



MAY 2026

Pentecost

According to the Day of Pentecost story in Acts 2:1-13, God gave the gift of the Holy Spirit to empower witnesses to the resurrection. Sounds from heaven, cosmic language, the rush of a mighty ruach (wind, spirit, breath) invaded the house in which the apostles gathered, and appeared to them as a burning fire. Tongues of fire touched their nerve centers. A power – the unseen power of God – moved among them and gripped them. The Holy Spirit is unseen, like the wind, which is why the Old Testament calls it ruach YHWH, “the wind, or breath, of God” (cf. John 3:8). The Spirit is the “unseenness of God” working among us.

According to Joel (2:28-29) the ruach is to open everybody to God’s future. People young and old will dream and will have visions of hope; they will be able to loose themselves from the way things are now, because God is establishing a whole new economy of creation. The Holy Spirit breaks us out of our preoccupation with ourselves and frees us to serve neighbors, loosens our grasp on possessions, and sets us to loving people. New creation is what Joel is talking about. Pentecost is new creation.

The book of Acts tells the story of the outcome of Pentecost’s new creation: people witness in word and in deed to the risen Christ. At the outset, the newborn church immediately tumbled out into the streets to witness to God’s mighty works in the languages of people all over the world. By the end of the story, a tiny, Spirit-filled community of faith that broke from its present order has spread across the continents with incredible power to bring new things into being. With the gift of the Spirit, all things are possible. ...

Therefore, on the Day of Pentecost, we celebrate God’s gift of Holy Spirit which draws us together as one people, helps us to comprehend what God is doing in the world, and empowers us to proclaim, in word and in deed, God’s plan of reconciling all people in the name of Christ (Ephesians 1:10).

An excerpt from the Companion to the Book of Common Worship (Geneva Press, 2003, 117-119)



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June
News Articles
are due by
5/25

SESSION BRIEFS

Contact US The First Presbyterian Church

of Seneca Falls, NY

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8am-3pm

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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
2nd Thursday at 10am

Presently serving

Ruling Elders:

David Hall, Jim Hinman,

Kae Hoyle, Ginny Konz,

Anne Millis, Carol Millis and

Susan Sholar

At its Thursday, April 9th Meeting, the Session discussed several issues. The following is a brief overview:

- Pastor Leah opened the meeting with a reading and a prayer. A quorum was present; the Agenda and the March meeting minutes were approved.
- Clerk reported that Mynderse High School asking for a donation for their Senior Ball Bash; we will donate \$50 and 4 gift cards at \$25 each.
- Right to Run: Celebrating Women’s Movement May 8-9, 2026 in Seneca Falls. Received the contact information for the Presbytery Com - Liason, Kirianne Weaver.
- Treasurer Kae H. provided an update regarding Pi Day - 145 pies donated, total collected \$2,214. Special Endowment and Knight Memorial balances transferred from Presbyterian Foundation to Fidelity. Pledges being paid, Per Capita slow. Kae made a motion to send \$2,000 check to Presbytery for mission. Passed. Total Revenue \$90,228.18 and Total Expenditures \$26,441.20.
- Pastor Leah led communion services at Huntington (25 people), and at the Seneca County jail (10 people). She attended several meetings, including Housing, Northeast graduation, the Presbytery Council and the Outreach meeting (Women’s Circle gave \$200 for Sleep in Heavenly Peace and Mynderse). She assisted with the Maundy Thursday Service in Geneva and the Good Friday service with the United Methodist Church. She will be away on Sunday, April 26th and Ginny will lead the service.
- Christian Education - the Youth Group’s monthly “Hangout” will be on April 10th.
- Outreach - did not meet.
- Parish Life/Membership - Palm Sunday luncheon went well.
- Personnel - no report.
- Property – in the process of cleaning up outside.
- Stewardship/Finance - box put on table for giving donation during Coffee Hour.
- Worship & Music - looking into having several teenagers for the Nursery, with a Session member assisting. Discussed having an extra plate for gluten free Communion.



Submitted by Anne Millis, Clerk to the Session

The next Session meeting will be held on Thursday, May 14th at 10am

May Birthdays

Sue Charles - 5/05

Hope Wilson – 5/10

Marya Lohr Vigil – 5/16

David Lay – 5/17

Dick Damaske - 5/28

Jase Clark - 5/29

Gerald Gray – 5/30

Lisa Shuster Lopez - 5/30





WOMEN'S CIRCLE



**Members and Friends
to Keep in Our
Thoughts**

**Jean Morris
3094 Andrews Road
Ransomville, NY 14131**

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

**Bea Jones
Living Center at Geneva -
North
75 Mason Street
Geneva, NY 14456
Room #233**

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



**Will Meet on Monday, May 4th at 12:30pm
In the Hawley Room**

After cancelling both the January and February meetings for frigid weather reasons Circle members ventured out on the second day of March. It was cool but sunny and coming in “like a lamb,” or so we liked to believe. We enjoyed a delicious lunch at Barb’s house, which included a Romaine/Blueberry/Glazed Walnut salad (thanks, Zoe!), Spinich Quiche, and a lovely dessert (and it took us longer than usual to get to our book discussion and plans for next month!)

