

**November
2024**

Inside This Issue:

Pastor's Corner -1

Reminders -1

Contact List - 2

Session Briefs - 2

Birthday List -2

Women's Circle -3

Members to Keep in
our Thoughts - 3

Church Family
News -4

Worship Schedule -5

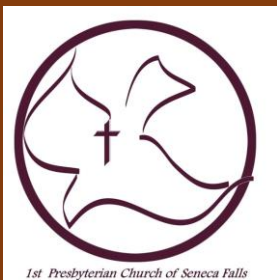
Liturgist List – 5

Coffee Hour -6

Prayer List – 6

Other News -7

Calendar -Insert



December
Newsletter Articles
Are Due on November 25th

The First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls Pastor's Corner



Dearest Church Family:

October was Pastor Appreciation Month, so November **must** be Congregation Appreciation Month. Thank you so much for the cake, the cards, the kind words, and the gifts. It was AMAZING!!!! So, I wanted to take a moment to thank you for all you do, but I will highlight a few.

- ◆ Thank you for constantly learning new hymns. I know none of us really enjoy this, but it is great for our brain health and our faith development. If nothing else, it makes us have a deeper appreciation for the hymns we love!
- ◆ Thank you for volunteering. Bringing in items for HOC, helping to chaperone a youth event, baking cookies, reading a scripture, decorating the church, hosting a coffee hour, hanging out in the nursery, changing a light bulb, weeding a garden, or straightening the pews. For all of this and more, thank you!!!
- ◆ Thank you for continuing to be welcoming and compassionate, even as you disagree. Conflict is inevitable, but I can't thank you enough for working through the conflict toward reconciliation. It is truly a gift.
- ◆ Thank you for being community. You are always opening the space to people and groups, and it is incredible!
- ◆ Thank you for showing up week in and week out. It is a joy to see you.
- ◆ Thank you for taking risks. You try new things, adapt, and grow. You have helped me to grow immensely as a child of God.
- ◆ Thank you all for bravely being you. For shining your light into the world and encouraging others to do the same.

You are the best and it is an honor to walk alongside of you all in service of God.

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

Susan Sholar – Clerk of Session

Session

Session meets every
3rd Thursday at 10am

Presently serving
Ruling Elders:

Jim Clark, Marion Crull, Dick

Damaske, Susan Derr,

Jay Hoyle, Ginny Konz,

Anne Millis and Susan Sholar

Session Briefs

At its Thursday, October 10th Meeting, the Session discussed several issues. The following is a brief overview:

- Session voted that Anne Millis will act as Clerk Pro Tem
- Session approved placement of a ¼-inch ad in the Mynderse High School 2025 Yearbook
- Treasurer’s report for September was received from Treasurer Kae Hoyle, showing Total Revenue of \$15,141.39 and Total Expenditures of \$20,293.79
- Pastor Leah reported upcoming dates for GAPJC and discussed her final seminar project - the sermon for October 20th will be pre-recorded, as she will be at the GAPJC meeting in Louisville
- Outreach Summit meeting will be held on October 22nd at 4:30pm
- Chaperones needed for the Youth Group Event on October 25th
- Suggestions were made for next Random Act of Kindness
- Results of the Mission Management Audit were reviewed
- Outreach committee discussed flipping rundown houses to create more housing; Susan Sholar will speak with Ithaca Housing and Habitat for Humanity regarding ideas and assistance
- Discussion was held about low attendance at Game Night
- Personnel Committee to choose date for employee reviews
- Received report about tree removal at Eastman Hall (day care given a grant); taller fencing and artificial turf to be installed
- Received \$17,000 matching grant from Sacred Sites, to be used to restore windows: two stained glass windows in sanctuary first
- Stewardship Letters were mailed after approval of Pastor Leah’s project - sermons and Coffee Hour presentations to be given
- Will now sing three hymns during Sunday service; World Communion will be celebrated; will do setup for Advent on November 24th; Community Advent Carol Singing on December 8th at 3pm
- Session approved purchase of meditation seating, with a roof and solar powered lighting for Memorial Garden
- Discussed going from nine to six Elders, due to decrease in membership; Congregation will vote at Congregational Meeting on November 17th.

The next meeting of the Session will be held on Thursday, November 21st at 10am



Lindsey Gee - 11/15
Keara Dugan - 11/18
Dave Kain - 11/25
Sarah Walsh - 11/29
Laurie Weller - 11/30

Members and Friends to Keep in Our Thoughts

Joanne Elyseev
Living Center at Geneva
North
75 Mason Street, Room 138
Geneva, NY 14456

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, November 4th at 12:30pm in the Hawley Room

At last month's meeting members discussed the many tragic political and humanitarian situations around the globe and how we as Presbyterian Women might honor our commitment to support the mission of the church worldwide.

