

The Fredonia Presbyterian

April 2023
Newsletter of the
Fredonia
Presbyterian
Church

From Our Pastor

The Session was recently gifted a large sum of money, and we are proud to tell you, we've bought a Water Park! Teehee, April Fools!

Some historians say that April Fools dates back to the late 1500's. They, whoever 'they' are, moved from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar, switching the start of the year from April to January. But, without twitter to notify everyone, there were people who continued to celebrate New Year on April first. Those people were made fun of and there's something about pinning a fish on their backs?

Other historians say it's from a Scottish festival that began on April first where people would hunt a "gwok"(think 'snipe hunting'). There is more historical conjecture but really, it seems like a bizarre day that kinda came out of nowhere.

I like April Fool's Day. I like when places like Taco Bell actually tricks people into thinking they are buying the Liberty Bell. Or like the 1960's TV show in Switzerland that showed a "spaghetti pasta farm." Or when PBS made a lot of people really, really mad when they said they were turning Big Ben into a digital clock! Ha! I like the levity of the day. I like the creativity. I like the idea of having a holiday for no good reason.

The Bible has a lot to say about fools. Proverbs especially waxes on about fools. And, in general the word 'fools' is not a good thing in the Bible. The fool often shows us what not to do. Don't build your house on sand (Mat. 7:26). Fools deceive themselves (1 Cor. 3:18). Fools fold their hands and eat them (yuck, Ecl. 4:5).

Fools, the Bible tells us, miss the point and end up harming themselves and others.

I sure hope that this April Fool's there is no harm to anyone. Instead, I hope that it reminds us 1. To have fun and be creative. 2. To think about areas in our lives where we are foolish and then to redeem those areas and change (aka repent). Where do you miss the point? Then ask Google for help! Or the new GPTChat! For example: ask "how can I learn to think before I speak" and it will give you several good options.

April Fools—it's a fun day, but also a call to chance to enter Eastertide knowing that you're no fool, but a disciple of Christ who continues to grow and be shaped by the baptismal waters (not by water parks).

Images from Bing images, PlanetWare, Susan Royal, Carol Groat, and Betsy White.



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SEEING IS BELIEVING ?

Most of us need proof that something is real before we believe it to be true. The evidence for this proof is usually, "show me." We need to see it to believe it. Faith, however, goes beyond the physical world of seeing to the spiritual realm of believing.

The Psalmist of the Old Testament encourages us to "Just open your eyes." (Psalm 91:8) For "The Lord opens the eyes of the blind." (Psalm 146:8)

In the New Testament Jesus has many incidents of giving sight to the blind, but there are three major events. One is in Jericho where Bartimaeus, a blind beggar calls out to Jesus, "My teacher, let me see again." Jesus replied, "Go, your faith has made you well." (Mark 10:46-52)

Another event is in Bethsaida where friends brought a blind man to Jesus. He healed the blind man by putting saliva on the man's eyes twice before sight was completely restored. A third healing was the man who was blind from birth. After Jesus made mud from His spittle and put it on the man's eyes, He told him to "Go to Siloam and wash." After washing his eyes, the man received his sight.

Although the blindness and the restoration of sight are of a physical nature, Jesus is speaking of spiritual blindness and sight. What comes first, the seeing or the believing? Jesus tells Thomas, the doubter, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet believed." (John 20:29) I have a coffee mug which is inscribed with the verse, "Faith is being sure of what we Hope for and the certainty of what we do not see." (Hebrews 11:1)

I met Steven on a prison weekend. He had cancer that was inoperable and he wanted to believe in Jesus before he died. He was only 42 years old and had 4 young daughters waiting for him at home. He asked me for proof of the divinity of Jesus before he could believe. I told him that faith was beyond proof. Proof was of the mind. Faith was of the heart. When I left the prison, we said our "good-byes." I never expected to see him again. On my next visit, six months later, Steven greeted me with a smile and a hug. "Joe, I was wrong. You were right. I believed in Jesus with my heart and He healed me."

Two songs offer musical insight:

"Have you seen Jesus, my Lord?
He's here in plain view
Take a look, Open your eyes.
He'll show life to you" (John Fischer)

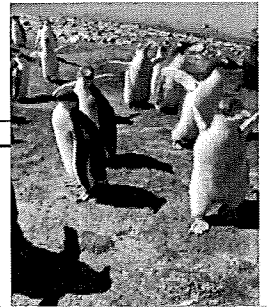
"Open the eyes of my heart, Lord.
I want to see You." (Paul Baloche)

The eyes are the window of the soul. We see with our mind and our heart.
Lord, open our eyes to see and open our hearts to believe.
Is seeing really believing? In my heart, I know that Believing is Seeing.
For proof, just ask Steven.

By Joe Calarco



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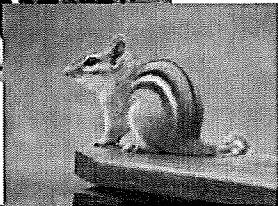


Earth Care Congregation Day

We are an Earth Care Congregation. On April 23 we will be celebrating with a day dedicated to our Earth. Worship will feature an Earth loving liturgy. After worship we will host a multi-generational Earth Care event. While eating Earth inspired goodies, we will watch a movie, learn what our church is doing, and what we can do in our homes to help Mother Earth.



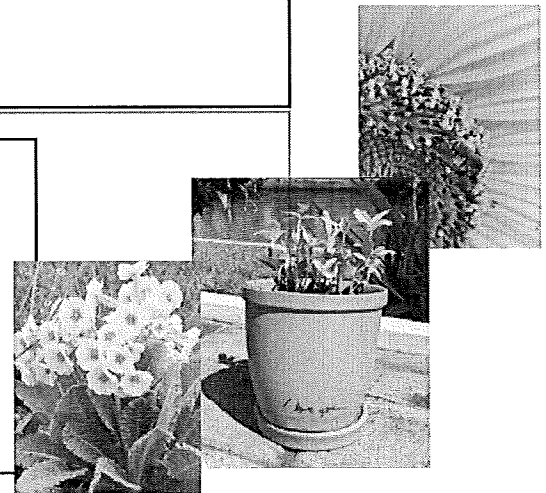
Mark Your Calendars!



Easter Plants and Flowers

If you would like to bring in plants/flowers for Easter, please bring them to church on Saturday, April 8th at 10 AM.

Call the church office, 716-679-1501, with any "in memory of" information.



Five items the Food Pantry could really use more of for the April 15th pantry are

- Cereal**
- Canned Fruit**
- Potatoes**
- Cans of Baked Beans**
- Canned Tuna or Meat**

Maundy Thursday, April 6th

6 p.m. Dinner and Worship Service
United Methodist Church
Church St., Fredonia

Please bring a dessert to share.

Rt. 39 Clean Up

Saturday, April 29, 10-11 AM

Meet at liquor store on corner of Rt. 20 and Rt. 39 at 10 AM
Bring work gloves, long pants, water bottles, and sun screen.
We provide reflective vests, helmets, trash bags.

See Holly or Cindy Rechlin if you have any questions.



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Notes from the Session:

From the March 16, 2023 Session Meeting

- Discussed Holly "working from home" while in Texas May 7-11.
- Holly on vacation April 14-16. Joe Calarco will preach April 16.
- Maundy Thursday dinner with UMC at 6 PM. FPC will provide desserts.
- Good Friday Service at FPC at 6 PM.
- Coffee Hour now part of Deacon responsibilities.
- Special coffee hour 3/12/23 to celebrate new member, Cristo Haberg.
- Deacons will host area wide Presbyterian Women Retreat on Saturday, May 6.
- Church finances discussed.
- Church School curricula being examined and background checks for Church School volunteers continue.
- Discussion of Lily and Holly working together to select worship music.
- Discussed need to set date for yard sale at next meeting.
- Hygiene kit collection is extended until Easter. Do we want to follow the same format next year?
- Can King has started to receive cans and bottles with revenue ear marked for the Food Pantry. These returnable items may also be brought to the church.
- Approved the One Great Hour of Sharing collection on Palm Sunday.
- Discussed paint peeling on the front steps.
- Discussed our Johnson Controls (fire alarm and suppression) - our present panel is being discontinued and will eventually need to be replaced. Various scenarios discussed. Research needed.
- Saturday, March 25, 10-1, everyone is invited to a church cleaning "party".
- Presbytery will pay for Reese (our Sunday child care provider) to take the NYS mandated sexual harassment course.
- Four Highway Clean-up dates set: April 29, July 7, August 26, September 27.
- Garden Party was a success!
- Planning an Earth Care Sunday, April 23. Worship will be all about caring for our earth, followed by a community event.
- We have been recertified as a PCUSA Earth Care Congregation 2023.
- Discussed responsibilities of various committees, the revision of by-laws, and making them available to the congregation.
- Church has been approached regarding long term rental of Fellowship Hall. Much discussion ensued and much more is needed.

