

# First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls

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



## January Newsletter 2017

### Inside this issue:

Session Briefs	2
HandBell/ Handchimes Report	3
Birthdays	3
Women's Circle	4
Vanderkamp Winter Retreat	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

Friends, The New Year is upon us. This means new opportunities, risks and possibilities. I invite you to join me this year in digging in even deeper. 2016 brought up a lot of topics and conversations. One of the many conversations centers on race in the United States. The journey of unlearning and relearning, discovering one's privilege is a difficult, painful and life-long process. Despite the heartache you will endure the journey is well worth it. There will be times we will all wish to stop, but that is where a community of people journeying with you becomes really helpful. You don't go it alone. We are going with you and God is leading the way. Jesus' ministry is a reminder that the work of the people of God is to love God, one another, and ourselves. We can't do that if we are asleep. Jesus calls us to wake up! One can't not be for the oppressed and be silent and if we don't cry out the stones will come awake. To help us in this process here is an excellent reading list. Again, I invite you to read these books with me. There are all sorts of ways God will invite us to wake up this year: race relations, women's rights, climate change, homelessness and hunger. This is but the tip of the iceberg of the work God has in store for us.

Let the work of our ministry together continue.

Peace, Pastor Leah

1. *Open Veins of Latin America* by Eduardo Galeano
2. *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa* by Walter Rodney
3. *Coming to America* by Roger Daniels
4. *An Indigenous People's History of the United States* by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz
5. *Blues City* by Ishmael Reed
6. *How The Irish Became White* by Noel Ignatiev
7. *All Souls: A Family Story From Southie* by Michael Patrick MacDonald
8. *Hillbilly Nationalists, Urban Race Rebels, and Black Power* by Amy Sonnie and James Tracy
9. *White Like Me: Reflections on Race from a Privileged Son* by Tim Wise
10. *The History of White People* by Nell Irvin Painter
11. *Yellow: Race in America Beyond Black or White* by Frank Wu
12. *The Making of Asian America* by Erika Lee
13. *Citizen: An American Lyric* by Claudia Rankine
14. *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates
15. *The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander
16. *Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison
17. *Colonize This! Young Women of Color on Today's Feminism* by Daisy Hernandez
18. *How Does It Feel to Be A Problem?: Being Young and Arab in America* by Moustafa Bayoumi

\*<https://www.bustle.com/articles/144531-18-books-every-white-ally-should-read>

## Session Briefs

At its December 12, 2016 meeting, the Session:

- Heard update on 2017 pledges received to date: \$81,552 for Current Expenses and local mission and \$6,778 to General Mission and Benevolences; Per Capita assessment is \$50/ per member
- Learned of \$1,051 in Wine Raffle sales and \$450 from Holiday Crafts Sale at Mynderse
- Gave praise and thanks for their service of outgoing Session Elders - Jim Clark, Bob Seem & Carolyn Seem
- Heard request for, and approved membership for Mark Smith
- Heard plans for caroling groups to visit local eateries at lunch and dinner times on Dec. 19th; to sing and to leave printed invitations to the church Candlelight Service on Christmas Eve
- Heard request from church office for all group leaders in the church to submit an annual report by Jan. 8, 2017
- Moved to participate in the Million Women's March activities on Jan. 21 and to have the church open on that day
- Made decision to conduct the Annual Meeting of the congregation on January 22 in the social rooms instead of in the sanctuary
- Heard plans from Christian Ed ministry for a social event in June, for youth in grades 7 thru 10
- Made plans to collect items for Elder Scott Jessop, presently stationed with the U.S. Army in Kuwait

Respectfully submitted by,  
Joyce Lohr  
Clerk of the Session



### **It Was Winter**

*It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. John 10:22-23*

Reflections from Steve on John 10:22-23 (*These Days, Daily Devotions*)

Few people escape cold winter-like days. As the seasons of the year change and winter arrives, so it is with our lives. Unexpected troubles can blow in on us during any of life's stages, in our youth as well as when we are older. Threatening incidents and events may leave us numb with loss and loneliness, dampen our spirits with doubt and despair, cloud our lives with fear and anxiety, or even freeze our faith into inaction. The text reminds us that there is no need to weather the stormy blasts alone. God cares for us in every season. Jesus did not abandon his people to the harsh winter elements. Christ's Spirit is determined to abide with us even on the bleakest days.

**ACTION STEP:** Following in the steps of Christ, think of ways you can bring winter graces to those threatened. Determine to walk with them, bringing light, warmth, love, and a friendly spirit.

**MEDITATION:** Holy God, may we know that Christ Jesus walks with us on winter days, every day. Amen.

## Handbells/Handchimes Report

Thank you to all of the Handbell Choir members who have performed 2 and/or 3 times in the month of December; once in church on December 11, then in the West Fayette Church December 4, and some ringers performed in the community bell choir December 8 at Mynderse Academy for the Cady Stanton Chorus. Carol is now rehearsing the Bell Choir for the Christmas Eve service.

These are the ringers that have a dedicated commitment to the Bell Choir and each deserves a special thanks.

Karen Beals, Claire & Dick Damaske, Joanne Elyseev, Hedra Harrison,  
Wendy Kain, Ginny Konz, Anne & Carol Millis, Tom Montgomery,  
Connie Richardson, Carolyn & Bob Seem, and Peter Snyder

Carol will be the bell choir director while I am in Florida. I will be thinking of the bell choir while I am enjoying the warm weather and ringing bells. Hopefully, I will find another 5-octave composition to bring back for the fall.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy 2017!

*-Marge*



***Happy 71st Anniversary to Ed and Bobbi Chase on  
January 4th!!***

### *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 22, 2017  
Brunch following Service

**February Newsletter**  
articles are due on  
**January 19th.**

Newsletter will be sent  
out  
On January 26th.

## Women's Circle

The Presbyterian Women's Circle hosted its annual holiday luncheon on Mon., December 5 at 12:30 in the Hawley Room. There were sixteen attending and a tasty assortment of main dishes and desserts graced the buffet table. Someone counted well over 400 diapers to be added to those being brought by the congregation during Advent, for the House of Concern. Everyone was welcomed and Joy Novack gave a prayer of thanks and blessing. We introduced ourselves and enjoyed good conversation. [and learned the name of the "other reindeer", with thanks to Hedra Harrison!] News of Jean Morris was shared and we signed a birthday card for her Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> birthday. Following dessert, we joined hands as Barb Van Kirk, Ramona Lobdell and Ruby Anderson led us in a closing prayer. Left-over dessert items were saved for the upcoming S2 supper. Everyone joined in clearing away and dish washing/drying. Holiday wishes were exchanged.

**The January meeting date was set for Mon., January 9<sup>th</sup>,** instead of the first Monday, which follows New Year's Day. All women in the church are invited, as we continue this season's study, *Who Is Jesus?*

**The special House of Concern item for January is  
PASTA & SAUCE**



## A Note to Women's Circle

I want to thank the Women's Circle for inviting me to join in on the Bible study in November. It was very interesting and informative. I also attended the luncheon on December 5<sup>th</sup> and had a nice time - good food, good company and some good laughs. I hope and pray that more men attend the next luncheon to share in our church's Christian fellowship. Sincerely, Peter Snyder



## Vanderkamp Winter Retreat **Our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Our Vanderkamp retreat weekend is only a little more than a month away. Several people have signed up on the sheet in the church basement. However, there is room for more! Remember, family and friends are always welcome. The more, the merrier! We will need firm commitments by January 8<sup>th</sup> so that I can calculate the price per person. I made an executive decision and signed us up for our usual 3 meals. However, at the time of this writing, VK is modifying the prices on our contract, so I don't know exactly what they will be. But as in the past, children ages 6-12 only have to pay for their meals and children under 6 are free. Payment will be due by Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup>.

This retreat weekend is a wonderful 2 days of fellowship, fun and food. You do not have to be an outdoor enthusiast, as there are always plenty of activities going on in the lodges. However, the scenery and tranquility there are spectacular! Please contact us if you would like more information or have any questions or concerns. Claire can be reached at 568-6383 and Wendy at 568-0112 (eve.). Also, check out the Vanderkamp web site at [www.vk.org](http://www.vk.org)





## 2017- Church Events

\*indicates in the works/possibility



### January

Game Night/Potluck Dinner- 1/6  
 Ordination of Elders- 1/15  
 Annual Meeting- 1/22  
 Session-1/23

### Feb

\*Boy Scout Sunday  
 Valentine's Sunday- 2/5  
 Blood Drive- 2/9  
 Vanderkamp- 2/10-2/12  
 Seneca Rehab and Nursing- 2/19  
 Session-2/27

### March

Ash Wednesday- 3/1  
 Game Night/Potluck Dinner-3/3  
 Session-3/27

### April

Easter Egg Hunt/Pancake Breakfast-4/8  
 Palm Sunday Brunch-4/9  
 Seneca Rehab and Nursing- 4/9  
 Maundy Thursday Service-4/13  
 Good Friday Service-4/14  
 Easter-4/16  
 Session-4/24

### May

National Day of Prayer- 5/4  
 Right to Run 5K and 19K- 5/13  
 Session-5/22  
 Seneca Rehab and Nursing-5/28  
 Memorial Day Bell Ringing- 5/29

### June

Pentecost-6/4  
 Ice Cream Social- 6/11

### July

Game Day/Potluck Brunch-7/16  
 Seneca Rehab and Nursing- 7/16

### August

Session-8/28

### September

Seneca Rehab and Nursing- 9/3  
 Rally Day Sunday- 9/10  
 \*Rummage Sale  
 Session-9/25

### October

World Communion Sunday- 10/1  
 Game Night/Potluck Dinner- 10/6  
 Seneca Rehab and Nursing- 10/22  
 Session-10/23  
 Pumpkin Sunday- 10/29

### November

All Saint's Sunday- 11/5  
 Advent Workshop- 11/19  
 Congregational Meeting- 11/19  
 Session-11/27

### December

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent- 12/3  
 It's a Wonderful Life-12/9  
 Seneca Rehab and Nursing-12/10  
 Manse Party/ Caroling- 12/17  
 Session-12/18  
 Longest Night Service-12/21  
 Christmas Eve Service- 12/24



*Calendars Mark Your Calendars Mark Your*

## Church Family News



**Annual Reports:** The annual meeting is going to be held on Sunday, January 22nd. If you are the head of a committee your annual reports are due by **January 8th**. 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 has the first increase since 2013, 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 2017. 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 Elaine Ritter and Peter and Sue Ellen Crego. Congratulations to all of you! The wine raffle brought in \$1,081.00 and the craft sale brought in \$450.00. Thank you to all who donated wine and/or craft items. Thank you also to all of you who worked in the tent that weekend! This fundraiser was a great success thanks to all of you!

**Ginny’s Holiday Open House**—January 7th at 22 Ridge Street, Seneca Falls. 5-8pm. “Let’s enjoy after the holidays with good friends, great food, and holiday cheer!” She promises wine and non-alcoholic punch with goodies (additions welcome but not necessary). Just bring a smile!

**Game Night**— In January, Game Night and Potluck Supper will be held on Friday, January 6th at our usual time of 5:30pm.

**Stewardship Update**—Thank you all for your commitment to First Pres! Our total pledges have reached the \$81,552 mark for the church and \$6,778 for benevolences for a grand total of \$88,330. With your dollar commitment, reduction in expenses, and a limited amount from reserves, we will have a balanced budget without asking for more assistance. Thank you!

**Welcome to the Sexton Team**—We are pleased to announce that we have two new employees of the church – Tama Walker and Pete Snyder. Officially they are our sextons – the people who clean,



polish, mow, shovel snow and do many other tasks that keep the church attractive and welcoming. Tama is primarily the indoor sexton and Peter is primarily the outdoor sexton, but they do share the work and can cover each other at times. Tama has experience in a variety of janitorial and house cleaning jobs along with construction work under the careful watch of Don Ritter (Tama is the daughter of Elaine Ritter). Peter is a member of the church and had done much volunteer work, including substituting for our former sexton, Kyle Bruzda when he was not working. If



you see Tama and Pete working in and around the church, please say hello and introduce yourself if you’ve not met before.

### Members and Friends to Keep in Our Thoughts:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>
Ed and Bobbi Chase	1 Leland Drive, Seneca Falls NY 13148
Luanna Day	2705 Lower Lake Road, Seneca Falls, NY 13148
Dorothy Dickieson	303 Ferris Hills, Canandaigua, NY 14424
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 8th– Communion Baptism of the Lord**

Ushers: Bob and Carolyn Seem  
Nursery: Susan Derr and Erica Walsh  
Candle Lighter: Matthew Walsh



### **January 15th– Installation of Elders**

Ushers: Ginny Konz and Susan Derr  
Nursery: Neil Walsh and Sarah Walsh  
Candle Lighter: Atticus Ntuala

### **January 22nd– Annual Meeting**

Ushers: Becky Jessop and Ben Jessop  
Nursery: Marion Crull and Carrie Jessop  
Candle Lighter: Mason Ntuala

### **January 29th– 4th Sunday after Epiphany**

Ushers: Jim and Cherie Clark  
Nursery: Marion Crull and Erica Walsh  
Candle Lighter: Keara Dugan

### **February 5– Communion**

Ushers: Aryanna Dugan and Keara Dugan  
Nursery: Carrie 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

8th— Ford Knight  
15th— Ginny Konz  
22nd— Karen Kelley  
29th— Gary Ippolito

## Coffee Hour and Prayer List

**Jan 8th:** Fellowship Hour in the Social Hall; Hosts: **TBD**  
**Jan 15th:** Coffee Hour— **TBD**; Host: **TBD**  
**Jan 22nd:** No Coffee Hour- Annual Meeting and Brunch hosted by  
Membership/Parish Life  
**Jan 29th:** Coffee Hour—**TBD**; Host: **TBD**  
**Feb. 5th:** Social Hour; Host: **TBD**



**Know someone ill or hospitalized?** This month, please call: Sue Charles 539.2624

**To Keep in our prayers:** Alice Burgdorf, Bobbi and Ed Chase, Cindy Danielson, Keith Davis, Kevin Devine, Bob Didsbury, Diana Fox, Gordie and Onnie Goodman, Margaret Greene, Sue Hadley, Holland Family, Jessop Family, Ruthie Johnson, Crystal Jones, Ben & Amy Kraus, Liza Merriam, Tyler Morgan, Cherie Proia, Nancy Shuster, Ralph Sinicropi, Stacey, Bob and Jean Stenlake, Carolyn Walsh and all suffering in the world.

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  
J. Carl Vollbracht– Director of Music & Organist  
Marjorie Fahrenholz- Hand Bell Choir Director  
Michelle Dugan-Christian Education Director  
Tama Walker and Peter Snyder—Sextons  
Joyce Lohr– Clerk to the Session

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

Presently serving Elders: Andy Batty, Jim Clark, Marion Crull, Matthew Crull, Susan Derr,  
Scott Jessop, Ginny Konz, Wayne Lohr, Bob Seem, Nancy Shuster, Ericka Walsh and Neil Walsh.  
Clerk to the Session: Joyce Lohr, Rev. Leah Ntuala, Moderator.

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



***Happy New Year to***

**January Newsletter 2017**