



First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls

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



January Newsletter 2019

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Pastor's Corner

"In the end, only three things matter:
how much you loved, how gently you lived,
and how gracefully you let go of things not meant for you."
-Anonymous

The New Year is almost upon us, which means resolutions! This year I am resolving to make 2019 my year of gratitude. I wish to be more positive in my day to day living and model gratitude.

I am almost 41 and in my short time on this earth, I have come to learn that we are the values we live not speak. I can say 'Calm Down' to my kiddos all I want, but if I do it while yelling....I teach them nothing but hypocrisy. I have also learned that 'normal' is whatever you do, so if I want to develop a new normal, like gratitude, then I have to practice gratitude until it becomes my new normal.

Anytime, I begin a new practice I have to look at what is going to be sustainable. So this year the new practice for me will be an altered book/gratitude journal.



An altered book is a form of mixed media artwork that changes a book from its original form into a different form, altering its appearance and/or meaning.

Now, maybe an altered book doesn't appeal to you, but a gratitude journal does. You can write down the questions and answers OR you can set aside a time every day to be grateful (first thing in the morning, last thing at night) Here are some prompts:

- ♦ What's something that you're looking forward to?
- ♦ What's something that you are grateful to have today that you didn't have a year ago?
- ♦ Write about a happy memory.
- ♦ Write about someplace you've been that you're grateful for.
- ♦ What's something about your body or health that you're grateful for?
- ♦ Open the door or window and look outside. What's something you're grateful for outside?
- ♦ What's an accomplishment you're proud of?
- ♦ Write about a friend that you're grateful for.
- ♦ Look around the room and write about everything you see that you're grateful for.
- ♦ Write about 3 things you're grateful for today.

I hope you consider joining me. Peace, Pastor Leah

Session Briefs

At its December 3, 2018 meeting, the Session:



**PREBYTERIAN
WOMEN**

- Heard information related to the Charles E. Jewell Fund [established to aid people in need]
- Read letter from Covenant Network and moved to donate for work at General Assembly 2019
- Heard notes of thanks from Carolyn Seem, Kae Hoyle, Honey Gilbert & Mike Porterfield, and the House of Concern
- Heard budget report for November: Income at \$13,176; Expenses \$14,651
- Moved to approve 2019 budget of \$183,035
- Moved to remove the name of Nancy Shuster from church rolls at her request
- Approved two late December dates for pastor vacation
- Asked as individual Elders, to consider possible small group-formation for timely issues
- Moved for the church to be a sponsor of July 20, 2019 Women's Right to Run
- Moved to approve creation of an Alice Paul statue in traditional bronze, by Vicki Guerrina
- Heard news regarding planned opening of Domestic Violence Shelter for Wayne, Yates, & Seneca Counties and invitation for Elders to participate
- Heard estimates and moved to have one church boiler rebuilt at a cost of up to \$14,000
- Heard estimates for Eastman Hall conversion to LED lighting and moved to accept Roloson Electric bid of \$18,606
- Learned of Elder Marc Smith's acceptance to Presbytery of Geneva's Operations Committee

[Prepared by Joyce Lohr, Clerk to the Session]

Manse Open House





Women's Circle

The Women's Circle hosted its annual Holiday Luncheon [dish to pass] on December 3rd with Pastor Leah and several women from the congregation, in attendance. The Hawley Room had been set up with tables and looked very festive, [thanks to Ruby, Barb, Ginger, and Joyce]. Each signed a get-well card for Carolyn Seem and a birthday card for Jean Morris, our former, long-time Circle leader, who has moved to Lockport. There was a nice assortment of dishes and desserts and following lunch, Mrs. Santa appeared and everyone was invited to take a small gift from her pack. We all enjoyed a few laughs and a sing-along of carols, accompanied by the pastor, on Ukulele. We even got all the way through *The Twelve Days of Christmas!* Lots of us joined in clean-up.

You are all thanked for bringing gifts of infant and toddler diapers, which have been delivered to the House of Concern.

We hope many more of you will be able to join us next year!

In January, we'll meet on the first **Monday, January 6, 2019 at 12:30** in the Hawley Room. Bible study will include Lessons 4 & 5 in *God's Promise: I Am With You*, by [the Rev.] Amy Poling Sutherlun. The lessons are entitled "God with Us When We Seek God" [Chronicles, Kings], and "God with Us When We're Powerless" [Chronicles, Deuteronomy].

We still have study booklets if anyone's been thinking of joining us. Joy Novack leads. Following, we will talk about the needs for personal care kits, which we'll assemble this winter for the Geneva Women's Shelter.

Our thanks to Wayne Lohr for taking donations to the House of Concern, and to people in the congregation who faithfully donate items each month and to those who donate on Communion Sundays in support of our work .

JANUARY suggested donations to House of Concern:

Dry Pasta, Packaged or canned Pasta Meals, Pasta Sauce

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Iva Lay-1/1

Barbara Lohr-1/5

Leah Ntuala-1/6

Kiersten Dunbar Fitzgerald-1/12

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 27, 2019

Brunch following Service

February Newsletter

articles are due on

January 17th.

Newsletter will be sent
out

On January 24th.

The Pentecostal Faith of Nobel Peace Prize

Winner Denis Mukwege

By *Micael Grenholm* 12-10-2018



Nadia Murad and Denis Mukwege at the Nobel Peace Prize Ceremony in Oslo, Norway. Dec. 10, 2018. NTB Scanpix/Berit Roald via REUTERS

Dr. Denis Mukwege, who has just received the 2018 Nobel Peace Prize for his work in the Democratic Republic of Congo, shows us one example of what global Pentecostalism can look like. Mukwege is sharing the award with Nadia Murad of Iraq for their efforts to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict.

Mukwege's Panzi Hospital, located in Bukavu at the heart of the conflict-ridden South Kivu province, treated over 50,000 survivors of sexual violence during the last 20 years. Mukwege has also repeatedly criticized the Congolese government. In 2012, he was almost assassinated and his family was held at gunpoint.

Mukwege is a full-fledged Pentecostal. The son of a pastor, he's been part of the Congolese Pentecostal movement known as Communauté des Eglises de Pentecôte en Afrique Centrale (CEPAC) all his life. In his autobiography, co-authored with Berthil Åkerlund, he writes: "I was born into this movement, it has a central place in my life". He also shares his life-transforming experience of being baptized in the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues. Apart from working as a medical doctor at the Panzi Hospital, he pastors a Pentecostal church in Bukavu.

Mukwege's medical studies and the construction of Panzi have partly been financed by the Pentecostal movement. I recently talked to Maria Bard from the Swedish Pentecostal International Relief and Development Agency (PMU) about Mukwege's faith. She told me, "Whenever he's asked what motivates him and gives him strength – a question he gets a lot – he points to two things: the strength of the women and his faith."

In 2015, Mukwege was a main speaker at the national Swedish Pentecostal conference, Nyhem, where he shared the following: "From this place, people have

been praying for my beloved country and tonight it is a privilege for me to stand here as a fruit of your prayers. My congregation belongs to the Congolese Pentecostal Movement Cepac, and with about one million members it is a fruit of your prayers. The Panzi hospital is a fruit of your prayers."

Mukwege's combination of a bold, Spirit-filled faith and a solid commitment to peacemaking and women's right is not an anomaly. He represents what sociologists Donald Miller and Tetsunao Yamamori call "progressive Pentecostals," Christians who both claim to experience miracles and work for social change within their communities. This form of Pentecostalism is radically changing societies around the world.

Pentecostal churches are often rather more effective change agents than are development NGOs...they are exceptionally effective at bringing about personal transformation and empowerment, they provide the moral legitimacy for a set of behavior changes that would otherwise clash with local values, and they radically reconstruct families and communities to support these new values and new behaviors.

Historically, Pentecostalism originated from the Holiness Movement, which had a clear emphasis on social justice and helping the poor. It also had a high view of gender equality, allowing women to preach. This was also true for early Pentecostalism, even though it quickly conformed to the normative patterns of male dominance that was prevalent in other church movements. Early Pentecostals were also predominantly pacifist and champions for peace in times of world wars.

With this history in mind, it makes sense that Mukwege does not need to fuse his Pentecostal faith with something else in order to become a feminist activist, fighting for peace and women's rights. I believe this is at the heart of Pentecost. We read in the Holy Scriptures that the consequence of the Holy Spirit's outpouring on the apostolic church was not merely tongues and healing, but also economic redistribution and social equality (Acts 2:42-47).

Mukwege is a great representative and role-model for the world's 600 million Pentecostals and charismatics. I hope that we will follow his example of combining spiritual gifts with activism for a better world.



2019- Church Events



January

Won't You Be My Neighbor- 1/9
Seneca Nursing & Rehab Service-1/13
Ordination of Elders- 1/20
Annual Meeting- 1/27
Session-1/28

Feb

Game Night/Potluck- 2/1
Movie Night- 2/5
Blood Drive- 2/7
Valentine's Sunday- 2/10
Won't You Be My Neighbor- 2/13
Seneca Nursing & Rehab Service-2/24
Session-2/25

March

Ash Wednesday-3/6
Won't You Be My Neighbor- 3/13
Pi Day- Pie Sale- 3/14
Session- 3/25

April

Seneca Nursing & Rehab Service-4/7
Won't You Be My Neighbor- 4/10
Palm Sunday Brunch-4/14
Maundy Thursday Service-4/18 7pm
Good Friday Service-4/19, 7pm
Easter-4/21
Session-4/22

May

National Day of Prayer- 5/2
Game Night-5/3
Movie Night-5/7
Won't You Be My Neighbor- 5/8
Seneca Nursing & Rehab Service-5/19
Session-5/20
Memorial Day Bell Ringing- 5/27

June

Pentecost-6/9
Last Day of Sunday School-6/9
Session-6/24
Seneca Nursing & Rehab Service-6/30

