

January
2025

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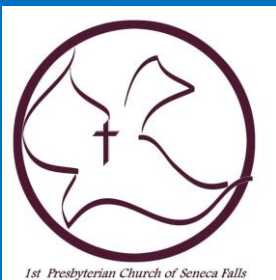
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February
Newsletter Articles
Are Due on January 27th

The First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls Pastor's Corner



My dear friends, we must love each other. Love comes from God, and when we love each other, it shows we have been given new life. We are now God's children, and we know him. God is love, and anyone who doesn't love others has never known him. God showed his love for us when he sent his only Son into the world to give us life. Real love isn't our love for God, but his love for us. God sent his Son to be the sacrifice by which our sins are forgiven. Dear friends, since God loved us this much, we must love each other. -1 John 4:7-11

Happy New Year!

The season of waiting is over, and the season of love has begun. The Broadway musical *Rent* reminds us in the song *Seasons of Love*: "525,600 minutes, How do you measure, measure a year? In daylights, in sunsets, in midnights, in cups of coffee, In inches, in miles, in laughter, in strife. In 525,600 minutes, How do you measure a year in the life? How about love? Measure in love. Seasons of love."

Would the Year 2025 be different if we think of it as a Season of Love? A year where because we know God loved us this much, we MUST love another. Not we *shall* love one another, but we MUST. This is non-negotiable. God doesn't care if we want to love another or how difficult it might be to love one another. God trusts we will figure it out, but we must love one another. How are you going to love for the 525,600 minutes of 2025?

Would the Year 2025 be different if we think of it as a Season of Love? A year where because we know God loved us this much, we MUST love another. Not we *shall* love one another, but we MUST. This is non-negotiable. God doesn't care if we want to love another or how difficult it might be to love one another. God trusts we will figure it out, but we must love one another. How are you going to love for the 525,600 minutes of 2025?

If we follow the example of Jesus, the example of love God shows us, then a season of love would proclaim good news to the poor, proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind. A season of love would *set the oppressed free and proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. (Luke 4)* A season of love would be revolutionary. A season of love would be transformative. A season of love would be lifesaving.

I invite us all to spend some time at the start of 2025 thinking about the Resolution to love. Let us spend time answering the question: How are you going to love for the 525,600 minutes of 2025?

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 pro tem 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, December 19th Meeting, the Session discussed several issues. The following is a brief overview:

- Clerk read thank you note from House of Concern and a note from Bob Seem
- Letter read from Camp Whitman Committee regarding new personnel and requesting donation; Session approved \$250 donation
- Treasurer's report for November was received from Treasurer Kae H., showing Total Revenue of \$13,484.66 and Total Expenditures of \$13,402.36
- First Draft of 2025 Budget was reviewed
- Discussion of Building Usage policies will occur in April/May Session meetings
- Ginny K. made motion for Baptism to occur on Christmas; motion seconded by Dick Damaske and approved
- Pastor Leah made motion to remove Joanne Elyséev from membership roll due to death; motion seconded and passed
- Marion C. to lead January 5th service, as Pastor Leah will be in Pittsburgh attending DMin classes
- December 21st Blue Christmas service will be held online
- Service on Sunday, December 29th will be pre-recorded
- Chaperones are needed for Youth Event on December 20th
- Pastor Leah will do all readings for Christmas Eve service; people will have choice of flame or battery powered candles
- Annual Meeting and meal to be held on Sunday, January 26th
- Four new security cameras are in place
- Jay H. called members who have not yet submitted 2025 pledges
- Looking for a sub to play music on Sunday, January 12th
- Annual Reports due to Office Manager before January 10th

Submitted by Anne Millis, Clerk pro tem

**The next meeting of the Session will be held on Thursday,
January 16th at 10am**



Iva Lay - 1/01
Honey Gilbert - 1/04
Barbara Lohr - 1/05
Pastor Leah Ntuala - 1/06
Barb Van Kirk - 1/20
David Hall - 1/17
Nancy Rutz - 1/28

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

...will not meet in January...

There were twelve of us gathered on Monday, December 2nd to enjoy Circle's annual Holiday Luncheon. Circle members were joined by Zoe Van Kirk, Peter Snyder, Claire & Dick Damaske, Susan Derr, Laurie Weller, Jim Clark and Pastor Leah.

There was a lovely assortment of food...Baked Squash, Scalloped Potatoes, Corn Pudding, Noodle Casserole, Cabbage Salad, two kinds of Meatloaf (we missed Joanne's special sauce!), delicious Apple Cake and Assorted Nuts along with Coffee, Tea and Cider. Santa stopped by with a bag of gifts: some serious and some funny; and one or two - totally useless!



Pastor Leah shared a favorite of hers, *A Christmas Poem* by Helen Steiner Rice. Regarding her Address Book, Ms. Rice takes special notice of the names listed:

*"...For each name stands for someone who has crossed my path
sometime,
And in the meeting they've become the rhythm in each rhyme
And while it sounds fantastic for me to make this claim,
I really feel that I'm composed of each remembered name."
2nd Verse, *A Christmas Poem*, by Helen Steiner Rice*

There were several packages and boxes of Baby Diapers brought by those attending the luncheon. Toward the end of the month, they would be taken to the House of Concern.

Circle thanks everyone who brings donations for the Neighbors in Need baskets. Items are taken to the House of Concern before the end of each month.

**House of Concern Special Item for JANUARY is
PASTA and SAUCE**

Circle will meet again in February on the first Monday.
We'll continue discussion of the Richard Rohr book.

Come, Join Us!



Church Family News

- On Sunday, December 8th in our sanctuary a **Community Advent Season Celebration** was held, including brass musicians, chorus singers, our handbell choir AND a community Christmas Carol Sing.



- The **Seneca Singers**, led by Dr. Susan Avery, performed here at the church on **Sunday, December 15th**. So wonderful.



- Many members of First Pres gathered at the **Manse Open House** on **Sunday, December 22nd** for fellowship, to admire the lovely Christmas Tree, and enjoy delicious treats.



- **Youth Group Game Night** will be held at "The Hangout" on **Friday, January 17th**; Middle Schoolers will be there from 6pm to 8pm, and High School students from 8:30pm to 10pm. Come on over and spend time with your pals!
- **The Annual Meeting** will be held on Sunday, January 26th in the sanctuary, right after the worship service. The 2025 Budget will be reviewed and approved, and a meal will be served once all official business has been concluded.



Worship Schedule

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

January 5th - Psalm 2:7-8; Luke 2:41-52.

January 12th - Communion - Psalm 51:6-17; Luke 3:1-22.

January 19th - Psalm 146; Luke 4:14-30.

January 26th - Psalm 90:14-17; Luke 5:1-11.

February 2nd - Communion - Psalm 92; Luke 6:1-16.



January 5th - Barb Van Kirk

January 12th - Susan Sholar

January 19th - Anne Millis

January 26th - Carol Millis

February 2nd - Dick Damaske



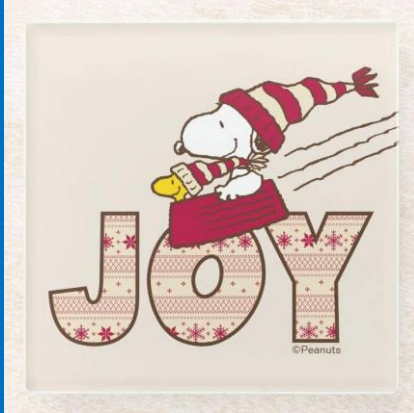
January 5th - Ginny Konz

January 12th - Marion Crull

January 19th - TBD

January 26th - TBD

February 2nd - TBD



Coffee Hours



January 5th: No Coffee Hour - Committee Meetings

January 12th: AI Bible - Pastor Leah

January 19th: DMin Paper Feedback - Pastor Leah

January 26th: No Coffee Hour - Annual Meeting

February 2nd: No Coffee Hour - Committee Meetings



To Keep in Our Prayers: Kathleen Albert; Reatha Bishop; Robin Blundon; the Braun Family; Jennifer Colbert; Peter Crego; Cindy Danielson; 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; Jay Hoyle; Walt Hoyle; Bea Jones; the Jopek family; our Law Enforcement Officers, Firefighters and EMTs; Bob Lamphere; Josh Lenard; Stephanie Lesinski; Ronnie Lobdell; the Lopez family; Kim Martin; Ken Mell; 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!



Welcome our new Administrative Services Provider!

The Operations Committee announces an agreement with North Presbyterian Church, Elmira to provide Administrative Services

We will be contracting with North Presbyterian Church (NPC) for many of the administrative services previously provided by one individual, Elena Delhagen, in the past. There are significant advantages to the Presbytery such as continuity and coverage, use of equipment and supplies, and a contact in the Southern Tier to parallel our PO Box and staff who are largely in the north of the Presbytery. We thank NPC for this imaginative solution!

Our primary contact person for Presbytery Services will be **Gretchen Duffy**, NPC's Office Administrator. She will take over

officeadmin@presbyteryofgeneva.org.

Our Presbytery phone continues to be **315-536-7753** and our general email info@presbyteryofgeneva.org.

Since most of the paper mail we receive is financial, we continue to use

**Presbytery of Geneva
PO Box 24393
Rochester, NY 14624**

because that can be checked by our financial secretary, Cheryl Battaglia (finance@presbyteryofgeneva.org) and Camp Whitman Registration Coordinator, Alena Ragan, who are in the Rochester area.

In short, we have set things up so that congregations, pastoral leaders, treasurers, committee members, and the rest of us will need to make **no changes** in how we direct business to the presbytery. Gretchen and NPC will simply handle it all as professionally and gracefully as ever.



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

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

