



# The Fredonia Presbyterian

June 2023  
Newsletter of the  
Fredonia  
Presbyterian  
Church

## From Our Pastor

It's not Valentines, but I feel like writing a Valentine to kick off June.



*Pentecost is Red.*

*Advent is Blue.*

*This church is sweet.*

*And, thank you to you and you and you.*

Sure, it's a terrible poem, but I mean it.

Five years ago, I made scans of all my seminary notes, syllabi, old papers, etc. When I was sick last month, I finally began to download scans and organize them: changing their names from things like Scan.51935p9d202mf9ek10 to "Systematic Theology 1: The Eschaton."

I found an exercise asking us to write our hopes for our future church. Another exercise in this class was to "plan out your preaching week." I clearly had no clue what the real world looked like because I had "read commentaries for 4 hours on Monday morning", as if there would be 4 consecutive hours ever allotted to a pastor for reading. I got the preaching week totally wrong. But, I got the future church right and that doesn't surprise me because it is deeply who I am.

In it, I waxed poetic about serving a church who truly learned together and that it would compel me to keep up my theological/liturgical/homiletical chops. I offered my hope that the church I served would be active and do stuff in the community—I hoped for parade marching, for creative outreach, and for people outside of the Presbyterian or even Christian community to want to be a part of my church's mission. I said I wanted to feel safe and loved so that I could make others feel safe and loved. One paragraph was about wanting a smart congregation—not necessarily in educational degrees but in wisdom. I yearned to preach every week and to be a part of something bigger than me.

There were a few things in my hopes that I would not consider relevant anymore. There were some things that made sense in 2013 but don't make any sense now. But, at the heart of it, I was in awe at how much I understood my ministry. And, the good stuff—the stuff that I still believe, the waxing that still gets me in the gut, those are this church.

I am grateful that 2013 Holly could sit down with 2023 Holly and say, "yes, Fred Pres—that's a good one. That's a ministry for us." I'm feeling reinvigorated by connecting with my bright-eyed, senior-in-seminary self and I hope you too feel good about this odd and wondrous calling of being The Church.



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## The Way

According to the Acts of the Apostles, the term “Christians,” describing the followers of Jesus Christ, was first used in the first Gentile church of Antioch. (11:26) “Christ” in Greek means “Anointed One”. They were followers of Jesus, the Anointed One. However, prior to this in the first church established in Jerusalem, the early Apostles and disciples were called Followers of the Way.

In the book of John, Jesus states: “I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father, but by me.” (14:6) He does not say that He is one of the ways. He says that He is the one and only way. His followers must follow the Way of Jesus, the way of forgiveness, of justice, of peace, and of love. They must also follow the Way of the Cross, of sacrifice and death which leads to resurrection and life.

Frank Sinatra had a popular hit song, “My Way,” (lyrics by Paul Anna). The singer is at the end of his career. “And now the end is here and so I face the final curtain.” He reviews his life and takes full responsibility for the decisions and actions of his life.

*For what is a man, what has he got?  
If not himself then he has naught  
To say the things he truly feels  
And not the words of one who kneels  
The record shows I took the blows*

*And did it my way*

The Shon’s theme is of self-determination and self-reliance, independence. It is the American Way. There is an alternative way, a better way, not My way, but His way. The way of loving one another, of believing in faith, Of putting our lives in His hand, to lead us, to guide us with His light.

Again, Jesus says, “I am the gate (or door). Whoever enters through me will be saved.” (John 9) The Way of Jesus is not broad or easy. It is narrow and hard. It is the way of sacrifice, of self control, of self-denial. “Enter by the narrow gate, For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.” (Matt 7:13-14)

Jesus came to show us His way, a way to ever-lasting life. The Way of the Chosen. He invites us, “follow me”, and do it “My Way.”

— by Joe Calarco



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## Theology on Tap:

Ecclesiology is the study of the Church. Our Book of Order and our Book of Worship take both theology and ecclesiology into every word of each respective resource.

The PCUSA and any Reformed church will shape their worship service around preaching. We believe reading the Word and then opening up the Word (interpreting it) is a major part of why we church.

Why? Because long, long ago, before the Reformation, the lay people weren't expected to know the Bible or really to have any deep understanding of their own faith. Services were in Latin, which meant most people had no clue what was being said. It was done on purpose. The purpose was precisely so that the "normal people" didn't ask questions, didn't engage theologically, didn't cause 'problems,' and didn't have any autonomy or authority in their beliefs. It was a power play. If the people want to get to heaven, they have to just do what the leaders say and trust them.

In the Reformed tradition, we do want people to trust their leaders, but we do so by giving you as much authority and opportunity to engage your faith as the leaders do. The Reformed tradition, then, became the movement that focused on preaching so that people knew how to read and understand the Bible for themselves.

This is why I was shocked to learn that in the PCUSA, our Book of Order says you only need three things to call it a "worship service": prayer, scripture, singing. That's it.

It sounds counterintuitive to our theology, but that's another reason to find hope in our denominational structure--we do want to focus on preaching but we aren't so strict or so obnoxious or so sure we are the only ones who get it right, that we embrace the simplicity of faith. So, there you have it. Worship, where two or three are gathered as they read scripture, pray, and sing. Sounds like a good kumbaya moment, No?

—*Pastor Holly*

**Marge Benton** is back at Fredonia Place.  
Room 113  
50 Howard St.  
Fredonia, NY 14063

Two items the Food Pantry could really use more of for the June 17th pantry are

**Cereal**  
**Canned Fruit**



# The Fredonia Presbyterian



May saw Fredonia Presbyterian welcoming 7 new members! Each of the new members has been actively involved in the work of our church since they first came through our doors. We're thrilled they have decided to make it official.



## Notes from the Session:

Rev. Holly opened the May 18, 2023 meeting with prayer. In attendance were Janine Scaccia, Jeff McMinn, Carol Calarco, and Susan Pepe. Excused: Cori Coia and Sandy Johnson. The agenda and April minutes were approved.

- Members joining the church on May 21 were in attendance and received. Sue Rocque, Peg Sisson, Matt and Katie Prendergast, Sharon Mogle, Trisha Lehnen, and Wing Lee Haight-Wills.
- The PW event hosted by the Deacons was a success. Holly led the worship. The Deacons are planning a new member reception.
- Children's ministry and Fredonia Place bible study are going well.
- A list of ordained members who can serve communion has been given to Carol.
- Work continues to perfect the choir's sound system.
- The Yard Sale is scheduled for June 3. Tool Sunday will be June 18.
- Holly is thanking the Fredonia Post Office for their recent donation to the food pantry.
- Approved allowing the deCycles youth group to spend the night in Fellowship Hall on June 23. They will pass through Fredonia as they cycle from Indiana to Maine.
- Holly lead 3 worship services at the WNY clergy retreat.
- There was a good turnout for the route 39 clean-up.
- Discussed outside signage. (Food Pantry drop off, Blessing Box, etc.)

The meeting adjourned with prayer.



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## Over the Coffee Cups

Those traveling Whites recently had another adventure! From Betsy:



Tom and I recently took a trip from Florida to Europe! This was our first time across “the pond”. We sailed from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, across the Atlantic Ocean to the Mediterranean Sea. The trip across the Atlantic Ocean took 7 days. One thing we quickly learned is that there is not a lot to look at in the Atlantic Ocean except ocean water! Once, the Captain announced there were whales in sight but by the time we rushed on deck to see them they were gone. The other remarkable thing was how calm the water was. Also, since we needed to jump ahead by 5 hours, we were able to do that gradually by moving our clocks ahead one hour five days in a row rather than flying to Europe and making that change all in one day.

After 7 days we began two weeks of almost daily ports. We visited Portugal, Spain, France, Tunisia and Italy. In Ponta Delgado, in the Azores, Portugal, we got up close and personal with the Rock of Gibraltar and the 7 troops of monkeys who live there. A few guests from our ship actually had monkeys jump on their backs! We managed to avoid that adventure. Spain brought us to stops in Seville, Alicante, Malaga, (birthplace of Picasso and Antonio Banderas) and Barcelona. Highlights in Spain included the Spanish Court in Seville and the Salgada Familia cathedral by Gaude in Barcelona. We also found their food and wine to be quite tasty.



In France we visited Monaco and Monte Carlo. We viewed the road Rock Hudson and Grace Kelly drove in the film *To Catch a Thief* and then we drove the route of the Grand Prix race and enjoyed the ride along the French Riviera. Next up was Tunisia. Here we were greeted by camels. We visited the ruins of ancient Carthage and the Unesco World Heritage village of Sidi Bousaid. In Sidi Bousaid the buildings are all white and blue and the Village sits high above the Mediterranean Sea. Just Beautiful.

Next, we visited Italy, including stops in Florence, Pisa, Naples, Sorrento, Isle of Capri, Sicily and Rome. Highlights included the ruins of Pompeii. We especially enjoyed our 4 days in Rome visiting the Coliseum, the Trevi Fountain, the Spanish Steps, the Catacombs and the Vatican along with countless cathedrals and Basilicas. We also enjoyed several wonderful restaurants and outdoor cafes. All in all, it was quite an adventure.





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**June 2023**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
						Yard Sale 9-1 Farmer's Market 10-1 Barker Commons
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Worship 10:30 Communion			Cassadaga Band rehearsal 6-9 PM			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Worship 10:30			Cassadaga Band rehearsal 6-9 PM	Session Meeting 6 PM		Food Pantry 10-12 Farmer's Market 10-1 Barker Commons
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Worship 10:30 Father's Day Tool Sunday			Bible Study. Fredonia Place 1 PM  Cassadaga Band rehearsal 6-9 PM		deCycles Youth Group spending the night in Fellowship Hall	
25	26	27	28	29	30	
Worship 10:30			Cassadaga Band rehearsal 6-9 PM			

Images from Bing images, Betsy White, and Susan Pepe.



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## Prayer List

Marge Benton  
Gina Waite Platt  
Donna Heintzman  
Judy Sumpton  
Joe Dolce

Adrianna Rodriguez  
Dick Ackley  
Dick Watt  
Joy Hite  
Michelle Patterson

Zachary Dloniak  
Deb Harris  
Sandy McBride  
Susie Harris  
Jordan Mendyk

Tracy  
Kurt  
Jessi  
Dylan Pillsbury  
Lorraine Withington

Tyler Bahr  
Mary Ann  
Toni-Jo Mitchell  
Dorothy Ebling  
Bill

Baby Cassandra  
Scott  
Peggy Tiffany  
Kathy  
Autumn

Mick  
George Shumaker  
Eugene Taylor



## June Birthdays

4 Noah Voss  
19 Joe Calarco  
24 Jim Pepe  
26 Sandy Johnson  
27 Holly Clark-Porter

## June Anniversaries

18 David & Peggy Tiffany  
26 James & Susan Minton  
27 Scott & Ellen Foley

## In Memoriam

6-15-22 Gloria Evans

**Sympathy** is extended to the family of Betsy Sly's neighbor, Nick. Nick recently died and Betsy has adopted his dog, Lucy.

Sympathy is also extended to the family of Lily Li's friend, Mays, whose husband recently died.

Sympathy is extended to Sue Guziec and her family on the death of her brother, Larry Thompson.

Fredonia Presbyterian Church  
219 Central Avenue  
Fredonia, NY 14063



Annual Yard Sale  
Saturday, June 3, 2023  
From 9-1  
*See you there!*