

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SENECA FALLS

## December Newsletter 2011

### PASTOR'S CORNER

Rev. Leah Ntuala



“Advent” means “coming” or “arrival.” During the season of Advent, we celebrate Christ’s coming into the world and watch with expectant hope for his coming again. On Sunday, November 27th, we began the season of Advent. We mark the weeks with a reading and lighting of a new candle and end with the center candle on Christmas Eve.

I wanted to share with you the advent wreath and its meanings. The circle is a symbol of eternity. The greenery symbolizes life. The four candles differ in color: three purple candles to represent waiting for the king, a pink candle to represent our joy and a white candle to represent Christ. The first candle is **HOPE**. Hope in God who forgives us time and time again and hope that we learn how to forgive one another. The Second candle is **PEACE**. God grants to each of us a peace that passes all understanding. The Third candle is **JOY**. Joy in the coming of the Messiah. The fourth candle is **LOVE**. This candle invites us to remember to love God first and to love one another as Christ loves us, fully and completely. The final candle is the CHRIST candle. This candle represents Christ coming into the world and his return.

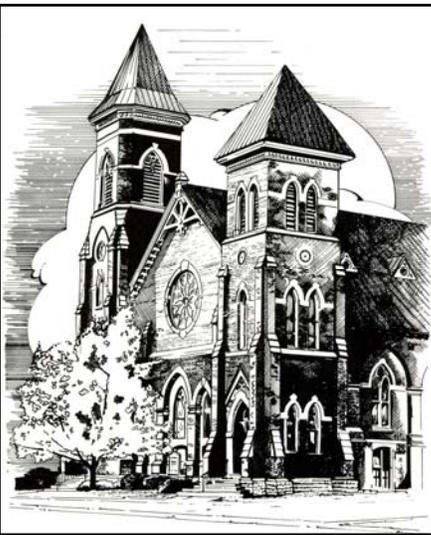
How are you going to practice **HOPE, PEACE, JOY** and **LOVE** in the coming days? How will you show people about the **HOPE, PEACE, JOY** and **LOVE**? In a holiday that has become so much about gift giving, how will you use the gifts God has given you to serve one another and your community in the Season of Advent?

Well a few years ago a movement called the Advent Conspiracy began. They have 4 main goals:

1. **Worship Fully**– Starts with Jesus and ends with Jesus. May our hearts and minds be pointed toward God’s coming into the world.
2. **Spend Less**– Buy one less gift this holiday season.
3. **Give More**– Time. Give your time to serve one another. Spend time sledding with your grandchildren or visiting a church member who isn’t able to make it to church. Join the church on a caroling adventure!
4. **Love All**– Donate the money you would have spent on that one gift and use it to show God’s love.

Check out their website for more details, we will also post their link on our website. <http://www.adventconspiracy.org/>

May you have a lovely and enjoyable Advent!! Peace, Pastor Leah



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## SESSION BRIEFS

From meeting of Nov. 28, 2011

- ◆ Heard letter from National Women's Hall of Fame, thanking Pastor Leah for her part in the dedication of the Alice Paul pulpit. [ Letter will be posted on church bulletin board]
- ◆ Received notes of thanks from Jean Loar and Barbara Lohr for flowers sent by the church during their illnesses and a note from Sam & Dorothy Dickieson for flowers received.
- ◆ Heard plans for installation of Elders
- ◆ Approved leave for Pastor to use remainder of vacation time during Dec. 26 –30.
- ◆ Heard plans for our church to host the January 21, 2012 Presbytery of Geneva meeting. We will provide breakfast, lunch, parking, registration, worship, communion, internet access, child care [if needed], set-up and clean-up. Many volunteers will be needed from our church. We decided the meal at lunchtime will be soup & sandwiches, beverage and a light dessert.

**Submitted by Elaine G. Ritter**

**Clerk of Session**



**Next meeting is Mon., Dec. 19, 2011 at 7:00 pm**

### ANNUAL REPORT 2011 ANNUAL REPORTS



Annual Reports from each committee/department of the church will be assembled in early January for inclusion in the one comprehensive **2011 Annual Report**. At this time, we are collecting the plastic '**spines**' from last year's reports. If you have yours and would like to donate it, please leave in the church office and we will re-use on the 2011 report.

