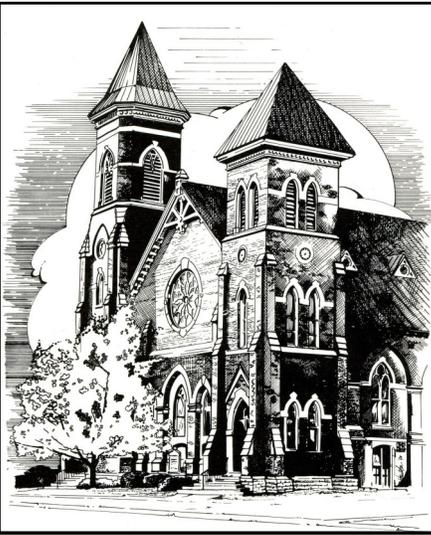


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SENECA FALLS

March Newsletter 2013



PASTOR'S CORNER

Rev. Leah Ntuala



Inside this issue:

<i>Session Briefs</i>	2
<i>Birthdays</i>	2
<i>Women's Circle</i>	3
<i>Christian Education</i>	3
<i>News from the Presbytery</i>	4
<i>Rural & Migrant Ministry</i>	4
<i>Bell Choir</i>	5
<i>Vanderkamp Retreat</i>	5
<i>Church Family News</i>	6
<i>Greeters, Ushers Nursery & Candle Lighters</i>	7
<i>Coffee Hour & Prayer List</i>	7
<i>Calendar</i>	<i>Insert</i>

Recently, Simon and I attended the Finger Lakes Forum as guests with some members of the church to hear a man by the name of Gusav Niebuhr give a talk on his book **Beyond Tolerance: Searching for Interfaith Understanding in America**. Below is a description of the book from amazon.com.

"The United States is the most religiously diverse nation in the world and the most religiously diverse collection of people in history. And even in this age of increasing religious violence, there is a growing movement of cooperation: thousands of devout worshippers who are willing to take a gamble on people of radically different faiths. Beyond Tolerance is a handbook for religious cooperation in our fractured times."

I saw this cartoon and in the same week I hear Professor Niebuhr speak and thought we still have so much work to do. How many of us know the basic tenants of faith of another religion or denomination? How do we speak about other faith traditions? How well do we teach our children and grandchildren about other religions and what do we choose to teach about our own faith?

This month on March 29th, we will have an Ecumenical Good Friday Service at the Catholic Church at noon. The Minister's Group began this tradition last year and the service was held at our church. This year we continue with this tradition. I invite all of you to participate in this service. I invite all of us to be open to having a dialogue with another denomination. Jesus was open to having conversations with everyone. He was always willing to sit down and share a meal and hear new ideas. He didn't tolerate other people. He engaged other people. Let us engage one another a well. The hope is that when we learn more about other faith traditions we in turn learn more about our own because we have to talk about what we believe. May these final weeks of Lent be filled with conversations that go beyond tolerance.

Peace, Pastor Leah

Session Briefs

We had yet another long, interesting, talkative Session meeting. Actually got a lot covered and dealt with many different issues.

We have a group of students from Slippery Rock, PA camping out in our church when they come to Seneca Falls to do some volunteer work for the Women's Hall of Fame. They will spend Friday and Saturday, and leave Sunday, sleeping in our Hawley Room and using the kitchen area to prepare their food. They also said that if we needed any work done that they would gladly do that for us while they were here. This will take place on the weekend of March 8th-10th. We will be inviting them to join us for worship before they leave on that Sunday.

The Raffle tickets for the KitchenAid stand mixer are selling better than some folks thought that they would. All you have to do is mention the Raffle in public and I bet you could sell some tickets. Nancy Shuster is bringing in a hand made Afghan that has been donated to our church by her friend that makes them to Raffle off. She will bring in the Afghan so we can all start drooling over it and also admire it. It will be raffled off the day of the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 23rd.

Maundy Thursday is March 28th and will be held here at our Church. Good Friday service will be held at St. Patrick's Church at noon on the 29th and Easter Sunday is on March 31st.

We also need donations of both bagged candy and hard boiled eggs for our Easter Egg hunt that will take place on March 23rd. We are also having a Bake Sale that day, so bake.



Respectively submitted by your Clerk of Session-Elaine G. Ritter

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Mary Headley-3/2

Jeb Becker-3/3

Carol Rook-3/8

Virginia [Lay] Brady-3/10

George ElyséeV-3/11

Jim Clark-3/13

Bob Knight-3/22

Marjorie Fahrenholz-3/23

Betty Geraghty-3/25

Tim Geraghty-3/25

Chris Sweet-3/25

Susan Derr-3/28

Elaine Ritter-3/30

Wendy Kain-3/31



April Newsletter
articles due on
March 21st.

It will be sent out
On **March 28th.**

Women's Circle

The Women's Circle met February 4th in the Hawley Room. It was with great sadness we heard Liza's announcement she would be moving to Ashton Place. Liza has been such a committed member and contributed so much to our discussions. We'll miss you and wish you well.

The lesson: 1 Peter 5:1-11, 2 John covered the role of elder members to practice love, kindness and to bear witness to Christ, even in the face of suffering.

Members signed up for items to bring in March to complete 15 personal care kits.

**The 3rd Sunday House of Concern item is:
Cereal**

THANKS! to everyone who brought SOUPS for the House of Concern in February.

The next meeting is March 4 at 12:30. Bring a sandwich and join us.

Jean Morris



Christian Education

The Christian Education team met on Sunday, February 17, 2013. In attendance were Sarah and Neil Walsh, Susan Derr, Marion Crull, and Leah Ntuala.

We will need candy and hard boiled eggs for the Easter egg hunt on March 23rd. Please bring in the candy before the 17th of March so we can fill the eggs. There will be a bake sale on the same day so if you can bake and would like to bring in a baked good, please let one of the above people know.

There will be an Easter play put on by the children on Easter Sunday. Please come and support the children. You will learn the true meaning of Easter.

Marion Crull



News From The Presbytery (Camp Whitman)

Camp Whitman Sunday will be on Sunday, April 21st and is an opportunity to celebrate the mission of Camp Whitman. If you are a camper from past or present and want to speak about your camp experience to the congregation, let Pastor Leah know.

Camp Whitman Volunteer Day is Saturday May 18th. Help give back to a wonderful camping experience on Seneca Lake by volunteering there and getting it ready for another year. Register as a group or individual participant! Registrations are in the office.

Holiday Camping Weekend is on Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends. The camp is open to families and groups to have a vacation using our facilities and breathtaking site.

Open House and Chicken BBQ at Camp Whitman is going to be held on Saturday, June 1st from 12-4 pm. Come and see what Camp Whitman has to offer. Explore our trails and visit the waterfront. Guided tractor pulled wagon tours are available.

Registrations are in the church office. If you need help there are camp scholarships (camperships) available. Contact the office to let us know if you need a campership.

We look forward to having you with us this Summer!

A Letter From Grayson Morley Rural & Migrant Ministry

"So you shall rejoice in every good thing which the LORD your God has given to you and your house, you and the Levite and the stranger who is among you."

-Deuteronomy 26:11

Hello from Rural & Migrant Ministry!

Thank you again for allowing us to come and speak at your church. Due to my minor fender bender, I was only able to attend about half of the service. But what I did get to take part in made it clear what a warm and caring community you all are.

One thing that caught my attention during the service was the reading from Deuteronomy. The final lines mentioned sharing the celebration with the Levite and the stranger/foreigner among you. I meant to use this in my presentation, but lost track of it throughout the course of my rambling! I won't spend too long stating the obvious, but it seems to me that, in our immediate surroundings, migrant farmworkers constitute the "stranger who is among you."

So, in the course of this Lenten season, please remember to include these folks in your hearts and minds, and, in the future, I hope we can work together to join with them in celebration—whatever that may be!

If you have any interest in being involved, feel free to contact me, or RMM more generally.

Peace,
Grayson Morley
Rural & Migrant Ministry
email: graysonmorley@gmail.com
cell: 585-260-3312



Handbell/Handchimes Report



The bell schedule rehearsals for February were with Carol Millis and the bell choir performed on Sunday, February 24.

March rehearsals are:

Mar. 6, 13, 20, 27 and performing on the 31st (Easter)

April rehearsals will be announced.

Rehearsals will be on Wednesday starting at 7:15 in the bell room. If there is anyone who might be thinking about joining the bell choir, I am sure Carol would enjoy meeting you and working with you. She is a fantastic ringer with a great deal of ringing knowledge.

Carol also rings bells in the Trinity Episcopal Church and rings with Finger Lakes Bronze, a performing bell choir. There will be a concert by FLB on May 4, Saturday in the Sanctuary. Plan to attend as they are an enjoyable group to hear and watch.

Marge

Vanderkamp 2013-2014

Another great time was had by all at Vanderkamp 2013! We had 23 adults and 4 children this year. We were very happy that Jessica Seem and Kevin Walsh and their 2 boys were able to make the trip all the way from Worchester, MA to join us again after missing out last year. We had to contend with a little lake effect snow on our drive up on Friday afternoon, but once there, the rest of the weekend was beautiful! There was just enough snow for cross-country skiing and snow-shoeing, though we would not have minded a few more inches. Several puzzles were completed, though I'm not sure if the 3-D Star Wars puzzle was finished. A lot of Euchre was played, but I know that the die-hards would love to have a couple more players next year. Pastor Leah led us in a very nice, thought-provoking worship service Saturday afternoon. And lots of laughs were had, and junk food consumed. What better way to spend a winter weekend!!

In order to not miss out on next year's fun, mark your calendars now for
Vanderkamp 2014 : January 31st – February 2nd.



Church Family News

• **KitchenAid Mixer raffle:** The fundraising committee is holding a raffle for a KitchenAid stand mixer. It is valued at \$400.00. Tickets are \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00. The drawing will be held on Sunday, May 5th (The week before Mother’s Day!!) Call Chris in the office or talk to a fundraising committee member (Elaine Ritter, Jeb Becker, Jim Clark or Carolyn Seem) if you want to sell or buy some tickets.



• **Purchasing things for the Church–** Please remember to use our tax exempt number when purchasing items for the church. If you need a tax exempt form, please let Chris know. There are “Reimbursement Forms” hanging on the wall next to the thermostat in the office. Please fill one of those out, attach it to your receipt and put it in Chris’s box (Office Mgr) in order to be reimbursed.

• **Per Capita assessment** for Presbytery is \$44 for each person registered as a Member on our rolls. Our church must pay this early in 2013. It would be a great help if each of us paid our share. Please use the envelope provided w/your pledge envelopes and make checks payable to this church. **(The Per Capita amount is in addition to, and not a part of, our pledges.)**

• **Easter Memorials:** Worship and Music would like to remind you that you may bring in flowers for the Sanctuary for Easter Sunday and have them in memory of a loved one. Please get the names of your loved ones to Chris so she can put them in the bulletin for Easter Sunday.



• **Baby Shower:** You are invited to Leah’s baby shower on Saturday, March 16th at 12 noon in Eastman Hall. If you haven’t RSVP’d yet for it yet, please do so by March 8th and if you would like to bring a salad or dessert please let Chris know. Thanks!

• **Thank you** to Sam Dickieson, Wayne & Joyce Lohr, & Phil Plummer, who accompanied Pastor Leah for the Seneca Nursing & Rehab Center worship on Sunday, February 3rd.



• **Daylight Savings Time!** Saturday, March 9th is the beginning of Daylight Savings Time. Set your clocks ONE HOUR AHEAD when you retire, tonight !

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>
Ed and Bobbi Chase	1 Leland Drive, Seneca Falls NY 13148
Doreen Christopher	418 N. Main Street, Rm 126, Penn Yan NY 14527
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
Liza Merriam	114 Ashton Court, 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 3001 N Hurstbourne, Louisville KY 40241

Greeters, Ushers, Nursery and Candle Lighters

March 3rd– Communion-3rd Sunday in Lent



Greeters: Marion Crull and Beatrice Jones
 Ushers: Ben Jessop and Carrie Jessop
 Scott Jessop and Marion Crull
 Nursery: Jo Ann Mason and Becky Jessop
 Candle Lighter: Sean Walsh

March 10th-4th Sunday in Lent

Greeters: Paul and Connie Richardson
 Ushers: Marvin and Iva Lay
 Nursery: Jo Ann Mason and Marion Crull
 Candle Lighter: Carrie Jessop

March 17th– 5th Sunday in Lent

Greeters: Andrew and Betty Batty
 Ushers: Susan Derr and Jean Morris
 Nursery: Jo Ann Mason and Barb Lohr
 Candle Lighter: Ben Jessop

March 24th– Palm Sunday

Greeters: Barbara Gray and Shirley Sage
 Ushers: Gerry Gray and Neil Walsh
 Nursery: Jo Ann Mason and Marion Crull
 Candle Lighter: Matt Walsh

March 31st– Easter

Greeters: Marion Crull and Jannette Monterville
 Ushers: Cherie and Jim Clark
 Nursery: Jo Ann Mason and Scott Jessop
 Candle Lighter: Sean Walsh

April 7th– Communion



Greeters: Becky and Scott Jessop
 Ushers: Matthew Walsh and Sean Walsh
 Carrie Jessop and Ben Jessop
 Nursery: Jo Ann Mason and Marion Crull
 Candle Lighter: Ben Jessop

Coffee Hour and Prayer List

March 3rd: Social Hour; Hosts: Wayne and Joyce Lohr
March 10th: Nova Scotia: Al Johnson; Hosts: Jan Owen and Jack LaValley
March 17th: Seneca County Substance Abuse Coalition Update: Connie Richardson and Diane Laws; Hosts: George and Joanne Elysée
March 24th: No coffee hour– Palm Sunday Brunch
March 31st: No Coffee Hour– Easter Sunday



Know someone ill or hospitalized? This month, please call: Wendy Proctor– 568-5614

To Keep in our prayers: Alice Burgdorf, Bobbi and Ed Chase, Keith Davis, Bob Didsbury, Paul Foote, Margaret Greene, Mary Headley, Ben Heckman, Charlene Hooper, Crystal Jones, Liza Merriam, Tyler Morgan, Helena Peacock, Sally Porsch, Don Proctor, Ann Ritter Rayner, Alberta Stuck, Dorothy Tuthill, Fran Webb, Loraine Worthington, Margaret Yells and Betty Lou Young.

Church Office: 315-568-6636
Church Fax: 315-568-6616
Hours: Tuesday-Thursday 7:30-12:30
Manse: 315-257-0028
E-mail: fpressf@verizon.net
Website: www.fpressf.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
Chris Sweet- Office Manager
Karen Beals-Treasurer
Kyle Bruzda- Sexton
J. Carl Vollbracht- Director of Music & Organist
Marjorie Fahrenholz- Handbell Choir Director
Elaine Ritter-Clerk of Session



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

Presently serving Elders: Jim Clark, Marion Crull, Richard Damaske, Scott Jessop, Jannette Monterville,
Paul Richardson, Don Ritter, Bob Seem, Carolyn Seem, Nancy Shuster and Neil Walsh
Elaine Ritter, Clerk of Session and Rev. Leah Ntuala, Moderator.

First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls
P.O. Box 383
23 Cayuga St
Seneca Falls, NY 13148

Happy Easter to



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