July

Right to Run 5k/19k- 7/20
Presbyterian Women Visit- 7/20

August

Seneca Nursing & Rehab Service-8/11
Session-8/26

September

Sunday School Begins-9/15
Blessing of the Backpacks-9/15
Seneca Nursing & Rehab Service-9/22
Session-9/23

October

Game Night/Potluck Dinner- 10/4
World Communion Sunday- 10/6
Pumpkin Sunday- 10/27
Session-10/28

November

All Saint's Sunday- 11/3
Seneca Nursing & Rehab Service-11/3
Congregational Meeting- 11/17
Session-11/25

December

1st Sunday in Advent- 12/1
Advent Sing-12/1
It's a Wonderful Life-12/14
Seneca Nursing & Rehab Service-12/15
Session-12/16
Longest Night Service-12/21, 7pm
Christmas Pageant/Manse Party- 12/22
Christmas Eve Service- 12/24, 7pm



Calendars Mark Your Calendars Mark Your

Church Family News

Annual Reports: The annual meeting is going to be held on Sunday, January 27th. If you are the head of a committee your annual reports are due by **January 10th**. 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 2019. 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 a winner for the wine raffle - Fran Barbieri. The wine raffle brought in \$380. Thank you to all who donated wine and sold raffle tickets. This fundraiser was a success thanks to all of you!

Stewardship Update—Thank you all for your commitment to First Pres! Our total pledges have reached the \$81,336 mark for the church and \$6,012 for benevolences for a grand total of \$87,348. With your dollar commitment (and those pledges we have not received yet), reduction in expenses, generous endowments and a limited amount from reserves, we will have a balanced budget without asking for more assistance. Thank you!

Christmas Pageant

Thank you all for making Dec 16th a wonderful and memorable day!



Members and Friends to Keep in Our Thoughts:



Name

Address

Luanna Day

369 E. Main Street, Huntington Living Ctr Rm 222,
Waterloo, NY 13165

Dorothy Dickieson

303 Ferris Hills, Canandaigua, NY 14424

Betty Geraghty

8 Iroquois Lane, Waterloo, NY 13165

Liza Merriam

369 E. Main Street, Huntington Living Ctr Rm 108,
Waterloo, NY 13165

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

Ushers, Nursery and Candle Lighters



January 6th– Communion/Baptism of the Lord

Ushers: Marion and Matt Crull
 Nursery: Michelle and Keara Dugan
 Candle Lighter: Gary Ippolito



January 13th– Installation of Elders

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

January 20th

Ushers: Joy and Paul Novack
 Nursery: Becky Jessop and Carolyn Jessop
 Candle Lighter: Rachel Olsowske

January 27th– 4th Sunday after Epiphany & Annual Meeting

Ushers: Jim and Cherie Clark
 Nursery: Susan Derr
 Candle Lighter: Keara Dugan

February 3rd– Communion

Ushers: Aryanna Dugan and Keara Dugan
 Nursery: Sue Harkey
 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

6th— Bob Seem
 13th— Ginny Konz
 20th— Karen Kelley
 27th— Marc Smith

Coffee Hour and Prayer List

Jan 6th: Fellowship Hour in the Social Hall; Hosts: Damaskes
Jan 13th: Hour: Rescue Dogs, Matt Cramer; Host: Matt Cramer
Jan 20th: Coffee Hour– **TBD**; Host: **TBD** Coffee
Jan 27th: No Coffee Hour- Annual Meeting and Brunch hosted by Membership/Parish

Feb. 3rd: Social Hour; Host: **TBD**



Know someone ill or hospitalized? This month, please call: Sue Charles 315.224.2364

To Keep in our prayers: Dorothy Baker; Matthew Burlew; family of Ann Cramer; Sue Ellen Crego; Cindy Danielson; Luanna Day; George & Joanne Elyseev; Kiersten FitzGerald; Betty Geraghty; Honey Gilbert; Pat Gordon; Crystal Hanes; Greta Hauser & family; Minni Herrigan; Shannon Hoyle; Beth & John Jones; family of Andrew LeBrun; Christina Lopez & her family; Liza Merriam; Paul & Ann Miller; Dean & Elizabeth Montgomery; Claudia Morgan; Tyler Morgan; Patsy Mott; Jinny Noone; Rachel Porterfield; Nancy Shuster; Sarah Snyder; Jean Stenlake; Carolyn Walsh; Pete Wormuth; EthelMae Wright; Linda Zona and all those suffering in the world.

Church Office: 315.568.6636
Hours: Tuesday-Thursday 7-12pm
Manse: 315.398.4356
E-mail: firstpres13148@gmail.com
Website: www.fpressf.com

Scan this code
with your smart
phone to visit our
website



Sunday School (K-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
Peter Snyder—Sexton
Hedra Harrison-Music Director
Joyce Lohr— Clerk to the Session



Session meetings are on the 4th Monday of each month at 7pm.
Presently serving Elders: Matthew Crull, Susan Harkey, Jay Hoyle, Ginny Konz, Wayne Lohr,
Donna Montgomery, Joy Novack, 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

January Newsletter 2019