

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SENECA FALLS

## October 2011 Newsletter



### Pastor's Corner-Rev. Leah Ntuala

*"I believe in God as I believe the sun has risen, not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else."* -CS Lewis

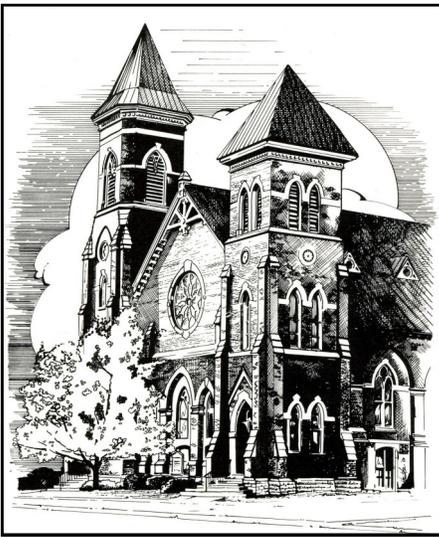
I have been thinking a great deal recently about this CS Lewis quote. It is very true that the beauty of the sun is not just in the light the sun gives, but also how it warms up and lights up all it touches. CS Lewis concludes that a belief in God would have the same affect. Unfortunately, this has not always been the case. We each can think of these instances in our own life and instances in our media. I fear an inability to allow the light of God to allow us to see has caused many to no longer claim that they are a child of God.

I have been wondering and talk with several people recently about how to "claim" one's identity as a child of God. I think allowing what it means to be a child of God to be defined only by extremist groups is the wrong way to go. The majority has too long been silent. So how do we show we are children of God without shoving our religious beliefs into one another's faces. How do we live our faith, show people the light of God and be respectful of other's personal beliefs?

Isaiah 58:3, 6-10, "Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of God shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and God will answer; you shall cry for help, and God will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday."

Let us show the light of God and claim our identity as children of God in our actions. Let us reflect the light of God in all we do. Let us work to loose the bonds of injustice, the let the oppressed go free, to share our bread, bring the homeless into our homes, give people clothes to wear. Then our light will break forth and people will see God in all we do, not with only the words we say, but by the way we serve.

Peace, Pastor Leah



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## SESSION BRIEFS

From meeting of Monday, September 26, 2011

- ◆ Session learned about the 21st Century Social Creed and desired to share it with you as well. Copies will be in the Oct 2nd bulletin . A copy will also be available in the Narthex.
- ◆ Peacemaking Offering will be collected on Sunday, Oct 2nd.
- ◆ Membership and Parish Life will host a Roast Beef Dinner (thank you Jim Clark) on Sunday, Oct 9th at 6pm. Cost is \$7 a person or \$20 a family. Please bring a dish to pass.
- ◆ Property has finished the floors downstairs, changed light bulbs throughout the church, done roof, plumbing and parking lot repairs at the manse . Thank you!
- ◆ Stewardship will be meeting soon to begin the Annual Stewardship Campaign.
- ◆ Nominating is going to be ready with a new slate of officers in time for the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, November 13th., in order to elect officers.
- ◆ The SERRV catalog is available in Pastor Leah's office or you can visit their website [www.serrv.org](http://www.serrv.org). SERRV is a non-profit organization with over 60 years experience in fair-trade. Their mission is to eradicate poverty wherever it resides by providing opportunity and support to artisans and farmers worldwide.
- ◆ **Next meeting of the Session is Monday, October 24th at 7pm.**



## NEWS FROM THE PRESBTERY

### **Help Our Neighbors In The Flood Aftermath:**

Many of you have asked how you might help victims of our recent flood. The plan is to organize weekly trips on Saturdays to help with clean up and demolition as well as bring needed supplies each week. If you are able to join us for onsite work, please bring the following: Work Gloves, Hammers, Sledge Hammers. If you have any further questions about the trips, please contact at: [cwmathewson@usa.net](mailto:cwmathewson@usa.net) or (607) 542-9021.

### **National Presbyterian Church of Mexico and PC(USA):**

On Monday, August 22, Presbyterian World Mission leaders received a communiqué from leaders of the National Presbyterian Church of Mexico (INPM) officially documenting the decision of the Mexican church to sever the historic 139-year relationship between INPM and the Presbyterian Church ( U . S . A . ) The decision occurred on Friday, August 19, in response to PC(USA) actions on Amendment 10-A regarding ordination standards. <http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/global/mexico/>

### **Red Hands Gentle Reminder:**

This is just a reminder for you and your Christian Educators from an email sent out last month. We are working hard on the Red Hands Campaign in conjunction with the United Nations and the PCUSA and would love your involvement. It is an awareness **campaign to end the use of child soldiers** around the world in a time of conflict. I have attached more information for you to this email: **Presbyterians are standing together to say NO to Child Soldiers!** We are hoping you can incorporate this project into Sunday school, discussions in the community, and any youth activities you are a part of. We want you to make "Red Hands" with the children and adults you know!

## WOMEN'S CIRCLE



**The Women's Circle** met on Sept. 12. Elaine graciously opened her home since work was being done at the church. We enjoyed a tour and appreciated the restoration they've done.

Using both Matthew and Luke brought new meaning to the Beatitude: "Blessed are the poor"

Going to the source of the Greek words made the distinction of meanings of "poor"

understandable: working poor, destitute poor, spiritually poor. How familiar these sound, today. Thanks, Joy.

Over the summer, extra funds were sent to the House of Concern. Please remember personal care items for the kits and bring them to the October meeting.

Items for the **3rd Sunday House of Concern collection are:**

**October - Peanut Butter & Jelly...November - Breakfast Cereal...December—non-foods**

The next meeting is **Mon., October 3 at 12:30** at the church. Bring a sandwich and join us for the most interesting study. We have extra books.

- Jean Morris

\* \* \*

The **3rd Sunday** offering for the House of Concern:

**Peanut Butter & Jelly/Jam**

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Pumpkin Sunday will be held on **Sunday, October 30th**, following worship. Please come with donations for the UNICEF Halloween boxes and choose your favorite decorated pumpkin! Please come dressed in your Halloween Costume!

Reminder: Game Night will be held of **Friday, Oct 7th from 5pm-9pm**. Bring games, friends and food to share! See you there!

Finally, Matthew Walsh has entered the 3rd grade which means on **Sunday, October 16th** he will be presented with a Bible. We hope to see you there.



**NOVEMBER**  
Newsletter  
 Items due Oct. 2  
 Mailing is Oct. 27

## CHANCEL CHOIR

Welcome to Mina Choi our new Director of Music and Organist

Mina Choi has joined the church staff as Director of Music and Organist as of September 1, 2011. She recently moved to New York to start Doctoral studies in performance practice at Cornell University. However, because she was in Asia at the time she contacted us about the position, we had to wait until late August to actually meet and interview Mina. We are very glad we waited.

Mina's family immigrated to USA from South Korea about 20 years ago, and she grew up in Dallas/Arlington, Texas area but migrated northward to start her formal music education at the Eastman School of Music. During that time she served as organist at the Rochester United Methodist Church. Mina then moved to London to complete her bachelor's degree at the Royal College of Music where she served as assistant music director at St. John the Baptist Anglican Church, Pinner and organ scholar at Chelsea Old Church. After the study in UK, she returned to the US and earned a Master's degree in music at Yale and served as music director and organist at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Milford, CT and chapel organist at Yale Divinity School Chapel. Mina then moved back to Texas to teach at middle school and community college as well as serving as organist at Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, Bedford, Texas.

Europe drew her back for a second Master's degree in organ and early music at the Conservatorium of Amsterdam with a period as an exchange student to Stuttgart, Germany to study the organ music of Max Reger. In Amsterdam, she also served as organist in Pelgrimkerk, Amstelveen, and she was involved actively in playing in organ and choral concerts together with professional musicians and choirs.

Along with her musical careers, Mina did mission works in Asia and Europe before preparing to start at Cornell. She has passion to reach out to those who are lost and broken. This summary is not complete and has omitted many of Mina's other activities as well as all of her awards, scholarships and concerts.

If you think that Mina is intimidating, fear not. She is delightful and friendly. More importantly, Mina has a strong commitment to bring meaningful music to the church service and the glorification of God. Most Sundays Mina will disappear quickly after the service because she has volunteered to play at the Cornell Korean Christian Gathering in Ithaca.

It is hard to keep up with Mina but we feel truly blessed to have her as part of our church community while she is at Cornell.

Jannette Monterville and Bob Seem  
Search Committee Co-chairs

During the summer from May 9—Sept 4, we had several piano and organ people who were kind enough to help us as we continued to search: Sue Stobie, piano; Ralph Meluney and Marg DePalma, organ. I sent all of them Thank-You notes and a note to me from **Marg De Palma** expressed her enjoyment in playing at our church. "I found you and the members of the congregation to be very friendly and I felt welcome. You are very fortunate to have such an outstanding minister. I will keep you all in my prayers."



Our sincere thanks goes to the committee: Karen Beals, Kathy Gee, Jack LaValley, Nancy Shuster and Barbara Van Kirk for a job well done.

- Jannette Monterville

**The choir rehearses at 6pm on Wednesday evenings.  
We hope you will be able to join in the music!**

## HANDBELL CHOIR



Our 4-octaves of handbells are cleaned, polished, adjusted and worn parts replaced. They were sent back to us in early September in time to begin rehearsals. The last time the bells were refurbished was in 1998. Before the bells were sent out in August several bell ringers rehearsed a bell piece for July and then a piece to play on chimes in August. I would like to thank them: *Connie Richardson, Lisa VanDelinder, Karen Beals, Phil Plummer, Joanne Elyseev, Sarah Walsh, Carolyn and Bob Seem.*

Because there have been unexpected changes in our bell choir, and because there are so many commitments relating to job requirements and family needs of all of our members, we will have a different number of ringers each month. This will give us a chance to play some of the music in our files for 2, 3, 4, or 5 octaves of bell music. Also, because many of our ringers are quite capable of playing 4-in hand, it makes it possible for us to play a 3-octave piece with only 8 ringers. (A 3-octave piece usually requires 9 or 10 ringers.) On October 16 we will perform "Incline My Heart" with only 8 ringers. You will notice several players will ring multiple bells – they are that good!

In 1983 Meg Becker ordered a set of 2-octaves of handbells. After learning how to ring, when to ring and what music was possible for a new bell choir, several volunteers joined the new organization. I happened to find a copy of a piece of music performed in 1985 and the bell choir members were: *Bobbi and Phil Plummer, Nancy Shuster*, still playing bells, you can understand why the bell choir is so accomplished!

If there is someone in the congregation who would like to learn to ring bells, we do need one or two bell ringers. We meet on Wednesday from 7:30 – 8:30 in the Bell Room. We try to play once a month for worship. If you feel you can make that commitment we would really appreciate working with you and I am sure you would enjoy the experience. We will teach you all you need to know.

*Marge*

## MEMBERSHIP & PARISH LIFE SEEKS YOUR HELP

Over the past months several of us have talked about how we could help each other in our lives, specifically how we could be of help to the caregivers in our congregation: people who are caring for a frail spouse and who themselves, could benefit from some 'time off'. With suggestions from the Pastor, **Membership & Parish Life Committee** is seeking in-put from you. **Are you a care-giver? How could we be of help to you? Are you a person who would like to help?** Please speak to any Membership/Parish Life person or call the church office. We'll all work together on this and your ideas will be vital.



## CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

### PASTOR SCOTT CUPP

Our congregation will be pleased to know our prayers are answered for Scott. In an **email on Aug. 1**, he wrote:

“A week ago today I packed a U-Haul truck with a bunch of my stuff...and headed for NJ where I have been asked to serve as Interim Pastor. The church is in Matawan NJ [south of Staten Island NY] ...it is a nice place to be.

The people have been very welcoming and enthusiastic that I am here. I am equally enthusiastic to be here...the church itself is about 200 years old... With AA, NA, Scouts, theatre group, choral troupe, two choirs, two bell choirs, daycare center and several other things...Tonia is, once again, holding down the fort in Syracuse [Matty in the navy, Nicholas living across town & Cassie back at Temple]...I cannot begin to thank you enough for your prayers and support. It has been a long dry spell and we could not have done it without you. I would ask that you keep us in your prayers still—this is going to be a bigger challenge than any we have faced recently —if only because of the miles of separation. ...Know that you are in my prayers and that I think of you often. Do take care — and let me know if you are in the area. I would love to see you...one and all [in small groups!] Oh yes —the address is:

**871 Highway 34**

**Matawan NJ 07747**

**Phone no [732] 242-9063, just in case you get the urge to chat.**

Take care of you.

Grace and peace,

Scott

\* \* \*

For the full content of Scott's e-mail, ask in the church office.

- ◆ Thank you to everyone who brought items and helped to set up the reception for Dick Burtless' Memorial Service.
- ◆ Thank you to Don Ritter, Kyle Bruzda, Jack LaValley and Wayne Lohr who have redone the floors and they look wonderful!
- ◆ Thank you to the Wayne and Joyce Lohr for taking the donations of food to the House of Concern.

### October Birthdays

Ruth Ferrel 10/01  
 Phil Plummer 10/02  
 Kris [Lohr] Witherspoon 10/02  
 Sam Dickieson 10/08  
 Zach Rescorl 10/10  
 Fran Webb 10/11  
 Luanna Day 10/12  
 Diana Becker 10/16  
 Peter Crego 10/18  
 Bob Seem 10/22  
 Bob Geraghty 10/27  
 Don Ritter 10/27  
 Sue Ellen Crego 10/28  
 Alberta Stuck 10/29  
 Barbara Gray 10/30  
 Wendy Proctor 10/31

### ROAST BEEF DINNER

**Sunday, Oct 9th**

**6pm**

**Cost \$7 a person**

**\$20 a family**

**Please bring a dish to pass!**



## USHERS, GREETERS, and NURSERY

### October 2nd – *World Communion Sunday & Peacemaking*

Greeters: Jerry & Barb Gray  
 Ushers: Doreen Christopher & Susan Derr  
 Nursery: Jan Day & Matt Crull



### October 9th - Ed Marriott, Guest Preacher

Greeters: Marion Crull & Matt Crull  
 Ushers: Scott & Becky Jessop  
 Nursery: Susan Derr & Barb Lohr

### October 16th Hand Bells playing

Greeters: Barb Van Kirk & Liza Merriam  
 Ushers: Mike & Jan Day  
 Nursery: Kathy Gee & Matt Crull

### October 23rd

Greeters: Barb Lohr & Jean Loar  
 Ushers: George Elyseev & Elaine Ritter  
 Nursery: Barb Lohr & Elaine Ritter

### October 30th

Greeters: Jean Morris & Susan Derr  
 Ushers: Jim & Cherie Clark  
 Nursery: Jan Day & Cherie Clark

### November 6th- Communion

Greeters: Jan & Mike Day  
 Ushers: Don & Elaine Ritter  
 Nursery: Susan Derr & Barb Van Kirk



## Coffee Hour Programs



- Sunday, Oct. 2 Refreshments in church social hall, following **Alice Paul dedication** ceremony
- 9 **“What I Did on My Summer Vacation”** w/coffee drinkers; Claire & Dick Damaske, hosting
- 16 **Masai Mara** w/ Simon & Leah Ntuala; Marion Crull & Matthew, hosting
- 23 **Wetlands** w/ Mark Benjamin; Wayne & Joyce Lohr, hosting
- 30 **Pumpkin Sunday** w/ Christian Ed & Marion Crull

**Know someone ill or hospitalized?** In October, please call **Barb Van Kirk : 568-9908**

**To Keep in Our Prayers:** *Liz Brown, Alice Burgdorf, Carl & Norine Crull, Paul Foote, Mary Headley, Laura Hoatland, Crystal Jones, Doug Kraus, Margaret Marsh, Sally Porsch, Don Proctor, Christopher Simpson, Alberta Stuck, 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, 8:30am– 2 pm  
Manse: 315.257.0028

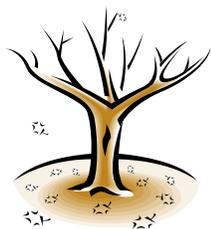
**Sunday Worship at 10am. Nursery Care available. Sunday School 10:15am.  
Coffee Hour in Eastman Hall following worship.**

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  
Joyce Lohr-Secretary

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

Presently serving 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.

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