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July/August Newsletter Articles Are Due on June 24th

The First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls Pastor's Corner

offering the latest programs. The righteousness that comes through foi n faith." Phil. 3:96 entic Evangelism VS. "Jesus freaks"; "Christian" Hypor we this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this ext belongs to God." 2 Cor. 4:7 ward incare nal Focus VS. Inward Institutional Survival: Closed com on/exclusion "The gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few find it." Matt. 7:14 Empower Servant Leadership VS. the Pastor's job; m Wring the young energetic postor e harvest is plentiful, but the laborer f of the harvest to send out laborers Inspired Worship VS. Self-gratifying worship, stale ritual div ing, or consumer entertainment worship "These people draw near with their mouths and honor me wit their lips, while their hearts are far from me, and their wo is a human commandment learned by rote." Isaiah 29:13 rship of me Caring Relationships VS. Any other Social Club; façades, hypoc and judgment of "church" and "religion." By this, everyone will know that you are disciples, if you ove for one another." John 13:35 lesial Health VS. Unhealthy dysfunction; taxic e alete and irrelevant buildings "The body does not consist of one member but of God has so arranged the body that there may be n dissension within the body, but the members may same care for one another." 1 Cor. 12:14, 24b-25 THE CONGREGATIONAL LIFE CYCLE 2 Thriving (3) Declining (Sustainable <u>but not</u> Vital) LINE OF SUSTAINABILITY (1) Growing (4) Struggling (Neither 5 nor Vitol) Energ

I have the pleasure of serving on the Presbytery of Geneva Vitality Committee with other Ruling and Teaching Elders in the Presbytery. The PCUSA says there are 7 Marks of Congregational Vitality. We meet once a month via Zoom to talk about these items. We are also aware that we serve a variety of churches in the Presbytery, each at a different place in their congregational life. At a recent meeting one of our members, a green card holder, expressed fear in their upcoming travel in and out of the country. We lifted this in prayer, gave them a few PCUSA resources to connect with, and encouraged them to have a conversation with their congregation before their trip. We then turned to the business of the meeting.

We began to wonder about how to connect this story and fear to congregational vitality and the work of the Presbytery. It was suggested that we gather on Pentecost Sunday and pray with one another, inviting people of all denominations to join us, in this intentional authentic evangelism. This will be an outward incarnational focus, based on the ministry Jesus models to us on Matthew 25. It will be an opportunity for us to bear witness to the caring relationship, specifically the one for our colleague in ministry who worries they will for the first time, not be welcomed in as the stranger. This service will be a public witness of our faith and discipleship. There will be a prayer on each of the ministries Jesus modeled. We hope for some music too, as this is a spirit-filled worship service and a celebration of Pentecost. Please feel free to invite others as we stand together in the Light of Christ.

Peace, Pastor Leah

Contact Us

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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 Anne Millis – Clerk of Session

Session

Session meets every 3rd Thursday at 10am

Presently serving Ruling Elders:

Jim Clark, Marion Crull, Dick Damaske, David Hall, Kae Hoyle, Ginny Konz, Anne Millis and Susan Sholar

Session

At its Thursday, May 15th Meeting, the Session discussed several issues. The following is a brief overview:

 \cdot Received thank you notes from Jean Morris, Joyce and Wayne Lohr, the House of Concern and a card in memory of Joanne Elyseev.

 \cdot Treasurer's report for April was received from Treasurer Kae H.; Total Revenue \$22,075.43 and Total Expenditures of \$107,606.64. Showed Fundraising of \$1,922 net income. We should have our 2024 Audit Report by next month's meeting.

• Pastor Leah served communion and conducted services at Huntington on May 4th & 6th. Performed Joanne Elyseev's Memorial Service on May 11th at First Pres. Attended various meetings; Outreach meeting will be held on May 27th at SF Methodist Church. Youth Group will meet on May 18th to "Chalk the Walk."

 \cdot Outreach – put in the bulletin about churches making donations for United Way and being competitive. Try re-starting "Fix-It-Café" and invite "experts" from other churches to help. Next meeting at 3:30pm on May 27th, at Methodist Church.

• Parish Life/Membership – cards being sent out.

 \cdot Property – flooring has been cleaned. Gave tour of church to couple from England who happened to be walking around building. Could have painting of church at end of July. Windows could be removed for repair by late May.

 \cdot Stewardship/Finance – will see if Dr. Rose Niles could do a coffee hour about church financial and foundation.

