



The Fredonia Presbyterian

September 2023
Newsletter of the
Fredonia
Presbyterian
Church

From Our Pastor

“Tying the knot”, I learned comes from the ancient handfasting ceremony, which is what our church held for Katie and Matt—a Handfasting Ceremony that included vows (and a really awesome cake). The literal tying of the knot took practice and many, many YouTube tutorials. In practice, I got the knot right about 5 out of 10 times. In practice, I got the knot right and perfectly in the center once. Day of and I was pretty anxious about messing up their cord and knot. But, woosh, around the bend, and bam—perfectly tied infinity knot right in the center of the cord. I loved this. I loved that Katie and Matt introduced all of us to this concept. I learned so much history, like how the ancient couples would actually stay tied together for the whole day to see if they really could deal with each other! Ha! I loved trying something new and I even loved being a little nervous. It was odd—something I haven’t felt in a long time. I mostly feel like an old hat in the pulpit and in all things church, but this was something so different. And, I loved it.

I think it’s important for us to all learn to be nervous again, to push what we know and get outside of our professional or personal experiences. So often, scripture speaks to going out on a limb, literally if you’re Zacchaeus or going out on water if you’re Peter. So often, scripture champions that little moment when the character has to push past the nerves and discover themselves or others.

What makes you a little nervous? Could it be God calling you to grow and tie knots? What ways can you push yourself to discover more of who you are and who others are to you? Get out there! Discover! Even if you fail over and over, something tells me that with practice, you’ve got an infinite chance to get it right.

If you have a minute to send a card,

Marge Benton is recovering after hip surgery. Cards to Marge at Chautauqua Nursing & Rehabilitation Services, 10836 Temple Rd., Dunkirk, NY 14048.

Dick Watt will be 90 on August 29th. His address is 3705 Bard Rd., Cassadaga, NY 14718.



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BLESSED ARE THE HOPEFUL

By Joe Calarco

In 1st Corinthians, Paul writes these iconic words, “These three remain, Faith, Hope, and Love. But the greatest is Love. (13:13). John says boldly, “God is Love”. (1 John 4:8). And that “God so Loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son.” (John 3:16). Jesus came to earth to preach the Gospel of Love. Yes, Love is the greatest virtue.

We trust that without Faith, we cannot be saved. The way to Salvation is by Faith. The sick are cured, the lame walk and the blind see, through Faith. Yes, Faith is a key virtue to heal the body and the spirit.

When I sip my morning coffee, I am reminded of the words on my mug, “Now Faith is the assurance of things Hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” (Hebrews 11:1). Hope, the third virtue enables man to have confidence in attaining eternal life, with the help of God. Moreover, Hope is vital for daily living.

When I asked a friend who was dying of Parkinson’s how I could pray for him, he replied simply, “Pray that I have Hope for the future.” Hope is a major request of those who are in my prayer Book. Hope provides light in the darkness of despair, life in the face of death. Whether a Prisoner of War who was tortured or a survivor of the Holocaust, the victims shared the same spirit to live...Hope. Those martyred for their love of God and faith in Jesus as Savior were sustained by their hope in eternal life.

There is power in Hope. “Blessed is the man that trust in the Lord, and whose Hope the Lord is.” (Jer 17:17). “For Thou art my Hope, O Lord, God” (Psalm 71:5).

This poem of Hope is comforting to all who are suffering:

“Behind the cloud the starlight lurks,
Through showers the sunbeams fall:
For God, who loveth all his works,
Has left His Hope for all.” (John Greenleaf Whittier)

To live a contented life, follow the three virtues: “LOVE enough to make you useful and helpful to others. FAITH enough to make real the things of GOD. HOPE enough to remove all anxious fears concerning the future.” (Johann Wolfgang von Goethe)

“The word which God has written on the brow of every man is HOPE.” (V. Hugo)

Five items the Food Pantry could really use more of for the September 16 pantry are
Soup, Cereal, Canned Fruit and Vegetables, Spaghetti Sauce



Notes from the Session:

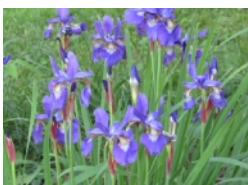
The August 17, 2023 Session meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. Holly Clark-Porter. Members present: Sandy Johnson, Jeff McMinn, Janine Scaccia, Carol Calarco, Cori Coia, Susan Pepe.

Minutes and agenda were approved.

- Holly reported that plans are moving forward for the Feeding Fredonia Challenge. The dates are October 15-27. The Food Pantry Taskforce has many exciting ideas.
- Our local Presbyterian Women's chapter has been disbanded. Discussed need to close the bank account.
- The Deacons and Holly are looking at serving communion to our home bound.
- The budget was approved as presented.
- Our fire alarm system needs to be replaced. Bids from Johnson controls and DFT are being considered.
- John Irish has joined the Christian Education committee.
- New church school curricula are being considered.
- Sunday, September 10 Ryan Williams and David Coia will be baptized during the service which will be held on the shores of Lake Erie.
- Four people have expressed an interest in joining the church.
- Communion was served on July 2 and August 6.
- Another \$40 has come in from the yard sale raising the total to \$1,567.26.
- Mission has made donations to Fredonia Fire Department, Rural Ministry, the Boys and Girls Club, Partners in Kind, Juneteenth, and Kids at Promise.
- There may be an opportunity for our members to help box gifts for the Santa for Seniors program.
- We are collecting school supplies for School 3 in Dunkirk and Wheelock in Fredonia.
- The broken window in the sanctuary should soon be fixed.
- Two more highway clean ups are scheduled.
- The by-laws were reviewed and changes were made.
- Approval was given for Lucy Andrus to conduct free art classes (Art Discovery) in Fellowship Hall on Monday nights on a trial basis. The resulting art work will be displayed in Fellowship Hall.

The next meeting is Thursday, September 21, 2023.

The meeting concluded with a prayer.



Don't forget to take cans with a deposit to Can King (just tell them to donate the money to the Food Pantry) or bring them to church. Also, those empty ink cartridges Ellen recycles generate revenue for the church. The box to collect them is in the Penfold Room.



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September 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
						Farmer's Market 10-1 Barker Commons
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Worship 10:30 Communion	Labor Day					
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
				Session Meeting 6 PM		Food Pantry 10-12 Farmer's Market 10-1 Barker Commons
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Worship 10:30			Bible Study. Fredonia Place 1 PM			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Worship 10:30			Rte. 39 Clean Up 4-5 pm			
Worship 10:30						

Images and photographs are from Bing and Carol Groat.





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The **Food Pantry Task Force** is wondering if the name of the Fredonia Food Pantry should be changed.

Do you have a suggestion for a catchy name? Something that will make it stand out in folks' minds? This is nonjudgemental brainstorming so let Holly know if you've got an idea... no matter how crazy it sounds.

We need a new **Fire Alarm System** to the tune of \$2,300. Any and all contributions toward this necessary expense will be cheerfully and gratefully accepted.



Thank You

We recently received a note from the new Keryx Prison Ministry Council Chairperson, Michael Gates. He took the opportunity to introduce himself, thank us for our continuing support of the Keryx ministry, and give an update on how the program is working at the Collins Correctional Facility since the rollback of COVID restrictions.

Many families have recently suffered losses.

Sympathy is extended to the families of

- Barbara Sam.
- Dorothy Ebling.
- Don Reinhoudt.
- Cathy Shaver.
- Margaret Zayora, a friend of FPC.
- Ann Peruka's husband, Gregg.
- Joe Calarco's friend, Bill.

Rt. 39 Clean Up Days

Thank you to everyone who has helped with the Route 39 clean ups this summer. The last trash pick up of the season will be **Wednesday, September 27 from 4-5.**

Meet at the Sheridan Liquor Store, corner of Rt. 39 & Rt. 20. Helmets, fashionable vests, and trash bags are provided. Dress for the weather conditions and walking in tall grass.

Please pray for our Local Partners in Ministry:
Compeer Chautauqua

Thank You

"...your congregation makes a difference in sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ locally, nationally, and around the world." We received a thank you from the Presbyterian Church's Office of Ministry Engagement and Support for the \$470.65 we collected for One Great Hour of Sharing.



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Prayer List

Marge Benton
 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
 Dylan Pillsbury
 Lorraine Withington
 Toni-Jo Mitchell
 David and Peggy Tiffany
 Mick
 George and Mary Ann
 Jennifer Roberts
 Cheryl Connelly
 Margie
 Kevin

Julie
 Donna Rocque
 Charlie and Carrie Divine
 Waters Family
 Barb and Vittoria
 Wing
 Kevin Nelson
 Matt Prendergast
 Gary Chwojdak
 Mike Rechlin



September Birthdays

1 Linda Malcolm
 4 Erin Bennett
 Audra Comerford
 Tom Van Dette

6 Crista Hagberg
 7 Matt Prendergast
 11 Maureen (Mo) Webb
 Summer Rose Sanden

12 Adam Lukach
 14 Cameron Rinehart
 16 Megan Kristan
 23 Danny Phillips

25 Marcie Lukach
 26 Amber Rinehart
 28 Lorraine Withington
 30 Susan Bennett

September Anniversaries

4	Frank & Brittany Valente	2022
8	Eric & Lauri Zebracki	1985

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

Through the PEB and your generous donations we have been able to sponsor a day student, Neriah Kamal, in her quest for an education. This is the second year we have been able to provide this \$400 scholarship for Neriah.



Fredonia Presbyterian Church
219 Central Avenue
Fredonia, NY 14063



At September's Food Pantry we ran out of packed bags of food, so our volunteers packed more. Over 60 bags of food were needed.

As you can see in the picture, the food pantry shelves need restocking. It won't help us in September but the good news is that the

Feeding Fredonia Challenge is coming.
It runs from **October 15 to October 27.**

The Fredonia Central School District is already on board. More information will be coming as well as sign up sheets for helpers.

Lots of help will be needed!

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