

First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls

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



January Newsletter 2016

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Pastor's Corner



Resolution: a firm decision to do or not to do something; the action of solving a problem, dispute, or contentious matter.

The 19K, Right to Run on Saturday, May 7th. - I am hopeful we will have a team as a church. There is also a 5k. If you can walk a mile or half a mile, you could do this Right to Run as a relay team. There are so many possibilities. The furthest I have run is a 10k and so this is far outside my comfort zone. However, when I think about all the hard work these women and men put in to making it possible for me to vote and so much more; I figure the least I can do is run far outside my comfort zone.

Year of Blessing- Several months ago I named 2015 the 'Year of Blessing'. I make the choice to count my blessings at the end of the day or in the middle of a potential melt-down. It has helped me to alleviate anxiety and remain in the present. It is a matter of changing perspective.

Continue to send and write handwritten letters. I love getting mail and I love sending mail. There is something amazing that takes place in this process. Yes, my handwriting is terrible, but it is like sending a piece of yourself in the mail. It is a beautiful and wonderful act and it is so easy. Plus, the post office always has so many wonderful stamp choices!

I don't know what you are going to choose to resolve to do or not do in the year to come, but I think resolutions can be prayers in action. There has been a lot in the news recently about the power of prayer. Let me go on record with saying I believe in the power of prayer. These resolutions are all prayers. When my foot hits the pavement in a run, I am praying. When my words lift up the blessings in my life, I am praying. When my pen touches the paper, I am praying. Prayer is powerful. It is intentional energy. How will you intentionally focus your energy this year? Happy New Year!

Peace,
Pastor Leah

Session Briefs

Meeting of December 14, 2015

- Heard Treasurer's report for November; total Revenues were \$21,776; total Expenses \$21,644; Fund Raisers [crafts, Amazon, raffles, TOPS cards, etc.] net total to date \$1,191. An updated budget draft for 2016 projects \$176,450 in Revenues and \$176,450 in Total Expenses. [Final budget can be established once all pledges are returned]
- Settled on structure for next Annual Meeting of the Congregation, January 24, 2016 to take place during the worship service
- Asked to consider how best to use the church's portion of the Peacemaking offering
- Heard of Property Ministry meeting with representative of solar panel firm, early this week
- Moved to task Property Ministry with prioritizing items on NYSEERDA list of suggested energy-saving improvements for all church buildings
- Learned of snow-removal arrangement with Frank Caratozzolo
- Learned of energy-efficient appliances purchased for manse, awaiting delivery [refrigerator, washing machine, clothes dryer, and freezer]. These items were purchased for half of the budgeted amount.
- Heard plans for Property Ministry to winterize windows at manse
- Looked at updated job description for church treasurer
- Received information from Presbytery of Geneva for pastor and church staff salaries, suggesting a 2% increase
- Learned that one pothole in driveway has been filled and discovery of a second, larger one in the parking lot
- Had further discussion on acquisition of an atrial defibrillator and agreed to raise the question at Annual Meeting
- Christian Ed will fill goody bags for young children and distribute them on Christmas Eve

prepared by Joyce Lohr, Clerk to the Session



YOU ARE NOT ALONE

“I can do nothing on my own.” John 5:30

Reflections from Pam on John 5:30-47

I remember riding my bike for the first time without training wheel. My dad stood behind me and gave me a gentle push down a small slope in our backyard. I was totally focused on what was in front of me. I was free, alone to the wind and the road ahead. It was not until I finally came to a stop that I realized my dad had been running the whole time behind me, making sure that I didn't fall. I was not alone. In John's Gospel, Jesus reminds us that we can do nothing on our own. Not even Jesus can force his will above the will of the One who sent him. It is a reminder that God goes before us and is beside us in all that we do. Jesus could have easily claimed all glory for himself, but he continually pointed his work to the one who sent him.

ACTION STEP: Reflect on the ways you see God at work in and around you.

MEDITATION: Holy and loving God, I am not alone. Amen.

These Days Daily Devotions, January, February, March 2016

Handbells/Handchimes Report

For the months of January and February there will be no bell choir rehearsals however, Carol Millis will be the substitute director for March and April. She will notify the bell ringers the dates of those rehearsals.

Regular rehearsals will resume on May 4, 2016. I am hoping that we will rehearse from May to December and perform at least once a month. I am also hoping that we will be able to work on small ensembles and solos for the summer months. Then in the fall I would like to choose another 5-octave piece to work on and also find a composition for 5-octaves of handchimes. Most music today includes both bells and chimes or it is written just for bells, but there doesn't seem to be a composition written for just chimes. I will keep looking.

-Marge



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Iva Lay-1/1
 Barbara Lohr-1/5
 Kyle Bruzda- 1/6
 Leah Ntuala-1/6
 Kiersten Dunbar Fitzgerald-1/12
 George Becker-1/19
 Barb Van Kirk- 1/20
 Peter Snyder- 1/22
 Jean Stenlake-1/22
 Karen Beals-1/28
 Nancy Rutz- 1/28
 Ben Jessop-1/29
 Joan Olmstead- 1/31

Happy Birthday everyone!



Annual Meeting
 January 24, 2016
 Brunch following Ser-
 vice

February Newsletter
 articles are due on
January 21st.

Newsletter will be sent
 out
 On January 28th.

Women's Circle

The Women's Circle December Luncheon was well attended with fourteen present including two representatives from Geneva Presbytery Women.

As always our women proved what great cooks they are. Many thanks to all who helped.

A large number of diapers were collected for the House of Concern plus \$30 was sent for Sun Light lamps to a Sudan school.

Joy gave the blessing and we all were called on to talk about our role in the church.

The next meeting will be January 4th at 12:30 in the Hawley Room, Lessons 4 & 5 . Come join us!

3rd Sunday House of Concern item is:

Soup

-Jean Morris



Vanderkamp Winter Retreat

Jan. 29 – Jan. 31, 2016

Our Vanderkamp retreat weekend is only a little more than a month away. Several people have signed up on the sheet in the church basement, including some new people! However, there is room for more! Remember, family and friends are always welcome. The more, the merrier! We will be asking for firm commitments by January 17th. The estimated price for the weekend, which includes 2 nights and 3 meals, is \$130 -\$140 per adult, but the exact amount can not be calculated until we know how many people are going. Children ages 6-12 only have to pay for their meals (\$23.75) and children under 6 are free. Payment will be due by Jan. 24th.

This retreat weekend is a wonderful 2 days of fellowship, fun and food. You do not have to be an outdoor enthusiast, as there are always plenty of activities going on in the lodges. However, the scenery and tranquility there are spectacular! Please contact us if you would like more information or have any questions or concerns. Claire can be reached at 568-6383 and Wendy at 568-0112 (eve.). Also, check out the Vanderkamp web site at www.vk.org

Claire Damaske and Wendy Kain





2016- Church Events
 *indicates in the works/possibility



January

Ruling Elder Training- 1/3
 Game Night/Potluck Dinner- 1/8
 Ordination of Elders- 1/17
 Seneca Rehab and Nursing- 1/17
 Annual Meeting- 1/24
 Vanderkamp- 1/29-1/31

Feb

Boy Scout Sunday- 2/7
 Valentine's Sunday- 2/7
 Game Night/Potluck Dinner- 2/5
 Ash Wednesday- 2/10
 Blood Drive- 2/11
 New Members Brunch*- 2/20

March

Game Night/Potluck Dinner-3/4
 Seneca Rehab and Nursing- 3/6
 Mystery Dinner Fundraiser at The Gould- 3/11
 Easter Egg Hunt/Pancake Breakfast- 3/19
 Palm Sunday Brunch- 3/20
 *Doug's Fish Fry

April

Game Night/Potluck Dinner- 4/1
 Seneca Rehab and Nursing- 4/24
 *Potato Bar Fundraiser

May

Game Night/Potluck Dinner- 5/4
 Right to Run 5K and 19K- 5/7
 Pentecost- 5/15
 Memorial Day Bell Ringing- 5/30

June

Game Night/Potluck Dinner-6/3
 Ice Cream Social- 6/12
 Seneca Rehab and Nursing- 6/12

July

Seneca Rehab and Nursing- 7/24

August

September

Game Night/Potluck Dinner- 9/2
 Rally Day Sunday- 9/11
 Seneca Rehab and Nursing- 9/11
 *Rummage Sale

October

World Communion Sunday- 10/2
 Game Night/Potluck Dinner- 10/7
 Pumpkin Sunday- 10/30
 Seneca Rehab and Nursing- 10/30

November

Game Night/Potluck Dinner- 11/4
 All Saint's Sunday- 11/6
 Advent Workshop- 11/20
 Congregational Meeting- 11/20
 1st Sunday in Advent- 11/27

December

Game Night/Potluck Dinner- 12/2
 It's a Wonderful Life- Bailey's Tent - 12/10
 Manse Party/ Caroling- 12/18
 Seneca Rehab and Nursing- 12/18
 Christmas Eve Service- 12/24



Calendars Mark Your Calendars Mark Your

Church Family News

Annual Reports: The annual meeting is going to be held on Sunday, January 24th. If you are the head of a committee your annual reports were due by **December 10th**. If you have not turned in your report yet, please email them to the church if possible to save a lot of extra typing. Thank you!

Offering Envelopes: If you haven't picked up your offering envelope box, please check the Narthex. They are there with your last name on the box. If you don't find your name, there are extra boxes in the office. If you want to make other arrangements to get your box, please contact Karen. Per capita for 2016 is \$44.00 per member.

Wine Raffle Winners—We had two winners for the wine raffle during the “It’s a Wonderful Life” weekend. They were Ron Wilson and Amy Loving Austin(2nd year in a row for Amy). Congratulations to all of you! The wine raffle brought in \$1,550.00 and the craft sale brought in \$400.00. Thank you to all who donated wine and/or craft items. Thank you also to all of you who worked in the tent that weekend! This fundraiser was a great success thanks to all of you!