 \cdot Worship & Music - will have a Hymn Sing service on June 1st. Susan S. made a motion to move Communion to June 8th; passed. Ice Cream Social will be held on June 15th, Father's Day.

 \cdot Old Business – waiting for Attorney General to get paperwork for house being donated.

 \cdot Other Business – Youth Hang-Out would like to continue meeting through the summer for two hours in the afternoon, with both age groups at the same time. Discussion of renting space out for other activities like birthdays, meetings, etc. School is looking for space for clubs.

Submitted by Anne Millis, Clerk of the Session

The next Session meeting will be held on Thursday, June 26th at 10am



June Birthdays!!

Louis Grant Brown - 6/02 Claire Damaske - 6/06 Wayne Lohr - 6/07 Andrea Day Silverman - 6/15 Laurie Frankenfield - 6/16 Marvin Lay - 6/19



Members and Friends to Keep in Our Thoughts



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



Please remember

Seneca County House of Concern



(personal care items, dish & laundry detergents, paper napkins, bathroom paper, cleaning supplies, etc.) as you shop

Women's Circle

Meets for lunch on Monday, June 2nd at Wolffy's...11:30am

At its May meeting, Circle was led in prayer by Kae. We missed Ruby, who remained at home that day suffering a spring cold. Everyone had finished our book, *Breathing Under Water...Spirituality and the Twelve Steps* and we discussed the final chapters 11 and 12.

Some take aways: Chapter 11 - *An Alternative Mind* Here, author Richard Rohr suggests that humans be <u>taught</u> how to pray as the disciples asked Jesus in Luke, chapter 11; "Lord, teach us how to pray." We must in prayer, work on "emptying" our essentially narrow minds (of our own perspective) and "filling our hearts" through a wider lens.

Chapter 12 - *What Comes Around Must Go Around* "What was given to you freely, you must give away freely." Matthew 10:8

Barb's treasury report to date was \$347.79. We went on to talk about where to meet for **lunch in June** and **Wolffy's at 2943 Lower Lake Road** was agreed upon. Notice will appear in the church worship bulletin and newsletter. Barb and Kae will call women in the church to invite them. **If any readers miss their call, please do consider yourself invited! Bring your husbands, partners, daughters, and/or house guests.** Wolffy's does not take reservations, so we don't need a count. Let's hope for a "perfect" day in June and we'll gather on Wolffy's deck!

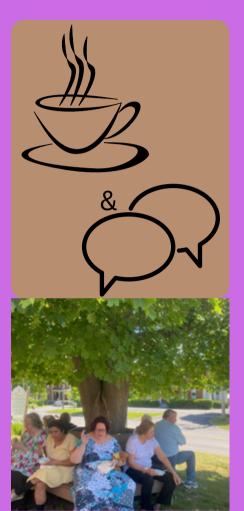
We thank the people who donated non-foods and other items for the **House of Concern** in May.

Special item for June is Canned Fruits & Vegetables

...And what is so rare as a day in June? Then, if ever, come perfect days; Then Heaven tries earth if it be in tune, And over it softly her warm ear lays; Whether we look, or whether we listen, We hear the murmur, or see it glisten; Every clod feels a stir of might...

> (from the Prelude to The Vision of Sir Launfal) by James Russell Lowell







Church Family News

- **Pastor Leah Graduation:** Pastor Leah officially became Rev. Dr. Leah Ntuala on Friday, May 30^{th!} A link to the graduation was provided stay tuned for photos of this amazing event!!·
- Walking With Hope: time to take steps to end suicide the walk will be held on Sunday, June 1st starting at 12noon. Attendees can enjoy the vendors, raffles and DJ before the event and food trucks and the band "Just Us" following their walk. The event is open to the community and donations are welcome but not required. All funds raised from the walk are kept within Seneca County to build protective factors for youth and adults including providing free trainings, distributing printed and social media messages, supporting school programs, and supplying bus passes as transportation assistance to counseling services.
- Chaplain Service at Seneca County Correctional Facility: Pastor Leah continues to serve as Chaplain and, with assistance from Peter Guarino, is leading services each week on Wednesdays for both men and women.
- Ice Cream Social: on June 18th right after worship, we will be honoring all of the fathers with an ice cream social on their special day
- Youth Group: on Friday, June 20th, the Youth Group will once again meet at The Hang Out to play games and have snacks. The Middle Schoolers will be here from 6pm to 8pm, and the High School crew will hang out from 8pm to 10pm.
- **Coffee and Conversation:** be sure to join Pastor Leah at Café 19 on Tuesday, June 24th at 10am meet up with your church friends and share what on your mind.







