



The Fredonia Presbyterian

December 2024
Newsletter of the
Fredonia
Presbyterian
Church

From Our Pastor



We're at my in-laws house. The men just felled 3 trees, tractor and all. And, my new nephew screamed because of the noise. So, when we all came in for lunch, my mother-in-law sat us down to one of her favorites, Madeleine L'Engle, who writes:

*I, who live by words, am wordless when
I try my words in prayer. All language turns
To silence. Prayer will take my words and then
Reveal their emptiness. The stilled voice learns
To hold its peace, to listen with the heart
To silence that is joy, is adoration.
The self is shattered, all words torn apart
In this strange patterned time of contemplation
That, in time, breaks time, breaks word, breaks me,
And then, in silence, leaves me healed and mended.
I leave, returned to language, for I see
Through words, even when all words are ended.
I, who live by words, am wordless when
I turn me to the Word to pray. Amen.*

As Advent carries us through to Christmas, may these words help us pause our own self-involve waiting and instead turn to God with waiting for Christ to renew us, surprise us, delight us, forgive us, and love us. May there be peace on earth and may it start with us.



We need cookies for the Christmas Festival. During the festival the library will have warm cider, coffee, and cookies for our guests. If you can make cookies, please sign up in Fellowship Hall.



HOLY MOMENTS

By Joe Calarco

Life is made up of moments, some good and some not so good. Sometimes we initiate an action as a giver, and other times we are receivers of someone else's actions. When a special moment does occur, people call them coincidences. I don't believe in coincidences, I call them "Holy Moments."

Although not as profound as a "Miracle", a Holy Moment is personal, intimate, and spiritual.

One hot summer day, I was driving and approached a gentleman walking on the shoulder of the road. He was dressed in a long heavy winter coat, a large scarf wrapped around his neck, and a black woolen hat covered his thick black Afro. He was a man out of place and out of time. I stopped to give him a bottle of water and asked him if he needed a ride. When he sat beside me I asked him where he was going. He said that he was walking to Jamestown, 25 miles down the road. When I asked him the purpose of his trip, he said that he was an "actor" and he played many roles. All I could think of was the scripture in Hebrews 13:2, "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers, for thereby some have entertained Angels unawares." When I dropped him off at a gas station, halfway to his destination, we shook hands and I asked him his name. He smiled and said, "Angel". As I drove off and turned to wave goodbye, he was gone. It was a Holy Moment.

On the Keryx Prison Weekend we have a special moment that we call "Serenade at the Fence." We walk the prisoners out into the yard at night. It is usually cold and dark and the men are confused not knowing what will happen. There is a very high fence of razor wire on our side, an open area called "No Man's Land", then another high fence on the other side about 50 yards away.

The men peered through their side of the fence and saw small lights flickering in the darkness. Unbeknownst to the men, a group of Christians have gathered on the other side of the fence with lit candles and guitars who began to sing praise songs to them. Then, the shadows behind the candles became faces. The prisoner next to me began to sob openly. When I asked him what he saw on the other side, he said through tears, "I see Angels". It was a Holy Moment.

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Holy Moments (Continued from page 2)

It had been an exciting day at the SUNYAC Women's Tennis Tournament. Now the eight teams were gathered together in a large dining hall for the opening remarks and dinner. The teams were called to the buffet table one team at a time. Finally, Fredonia State was called and I was the last in line. As our 10 players plated their food, they sat around a table together. I told them not to wait for me, but to begin eating. When I finally went through the line and sat with them, I noticed that no one had begun to eat. I asked why they had waited for me. Then, one of the players responded, "Coach, we weren't waiting for you, we were waiting on the Lord." We held hands around the table, bowed our heads and I said Grace. With nearly 100 young women all talking together, the noise was quite loud. When I finished Grace, I realized that the entire room was silent. It was a Holy Moment.

There are Holy Moments happening around us all the time. Perhaps we are not aware of them. We are all familiar with the phrase, "Seeing is believing". In terms of being a Christian, the phrase would be more appropriate to say, "Believing is seeing".

So I pray, "Open the eyes of my heart, Lord. I want to see you."



Christmas Festival

Friday, December 6, 3:30-6

Saturday, December 7, 9-3

Sunday, December 8, 12-1

Live Music, 300 Nativities, Charitable Gifts and Crafts,
Refreshments

People will be needed for a variety of "jobs".
Sign up sheets are in Fellowship Hall

Images from Bing and Carol Groat.