We talked about Israel, Gaza, Palestinians, Ukraine, Sudan, Haiti, hurricanes, and on-going needs in our town, county, and country. Barb told about her granddaughter in North Carolina, now out of the job she'd just begun, because the hurricane had flooded and ravaged the area.

We looked at our new study book, *Breathing Under Water. Spirituality and the Twelve Steps* by Richard Rohr. It's a book about addictions and of the many forms they can take. Barb read the poem upon which, Father Rohr based his book: "Breathing Under Water", by Carol Bieleck, R.S.C.J.

Joyce gave some background information about one of the creators of *The 12 Steps*, Bill Wilson. He founded AA or Alcoholics Anonymous, in 1935. It became an international mutual aid program supporting recovery from substance, behavioral, and compulsion addictions.

There is a thirteen-page *Introduction*, which we read last month and for discussion in November, we'll have read Chapters 1 & 2.

Barb hadn't totaled up all the deposits to Circle's treasury, but said we could well afford to make some donations to worthy causes. We agreed to send \$150 to **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance**. Ginny would find a contact address for the **World Food Kitchen** and we will send a donation there. Joyce will contact St. Michael's Antiochian Orthodox Church to ask how we may assist **Palestinians**.

Ruby will offer the opening prayer at the November meeting and Barb will have something of cultural diversity interest.

We thank people in the congregation who help fill the Neighbors in Need baskets each month and those who often make a cash donation to Circle on Communion Sundays!

In NOVEMBER, PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING NON-FOODS to the House of Concern

All packaged or canned FOOD items are always appreciated, every month. Non-foods items such as dish & laundry detergents, personal care items, paper products, household cleaning products, and toddler diapers are always needed.

***"And let us not grow weary while doing good,
For in due season we will reap,
If we do not give up."***

~ The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Galatians 6:9 ~

Church Family News

- **Stewardship Letters for 2025** were sent out, and information in the Stewardship letters will be used as part of Pastor Leah's project methodology for her sermon series. Don't forget to bring your pledge forms to church by **November 17th**. Thank you!
- **2024 Congregational Meeting** - The Session has called a meeting of the Congregation of the First Presbyterian Society and Church of Seneca Falls, NY on **Sunday, November 17, 2024**, for the purpose of electing two Elders for three-year terms, to begin in January 2025, and to update the Bylaws to reduce the number of Elders serving on the Session from 9 to 6.
- **Monthly Coffee and Conversation** - please put **Tuesday, November 22nd** at 10am on your calendar, and plan to come by to visit with your church friends and enjoy your favorite beverage.
- **"The Hangout"** - the next get-together will be on **Friday, October 25th**; Middle Schoolers will be there from 6pm to 8pm, and High School students from 8:30pm to 10pm. Play games, eat snacks and hang out with your pals.
- **Community Thanksgiving Dinner at the Elks Lodge, Thursday, November 28th** - First Pres is being asked to provide the following for the Thanksgiving Dinner: eight cans of spray-on oil; 45 pounds of sugar; 16 pounds of flour and 18 pounds of brown sugar. **Please bring your donations to the church by Sunday, November 17th.**
- We will be putting up the **Advent Decorations on Sunday, November 24th** after the worship service, and we need your skills.
- **The COVID Memorial** has received a beautiful update, thanks to Anne and Carol Millis. Please be sure to stop by our **Memorial Garden** and admire their handiwork.

