



SEPTEMBER 2026

Pastor's Corner

The 2026-2027 school year is about to begin. This year I have a student who is a Senior. I began my work in this congregation when he was 18 months old and now, he is entering his final year of high school. As he prepares his college applications, I have been reflecting on education, my former and current teachers, and the call to be a life-long learner. I believe all of God's people are called to be life-long learners. We are invited to learn of God in studying all of creation. The world in God's classroom and we are enrolled. I highly value education, both the formal and informal; college and trades, etc. In 2025, NY State put out material called The Portrait of a Graduate. I wanted to share some biblical passages that mirror these core attributes.

Core Attributes of the Portrait	Biblical Pairings
Academically Prepared: Masters state learning standards for lifelong success.	"This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. -Jeremiah 31:33
Creative Innovator: Uses flexible thinking and imagination to solve problems.	"Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you. Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress." -1 Timothy 4:14-15
Critical Thinker: Analyzes data and evaluates evidence across disciplines.	"Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world." -1 John 4:1
Effective Communicator: Expresses thoughts clearly through writing, speech, and media.	"Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry." - James 1:19
Global Citizen: Acts responsibly and ethically within diverse local and global communities.	"And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." -Micah 6:8
Reflective and Future-Focused: Practices self-awareness, goal setting, and responsible decision-making. ¹	"You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness." - Ephesians 4:22-24

To honor our learners and teachers and let them know we are holding them in our prayers, we will have the Blessing of the Backpacks during the worship service on September 6th. To celebrate all of us as life-long learners', worship will be followed by an Ice Cream Social. I hope you will join us and invite others to join us as well. Peace, Pastor Leah

<https://www.nysed.gov/grad-measures/new-york-state-portrait-graduate>

October
News Articles
are due by
9/25

SESSION BRIEFS

Contact US The First Presbyterian Church

of Seneca Falls, NY

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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



Session did not meet in the months of July and August.

The next Session Meeting is scheduled for September 10th at 10am,
in the Social Hall

Building and Property

Over the summer, several approved, budgeted repair projects were either completed or will be started soon.

- Roof - repairs were made to the North Tower of the Church and metal wall coping was replaced on top of the parapet wall at Eastman Hall.
- Exterior Painting - Scraping, sanding, caulking and painting was performed on all previously painted surfaces at the Church and at Eastman Hall, including soffits, dormers, steeple, doors and frames.
- Exterior Masonry and Concrete - this project will begin in September and will include repointing of multiple areas at the Church, including stone to stone, stone to brick and brick to brick. In addition, some brick replacement will be performed.

Below are some action photos of the Roof and Exterior Painting projects - who doesn't love a crane!!



September Birthdays

Michele Edmondson - 9/03

Joy Novack - 9/05

Jessica Seem Walsh - 9/07

Sean Walsh - 9/07

Mike Day - 9/10

Georgeanne Elyseev Hauf - 09/11

Barry Porsch - 9/12

Rita Frankenfield - 9/30





WOMEN'S CIRCLE

Members and Friends
to Keep in Our
Thoughts

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

Wayne Lohr
Huntington Living Center
369 E. Main Street
Waterloo, NY 13165
Room 325

Jean Morris
3094 Andrews Road
Ransomville, NY 14131

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

Please remember
breakfast foods and pasta
as you shop

Also, HOC needs used
blankets, sheets, towels, and
silverware.



We will meet on Monday, September 14th
in the Hawley Room

Been thinking about joining the Women's Circle?

Come, join us...we'd love to have you!

July has come and gone and August is slipping away...there'll still be summer days to enjoy well into September, we hope. September does bring us back to living with more direction and purpose with the start of a school year and a return to organizations, boards and committees.

Those of us who had the means and the energy, took trips. And some of us stayed at home alone or entertained housefuls of guests. In any case, we all took a break from our "school year" schedules.

Let's all make an effort now to return...with renewed vigor!

At the upcoming meeting we'll look at the books Pastor Leah talked about in the summer newsletter: *The Quest of the Historical Jesus*, *Nag Hammadi*, *The Complete Gospels*, and *The Other Gospels*. She may have enough copies for one or more of these books for Circle to read of we choose. We'll also consider books or authors Circle members may be suggesting.

In response to the devastating earthquakes in Venezuela and Columbia, present Circle members have agreed to send a generous check to Presbyterian Disaster Relief. We can decide on an amount when Barb gives a treasury report. The rescue and clean-up work is sure to go on for a good while.

Everyone who made a point of donating snack items and spaghetti sauce for our needy neighbors in the House of Concern baskets over the summer is sincerely thanked! The spaghetti sauce shortage subsided in late July we were told. Snacks, snacks and more snacks appeared in our baskets all summer and we delivered them in July and recently in August. (Thanks to Lou Lobdell for helping to load them into our car!)

HOUSE OF CONCERN special item for SEPTEMBER
is BREAKFAST CEREALS

All packaged and canned food items are welcomed
year-round, along with toddler diapers, cleaning and personal
care products.

*Please check the sell-by dates on food items
and dispose of them if too old

*Our thanks to those who
Make monetary donations
On Communion Sundays
And at other times.*



Please remember:

*"Neighbor is not a geographic term. It is a
moral concept."*

Rabbi Joachim Prinz



CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Hamilton College Visit - once again this year, First Pres was delighted to host a group of first year students and two student leaders who are part of the American Freedom orientation trip sponsored by Hamilton College. Because this was also a service-oriented trip for them, the students offered to do a service project for us. Below please see them in action, putting a fresh coat of paint on our fence. Courtesy of Jim Clark, the group was also able to relax and recover from their hard work at Jim's camp over on Cayuga Lake.



Ice Cream Social - on Sunday, September 6th we'll be saying goodbye to summer with an Ice Cream Social right after worship. Please be sure to join us.

Coffee and Conversation - plan to be at Cafe 19 on Tuesday, September 22nd at 10am and have some coffee, a snack and a chat with your church gang.



SFYG Presents

THE HANGOUT

YOUTH GAME NIGHT

Play your favorite video or board game, sing karaoke, eat snacks, spend time with friends and meet new people!

SEPT 11, 2026
MIDDLE SCHOOL 6-8
HIGH SCHOOL 8-10

1st Presbyterian Church
23 Cayuga St, Seneca Falls

Hosted by: Seneca Falls Youth Group
+315.568.6656 All are welcome!
www.fpressf.com

BACK-TO-SCHOOL PRAYER

Lord, we lift up our students, teachers, and administrators as they begin this new school year. Grant the students wisdom, focus, and the courage to be their best selves. Bless the teachers with patience, creativity, and strength to inspire. Guide the administrators with clarity, fairness, and a heart for service. Surround every school with safety, unity, and joy. May this year be filled with growth, learning, and kindness for all.

Amen.

Amen

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

September 6 - Communion - Genesis 1:1-2:4a; John 1:1-5 - C

September 13 - Genesis 21:1-3, Genesis 22:1-14; John 1:29

September 20 - Genesis 27:1-4, 15-23; Genesis 20:10-17, John 1: 50-51

September 27 - Exodus 2:23-25, 1-15; Exodus 4:10-17, John 8:58

October 4 - Exodus 16:1-18; John 6:51



LITURGISTS

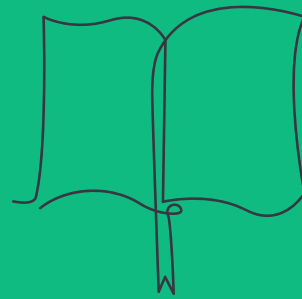
September 6 - Sue Derr

September 13 - Carol Millis

September 20 - Anne Millis

September 27 - Shauna O'Toole

October 4 - Ginny Konz



GREETERS

September 6 - Jim Hinman and David Hall

September 13 - Susan Derr

September 20 - Christina Lopez and Paul Dill

September 27 - Louis and Romona Lobdell

October 4 - Anne Millis and Ginny Konz



NURSERY

September 6 - Ginny Konz

September 13 - Carol Millis

September 20 - Marion Crull

September 27 - Zoe Van Kirk

October 4 - Anne Millis



COFFEE HOURS



September 6 - Committee Meetings

September 13 - Pastor Leah in South Korea

September 20 - Four Phases of Retirement TED Talk

September 27 - AI Data TED Talk

October 4 - Committee Meetings

If you have any suggestions for Coffee Hour Programs, please contact Sue Derr!

TO KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS

Kathleen Albert; Reatha Bishop; Lori and Steve Clayton; Jennifer Colbert; Matthew Cramer's Dad; Peter Crego; Cindy Danielson; Six Anthony Davison; Joanie Duval; Carl Feltus; Rita Frankenfield; Joanna Fuller; Diane and Cal Goodman; Pat Gordon; Gerald Gray; Amy Guarino; Tori Guerina; Crystal Hanes; Cindy Hinman-Cosola; Shannon Hoyle; 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; Fred Morganti; Roger Morin; Timothy Mosher; Joy and Paul Novack; Linda Parker; Paula Paxton; Gene and Dean Potter; Susan Sholar; Nora Sibley; the Trivedi family; Shelley Vanderbogart; Lori Varallo; Robert Wagner; Linda Warner; Darryl Wells; 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...

Presbyterian News Service

'Evicting the American Dream' wins documentary film award Honor lifts up filmmakers whose work addresses critical issues

LOUISVILLE - A Presbyterian Church (USA) documentary examining the root causes and systems that lead children and families to be evicted from their homes has earned an Award of Excellence from the IMPACT DOCS Awards.

The international award for 'Evicting the American Dream' follows the March 2025 release of the film written and directed by David Barnhart, who co-produced the documentary with sociologist Dr. Katherine Rowell, a professor emeritus of Sinclair Community College in Dayton, Ohio.

The documentary, which has been seen by thousands of people in grassroots screenings around the country and is also available through streaming, is a project of Counter Stories Productions, the Story Ministry of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. The creative team behind it joins a host of other winners tackling tough topics, from the war in Gaza to disability issues.

IMPACT DOCS' mission "is to support and promote filmmakers who are making a difference in the critical issues of our times through producing impactful documentaries and who are inspiring and entertaining audiences with their stories," the award website notes.

'Evicting the American Dream' delves into the systemic issues and insidious practices that often lead to families being forced out of their homes and into unsafe housing conditions. The voices of experts are juxtaposed with those of children describing the impact of eviction and describing their dreams of better housing.

"We are honored to have 'Evicting the American Dream' be selected for an Award of Excellence from the IMPACT DOCS Awards," Barnhart said. These awards focus on the power of documentary film and how it is a resource in movements for change, which has always been our hope for this film."

Rowell, a Del Mar Encore Fellow of the Dayton Foundation, noted that the film is a vehicle for amplifying the voices of marginalized people.

"Documentaries are increasingly an important medium for uplifting voices from communities that are often not represented," she said. "The story of eviction and housing injustice is a long story of historical injustice. This film offers a compelling story that inspires action."

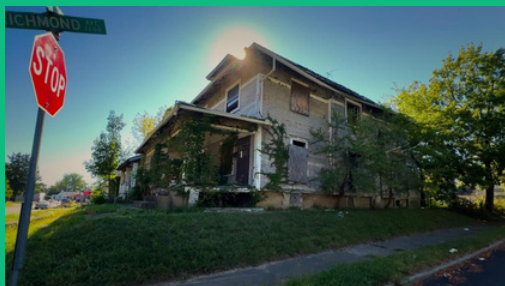
It's important to remember that "we can reduce evictions and family homelessness," she said. "Policy change is happening and possible. Receiving an impact award elevates and supports further impact of the film."

The documentary was mostly filmed in Dayton, where community partners helped to lead and shape the project.

"Filmmaking is deeply rooted in relationships and listening, and we feel that this award is both a celebration and recognition of the 'community' that came together around this film to amplify the voices and counter stories of children and families - while collectively working together for change," Barnhart said. "We are deeply grateful to all who have worked with us and come alongside this film over the years and are celebrating this with that community."

To watch the trailer or sign up to receive updates on grassroots screenings, visit pcusa.org/evicting. You can watch the whole film on [Amazon Prime](#) and Roku.

Counter Stories Productions will soon release a new feature film based on the "Trouble the Water" series about race and racism and continues filming documentaries focused on gun violence prevention and environmental racism.





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

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