Terracycling and Box Tops at Frank Knight— Want to recycle more waste and help the school at the same time? Frank Knight wants your plastic tape rolls, snack bags/chip bags and cereal bags, juice drink pouches, and personal hygiene products (shampoo/conditioner and lotion bottles). The school receives money for your donations and the money they receive is matched by Seneca Meadows. Box Tops are found on several products such as cereal boxes, soup labels, baked good packages, etc. Bring them to church and we will make sure they get to the school.

Game Night— In January, Game Night and Potluck Supper will be held on Friday, January 8th at our usual time of 5:30pm.

Mystery Dinner church fundraiser on March 11 - please consider being a sponsor or ask your place of employment regarding sponsorship or a gift basket or other item for the Chinese auction (gift certificates or % off on purchases coupons also work well). Looking for actors also—no lines to memorize! More to come! Any questions and interest in planning, contact Ginny Konz.

Stewardship Update—Thank you all for your commitment to First Pres! Our total pledges have reached the \$96, 076 mark for the church and \$7,070 for benevolences for a grand total of \$103,146. With your dollar commitment and the reduction in expenses, we should have a balanced budget without tapping into reserves or asking for assistance. Thank you!



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
Luanna Day	2705 Lower Lake Road, Seneca Falls, NY 13148
Dottie Lorenz	Huntington Living Center, Room 121, 369 E Main St, Waterloo NY 13165
Liza Merriam	114 Ashton Court, Clifton Springs NY 14432
Jannette Monterville	Seneca Rehab, 200 Douglas Drive, Waterloo, NY 13165
Jean Stenlake	Steuben County Healthcare Facility, Room 194, 7009 Rumsey Street Ext. Bath NY 14810
Robert Stenlake	18 Carol Avenue, Seneca Falls, NY 13148
Fran Webb	c/o Parr's Springhurst Pines Box 215B 3001 N Hurstbourne, Louisville KY 40241

Ushers, Nursery and Candle Lighters

January 3rd– Communion

Ushers: Bob and Carolyn Seem
Nursery: Susan Derr and Ericka Walsh
Candle Lighter: Matthew Walsh



January 10th– Baptism of the Lord

Ushers: Ginny Konz and Susan Derr
Nursery: Neil Walsh and Sarah Walsh
Candle Lighter: Delaney Wilson

January 17th– Installation of Elders

Ushers: Becky and Scott Jessop
Nursery: Marion Crull and Carolyn Jessop
Candle Lighter: Mason Ntuala

January 24th– Annual Meeting

Ushers: Jim and Cherie Clark
Nursery: Marion Crull and Ericka Walsh
Candle Lighter: Keara Dugan

January 31st– 4th Sunday after Epiphany

Ushers: Iva and Marvin Lay
Nursery: Sarah and Neil Walsh
Candle Lighter: Ben Jessop

February 7– Communion

Ushers: Scouts
Nursery: Carrie Jessop and Becky Jessop
Candle Lighter: Scouts



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



Liturgist List

3rd– Karen Kelley
10th– Ginny Konz
17th– Sarah Walsh
24th– Donna Montgomery
31st– Karen Kelley
7th–Karen Beals

Coffee Hour and Prayer List

Jan 3rd: Fellowship Hour in the Social Hall; Hosts: **TBD**
Jan 10th: Kingsley Kabari, Integrated Health ; Host: Ginny Konz
Jan 17th: Creative Choices Child Care ; Host: **TBD**
Jan 24th: No Coffee Hour- Annual Meeting and Brunch hosted by Membership/Parish Life
Jan 31st: Social Hour; Host: **TBD**



Know someone ill or hospitalized? This month, please call: Barb Van Kirk– 568-9908

To Keep in our prayers: Jeb Becker, Bobbi and Ed Chase, Debbie and Arnold Chase & family (Wendy Kain's sister), Diane Draheim, George Elyseev, Gordie Goodman, Margaret Greene, Ruthie Johnson, Crystal Jones, Dottie Lorenz, Liza Merriam, Jannette Monterville, Tyler Morgan, Heather Neustead, Bram Richardson, Paul Richardson, Nancy Shuster, Bob and Jean Stenlake, Fran Webb, Margaret Yells and all suffering in the world.

Church Office: 315-568-6636
Hours: Tuesday-Thursday 8-1pm
Manse: 315-257-0028
E-mail: firstpres13148@gmail.com
Website: www.fpressf.com

Scan this code
with your smart
phone to visit our
website



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
Karen Beals-Office Manager
Bob Seem-Interim Treasurer
J. Carl Vollbracht- Director of Music & Organist
Marjorie Fahrenholz- Hand Bell Choir Director
Michelle Dugan-Christian Education Director
Kyle Bruzda- Sexton
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.
Clerk to the Session: Joyce Lohr, Rev. Leah Ntuala, Moderator.

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



Happy New Year to

January Newsletter 2016