

April
2025

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

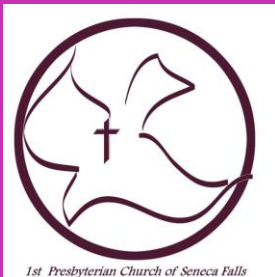
Liturgist List – 5

Coffee Hour -6

Prayer List – 6

Other News -7

Calendar -Insert



1st Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls



May
Newsletter Articles
Are Due on April 24th

The First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls

Pastor's Corner



Steps of Visio Divina

Visio (look): Gaze at the image or object. Place yourself in the scene. Be aware of what strikes you.

Meditatio (meditate): Be attentive to what God is communicating through words, phrases or questions that arise.

Oratio (prayer): Converse with Jesus "in the secret place of the heart." Depending on the Holy Week image, your prayer may be one of sorrow, adoration or joy.

Contemplatio (contemplation): Rest in God's presence. What have you learned from this time of divine intimacy?

Actio (action): Ask God how to apply what you ² received during the remainder of Lent.

The month of April brings about the ending of the Season of Lent and the beginning of Holy Week and the Easter Season. I wanted to invite everyone to practice, Visio Divina. This is an icon of the Beatitudes from Kelly Latimore.¹

Matthew 5:3-12- The Message: "You're blessed when you're at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule." You're blessed when you feel you've lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you. "You're blessed when you're content with just who you are - no more, no less. That's the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can't be bought. You're blessed when you've worked up a good appetite for God. He's food and drink in the best meal you'll ever eat. "You're blessed when you care. At the moment of being 'care-full,' you find yourselves cared for. "You're blessed when you get your inside world - your mind and heart - put right. Then you can see God in the outside world. "You're blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight. That's when you discover who you really are, and your place in God's family. "You're blessed when your commitment to God provokes persecution. The persecution drives you even deeper into God's kingdom. "Not only that—count yourselves blessed every time people put you down or throw you out or speak lies about you to discredit me. What it means is that the truth is too close for comfort, and they are uncomfortable. You can be glad when that happens - give a cheer, even! for though they don't like it, /do! And all heaven applauds. And know that you are in good company. My prophets and witnesses have always gotten into this kind of trouble.

Gracious Lord, you are the Divine Artist. As I enter my prayer, may I center myself not only on your presence outside of me but also deeply within. As I visually encounter this artwork, may I experience you luring me to a treasure and invitation meant uniquely for me. Make me aware of the inner stirrings from you, and may I respond from the recesses of my soul. Let me simply rest in communion with you. Lord, I want to view all of life through a sacred lens and uncover your messages hidden within creation. Amen.³ (A Lenten Prayer of Meditation by Father J.J. Mech).

Peace, Pastor Leah

¹ <https://kellylatimoreicons.com/pages/gallery>

³ <https://www.unleashthegospel.org/2024/02/how-to-pray-with-sacred-art-during-lent-and-holy-week/#:~:text=Visio%20Divina%20is%20a%20prayer,a%20moving%20Holy%20Week%20experience.>

Contact Us

The First Presbyterian Church of
Seneca Falls, NY

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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
3rd 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



At its Thursday, March 20th Meeting, the Session discussed several issues. The following is a brief overview:

- Clerk read thank you note from Joyce and Wayne Lohr.
- Treasurer's report for February was received from Treasurer Kae H., showing Total Revenue of \$35,275.38 and Total Expenditures of \$16,911.66. The check sent to Habitat for Humanity was sent back - church will send another check.
- Pastor Leah served communion and conducted a service at Huntington on March 2nd and March 11th, and at the jail on March 5th.
- Pastor Leah's DMin paper was approved, and she will graduate in May.
- A volunteer needed to help chaperone the Youth Game Night in "The Hangout" on March 21st, and a lead chaperone will be needed for this event on April 25th, as Pastor Leah will be out of town attending GAPJC.
- Pastor Leah will speak at the Northeast College of Health Sciences graduation ceremony on March 29th.
- One member requested to be removed from church membership. A motion was made and passed.
- Outreach committee reported that the closing of the house purchase will occur on Friday, April 4th, at a cost of \$90,000. The house will in turn be donated to Landbank.
- There will be a brunch after worship on Palm Sunday - soup and sandwiches will be served, and members will provide desserts.
- There was a pipe leak at Eastman Hall and cost to repair was \$950. Covert making modifications to one of the front doors and at the back door of the church. The water heater at the Manse had to be replaced - it was 21 years old.
- Finance Committee met on March 23rd to discuss funding for house purchase.
- All may bring flowers/plants to put in the Sanctuary for Easter Sunday, in memory of a loved one. Please call the office or send information to Laurie.

The next meeting of the Session will be held on Thursday,
April 17th at 10am



Carolyn Seem - 4/05
Ruby Anderson - 4/11
Atticus Ntuala - 4/18
Ginny Konz - 4/22
Simon Ntuala - 4/24
Romona Lobdell - 4/30

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, April 7th at 12:30pm in the Hawley Room

In the March meeting Circle members discussed some of the needs near and far from us. The Youth Group [Presbyterian and United Methodist] had plans for a bowling outing costing \$30 each. Half of this amount would be paid for each bowler from the joint fund of the two churches. And we asked ourselves: could Circle help with a donation? Our treasurer, Barb said our current balance looked a little skimpy, so we decided to each make an individual donation on our own. Barb also told us the check we mailed to New Jersey for relief in Lebanon had not yet posted. We knew there was turmoil in southern Lebanon from Israeli airstrikes targeting Hezbollah. Joyce will call St. Michael's Church in Geneva, which gave us the New Jersey address.

We'll continue discussion of *Breathing Under Water*. Everyone should read chapters 5 and 6. Barb will give an opening prayer. And we look forward to hearing something that will enrich our understanding and knowledge in bridging cultural differences.

**House of Concern Special Item for APRIL is
Breakfast Items**

**We thank everyone who brought canned meats, fish
and other items in March,
and/or made monetary donations.**

The House of Concern



Church Family News



Coffee



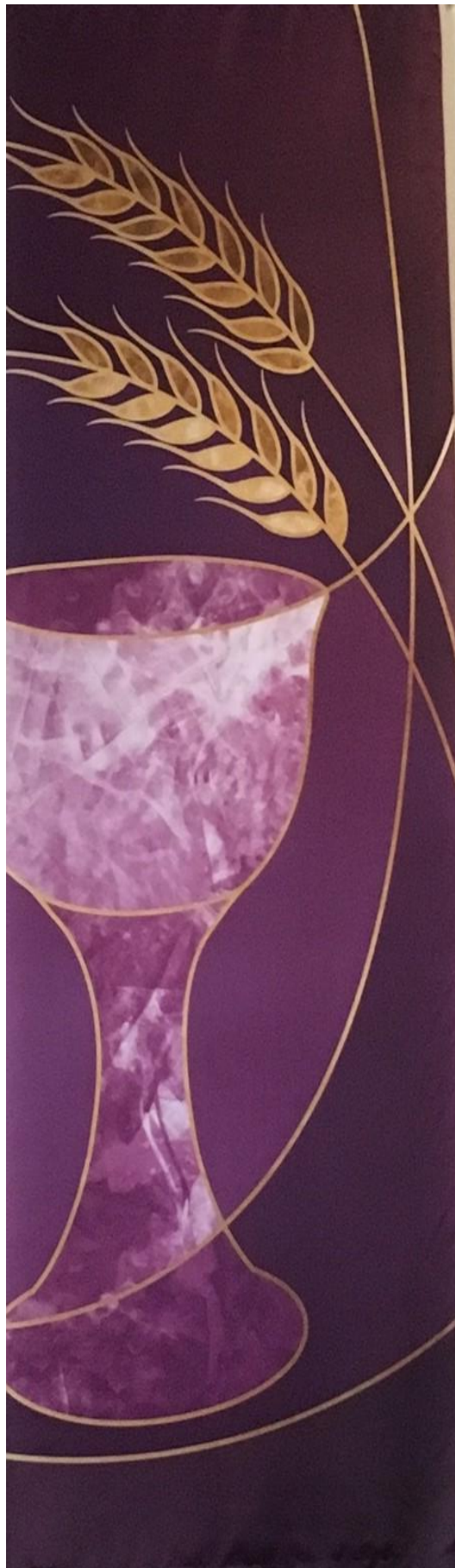
& Conversation



- **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.
- **Our PI DAY sale on March 14th was a big success again this year, with a total of \$1,910 raised.** Our amazing church members baked 125 sweet and savory pies, including apple, peanut butter, mixed berries of all sorts, grasshopper, creamsicle and more. There were also many lovely craft items for sale. **Thanks so much to all who baked, brought, bought and volunteered!**
- **Lunch and Learn Lenten Study will continue until Tuesday, April 15th:** Pastor Leah is leading a study of Kate Bowler's Lenten guide entitled *The Hardest Part*. Bring your lunch and a friend.
- **The Little Black Dress - Angels Among Us:** the Seneca County House of Concern is presenting The Little Black Dress reception and fashion show at the Lux Hotel in Waterloo, on **Friday, April 11th and Saturday, April 12th**. Doors open both days at 10am, and appetizers, raffle baskets and a wine pull will be offered until the show begins at 11am. Tickets are \$40 each or \$320 for a table of 8 and are available for purchase in our Church Office.