Worship Schedule

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

June 8th - Communion - Luke 11:11-13; Acts 2:1-4, Galatians 4:1-7, 5:16-26.

June 15th – 1 John 1:1-2.2; John 1:1-9, 29.

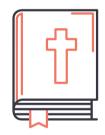
June 22nd - 1 John 3:1-7; John 1:12-13.

June 29th – 1 John 3:16-24; John 13:33-35.

July 6th – Communion – John 14:15-17; 1 John 4:7-21.

Liturgist List

June 1st - Marion Crull June 8th – Barry Porsch June 15th – Ginny Konz June 22nd – Carol Millis July 6th - Susan Sholar





Nursery

June 1st - Anne Millis June 8th – TBD June 15th – TBD June 22nd – TBD July 6th – TBD







Coffee Hours

Our Coffee Hour program is taking a break for the summer. If you have good ideas for Coffee Hours to begin in the Fall, please contact Sue Derr.



To Keep In Your Prayers:

All those impacted by the recent fire in Ovid; Kathleen Albert; Reatha Bishop; Robin Blundon; Jennifer Colbert; Peter Crego; Cindy Danielson; Greg Dimmick; Joanie Duval; 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; Walt Hoyle; Bea Jones; Joe Jopek; our Law Enforcement Officers, Firefighters and EMTs; Bob Lamphere; Josh Lenard; Stephanie Lesinski; Ronnie Lobdell; Wayne Lohr; the Lopez family; the Mack family; Kim Martin; Ken Mell; Kathy Minnier; Tyler Morgan; Roger Morin; Timothy Mosher; Joy Novack; Paul Novack; Linda Parker; Paula Paxton; Gene and Dean Potter; Justine Saunders; Mary Sceney; Susan Sholar; Nora Sibley; Shelley Vanderbogart; Barb and Jack Wagener; Robert Wagner; Linda Warner; Gretchen Whittacre; the Wilson family; and all those suffering in the world.

Know someone ill or hospitalized? Please call Anne Millis 315-246-6264





The Presbytery of Geneva, in a combined effort with the Presbyterian Hunger Program, "Cents-Ability" initiative needs your support. Once monthly, Presbyterian churches are asked to collect the equivalent of five cents per person per meal per day. These funds go to benefit the Matthew 25 grant program, specifically donated to food insecurity. Please visit the website: https://pcusa.org/r esource/centsabilityguide.

Other News.....

Marching in the Light of Christ Standing up for what Jesus taught



Sunday, June 8, 2025, 2:30pm

at the Bicentennial Park in Geneva, NY

Modeling the Ministry of Jesus, in service of the least of these, we:

- Feed the hungry food
- Give the thirsty a drink
- Welcome in the stranger
 - Clothe the naked
- Care for the sick, and
- Visit the prisoners.

Skeptic. Certain. Confident. Fearful. Gay. Straight. Bisexual. Married. Divorced. Single. **Jesus didn't turn people away.** Looking. Partnered. Female. Male. Trans. Saint. Sinner. A little of both. Immigrant. Native. Strong. Weak. Got-it-together. Lifelong screw-up. Long-time member. Just walked in the door. Parent. Child. Housed. Homeless. Believer. Questioner. Questioning believer. Doubter. Sports junkie. Tree hugger. Geek. Cool kid. Loner. Rich. Poor. Just barely making it. Skeptic. Certain. Confident. Fearful. Gay. Straight. Bisexual. Married. Divorced. Single. Looking. Partnered. Female. Male. Trans. Saint. Sinner. A little of both. Immigrant. Native. Strong. Weak. Got-it-together. Lifelong screw-up. Long-time member. Just walked in the door. Parent. Child. Housed. Homeless. Believer. Questioner. Questioning believer. Doubter. Sports junkie. Tree hugger. Geek. Cool kid. **Neither do we**. Loner. Rich. Poor. Just barely making it. Skeptic. Certain. Confident. Fearful. Beloved.



The First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls P.O. Box 383 23 Cayuga Seneca Falls, NY 13148

Happy Father's Day to you, a fearfully and wonderfully made child of God:



