



The Fredonia Presbyterian

February 2023
Newsletter of the
Fredonia
Presbyterian
Church

From Our Pastor



While trying to find some specifics about my Surface Pro Laptop, I stumbled upon this amazing thing: Microsoft Rewards Program. If you are a Windows person, I recommend looking this up. Apparently, every search I do earns me a few points. Turns out I was unknowingly earning points for who knows how long, and get this, I got a \$50 gift certificate when I “cashed in” my points.

But, I also discovered that you get points for clicking on “National _____ Day”, which is like if it’s National Fish Taco day (guess what we’re having for dinner). You also get points for clicking on “The Quote of the Day.” Okay, and now I’m getting to the point.

The quote of today is, “I think having land and not ruining it is the most beautiful art any body could create.” Andy Warhol

Upon first read through, meh, that quote doesn’t really do anything for me. But upon the second read through, it really started to hit. Simply taking care of our land is an art.

I love the land our church sits on. I love it in every season. And, I’ve been thinking about our “land” recently. Literally, we take great care of our land. It gets picked up. It gets mowed. Our trees even have their own doctor. But, I can’t help but think more about the art of our land in more intentional way.

If we truly treated our very land as art, I can’t help but wonder what paint would get spattered and where. I can’t help but wonder if it would be abstract or surrealist. Would we grow more food with murals on rain barrels as the backdrop? Would we have a tiny home for a refugee family (like the new grassroots program for Ukrainian refugees)? Would we build a forest for scouts to build tents in? Would we have an ice-rink or a swimming pool? Or a dog park or a labyrinth?

Some of these are more lofty (and more ridiculous) than others, but I love thinking of our land as art. And, I wonder what it does to our minds when we let art show up in seemingly everyday places instead of waiting to visit art at museums.

Even if it’s silly, what art do you see in the land you take care of—you are all caretakers of the land of FPC and the places you call home. I’d love to hear it and dream and paint and craft and mold. That’s a reward worth cashing in on.



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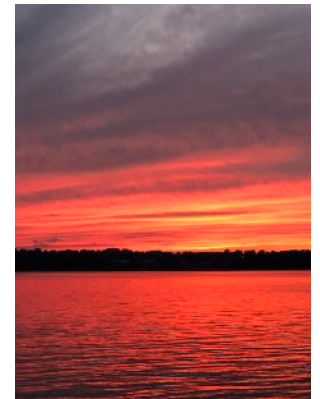
SUNRISE/SUNSET

By Joe Calarco

“Morning has broken, like the first morning...”

Are you a sunrise or sunset person?

I am a morning person, waiting patiently as the last of the night's harsh darkness gives way to the soft glowing light of dawn. With the first golden rays spreading higher and wider transforming the sky, I sense a new beginning. “Here Comes the Sun!” (Beatles) Finally, when the blazing orb of warmth and light rises to its full glory, I must turn aside from the brightness. With renewed hope, I know that a new day has begun.



One of the highlights of a Koinonian (Christian retreat) Weekend is the display of a special painting. The artist rode on his motorcycle from Erie to Chautauqua in a rain storm on a Friday and painted all day Saturday. Unfortunately, during the night, he passed away from a heart attack, before he could complete his painting on Sunday. The scene is of the sun sitting on a water horizon, emanating streaks of orange, yellow, red and pink. It is unsure whether the scene is of a sunset or a sunrise. Most observers view the scene as a sunset. Sunsets receive all the “hoopla” of lovers and photographers, all lined up on the seashore to record the romance of the setting sun. However, I view a sunset as the dying of the day, from light to darkness. I see the painting as a sunrise.

“Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning.”

Scripture brings us hope in the miracle of mornings.

“In the morning, Lord, you hear my voice. In the morning, I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly.” (Psalm 5:3) “Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes in the morning.” (Psalm 30:5) “This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.” (Psalm 118:24) With the darkness of pain, suffering, depression and despair that engulfs us, at times, we are all in the depths of hopelessness. Let us turn to light and joy of the new morning for new hope.

Every sunset is also a sunrise. Knowing that as the sun sets on the dying day in one place, it is also rising in another, birthing a new day. As I near my personal sunset, I have the anticipation of hope and joy that a sunrise of blazing light awaits me on the other side.

Give thanks and praise to the Father's rising Son of living light.

Jesus tells us, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” (John 8:1)

“Praise with elation, praise every morning;
God's recreation of the new day.” (Cat Stevens)



Over the Coffee Cups

From Susan Royal:

Last fall, Wayne and I were so lucky to be able to join a tour group and visit Ecuador, to see the Galapagos Islands and experience the wildlife, straddle the Equator, climb the Andes and soak in a geothermal hot spring, and canoe the Napo River in the Amazon. It was truly magical! We also thoroughly enjoyed the wonderful food and hospitality that we found everywhere we went, as we learned about the history of the country and visited the heritage sites.



We had an opportunity to enjoy 'glamping' at the Sacha Lodge in the Amazon and the Scalesia Lodge on Isabella Island in the Galapagos. Both were beautiful, well-appointed and provided a wonderful base camp for our day and evening excursions. Daniel was our knowledgeable Gate1 tour leader who saw to everyone's needs and brought on guides specific to the locale we were in, naturalists or historians or both. They shared their stories, asked us questions and engaged us. Daniel too was incredibly knowledgeable and took the time to share his knowledge. One memorable time was stopping the bus on the Pan-American highway so we all could experience the many fruits Ecuador has to offer. Not one horn was beeped, not one angry shout was heard, as our bus blocked the right lane of the Pan-American highway as we sampled the fruits. Very hospitable people to say the least.



Another amazing experience was snorkeling in the Galapagos with the sea lions, sea turtles, many species of fish, and white tipped sharks. The water was about 60 degrees but our wet suits and our wonder kept us warm. My favorite adventures of the trip were those in the Amazon, in a canoe paddled by an indigenous man from the Quichua community. We were silent as we slid through narrow passageways, surrounded on all sides by green vines and lush forest growth, spotting colorful birds

and troupes of monkeys clamoring about above us! It was so unique and truly unforgettable.



Since I have been learning Spanish on the Duolingo app for several years, I also thoroughly enjoyed any and all interactions with the Ecuadorian people, who were super kind and patient with my attempts to communicate. I would start speaking in Spanish (Por favor...) and they would begin to smile, listen carefully, and then respond in Spanish, graciously speaking slowly

and still smiling. It was SO fun!


We also enjoyed meeting fellow travelers with whom we shared the wonder and awe of Ecuador. For the two weeks, our tour guide called us 'my family' and it truly felt like that at the end of the tour! We felt fortunate, indeed, to be able to have this once in a lifetime adventure.





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February 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
				NA Fellowship Hall 8 PM		Farmer's Market 10-1
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Communion Congregational Meeting				NA Fellowship Hall 8 PM		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
				NA Fellowship Hall 8 PM		Food Pantry 10-1 Farmer's Market 10-1
	20	21	22	23	24	25
We See Sunday			Ash Wednesday	NA Fellowship Hall 8 PM		Session Retreat 10-3
26	27	28				

Sympathy is Extended to:

Holly and her family on the death of Holly's grandmother, Grannie Annie.

The Thomas family on the death of Elaine.

Lillian Divine and her family on the death of her cousin, Hugo Echevarria.



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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
Bill
Ron Scaccia
Lorraine
Withington
Fu Suhui

Alice Sanders
Mary Ann Metro



February Birthdays

2 Laura Watt

9 Zeya Salamone

13 Henry Irish

16 Mason Miller

17 Rob Groat

21 Eric Zebracki

23 David Coia III (Misser)

26 Betsy White



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.

Xin & Travis Gordon as they travel in China.

The Chinese people and the people of Nepal.

The patient and the families of all those suffering from dementia.

All folks trying to recover from hurricanes, snow fall, ice, fire, and flooding.

Images from Bing images, PlanetWare, and Carol Groat.



