

Seneca United Methodist Church

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www.senecaumc.org

Website

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.  
Worship 10:00 a.m.

**Sunday Events:**

Pastor Zayzay's Hours 9 a.m. – Noon, Monday thru Friday

9 a.m. – Noon, Monday thru Friday

**OFFICE HOURS**

Seneca United Methodist Church

Rev. Dr. Zayzay G. Kpadeh

196 East State Road

Seneca, PA 16346

NON-PROFIT

ORGANIZATION

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*SUM Life*



From the Pastor's Desk: Seneca United Methodist Church

"Therefore, just as through one-man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned."

-Romans 5:12 (NKJV)

"A Spiritual Pandemic"

Dear Beloved,

This year (2020) saw the rise in popularity of two pivotal words in our national and international dialogue: "epidemic" (a disease affecting many people at the same time) and "pandemic" (where a disease spreads over and affects "several countries or continents" or the entire global community (<https://www.health.com/condition/infectious-diseases/epidemic-vs-pandemic>)). This is due to the highly contagious nature of the disease characterized and named by the World Health Organization (WHO) as Coronavirus- COVID-19.


Someone described sin as the "Adam and Eve virus" which is more deadly than any other virus known to humankind and is causing a spiritual pandemic. This is true because it leads to spiritual death which is eternal separation from God. In Matthew 15:10-20, Jesus clarified that the things that truly defile a person were things that come from the heart because from the heart comes "evil thoughts, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person; but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a person." These immoral acts destroy persons, families, churches, communities, and nations.

There is currently a race to find a vaccine for the COVID -19 virus. Recently, I overheard someone stipulate in clear and uncertain terms that there is no vaccine for these unspiritual and immoral unpredictable and human conditions. However, as the Apostle Paul pointed out in Romans 5:12 about how sin became a spiritual pandemic, he was quick to add, "For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous." The blood of Jesus is the spiritual vaccine against sin. I heard of a family that "covered" everyone in the household with the blood of Christ since COVID -19 began and since then, not one family member has contracted the virus. What a faith! It is this kind of faith that is needed to make the blood of Christ effective in our current situation. I plead the blood of Jesus on each one at Seneca and urge all of us followers of Christ Jesus to be faithfully committed in prayer and supplication during these very challenging times. As I recently preached to you on the theme, "Pressing On" from Philippians 4:1-9, now is not the time to give up. Now is the time to keep our spirits up high and hold onto the unchanging hands of God for a new normal that is to come. That "new normal" will not be decided by us, but by God.

In times of any emergency and pandemic, especially a spiritual one, the blood of Christ never loses its power and is the vaccine we need for protection and a final remedy to this deadly scourge that is raping the world apart. Such relief that we seek will eventually be fulfilled at God's appointed time. The Bible reminds us of a time and a season for everything. The recent approval and subsequent release of the Coronavirus vaccines will bring some tremendous relief and final resolution to this unprecedented situation that we have faced and continue to encounter up to the very moment of as I penned this letter. The good news however is that a breakthrough is at hand. Let us continue to hold onto the unchanging hands of a God who has been faithful to protecting and keeping us alive as we all strive to bring a final resolution to this pandemic. Meanwhile, I am grateful to everyone for your continuous support and solidarity since my arrival here as your new pastor. Let us continue to rely on the advice and counsel of health authorities and the Office of the Pennsylvania Governor in mitigating the challenges in the next couple of months as the vaccines are distributed throughout the country.

Be safe and we will see you soon.

In Mission with Passion

  
Pastor Kpadeh

## **Updates on Electronic Giving**

Stewardship remains an educational and spiritual issue for many congregation—our congregation is not the exception. God has told us that all that we have is His. Psalm reminds us that: “the earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him. Psalm 24:1(The New Living Translation).

This year, the Finance Committee decided that we should only accept ACH payments from checking accounts, savings accounts, and debit card payments. We are aware that some families/individuals struggle with credit debt so we wanted to be sure that a person’s desire to give does not raise issues with their ability to give to God. There is no special time to give to God. God is the instrument and the protector of our lives. He is also the one who give and give abundantly to us.

The Finance Committee resolutely sees our stewardship and giving as a part of our spiritual practice as a Christian and we want to remind you through this medium of communication to seek reference from God through prayer and supplication about your giving habits and potentials. This is truly not about telling you what schedule you need to set in giving on the online account. This is not about setting your profile to a weekly/monthly gift amount and then just forgetting about it. The Committee still wants you to be thinking about the thanksgiving with each gift given and consider with prayer each and every day that passes what God has done for you and what you can do in return to uplift God’s ministry on earth.

The online giving process is quite simple. On our website at Seneca UMC, [senecaumc.org](http://senecaumc.org), there are buttons that you can click on that will take you to the supported webpage. On the website you can log in and set up your personal profile for tracking and adjusting your giving. The funds you can support are set up in an orderly manner just as they reflected on the giving envelope issued by the congregation. You can choose which funds to support, what amounts, and the frequency of your gift. You can also go in at any anytime at will and make adjustments to future donations or contributions.

It is however important to stress here that there is costs involved with the processing of these tithes and gifts. The costs however is much smaller with ACH gifts and tithes from checking and savings accounts. For instance, if giving by debit card, on the second page in the processing there is a check box where you can choose to pay the 2.75% processing fee for church if you so desire. This is the same for recurring –either weekly or monthly gifts as well as for single onetime gifts.

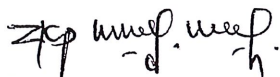
Meanwhile, you will continue to receive giving statements from our Financial Secretary on a regular basis as you do now.

In addition to the website, some of you may choose to download the “Give+” app for their mobile device. This app works in much the similar manner, and if you have profile established from the website, you can manage giving as well. The “Give+” app has search engine feature available so you can search and identify churches in your that are using the app. You can give even when you are on vacation or traveling. You can give at giving time when you see a need or you feel God is calling on you to gift to a specific appeal or mission project.

In the new year, 2021, we are going to be extending our mission efforts overseas in Africa and other places. The leadership agreed in principle and passed by a resolution vote to begin a television evangelistic broadcast in Liberia. We are counting on your generous gifts and support in executing this call of God. Details will subsequently be made available on our website on how to you can help in this renewed congregational endeavor for the preaching and teaching of the good news of Jesus Christ. We hope that the information provided here has been helpful in making your giving faithful and this service will be a blessing for everyone. If you have questions do not hesitate to speak with Peggy Allaman or Pastor Zayzay regarding tithing and gifts to God.

Meanwhile, in keeping with the current situation regarding the pandemic coupled with the many challenges we are encountering due to the unprecedented nature of the virus, there is still hope for tomorrow. Be safe and continue to trust in God for a “new normal” that will come after the pandemic.

In Mission with Passion,



Pastor Kpadeh

Financial Update\_\_\_\_

Our Treasurer and Financial Secretary does an awesome job keeping the church up to date on the finances of the congregation. As per tradition, Peggy presents detailed financial updates and reports to the Administrative Council for thorough examination, and she is genuinely continuing to do that. Furthermore, she gives the church a “quick glance” report so you are also kept inform of the needs and financial resources of the congregation. These reports are prepared monthly and placed in the bulletin for your review and consideration. Due to the limited number of bulletins being disseminated and subsequently mailed out, we are resolved to keep you updated by including a monthly update report as of now and in the future in this newsletter. Please find below the most recent updated financial information of December 20, 2020.

**Seneca UM Church**

	Income/Expense Summary as of 12/20/2020			
	2020 Budget	Income	Expense	
Current Fund	\$ 196,516.00	\$ 165,302.97	\$ 159,264.29	
Mission Share (Appor)	\$ 29,361.00	\$ 23,227.21	\$ 29,361.00	
Local Mission Fund	\$ 11,350.00	\$ 12,671.04	\$ 8,989.09	
Trustees Fund	\$ 17,200.00	\$ 15,102.54	\$ 11,437.48	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 254,427.00</b>	<b>\$ 216,303.76</b>	<b>\$ 209,051.86</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
Building Fund	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 4,940.00		

CRANBERRY FOOD PANTRY  
November 2020

Just a note to update our church families on the Food Pantry. Our numbers are coming back up. They were down due to Covid 19.

This distribution was 145 families and I expect an increase for the Thanksgiving distribution.

Please note: the Mondays of distribution will be the first and third Monday for December due to Christmas Day.

We also are moving up the distribution hours. We start at 12:30 p.m. but will move up alphabet times to every one-half hour. This is due to the time change and it gets dark earlier. We will still be there until 5:30 p.m.

I also want to thank everyone for their support, financially, the donation of food, and also the donation of plastic bags - THANK YOU!

Also a big thank you for the many volunteers we have. We absolutely could not do this without your help.

Thank you,

Janet Shaw  
Food Pantry

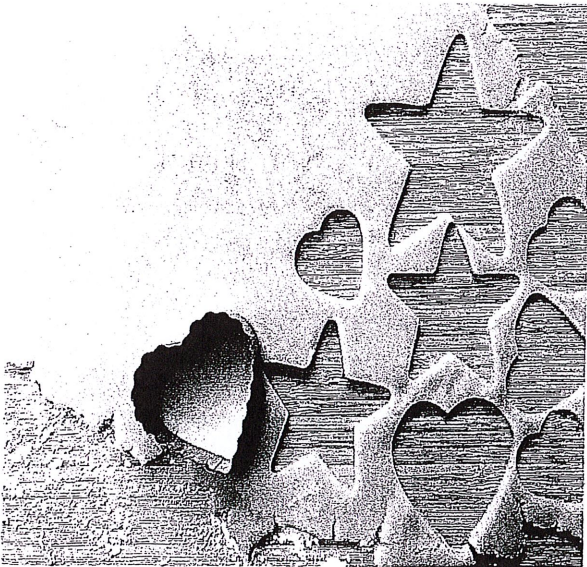
TREASURY NOTES:

Just a reminder that Seneca UMC now offers a way to make your tithe on-line. Our web site offers a link to a secure site for VANCO that allows you to make contributions from checking accounts or debit cards. Easy to follow steps allow you to make a one time or regular gift to help finance our ministry here. You may designate your gift to a specific fund or to current expenses. The finance committee will be looking into other methods to make contributions as well since some are comfortable with the services they are already using.

Also, as the financial year comes to a close, we would ask for your best efforts to include Seneca UMC in your charitable giving. This has been a difficult year for non-profit and faith-based groups for obvious reasons. Our giving has been adequate this year to meet our fixed costs but we need to continue our mission and ministry both locally and thru our connection with the United Methodist Church.

Thank you,

Dave Grau, Finance Committee



**Deaths**

Jeffrey Babb	Feb. 26, 2020
Grant Rybuck	March 2, 2020
Larry Zimmerman	March 9, 2020
Phyllis Tinker	May 10, 2020
Claire Megnin	May 23, 2020
Adeline Heald	Sept. 31, 2020
William "Bill" Stivanson	October 28, 2020

## **Mission News** \_\_\_\_

The Mission team at SUMC is again poised and ready to take a leap of faith to go out into the world to exhibit what is spelled out in the Great Commission. The Bible mandates us as believers to go out into the world to make disciples for the pristine message of the gospel of Christ. Last year, the mission team had to painfully cancelled its mission trip set for Swam Quarter in North Carolina. While it is true that COVID 19 had an unprecedented impact on many of our ministry efforts, we are optimistic this time around that nothing is going to stop us from making the first trip outside of Seneca in 2021 in an effort aimed at following the call of Christ. We are targeting Mid-March 2021 to revisit North Carolina to participate in the repairs of homes for families in need. We were heartbroken and very sad that we were unable to assist the families that were awaiting the repairs of their homes. Kindly keep us in prayer as we organize and prepare for the upcoming mission trip with the families in the Swan Quarter area of North Carolina. Pray that soon that we will be able to see these repairs come to fruition and that the people in this area of North Carolina can live in a warmer, safer, and drier environment.

On the local mission aspect of things, we have lately been engaged in a considerable effort aimed at helping people in need of handicapped ramps in our area. Since mid-August this year, it is pleasing to report that our rampsters have built over ten ramps for more than ten families in Seneca, Franklin and Oil City areas. People we have assisted have included church members, handicapped people in needed of assistance following a brief and lengthy stay in transitional facilities, and were returning home, but could not walk efficiently due to unsteadiness and mobility issues. We remain grateful to all of you who've contributed financially towards the Local Mission Fund over the years in making this ministry a viable and sustainable initiative. We also remain grateful to our team of volunteers for the time and labor. Without them we would not



be in this ministry initiative changing lives in our community. We want to extend our thanks and appreciation to our partners including the Mustard Seed Missions and the team of leaders in Venango County, Pennsylvania for a wonderful collaborative effort developed over the years in fostering the work of our mission initiative with our Rampsters. For this, we're grateful for such a genuine partnership. As we look to the New Year with a determinative desire, it is our hope and prayer that God will grant us new pathways in further strengthening our local and national mission initiatives aimed at doing the ministry of the United Methodist Church.

In another development, we are pleased to report to many of you our fellow church members and partners that beginning 2021, we have resolved by popular acclaim to take the message of the Great Commission as enshrined in scripture (Matthew 28:16-20) for the furtherance of the good news. Ministry is never possible without prophetic imagination and vision. The Administrative Council of Seneca UMC resolved by acclamation and by vote in late November of this year (2020) that we begin a television ministry in Liberia, West Africa. We are to begin the airing of a Sunday Service telecast on Infinity Television (Power FM/TV) in the Liberia capital of Monrovia beginning 2021. Recently, a memorandum of understanding (MOU) was reached between our church and the Infinity Corporation (Power FM/TV) for the airing of a one-hour television evangelistic broadcast airing our Sunday Service from Seneca on the Liberian airwaves. Under the agreement, Infinity Corporation (Power FM/TV) will broadcast a weekly Sunday Service on their national television channel that is broadcasting to a population of more than 2 million people in Liberia. Seneca United Methodist Church will financially compensate Infinity Corporation (Power FM). We have set aside \$6000,00 for the effective management of such a noble ministry effort. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is expected to last for a year. It is our hope and prayer that this ministry effort will go a long way in the furtherance of

the good news of Christ and the work of the United Methodist Church. Meanwhile, the Managing Director of the Infinity Corporation (Power FM/TV), Mr. Aaron B. Kollie has welcomed the development and pray that this initiative will go a long way in strengthening the work of international ministry and bilateral collaborative initiative between the corporation and our church. Funding efforts for this initiative is under the auspices of the Local Mission Fund of Seneca United Methodist Church. SUMC is asking all ministry supporters both locally and nationally to join us in this collaborative initiative to ensure that the gospel is spread to every hamlet, village, town and city throughout the world. This is the first international ministry initiative aimed at spreading the good news in West Africa. To contribute towards this worthy ministry effort, please talk to Mike Mckain current Head of Missions and Pastor Zayzay for further details. Meanwhile, donations are being collected through our electronic giving platform on our website at [www.senecaumc.org](http://www.senecaumc.org). When you get to our website search for local mission on our VANCO link. You can also make a financial donation through our normal giving initiative through checks and love offerings by making a check payable towards the Local Mission Fund by stipulating "Telecast Ministry," in the memo section on your check. We will be more than to receive you donation and assistance in the furtherance of mission and ministry of the United Methodist Church in the world.