



First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls

Toward a Church as **GENEROUS**
and **JUST** as God's Grace....



January Newsletter 2018

Inside this issue:	
Session Briefs	2
Looking Ahead	2
Birthdays	3
Pageant Highlights	3
Women's Circle	4
Annual Calendar of Events	5
Church Family News	6
Ushers, Nursery And Candle Lighters	7
Liturgist List	7
Coffee Hour and Prayer List	7
Calendar	Insert

Pastor's Corner

Welcome (almost) to 2018! As a child, I was promised that by 2018 I would have a hover board and shoes that were self lacing. Alas, I have neither of those things, but my life is indeed blessed.

2018, is the year I turn 40. While still young in the grand scheme of things, I have been on this earth long enough to 'done things this way' plenty of times. One of those things, because I have been ordained for 10 years is the lectionary.

So this year, I am going on a limb and doing Sermon Series. Some days I will use the Lectionary, but most Sunday's I will be doing a Sermon Series. So what does that entail? I am so glad you asked.

The first series will be on The Lord's Prayer. This is a prayer we pray every single Sunday, but I want us to delve deeper into the history and meaning. The second series will be on *The Last 7 Words of Christ*, this will take us through Lent and up to Easter Sunday. The third series will take a look at the Music of The Beatles, so prepare to take a look at the secular and how it can become sacred. The fourth series will be in the books of Dr. Seuss, followed by The Great Ends of the Church, The Minor Prophets and 2018 will end in a Sermon Series on the Candles of Advent.

I don't know if this new adventure will go smoothly or not, but it is always good to try something new. I hope you will enjoy taking this adventure with me and maybe it will inspire you to suggest a sermon series to me I had not thought of before.

Peace, Pastor Leah



Session Briefs

At its December 18th meeting, the Session:



- Reviewed the budget report for the first half of November and saw income of \$10,939; expenses: \$16567; Wine Raffle and Mynderse Holiday Craft Sale booth profits of just under \$900 on December 2nd
- Approved a budget for the new year 2018 in the amount of \$192,925
- Received letter of thanks from the House of Concern for use of church facilities during the *It's a Wonderful Life* BBQ and words of thanks to all the congregation for its year-long donations and support. Another note expressed gratitude for the "very welcomed" diaper donations in December
- Received notes of thanks from Joanne Elyseev, Jean Morris, Dorothy Dickieson, Ginny Konz and Liza Merriam for cards, plants, flowers, phone calls, visits, prayers, newsletters and other blessings experienced by the senders
- Learned of gift bags from Christian Ed ministry for Christmas Eve distribution to youngsters
- Approved a return of a "Mystery Dinner" fund-raiser for 2018
- Heard plans for congregational discussion at Annual Meeting, January 21, 2018
- Discussed sanctuary sound system difficulties and possible remedies
- Discussed social room lighting and increasing need for improvement using LED bulbs or a track system
- Heard thanks from Pastor for congregational attendance at Manse Open House on December 17th
- Heard of need for additional publicity on social media for church activities in the community
- Learned the First Presbyterian Church will be a partner in planning the 2018 Women's March and that the Nat'l Historic Park and Wesleyan Chapel will host events; no church use is planned
- Agreed to contract with Heaton & Venuti Law Firm to form a church LLC for the solar panels project
- Learned that work has begun on Eastman Hall roof-replacement
- Approved door alteration in several Creative Choices daycare rooms; to be undertaken by parent volunteers

The next meeting of the Session is January 22, 2018

Looking Ahead

*"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, And they shall name him Emmanuel,"
Which means, "God is with us." Matthew 1:23*

The New Year is upon us. A blank calendar hanging on the side of the refrigerator begs for my attention. I wonder what the future holds as I fill in various anniversaries, birthdays and doctor appointments in its empty squares.

An angel's announcement cause Joseph to see his future in an entirely different light. The promise of a child who will be the salvation of Israel, the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy, caused Joseph to envision a way forward with Mary, and this unborn child, through new eyes. His story was about to become part of a much bigger story, one with everlasting consequences.

How might the story of the life, ministry, death and resurrection of Emmanuel, "God with us," lead you to see your way forward in 2018? As this year begins, I invite you to see Jesus anew, finding new ways to play a part in this much bigger story of salvation and promise.

Open the eyes of my heart to the possibilities presented for faithful discipleship in the coming year. May I see new ways to worship and serve Jesus, Creator, and Holy Spirit. Amen
Sarah Erickson, Stone Mountain, Georgia

Christmas Pageant and Open House

Thank you all for making Dec 17th a wonderful and memorable day!



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- Iva Lay-1/1
- Barbara Lohr-1/5
- Leah Ntuala-1/6
- Kiersten Dunbar Fitzgerald-1/12
- George Becker-1/19
- Barb Van Kirk- 1/20
- Peter Snyder- 1/22
- Jean Stenlake-1/22
- Karen Beals-1/28
- Nancy Rutz- 1/28
- Ben Jessop-1/29

Happy Birthday everyone!



Annual Meeting
January 21, 2018
Brunch following Service

February Newsletter
articles are due on
January 18th.

Newsletter will be sent
out
On January 25th.

Women's Circle



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

Women's Circle will meet on Monday, January 8th , 12:30 in the Hawley Room to continue our study in the series *Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews*.

There was a good attendance at the December luncheon and over 1,000 infant and toddler-size diapers were donated for the House of Concern. (See photos below)

Circle remains ever grateful to those in the congregation who donate to the Circle on communion Sundays and to those who faithfully bring items for the House of Concern baskets each month. Our thanks to Lay Pastor, Joy Novack and Romulus Presbyterian Church for passing on their framed Presbyterian Women statement to us. It can be viewed on the wall near the piano in the Hawley Room.

JANUARY: Please bring one or more containers of PASTA & SAUCE

For THE HOUSE OF CONCERN

[baskets in social room & 2nd floor back hallway; also in the narthex]



Women's Circle Holiday Luncheon





2018- Church Events

*indicates in the works/possibility



January

Ordination of Elders- 1/14
 Annual Meeting- 1/21
 Session-1/22

Feb

Game Night/Potluck- 2/2
 Seneca Rehab and Nursing- 2/4
 Blood Drive- 2/8
 Valentine's Sunday- 2/11
 Ash Wednesday- 2/14
 Session-2/26
 *Boy Scout Sunday

March

Session-3/26
 Easter Egg Hunt/Pancake Breakfast- 3/24
 Palm Sunday Brunch-3/25
 Maundy Thursday Service-3/29, 7pm
 Good Friday Service-3/30, 7pm

April

Easter-4/1
 Seneca Rehab and Nursing-4/1
 Session-4/23

May

National Day of Prayer- 5/3
 Right to Run 5K and 19K- 5/12
 Pentecost-5/20
 Session-5/21
 Seneca Rehab and Nursing- 5/27
 Memorial Day Bell Ringing- 5/28

June

Session-6/25

July

Outdoor Worship/Picnic Lunch- 7/22
 Seneca Rehab and Nursing-7/22

August

Session-8/27

September

*Rummage Sale
 Seneca Rehab and Nursing-9/16
 Session-9/24

October

Game Night/Potluck Dinner- 10/5
 World Communion Sunday- 10/7
 Session-10/22
 Pumpkin Sunday- 10/28

November

All Saint's Sunday- 11/4
 Seneca Rehab and Nursing-11/11
 Advent Workshop- 11/18
 Congregational Meeting- 11/18
 Session-11/26

December

1st Sunday in Advent- 12/2
 Advent Sing-12/3
 It's a Wonderful Life-12/8
 Christmas Pageant/Manse Party- 12/16
 Session-12/17
 Longest Night Service-12/21, 7pm
 Christmas Eve Service- 12/24, 7pm



Mark Your Calendars Mark Your Calendars Mark Your

Church Family News

Annual Reports: The annual meeting is going to be held on Sunday, January 21st. If you are the head of a committee your annual reports are due by **January 9th**. If you have not turned in your report yet, please email them to the church if possible to save a lot of extra typing. Thank you!



Per Capita and Offering Envelopes—This year our church must pay \$50.00 *for each member* on the rolls. Early payment of this Per Capita Apportionment will enable us to meet this obligation due during the first six months of 2018. Thank you for your assistance and understanding. If you haven't picked up your offering envelope box, please check the Narthex. They are there with your last name on the box. If you don't find your name, there are extra boxes in the office. If you want to make other arrangements to get your box, please contact Karen.



Wine Raffle Winners—We had two winners for the wine raffle during the “It’s a Wonderful Life” weekend. They were Zoe Ritter and Carol Hauf. Congratulations to all of you! The wine raffle brought in \$822 and the craft sale brought in \$88. Thank you to all who donated wine and/or craft items. Thank you also to all of you who worked selling the crafts and selling tickets! These fundraisers were a great success thanks to all of you!

Stewardship Update—Thank you all for your commitment to First Pres! Our total pledges have reached the \$81,414 mark for the church and \$5,526 for benevolences for a grand total of \$86,940. With your dollar commitment, reduction in expenses, generous endowments and a limited amount from reserves, we will have a balanced budget without asking for more assistance. Thank you!



If you see Peter on or near
January 22nd, make sure you
wish him an extra special
Happy Birthday!
And a thank you for keeping our
church facilities in clean order!



Members and Friends to Keep in Our Thoughts:



<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>
Luanna Day	369 E. Main Street, Huntington Living Ctr Rm 670, Waterloo, NY 13165
Dorothy Dickieson	303 Ferris Hills, Canandaigua, NY 14424
Betty Geraghty	8 Iroquois Lane, Waterloo, NY 13165
Liza Merriam	114 Ashton Court, Clifton Springs NY 14432
Jean Morris	Lockport Presbyterian Home, 305-327 High Street, Lockport, NY 14094
Jean Stenlake	Steuben County Healthcare Facility, Room 194, 7009 Rumsey Street Ext. Bath NY 14810
Robert Stenlake	18 Carol Avenue, Seneca Falls, NY 13148



Ushers, Nursery and Candle Lighters

January 7th– Communion Baptism of the Lord

Ushers: Bob and Carolyn Seem
Nursery: Susan Derr
Candle Lighter: Mason Ntuala



January 14th– Installation of Elders

Ushers: Marion Crull and Susan Derr
Nursery: Matt Crull and Simon Ntuala
Candle Lighter: Atticus Ntuala

January 21st– Annual Meeting

Ushers: Becky Jessop and Ben Jessop
Nursery: Marion Crull and Carolyn Jessop
Candle Lighter: Gary Ippolito

January 28th– 4th Sunday after Epiphany

Ushers: Jim and Cherie Clark
Nursery: Marion Crull and Simon Ntuala
Candle Lighter: Keara Dugan

February 4th– Communion

Ushers: Aryanna Dugan and Keara Dugan
Nursery: Carolyn Jessop and Becky Jessop
Candle Lighter: Isabella Dugan



Please trade dates with someone if you are unable to serve on your designated Sunday. Thank you for serving.



Liturgist List

7th– Bob Seem
14th– Ginny Konz
21st– Karen Kelley
28th– Gary Ippolito

Coffee Hour and Prayer List

Jan 7th: Fellowship Hour in the Social Hall; Hosts: Pastor Leah
Jan 14th: Coffee Hour– **TBD**; Host: **TBD**
Jan 21st: No Coffee Hour- Annual Meeting and Brunch hosted by Membership/Parish Life
Jan 28th: Coffee Hour–**TBD**; Host: **TBD**
Feb. 4th: Social Hour; Host: **TBD**



Know someone ill or hospitalized? This month, please call: Sue Charles 224.2364

To Keep in our prayers: Dorothy Baker; Sue Charles; Joann Converse; Sue Ellen Crego; Curry Family; Cindy Danielson; George & Joanne Elyseev; Nicole Fuller; Betty Geraghty; Onnie & Gordon Goodman; Crystal Hanes; Greta Hauser & family; Patricia Kelly; Ginny Konz; Esther Loomis; Christina Lopez & her family; Liza Merriam; Tyler Morgan; Jinny Noone; Pat & Ann Sandroni; Bertha Schavemaker; Shuster Family; Bob & Jean Stenlake; Cynde VanKirk; Carolyn Walsh, EthelMae Wright and all suffering in the world especially those who have lost loved ones this past year.

Church Office: 315-568-6636
Hours: Tuesday-Thursday 8-1pm
Manse: 315-257-0028
E-mail: firstpres13148@gmail.com
Website: www.fpressf.com

Scan this code
with your smart
phone to visit our
website



Sunday School (K-4th grade) and Youth Group (5th-12th grade)- 9-9:45am
Sunday Worship at 10am. Nursery Care available
Coffee Hour following worship.

Rev. Leah Ntuala-Pastor
Rev. Dr. Peter J. Crego-Pastor Emeritus
Marion Crull—Treasurer
Karen Beals-Office Manager
Michelle Dugan-Christian Education Director
Peter Snyder—Sexton
J. Carl Vollbracht— Director of Music & Organist
Ken Dover—Pianist
Marjorie Fahrenholz & Carol Millis - Hand Bell Choir
Joyce Lohr— Clerk to the Session



Session meetings are on the 4th Monday of each month at 7pm.

Presently serving Elders: Jim Clark, Marion Crull, Matthew Crull, Susan Derr, Michelle Dugan,
Jay Hoyle, Ginny Konz, Wayne Lohr, Marc Smith.
Joyce Lohr, Clerk to the Session and with Pastor Leah as Moderator

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



Happy New Year to

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