



First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls

February Newsletter



Pastor's Corner-Rev. Leah Ntuala

Thank you for a wonderful first month. I am settling in little by little. I am still looking forward to getting to know all of you.

Some upcoming goals for our church family will be:

- A Community Garden-to subsidize the back-pack program
- Church Spring Cleaning Days -to prepare for rain!
- Vacation Bible School for the summer

I am looking forward to working on these upcoming projects with you. Theologically, as I ponder these and any more ideas, I have a Bible passage floating around my head. Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace." This is a new season in our life as a church-let us continue to seek God's guidance. Peace.

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Music Director-Tom Harris

Music in the Air!

Our choirs are back and are busily rehearsing for the upcoming music in our church services, including the installation of the Reverend Leah Ntuala as Pastor of our church. We are really honored to have Leah with us!

Installation Service Reverend Leah Ntuala

Sunday, March 20th at 2.00 p.m.

We would like to have members of the congregation who do not sing with us regularly, sing with our choirs in the long awaited installation service on Sunday, March 20th in the afternoon. The Church Choir will be augmented by choristers from the community and we will make a joyful noise!!!!

The Egan Family

Thank you to the many individuals and families who contributed so much to the Egan family after their house burned in January. Heidi, Jonathon, Sam, Maggie, Josie and Ruthie all send a big thank you!

Jack LaValley

Jack had back surgery recently and we are happy to see how quickly he recuperated. He is back in the choir!!!!

Music Secretary

Heidi Egan has been working part-time in the Music Office since September. She is assisting in filing music, organizing folders, and is diligently working (nearly full-time) to organize the Director of Music!

Adrian Owen

You may or may not know that Adrian Owen, the baritone that sings with us when he is not in New York, is the son of Jan Owen in our choir. Adrian is now working with two coaches in Manhattan, and is singing with the Riverside Choral Society. We are fortunate to have him sing with us and we look forward to hearing him again. Thank you, Adrian!

Schantz Organ

Our organ was designed and built for the church by the Schantz Organ Company of Orrville, Ohio. The Service of Dedication was in 1958. While we have kept the organ playable for over 50 years, most of the instrument has yet to be restored.

Comments?

Sunday after Sunday we get comments about the music in our services. Pastor Lean and The Director of Music work together creating the liturgy and music. We hope you will feel free to express your thoughts in person or in writing.

Music at 23 Cayuga

A special thank you to the Session and to patrons in the congregation for their continuing support of our Music at 23 Cayuga program in the Seneca Falls community. We have 25 children (including the Jessops from our congregation) and five or six adults who sing with the Church Choir in special services. The young choristers are preparing a children's opera "All the King's Men" to be presented the first or second week of May 2011.

Music at 23 Cayuga—Heidi Egan

Dear Presbyterian Church Family,

Thank you so much for your music program. Your choirs and camps, services and recitals offer an opportunity that would otherwise be out of reach to my family.

Your weekly choirs not only teach a joy of music, but musical theory, musical history, vocal training, sight reading, and introduction to the piano and organ.

Your summer camps are fun, informative, offer a wide range of musical experiences, and always have such an impressive recital one would think the kids had worked for weeks not just the few days they are there.

We were thrilled by the young performers who you brought in this past spring. It was wonderful to hear such excellence here in our little village. But on top of that, to meet the performers in such an intimate setting at the receptions afterwards had a deep impact on my children. Not only did it inspire them, they all wanted to invite their friends, so they could share that feeling.

I have absolutely loved singing with your choir for Christmas and Easter. I have loved the challenge of the music, the camaraderie of your choristers, the excitement that Tom leads with. You have something rare and special in your choir. It is such a treat to get to be a part of it, even if briefly.

We have recommended your music program to every one we meet. We endorse it wholeheartedly, and have seen others come to share our excitement as they have participated with you. This is such a service that you offer the community, and our family sees it as an outreach of your faith that you express through music. Thank you for sharing the joy of music and the love of God in this way.

Sincerely, Heidi Egan and family

February Birthdays

Dorothy Tuthill	2/12
Bernard Horle	2/15
Liza Merriam	2/16
Elizabeth [Lohr] Olmstead	2/17
Nancy [Monterville] Brown	2/20
William Shuster	2/22
Edward Chase	2/25
Jan Day	2/29

Bell Choir-Marjorie Fahrenholz

For the months of January and February Carol Millis, who subs for us in any position, will be directing the Handbell Choir. She is an exceptional bell ringer with a beautiful ringing style and will enjoy working with our ringers. She will have the bell choir perform in each month with pieces of music we will choose together. Carol's experience in bell ringing is unique. In the Trinity Episcopal Church bell choir she rings multiple bells and in the Finger Lakes Bronze Handbell Ensemble she must be able to play in any position. On Feb. 20th, they will ring "Joy in the Morning".

In April the bell choir will play once during Lent and again on Easter. I have chosen "Gethsemane" by Nancy Hascall. Nancy worked with Finger Lakes Bronze several years ago when I was a member and told us about composing this piece. She said as she was writing the music something, "took over and the piece was writing itself." I have heard other artists make this same comment about their work. Lisa Van Delinder has given this piece in memory of her Uncle William Harter.

When the bell choir uses all of our bells in a piece of music, the level of difficulty is quite high. The rhythms are more complicated and the key changes are many within one piece. To make the rehearsals more valuable, the time frame has been extended to include a bass bell sectional rehearsal from 7:15-7:30 and a treble bell sectional rehearsal from 8:15-8:30 with the full bell choir rehearsing from 7:30-8:15.



Women's Circle

The Women's Circle met on Jan 3rd. We were delighted to have Pastor Leah, Iva Lay and Barbara Grey with us.

Joy led the Bible Study, *The Opening of the Seven Seals: The Frightening Middle Passages in the Book of Revelation*. These are not literal predictions but warnings and wake-up calls. In order to reach the hope at the end of Revelation we must first experience conflict and judgment.

The circle gave a welcoming gift to Pastor Leah and her family. The February item for the 3rd Sunday House of Concern donation is Mac and Cheese.

The next meeting is Feb 7th at 12:30, bring a sandwich lunch. We will finish Lesson 5 and 6. Everyone is welcome!

Shout Outs

- Anyone interested in digging into church records? Requests have been made from descendants for genealogical purposes. Call church office.
- House of Concern says thank you for your wonderful donations of fruits and vegetables to our food pantry and for your donations to our personal room.
- Thank you to Membership and Parish Life for providing the soup and sandwich meal during our Annual Meeting.
- Thank you to our newly ordained and installed Elders: Dick Damaske, Scott Jessop, Janette Monterville, Paul Richardson and Elaine Ritter.
- Red Cross Blood Drive, 1:30pm-6:30pm on Thursday, Feb 17th.
- Thank you to those who helped put together the Newsletter: Carolyn, Sue and Claire.
- Thank you to Elaine, Claire, Joanne Sue and Jan Day for putting together the Annual Reports.
- Thank you to all who completed their Annual Reports.
- Thanks to Wayne for taking the Women’s Circle collection to the House of Concern.



Annual Meeting Highlights

- Creating a Bylaws Taskforce; Mike Day, Carolyn Seem and Matt Crull.
- Nominating Committee: Janette Monterville, Dick Damaske, Diana Becker, Paul Richardson, Barb Van Kirk and Bob Seem
- Creating a Church Garden Task Force to help subsidize the county Back-pack Program and fulfill other needs in our community.



**Newsletter articles
due the 3rd Thurs-
day of the month,
Feb 17th.**

Session Briefs– Clerk of Session, Elaine Ritter

- Elaine Ritter Appointed Clerk of Session
- Spring Cleaning Days each committee will be assigned a portion of the church to be in charge of for organizing and storage with a request that it be done prior to end of Feb. Building and Property committee-their job will begin after everywhere is cleaned.; Outreach-Hallways, all of them.; Membership/Parish Life-Storage Room in Social Hall, Narthex/Balcony and kitchen.; Christian Education-Committee Room, Rug Room and Nursery.; Worship and Music-Social Hall and Hallway Storage.; Finance/Stewardship-Sanctuary and Personnel-Hawley Room
- Church to add an online database to keep membership, financial and other important documents in order.
- Improvements to be made to Manse.
- Christmas Joy Offering total \$546



Vanderkamp– Wendy Kain

Our Vanderkamp retreat weekend is rapidly approaching and it is looking like our winter weather will hold out for us. Some years we have had an untimely January thaw that left us with less than ideal conditions, but this year is looking good! There are 21 adults and 3 children signed up, including Reverend Leah, Simon and Mason, who will be joining us for Friday night and Saturday. Don't worry! They will be back in Seneca Falls for church on Sunday morning.

The price for the whole weekend, which includes 2 nights and 3 meals, is \$86 per adult. Campers can please make checks payable to Wendy Kain and give them to me by Wednesday, February 2nd. If anyone is interested in just coming for the day on



Saturday and joining us for lunch and/or dinner, please let me know by Sunday, January 30th. The lunch price is \$7.50 and the dinner price is \$8.50. Children ages 6-12 are half price, and children under 6 are free.

We are all looking forward to another great weekend of fellowship in a beautiful and peaceful location. Please keep us in your prayers for safe traveling there and back. If there are any questions or concerns, please call me at 568-0112 (eve.).

Ushers, Greeters and Nursery

Feb 6th -Communion

Ushers: James & Trena Fisher

Greeters: Marion & Matt Crull

Nursery: Elaine Ritter & Marion Crull

Feb 13th- Souper Bowl Sunday

Ushers: Kathy & Lindsey Gee

Greeters: Sam & Dorothy Dickieson

Nursery: Paul Richardson & Matt Crull



Feb 20th- Bell Choir Plays

Ushers: Dick Burtless & George Elyseev

Nursery: Kathy & Lauren Gee

Church Office: 315.568.6636
Hours: Mon-Thursday 8:30-2:30

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

Rev. Leah Ntuala-Pastor
Rev. Dr. Peter J. Crego-Pastor Emeritus
Elaine Ritter-Clerk of Session
Karen Beals-Treasurer
Tom W. Harris-Director of Music & Organist
Majorie Fahrenholz-Handbell Choir Director
Kyle Bruzda- Sexton
Joyce Lohr-Secretary

Session meets of the 4th Monday of each month.
Presently serving Elders: Jeb Becker, Richard Burtless, Marion Crull, Richard Damaske
Susan Derr, Kathy Gee, Scott Jessop, Marvin Lay, Barbara Lohr, Jannette Monterville,
Paul Richardson, Elaine Ritter and Rev. Leah Ntuala, moderator.

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Sunday, February 13th