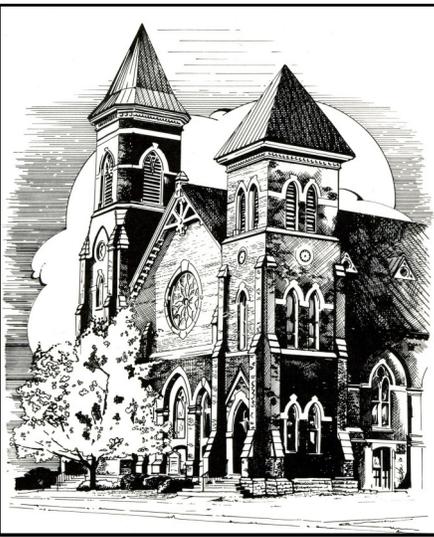


# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SENECA FALLS

## June Newsletter 2011

Pastor's Corner-Rev. Leah Ntuala



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*Praise the Lord! Praise God in God's sanctuary; praise God in her mighty firmament! Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise her according to her surpassing greatness! Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp! Praise her with tambourine and dance; praise her with strings and pipe! Praise God with clanging cymbals; praise God with loud clashing cymbals! Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! - Psalm 150*

Songs are a form of prayer. Some say when we sing we are praying twice. I believe this whole heartedly. This is why I would like to make a list of some of your favorite hymns in order to make sure your prayer request is being heard.

I have witnessed what one's favorite hymn is able to convey. At times we can't find the words we long to pray to God and so we sing or hum or dance. Most of our favorite hymns we learned so long ago that we don't even recall the moment we learned them. It is as though they are engraved in our bones and part of our DNA. Hymns tell some of history and our theology. They are important and they are personal.

While I did grow up in a Presbyterian Church and I did learn the songs in our hymnals either at church or summer camp I don't begin to know them all. I enjoy learning new songs because I enjoy praying to God in a variety of ways and in a variety of melodies and tunes. However, I still have some favorites. I will share with you my top 5. Now the first 4 are pretty much always the top 4, but the 5th one changes depending on the day and the scripture I have read or where my thoughts have led me for the day.

- My Top 5:
1. Precious Lord, Take My Hand # 404
  2. Eyes on the Sparrow # 2146
  3. The Servant Song # 2222
  4. Be Thou My Vision # 339
  5. Lift Every Voice and Sing # 563

Please share with me your top 5. I want to learn about you and begin to build a shared history. I long to pray with you and for you. I hope the music we sing together will be a starting point.

Peace,  
Pastor Leah

## Session Briefs– Clerk of Session, Elaine Ritter

Meeting of Mon., May 23, 2011

- ◆ Received grants from **Presbytery of Geneva** for our ongoing support of Seneca County **House of Concern** and the **2 Cents-per-Meal program**
- ◆ Approved attendance at Big Tent **conference** in Indianapolis 6/30-7/02 2011 for **Pastor Leah**
- ◆ Learned that **Executive Presbyter Joelle Davis**, has earned a doctor of philosophy degree and her title will now be the Reverend Doctor Joelle Davis
- ◆ Learned that the **insulation project**, headed by **Don Ritter**, has been completed. **Jack LaValley** and **Wayne Lohr** from our congregation, along with **Kyle Bruzda**, Mark Hathaway's company men, Mark and Jr, and the Ritter grandkids and friends all worked together in carrying 263 bags of insulation from the ground to the church attic. The adults did the installation, which greatly reduced the costs to much less than was budgeted. **Don, Jack, Wayne, Kyle** and all the teens with strong legs are thanked for getting this done for us
- ◆ Heard of plans for a Roast Beef **Dinner** to take place on Sun. evening, **June 5** at 6 p.m. , organized by **Jim Clark** and **Membership/Parish Life** Committee
- ◆ Heard plans for **graduation reception** taking place after worship on Sun., **June 26**, honoring **Lindsey Gee**, Mynderse Class of 2011

Next meeting is Monday, June 27, 2011





### June Birthdays

Nancy Shuster & Sharon Stuck...6/03  
 Jannette Monterville...6/04  
 Claire Damaske...6/06  
 Wayne Lohr...6/07  
 Jeff Richardson...6/08  
 Bob Wright...6/11  
 Andrea [Day] Silverman...6/15  
 Marvin Lay...6/19  
 Scott Jessop.....6/21  
 Sarah "Sally" Porsch...6/26



**July /August Newsletter**  
**items** due on the 4th  
 Thursday, June 23rd  
 It will be mailed  
 On June 30th.

## WOMEN'S CIRCLE

The Women's Circle met on May 2nd. We finished our nine lessons in the Book of Revelation.

This is not a book of judgment but of justice; of radical hope for the world's future. God announces: "See, I am making all things new." (Rev. 21:5b) on going verb, neither past nor future, but including the present.



The Summer and Fall Gatherings of Geneva Presbyterian Women will be held at Camp Whitman. Another \$50 was sent to Presbyterian Disaster Relief Service for aid to tornado victims.

This items for the House of Concern over the summer are:

**June-Tuna Fish/Canned Meats/Chili**

**July-Breakfast Cereals**

**August-Pasta & Sauce**

**Sept- Soup**

Next year's study is The Beatitudes. Come join us.

A luncheon will be held on **Monday, June 6th at Abigail's**. Phone calls will be made or please call **Liza at 568.6204**.

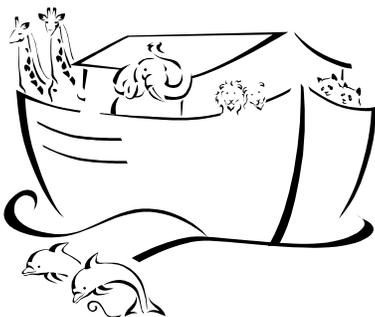
We hope more of you will put the 1st Monday of each month on your calendar to join in the fellowship and Bible study.

Our Thanks to the congregation for supporting the 3rd Sunday donations for the House of Concern and Communion Sunday offering for our mission work.

—Jean Morris

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“On the street I saw a small girl,  
Cold and shivering in a thin dress,  
with little hope of a decent meal.  
I became angry with God and said to God,  
“Why do you permit this? Why don't you do something about it?”  
For awhile, God said nothing.  
That night, God replied quite suddenly,  
“I certainly did something about it. I made you.”



## Christian Education

Vacation Bible School will take place from  
**9am-Noon on July 18th-July 22nd.**

The theme will be *Noah's Ark*.

If you would like to help with VBS please see Marion Crull.  
We will need storytellers, crafts, games, music and snack, as  
well as some extra hands. Thank you!!!

## NEWS FROM THE PRESBTERY

**O**n May 2, more than 30 people of faith from across New York spent the day meeting with their state Senators and Assembly Members in Albany as part of a coalition of activists concerned about the quality of New York's water and the dangers of hydraulic gas fracturing.

The Central NY Presbytery Partnership Group (formerly known as the Fab Five PPG) designated funds for transportation and lunch that allowed both seasoned activists and first-timers to participate in briefings on key environmental legislation currently under consideration. Following the briefings, the group members were ready to let their elected officials know that our faith compels us to advocate for the right use of creation's riches. The Presbyterian Social Creed (2008) reminds us:

In hope sustained by the Holy Spirit, we pledge to be peacemakers in the world and stewards of God's good creation, by working for:

- Adoption of simpler lifestyles for those who have enough; grace over greed in economic life.
- Access for all to clean air and water and healthy food, through wise care of land and technology.
- Sustainable use of earth's resources, promoting alternative energy sources and public transportation with binding covenants to reduce global warming and protect populations most affected.

To be connected with others who share your concerns regarding fracking, food/farming, mountain-top removal mining, climate change and energy issues, join the PCUSA Environmental Ministries Action Network (EMAN) by visiting <http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/environment> or call the PCUSA office of Environmental Ministries at (800) 728-7228, x5624.

Submitted by: Brooke Newell Advocacy Ministries Coordinator, Central NY PPG

- Rev. Joelle Davis has been working on her Doctor of Ministry degree through Wesley Theological Seminary for the past three years. Joelle completed her dissertation entitled, "Live into Hope: The Presbytery as a Partner with Smaller Membership Congregations in the Presbytery of Geneva, New York" Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup> Joelle graduated from Wesley Theological Seminary.



**OPEN HOUSE & CHICKEN BBQ  
CAMP WHITMAN ON SENECA LAKE  
SATURDAY, JUNE 4TH, 2011  
12:00 NOON – 4:30 P.M.**

Come and see what Camp Whitman has to offer. Explore our trails and visit the waterfront. Guided tractor pulled wagon tours are available. Chicken BBQ dinners @ \$8.00 and halves @ \$6.00 available for purchase on a first come first serve basis until sold out. Reservations are not required.

**See you at camp!**



## ***HANDBELL REPORT***

### ***June 2011***

Thanks to the Bell Choir members for the beautiful ringing of the very difficult “Somos del Senor“ on May 15. We had to make many last minutes changes to accommodate the needs of our ringers. Bob Seem subbed for Nancy with only a few rehearsals. We borrowed Carol Millis, again, and I thank her very much. Claire and Dick were not able to be with us so Amy Foster filled in for Claire and Carol subbed for Dick. Karen became an expert on drums in just one rehearsal along with playing the “little bells“. Phil and Burt were in charge of all the bells from C3 to D4. It is usually a part for 3 ringers, but we have Phil and Burt! Sarah is back with us and Lisa was doing double duty. Lisa is helping out at the Methodist Church bell choir so she played their Introit and came back to us for our Anthem. Our bell ringers are very busy people either taking care of family matters, attending conferences, or sometimes going on a vacation. With all the many changes in who is playing which part, our ringers have become quite flexible through necessity.

We will be ringing again on June 19 and will be playing “Let There be Peace on Earth“ and “Materna“. Then 4 octaves of bells will go to the Schulmerich factory to be taken apart and the parts evaluated. If a part needs to be replaced they will be. Then the bells will be cleaned, polished, adjusted and sent back to us. This should take most of the summer to complete.

While the bells are being repaired we will be able to use our 4 octaves set of handchimes. We use the handchimes in combination with the bells, but they are an instrument of note by themselves. This summer we will be performing ensembles using the handchimes.

**Marge**

## Church Family News

### SAM DICKIESON HONORED

**Sam Dickieson** will be honored with the Catholic Charities “Shine the Light” award on Thurs., June 9. This award honors “those who have given so much of their time and talent to our community.” An awards dinner will take place at Hobart & William Smith colleges, Scandling Center at 5:30 p.m. Sam is among five others receiving “Shine the Light”. This year is the 17th year for this award. **Reservations: [315] 789-2686**  
**Congratulations, Sam!**

### JANNETTE MONTERVILLE HONORED

**Jannette Monterville** has been a faithful volunteer at North Seneca Ambulance base since 1986. That’s 25 years . She and others were honored at a dinner on May 14 at Abigail’s Restaurant.  
**Congratulations, Jannette!**

### NEWS OF AL & RUTH FERREL

**Al & Ruth Farrel** are living in Brockport at the home of their son, Stephen. In April, Stephen wrote that Al & Ruth were both having care and therapy in Pittsford. You may keep in touch with them at the following address: Allan & Ruth Ferrel  
 c/o Stephen Ferrel  
 62 Valley View Dr  
 Brockport NY 14420

**CHURCH FLOWER BEDS...have you told Barb Van Kirk, Joanne Elysée, & Sue Derr** you enjoy seeing all the tulips and hostas? Thanks, Ladies!

### THANKS TO :

**Susan Derr** , for her tireless efforts in finishing up the church kitchen shelves where Membership/Parish Life left off. Sue has now re-lined every last shelf and they look so fresh and clean.

**Joanne E., Elaine Ritter, & Wayne Lohr** for their very welcomed help in getting the May newsletter assembled and ready for mailing.

**To everyone who brought foods & non-foods for the House of Concern.** In May, we took 16 rolls of bathrm paper, 1 pkg. disposable diapers, 3 boxes facial tissues, 5 tubes toothpaste, 8 bars soap, tooth brushes, dental floss and shampoos from the 3rd Sun. special collection.

### VAN KIRKS ARE GREAT GRANDPARENTS

**Howard & Barb Van Kirk** are pleased to report the birth of great granddaughter **Keira Dean**, born on April 15th. Her parents are granddaughter, Katie Van Kirk and Max Dean. On May 2nd, little **Meredith Evelyn Van Kirk** arrived. Her parents are [grandson] Ian & Huang Van Kirk. She joins big sister, Mai Linh, age 10 years. **Congratulations to the Van Kirk and Dean families!**

### NTUALAS TO KENYA

**Pastor Leah and husband, Simon Ntuala and son, Mason** will travel to the east African country of Kenya this summer. Some things we find readily available in the U.S. are hard to find, not available at all, or very costly. If anyone would like to send one or more soccer balls, for example, the Ntualas will carry them [un-inflated] in their luggage. A list will soon be made available of other needed items, you may like to consider sending along.



**USHERS, GREETERS and NURSERY****June 5th– Communion**

Ushers: Paul & Connie Richardson  
 Greeters: Dick Burtless & Jean Morris  
 Nursery: Dick Burtless & Marion Crull

**June 12th**

Ushers: Jim & Cherie Clark  
 Greeters: Peter & Sue Ellen Crego  
 Nursery: Scott Jessop & Matt Crull

**June 19th-Father's Day**

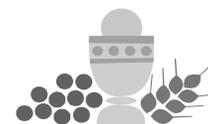
Ushers: Elaine Ritter & Susan Derr  
 Greeters: Liza Merriam & Jean Loar  
 Nursery: Kathy Gee & Lauren Gee

**June 26th-Honoring our Mynderse Grad**

Ushers: Mike & Jan Day  
 Greeters: Andy & Betty Batty  
 Nursery: Susan Derr & Jan Day

**July 3rd– Communion**

Ushers: Wayne & Joyce Lohr  
 Greeters: Marion Crull & Matt Crull  
 Nursery: Barb Lohr & Becky Jessop



**COFFEE HOURS** are recessed until Fall. Many thanks to all who helped with the programs this year and in the past. It takes a lot of cooperation in hosting, finding programs, speaking, presenting, serving food, setting & clean-up. I dare not mention names...you know who you are. For me it is fun to try to arrange a variety of programs and with help from all of you, I look forward to doing the same next year. Over the summer, please be thinking of new programs and experiences you would share with everyone.

Thankfully, Dorothy Dickieson

**Know someone ill or hospitalized?** This month, please call: **Jannette Monterville at 568-8474**



**To Keep in our prayers:** Helen Berra's Family, Liz Brown, Alice Burgdorf, Carl & Norine Crull, Ginger Davis' Family, Paul Foote, Denny Haynes, Mary Headley, Laura Hoatland, Crystal Jones, Doug Kraus, Bill Nothstein, Sally Porsch, Tom Sage, Bill Shears, Christopher Simpson, Alberta Stuck, Ian Trettle, Cathy Van Vechten, Ruby Vogel, and Fran Webb.

Please note: the summer newsletter will be JULY/AUGUST . Please have items in the church office by June 23. Mailing will take place on the following Thurs., June 30.

PLEASE PLAN TO PAY YOUR PLEDGE BEFORE YOU LEAVE FOR  
SUMMER VACATION

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

**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  
Elaine Ritter-Clerk of Session  
Karen Beals-Treasurer  
Marjorie Fahrenholz, Hand bell Choir Director  
Kyle Bruzda– Sexton  
Joyce Lohr-Secretary

Session meets of the 4th Monday of each month at 7pm.  
Presently serving Elders: Jeb Becker, Richard Burtless, 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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**JUNE Newsletter 2011**