Kae offered our opening prayer.

Joyce shared some information about Mariann Edgar Budde, present Episcopal Bishop of Washington DC diocese and author of our 2026 study book *How We Learn to Be Brave: Decisive Moments in Life and Faith*. Avery/Penguin/Random House, 2023. Born in 1959 in Summit, NJ to an American father and Swedish-American mother, she also lived for a time in Colorado, following her parents’ divorce. In the years following college (which included study at the University of Rochester) and before studying for the Clergy, she worked in Arizona in urban ministry and as a missionary in Hondouras. Ordained as a priest in 1989 she went on to serve parishes in Ohio and Minnesota.* In the traditional Prayer Service following President Trump’s inauguration in January 2025, the now, Bishop Budde gave a sermon in which she asked the President to “have mercy” on people targeted for deportation; people “who are scared.” The President had announced earlier that his administration would recognize only “two sexes: male and female.” On social media, the President spoke critically and unkindly about Bishop Budde and demanded that she apologize. Bishop Budde did not apologize.

Following our book discussion, Barb gave Circle’s treasury report...Balance \$585.13. We didn’t discuss where we could put some of it to good use but in later E-mails and phone calls we settled on buying hams again, for the the House of Concern. TOPS supermarket had both 5 and 3 lb. canned hams. Joyce and Ginny would buy and deliver at least 10 hams; the 5 lb. ones if we can get them. We were told that foods for Easter dinners had already been made available to people in need; through the House mobile distribution in mid-March. House Director, Delores Morgan said they’d welcome more hams if we decided to donate them.

**HOUSE OF CONCERN special item for APRIL is Breakfast items and cereals
Thanks to everyone who made donations in March!**

Barb will offer a prayer for the April meeting Circle.

Ginny will share a “cultural bridge” item.

Everyone should come prepared to discuss the first several chapters of Bishop Budde’s book.

*Wikipedia

GOD, HELP ME TO SEE MYSELF AND OTHERS, WITH LOVE

Nicole Newton, in *These Days*

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS



- Our Easter Sunday service was especially lovely this year. The church was decorated beautifully, and selections performed by our Easter Choir, Brass Ensemble and Handbell Choir were enjoyed by all.



- Youth Group - the Youth Group will get together at “The Hangout” for their monthly arcade party on Friday, May 8th - Middle School from 6pm to 8pm and High School from 8pm to 10pm. In addition, the trip to Roseland Bowl in Canandaigua, originally scheduled in April, will be held on Sunday, May 17th; plan to be at the UMC by 1pm to carpool. Please RSVP!

PRESENTED BY SFYG

THE HANGOUT

Youth Game Night

Eat snacks, play old favorites, learn a new game, or bring one to share!

ALL ARE WELCOME!
MAY 8, 2026
middle school: 6-8
high school: 8-10

at 1st Presbyterian Church
 23 Cayuga Street, Seneca Falls
 +315.568.6636 www.fpressf.com

RIGHT TO RUN CELEBRATION
MAY 8TH AND 9TH IN SENECA FALLS NEW YORK
 The birthplace of women's rights

WE'RE PROUD TO SUPPORT THE RIGHT TO RUN
 A CELEBRATION OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS, MOVEMENT, AND COMMUNITY

Featuring Tiffany Shlain's Moveable Monument
 Dendrofeomonology: A feminist history tree ring

As a proud partner, we invite you to join us
www.righttorun.org



NATIONAL WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME
REDEDICATED 1941 | SENECA FALLS, NEW YORK

the empowerment project
inspiring people. building community.

RIGHT TO RUN 1848

- The Path is Clear Because Others Went Before: The Right to Run was founded to celebrate the fight to pass the 19th Amendment - which granted women the right to vote - and the resulting Women's Rights Movement. It all started in Seneca Falls in 1848. On Mother's Day Weekend, we join together (in-person OR virtual) to celebrate the Right to Run - a 5k race that honors the journey women traveled to obtain the right to vote and that continues to bring us together. See additional information on Page 7 - if you plan to run, use code DENDRO19 to save 19%.

- Coffee and Conversation: will be held on Tuesday, May 26th at Café 19. Come by and have a chat. This will be our last meeting until fall, so plan to join us.