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Notes from the Session:

The Session met on January 19, 2023 at 6 pm. Present were Rev. Holly Clark-Porter, Audrey Divine, Janine Scaccia, Susan Pepe, Cori Coia (Cori will not be a voting member until the congregation votes on her position at the February congregational meeting. She was invited to attend to help her become familiar with the Session members and the responsibilities of the Session.). Betsy Sly was excused.

The meeting was opened with prayer and guest, Mark Armesto, was welcomed. Holly excused herself as Mark was sent from the Presbytery (he is our liaison to the Presbytery) to discuss with the Session how we felt Holly's first year at Fredonia Presbyterian went. His questions resulted in a lengthy, 40 minute discussion. Fair to say her approval rating was high.

With Mark's departure Holly returned for the regular meeting.

- Lengthy discussion of the church finances; our budget deficit, the 2023 budget, and Holly's terms of call. Approved Holly's terms of call for 2023.
- Holly has begun a Bible Study at Fredonia Place. It was well attended and to quote Holly, "It looks like it is going to be a good thing."
- Another person has expressed interest in becoming a member.
- A full slate of officers will be presented for the congregations' vote at the annual meeting.
- A Session retreat has been planned for February.
- It was not what had been planned for the Christmas Eve service but all agreed it was lovely. Thanks were expressed for everyone who sent in videos and pictures for the "lighting of the candles". Discussed how the Deacon's phone calls and the computer notifications worked to notify people that the Christmas services had been cancelled.
- Holly is finding the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry is keeping her busy. (She is attending Session meetings in three different churches for the next couple of months.)
- Looking toward the future Holly has made some technology changes. Moving our website to Wix is one; planning for "digital disciples" is another.
- January 4-7 Holly traveled to Washington, DC to attend the ecumenical Q Conference with others from the Presbytery.
- Holly has lined up a babysitter for the nursery which will start in February. Besides the hired sitter, another adult needs to be in the nursery. We're hoping that folks will volunteer.
- Voted to serve communion on all the 1st Sundays of the month in 2023 and at special services; Ash Wednesday and Easter.
- Collection of under wear and warm winter clothing went well. Food Pantry is going well.
- Our congregation will be a Church World Service Depot again this year. The dates are March 12 through April 2 (Palm Sunday). We will again do Hygiene Kits.

The next meeting will be the Session Retreat on Saturday, February 25.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer.



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WE NEED YOU!

***To Be
Another
Adult in the Room When
the Church Nursery
Opens
In February!***

***Sign Up for a Sunday on
the Sheet Outside
Holly's Office.***

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held right after the church service on Sunday, February 5.

Committee chairs, please give Ellen your annual reports as soon as possible so she can compile them for the Annual Meeting.

Three items the Food Pantry could really use more of for the February 18th pantry are

**Cereal
Canned Fruit
Spaghetti Sauce**

Spend a Summer at Chautauqua

The Presbyterian House at Chautauqua is looking for summer employees. The house has 36 rooms and 3 meals a day are served. The House operates as a small hotel/inn.

The Presbyterian House is hiring young adults (graduating high school in 2023), college students, couples, or older adults. They hope for a 10-week commitment but are flexible and will entertain half summer commitments as well as try to work around your other commitments. A variety of positions are available. Each includes a salary (plus tips), room, board, gate and parking passes and flexibility to enjoy what Chautauqua has to offer.

If interested in learning more and/or seeing job descriptions contact Joe Wolfe at wolfe4evergreen@gmail.com (814-558-5115) or Kathy Taylor at kathy@presbychq.org (203-605-1544)

Fredonia Presbyterian Church
219 Central Avenue
Fredonia, NY 14063

Blood Drive

The Red Cross has had to move the blood drive we are hosting in Fellowship Hall to March.



Thank you to Pampered Pets which recently donated several boxes of food to the Fredonia Food Pantry. Matt Pendergas,t who volunteers at Pampered Pets, picked up and delivered the boxes of cereal and jars and cans of food. Thank you, Matt!

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