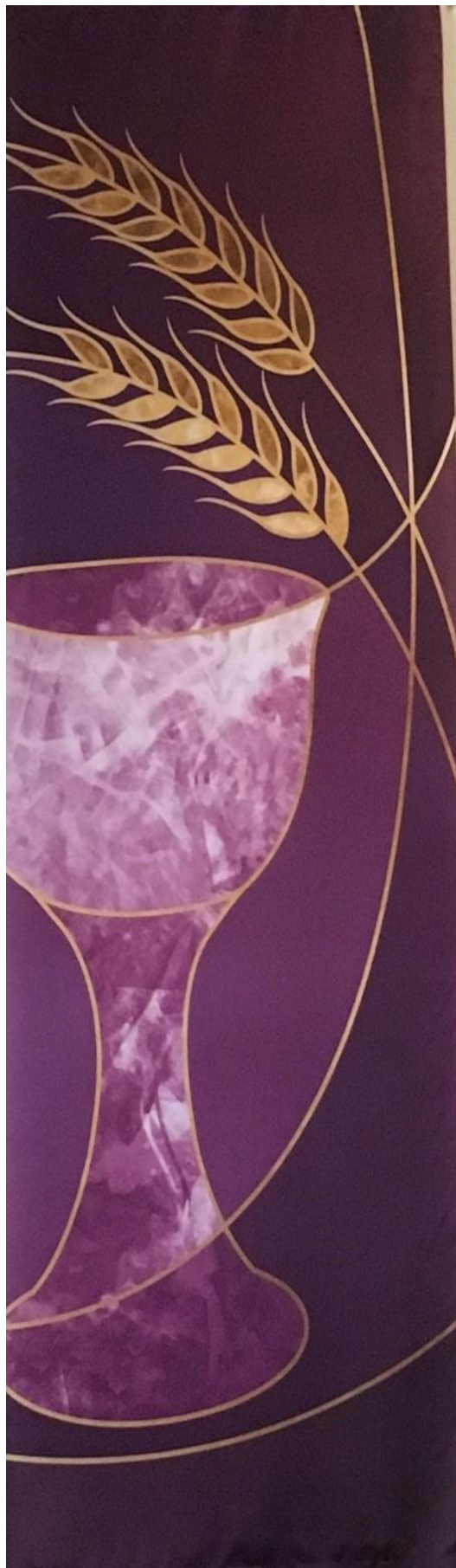


Varsity Chorus is going to NYC!
 Twenty-five students, grades 10-12, and 4 adults will be performing
 A Vision Unfolding in a chorus of 150 people on March 16, 2025 at Carnegie Hall

Thank you to the following organizations and individuals who have generously donated to the Chorus NYC Trip:

Benefactors (\$10,000+) The Bonafiglia Foundation	Producers (\$250+) Generations Bank	Ensembles (\$25+) Mindy Dvornik Dewey Fleener Emily James Marissa Lorenzetti Anna Luisa Ellis Lauri Nigro Mekhi Russ
Angels (\$5,000+) The First Presbyterian Church	Conductors (\$100+) Annette Bochert John Campbell David & Lisa Fitzgerald Anonymous	Soloist (\$5+) Joy & Glen Braunfeld Rachael Bardick Dana Colvin Tom Eide Emmerich Hauf Mya Soto
Superstars (\$1,000+) Mary & Paul Luisi It's a Wonderful Run SF Rotary Upstate Construction Company	Composers (\$50+) Valerie Bean Brad Benson Nick Bessette Kaylee Earner Maria Fowler Sharon Haut Denise Lorenzetti Carrine Tilton	
Stars (\$500+) SMS		

Mynderse Varsity Chorus is going to NYC – and First Pres is an ANGEL DONOR!



Worship Schedule

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

November 3rd - Communion - Acts 6:1-7; Revelation 13.

November 10th - Isaiah 11:2-3; Romans 5:1-15.

November 17th - Leviticus 19:13; Proverbs 22:22; 1 Peter 4:1-11.

November 24th - Deuteronomy 6:5; Philippians 2:5-11.

December 1st - First Sunday of Advent - Communion - Jeremiah 33:14-18; Mark 8:27-29.



November 3rd - Barb Van Kirk
November 10th - Marion Crull
November 17th - Susan Sholar
November 24th - Anne Millis
December 1st - Carol Millis



November 3rd - Sue Derr
November 10th - Anne Millis
November 17th - Ginny Konz
November 24th - Carol Millis
December 1st - Sue Sholar



Coffee Hours



November 3rd - Asset Gathering - Rev. Leah Ntuala
November 10th - Spiritual Gifts - Rev. Leah Ntuala
November 17th - Stewardship Recap - Rev. Leah Ntuala
November 24th - Advent Decorating
December 1st - Committee Meetings



To Keep in Our Prayers: Kathleen Albert; Reatha Bishop; Robin Blundon; Jennifer Colbert; Peter Crego; Cindy Danielson; Joanne Elysée; 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; Bea Jones; the Jopek family; our Law Enforcement Officers, Firefighters and EMTs; Bob Lamphere; Josh Lenard; Stephanie Lesinski; the Lobdell family; the Lopez family; Kim Martin; Ken Mell; Tyler Morgan; Roger Morin; Timothy Mosher; Jinny Noone; Joy Novack; Linda Parker; Paula Paxton; Gene and Dean Potter; the family of Elaine Ritter; Justine Saunders; Mary Sceney; Dale Shaw; 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!

Other News in the Presbytery

Find holidays difficult?

Join us - as often as you like - for a time of expressive writing

Monday Nov 25 6pm-8pm
Meeting ID: 864 2480 6802
Passcode: 621918

Tuesday Nov 26 10am-Noon
Meeting ID: 865 9239 9395
Passcode: 450086

Monday Dec 16 6pm-8pm
Meeting ID: 897 8088 0609
Passcode: 410057

Thursday Dec 19 1pm-3pm
Meeting ID: 829 4662 3774
Passcode: 143894

*For information about this approach to writing, see
<https://amherstwriters.org/what-to-expect/>*



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

Happy Thanksgiving to you, a fearfully and wonderfully made child of God:

