



The Fredonia Presbyterian

August 2022
Newsletter of the
Fredonia
Presbyterian
Church

From Our Pastor

“Let it go.” It’s a difficult phrase. It’s a joyous phrase. It’s even a song!

As the aunt of 5-year-old Lily, Elsa and her song from *Frozen* will always be stuck in my head (as it seems to be stuck in Lily’s as well). So, I find myself singing “let it go” at opportune moments when I need reminding to let it go.

With the yard sale quickly approaching, I find myself excited and a little sad. I like stuff. But, right now I know I need to cull. I don’t know why it makes me sad to part with things— maybe they bring a memory (like the Aerosmith backstage pass I have moved to at least 7 different houses) or maybe something *could* mean something if I just found the right place or the right time for it.

I can’t help but go to a philosophical place while thinking about the yard sale. I give thanks that some of my anger and confusion, from the last couple of years has evaded and I *have been* able to “let it go”. But, if I’m honest, I’m just as good at hanging on to resentment, guilt and sorrows as I am mementos from college and moldy boxes from the basement.

The prophet Isaiah says, “Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past.”

I don’t think Isaiah said this as some quippy quote for us to just blindly follow. Based on the surrounding scripture, he knows it’s a hard thing to do, impossible perhaps. He knows it’s as painful as it is a sacrifice.

So, I have written a list of the resentments and the stuff I am holding on to that I really need to let go of. I won’t share that list with you because you’ll think less of me when you turn to page 3, single spaced, front and back. But, I want to commit to giving myself until the Yard Sale to really work on letting some things go.

I have made the list of grievances, guilt, and sorrows. But, over the next month, I plan on getting it out of the garage and into the sale pile, for good (maybe? Hopefully? Yes, I can do this!).

(continued on page 3)



GIVE THANKS... IN ALL THINGS

“Joe, what are the odds?”

We were parked at the Point, facing the Lake. The sun was rising higher, bathing us in bright sunshine. Golden rays sparkled in the calm blue-gray waves, while wispy white clouds drifted lazily across a blue-gray sky. My friend Tom sat in his motorized wheel chair behind me in the back of the handicapped van. It was peaceful, tranquil and, in a way, intimate.

“What odds, Tom?”

“The odds that I would have ALS?” (terminal neurological-muscular disease)

After an awkward moment, I replied, “I don't know, Tom, what are the odds?”

There was a pause; he took a breath and with a slight smile said, “one in two sold out Yankee stadium games (50,000 x 2 = 100,000). Although he had lost movement in his legs, torso, and arms, and was now facing the inevitable end to this terrible disease, he had held on to his sense of humor.

We sat in silence for long minutes, when his voice broke the silence.

“Joe, what are the odds?”

“What odds, Tom?”

Now his voice became more animated. “The odds that I would be born in America, in Fredonia. That I would be surrounded by family and friends, that I would have a successful teaching career, that I would be back home again. All things together, I would consider myself a lucky man.” (Lou Gehrig, Yankee hero who had ALS told the world that he was 'The luckiest man alive'). Tom concluded, “I am blessed”.

Tom is gone, but his words, his attitude of gratitude, live within me. Facing death, Tom gave thanks in all things. When I think of my minor misfortunes, whether accidents, illnesses, relationships, or whatever, I think of Tom. He inspired me then, and now.

Throughout Scripture we are urged to give thanks: “pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” (1 Thess.5:16-18)

It is easy to give thanks for the “good” things in our lives. It is more of a challenge to give thanks when “bad” things happen to us. However, “We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to His purpose.” (Romans 8:28)

“Give thanks with a grateful heart. Give Thanks to the Holy One

Because He's given Jesus Christ His Son

And now let the weak say, 'I am strong'. Let the poor say, 'I am rich'

Because of what the Lord has done for us. We give thanks.” (Don Moen)

In all things, we pray, “I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart.” (Psalm 9:1)

by Joe Calarco



The Fredonia Presbyterian

From our Pastor (continued from page 1)

My sheet has a space for The Situation: Then, I have a space for why a certain situation brings me anger/pain/guilt/sorrow. Who it affects and why it affects me, still. Finally, a space for what I need from that moment. Some therapists advise replaying a moment only redo the situation as if everything went smoothly and you reacted perfectly or everything went the way you needed it to. I've never tried that, but think I will.

So, you with me? We have until August 27th to pull out the junk weighing us down. If you'd like to talk through anything, let's grab coffee! Share your commitment with a loved one. Even if you don't need to talk to me about your progress, let me know if you're joining this Month of Let it Go and we can celebrate one another.

MISSION YARD SALE August 27th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sheets are on the table outside Holly's office to sign up to work the Yard Sale. Remember, we will need lots of help. :)

If you need help getting your Yard Sale donations to the church please call the church office at 716-679-1501 or text /call Susan Pepe at 716-672-9771.

August 14 is the day we may start moving "merchandise" for the yard sale into the library at church.

Remember, we **do not** sell clothing or mattresses but we **do** sell rocking chairs, linens, toys, books, working appliances, dishes, tea pots, kitchen tables, antiques, early attic, and bed frames.





Linda Malcolm Travels to France

My trip to France with my daughter, Courtney and her husband Phil did not start out as planned. We had two cancelled flights to Boston before 6:00 AM. However, an 8 hour overnight flight to Paris was successful and my first thought when we arrived was so many people and cars! I was so impressed with the confident taxi and Uber drivers and their skills in city traffic.

Our hotel was a quaint older hotel enclosed in a walled property with a lovely courtyard where we dined on breakfasts of fruit, coffee, eggs, croissants, baguette, and cheese. A special treat was the cat to be petted once in a while. A sign on the door to the property asked to make sure it didn't leave.

My first tourist ride was a dinner cruise up the Seine River with champagne, dinner, and wine. I saw the Louvre and the Eiffel Tower as well as typical city scenes.

The next day was on to the Orsay Museum, once a train station, with an inspiring collection of Monet paintings and Degas sculptures. So many other artists to enjoy, too. After a late afternoon break we ate our evening meal in an interesting old restaurant with outstanding service, wine, and seafood.

The trip to Giverny was next on the schedule with a long ride through the streets of Paris seeing women wearing long dresses and wearing sneakers! Lots of white shirts and tees. Many courageous bicycle and motorcycle riders. Several times seeing l'Arc de Triomphe. The Monet gardens, the scene of several paintings, are outstanding. Acres of flowers, trees, and paths all trimmed and beautiful. The bridge and Lily pond are just as he painted them. His house was open for touring but I sat on a bench and people watched.

The last day in Paris was a visit to the Louis Vuitton Modern Art Museum. I wanted to visit this because the building, designed by the architect Frank Gehry, has walls designed as sails on a ship. The entire building shows the beams and carefully placed windows. There are 11 rooms with all kinds of modern art. A real learning experience!

The rest of the trip was a long train ride to Provence where I was looking forward to a more quiet time. Provence is rural with mountains, valleys, and very old villages. Our B & B was located on a high ridge over looking a valley and the opposite mountain. We had a lovely terrace filled with plants. On Monday morning Courtney announced she tested positive for Covid and wasn't feeling great. That changed any plans we had to eat in the local restaurants for which Provence is famous. With Phil doing the grocery shopping I was able to cook in a French kitchen using lots of herbs de Provence, my favorite spice to use in soup.

One day Phil and I drove to see lavender fields, another wish for me. The acres of lavender fields were beautiful and amazing.

Trip home was uneventful except for missing luggage which arrived two weeks later!



The Fredonia Presbyterian

August 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
				NA Fellowship Hall 8 PM		We're at the Farmer's Market 10-1
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Communion				NA Fellowship Hall 8 PM		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
				NA Fellowship Hall 8 PM Session meeting 6 PM		Food Pantry 10-12 We're at the Farmer's Market 10-1
	22	23	24	25	26	27
We See Sunday	Yard Sale set-up begins			NA Sanctuary 8 PM		Yard Sale 9-1
28	29	30	31			



Images from Bing.
Photographs courtesy of Carol Groat.



The Fredonia Presbyterian

Prayer List

Lori Fabritus
 Gina Waite Platt
 Donna Heintzman
 Josiah Robinette
 Dick Ackley
 Michelle Patterson
 Kim Ryczko
 Zachary Dloniak
 Dick Watt
 Caleb Kaus
 Judy Sumption
 Charles Divine



Kim Thuman
 Jennifer Osborne-Coy
 Rena Finko
 Susan Lauricella
 Scott Foley
 Amy Wroda
 Paula
 Ralph
 Joe Dolce
 Lorraine Withington
 Vigo
 Nancy Cuervo

Deb Harris
 Sandy McBride
 Carmen
 Adrianna Rodriguez
 Carrie Divine
 Susie Harris
 Linnie
 Steven
 Jordan Mendyk
 Shane Cole
 Caleb
 Braiden
 Casey

August Anniversaries

13	Susan Royal & Wayne Jones	1988
20	Travis & Xin Gordon	2016

August Birthdays

2	Vince Vacanti	
3	Jack Croxton Tom Gordon	
4	Jennifer Miller Denise Widmer	
5	Noah Rinehart	
21	Kathy Dloniak	
22	Tom Salamone	
23	Nancy Roberts	
24	Ned Divine	
28	Wing Lee Wills	
29	Dick Watt	
30	Peggy Tiffany	

In Memoriam

Richard Styborski	8/8/21
Liz Abram	8/27/21

Please keep in your prayers our Local Partners in Ministry: Narcotics Anonymous and Compeer Chautauqua.

And our Global Partners in Ministry: Friends of the Presbyterian Education Board in Pakistan.

Fredonia Presbyterian Church
219 Central Avenue
Fredonia, NY 14063

August 2022