As for the report, you may e-mail as an attachment or leave a hard copy in the church office folder designated for annual reports.

### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Bea Jones-12/02  
 Jean Morris-12/08  
 Joanne Elyseev-12/11  
 Al Ferrel-12/13  
 Kathy Gee-12/15  
 Peter Seem-12/17  
 Connie Richardson-12/22  
 Mary Beth Day-12/22  
 Bob Stenlake-12/23  
 Megan Derr-12/27  
 Heather Walker-12/28



### January Newsletter

articles due on  
 December 15th.  
 It will be mailed  
 On December 22nd.

### WOMEN'S CIRCLE

**The Women's Circle met on Nov. 7.** The lesson on the Beatitudes led by Joy, stressed that Jesus renews God's promise to those whom society humbles, a promise that they shall inherit the earth. "Humbled" may be those people who are victims of injustice or those who are the opposite of proud and mighty or those who are guided by God and seek refuge in God.



Seven personal-care kits were prepared for Family Counseling. A Thank You note was read for the items previously sent. Some "extra" items will be put in the **December House of Concern collection for non-food items**. It was voted to send \$100 to the Christmas Project through the Deacon's Fund.

#### **3rd Sunday House of Concern items are:**

**Jan. 15 : Mac & Cheese**

**Feb. 19: Soup**

**March 18: Canned Veggies & Fruits**

**The 3rd Sunday Dec. 18 item is:**

**NON—FOOD ITEMS: soaps, detergent, diapers, etc.**

**The Dec. 5th meeting will be our usual luncheon** with a dish to pass and a package of disposable diapers for the House of Concern. **Liza** will be contacting you. All are welcome. This is a great time of year to reconnect and share good times.  
- **Jean Morris**

### **VANDERKAMP Winter Retreat Feb. 3—Feb. 5, 2012**

Our Vanderkamp retreat weekend is only 2 months away. The sign-up sheet is in the church basement, so please sign up if you are planning on going or even just thinking about it. Remember, family and friends are always welcome. The more, the merrier! I will need to have commitments by the beginning of January so that I can calculate the price per person. I am estimating that the price for the weekend, which includes 2 nights and 3 meals, will be approximately \$100 per adult. Children ages 6-12 only have to pay for their meals [\$12.25] and children under 6 are free. I will not need payment until the end of January.

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 me if you would like more information or have any questions or concerns. I can be reached at 568-6383. Also, check out the Vanderkamp web site at [www.vk.org](http://www.vk.org)

- **Claire Damaske**

## CHANCEL CHOIR

The Chancel Choir, under the direction of Mina Choi is rehearsing music for Advent and Christmas Eve. At the opening of each worship service, while the Advent Wreath is being lighted, we will all sing "Waiting For You"...words and music by Christopher Grundy, led by the choir.

"...We are waiting for you, knowing that you always abide, we are waking to your presence and our hearts are open wide, open wide..."

The Chancel Choir is also preparing selections from Handel's Messiah and from arrangements by John Rutter, Douglas Wagner, John Ness Beck, and Malcolm Archer. An extra rehearsal is planned either for Sat. Dec. 10 or Sat. Dec. 17.

### **Join us for Caroling!**

**Anyone from the congregation** is invited to join the Pastor On **Tues, Dec. 20 at 10:30 am** at Huntington Living Center to sing A few Advent and Christmas carols. The residents and staff greatly look forward to visitors and 'singing' visitors will be an added treat. Please Let Pastor Leah know if you will join her.



### **Cpl. Geoffrey Tyler**

Has been redeployed to Afghanistan. **Jim Clark** hopes to make up a big batch of Beef Jerky for Geoff and his fellow soldiers. If you would help Jim to defray some of the costs involved in buying ingredients and paying postage, you may give Jim some cash or a check when you see him or kindly mail to :

**Jim Clark 114 Cayuga St., Seneca Falls NY 13148**

## NEWS FROM THE PRESBYTERY



*Seneca Falls, The First Presbyterian Church will be hosting the Presbytery meeting on Saturday, Jan 21, 2012. If you are available to help with greeting, lunch and snacks, please let Pastor Leah know. Thank you in advance!*

### **Not Our Usual Presbytery Meeting!**

After the business side of the meeting completed, we heard from Donald Proffit, a World Cafe Conversations expert. We were thrilled to be experiencing the "power of conversations that matter" through this activity. This was an effective and exciting way to reflect on the past, present, and future of our community...and we even discovered new opportunities for action!

### **Welcome Rev. Blake Severson!**

The Presbytery of Geneva held the Installation of the Rev. Blake Severson as the pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Lyons, NY. On Saturday, November, 19th at 3pm at 11 Queen Street Lyons, NY 14489.

### **Lake Street Celebrating 150 Years!**

The Lake Street Presbyterian Church (Elmira, NY) will commemorate their 150 years of worship and service to the community with a celebratory worship service on Sunday, November 20, 2011 at 3:00pm.

### HANDBELL REPORT



What an interesting year this has been for bell rehearsals and performances. From month-to-month or even day-to-day I am never sure of the number of ringers I will have. A recent example of this was when bells were scheduled to ring on November 20. On Saturday, November 19, in the early afternoon I received notice that Claire and Dick were on their way to Boston to be with their son and wife at the birth of their grandchild. And in the next hour I received notice that Lisa would not be able to ring with us as she was sick. My immediate thought was to call Carol and Anne Millis but they were playing in their own church that Sunday. Hoping that Wendy was available, I called her. She said yes and would sub for Claire, Mina said yes to subbing for Dick and I subbed for Lisa. Because our bell choir is so experienced they were able to work with 3 new ringers and give an exceptional performance.

We will ring again on Christmas Eve with only 7 ringers: Claire & Dick Damaske, Joanne Elyseev, Carolyn & Bob Seem, Sarah Walsh, and Phil Plummer. Connie, Amy, Karen, Lisa have family responsibilities and won't be able to join us for the Christmas Eve service. Nancy is still recovering and we hope she will be able to join us as soon as she is able.

Our bell choir could use a few more people who would be willing to join us. Bell ringing is a unique, satisfying experience and is fun! If you have a interest in coming to a rehearsal, just come on in Wednesday nights from 7:30 – 8:30. We would enjoy showing you what it is to ring bells.

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Sing & Ring is rehearsing and will be performing on December 4. We have 10 children of all age groups and they are learning how to work together as a team to accomplish the task of knowing what bell to ring and when. The secret to playing bells is to be able to count to 4 (or 3).

Marge

## CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

- ◆ Thank you to all who helped decorate the church for Advent on Saturday, November 26th: Marion Crull, Matt Crull, Susan Derr, Karen Beals, Jannette Monterville, Simon Ntuala and Pastor Leah
- ◆ Thank you to all the volunteers who rang the Salvation Army Bell outside of TOPS on Friday, November 25th, all day. They generated \$346 in donations.
- ◆ Thank you to the Lohr's for taking the food items to The House of Concern this month.
- ◆ Thank you to everyone who bought wreaths and supported our Boy Scout Troop 88.

### **Congratulations!**

**Dick & Claire Damaske** have a new grandchild. Gracie Damaske arrived a little ahead of schedule, but her parents, **John & Janet Damaske** were good sports and welcomed her aboard on Sat., Nov. 19. Big brother, **Noah**, nearing three years, was pleased as well.

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### **THANKS FROM BARB LOHR**

16 November, 2011

Dear Church Family—I'm sending a BIG Thank You for the beautiful flower bouquet. Nothing is more cheerful for one's spirit than fresh flowers. It made me feel much better.

God bless you all !

Love,

*Barbara Lohr*

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### **A NOTE FROM FRAN WEBB**

Nov. 2, 2011

Dear Friends at First Presbyterian,

Thank you so much for sending me the bulletin from Sunday's service. I am getting used to it here but appreciate the bulletins so much to help me keep in touch with everyone and the news. We have music and devotions after . Kay [daughter] keeps in touch everyday and I get to see the family for birthdays and parties. Please extend my best wishes to our good friends, there.

- **Fran**

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### **IN THE COMMUNITY . . . Volunteers needed**

**It's a Wonderful Life committee is seeking volunteers** to staff several **It's a Wonderful Life** events. Workers can work in 1—hour shifts or for a whole session if willing. Volunteers can call with times willing to work to **Joyce Sinicropi 568-6345** or **Anwei Law 568-5838** If you leave a recorded message, we'll return your call.

