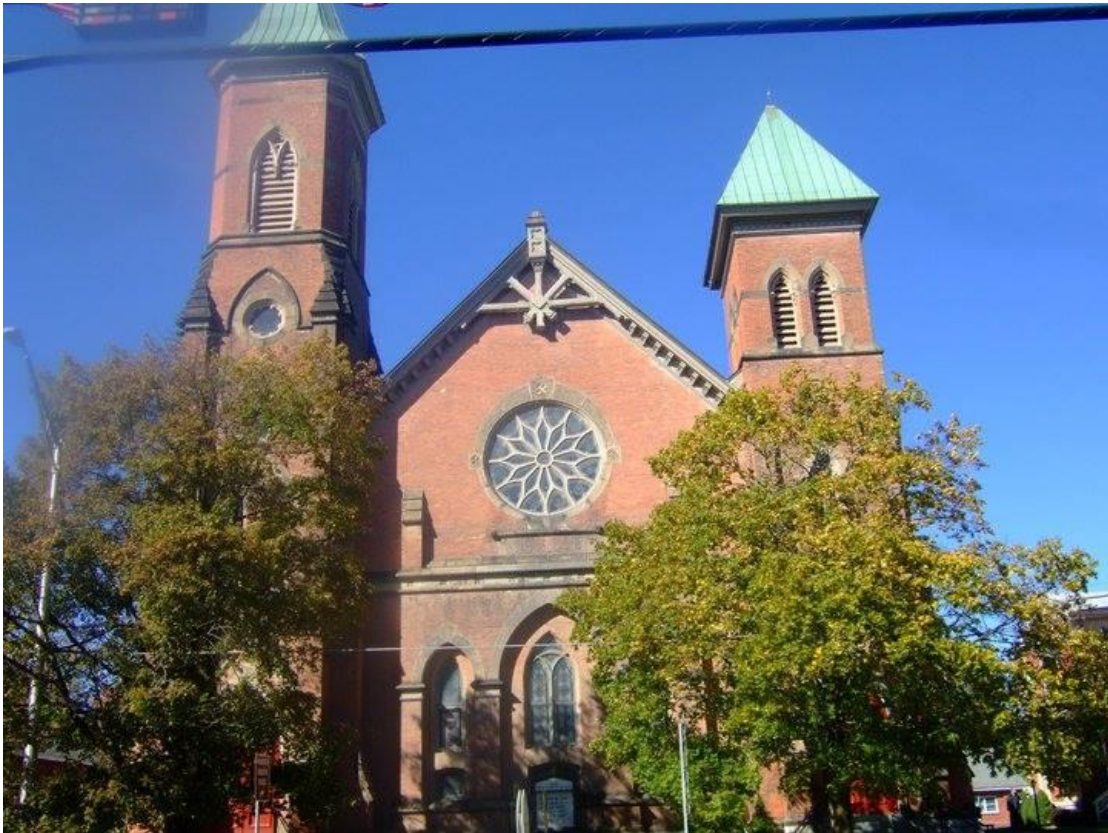


Building Congregational
Vitality

Dismantling Structural Racism

Eradicating Systemic Poverty

FIRST PRES OF SENECA FALLS
A MATTHEW 25 CHURCH!



The First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls
P.O. Box 383 Cayuga Street
Seneca Falls, NY 13148

Happy September to you, a fearfully and wonderfully made child of God:

