

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SENECA FALLS

September Newsletter 2013

PASTOR'S CORNER

Rev. Leah Ntuala

This summer I read an amazing book by Parker Palmer called *Healing the Heart of Democracy: The Courage to Create Politics Worthy of the Human Spirit*. I will recommend this book to each and every one of you. Here is a glimpse into the pages: "For those of us who want to see democracy survive and thrive-and we are legion-the heart is where everything begins: that grounded place in each of us where we can overcome fear, rediscover that we are members of one another, and embrace the conflicts that threaten democracy as openings to new life for us and for our nation." Mind you that is the Prelude. It is a great book about holding the tensions.

Holding tensions in one's life is very difficult. We often want to skip over or sleep through the hard stuff. We can't. We can't put our heads down and charge. We have to work through the hard stuff and hold the tensions. We cannot divide ourselves, the light and the dark. We can't split our heart that way and get rid of the things we would rather not have. All of it makes up who we are. This doesn't mean we don't work on it. We work on and with those tensions all the time, but we can't close our eyes and pretend they don't exist. This holds true not only for tensions in our own lives, but tensions on committees, the church and the community. We have to work through it.

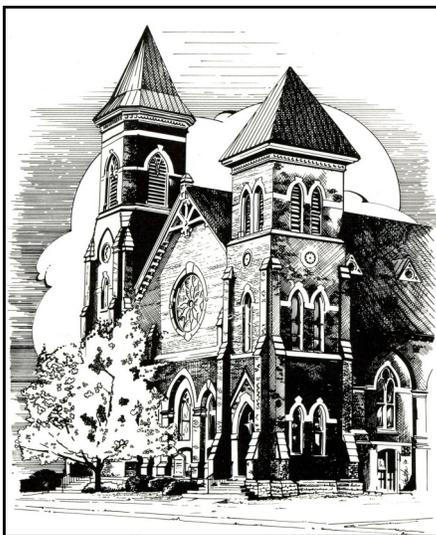
We want to be a church that doesn't merely survive, we wish to thrive! This means holding on to the tensions. Holding on to the tensions between how something has always been done and a new idea. We have to hold on to the tensions of giving more in money, time and talent or doing less. We have to hold the tensions between differences in our thoughts, beliefs or politics. We have to hold the tensions between the hymns we love and learning a new hymn. We have to hold the tensions between not wanting to air our laundry and being vulnerable.

So in order to encourage us to thrive I am going to propose or encourage 3 things.

1. Game Night. They begin again on September 6th at 5pm. Please bring a dish to pass. Even if you don't play games you are welcome. Come have dinner and chat. It is a lot of fun and the more the merrier. It is also a great time to bring kids and their friends.
2. Grief Group. We have had a lot of loss recently. Some of our members are also caregivers who in some ways have lost the person they once knew. This group is open to anyone, no matter how long ago you lost your loved one. We will meet, have lunch and check-in with each other. No formal studies, just friends chatting over lunch. Bring your lunch and meet in the Social Hall on the 3rd Thursday of every month at 12 noon beginning in September.
3. Service Group. If you are interested in doing volunteer service projects as a church family in the community, let us meet and identify when and where we will work together. We will meet on Sunday, September 8th after church to talk about what we would like this to look like. Come if you have any interest.

I look forward to working together with you to hold the tensions and grow as a community of faith.

Peace, Pastor Leah



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Session Briefs

Session met Mon. night with all in attendance and we covered a bunch of different issues in a timely manner. One of the main topics of conversation was Fund Raising or the lack thereof. We did decide it is time to ask all to bring in the bottles of Wine so we can have a Wine Raffle, and then an "It's a Wonderful Life" weekend drawing for a basket of Wine.

Also, speaking of Fund Raising Task Force, they need volunteers to be on the Task Force and also to help on some of their projects. The Hot Beverage Bar at the Wonderful Life Celebration will need extra hands to operate, make up the coffee and cocoa, or sell the beverages. Just to mention one.

On another note we are looking for someone to be in charge of taking care of the plants and fresh flowers in the church. The fresh flowers are left in the Sanctuary too long and the plants are not getting watered enough. They really need to be kept where there is more light during the week and set back in the Sanctuary just for Sunday services.

Has everyone noticed the nice sealed drive and parking lot, with bright yellow lines marking the spaces for us, you can see those lines in the dark! Thank You Building and Property for getting this done.

Any one interested in being on Session come 2014 please let Leah or Don Ritter know. Thank You.

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



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Donald Proctor-9/2

Bobbi Chase-9/4

Joy Novack-9/5

Jessica Seem-Walsh-9/7

Mike Day-9/10

Georgianne [Elyseev] Hauf-9/11

Barry Porsch-9/12

John Becker II-9/30



**October Newsletter
articles are due on
September 19th**

**It will be sent out
On September 26th.**

Thank you!

Women's Circle

The first Fall meeting of the Women's Circle will be Sept. 9 at 12:30. The change of date is because Labor Day falls on the first Monday.

We will begin the Bible study: "An Abiding Hope: The Presence of God in Exodus and Deuteronomy".

Presbyterian Women in the Presbyteries of Western New York, Genesee Valley and Geneva will be meeting at church on Sept. 28, 9:30am-3:00pm. We will be responsible for coffee and light refreshments at registration and a soup and sandwich lunch. We will have to call on other Congregational members to help with this.

**3rd Sunday House of Concern items are:
Peanut Butter/Jelly**



We thank all who help the Women's Circle continue as a viable part of our Church mission.

Come join us Sept 9 at 12:30.

Jean Morris

Christian Education

Vacation Bible School was July 15th-19th. The theme was Baobab Blast. It was themed around the Animals of Africa. Each day had a different Animal and word of the day. There were crafts and science fun every day that related to either the Bible story or word of the day. There was lively up beat music the children had fun learning and they enjoyed the bible stories and the skits the youth leaders acted out every day. There were 7 children that participated the entire week and the last day they performed for an audience the songs they learned. They played bells both that day and some came back Sunday to play bells during the church service. Besides all that they made "friendship fruit salad" to be shared with the audience in the light luncheon we had after the performance.

A big thank you to Susan Derr and Sabrina Hoster for being there every day to help. Also Marge Fahrenholz thank you for your work with the children on the bells. Our youth leaders Carrie Jessop, Carrie Roth, and Ericka Walsh deserve the biggest THANK YOU ever. If it was not for the 3 of them VBS would not have ran as smooth. These 3 young ladies took control and taught the children their bible stories, the songs, led the games, helped Marge with bells, crafts, set up/clean up etc. They came every morning eager and happy to help. They would do whatever was asked and even help without being asked. I couldn't have asked for any better helpers than them.

Thank you for the financial help and donations for Vacation Bible School. It was a big success because of the support that was given by the congregation.

Sarah Walsh



Letter from The House of Concern

Dear friends,

On the behalf of the Seneca County House of Concern I want to thank you so much for your ongoing donations to our food pantry.

The number of people that we are serving at the food pantry keeps rising. We served more families in June than at any other time in our 44 year history.

We are so fortunate to have supporters from the church community. Without your help we would not be able to meet the current growing needs.

Thank you for caring for your neighbors in need.

God Bless you all,



Diane Draheim

News From The Presbytery

New York City Mission and Learning Opportunity: A team of twenty-eight folks will be headed to New York City this Columbus Day Weekend! Our Third Annual Mission and Learning Experience will feature group meals, mission relief efforts from Hurricane Sandy, learning opportunities about our mission at the United Nations, a focus on our ties to UNICEF, and some fun. We are in need of folks to serve as prayer partners for our mission participants. If you are willing to serve as a prayer partner, praying each day for your partner during the trip, please let Joelle know at joelle@presbyteryofgeneva.org. We are excited about this wonderful intergenerational event!

Join Members of the Presbytery on a West Virginia Mission Trip: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) and the Presbytery of Geneva continue to work with the Presbytery of West Virginia furnishing volunteers for repair, clean up, and conservation work on homes, churches, parks, and neighborhoods. This ministry encourages spiritual and faith development among those who serve as well as those in WV who are served. The September Work trip will involve working on homes of needy WV residents as determined by the WV Ministry of Advocacy & Workcamps Inc. Our PDAT will again be working with Site Supervisor Cab Wolford's WV work crew. September 22nd and 28th are the travel dates to and from Hampden, WV. The work week is September 22-28, 2013. Contact Paul Salisbury, trip coordinator -315-331-0442 or e-mail: psalisb1@rochester.rr.com by August 15th if you wish to participate.

Educational event: Prayers For Busy People by the Rev. Jamie Tyrrell. On September 19, 2013 at 11am, author Jamie Tyrrell will be sharing a technique and resource for prayer in our busy lives. Come learn about this amazing resource. This book walks you through how to work with people in your congregation to reflect on a new way of prayer in a 6-7 week program. This workshop will demonstrate the importance of "listening prayer!" This event will run approximately 1.5 hours at the Presbytery of Geneva office. Lunch will be provided! We will have books available at our office this summer to purchase and the day of the event! Please RSVP to Karen Jensen at kjensen@presbyteryofgeneva.org or 315-536-7753 by September 12.





Handbell/Handchimes Report

July and August were busy months for handbells and handchimes. The plan to work with the children during Vacation Bible School in July went very well. The 3 girls who helped Sarah Walsh also worked with the bells. Carolyn Jessup and Ericka Walsh had rung bells many times and were able to step in and help the younger children. The group worked on a handbell piece and played for Church on July 21. In August the Walsh Family played for the August 18 Church service. It is a real pleasure to rehearse with this family and have all of them enjoy the opportunity to ring together as a family. I thank them for spending time ringing bells. Also in July, the handbell choir performed a 3-octave arrangement of "Dona Nobis Pacem" to welcome Leah on her return and I want to thank them for rehearsing and performing in July.

The adult handbell choir will begin regular rehearsals on Wednesday, September 11 at 7:15 in the bell room. Starting in September the one-hour regular weekly bell rehearsal schedule will be broken into two parts. The first part will be to work on a 5-octave bell piece that will be performed in late October or early November. The second part will be to practice the piece that will be played for a particular Sunday each month. I am planning to play on September 29 and the piece will be determined by the ringers available for that date. The 5-octave piece will be on a Sunday in October or November when all 14 ringers are free.

Since the bells have not been polished in a while, I will have them on the tables in the bell room and I am asking the bell choir to polish your bells at a time convenient for you such as after church on Sunday, after the Wednesday night service/dinner, Wednesday morning while I am there or any morning when the office is open. If you notice a problem with your bells you can leave me a note or give me a call and I'll check on it. When the bells have been polished don't put them in the cases just stand them up on the table to dry and I will put them away. Thanks in advance.

The 2-octave handchime case that opens and allows the chimes to fall out is soon to be replaced. A Porta-a-bell case has been ordered and hopefully will be here in September.

I am still researching bell/chimes music for a piece written just for our 5-octaves of handchimes. The sound of chimes is beautiful so hopefully some composer has written something for just the chimes.

Marge

Presbyterian Women Regional Gathering

Our church is hosting The Presbyterian Women's Gathering which involves 3 Presbyteries (information below). We are in charge of providing coffee, tea, juice, muffins and fruit when people are registering in the morning. We also need to provide soup and sandwiches at noon for the meal. If you are able to donate any of these items please let us know. There will be a sign-up sheet in the church office. We expect around 75 people, so your help is needed and appreciated.

Journey of Change:
 "What Are We Next To Do?"
 September 28, 2013
 9:30 am-3:00 pm
 Seneca Falls Presbyterian Church
 23 Cayuga Street, Seneca Falls, NY 13148
 \$10 registration & lunch
 Bring CWS Health Kit Items



- We will begin our journey with the Exodus Bible Study with Rev. Nancy Yao
- Explore Women's Rights Journey with a ParAk Ranger
- Hear the PW Journey "Where We've Been. Where We're Going" with Mary Jorgenson, **Churchwide** PW Moderator
- Hear the Personal Peace Corp Journey of Rev. **Ms.** Leah Ntuala, Pastor, Seneca Falls Presbyterian Church
- Worship lead by Rev. Leslie Latham, Motion Choice from Kenmore Presbyterian Church
- Afternoon Options: Trip to Seneca Falls Women's Rights National Park Or Assemble CWS Health Kits

Church Family News



- ◆ **Committee Meetings-** It is Fall and that means Committees need to call their members together and plan for 2013-2014. So, if you are the chairperson on your Committee please contact your members and plan a meeting for September. If you don't hear from your chair person please contact Pastor Leah. Thank you!
- ◆ **Coffee Hour Sign-Up-** We will begin having coffee hour again on Sunday, September 8th. It is "Invite a friend to Church" day. Pastor Leah has signed up to get speakers for the month of September and we have hosts for the 8th and the 15th. We are asking that 1 or 2 people sign up for each month to get speakers to come in. There will be a sign up sheet on the 8th. Thank you!
- ◆ **Ann Ritter Raynor update-** Don has paid to have a phone installed in her room and he calls and talks to her every day! Even the Dr.'s do not understand what is happening or how long it will last or anything but--with extended treatments of Chemo, beyond any studies that have been done, Ann has had a major turn around. She talks, she remembers, she still has a slight noun problem, her right leg and arm that would not move are moving, she plays games and she talks on the phone. She knows that all she owned has been sold or is on the market to be sold to pay for her medical care. The family is taking one day at a time and enjoying having the old Ann back for however long God allows!
- ◆ **Nursing Home Worship-** Wayne & Joyce Lohr, Phil Plummer and Nancy & Bill Shuster accompanied Pastor Leah for the worship service at Seneca Nursing and Rehab Center on Sun Aug. 11. Emily Sisson volunteered as pianist. Our next date is Sun., Oct. 13. We hope more people will consider joining in this ministry. The residents and staff are very appreciative of our attention and look forward to Sunday worship time, each week.
- ◆ **Membership/Parish Life** will be meeting on Sunday, Sept 8th following worship in the committee room.
- ◆ **Looking for an opportunity to reach out?-** Invite friends to Wednesday Worship and Sunday worship service. Volunteer to bring a dish to pass to Wednesday Worship or help do dishes. Invite friends to game night at the church and movie night at the manse. Volunteer to list all church music into a data base. Help take care of church flowers for Sunday mornings. Volunteer to work in the nursery on Sundays. Hang church flyers around the community or hand out brochures. Help get the word out to the community and help our church grow.
- ◆ **Wine Raffle-** Because it has been such a good fundraiser, we are again holding a wine raffle during the "It's a Wonderful Life" weekend in December. If you could, please donate a bottle or 2 of wine. You can start bringing them in to the church office now. There will also be tickets available to sell to your friends/families!
- ◆ **New Member!-** Virginia "Ginny" Konz has officially become a new member of our Church.
- ◆ **New Directory-** We have a new, updated Church directory! They are located in the Narthex. Be sure to pick up your copy!
- ◆ **New Church Brochures-** There are new trifold church brochures. The blue one is an overview of the church and the green one is for the 2013-2014 activities. Check them out and give one to a friend. Maybe they'll want to join us for some of those activities!

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	149 Ballston Ave, Ballston Spa NY 12020
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
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

September 1st– Communion

Greeters: Marion Crull and Betty Geraghty
 Ushers: Paul and Connie Richardson
 Nursery: Neil Walsh
 Candle Lighter: Ben Jessop



September 8th

Greeters: Becky and Scott Jessop
 Ushers: Matthew Walsh and Sean Walsh
 Nursery: Becky Jessop and Carolyn Jessop
 Candle Lighter: Ben Jessop

September 15th

Greeters: Howard and Barb Van Kirk
 Ushers: Jim and Cherie Clark
 Nursery: Marion Crull and Erica Walsh
 Candle Lighter: Sean Walsh

September 22nd

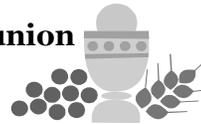
Greeters: Shirley Sage and Carol Rook
 Ushers: Caroline and Bob Seem
 Nursery: Sarah and Neil Walsh
 Candle Lighter: Ben Jessop

September 29th

Greeters: Susan Derr and Barb Lohr
 Ushers: Neil and Sarah Walsh
 Nursery: Scott Jessop and Carrie Jessop
 Candle Lighter: Carrie Jessop

October 6th– Communion

Greeters: Paul and Connie Richardson
 Ushers: Carrie Jessop and Ben Jessop
 Nursery: Erica Walsh and Marion Crull
 Candle Lighter: Erica Walsh



Coffee Hour and Prayer List

Sept. 8th: Coffee Hour resumes today– Invite a friend to church today. Coffee Hour in the Social Hall; Host: Susan Derr

Sept. 15th: What did you do this Summer? Eastman Hall; Host: Dorothy Dickieson

Sept. 22nd: Chautauqua: Pastor Leah; Hosts needed

Sept. 29th: TBA– Hosts needed



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

To Keep in our prayers: Johnny Boyd, Alice Burgdorf, Bobbi and Ed Chase, Doreen Christopher, Reverend Scott Cupp, Keith Davis, Bob Didsbury, Joanna Fuller, Cindy Granger, Margaret Greene, Mary Headley, Ben Heckman, Charlene Hooper, Crystal Jones, Liza Merriam, Tyler Morgan, Helena Peacock, Bruna Perin, Sally Porsch, Don Proctor, Ann Ritter Rayner, Jean and Bob Stenlake, Alberta Stuck, Dorothy Tuthill, Fran Webb, Loraine Worthington and Margaret Yells. Please contact Chris with any changes to this list.

Church Office: 315-568-6636
Church Fax: 315-568-6616
Hours: Tuesday-Thursday 7:30-12:30
Manse: 315-257-0028
E-mail: fpresf@verizon.net
Website: www.fpressf.com

Scan this code to learn
more about us!



**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



Important News for:



September Newsletter 2013

