

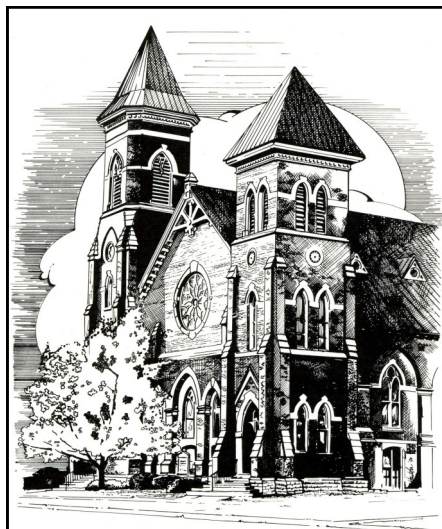
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SENECA FALLS



April Newsletter 2012

PASTOR'S CORNER

Rev. Leah Ntuala



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It has been a very busy 2 months. We held an Ash Wednesday Service, I was a delegate for the UN's Commission on the Status of Women in NYC, we started our Wednesday Worship service and dinner, I attended the Ecumenical Advocacy Days in Washington DC, we kicked off our fundraising efforts with our wine raffle and BBQ tickets and now we prepare for Holy Week. Where has all the time gone? What have we learned in Lent?

Well for me, Lent has been a time of calling. God has been calling me to be in community. I am to be in a community with our vulnerable populations – women, children, the aging, the poor, people of color. God has been calling me to use my voice to help the voiceless. I was called to use my voice as a delegate at the UN; to be a voice for the girls sold into early marriage, the rural women farmers with no access to property rights, the women who lack education and are the women who are trafficked.

God called me to take part in the Ecumenical Advocacy Days to ask our representatives to think of the Federal Budget as a moral document and to ensure that they will make decisions to protect our most vulnerable populations. I was called to become educated on the privatization of prisons, become aware of the enormous wealth gap and to advocate for fair voting laws.

God has called us to begin a Wednesday Worship Service and Dinner. God is calling us to strengthen our already strong bonds and amazing church family. God is also calling us to throw open our doors and let people know that this is a safe place to come, just as you are, to worship. God is calling us to invite everyone we meet to the Communion Table and to be fed spiritually and physically.

For me, Lent has been a time of calling. God is calling me to turn everything over to God and to fully use the gifts I have been given to serve God. Has God been calling you? I look forward to hearing about your Lenten experiences. The new opportunities God has opened for you, the places in your life where you have experienced God's healing touch. As we enter Holy Week may we fully embrace and experience God's transformative love which moves mountains, crumbles walls and builds bridges.

Peace, Pastor Leah

Fundraising Task Force

The Session meeting in March was held on March 29th. March briefs will be in May's newsletter.

This message is from the Fund Raising Task Force to keep you informed on what we are doing.

Wine Raffle and a Chicken/Pork BBQ on April 27th @ Wal-Mart parking lot. We are going to combine a Chicken/Pork BBQ with our Wine Raffle on the 27th of April at the Wal-Mart parking lot. We are also going to throw in a **Bake Sale** at the same time, so all of our bakers make a note of the date. If you have not already gotten some tickets from members of the Task Force, Carolyn Seem, Jim Clark, Mike Day, Elaine Ritter or Pastor Leah for both the Wine Raffle and the BBQ please contact one of the above named and let them know you need some tickets for pre-sale of the BBQ and sales of the Wine Raffle Tickets.

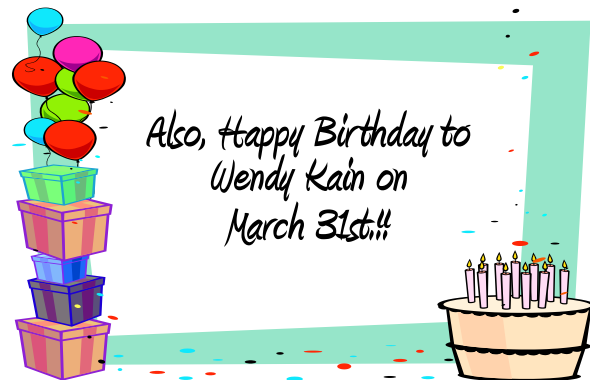
Wine Raffle tickets will be \$5.00 for one or 5 tickets for \$20.00. The BBQ will be a choice of Chicken or Pork Steak for \$8.00 each. Delivery will be available. Bake Sale items will be available at the Wal-Mart site and priced reasonably. Pies go well at Bake Sales with a BBQ I have been told....hint to the bakers in our church. So please tell everyone you know that we will have a **BBQ at Wal-Mart on Friday, the 27th of April from 3p.m. till sold out (we hope) or 7p.m. whichever comes first.** Hope to see all of you there!

Elaine G. Ritter from the Fund Raising Task Force



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Carolyn Seem-4/05
 Andrew Batty-4/11
 Doreen Christopher-4/11
 Betsy Hannan-4/13
 John Damaske-4/15
 Carolyn Jessop-4/16
 Dorothy Lorenz-4/17
 Paul Richardson-4/20
 Betty Howland-4/24
 Simon Ntuala-4/24
 Abigail Rescorl-4/29



*Also, Happy Birthday to
 Wendy Kain on
 March 31st!!*



May Newsletter
 Articles are due by
 April 19th
 Newsletters will be mailed
 April 26th

WOMEN'S CIRCLE



The Women's Circle met March 5th. We were able to complete 7 Personal Care Kits for the Crisis Center in Geneva. For those who might wonder what each kit contains: a small package of Kleenex, one hand towel, one wash cloth, a tube of toothpaste, a comb, a bottle of shampoo, a bar of soap, and one deodorant. The members purchase and package these items. If anyone would like to share in this project, the kits are always needed.

Fifty dollars was sent to Presbyterian Disaster Relief to aid in recovery from the tornadoes. We felt this would be the quickest way to get aid where needed.

Our lesson from the Beatitudes was: "Greatly Honored Are The Peacemakers." For Jews like Jesus "Peace" would have been a traditional greeting, voicing hope for your wholeness and welfare. We pass the "Peace" each Sunday.

The 3rd Sunday House of Concern item is Cereal.

The April meeting will be April 2 at 12:30. Bring a sandwich and join us.

Jean Morris

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



◆ Our **Easter Egg Hunt** will be held from **9:30am-10:30am on Saturday, April 7th**. If you have any eggs, candy or baked goods you wish to donate please bring them by the church. Infant-age 4 will search for eggs from 9:45am-10am. Age 4-grade 5 will search for eggs from 10am-10:15am. We will also have a visit from the Easter Bunny, face painting, and many crafts!!! Please bring your children and grandchildren for this fun filled day!

- ◆ **May 6th**, in addition to being "Bring a Friend to Church Sunday" it is also "**Camp Whitman Sunday**". Camp Whitman has over 117 acres on the west side of Seneca Lake. Campers live in small cabins clustered in family groups around a village lodge, and they eat in a large dining hall. Many opportunities for exploring abound in the woods, ravines, meadows, Punnett's Pond, and the lakefront. Organized recreation takes place on the playing field, in canoes and sailboats at the lakefront, and at the pool for supervised swimming. Camp Whitman on Seneca Lake • 150 Whitman Rd • Penn Yan, NY 14527, 315-536-7753 camp@campwhitman.org, brochures are available downstairs in the Social Hall.



- ◆ **Vacation Bible School: Dr. Seuss and the Bible** will be held **9am-Noon, July 16-20th**. If you wish to lend a hand please speak to Marion Crull.

MEMBERSHIP AND PARISH LIFE

Sunday, May 6th is "Bring a Friend to Church Day". Pastor Leah urged us [March newsletter] to invite one or more friends/neighbors to come worship with us and to stay for a Pancake Breakfast on that day. Those of us on the Membership & Parish Life team hope YOU will do just that. Reach out to neighbors living alone and/or who do not have a church home. Invite that friend who 'always means to', to visit First Pres on Sunday morning. If you can, bring her, him, them as your guests to the Pancake Breakfast! Invite your children & grandchildren. Offer someone a ride! Let's all make an effort to share what we may have come to take for granted in our church life. Who knows?; doing so may make just the "little difference" in someone's feeling of being included and welcome in God's love for each of us!

Joyce Lohr

NEWS FROM THE PRESBYTERY

When Life Tumbles In

By Cynthia Bolbach



I was expecting February to be a typical month in the life of the Moderator of the General Assembly: visits to Riverside and Northern Waters Presbyteries, meetings in Louisville of the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly and the General Assembly Mission Council, and the NEXT Church conference in Dallas. But then life intervened. Turns out, the fatigue I'd been battling for weeks was caused by internal bleeding. Surgery uncovered the culprit: a mass in my abdomen. It was removed, tested, and found to be malignant. I'm home from the hospital now, recuperating from the surgery. A chemotherapy plan will be put into place within the next couple of weeks. I have no idea, really, what the next months will bring, but it's my hope to be able to resume most of my moderatorial duties by sometime in April, and to be in Pittsburgh to bring down the opening gavel for the 220th General Assembly in June. I cannot put into words how much your prayers and expressions of support have meant over these past couple of weeks. I have literally felt the embrace of the entire Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and I am humbled and grateful to be within that embrace. It reminds me that, despite our disagreements and differences, "when life tumbles in" we come together to help one another. That surely will prove true as we come together to help all those whose lives were shattered by the recent terrible tornados in Indiana and Kentucky, as well as other life-changing events. So much of what you have shared with me has given me strength for the journey that lies ahead. And, for me, that journey is not about battling cancer. It's about living the life that God intends for me to live. It means serving faithfully as Moderator through the end of my term. It means doing what I can to help us as a church discern how we can do mission and ministry effectively into the 21st century.

What you have shown me these past few weeks is that I am truly blessed. Thank you.

WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

Wednesday Worship is still going strong and will continue every Wednesday evening. It is a half hour family service with praise songs and fun activities held in the Social Hall from 5:30-6pm. It is followed by a dinner. It's casual, fun and a great opportunity for you to bring a friend to church with you! Please join us and "Bring a friend to church"!



BOOK DISCUSSION

The copies of the book, The Great Awakening by Jim Wallis, for the April 10th discussion, are all circulating. If you picked up a church copy, don't forget to circulate it with others. Either pass it on or share it by leaving it somewhere such as a restaurant or other gathering place to be found/picked up by someone. If you would like to read a copy and are unable to locate one, contact Carolyn Seem.

Thank you to all who took a copy and for sharing it in whatever way works for you. Hope to have several of you join us on April 10th at 7:00pm for the discussion.



CHURCH FAMILY NEWS



United Way recognizes volunteers at their Annual Meeting each year and this year Literacy Volunteers (one of their funded Partner Agencies) honored **Dick Damaske** for all his work in the community (including our church). Presenting Dick with his award are Connie Richardson (also a church member) representing United Way and Jerry Macaluso representing Literacy Volunteers. **CONGRATULATIONS DICK!!**

Feinstein Challenge 2012- Once again The House of Concern will be participating in The Feinstein Challenge. **March 1st–April 30th** they will be counting every can and boxed item and every dollar that you donate as part of their total that they report to The Feinstein Foundation. They will receive a check in the summer from the foundation based on the total that they collect during that time period. All you have to do is indicate that you want your donation to be counted when they total up their figures. Help them break the record that they set last year of 3,280 canned and boxed items and help them keep those pantry shelves stocked.



We are still collecting **plastic lids and caps** for recycling. We will be donating them to Frank Knight Elementary School. The basket is next to the House of Concern table in the social hall. You may also drop them off at the school anytime during school hours.



Would you like to help the church save money on printing costs? **Sign up now to receive your newsletter by email.** Just call or email Chris and let her know you'd like to be taken off the mailing list and put on the email list! It will help the church save money and you'll receive it on the last Thursday of the month in your email inbox!

BIG SALE– There are plans to have a rummage sale mid September, pending Session's approval. We are accepting household items and toys that are clean and in good shape. Start saving your household items that you don't want anymore when you do your Spring cleaning this year! We will only accept items during the week prior to the sale. Please no shoes or clothing. It would be great if all committees could help out with this. Stay tuned for more information in upcoming newsletters!!

Members and Friends who are shut-in or in special need:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>
Luanna Day	2705 Lower Lake Road, Seneca Falls, NY 13148
Al and Ruth Ferrel	c/o Stephen Ferrel, 62 Valley View Drive, Brockport NY 14420
Dr. Paul Foote	40 Cayuga Street, Seneca Falls, NY 13148
Jean Loar	Seneca Nursing Home, Rm 104 A, 200 Douglas Drive Waterloo NY 13165
Margaret Marsh	114 Ashton Ct, Clifton Springs, NY 14432
Bobbi Plummer	Huntington Living Center, Room 117, 369 E Main St, Waterloo NY 13165
Robert and Jean Stenlake	18 Carol Avenue, Seneca Falls, NY 13148
Alberta Stuck	2999 Williamson Road, Seneca Falls, NY 13148
Dorothy Tuthill	1901 Gravel Road, Seneca Falls, NY 13148
Fran Webb	c/o Parr's Springhurst Pines Box 215B, 3101 N Hurstbourne Parkway Louisville, KY 40241

GREETERS, USHERS AND NURSERY

April 1st– Communion/Palm Sunday

Greeters: Sam and Dorothy Dickieson
 Ushers: Matt Crull and George Elyseev
 Nursery: Jim Clark and Barb Lohr



April 8th– Easter Sunday

Greeters: Marion Crull and Matt Crull
 Ushers: Becky and Scott Jessop
 Nursery: Matt Crull and Bob Seem



April 15th

Greeters: Liza Merriam and Susan Derr
 Ushers: Matt Crull and Jerry Gray
 Nursery: Marion Crull and Becky Jessop

April 22nd

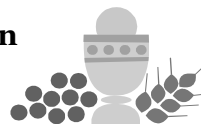
Greeters: Joyce and Wayne Lohr
 Ushers: Andy and Betty Batty
 Nursery: Jan Day and Matt Crull

April 29th

Greeters: Doreen Huff and Barb Lohr
 Ushers: Carolyn and Bob Seem
 Nursery: Susan Derr and Barb Lohr

May 6th– Communion

Greeters: Elaine and Don Ritter
 Ushers: Jan and Mike Day
 Nursery: Cheri Clark and Jo Ann Mason



COFFEE HOUR AND PRAYER LIST

April 1st: Palm Sunday, brunch in the social hall after worship.

April 8th: Easter Sunday, No Coffee Hour

April 15th: To Angkor Wat thru our daughter's lens – Jan and Mike Day

April 22nd: Haiti Today– Peter and Carol Loveland

April 29th: History of Auburn Prison– Pat Schwarz



Know someone ill or hospitalized? This month, please call: Sue Ellen Crego 568-4181

To Keep in our prayers: Alice Burgdorf, Keith Davis, Bob Didsbury, Paul Foote, Glen Gerhard, Mary Headley, Charlene Hooper, Crystal Jones, Bob Knight, Jean Loar, Dorothy Lorenz, Margaret Marsh, Joan Olmstead, Bobbi Plummer, Sally Porsch, Don Proctor, Don and Elaine Ritter, Nancy Shuster, Alberta Stuck, Cpl. Geoffrey Tyler, Cathy Van Vechten, Fran Webb, Loraine Worthington, and Margaret Yells.

To add or remove a name from the prayer list, please call or email Chris or leave a note in her mailbox in the office: 568-6636 or fpresf@verizon.net

Church Office: 315-568-6636
Church Fax: 315-568-6616
Hours: Tuesday-Thursday 8:30-12:30
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
Chris Sweet-Office Manager

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

Presently serving Elders: Jeb Becker, Jim Clark, Richard Damaske, Susan Derr, Scott Jessop,
Karen Kelley, Barbara Lohr, Jannette Monterville, Paul Richardson, Bob Seem, Carolyn Seem,
Elaine Ritter, Clerk of Session and Rev. Leah Ntuala, moderator.

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