

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SENECA FALLS



May Newsletter 2012

PASTOR'S CORNER

Rev. Leah Ntuala

*Courage does not always roar.
Sometimes courage is the quiet voice at the end of the day saying,
'I will try again tomorrow.'*
-Mary Anne Radmacher

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It has been a whirlwind from Lent to Holy Week and now the fast approaching Pentecost on May 27th. As the season of Pentecost approaches I have been thinking a great deal about courage. Pentecost is the time of the year that we remember the amazing gift God gave to us, The Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit can be present in our lives as a roaring fire, a single spark, a strong wind or a gentle breeze. The Holy Spirit, like courage, doesn't always roar. However, just because it isn't roaring, doesn't mean that it isn't present.

How is The Holy Spirit moving in your life? When and where do you feel this presence? Do you? It is ok if you don't; it doesn't make you less Christian. I sometimes think being a Christian is like being pregnant, one isn't really pregnant or not very pregnant, you are or you aren't. I think the same holds true with being a Christian. There isn't a scale on Christianity. Some one else isn't "more" of a Christian or "less" of a Christian. The Holy Spirit is with everyone in a variety of forms.

As we approach Pentecost, how will you allow The Holy Spirit to move in you? Will you try to put out the fire? Will you go inside so you can't



feel the breeze? Or will you take your spark and light a candle or a build a fire? Will you fly a kite in the wind or sail a boat? However The Holy Spirit is present in your life I hope you all enjoy the gift God has given to us. I hope the gift of The Holy Spirit isn't something

reserved for special occasions or only when company visits. I hope it is a gift that is used and shared.

Peace, Pastor Leah

SESSION BRIEFS

Session met on the 29th of March and that is why you had no Session briefs last month. You are getting a double dose this month, so enjoy.

At our meeting on March 29th, we had a healthy discussion about the Newsletter and the COST of printing and postage to send it via "snail" mail to everyone except a choice few who chose to have it sent to them via email, like me. When I get it I print it out so Don can also read it and I have the calendar and Greeter/Usher list to post so we know when and what is going on throughout the month. As of September 2012 each and everyone who has email access is going to get their Newsletter via email! That is what Session decided at the meeting to cut some of the unnecessary expenses at our church, to save us money. It was also discussed about the Wednesday night Worship and Dinner and decided that it will continue. We hope you will be able to attend this Worship and Dinner. Pastor Leah did this with the hopes of attracting new faces, friends and hopefully church goers to our church, which has happened. If you want a night out, a nice (someone else prepared) meal and music and lively chatter on a Wednesday night, then by all means come and eat and share fellowship with some new and old faces.

The Session meeting of April 23rd consisted of the approval of "Seven" folks asking to become members of our church, which is fantastic news for our church.

We have some new church members who will soon join the church through Reaffirmation of Faith during a church service. Please welcome Neil and Sarah Walsh, Robert Knight, Lori, Michael, Victoria and Julia Landi.

Robert and Courtney Wilson will have their children, Delany and Robert, Jr. dedicated on a date to be determined.

Pastor Leah has been asked for permission to have one wedding here at our church and also to officiate two other weddings in the near future. She also is working with a Steering committee for a summer feeding program for the children of Seneca Falls. If you would like to help with this please let Pastor Leah know.

Pancake Breakfast with Bring A Friend to Church Sunday is May 6th, and we hope everyone can at least bring one friend to church and to stay for Breakfast that Sunday.

Submitted by Elaine G. Ritter, Clerk of Session



MAY BIRTHDAYS

Sue Charles-5/05
 Lauren Gee-5/08
 Marya [Lohr] Vigil-5/16
 David Lay-5/17
 Karen Kelley-5/18
 Shirley Sage-5/20
 Kathy Pedersen-5/21
 Al Johnson-5/23
 Steve Kane-5/24
 Paul Novack-5/24
 Richard Damaske-5/28
 Paul Damaske-5/28
 Jase Clark-5/29
 Gerald Gray-5/30
 Mary Sinicropi-5/31
 Lisa [Shuster] Conley-5/31



**June Newsletter
 articles are due on
 May 24th.
 It will be mailed
 On May 31st.**

WOMEN'S CIRCLE

The Women's Circle met on April 2nd. A discussion was held concerning future projects. A wish list from Camp Whitman was among the considered projects. Decisions will be made in May.

The Beatitude studied was: Greatly honored are those who have been persecuted for the sake of justice: Persecution of Jesus is not necessarily speaking about the melodramatic scenes of Christians thrown to the lions of 1950's Hollywood. Persecution was far more subtle in family, in local community and in cities ruled by clients of Rome.



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

The 3rd Sunday House of Concern items are peanut butter and jelly.

The next meeting will be May 7th at 12:30. Bring a sandwich and join us.

We will finish our study of the Beatitudes.

Jean Morris

Fundraising Task Force

There will be a **pancake breakfast** on Sunday, May 6th from 11am-1pm. The price of tickets is \$7.00. Children under 10 are free.

We have a couple more fund raising opportunities. The first is a **fundraising-thru-recycling program**. We are going to start collecting empty inkjet and laser cartridges, used cell phones, mp3 players, gps devices, digital cameras and laptops. If you have any of these unwanted items, bring them in. It's a great way to recycle and be environmentally and economically friendly.

The second opportunity is called **Cash for Causes**. It is through TOPS Markets. All you do is order a gift card for yourself or as a gift for someone else. We place the order for everyone's gift cards. They come in approximately 3-5 business days later. We'll get the cards to you that you ordered and you use them for your shopping at Tops! The church makes 5% on all cards sold.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

There will be a Christian Education meeting on May 20th following the Coffee Hour for anyone interested in helping with Vacation Bible School this year.



Also, it is not too early to begin to think about how you can help with Vacation Bible School. Our theme this year is Dr. Seuss and the Bible. We have all the activities and snacks planned, but we need help in preparing the snacks, running the activities and spreading the word about our amazing VBS. It will be July 16th-20th, 9am-Noon with a concert and luncheon at noon on Friday, July 20th. Please contact Marion Crull if you wish to help out with these events!





NEWS FROM THE PRESBYTERY

What do Presbyterians prefer in pastors?

April 19, 2012, Louisville

Presbyterians expect pastors to be competent, emotionally healthy, genuinely spiritual people who are good listeners. That finding is from the November 2010 Presbyterian Panel survey on congregational leadership.

The survey presented members of the Panel with a list of 22 skills and characteristics and asked how important it is for pastors (now called teaching elders) of Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregations to have or demonstrate each.

Four in five or more members, ruling elders and teaching elders agree that each of the following is “essential” for pastors to have or demonstrate:

- ◆ Active listening
- ◆ Competence
- ◆ Emotional health
- ◆ A personal spiritual life that is genuine and heartfelt

Being a good preacher and worship leader is rated as “essential” by a similar proportion of members, but by somewhat fewer ruling and teaching elders.

Least important are four demographic and employment history characteristics. Almost no members, ruling elders, and teaching elders believe it is “essential” for pastors to:

- ◆ Be 40 years old or younger
- ◆ Be married
- ◆ Be a parent of a child age 18 or younger
- ◆ Have had a prior career outside of the church

“Presbyterians don’t have a narrow view about what it takes to be a good pastor,” said Perry Chang, Presbyterian Panel administrator. “But they do think some general qualities are essential: attending to what others are saying and demonstrating maturity, piety and proficiency.”

Every three years the PC(USA) Research Services office assembles representative samples of Presbyterian church members, ruling elders and teaching elders to respond to questions on different topics quarterly. Known as the Presbyterian Panel, these randomly chosen respondents form a vital means for church leaders to learn about the beliefs and experiences of rank-and-file Presbyterians.

For more information about Panel surveys and other Research Services studies and services, visit the Research Services website or call the office at (800) 728-7228, ext. 5071.

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS



♦ **CONGRATULATIONS** to Stephen Beals on getting his Masters Of Divinity from Seminary. He will get this on May 3rd.



♦ **ELECTRONIC MAILING of the newsletter begins in September.** Beginning with the September 2012 newsletter, everyone who has email will receive the newsletter electronically. This is a necessary cost cutting measure and will save paper and copying costs. Please email the office at fpresf@verizon.net so we will have your updated email address. If you still **need** it mailed to you via “snail mail” because you don’t have a computer with internet access, please call Chris and let her know so she can put your name on that list. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.



♦ **A BIG THANK YOU** to everyone who donated items and baked goods and helped with the Easter egg hunt. It was a big success. Thank you to everyone who donated wine for the wine raffle and baked goods for the bake sale during the BBQ. Thank you to everyone who sold tickets and thank you to those who worked the BBQ!

- ♦ **BRING A FRIEND TO CHURCH SUNDAY AND PANCAKE BREAKFAST !** On Sunday, May 6th, bring a friend to Church and have them stay for the pancake breakfast. The pancake breakfast is from 11am-1pm. The cost is \$7.00. Children under 10 are free!!
- ♦ The amount brought in from the parishioners for One Great Hour of Sharing was \$645.00. 25% of these funds will stay in our church. The rest of the money will be used for the ministries of the PCUSA.

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
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

May 6th– Communion



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

May 13th

Greeters: Diana and Jeb Becker
 Ushers: Iva and Marvin Lay
 Nursery: Matt Crull and Jo Ann Mason

May 20th

Greeters: Joyce and Wayne Lohr
 Ushers: Becky and Scott Jessop
 Nursery: Barb Lohr and Jo Ann Mason

May 27th– Pentecost Sunday

Greeters: Jannette Monterville and Betty Geraghty
 Ushers: Kathy Gee and Lindsey Gee
 Nursery: Becky Jessop and Jo Ann Mason

June 3rd– Communion



Greeters: Jack LaValley and Jan Owen
 Ushers: Matt Crull and Marion Crull
 Nursery: Elaine Ritter and Jo Ann Mason

COFFEE HOUR AND PRAYER LIST

May 6th: Pancake Breakfast
May 13th: Mother’s Day- no coffee hour
May 20th: Agricultural Biotechnology– Dr. Anthony Shelton
May 27th: Memorial Day weekend– no coffee hour



Know someone ill or hospitalized? This month, please call: Barb Grey 539-3206

To Keep in our prayers: Alice Burgdorf, Carl and Norine Crull, Keith Davis, Bob Didsbury, Paul Foote, Margaret Greene, Mary Headley, Neal Headley, Charlene Hooper, Crystal Jones, Bruce Levine, Jean Loar, Dorothy Lorenz, Margaret Marsh, Joan Olmstead, Phillip Plummer, Sally Porsch, Don Proctor, Alice Robinson, 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. 568-6636 or fpresf@verizon.net

Church Office: 315-568-6636
Church Fax: 315-568-6616
Hours: Tuesday-Thursday 7:30-12:30
Manse: 315.257.0028E-mail: fpresf@verizon.net
Website: www.fpresf.com

**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 of 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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