



The Fredonia Presbyterian

January 2023
Newsletter of the
Fredonia
Presbyterian
Church

From Our Pastor



What else can be written and espoused about the turn of the new year? What new *take* might actually make us walk the perfect balance of growth/change without stress and unrealistic pressures we put on ourselves? Well, I don't know! But, I of course, have been thinking about this subject—my own new year's hopes and leading you into yours.

I've come to no good conclusion. The one thought that does keep popping up in my head is that when you're a preacher who follows the lectionary, the year starts over on the first Sunday in Advent. We are currently in Year A, which mostly follows Matthew. So, for me, the new year started right after Thanksgiving.

As many of you know, my favorite year is Year C, Luke. And, while I groan at some of Matthew's more systematic need for exacting theology, I do find this new liturgical year as a good break. Luke would have us on the road, hosting lunches, building community, non-stop! I love it. I love his more evangelical (old definition, not the new one) fervor for what God is doing through us and how we are held accountable to that movement of God. Luke engages our hearts. Matthew asks us to engage our heads.

It's a good thing to be well-rounded in your faith, to have the theology that backs up the reasons you collect food, host alternative markets, and continue to open the circle. It's a good thing to engage different parts of your mind and explore the things you might otherwise overlook.

So, maybe that's my answer to New Year's resolutions, to look at Matthew as a way to help me, us engage in spirituality where there is deeper learning. Maybe read more theology, maybe read more poetry, maybe write more about my faith without needing to share what I write.

Maybe you're needing exactly this too—to engage your head spiritually. Or maybe for you it's the opposite. Or maybe another part of your life needs a completely new perspective. So, make your resolutions of calling your grandma more or working out or having an organized house, make em all! But, might I encourage you to also tend to what in your life might need a break from the norm or might need just a slight shift. Even just thinking about it and recognizing the need for a rotating viewpoint is a good start for the new year.

I might still preach more from the Old Testament or Epistles than usual, but I am going to make a commitment to let Matthew help me reorient, reengage, and renew.



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PRAYER BOOK II

It has been nearly a year ago since I created my "Prayer Book". I began with a black and white composition book and asked people simply, "How can I pray for you?" I would then enter the name and request in my book. Now, as I reflect upon names and prayers, I would like to share some of the responses.

I expected the usual prayers for personal healing of physical illnesses. However, as I read name after name, page after page, I found many other, more spiritual responses. Thus, "How can I pray for you?"

"Please pray for..."

Help me to share Jesus with others without fear

Hope for the future

Help me to put others first

Help me to be more patient, kinder, more understanding

Give me guidance, clarity, discernment in my life

Help me to serve others

Help me to be less controlling, less serious, less analytical

Some names were of family or old friends. Some were of new friends, even strangers.

A waitress asked me to pray for her 21 year old son who was in prison for drugs. That he finds God's

love in his life of rebellion.

A fellow I met at a bar asked for a stronger faith

A former teacher/coach prayed for "to bring light to the shadows of my mind and heart".

Several asked for family harmony, to heal broken relationships with siblings, parents and children

Pray for faith to live one day at a time.

Lord, have mercy on those who are suffering:

the hungry and the homeless

the helpless and the hopeless

the elderly and the lonely

the widow and the orphan

the prisoner and the foreigner

the sick and the dying,

those being born and those being aborted.



Lord, you know their names and their needs. Hear their cries.

Heal them and comfort them in body, mind, and spirit according to Your will.

I ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

And I ask you to ask others, family, friends, strangers, "How can I pray for you?"



Over the Coffee Cups

Nancy Roberts writes: My sister and I recently traveled to Egypt and Jordan, a trip postponed due to the Pandemic. The trip began in Cairo, a densely crowded city of about 22 million, struggling with a population that has doubled in just five years. From here we visited the Egyptian Museum and King Tut Exhibit (celebrating the 100th anniversary of his discovery by Howard Carter), the Islamic Citadel, the ancient Khan el-Khalili Bazaar/Souk, the Sakkara Pyramid, the Giza pyramids and the Sphinx. On the third day, we took a flight to Luxor, boarded our ship, and later toured the Luxor and Karnak Temples.

The following morning started early with an unforgettable hot air balloon ride to experience sunrise over the Nile and view the surrounding landscape. Later that morning the ship left the dock in Luxor and set sail up the Nile, commencing six days filled with daily excursions to numerous temples and sights reflecting centuries of Egyptian history. The Egyptologist accompanying us provided the necessary historical background and often read from the hieroglyphics covering every inch of the tomb walls. In the Valley of the Kings, we viewed the linen-wrapped mummy of King Tutankhamun sealed in a glass case in his beautiful tomb, as well as the tombs of two other Pharaohs. Later, in the Valley of the Queens, two highlights were the tomb of Queen Hatshepsut, one of only 7 female Pharaohs, and the 3,200 year old tomb of Queen Nefertari, favorite wife of Ramesses the Great, which was the most exquisitely decorated and colorful tomb we visited (He is the Pharaoh mentioned in the story of Moses parting the Red Sea). The cruise south ended in Aswan, with visits to the Aswan High Dam and a Nubian village. The Nubian population was forced to vacate their ancestral home along the river south of the dam and Lake Nasser, but have managed to preserve their culture in their new villages, including the pet crocodiles they keep in their homes.



I'll note here that temperatures grew progressively hotter as we sailed south, finally reaching 108 degrees in Aswan. Leaving Aswan, the ship turned back north, returning to Luxor and the 300 mile return flight to Cairo. All along the river, our ship cruised relatively close to shore and allowed us a closeup view of the scenery, the friendly people, and the numerous small villages with their minarets calling to worship, fishermen in their small boats, and children playing in the water. Good bird watching too. A fascinating glimpse into another way of life that we'll never forget.

Back in Cairo, our morning was spent walking in the ancient Coptic Christian Quarter, visiting a 7th century Christian church and the excellent Coptic Museum. Christianity was first brought to Egypt by the Apostle Mark in 33 AD, and was the only religion in Egypt for centuries. It is still the second largest religion in the country.

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Over the Coffee Cups (Continued from page 3)

Departing Egypt for Jordan, a memorable four days began with a drive to the Dead Sea, slowly descending to 420 meters (1378 feet) below sea level. We learned that a “swim” in the Dead Sea feels more like being a soap bubble, with little control or ability to turn over! After a relaxing evening at a Dead Sea resort, the days that followed brought other stops referenced in the Bible, including the ancient Nabatean caravan city of Petra, and the Wadi Musa, where it is said that Moses struck water from a rock for his followers, a spring that still flows. The final day was spent in the large ruined city of Jerash (Gerasa in the Bible), 6,500 years old and one of the best preserved Greco-Roman cities in existence. You may have seen Andrea Bocelli perform in one the well preserved theaters for a 2018 concert! A 12 hour night flight from Amman brought us home, with hundreds of photos and many wonderful memories.



Breakfast with the Calarcos and the Rechlin/Gordons

It might have started out as Carol Calarco’s idea but Joe and Cindy Rechlin and Tom Gordon jumped right on board and embraced the idea of a congregational breakfast after church in December. The four hosted a sausage and pancake breakfast that was delicious and great fun. The Christmas caroling afterward uncovered some long hidden musical talent amongst our parishioners. “Play those cymbals, Sandy!”

Thank you Carol, Joe, Cindy and Tom for a great fellowship event!

Notes from the Session:

Present at the December 15, 2022 meeting: Holly, Peggy T., Betsy S., Susan P. Excused: Sandy J. And Audrey D.

Discussed:

- Getting a nursery up and running for Sundays.
- Success of Alternative Market, Thanks given to Sharon Muggle for her generous craft donations and all workers.
- Next year’s budget and this year’s deficit, the meaningful Stewardship talks during worship.
- Procedure for closing church in bad weather.
- Work that has been done around the church.
- Dates for Hygiene Kit collection set, March 12 - April 2, 2023.
- 2 day retreat for Session in January.
- Alcohol in Fellowship Hall not allowed for rentals.
- Holly has approval to start monthly Bible study at Fredonia Place. She has done another funeral.



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The **Underwear and Mitten Collection** and **Alternative Christmas** were once again successful.

The community took advantage of the Alternative Market's Friday hours and we had a steady stream of folks enjoying the Nativities and shopping at the Alternative Market. Because of the rain, like most of the Miracle on Main Street activities in Fredonia, our numbers were down on Saturday. Due to the article in *Presbyterian Today* we did have folks travel from out of town to see the nativities. Sunday we saw folks come in looking for favorite nativities from the past ("Where is the rice nativity?"), visit because a friend told them they should, and people returning to purchase items they had seen earlier in the weekend.



This year we were able to reinstate refreshments. While the warm cider was a hit, the homemade cookies were a special treat!

The underwear and mitten collection benefits the families whose children participate in the Chautauqua County Agri-Business and Child Development Center (Head Start). Thanks to a friend of Carol Groat's family, we had a large collection of the cutest character hats (dinosaurs, Minions, unicorns) you ever saw donated. We also had some items for adults that included a brand new winter coat that still had the store tags on it. The director of the Head Start program said they had parents who she knew would be grateful to receive some warm winter clothing.

There are so many people who need to be thanked. To everyone who devoted time to the set up and clean up of the Alternative Market/Nativities weekend, or worked that weekend, or made refreshments, or loaned and set up nativities, or donated clothing for Head Start a huge thank you!

Giving Tuesday

Pucci's Carpet One furniture store made an offer to Holly and the Fredonia Food Pantry that just could not be refused. The full week of Giving Tuesday (you know that's the day after Cyber-Monday which is 3 days past Black Friday) they would donate 10% of their sales to the Food Pantry. To sweeten the deal even more, if a customer brought in 5 cans of food for the pantry they would receive a 5% discount on their purchase, up to 20 cans equaling a 20% discount. Win! Win!

Thank you, Pucci's



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January 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Communion						Farmer's Market 10-1
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
				NA Fellowship Hall 8 PM		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
We See Sunday				NA Fellowship Hall 8 PM Session meeting 6 PM		Food Pantry 10-1 Farmer's Market 10-1
	23	24	25	26	27	28
			Blood Drive	NA Fellowship Hall 8 PM		
29	30	31				

Blood Drive

Holly needs a few more people to sign up to donate blood for the January 25th blood drive.
Spread the word!

Thank you to the **Novel Women Book Club** who recently donated \$215 and 138 pounds of food to the Fredonia Food Pantry and to the **Eastern Star** who donated \$100.



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Prayer List

Gina Waite Platt
Donna Heintzman

Dick Ackley
Dick Watt

Judy Sumption
Scott Foley

Joy Hite
Joe Dolce

Michelle Patterson
Zachary Dloniak

Charles & Carrie Divine
Deb Harris

Sandy McBride
Adrianna Rodriguez

Susie Harris
Jordan Mendyk

Tracy
Susan Lauricella

Jennifer
Kurt

Jessi
Katie

Dylan Pillsbury
Wing
Tom Withington

Prayers for those trying to
recover from hurricanes,
snow fall, ice, fire, and
flooding.



January Anniversaries

3	Susan & Rachel Spangler	2004
4	Tom & Maureen Webb	1975
25	Rob & Carol Groat	1969

January Birthdays

3	Joan Van Dette
4	Patty Lynn
7	Cain Forest Palmer
10	Audrey Kowmas
13	Carol Groat Grace Rinehart
14	Emily Rodriguez Joy Hite
15	Kimberly Ryczko
16	Rena Finko
24	Lauri Zebracki
29	KC Clark-Porter

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.

Images from Bing images.

Fredonia Presbyterian Church
219 Central Avenue
Fredonia, NY 14063

Sympathy Extended

To the family of Bill Kuykendall, cousin of Peggy Tiffany.

To the family of Sandy Johnson's friend, Phyllis.

To the family of Carolyn Wood who died on December 11th. Rev Holly officiated at her service of christian burial in our church on December 17th.

New Addresses

Charles & Carrie Divine are now at Fredonia Place #230, 50 Howard St., Fredonia.
New phone number is 716-672-0230

Susan & Rachel Spangler's mailing address is 514 Pepperhill Ct., Glen Carbon, IL 62034

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