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December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Worship 10:30 Communion Deacons' Meeting	Art Discovery 5	Theology on Tap 5ish at The Next Chapter Book Store. Girl Scouts 6-7	Food Pantry 1-3	Food Pantry 4:30-6:30 Narcotics Anonymous 7	Christmas Festival 3:30-6 Houses of Hope 11	Christmas Festival 9-3
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Worship 10:30 Christmas Festival 12-1	Art Discovery 5	Theology on Tap 5ish at The Next Chapter Book Store. Wine & Cheese Tasting 7-8	Food Pantry 1-3	Houses of Hope (possible mtg.) 9:30 Rotary 12-1 Food Pantry 4:30-6:30 Narcotics Anonymous 7		Lake Shore Fellowship 12-6
15	16	17	18	18	20	21
Worship 10:30 Pancake Breakfast after Worship Lily Recital 3		FeedMore WNY Delivery 12-2:30 Theology on Tap 5ish at The Next Chapter Book Store. Girl Scouts 6-7	Food Pantry 1-3	Food Pantry 4:30-6:30 Session 6 Narcotics Anonymous 7		Food Pantry 10-12 Farmer's Market Masonic Temple
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Worship 10:30		Christmas Eve Service 7		Food Pantry ? 4:30-6:30 Narcotics Anonymous 7		
29		31				
Worship 10:30		New Year's Eve				



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December Birthdays

7 Owen Lukach
11 Wayne Jones



14 Scott Foley
Diane Bell

15 Stephen Lucariello
21 Carrie Divine

23 Ryan Williams
25 Jesus Christ

December Anniversaries

7 Rickey & Jennifer Miller 2001

Joe and Carol Calarco, Cindy Rechlin, and Tom Gordon are inviting you to their

3rd Annual Pancake Breakfast.

It will be held in Fellowship Hall, right after worship on Sunday, December 15.

Everyone is Welcome!



Theology on Tap meets every Tuesday, 5ish-6:30ish, at The Next Chapter Book Store. Bring your own beverage.

Nativities

for the Christmas Festival may be brought to the library at any time. Please make sure you sign a release form.

At 1 o'clock on Monday, December 2 the boards will be ready for placement of the nativities. If you will be able to help with this, please sign up in Fellowship Hall or let Carol Calarco know.



Our second food delivery from FeedMore WNY will arrive on Tuesday, December 17 between 12 and 2:30. We'll know a more exact time the day before.

Help will be needed to accept, check in, and put away the food we receive. Many hands will make light work.



We will continue to collect underwear, socks, hats, and mittens for **Head Start** through the week of December 2nd.



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Prayer List

Donna Heintzman
Joe Dolce
Dick Ackley
Zachary Dloniak
Dick Watt
Gary Chwojdak
Toni-Jo Mitchell
Mick
Cheryl Connelly
Lorraine Withington
Deb Harris
Susie Harris
Gerald
Jessie
Janine D.

Alba Talavera
Jimmy
Rhonda Daminiski
Susan Lis
Jenna
Elizabeth English
Elaine
David Leffel
Jay East & Julie Newell
Sam
Carol

Roger W.
Sam & Kristi Lauer
Tracy
Autumn
The Daly-Griffith Family
Sharon Duff-Kibbee
Avery
Laurie
Ron Hagberg
Tim
Denise
Wayne



Sympathy is Extended...

To the family of Adoniram Lange who died recently and was a friend of Lily & John Irish.

To the family of Judy Reynolds who died recently.

To the family of Mitzy Jones, a friend of Mark Thomas, who died recently.

To Liz & Brandon who recently lost their infant.



Fredonia Presbyterian Church
219 Central Avenue
Fredonia, NY 14063

Raise Right

Raise Right is a nonprofit helping other non-profits. The idea is simple: people will sign in to our church account online, buy a gift card from one of dozens of available... think Amazon, Walmart, Home Depot, Whole Foods, Kohl's, Panera... Then our church makes a small profit from the company.

Our code is **XNWWL9KRHYQ6**. Choose "join an existing program" and put in the code. Then it is a piece of cake. Any questions? Ask Holly for help.

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