Sympathy is Extended to:

The family of Marion ~~Steele~~ ^{steese} who died December 9, 2022.

Sharon Mogle and her family on the death of her father, William. Cards to Sharon Mogle

Also sympathy to Kathy Dloniak on the death of her cousin, Susan Lauricella.

3742 E. Main St.
Lot 21
Fredonia, NY 14063



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April 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
FH = Fellowship Hall						Farmer's Market 10-1 Masonic Temple
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Palm Sunday <i>Communion</i>				Maundy Thursday*** NA Fellowship Hall 8 PM	Good Friday Service 6 PM In our church	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Easter Sunday Communion Hygiene Kit collection ends				NA Fellowship Hall 8 PM		Food Pantry 10-12 Farmer's Market 10-1 Masonic Temple
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
			Bible Study. Fredonia Place	NA Fellowship Hall 8 PM Session Mtg. 6 PM		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Earth Care Congregation Day						Rte. 39 Clean Up: 10 AM at Sheridan Liquor Store
30						
				***Dinner at United Methodist Church 6 PM. Bring a dessert to share		



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Prayer List

Gina Waite Platt
 Donna Heintzman
 Judy Sumpton
 Dick Ackley
 Dick Watt
 Scott Foley
 Joy Hite

Joe Dolce
 Michelle Patterson
 Zachary Dloniak
 Deb Harris
 Sandy McBride
 Adrianna Rodriguez
 Susie Harris

Jordan Mendyk
 Tracy

Jennifer
 Kurt
 Jessi
 Dylan Pillsbury



Tom Withington
 Ron Scaccia
 Lorraine Withington
 Alice Sanders
 Tyler Bahr
 Mary Ann e
 Toni-Jo Mitchell

Sheri DeLong
 Dorothy Ebling
 Aunt Sally
 Susan Guziec's parents
 Bill
 Julie

April Birthdays

4 Richard Ackley
 10 David Coia, Jr.

14 Charles Divine
 Betsy Sly

19 David Straight
 Cindy Rechlin

22 Brett Comerford
 28 Matthew Gordon

April Anniversaries

10	Mark & Sallie Piazza	1982
27	David & Cori Coia	1975

In Memoriam

Carol Shrontz	4/22/22
Roland Solomon	4/23/22
Jack Glenzer	4/10/22

Please keep in your prayers

Our Local Partners in Ministry: Narcotics Anonymous and Compeer Chautauqua.

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

THE POET THINKS ABOUT THE DONKEY

On the outskirts of Jerusalem
the donkey waited.
Not especially brave, or filled with understanding,
he stood and waited.

*How horses, turned out into the meadow,
leap with delight!
How doves, released from their cages,
clatter away, splashed with sunlight.*

But the donkey, tied to a tree as usual, waited.
Then he let himself be led away.
Then he let the stranger mount.

Never had he seen such crowds!
And I wonder if he at all imagined what was to happen.
Still, he was what he had always been: small, dark,
obedient.

I hope, finally, he felt brave.
I hope, finally, he loved the man who rode so lightly upon
him,
as he lifted one dusty hoof and stepped, as he had to,
forward.

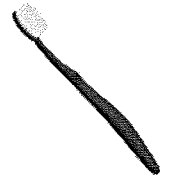
+ Mary Oliver

Fredonia Presbyterian Church
219 Central Avenue
Fredonia, NY 14063

We will be Collecting Hygiene Kits for Church World Service until Easter Sunday, April 9, 2023.

Each kit should include:

- One hand towel measuring approximately 15" x 28" to 16" x 32";
- One washcloth;
- One wide-tooth comb removed from the package;
- One fingernail **or** toenail clipper removed from the package (either one is acceptable);
- One bath-size bar of soap in the original package;
- One toothbrush in the original package;
- Ten standard size Band-Aids.



All items need to fit inside a one-gallon Ziploc type bag. Remove the excess air from the bag and seal.

\$2.00 is what postage costs for CWS to transport each kit to its final destination. A \$2.00 donation per kit is greatly appreciated. Please do not put the \$2 in the hygiene kit.

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