NOVEMBER 2026

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December News Articles are due by 11/23

Pastor's Corner

November is a month of gratitude focus, but it can be hard some days, weeks, or moments to focus. When bills pile up, when we are awaiting test results, or dealing with chronic health issues, it can be difficult to find the joy.

So I invite you into a prayer practice, a wellness practice, or a covenant practice, whatever you wish to call it. It is known as a Rainbow Walk. It can be done outside or in your home. It is a practice you can do while sitting in a waiting room or walking the halls at school, work, or the store.

A rainbow is a reminder of God's covenant. It is a promise of God's grace. 'I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth."

So God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all life on the earth."'

-Genesis 9:13-17

So how does one take a Rainbow Walk? Simple. While wallking, take a moment to look around and see the colors of the rainbow. Name the items you see that are ROY G. BIV (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet). Pause and give thanks for whatever it is, for this is how the ordinary becomes extraordinary. Notice what you see for the gift that it is, breath in a remembering God's promise, breath out in thanks.

May this practice help us all to connect with God daily in the month of November. Peace, Pastor Leah



SESSION BRIEFS



At its Thursday, October 8th Meeting, the Session discussed several issues. Below is a brief overview:

- Pastor Leah opened the meeting with a reading and a prayer. A quorum was present; the Agenda and the meeting minutes for September were approved.
- Clerk read thank you notes from the House of Concern, Together for Youth and the Covenant Network of Presbyterians for donations made. Session voted to donate gift cards for the Mynderse Craft Show and Mynderse Blue Box, and $50 was given to the Seneca Falls Fire Department.
- Treasurer Kay Hoyle reported that Seneca County continues to request assistance for people needing assistance with utility bills; Session set a limit of $500 each. Total Revenue $4,821.12 and Total Expenditures $22,060.60.
- Pastor Leah led communion services at for 40 at Huntington. Michele Edmondson served at the Seneca County jail, and lead communion on October 4th for World Communion Sunday as Pastor Leah was away. A motion was passed to remove David Litzenberger from membership as he has passed away. Various meetings attended. She made calls and visitations, and worked with Youth Group at The Hangout and Halloween and Pancake events. An update was given about the Senior student living in a host home in order to keep attending Mynderse, and a motion was approved to donate monies from a youth grant. In addition, $5,000 will go to Seneca Falls Central School District for homeless youth through the school counseling program, and $734.45 will be given to FLACRA.
- Christian Education - scheduling speakers for Coffee Hour.
- Outreach - no report.
- Personnel Committee - no report.
- Building and Property - discussed radiators (two) needed, and creating a door between bell room and sanctuary. Garden work and fence painting done. A new ceiling fan is needed in the Manse. Getting quotes to fix ceilings in the social rooms (Social Hall, Hawley Room, kitchen and hallway).
- Stewardship/Finance - getting the Stewardship letter ready to send out.
- Worship and Music - no report.
- New Business - none.
- Other Business - none.

Meeting next month scheduled for November 12, 2026.

Submitted by Anne Millis, Clerk to the Session.

Contact US

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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 2nd Thursday at 10:30am
Presently serving Ruling Elders:
David Hall, Jim Hinman, Kae Hoyle, Ginny Konz, Anne Millis, Carol Millis and Susan Sholar

November Birthdays

Daryl Frankenfield - 11/07
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

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

Wayne Lohr
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Room 325

Jean Morris
3094 Andrews Road
Ransomville, NY 14131

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

Please remember:
dish & laundry detergents, personal care items, paper goods, household cleaning products, toddler diapers , and canned stews and soups.



WOMEN'S CIRCLE

Will meet on Monday, November 2nd in the Hawley Room, at 12:30 P.M.

Joyce will offer our opening prayer. Ginny will talk about friends of other faiths and Barb will describe how *The Great British Baking Show* has become more ethnically inclusive. We'll talk about the 12 Apostles and listen to more excerpts from The Nag Hammadi Scriptures.

Presbyterian Women of Geneva Presbytery will have its FALL GATHERING on Friday, Nov. 13th at Shortsville First Presbyterian Church beginning with Registration and Coffee at 9:45 a.m. Perhaps some of us will join in this. The featured guest will be The Rev. Holly H. Thompson, the first Native American woman ordained as Minister of Word and Sacrament [Teaching Elder] in the Presbyterian Church [USA]. This year marks the 40th year of her ordination. We need to RSVP by Nov. 6th.

We'll talk further about what Circle will study this winter and spring. We'll hear updates from Ginny and Joyce on the women's shelter in Waterloo and The House of Concern.

In 2025 518,000 Dignity Kits were delivered to women and girls in 40 countries as a project of UNFPA, the United Nations Sexual and Reproductive Health Agency. Circle will discuss making a donation.

HOUSE OF CONCERN special item for NOVEMBER
Is NON-FOOD items [dish & laundry detergents, personal care items, paper goods, household cleaning products and toddler diapers are always needed]
All packaged and canned food items are welcomed year-round.
Thanks! to everyone who answered the call
For Canned Soups and Stews in October
And/or made a $$ donation for Circle work.

"…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 Galations 6:9 -









CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

- All Saints Sunday is November 1st. Please bring pictures of your loved ones to be remembered.
- RE Kelley continues the budgeted exterior work on the Church building, and they will also make some miscellaneous concrete repairs to the front steps.
- Thank you to Jim and Diana Hinman attended the FLACRA Gala on October 22nd on behalf of the First Presbyterian Church.
- The Hangout will meet on Friday, November 13th - Middle Schoolers from 6pm to 8pm and High School from 8pm to 10pm. Come by and bring a friend for snacks and games. The Youth Group will also meet at the United Methodist Church on Sunday, November 15th from 2pm to 4pm.
- Please let Jen Braun know if you wish to play or sing for the Christmas Eve Service.
- Please let Carol Millis know if you wish to play with the Bell Choir for the Christmas Eve Service.
- Please let Pastor Leah know if you are able to read for the Christmas Eve Service.
- Please let Ginny Konz know if you want to Read and Light the Advent Candles during the Season of Advent. Decorating of the church will take place on Sunday November 22nd following the coffee hour.
- Coffee and Conversation: on Tuesday, November 24th at 10am, we'll get together at Café 19 and chat about whatever is happening in our lives on that day. We would love to have you join us.



- We will be helping out with Community Thanksgiving again this year - First Pres will provide a case of butter (1/4 blocks), and 10- 12 bushels of apples. You may bring your donations to the church and they will be delivered to the Elks Lodge. More information to come regarding the dinner!

WORSHIP

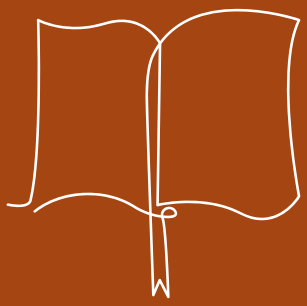
Join us online: www.fpressf.com on our YouTube Channel

November 1 - Communion - 1 Kings 19:1-18 and John 12:27-28
November 8 - Amos 1:1-2, 5:14-15, 5:21-24 and John 7:37-38
November 15 - Isaiah 9:1-7 and John 8:12
November 22 - Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14 and John 14:27
November 29 - First Sunday of Advent - Isaiah 2:1-5 and Matthew 24:36-44
December 6 - Communion - Ezekiel 37:1-14 and John 11:25-26



LITURGISTS

November 1 - Michele Edmondson
November 8 - Dick Damaske
November 15 - Susan Derr
November 22 - Carol Millis
November 29 - Shauna O'Toole
December 6 - Ginny Konz



GREETERS

November 1 - Kae Hoyle and Carol Millis
November 8 - Christina Lopez and Paul Dill
November 15 - Louis and Romona Lobdell
November 22 - Susan Derr
November 29 - Ginny Konz
December 6 - David Hall and Jim Hinman



NURSERY

Anne Millis will be volunteering in the nursery during the month of November!



COFFEE HOURS



November 1 - Committee Meetings
November 8 - *The Sacred Slope* with April Ajoy
November 15 - *The Sacred Slope* with Diana Butler Bass
November 22 - Updates About Town - Sue Derr
November 29 - No Coffee Hour - Thanksgiving
December 6 - 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 famiily; 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





Emily Sajdak, Director of Rural Initiatives for Partners for Sacred Places, was the guest Wednesday for a helpful online gathering put on by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s Office of Faithful Innovation.

After being introduced by DeEtte Decker of the Office of Faithful Innovation, Sajdak cited two statistics clarifying the value that small churches bring to their communities: more than 4 in 5 people who use a sacred place are not members of the congregation, and fully 93% of U.S. congregations are opening their doors to the wider community for such services as food pantries, AA meetings, Girl Scout gatherings and the like.

"These findings demonstrate that older sacred places are vibrant places that benefit the public," she said, but might be "at risk because of their age and their physical condition."

Partners for Sacred Places' "The Economic Halo Effect of Historic Sacred Places," served to "demonstrate that congregations contribute to community and economic life" by sharing space that subsidizes the work of nonprofits, including supporting early childhood education, business incubators and other services dedicated to the public good.

Among the study's eye-popping findings was the average congregation has a $1.7 million annual impact on the community, with nearly $700,000 coming through educational offerings and more than $500,000 in direct spending. "Research offers an alternative to common myths," Sajdak said. "One is that all rural churches in America are in decline. That is actively not the case." Many of the churches Partners for Sacred Places studied "are stable community anchors," she said.

A second myth is that congregations are no longer relevant to their communities. In a follow-up study in 2021, "we looked at 87 congregations that are doing an excellent job caring for their rural members and their communities," Sajdak said. One congregation studied, Franklinton United Methodist Church in North Carolina, had an active membership of 25 in 2021. The pastor was serving two congregations in shared ministry, and yet Franklinton's annual economic impact on its community of 2,000 people was $1.2 million. The church operates an early childhood education program that serves 40 families, has a youth group, and hosts a Girl Scout troop at no cost.

Another North Carolina congregation studied was FaithBridge United Methodist Church in Blowing Rock, which operates Casting Bread food ministry, now in its 20th year. "Over 20 years, the church developed a reputation for compassionately providing to families experiencing food insecurity," Sajdak said. Now a separate nonprofit agency, Casting Bread has three employees and offers people in need both a self-choice market and bakery. It generates $300,000 in annual economic impact and serves about 1,100 households each year.

"We study and advocate for the real intangible value of small and rural congregations," Sajdak said, urging those gathered on the call to "think of your property as having a mission to explore new and creative uses for your space."

"What role does your property play as you engage the community?" she asked. "If you're looking to partner to share your space, having a sense of this can help you find those partners."

West Denmark Lutheran Church in Luck, Wisconsin, is one such place. "They lean into their culture" through participating in the Nordic Churches Project, Sajdak said. These churches, all in the Upper Midwest, receive training, support for repair planning, and capital grants. "The impetus for these churches is they are deeply embedded in their communities, their buildings are significant assets and they provide services to their community," Sajdak said. West Denmark Lutheran Church hosts a week-long fiddle school "that is internationally known," she said, and fiddlers travel from Nordic countries to teach there.

She also told the story of Harshaw Chapel in Murphy, North Carolina. Its building fell into disrepair and church leaders wanted to bring the building back in order to widen its use in the community. A cupola that threatened to collapse the roof was removed, and the church landed modest grants from Partners for Sacred Places and another source, but raised $130,000 on its own to "put the building back into community use," she said.

It can also be a good idea to research families who donated historic fixtures in church, such as stained-glass windows. "Bring them along as you tell your story about what you're doing and casting a vision for who you want to be," Sajdak advised. "These people might be interested in joining you in whatever it is you're trying to do." "If you're up for a research project," she said, "they can be a good base of supporters."



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Grace and Peace to you, a fearfully and wonderfully made child of God:

We're a **Matthew 25** church
pcusa.org/matthew25



Covenant Network of Presbyterians