Sat. Dec. 10, 4:30—7:30 pm    Serving at "Taste of Bedford Falls", Trinity Church

Sat. Dec. 10—5:30—7:30 pm    Serving desserts at Fashion Show, SF Community Center

Sun., Dec. 11, 11:30-1:15 pm    Working Refreshment Stand, Academy Square

Other opportunities, as well. Call us! Thank you so much —

It's **always** a Wonderful Life in Seneca Falls !!!

## USHERS, GREETERS and NURSERY

### December 4th– Communion/2nd Sunday in Advent

Ushers: Jim and Cherie Clark  
 Greeters: Barb Lohr and Liza Merriam  
 Nursery: Susan Derr and Barb Lohr



### December 11th-3rd Sunday in Advent

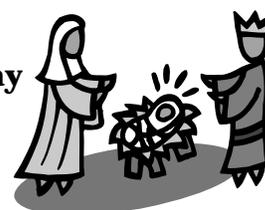
Ushers: Jan and Mike Day  
 Greeters: Becky and Scott Jessop  
 Nursery: Matt Crull and Barb Van Kirk

### December 18th– 4th Sunday in Advent

Ushers: Carolyn and Bob Seem  
 Greeters: Diane and Jeb Becker  
 Nursery: Kathy Gee and Elaine Ritter

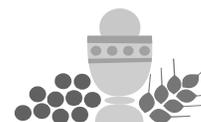
### December 25th– Christmas Day

Ushers: Donald and Elaine Ritter  
 Greeters: Jean Loar and Barb VanKirk  
 Nursery: Barb VanKirk and Cherie Clark



### January 1st– Communion/New Year's Day

Ushers: Susan Derr and Elaine Ritter  
 Greeters: Jean Loar and Jean Morris  
 Nursery: Jan Day and Carolyn Seem



## COFFEE HOUR

**Dec 4th:** Celebration of Joyce Lohr's Service, Social Halls  
**Dec 11th: Christmas Joy** video; Elyseevs hosting  
**Dec 18th:** Coffee and Dessert at the Manse; The Ntuala Family hosting  
**Dec 25th:** *Merry Christmas!* No Coffee Hour  
**January 1:** *Happy New Year 2012* No Coffee Hour



**Know someone ill or hospitalized?** This month, please call: **Susan Derr 568-9918**

**To Keep in our prayers:** Liz Brown, Alice Burgdorf, Bob Didsbury, Paul Foote, Bob & Betty Geraghty, Mary Headley, Charlene Hooper, Crystal Jones, Joan Olmstead, Bobbi Plummer, Sally Porsch, Don Proctor, Jeff Richardson & Family, Nancy Shuster, Alberta Stuck, Cpl. Geoffrey Tyler, Cathy Van Vechten, Ruby Vogel, Margaret Yells and Fran Webb

**Please advise the church office of names to include or remove from this list. Thank you.**

**Remember the House of Concern when you grocery-shop!**

Church Office: 315.568.6636  
Hours: Tuesday-Thursday 8:30-2:30  
Manse: 315.257.0028

**Sunday Worship at 10am. Nursery Care available. Sunday School 10:15am.  
Coffee Hour in Eastman Hall following worship.**

Rev. Leah Ntuala-Pastor  
Rev. Dr. Peter J. Crego-Pastor Emeritus  
Mina Choi- Director of Music & Organist  
Elaine Ritter-Clerk of Session  
Karen Beals-Treasurer  
Marjorie Fahrenholz- Hand bell Choir Director  
Kyle Bruzda- Sexton

*Session meets of the 4th Monday of each month at 7pm.*

Presently serving Ruling Elders: Jeb Becker, Richard Damaske, Susan Derr, Kathy Gee, Scott Jessop, Marvin Lay, Barbara Lohr, Jannette Monterville, Paul Richardson, Elaine Ritter, Clerk of Session and Rev. Leah Ntuala, moderator.

First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls  
P.O. Box 383  
23 Cayuga St  
Seneca Falls, NY 13148  
Phone: 315.568.6636  
E-mail: [fpressf@verizon.net](mailto:fpressf@verizon.net)  
Website: [www.fpressf.com](http://www.fpressf.com)



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