

Church Office: 315-568-6636
 Hours: Thursday 7:30-12:30pm
 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
 Laurie Weller-Office Manager
 Kae Hoyle-Treasurer
 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

Hello
AUTUMN

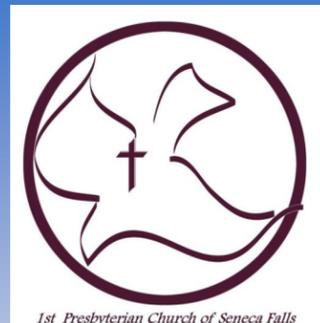
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September Newsletter 2021



First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls

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



September Newsletter 2021

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Pastor's Corner

Friends:

Pastor Leah is still off on her much overdue Sabbatical, which was delayed because of COVID-19, but she will be returning soon. Her first Sunday back in the Sanctuary will be on September 12th, so be sure to put date that on your calendars!

Since June 20th, church members have been leading our services every week. Each has shared a portion of their faith story, along with a scripture reading and a hymn that has shaped who they are as a beloved child of God. Services continue to be held each Sunday at 10:00 am, inside the Sanctuary. For those who choose to participate remotely, services are also be available live, on YouTube. More details regarding the Service Schedule can be found here in the Newsletter, on Page 7.

Please note that Seneca County infectivity of the Covid-19 virus has recently exceeded the threshold established by the State, and New York now recommends that all persons wear a mask when indoors within public spaces. This is because it's been shown that the Delta variant of Covid-19 can infect vaccinated people. In addition, even though they may remain asymptomatic, those who've been vaccinated can still produce large quantities of the virus that can be spread easily without a mask.

So, with an abundance of caution, we ask that you wear a mask when attending our services. We will have masks available if you do not have your own.

Hope to see you soon!

Session Briefs

The Session did not meet over the summer months.

- Session did approve transfer of funds for rest room work, in the amount of \$4,980, from the Plummer Trust Fund. This action took place via email. Dick Damaske and Jim Clark of Buildings & Property engaged Mike Tandle to install new flooring in the men’s room and in the upstairs (narthex) single rest room. Mike will also clean away any mildew, re-caulk where needed, and apply fresh paint to all rest room walls. Work started the week of August 23rd.
- Session will meet in September, following the return of Pastor and Moderator Pastor Leah Ntuala. A meeting date will be determined and announced shortly.



September Birthdays

- Michele Edmondson-9/3*
- Joy Novack-9/5*
- Jessica Seem-Walsh-9/7*
- Sean Walsh- 9/7*
- Mike Day-9/10*
- Georgianne (Elyséev) Hauf-9/11*
- Barry Porsch-9/12*

Just a Reminder...

The deadline for article submission for the October newsletter



is Thursday, September 23rd.

Service Schedule - In Sanctuary and Online



September 5th - Leader: Sue Harkey

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

September 12th - Psalm 116; John 20:19-22

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

September 19th - Genesis 2:4b-7, 15-17; 3:1-8 (Luke 11:4) ~ Creation, Garden of Eden, fall into sin.

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

September 26th - Genesis 15-16 (Luke 3:8) ~ God promises that Abraham’s descendants will be as numerous as the stars. Abraham believes.

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

October 3rd - World Communion– 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>



Liturgists



- 12th - Ginny Konz
- 19th - Marc Smith
- 26th - Dick Damaske

Oct 3rd - Bob Seem

Prayer List



Know someone ill or hospitalized?

This month, please call: Barb VanKirk 315.568.9908

To keep in our prayers: Jennifer Colbert; Matthew Cramer; Sue Ellen and Peter Crego; Norine Crull; Cindy Danielson; Susan Derr; George Elyseev; Joanne Elyseev; Chesterdaniel Freeman; Joanna Fuller; Betty Geraghty; Pat & Marvin Gordon; Tori Guerina; Crystal Hanes; the family of Sue Harkey; the family of Teall 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; Jean Stenlake; RE Barb Squires; Linda Warner; Darryl Wells; Gretchen Whittacre; Hope Wilson; Linda Zona; and all those suffering in the world.

