



DECEMBER 2025

Pastor's Corner



This year Worship and Music decided to switch up the Advent and Christmas decorations! This change happened for three reasons:

1. We needed 2 new wreaths.
2. The variety of December activities that take place in the church during December.
3. We thought about all that has taken place in the Holy Land over the last year and our hearts continue to ache and our prayers abound.

This meant some new decorations were needed and I had the task of writing the words of Advent and creating a shadow nativity. Spending time immersed in these words: Hope, Peace, Love, Joy, and Grace (or the Christ candle) had an impact.

As I played Yo Yo Ma and Donnie McClurkin while I worked and was inspired by their gifts. They share them bravely with the world. It seems everytime I listen I hear something new.

It was fun to think outside the box, bounce ideas off others, and turn my office into a construction zone. As people came in, I apologized for the mess. The response was, "It is ok, Jesus was a carpenter too."

I reflected on the power of this story. It is told every year in the Advent Wreath, the decorations, songs, and scripture and yet it remains powerful. No matter the color of bow or the color of the lights, or the newest Nativity; something new will always be learned. As we prepare for birth of Christ, may we listen for something new, as God is still teaching, Peace, Pastor Leah

January
News Articles
are due by
12/23

Contact US

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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:

Jim Clark, Marion Crull, Dick

Damaske, David Hall, Kae

Hoyle, Ginny Konz, Anne Millis

and Susan Sholar

SESSION BRIEFS

At its Thursday, November 20th 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 October meeting minutes were approved.
- Clerk reported that Thank You cards were received from Sandy Granger and Laurie Weller, along with a note and donation from the Sam and Dorothy Dickieson family.
- Treasurer Kae H. provided an update on the Operating Account, and reported that funds donated by Muriel Horle were transferred from the Operating Account to the new account created at Fidelity. Total Revenue \$21,213.95 and Total Expenditures \$14,830.19.
- Pastor Leah served communion and conducted service at Huntington on November 4th. Updates regarding several other meetings attended throughout the month were given.
- Christian Education - *Hand Out* met on November 19th.
- Outreach - monthly meeting will be held today, November 20th.
- Personnel - the committee will meet next Tuesday, November 25th and will perform annual employee reviews.
- Property – the exterior painting budgeted in 2025 will be deferred and included in the 2026 Budget.
- Stewardship/Finance – some pledges are coming in, but slowly. Jay will begin calling people who have not yet sent in their forms.
- Worship & Music - the committee is getting ready for Advent, and decorating is scheduled for Sunday, November 30th.
- Other Business - Pastor Leah shared event information on social media for a Transgender Day service, to be held here at First Pres. Over 100 comments were received.

Submitted by Anne Millis, Clerk of the Session

The next Session meeting will be held on Thursday, December 18th at 10am



December Birthdays

Bea Jones 12/02

Jean Morris 12/06

Diana Hinman 12/13

Penny Saunders 12/13

Jay Hoyle 12/18

Mary Beth Day 12/22

Megan Derr 12/27

Michelle Dugan 12/27





WOMEN'S CIRCLE

Will host its annual Holiday Luncheon on Monday December 1st
See Holiday Luncheon Details Below!

The November Circle meeting was opened with prayer by Kae and one or two French Canadian songs offered by Joyce (some of us joined in with any words we could remember)! This all in the effort of cultural "bridging."

We've looked into books for this year's study and have not settled on one. The Torah book suggested by Presbytery and used in its on-line course would be too costly for us. We listened to a chapter read from *How Does the Christian Confront the Old Testament* and decided against further reading. Ginny and Joyce will continue to look and we'll have a book to begin in January.

Barb reported a hefty amount presently in our treasury and suggested we not carry a big balance to the end of the year. We received an acknowledgement from The United Methodist Church of Kerrville, Texas for our August donation. We moved to send \$150.00 to the House of Concern/United Way/Elks Club Thanksgiving Day Dinner. *If any of us can help with preparation and/or serving, call 315-539-1135.*

Our Holiday Luncheon comes right after Thanksgiving. Barb and Kae will call women in the church. Heavy duty paper plates will be used and someone will see about dinner napkins We'll bring small gift items if we have them and add to the Santa Bag. Barb will call past Circle member Barb Lohr to ask if Everyoshe and Don could join us that day.

As many of us as can, will set up tables in the Hawley Room after worship on Sunday, November 30th.

One of our past leaders, Jean Morris will celebrate a birthday on December 6th and we each signed a HAPPY BIRTHDAY card to send to Jean.

HOUSE OF CONCERN special item for DECEMBER: TODDLER DIAPERS
Personal care, household cleaning and paper product items are always needed

And Canned a Packaged Food is welcomed every month.

IT'S THE HOLIDAYS...let's be generous in sharing!

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Will take place on Monday, December 1st at 12:30pm

In the Hawley Room

Everyone is asked to bring a dish to share.

Coffee, Tea and Cider will be furnished.

Please also bring a package of Toddler Diapers for the House of Concern

AND...if you have a favorite Advent or Christmas Story, Poem, or Inspirational Reading to share,

Please do bring it along!

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 #239

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





CHURCH FAMILY NEWS



- The Annual Congregational Meeting was held on Sunday, November 16th after the worship service. A slate of Ruling Elders for nomination was presented to the congregation: Jim Hinman and Carol Millis. Calls were made for any other nominations from the floor and there were none. Kae Hoyle listed the Nominating Committee Members - Susan Derr, Marion Crull, Carol Millis and Barb Van Kirk - and thanked them for serving. The new Nominating Committee will be: Barb Van Kirk, David Hall, Susan Sholar, Kay Hoyle and Susan Derr. ~Submitted by Anne Millis, Clerk of the Session ~

- Youth Group will meet in "The Hangout" on Friday, December 5th at First Pres for their monthly Arcade Party - Middle School from 6pm to 8pm and High Schoolers from 8pm to 10pm. They will also get together on Dec 21st from 2pm to 4pm at the United Methodist Church.

- Coffee and Conversation Get-Togethers: our monthly coffee hour meet-up with Pastor Leah at Café 19 will not happen in December, but please be sure to put January 27th on your calendars.

- Community Advent Season Celebration - on Sunday, December 7th at 2:00pm, First Pres will host an afternoon of live music, with cookies following the concert. Our space is handicap accessible and admission is free. Start the Christmas season off right!

- It's a Wonderful Life Festival - the committee will be showing the *It's a Wonderful Life* movie again this year in the Social Hall at First Pres. This will include short films *about* the movie during the day, and a participation showing of the movie in the evening. Short Films will be shown on Friday, December 12th and Saturday December 13th from 10am-12:40pm; 1:00pm-3:40pm and 4:00pm-6:40pm and on Sunday, December 14th from 11am-1:15pm and 1:45pm-4:00pm. The Participation Movie will be shown on Friday, December 12th and Saturday, December 13th from 8pm to 10:30pm. Popcorn and candy will be served!

- Seneca Community Players - showings of *It's a Wonderful Life Radio Show* will be held in the sanctuary at First Pres on Friday and Saturday December 12th and 13th at 7:00pm, and on Sunday, December 14th at 1:00pm. You won't want to miss this.

- Seneca Singers - their annual concert will take place at First Pres on Sunday, December 14th at 5:00pm, featuring a guest organist. Admission is free, but donations are always appreciated.

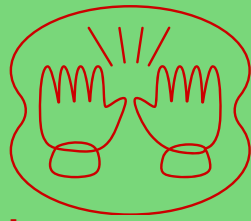


Holiday Concert
Seneca Singers
 Sunday December 14th
 5:00pm
 The First Presbyterian Church
 23 Cayuga St, Seneca Falls

This project is made possible with funds from the Statewide Community Regrant program, a regrant program of New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature and administered by Auburn Public Theater



WORSHIP



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

December 7 - Communion - 2nd Day of Advent - Joel 2:12-13, 28-29; Luke 11:13

December 14 - 3rd Day of Advent - Isaiah 61:1-11; Luke 4:16-21

December 21 - 4th Day of Advent - Psalm 113; Luke 1:26-45, [46-56]

December 24 - Lessons and Carols

December 28 - Psalm 131; Luke 2:21-38

January 4 - Communion - Psalm 66:1-5; John 1:35-51



LITURGISTS

December 7 - Susan Derr

December 14 - Ginny Konz

December 21 - Marion Crull

December 24 - Lessons & Carols

December 28 - Anne Millis

January 4 - Michelle Edmondson

GREETERS

December 7 - Ginny Konz & Kae Hoyle

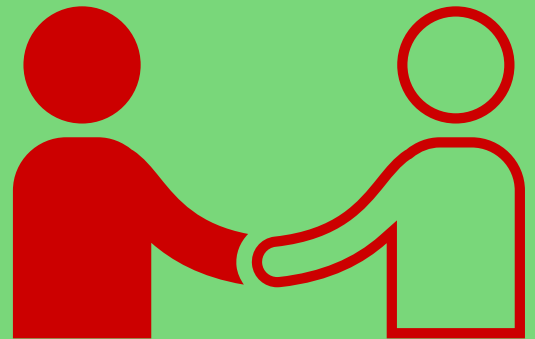
December 14 - Penelope & Aurora Guarino

December 21 - Laurie & Daryl Frankenfield

December 24 - Mason & Atticus Ntuala

December 28 - Louis & Romona Lobdell

January 4 - Anne Millis & Susan Sholar



NURSERY

December 7 - Marion Crull

December 14 - Zoe Van Kirk

December 21 - Ginny Konz

December 24 - Anne Millis

December 24 - Carol Millis

January 4 - Zoe Van Kirk

COFFEE HOURS



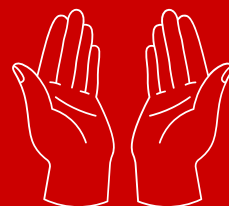
December 7 - Committee Meetings
December 14 - No Coffee Hour
December 21st - Manse Open House
December 28th - No Coffee Hour

Please let us know if you have any suggestions for
Coffee Hour Programs!

TO KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS

All those impacted by the recent fire in Ovid; Kathleen Albert; Reatha Bishop; Robin Blundon; Lori and Steve Clayton; Jennifer Colbert; Peter Crego; Cindy Danielson; Joanie Duval; Michele Edmondson; Carl Feltus; Rita Frankenfield; Joanna Fuller; Diane and Cal Goodman; Cary Gordon and Family; Pat Gordon; Gerry Gray; Amy Guarino; Tori Guerina; Crystal Hanes; Jim Hinman; Cindy Hinman-Cosola; Susan Horton; Bea Jones; our Law Enforcement Officers, Firefighters and EMTs; Bob Lamphere; Josh Lenard; Stephanie Lesinski; Ronnie Lobdell; Wayne and Joyce 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; Ken Saunders; Susan Sholar; Nora Sibley; Shelley Vanderbogart; Lori Varallo; 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



IN OTHER NEWS....

God came to us because he wanted to join us on the road, to listen to our story, and to help us realize that we are not walking in circles but moving toward the house of peace and joy. This is the great mystery of Christmas that continues to give us comfort and consolation: we are not alone on our journey. The God of love who gave us life sent his only Son to be with us at all times and in all places, so that we never have to feel lost in our struggles but always can trust that he walks with us.

The challenge is to let God be who he wants to be. A part of us clings to our aloneness and does not allow God to touch us where we are most in pain.

Often we hide from him precisely those places in ourselves where we feel guilty, ashamed, confused, and lost. Thus we do not give him a chance to be with us where we feel most alone.

Christmas is the renewed invitation not to be afraid and to let him—whose love is greater than our own hearts and minds can comprehend—be our companion.

-Henri Nouwen

And Mary said, “My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant.” - Luke 1: 46

- 48a (NIV)



“Christmas is a mood, a quality, a symbol. It is never merely a fact. As a fact it is a date on the calendar — to the believer it is the anniversary of an event in human history. An individual may relate (themselves) meaningfully to the fact or the event, but that would not be Christmas.

The mood of Christmas — what is it? It is a quickening of the presence of other human beings into whose lives a precious part of one’s own has been released. It is a memory of other days when into one’s path an angel appeared spreading a halo over an ordinary moment or a commonplace event. It is an iridescence of sheer delight that bathes one’s whole being with something more wonderful than words can ever tell. Of such is the mood of Christmas.

-Howard Thurman, The Growing Edge

“I will go before you And make the crooked places straight.” Isaiah 45:2 NKJV



The First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls
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Merry Christmas to you, a fearfully and wonderfully made child of God:

