



First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls

Toward a Church as **GENEROUS**

and **JUST** as God's Grace....



April Newsletter 2015

Inside this issue:	
Session Briefs	2
Women's Circle	3
Christian Education	3
Birthdays	3
HandBell/ Handchimes Report	4
House of Concern News	4
News from PCUSA	5
Church Family News	6
Ushers, Nursery & Candle Lighters	7
Liturgist List	7
Coffee Hour & Prayer List	7
Calendar	insert

Pastor's Corner

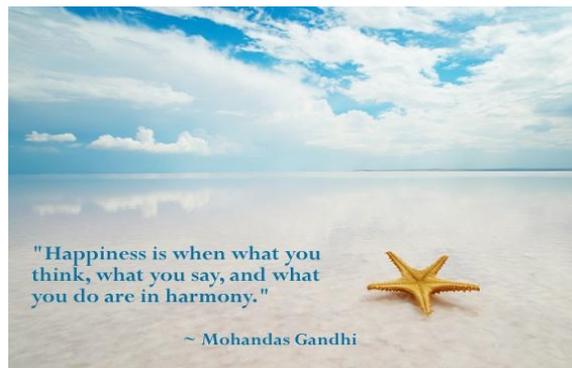
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.—Psalm 139:14-16

You are wonderfully made! Amen! This is the joy of new life in Christ, a reminder that we are wonderfully made, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Amen! God made YOU for a reason. You, who is wonderful.

I have been thinking a lot about the term authentic self. Do my actions, thoughts and deeds line up? Am I who I say I am? Am I who I feel I am? Are we as a church being our authentic self.? At this point of the journey I have more questions than answers. This may always be the case. What I hold onto is this psalm, wonderfully made. God created us.

It can be hard to remember this when I say or do something that feels or is inauthentic, out of line with the wonderful person God has made me to be. I am a person who is intense, tenacious and a bit of a rebel. I love being outdoors. I like hiking, biking, boating, jumping out of perfectly good airplanes and I have always wanted to try base jumping and parasailing. I am excited to write letters and send mail. I love nothing more than a warm cup of coffee, comfy chair and good book (sometimes I replace the book with a movie or good television). I love being with my family and experiencing things through the eyes of my husband and sons. I love to travel and have adventures, sometimes those adventures take place in a handmade fort in the living room. I love to dance. I enjoy deep conversations with people who share my opinions and people who don't share my opinions. I love helping people discover their authentic selves. Who are you? Who are we as a body of Christ? Who are you in the body of Christ? Who is the authentic, intricate and wonderfully made self?

Peace, Pastor Leah



Session Briefs

Meeting of Mon., March 23, 2015
prepared by Joyce Lohr, Clerk to the Session

- Heard and moved to refer request to Coffee Hour for tuition assistance for Haitian student, Danio Saul
- Learned of anticipated refunds for elevator service from Thyssenkrupp Company. Property Ministry is looking into an alternative source of service, at a lower cost. A BIG thank you to our office manager, Chris Sweet who caught the error and has been working on fixing it since October.
- "Give Now" button on church website is operating; can be found in the "widget" spot
- Volunteer Mentors from the Session and the congregation are sought for our church youth beginning study in preparation for Confirmation
- Heard of hopes and tentative plans for serving an Agape dinner for us and neighboring PCUSA churches to foster fellowship and care for each other's churches
- Christian Ed Ministry reported \$130 profit on the Pancake Breakfast and Egg/Candy Hunt of last Saturday, Mar. 21
- Personnel Ministry will update a child-protective policy in accordance with directives from General Assembly
- Worship & Music Ministry has ordered Easter Lilies from Lowe's and urges those bringing flowers for Easter Sunday, to call the office with names of loved ones being honored or remembered
- Membership & Parish Life Ministry will prepare a Palm Sunday Brunch on March 29 to be served in the social rooms following the worship service
- Maundy Thursday service will take place in our sanctuary on April 2 at 7 PM in cooperation with the United Methodist congregation. Clergy, choirs, readers and ushers from both churches will participate. Community Ecumenical Good Friday Service on April 3 at Noon at the UMC.
- Boy Scout Troop # 88 enjoyed a Scout dinner on March 15. Several of the boys have advanced to 2nd Class rank and the troop awaits confirmation on one Eagle Scout status.
- A Mothers' Day ziti dinner is planned as a fundraiser in May by the Scouts
- Elders are invited to sit in with youth in the church school class any Sunday morning 9 - 9:45 in the Pastor's office and to take part in discussions

The next meeting of the Session is Mon., April 27, 2015



Women's Circle

The Women's Circle met March 3 in the Hawley Room. Discussion was held about contributing to the 250 cans of food to cover the lack of the Feinstein Challenge at The House of Concern. Individuals' contributions may not make up the total but let's all try!

Joy led the lessons. Once again weather prevented a meeting. In lesson six Paul uses processions or parades as a metaphor to clarify his authority and to emphasize the idea that all followers of Christ are called to show their faith in action.

Lesson seven based on 2 Corinthians 8:1-15 explores Paul's understanding of fair balance and the economy of grace. All human beings are under God's Covenant.

**The 3rd Sunday House of Concern item in April is:
Peanut Butter and Jelly**

The next meeting is April 6 at 12:30– Lesson Eight. Bring a sandwich and join us

Jean Morris



Christian Education

An Ice Cream Social and VBS Awareness Day is planned for **Sunday, June 14th** following worship. We hope everyone will be able to attend. The Ice Cream Social is open to the community.

The First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls will be hosting **God's Backyard Bible Camp: Camping with God** beginning at 9am -Noon, **Monday, July 20th -Friday, July 24th**. Vacation Bible School is free and open to all children entering Kindergarten-finishng 6th grade. Throughout the week the children will have a blast serving Jesus through stories, crafts, music, snacks, games and more! Please talk to Sabrina Hoster, our Director, about helping. We will also be accepting camping gear to be used to decorate the church beginning in June– July.



April Birthdays

Carolyn Seem-4/5
Andrew Batty-4/11
John Damaske-4/15
Carolyn Jessop-4/16
Dorothy Lorenz-4/17
Atticus Ntuala- 4/18
Paul Richardson-4/20
Ginny Konz- 4/22
Simon Ntuala-4/24
Abigail Rescorl-4/29

Happy Birthday!!



May Newsletter
Articles are due by
Thursday, April 23rd

Newsletters will be sent out
April 30th

HandBell/Handchimes Report

While in Florida I had the opportunity to ring bells as an orphan in the Florida State Handbell Festival on March 13/14 with Michael Glasgow as conductor. There were 39 handbell choirs participating and 4 orphans. What an experience. We rehearsed, attended classes, performed a concert and socialized for two days. Bell ringers are friendly, helpful and love ringing bells. I learned a lot, which I will be sharing when I return; and performed some new and exciting music, which will be part of our handbell music also when I return. If you haven't heard of Katy Perry (new to me, too) singing "Firework" you will be hearing it on bells; and a piece titled "Siyahamba" which is an African worship song.

If you don't know what it is to be a handbell orphan it can be daunting and a lot of fun. I was placed in the Epiphany Cathedral Choir from Venice, FL. and was assigned the C4D4 (Phil Plummer's bass bells). My concern was to be ringing the big bells for an hour plus in each rehearsal. I attended a class on ringing bass bells and had no problem. The requirements for an orphan are to learn the music without the advantage of playing with a bell choir. (Thank heavens for YouTube). The orphan must provide all the equipment needed such as gloves, mallets, stand, folders and music. I met a bell choir director from Palm Harbor that is close to Tarpon Springs and they need a sub; and I was introduced to the director of Suncoast Bronze Ringers and she needs a sub for a concert on May 3. Perfect timing! I will start rehearsing with them next week.

See you all on May 6 and hope the snow is gone by then.



House of Concern

*The Traveling
Little Black Dress
... "Shakes it up"*

Save the Date for the 2015 Little Black Dress Fashion Show! Tickets are now available for the Third Annual Traveling Little Black Dress Luncheon and Fashion Show at the Gould Hotel April 17-18, 2015. They will be available at the New Beginnings Boutique, 103 Fall Street and are \$40.00 each. Last year's show was a sell out on both dates, so get your tickets early!



Need to Feed Campaign: As you may be aware, the Feinstein Challenge, which has been a large provider to the House of Concern, will not be happening this year. Our needs continue to grow and the numbers increase with each passing month. Last year we distributed over 250,000 meals! The House of Concern has called on the community to develop its own challenge, The Need to Feed. From March until May the House of Concern will be collecting food donations and money donations to match the funds collected by community groups. The goal is \$12,000. If you wish to donate, you may do so at the House of Concern. We also will be collecting food items, each worth \$1 in the box outside of the church office. We hope to help meet the Need to Feed challenge.

Largest Presbyterian Denomination Gives Final Approval for Same-Sex Marriage

By Laurie Goodstein March 17, 2015

After three decades of debate over its stance on homosexuality, members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) voted on Tuesday to change the definition of marriage in the church's constitution to include same-sex marriage. The final approval by a majority of the church's 171 regional bodies, known as presbyteries, enshrines a change recommended last year by the church's General Assembly. The vote amends the church's constitution to broaden marriage from being between "a man and a woman" to "two people, traditionally a man and a woman."

The Presbytery of the Palisades, meeting in Fair Lawn, N.J., put the ratification count over the top on Tuesday on a voice vote. With many presbyteries still left to vote, the tally late Tuesday stood at 87 presbyteries in favor, 41 against and one tied. "Finally, the church in its constitutional documents fully recognizes that the love of gays and lesbian couples is worth celebrating in the faith community," said the Rev. Brian D. Ellison, executive director of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians, which advocates gay inclusion in the church. "There is still disagreement, and I don't mean to minimize that, but I think we are learning that we can disagree and still be church together."

The church, with about 1.8 million members, is the largest of the nation's Presbyterian denominations, but it has been losing congregations and individual members as it has moved to the left theologically over the past several years. There was a wave of departures in and after 2011, when the presbyteries ratified a decision to ordain gays and lesbians as pastors, elders and deacons, and that may have cleared the way for Tuesday's vote.

With many conservative Presbyterians who were active in the church now gone, as well as the larger cultural shift toward acceptance of same-sex marriage, the decisive vote moved quickly toward approval, according to those on both sides of the divide. Plenty of moderates and conservatives, however, have chosen to stay within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), one of the nation's historic mainline Protestant denominations, which has its headquarters in Louisville, Ky. Ministers who object will not be required to perform a same-sex marriage. Paul Detterman, national director of The Fellowship Community, a group of conservatives who have stayed in the church, said: "Our objection to the passage of the marriage amendment is in no way, shape or form anti-gay. It is in no way intended as anything but concern that the church is capitulating to the culture and is misrepresenting the message of Scripture." He added, "We definitely will see another wave, a sizable wave, of conservative folks leaving," but said he and others were staying because "this conversation is dreadfully important to be a part of."

Other religious denominations that have officially decided to permit their clergy to perform same-sex marriages include the Episcopal Church, the United Church of Christ, the Quakers, the Unitarian Universalist Association of Churches and, in Judaism, the Reform and Conservative movements. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America left it open for individual ministers to decide. "I don't see any further large mainline denominations making the same move," said Alan Wisdom, a Presbyterian and the interim editor of *Theology Matters*, a journal for conservative Protestants. The United Methodist Church, with about 5.5 million members, has been debating same-sex marriage for years, but it includes a growing membership in Africa, where there is little acceptance of gay relationships. The Presbyterians' decision on Tuesday will put an end to the ecclesiastical prosecutions and convictions in the last few decades of ministers who broke church law by conducting same-sex marriages.

"Some of us are calling it liberation day," said the Rev. William Blake Spencer, pastor of Ocean Heights Presbyterian Church in Egg Harbor Township, N.J., who is gay and voted with his presbytery on Tuesday. "It will be the last L.G.B.T.Q. issue that we debate and fight about, and finally our welcome comes without a 'but' or an 'if.'"

Church Family News



- ♦ **The Presbytery retreat** will occur on April 25, 2015, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Geneva Presbyterian Church with Dr. David Olson. The purpose for the retreat: To help the Presbytery of Geneva to rebuild relationships, discern our vision for the future, and clarify the mission priorities that will help us to live into that vision. Those who will be invited to the retreat are: • All minister members of the presbytery • All commissioners from churches • The staff and officers of the presbytery • Any others who are a part of the life of the presbytery.
- ♦ **Chili Cook-Off** to be held on Sunday, April 19th at 11:30am. If you wish to contribute chili, sandwich, salad or dessert please see Linda Schavemaker.
- ♦ **Java & Justice**– The topic for April’s Java & Justice is “*Multiple Intelligence*” and will be held at Café XIX on East Bayard at 12 noon. Come join us for a great conversation!
- ♦ **Potluck/Game Night**– Join us on Friday, April 10th for our monthly Potluck/game night. Bring a dish to pass and your favorite game or join in on one of the games that will be going on.
- ♦ **Cross Bracelets**–Karen Kelley has made cross bracelets and is bringing them in to the Narthex for anyone who would like one. Thank you Karen!
- ♦ **Upcoming Events at Northeastern Seminary**– Pastor Leah attended a symposium at Northeastern Seminary in Rochester and the following are other events that are going to be held there if you are interested.
 - Barnes Science and Faith Symposium– *Cosmology and the Physics of Time*– April 1-22, 2015
 - Partnering with Agape Counseling Associates– *Faith Communities and Mental Health Conference* with Dr. Fred Antonelli– *April 24, 2015*
 - Conference on Ministry– *Power, Inequality, and Reconciliation in the Church* with Dr. Christena Cleveland– June 16, 2015. For more information on these and other events go to www.nes.edu

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

Name	Address
Ed and Bobbi Chase	1 Leland Drive, Seneca Falls NY 13148
Luanna Day	2705 Lower Lake Road, Seneca Falls, NY 13148
Dottie Lorenz	Huntington Living Center, Room 121, 369 E Main Street, Waterloo NY 13165
Liza Merriam	114 Ashton Court, Clifton Springs NY 14432
Jannette Monterville	c/o Vienna Gardens, 144 Main Street, Phelps NY 14532
Jean Stenlake	Steuben County Healthcare Facility, Room 194, 7009 Rumsey Street Ext. Bath NY 14810
Robert Stenlake	18 Carol Avenue, Seneca Falls, NY 13148
Dorothy Tuthill	c/o Mary Jane Tuthill, 30 Wycliffe Road, Waterloo NY 13165
Fran Webb	c/o Parr’s Springhurst Pines Box 215B 3001 N Hurstbourne, Louisville KY 40241

Ushers, Nursery and Candle Lighters

April 5th– Easter Sunday- Communion

Ushers: Matthew and Sean Walsh
 Nursery: Becky Jessop and Marion Crull
 Candle Lighter: Mason Ntuala



April 12th

Ushers: Ford Knight and Gerry Gray
 Nursery: Matt Crull and Ben Jessop
 Candle Lighter: Keara Dugan

April 19th

Ushers: Marion Crull and Matthew Crull
 Nursery: Sarah Walsh and Ericka Walsh
 Candle Lighter: Aryanna Dugan

April 26th

Ushers: Iva and Marvin Lay
 Nursery: Susan Derr and Ginny Konz
 Candle Lighter: Isabella Dugan

May 3rd– Communion

Ushers: Aryanna Dugan and Keara Dugan
 Nursery: Becky Jessop and Carolyn Jessop
 Candle Lighter: Matt Walsh



Please trade dates with someone if you are unable to serve on your designated Sunday. Thank you for serving.

Liturgist List



- 5th– Marion Crull
- 12th– Karen Kelley
- 19th– Ginny Konz
- 26th– Ford Knight

Coffee Hour and Prayer List

April 5th: Easter Sunday– No Coffee Hour

April 12th: History of the Batty Family; Hosts: Andy Batty and Susan (Batty) Santoski

April 19th: No Coffee Hour– Chili Cook-off

April 26th: Topic TBA; Hosts: George and Joanne Elysée



Know someone ill or hospitalized? This month, please call: Carol Rook: 539-9192

To Keep in our prayers: Dorothy Baker, Diana and Jeb Becker, Bobbi and Ed Chase, Debbie Chase (Wendy Kain's sister), Cindy Danielson, Diane Draheim, Nelson and Neena Hansen, Bob Knight, Debbie Lockett, Dottie Lorenz, Liza Merriam, Jannette Monterville, Joan Olmstead, Sally Porsch, Larry Scesney Jr., Mary Scesney, Bob and Jean Stenlake, Dorothy Tuthill, Fran Webb, EthelMae Wright (Bea Jones' friend) and Margaret Yells.



Church Office: 315-568-6636
Hours: Tuesday-Thursday 7:30-12:30
Manse: 315-257-0028
E-mail: firstpres13148@gmail.com
Website: www.fpressf.com

Scan this
code to learn
more about
us!



Sunday School (K-4th grade) and Youth Group (5th-12th grade)- 9-9:45am
Sunday Worship at 10am. Nursery Care available
Coffee Hour 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
Sabrina Hoster- Christian Ed. 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, Susan Derr,
Scott Jessop, Ginny Konz, Wayne Lohr, Bob Seem, Nancy Shuster, Ericka Walsh and Neil Walsh
Joyce Lohr, Clerk to the 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:



April Newsletter 2015