



# First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls

Toward a Church as **GENEROUS**  
and **JUST** as God's Grace....



## July/August Newsletter 2014

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### Pastor's Corner

1 Corinthians 14:40 "But all things should be done decently and in order."

This is the PCUSA motto. It is a source of pride in how the Book of Order is written and what we seem to strive toward as a denomination. June 14th marked the beginning of the 221st General Assembly. Much will be talked about, recommended, defeated, passed on to Presbyteries, etc. Everyone is hoping the business is conducted decently and in order.

So what has happened? Well the first was the election of Heath Rada as the Moderator. Heath Rada, a retired ruling elder who served the American Red Cross as CEO of the Greater Richmond chapter and president of the Presbyterian School of Christian Education, was elected moderator of the 221st General Assembly (2014) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Saturday evening (June 14) on the first ballot. Serving with him as vice moderator will be Larissa Kwong Abazia, Church of Forest Hills, a multicultural, multiethnic congregation in Queens, New York.

What else has happened?

Well the Presbyteries will vote on accepting the Belhar Confession into the Book of Confessions. The PCUSA has decided to divest in Israel, but not to call the occupation an apartheid. They talked about the definition of marriage being between 2 persons and decided to recommend to Presbytery for a vote. They talked about allowing pastors to perform marriages of same sex couples in the 19 states where it is legal for all people to marry and decided they are allowed under Authoritative Interpretation, so on and so forth, many issues were discussed.

So what does all this mean for us?

Well for most people, it won't change a thing for you in your day to day church experience and spiritual life. For others they will decide to leave or rejoin the PCUSA. For others still they will continue to work until the issue is changed. Wherever you fall along this spectrum in the PCUSA I wish you to remember that God ordered life out of chaos, creation continues, God isn't done with us yet. I pray we always move with the Holy Spirit even if it gets a little messy. Amen.



Peace, Pastor Leah

## **Session Briefs**

### **Meeting of Monday, June 2, 2014**

prepared by Joyce Lohr, Clerk to the Session

- Heard Pastor's report and plans for proposed action at 2014 General Assembly to direct sanctions or other protest actions toward corporations dealing with war products in the Middle East
- Plans for sale of Fair Trade items will be considered
- Agreed to have outdoor Vacation Bible School signs in place, well in advance of VBS opening, mid July
- Heard request for volunteers from Session to serve as mentors to 5th & 6th grade confirmation students
- Accepted church membership transfer for Mike and Jan Day
- Considered and agreed to suggestion for creating infant/toddler play-area at rear of sanctuary
- Learned cost of Pipe Organ blower room function repairs estimated at \$1880
- Advised of new Director, effective June 1; Allison Ekiert at Creative Choices Childcare
- Advised that Boy Scout Troop 88 Eagle candidates are completing necessary paperwork and will commence work on sanctuary balcony floor in near future
- Heard Pastor's plans to serve as Chaplain for Camp Whitman week of July 20 - 25 on a commuter basis and approved leave for Sun., Aug. 10
- Updated Usher [incl. candle lighter, nursery] Instructions will be available in the narthex and mailed to all volunteers

### **Meeting of Monday, June 23, 2014**

- Heard report of Stated Presbytery Meeting in Ithaca on June 7
- Moved to approve baptism for Isabella, Aryanna and Keara Dugan on Sun., July 13
- Learned of General Assembly action for Presbyterian Church [U.S.A.] to divest from investments presently held with U.S. corporations producing/providing materials "it believes are not in compliance with the church's policy on socially responsible investing" ...a denominational stand to avoid profit from "non-peaceful pursuits", especially at this time in the Middle East
- Moved to support General Assembly in divestment
- Agreed to remove blue hymnals from pews so as to avoid confusion with the new [purple] hymnals
- Moved to receive a Special Offering on Sun., Sept. 7 to be used toward salary of Christian Ed teacher; position is currently posted on church website
- Heard plans from Property to have sanctuary microphone/speaker system checked out by a professional
- Learned of church application for Amazon Smile; a percentage of each purchase would be returned to the church; would work similar to our use of TOPS gift cards
- Heard ideas for fundraising, including stretchy bracelets, ice cream social and concert
- Set partial schedule for Coffee Hr organizers, through December, with Elders in charge
- Heard suggestions for a photo & bio board for Sunday and Wed. night worshippers

There will be no Session meeting in July  
The next meeting will be Mon, August 25th at 7pm



## Women's Circle

The Women's Circle met at Abigail's June 2nd for the final meeting before summer. 10 were in attendance. This is a great time to know women in our congregation as during chatting we cover many topics– as well as enjoy good food.

Our treasury monies have been dispensed for Chemo packs, Backpacks, Camp Whitman and Church World Service.

The materials have arrived for the 2014-2015 year: A Contemporary Study of 2 Corinthians. Paul's letters are not a Theological GPS that will provide us with clear and easy directions to navigate our way. This will be a thought provoking study. Even if you cannot regularly make our meetings on the 1st Monday of the month, you are welcome to come when you can.

**The 3rd Sunday House of Concern donations are:**  
**July: peanut butter/jelly**  
**August: Cereal**



We appreciate the support the congregation gives to our mission work.

The September meeting will be Sept 8th since Labor Day falls on the 1st Monday of Sept.

Jean Morris

## Membership/Parish Life

Please be reminded to set aside all your good, no longer-used household appliances, linens, cookware, gadgets, costume jewelry, toys, games, small tools, and furniture for our September sale.



**Please, no books, phonograph records, tapes, or clothing!**

**Bargains in  
the Basement!**

## Happy Birthday!

### JULY BIRTHDAYS

- Samual Rescorl-7/3
- Vivian Rescorl-7/11
- Lorienne Beals-7/12
- Eric Elyséev-7/13
- Isabella Dugan- 7/16
- Joyce Lohr-7/23
- Curtis Porsch-7/23
- Greg Dugan- 7/24
- Michelle Geraghty-7/25
- Kaitlin [Richardson] Parish-7/25
- Becky Jessop-7/26

### AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- Marika Beals-Kraus-8/4
- Dorothy Dickieson-8/6
- Marion Crull-8/10
- Paul Elyséev-8/22
- Cherie Clark-8/24
- Mason Ntuala-8/28
- Matt Crull-8/29



The September Newsletter articles are due on **Aug 21st**  
 The newsletter will be sent out on Aug 28th.

## Christian Education Vacation Bible School July 14-18 9am-noon

We are looking for as many volunteers as we can get. If you are unable to help the whole time or only want to help with specific activities you can sign up for just a certain day/time/activity. High Schoolers (including those entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade this fall) looking for community service time towards graduation are welcomed. Please either email or sign up on the sign-up sheet that will be downstairs in the church. If there is anyone that can help place signs for advertising please let us know.

If you are unable to be there to help that week we are looking for donations. Suggested items for donations:

**Snacks:**

Monday: Fresh veggies (cucumbers, celery, grape tomatoes, green/red/orange bell peppers, baby carrots, broccoli, cauliflower)

Monday: Pint of sour cream

Tuesday: Gold fish or animal crackers

Thursday: Gingerbread people cookies (undecorated) and frosting different colors (tubes preferred but canned ok)

For Friday: Fresh fruit (watermelon, grapes, strawberries, blueberries, canned pineapple etc. to make a fresh fruit salad to go with lunch NO BANANAS there are people allergic to bananas)

**Craft/Science projects:**

Ziploc style sandwich bags

Toilet paper tubes

Fabric Paints bottles red, orange, yellow, green, blue, violet

Black ink pad

Magnifying glasses (5 small they can share)

Glass bottle with a long narrow neck (bigger than soda bottle but smaller than an egg, an old apple sider jar style)

Markers wide and narrow tipped

Roll of wire or old metal coat hangers



Also looking for help physically and always accept monetary donations.

Thank you,  
Sarah Walsh

**Daily Schedule:**

9:00 - 9:25	opening/games
9:25-9:50	story time
9:50-10:15	craft
10:15-10:40	bells
10:40-11:05	snack
11:05-11:30	science
11:30-11:55	songs/closing



VBS 2014  
Discovering God's Creation  
July 14th-18th  
9am-Noon  
Register at [fpresf.com](http://fpresf.com)



## Handbell/Handchime Choir

Most of the year the bell choir rings from 2 to 5 octaves of bells and performs with ringers that are available for a particular Sunday each month. We have quite a library of music for any combination of bells from solos and ensembles to music for 2, 3, 4, and 5 octaves of bells and/or chimes. This makes it possible for the bell choir to perform once every month. For 2-octaves of bells we need at least 7 ringers, for 3-octaves we need at least 9 ringers and for 5-octaves we need at least 12 ringers.

Bell ringers need to concentrate on 2 bells at a time with the corresponding flat or sharp bells. They need to be able to count the beat and ring the bell at the appropriate time in the music. Rehearsals are important to practice ringing as a team and it is important to be able to bring out the theme of the piece of music such as prayerful, introspective, joyful, and contemplative. Our Bell Choir members are the best. They are able to perform with any combination of ringers in any composition. The summer months are an opportunity for bell choir members to ring in small ensembles and/or prepare a solo piece. Regular rehearsals will begin again in September.

Many thanks to the Bell Choir members:

Karen Beals  
 Joanne Elysée  
 Claire & Dick Damaske  
 Hedra Harrison  
 Ginny Konz  
 Phil Plummer  
 Connie Richardson  
 Carolyn & Bob Seem  
 Nancy Shuster  
 Sarah & Neil Walsh



*Marge*

## S2 Name Evolution

S2 - What is it and where did it come from? This question is out there in people's minds. S2 is now the name for Wednesday Worship and Dinner time. When the grant for the Wednesday Worship and Dinner was being written, there was a need to provide a name on the application for the 1001 New Congregations Grant (a one time offering). After looking at grants written by other churches for similar new congregations, it was felt that something catchy would be appropriate. Many options were considered: Scripture and Soup, Seek and Sate, Scripture and Sermon, and other such things. All these seemed to have 2 "S's", so S2 (or S squared) just seemed to fit. S2 was used on the grant application form and now it is the "official" name for the particular congregation that meets at 5:30 on Wednesdays for Worship and a meal time. Now you know "the rest of the story".



## Church Family News



**Summer Backpack Program-** For the last 2 years this community has provided meals to over 60 children for the entire summer, twice a week from the beginning of July until the end of August. Families in need are already signing up. Thanks to your generosity in the past Food Link has been able to provide meals for the entire summer and they have hope that they will be able to continue this much-needed program for another year. They will need your help to make this happen, so if you are able to give a donation to the House of Concern for this program, donations may be sent to: House of Concern c/o Summer Backpack Program, 35 State Street, Seneca Falls, NY 13148. It's tax-deductible and 100 percent of your donation will be spent on food for the children. We are also in need of people to deliver these backpack meals. **Our Church is scheduled to deliver on Tuesday, July 8th and Friday, July 11th.** We meet at The House of Concern at 10:00am. If you are able to drive or go along with a driver to help deliver, please contact Pastor Leah and let her know.

**Chemo Kits-** Thank you to everyone who donated items for the Chemo Kits. With all your donations we were able to make 42 kits. Many were handed out at the Relay for Life event to those who are going through Chemotherapy and the kits that weren't handed out then are being distributed to others that are battling Cancer. **Thank you again!!**

**TOPS Gift Cards-** Chris just placed another order of Tops gift cards in June. When those get sold, the Church will have made \$1,041.25. This was all done in less than 2 years. Thank you for your continued support of this fundraiser. Remember also that they make great gifts!!

**2 Cents a Meal-** if you don't like returning all your bottles and cans to the redemption center, think about donating them! There is a bin in the Social Hall to put them in. George Elyséev has been bringing them to the redemption center for us and the money is then donated to the 2 cents a meal program.

**Congratulations!!** Bob Knight and Joan Olmstead are getting married on July 12th. Congratulations to you both!!

**The Sam Dickieson Memorial Art Show** is being held at the library on Friday July 18th from 4-7pm. Come and Celebrate Sam's Memory and see his Fantastic Artwork!

**Photo and Bio Board-** We are going to be putting together a "Photo and Bio board" that includes all of our Sunday and Wednesday Night worshipers. Please either bring in or email your favorite picture of yourselves with a short bio about yourself. We would like to include everyone in order to continue to learn about each other and strengthen our relationships.

**Coffee Hour schedule-** We have volunteers for getting speakers for the first 4 months beginning in September. Ginny Konz has signed up for September, Marion and Matt Crull for October, Wayne and Joyce Lohr for November and Nancy Shuster for December. Pastor Leah has signed up to speak about her Israel trip on 4 Sundays, and I will email the sign up sheet I've made to those who have signed up so you know which Sundays you don't need to get someone to speak. -Chris

## Prayer List

**Know someone ill or hospitalized?** For July and August, please call: Joyce Lohr- 568-9639

**To keep in our prayers:** Dorothy Baker, Joanna Baxter, Diana and Jeb Becker, Johnny Boyd, Alice Burgdorf, Bobbi and Ed Chase, Debbie Chase (Wendy Kain's sister), Keith Davis, Susan Derr, Bob Didsbury, Diane Draheim, Cindy Granger, Margaret Greene, Mary Headley, Charlene Hooper, Dottie Lorenz, Bill Lovell, Liza Merriam, Penny Moore, Tyler Morgan, Cormac Morris, Diane Paradise, Helena Peacock, Sally Porsch, Larry Scesney Jr., Bob and Jean Stenlake, Dorothy Tuthill, Fran Webb, Loraine Worthington, EthelMae Wright and Margaret Yells.



## Ushers and Nursery and Candle Lighters

### July 6th– Communion



Ushers: Jan Owen and Jack LaValley  
Nursery: Marion Crull and Keara Dugan

### July 13th

Ushers: Iva and Marvin Lay  
Nursery: Nancy Shuster and Marion Crull

### July 20th

Ushers: Becky and Scott Jessop  
Nursery: Ericka Walsh and Matt Walsh

### July 27th

Ushers: Wendy Kain and Nancy Shuster  
Nursery: Scott Jessop and Carrie Jessop

### August 3rd– Communion



Ushers: Claire and Dick Damaske  
Nursery: Marion Crull and Sean Walsh

### August 10th

Ushers: Jim and Cherie Clark  
Nursery: Neil Walsh and Matt Walsh

### August 17th

Ushers: Joyce and Wayne Lohr  
Nursery: Jim Clark and Ben Jessop

### August 24th

Ushers: Marion Crull and Matt Crull  
Nursery: Matt Crull and Carrie Jessop

### August 31st

Ushers: Joanne and George Elyséev  
Nursery: Scott Jessop and Ben Jessop

### September 7th– Communion



Ushers: Matt Walsh and Sean Walsh  
Nursery: Marion Crull and Aryanna Dugan  
Candle Lighter: Matt Walsh

Ushers are to open and close the doors, both inside and outside doors; making sure all doors are locked before leaving. Ushers are to turn on and off all the lights in the Sanctuary and Narthex. They are to light the candles during summer. They also ring the bell at five of ten.

**There will be a meeting for Ushers on July 6th after worship.**

## Liturgist List

### July

6th– Bernie Horle  
13th– Ginny Konz  
20th– Ford Knight  
27th– Hedra Harrison

### August

3rd– Ford Knight  
10th– Ginny Konz  
17th– Bernie Horle  
24th– Barb Van Kirk  
31st– Nancy Shuster



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](mailto:fpresf@verizon.net)  
Website: [www.fpresf.com](http://www.fpresf.com)  
Facebook: Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls

Scan this code to  
visit our website



**Sunday Worship at 10am. Nursery Care available.**

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  
Joyce Lohr- Clerk to the Session



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

Presently serving Elders: Andy Batty, Jim Clark, Marion Crull, Matthew Crull, Scott Jessop, Ginny Konz, Wayne Lohr, Bob Seem, Carolyn Seem, Nancy Shuster Ericka Walsh and Neil Walsh  
Joyce Lohr, Clerk to the Session and Rev. Leah Ntuala, Moderator.

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**VBS**

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