The First Presbyterian Church of
 Seneca Falls, NY
 Ministry Theme for 2026

SERVICE

IN EVERYTHING DO TO OTHERS AS YOU WOULD HAVE THEM DO TO YOU.
 -MATT 7:12

First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls, NY
EST. 1807

WWW.FPRESSF.COM

WORSHIP

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

May 3 - John 1:16-18; Acts 17:16-31

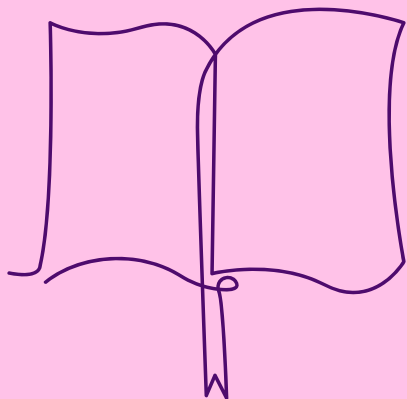
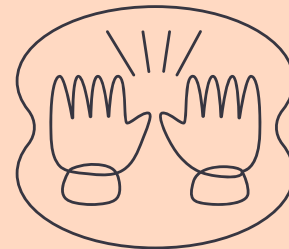
May 10 - Luke 9:46-48; Philippians 1:1-18a

May 17 - Luke 6:43-45; Philippians 2:1-13

May 24 - Pentecost - Philippians 4:4-7; Acts 2:1-21

May 31 - Trinity Sunday - Jeremiah 1:1-10, 7:1-11; John 2:13-22

June 7- Jeremiah 18:1-11; John 15:1-8



LITURGISTS

May 3 - Carol Millis

May 10 - Dick Damaske

May 17 - Susan Sholar

May 24 - Ginny Konz

May 31- Marion Crull

June 7- Anne Millis

GREETERS

May 3 - Ginny Konz and David Hall

May 10 - Barb and Zoe Van Kirk

May 17 - Jim and Diane Hinman

May 24 - Dick and Claire Damaske

May 31 - Ginny Konz

June 7 - Carol and Anne Millis



NURSERY

May 3 - Marion Crull

May 10 - Ginny Konz

May 17 - Carol Millis

May 24 - Zoe Van Kirk

May 31- Anne Millis

June 7 TBD

COFFEE HOURS

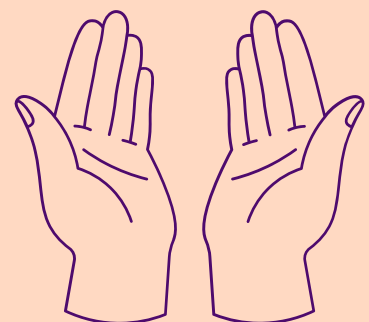


May 3 - No Coffee Hour - Committee Meetings
May 10 - No Coffee Hour - Mother's Day
May 17 - Sleep in Heavenly Peace - Drew Scharoun
May 24 - No Coffee Hour - Memorial Day
May 31 - Barmen Declaration
June 7 - No Coffee Hour - Committee Meetings
Please see Sue Derr if you have any suggestions
for Coffee Hour Programs!

TO KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS

Kathleen Albert; Reatha Bishop; Lori and Steve Clayton; Jennifer Colbert; Peter Crego; Cindy Danielson; Joanie Duval; Carl Feltus; Joanna Fuller; Diane and Cal Goodman; Pat Gordon; Gerald Gray; Amy Guarino; Tori Guerina; Crystal Hanes; Cindy Hinman-Cosola; Susan Horton; Bea Jones; Bob Lamphere; Josh Lenard; Stephanie Lesinski; the Lobdell family; Wayne and Joyce Lohr; the Lopez family; the Mack family; Kim Martin; Ken Mell; Kathy Minnier; Roger Morin; Timothy Mosher; Joy Novack; Paul Novack; Linda Parker; Paula Paxton; Gene and Dean Potter; Bob Seem; Susan Sholar; Nora Sibley; Shelley Vanderbogart; Lori Varallo; 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



IN OTHER NEWS...

spring gathering

of the Presbyterian Women of the Geneva Presbytery

Where: The Presbyterian Church in Geneva

All are welcome !

Friday, May 8 from 10 am to 1 pm

Lunch will be provided.

Meet women from other churches in the Presbytery.

The speaker will be from The Potter's Hands,
an organization that helps trafficked women
achieve a new, purposeful life.

Registration appreciated

Contact Ellen Reynolds,

ellenr09@gmail.com

315-521-3240



A Monthly Online Gathering – Fourth Wednesday of Every
Month Hosted by the PC(U.S.A.)

Presbyterian Advocacy Hour



The Presbyterian Advocacy Hour brings together committed
people of faith every fourth Wednesday of the month to
recharge your spirit and empower your advocacy with:

- Spiritual grounding
- In-depth analysis of pressing justice issues
- Practical tools for faithful action

Each session concludes with an optional 30-minute breakout
for:

Networking · Movement-building · Community connection



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

**A Blessed MEMORIAL DAY to you, a fearfully and
wonderfully made child of God:**

