

# February 2025

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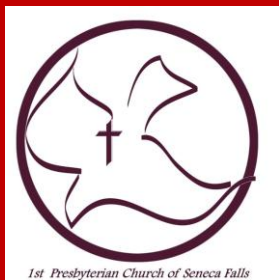
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1st Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls



March  
Newsletter Articles  
Are Due on February 20th

## The First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls Pastor's Corner



"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."

- Rev. Dr. MLK, Jr.

On January 20, 2025, the Youth Group gathered in the United Methodist Church parking lot to journey together to Geneva, NY for the 54<sup>th</sup> Annual MLK March. It felt like -4 outside and the snow was pounding our faces. We marched from the Bicentennial Park's MLK Statue (where we began the time in prayer, led by the Hobart William and Smith College Chaplain), to the steps of City Hall (where we heard speeches from two City Officials and a prayer from the Episcopal Priest), and finally to the Presbyterian Church (to warm up, and also where the worship service was being held). It was not a long walk, but the cold made it harder. As we walked up the hill to the church, I heard some of the college students say that their parents remind them that in their day they walked to and from school, in the snow, and uphill both ways. I said, "Your parents are speaking the truth, and our waterproof gear was plastic bags (usually bread bags) over our shoes." But the morning exchanges, prayers, and speeches left me thinking about the Civil Rights movement.

One of the town officials shared Dr. King's quote about being judged by the content of our character. As a follower of Christ, I believe that all people are made in the image of God. Donna Hicks calls this dignity, which she says is a birthright. She says to approach people as being neither inferior nor superior to you. Give others the freedom to express their authentic selves without fear of being negatively judged. Assume that others have integrity. This is where Dr. King helps, because people will reveal the content of their character. Part of the struggle is maintaining our dignity, while calling on others to remember theirs. It is often during times of trial and tribulation, resistance, and hardship that our character reveals itself.

During the Civil Rights Movement, the content of many people's characters was revealed. For instance, the Montgomery bus boycott, a 13-month protest against racial segregation on the public bus system in Montgomery, Alabama, from December 5, 1955 to December 20, 1956. The character of the community was revealed. Something about you is revealed when you walk, in all kinds of weather, for 13 months. Something about you is revealed when you offer rides, allow people to be late for work, or walk through aches and pains because that is what is needed for progress. Something about you is revealed when you yell, spit, turn a blind eye, or stand in the way of those protesting.

This day is a day to pause and reflect upon our own character. Would we be able to walk for 13 months and stand in solidarity with a movement? Are we the people we say we are? Do we honor our dignity and the dignity of others?

**Peace, Pastor Leah**

## 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  
Anne Millis – Clerk of Session

### Session

Session meets every  
3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 10am

Presently serving  
Ruling Elders:

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

## Session Briefs

At its Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting, the Session discussed several issues. The following is a brief overview:

- Anne Millis was elected as Clerk of Session and Kae Hoyle was elected to be Treasurer again in 2025
- Thank yous read from Jean Morris, House of Concern and Jay Hoyle; received letter from Habitat for Humanity of Seneca County asking for donations - Session approved \$1,000 donation in memory of President Jimmy Carter
- James and Diana Hinman requested approval of transfer from Romulus Church to First Pres of Seneca Falls; this was approved
- Treasurer's report for November was received from Treasurer Kae H., showing Total Revenue of \$15,593.31 and Total Expenditures of \$25,516.06
- Pastor Leah reported that she conducted service and gave Communion at Huntington; she will also become Chaplain for Seneca County Correctional Facility and will lead a service each week
- Session will watch a training video for Ruling Elders, which will be discussed at February meeting
- Chaperones are needed for Youth Group Events
- Youth here at First Pres who are eligible for Confirmation do not want to attend classes in Geneva; we will check to see if Matthew 25 has a program
- Susan Sholar was elected to serve as Commissioner to the Presbytery
- Kae Hoyle and David Hall will be installed as Ruling Elders on Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup>
- Jim Clark discussed state of crash bars on front and back doors - HP door opening not working properly on back door; Session moved to fix the doors, with set limit of \$1,000
- Some stained-glass windows will be restored, tentatively February - July; not sure what will replace windows while they are missing
- Annual Meeting on January 26<sup>th</sup>, with luncheon to follow

*Submitted by Anne Millis, Clerk of the Session*

**The next meeting of the Session will be held on Thursday,  
February 20<sup>th</sup> at 10am**



**Barb Wagener - 2/09  
Elizabeth Lohr Olmstead - 2/17  
Susan Sholar - 2/20  
Jan Day - 2/29**

## 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



## Women's Circle

Meets on Monday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 12:30pm

Bring your lunches and we'll chat for awhile before we begin our book discussion. The holidays are behind us, and we haven't talked about *Breathing Under Water; Spirituality and the Twelve Steps* since November so we may like to review what we've already read and then read one or two more chapters before Monday's meeting.

If someone would come prepared to give our **opening prayer** and one of you could share something of a **cultural diversity** nature, that would be great.

It looks like we still have some money in our account. It was good to see in the church Annual Report for 2024 that we shared a good amount of what we had with people and places "near and far," as Barb reported. Joyce will check with the **House of Concern** to hear if they have any urgent needs at this time. **Again, we sincerely thank everyone in the congregation who donated to the Christmas collection of infant and toddler diapers.** People at the House said in December that donations of **infant formula** are welcomed and asked that we always look for expiration dates on the containers. Sometimes they've received formula bearing dates they're unable to offer to clients.

### House of Concern Special Item for FEBRUARY is SOUPS

**All packaged and canned foods are always welcomed, along with items for the NEEDS ROOM (personal care, cleaning products, paper towels, etc.)**

We've all read and seen film footage of the **devastating fire which took place in neighboring Ovid, NY last week.** Let's think of how Circle might help in some way. People in the apartments over the Ovid Big M have lost clothing, furniture, and other belongings; the whole town has lost its supermarket and a popular coffee shop. Let's keep everyone in our prayers, as well.

*Come Join Us, and*

*Check out the link below to the Presbyterian Women  
Website*

<https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/who-we-are/our-purpose/>

## Church Family News

- As Pastor Leah discussed in the Pastor's Corner, the Youth Group participated in the 54<sup>th</sup> Annual MLK March, held in Geneva on Monday, January 20<sup>th</sup>. See some additional photos below - it was COLD.



- **The Annual Meeting** was held on Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup> in the sanctuary, right after the worship service. The Pastor's Terms of Service were renewed, the Treasurer gave her report, the 2025 Budget was reviewed and approved, and a delicious meal - with many desserts - was served after all official business was finished.
- **Chaplain Service at Seneca County Correctional Facility:** Pastor Leah has been approved to serve as Chaplain and, beginning on Wednesday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, she will be leading a service each week on Wednesdays.
- **Coffee and Conversation:** join Pastor Leah at Café 19 on Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at 10am for a chat with your church friends
- **Youth Group Souper Bowl Sunday:** please be sure to bring in your donations for Souper Bowl Sunday by Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>. The Youth Group will meet at UMC on that day from 2pm to 4pm and will deliver the soups to the House of Concern. Thanks very much in advance!



# ANNUAL MEETING



**Youth Group Hang Out and Game Night:** on Friday, February 28<sup>th</sup> the Youth Group will meet to Hang Out with their friends, 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.



## Worship Schedule

Join us online: [www.fpressf.com](http://www.fpressf.com) on our YouTube Channel

February 2<sup>nd</sup> - Communion - Psalm 92; Luke 6:1-16.

February 9<sup>th</sup> - Psalm 119:105-107; Luke 7:1-17.

February 16<sup>th</sup> - Psalm 146:5-10; Luke 7:18-35.

February 23<sup>rd</sup> - Psalm 103:3-6; Luke 7:36-50.

March 2<sup>nd</sup> - Communion - Psalm 36:5-10; Luke 9:28-45.



February 2<sup>nd</sup> - Anne Millis

February 9<sup>th</sup> - Barry Porsch

February 16<sup>th</sup> - Marion Crull

February 23<sup>rd</sup> - Ginny Konz

March 2<sup>nd</sup> - Susan Sholar



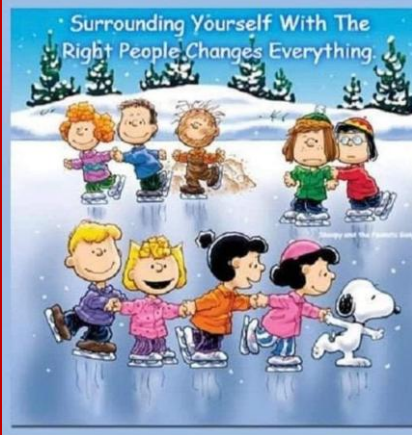
February 2<sup>nd</sup> - Ginny Konz

February 9<sup>th</sup> - Susan Sholar

February 16<sup>th</sup> - Carol Millis

February 23<sup>rd</sup> - Marion Crull

March 2<sup>nd</sup> - Ginny Konz



## Coffee Hours



**February 2<sup>nd</sup>:** No Coffee Hour - Committee Meetings

**February 9<sup>th</sup>:** Valentine Sunday

**February 16<sup>th</sup>:** PC(USA) Constitution on Building Congregational Vitality, Matthew 25

**February 23<sup>rd</sup>:** PC(USA) Constitution on Dismantling Structural Racism, Matthew 25

**March 2<sup>nd</sup>:** No Coffee Hour - Committee Meetings



**To Keep in Our Prayers:** all those affected by the recent fire in Ovid; Kathleen Albert; Reatha Bishop; Robin Blundon; Jennifer Colbert; Peter Crego; Marion Crull; Cindy Danielson; Carl Feltus; Joanna Fuller; Diane and Cal Goodman; Pat Gordon; Gerry Gray; Rev. Deborah Grohman; Amy Guarino; Tori Guerina; Crystal Hanes; the family of Tammy Hartman; Cindy Hinman-Cosola; Susan Horton; Walt Hoyle; Bea Jones; the Jopek family; our Law Enforcement Officers, Firefighters and EMTs; Bob Lamphere; Josh Lenard; Stephanie Lesinski; Ronnie Lobdell; Wayne Lohr; the Lopez 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; 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**



Building Congregational Vitality

Dismantling Structural Racism

Eradicating Systemic Poverty

FIRST PRES OF SENECA FALLS  
A MATTHEW 25 CHURCH!

I HOPE THIS WINTER  
BRINGS YOU

Patience to grow at your own pace

Forgiveness for your past mistakes

Confidence to conquer uncertainty

Gratitude for people in your life

Clarity of what you need and don't

Courage to step up and evolve

OurMindfullife.com



PRESBYTERY OF GENEVA

# SMALL CHURCH GATHERING

An online discussion for fellowship and sharing

**TUESDAY FEBRUARY 4 10:30 AM** | **ZOOM**

MEETING ID: 830 2565 2747  
PASSCODE: 274302

We hope you will join us!



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

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