**The world needs peace
But what exactly is this peace we say we seek? (cont.)**

In recent months, the words “no justice, no peace” have been seen and heard in demonstrations across our country. From Portland to Kenosha, those words and their variation, “know justice, know peace,” have shown up on yard signs and in storefront windows. Peacemakers and justice seekers are again utilizing one of the nonviolent tools in the peacemaker’s toolbox: peaceful protest. The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in his sermon “When Peace Becomes Obnoxious” said that “Peace is not the absence of tension, but the presence of justice.” He described a peace that accepts justice as “an obnoxious peace” and said he wanted no part of it.

For Presbyterians, peace is more than an idea or a declaration. It is the work we do, and it requires both compassion and justice. As peacemakers, we are both compassion-bearers and justice-seekers, meeting the needs of the world around us and righting the wrongs that, still today, impede justice for all.



Church Family News

Thanks much to Dick Damaske and Jim Clark, who have been busy coordinating building and property work. Additional repairs were made to the parking lot, the steeple, the pipe organ, and are in progress in the bathrooms. In September, new windows will be installed on the second floor of the Manse. AND kudos to Peter Snyder, who painted the storage room in the choir loft!

Summer Backpack Deliveries - This year, First Pres was the pick-up spot for all of the food, and deliveries began at the end of June. By the end of August, 900 bags of food were given out to feed hungry kids in our community. A huge THANK YOU to Pastor Leah Ntuala, Dick & Claire Damaske, Ginny Konz, Peter Snyder, Laurie Weller, Barb VanKirk and Zoe VanKirk. In addition, volunteers from the Seneca Falls First United Methodist Church, Calvary Chapel, the Seneca Falls Rotary Club, St Francis and St. Clare Roman Catholic Parish and Trinity Episcopal Church also participated. A special shout out to Peter Snyder, who organized MANY boxes of supplies here at First Pres, and made sure that all volunteers received the correct amounts of food needed for each delivery route. We appreciate ALL of these dedicated helpers who made the program a success again this year!

2 Cents a Meal - Please put your bottles and cans in the green recycling bin located in the Social Hall near the hallway to the elevator (not behind the curtain), and Peter will take them to the redemption center. Funds will go to the 2 Cents a Meal program, through the Presbyterian Mission Foundation.

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



Women’s Circle



Will meet on Monday, September 13th at 12:30 pm, at Joyce Lohr’s home

This will be the Circle’s first meeting since June, when we lunched at Wolffy’s by Cayuga Lake. We’ll catch up on each other’s summer news and talk about what we may like to do as a group - this Fall, Winter and Spring sessions.

A year ago in September, we agreed to explore race and racism and began by reading *Waking Up White: And Finding Myself in the Story of Race*, by Debby Irving, 2014. We listened to music and read poetry and short stories from other cultures and, prompted by Irving’s book, discussed our own preconceptions and biases. There are a few chapters remaining and we’ll be discussing them at the first meeting. We plan to order *The Women of the Bible Speak: The Wisdom of 16 Women and Their Lessons for Today*, 2021, by Shannon Bream, and to perhaps look into other interpretations, including those of Brandeis professor Marc Brettler.

We hope **women** among the church newsletter readers will **all consider themselves invited** to join the Women’s Circle in the coming season. Joyce’s address is in the church directory. If Monday, September 13th is forecast for bad weather, we’ll go to Ginny Konz’s or back to the Hawley Room at church. In any case, we’ll let you know where we will be!

We have more planning to do for this Fall. The House of Concern will have moved to its new location in Waterloo, so we’ll talk about how to get our donations there. We’ll reconnect with other charities we support, and talk about our obligations to the Presbytery of Geneva.

Bring a sandwich or salad lunch. We’ll supply some extras, including beverages and dessert.

Also: please bring along a donation for the **House of Concern**, which serves our needy neighbors.

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

As always, all food items packaged and canned are welcome, along with paper and soap household items.



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:

God provides for me through the kindness of others.

Upper Room, September/October 2021

Blessing of the Backpacks - Date To Be Determined!

back2school
prayer

Dear Lord, use my eyes to *see* new friends.
Open my ears to *hear* my teacher.
Open my mind to *learn* new things.
Let my heart *remember* YOU are near when I'm afraid.
Help me to *love* others like you do.
I want to *shine* your light so bright in my school.*
Amen.
©Courtney DeFee

Again this year, in the church parking lot, we will host a Blessing of the Backpacks. We'll be blessing both the students and teachers for the 2021-2022 school year. All students and teachers are welcome; there is no need to be a church member. A date will be announced soon, so stay tuned!



The world needs peace But what exactly is this peace we say we seek?

by Carl Horton / Presbyterians Today



If you ask a Presbyterian to define “peace,” you’ll get lots of answers, and they’re mostly all correct. Peace is tranquility and calm and quiet and respect and all those things that we ask of our children, as least for a few blessed moments every now and then. Peace is well-being, wholeness, health, safety, security, civility and all those things we expect from our communities. Peace is diplomatic treaties, international accords, global conventions, mutual aid, disaster relief and all those things that create understanding among nations. Peace finds its expression in many ways, takes on a variety of forms and is evident in both the most intimate and expansive parts of life. And as people of faith, we believe peace - in all its expressions and forms - is a gift from God.

Peace is a dominant biblical theme, mentioned 400 times in the King James Version and 250 times in the New Revised Standard Version. In the Hebrew Scriptures, peace appears as the word *shalom*. In the New Testament Greek, the word for peace is *eirene*. Both words suggest positive relationships with God, well-being among humanity and harmony with the created order. Over and over again, Scripture provides clear images and visions of peace, urging believers to not just receive peace as a divine gift, but to pursue it as a way of life. In so doing, we become “peacemakers,” and are called “children of God.”

Over the past century, Presbyterians have been bearers of peace, often in response to pain, brokenness, conflict, oppression and injustice. When faced with national and global events, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and its predecessor denominations have determined that the church has needed to do more. In the Depression ear of the 1930s, the United Presbyterian Church formed the Department of Social Education and Action. Following World War II, in 1945, Presbyterians were instrumental in writing the charter for the United Nations and establishing a continuing Presbyterian presence there. The next year, in 1946, Presbyterians opened a denominational office in Washington, D.C., ensuring that the voice of the church would be heard in the public square. In 1975, in the aftermath of another war and with the new reality of nuclear weaponry, the church determined that it would “reassess the concept of peacemaking,” leading in 1980 to the adoption of a report to the 192nd General Assembly titled “Peacemaking: The Believer’s Calling.” This would lead to the formation of a denomination-wide peacemaking program.

Over the subsequent 40 years, peace has been something that we’ve recognized as the work of the church at all levels. We’ve nurtured and equipped Presbyterians of all ages to engage in the practices of peacemaking, recognizing that our formation as peacemakers is an essential part of our lifelong faith formation. And yet, sometimes the peace we seek as Presbyterians is not easy. Sometimes it demands change, sacrifice and a disruption of the status quo. Peace can often be countercultural and might even call into question the church’s own culture, systems and structures. It can speak truth to power and take on the principalities of the world. And while Jesus may have been able to say “peace” and the storms would subside, the prophet Jeremiah reminds us that many times people say, “Peace, peace, when there is no peace.” Indeed, peace is not peace if it is achieved for some and not for all. (cont. Page 6)

Seneca Falls
Heritage Area Commission Presents:

FIRST FRIDAYS

5PM-8PM • DOWNTOWN SENECA FALLS



Themes:

June 4th Think Green
July 9th Christmas in July
August 6th Dog Days of Summer
September 3rd Come Dance With Me
October 5th Celebrate Our History
November 5th Gratitude
December 3rd Home for the Holidays