- **Easter Flowers:** You may bring in flowers/plants to put in the Sanctuary for Easter Sunday, in memory or honor of a loved one. Please call the office or send the information for the bulletin to Laurie at firstpres13148@gmail.com.
- **Coffee and Conversation:** join Pastor Leah at Café 19 on **Tuesday, April 22nd at 10am** and meet up with your church friends. Order your favorite beverage and maybe even breakfast.
- **On Friday, April 25th, the Youth Group** will once again get together 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.



Worship Schedule

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

April 6th - Communion - Psalm 84:1-4, 10-12; Luke 18:31 - 19:10.

April 13th - Palm Sunday - Psalm 118:19-23; Luke 19:29-44.

April 17th - Maundy Thursday - First Pres, 7pm.

April 18th - Good Friday - United Methodist Church, 12 noon.

April 20th - Easter Sunday - Psalm 118:17, 21-24; Luke 24:1-12.

April 27th - Psalm 30; Luke 24:13-35.

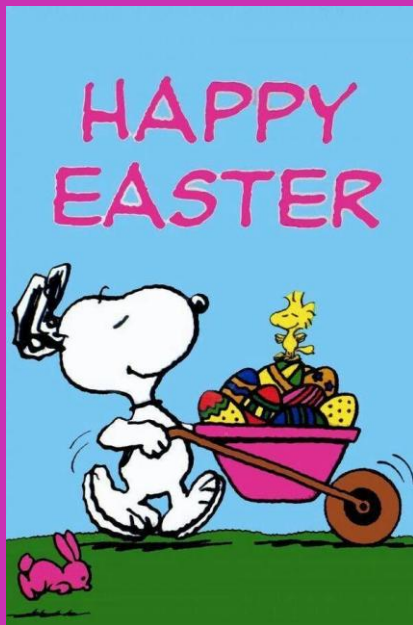
May 4th - Communion - Luke 23:33-34a, 46; Acts 6:1-7:2a, 44-60.



April 6th - Barry Porsch
April 13th - Marion Crull
April 20th - Ginny Konz
April 27th- Dick Damaske
May 4th - Carol Millis



April 6th - Susan Sholar
April 13th - Carol Millis
April 20th - To Be Determined
April 27th- Ginny Konz
May 4th - Zoe Van Kirk



Coffee Hours



April 4th: No Coffee Hour - Committee Meetings

April 13th: No Coffee Hour - Palm Sunday

April 20th: No Coffee Hour - Easter Sunday

April 27th: United Way - Rhonda Jasper

May 4th: No Coffee Hour - Committee Meetings



To Keep in Our Prayers: all those impacted by the recent fire in Ovid; Kathleen Albert; Reatha Bishop; Robin Blundon; Jennifer Colbert; Peter Crego; Cindy Danielson; 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; the Jopek family; 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/resource/cents-abilityguide>.



Building Congregational Vitality
 Dismantling Structural Racism
 Eradicating Systemic Poverty
 FIRST PRES OF SENECA FALLS
 A MATTHEW 25 CHURCH!

Other News...

Sign up by visiting us at <https://www.campwhitman.org/dates-rates>

➤➤➤ **Summer 2025 Registration is OPEN!!!**

Holiday Weekend Family & Community Camps—
 Memorial, Independence and Labor Day weekends

Traditional Youth Summer Camps—Mini-Camp, Trail-blazers, CITs & Trip Camp

Pathfinder Special Needs Adult Camps— 2 June & 2 July sessions

A place of belonging and connection

CAMP WHITMAN
 on Seneca Lake

150 Whitman Rd
 Penn Yan, NY 14527
 Phone: 315-220-0084
 Email: camp@campwhitman.org

Come Participate!

SENECA COUNTY HOUSING STRATEGY

The Seneca County Housing Strategy is a project to move Seneca County and its communities forward on their housing priorities. Through focused guidance on policies, programs, and investments, the strategy will give community leaders the tools they need to improve housing opportunities.

North County Open House
 Tuesday, April 1
 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.
 Seneca Falls Community Center
 35 Water Street, Seneca Falls

South County Open House
 Wednesday, April 2
 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.
 South Seneca High School Gym Atrium
 7263 Main Street, Ovid

Visit one of the open house events in early April to learn more about the project, talk to project representatives, and weigh in on important questions. These are drop-in events where you're welcome to come and go at your own convenience.

www.SCHousingStrategy.org



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

HAPPY EASTER to you, a fearfully and wonderfully made child of God:

