



The Fredonia Presbyterian

April 2024
Newsletter of the
Fredonia
Presbyterian
Church

From Our Pastor

(Most) Everyone thought KC and I were odd for choosing Detroit as our Spring Break get-away. We even had an acquaintance offer us her Florida house for the week because she was so sad we were going to Detroit. Ha! Why Detroit? Why not?

It's an easy, non-traffic, just under 5 hour drive. It's becoming a foodie city (and omgosh, did we eat some good food!). Plus, we've never been. We loved it. We stayed in Ferndale, the Gayborhood, but went all over the city. We ate old school Detroit pizza (pepperoni, onion and mushroom) and new school (pickle pizza). We learned Detroit has several excellent sushi places (come on Buffalo, let's do better). We enjoyed just walking around and doing nothing.

Was it Paris, no! But we had a wonderful break. And, it's funny, just the day after we got home Detroit, Detroit was in the New York Times and I thought, wow, I know those people. The Lions are getting new uniforms and even though they are rivals, I still felt, I dunno, connected to them because we sat next to so many people and had great conversations, and we joshed with the sweet birthday boy wearing a Lions jersey, and we all lamented together our two teams. The thing is, traveling isn't about what museums you saw or famous restaurants you ate at or how iconic your Instagram feed is. It's about the world becoming smaller. It's about the idea of "neighbors" expanding. It's about seeing something horrible or something wonderful about that place in the news and saying, "I mourn with them, I cry with them because they're my people too."

Moral to the story. Visit Detroit! Love your neighbors. Meet more people. Hear more stories. Try new food. Belong and find belonging.



Fred Basket Help

We will be applying to work with Feed More Western New York. But before then, we need to be able to open 4 hours a week.

We're looking for interested people who would like to staff some of those hours. We are looking at 5-7pm on Wednesdays and 2-4pm on Thursdays.

Please let Holly know if you'd be able to help, how often (every 6 weeks, every week, etc.), and which day. Thank you!



Star Words

Rev. Holly continues to inspire us by infusing her enthusiasm, creativity, and spirituality into our lives. She is constantly encouraging us and challenging us to be aware of the Spirit within us. One of her recent projects is “Star Words.” She borrowed this idea from a pastor-friend, Mardi Huld Glass, (PCUSA) who developed this project for her Doctor of Ministry. The idea is to reflect upon our personal Star Word throughout the day.



“LIGHT” was my first Star Word. It was perfect for me. It all began...in the beginning in the void and darkness. “And God said, Let there be light. And there was light. And God saw that the light was good.” (Genesis 1:3-4) Also, Jesus proclaimed, “I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” (John 8:12)

When Carol and I exchanged our wedding vows 38 years ago in this church, our family and friends celebrated with lit candles, singing “You Light Up My life”. A special moment takes place at night in the prison. Standing in the darkness of the prison yard, the men greet the lit candles on the outside of the Fence with “This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine.” “Light” is a special word in my life.

“NATURE” is my second Star Word. It is perfect for me. It all began in the Garden of Eden, the paradise on earth. Nature, the stillness of a forest path, the melody of the creek, golden beams of dawn, all are my happy places.

On July 4, 1845, Henry David Thoreau walked into the woods and built a one room cabin on Walden Pond. Living there for 2 years, 2 months, and 2 days, he lived a life of simplicity, solitude, and spirituality. “I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essentials of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived.”

(Joe Calarco’s article continues on page 3)



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Star Words (Continued from page 2)

I grew up on a farm with my hands in the warm earth and my feet in the cool creek. I found my time with nature to be not only peaceful, but also healing. Whether it is a farm or a garden, a creek or Niagara Falls, the wonder of Nature is evidence of the presence of God's creation. "Nature" is a special word in my life.

Two Star Words: "Light" and "Nature" ...Both are vital to my spiritual life. Thank you, Rev. Holly, for opening my eyes and heart to the World around me. Need a Star Word...? HONESTY, HOPE, HUMILITY.

By Joe Calarco



Prayers for all those suffering from Covid.
Prayers for peace for all countries at war.
Prayers for firemen & policemen injured in the line of duty.

Prayers for our Local Partners in Ministry, Compeer Chautauqua the Girl Scouts, and Narcotics Anonymous.

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

FYI:

The Presbytery of Western New York has decided to move to a virtual office. Their new mailing address is

The Presbytery of WNY
3014 Delaware Ave.
Unit 4126
Kenmore, NY 14217

Per Capita \$\$

If you are able, \$36 will take care of this year's per capita.

Once a year our church sends \$36 per member to the Presbytery.

24 Saturdays in 2024

Would you be able to help out at the Farmers' Market one or two Saturdays in 2024?

Please let Holly know if this is something you could try.



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April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Art Discovery 6-8					Farmer's Market 10-1 Masonic Temple Sigma Kappa 9-1
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Worship 10:30 Communion	Art Discovery 6-8	Girl Scouts 6-7		Rotary 12-1		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Worship 10:30	Art Discovery 6-8		Bible Study 1:30 @ Fredonia Place Deacon's Meeting 1:30	Session Meeting 6pm		Food Pantry 10-12 Farmer's Market 10-1 Masonic Temple
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Worship 10:30 Assemble Hygiene Kits during Coffee Hour	Art Discovery 6-8	Girl Scouts 6-7	Compeer 12:30-2:30			Sigma Kappa 8-12
28	29	30				
Worship 10:30	Art Discovery 6-8					

In April Narcotics Anonymous will begin meeting in Fellowship Hall. Probably Thursdays at 7pm.



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Prayer List

Donna Heintzman
Joe Dolce
Dick Ackley
Joy Hite
Zachary Dloniak
Dick Watt

Gary Chwojdak
Toni-Jo Mitchell
Sandy McBride
Deb Harris
Susie Harris
Jordan Mendyk

Tracy
Mick
Cheryl Connelly
PJ Meadows
John LaMancuso
Lucy Thomas

Elaina
Jessie
Clara
Nancy Dewitt
Bill
Rick Lundquist

Duane Dustin
Margie
Joe Gullo
Kirsten & Cardel
Steve Gordan
Brianna

Julia Irish
Janine D.
Margaret and Linda
Diane Bell
Jennifer O'Boyle
Rhonda
Kaden



April Birthdays

4 Richard Ackley
7 Melissa Chwojdak
10 David Coia, Jr.
14 Charles Divine
Betsy Sly
19 David Straight
Cindy Rechlin
22 Brett Comerford
28 Matthew Gordon



Anniversaries

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

Please pray for **Pat Stokes** who is on a second tour in Ukraine.



Images from Bing and Carol Groat.



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Notes from the Session

The February 29, 2024 meeting was opened with prayer. The agenda and previous minutes were approved.

Present: Pastor Holly, Rey Spangler, Cori Coia, Janine Scaccia, with Carol Calarco and Susan Pepe via computer. Excused: Diane Bell.

Discussed:

- Church's insurance. Does it cover personal property?
- Holly will be on vacation over Palm Sunday weekend. The service is planned.
- Jeff McMinn is working on options for repairing the church's front light.
- New thermostats have been ordered.
- The new fire alarm is installed.
- Art Discovery is doing Soup and a Show on March 8. Their new series is beginning.
- Ellen and Holly are shredding paperwork no longer needed. Looking into storing some forever items with the Presbyterian Historical Society. We are running out of storage space.
- Rey Spangler will be our Elder delegate at the next Presbytery meeting.
- The December financials were accepted.
- Voted to move our bank account from Lake Shore to M&T Bank.
- Voted to open a credit card account to be used for pre-approved purchases.
- Theology on Tap had a good first meeting and will continue through Lent.
- April 1-19 collection of items for hygiene kits. Kits will be assembled during coffee hour on April 21.
- Approved collections for Blanket Sunday (May 12) and Tool Sunday (June 16).
- Money from the Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation grant was used to purchase a freezer for Fred Basket.
- Starting in March the Fred Basket will be inside.
- The church will Go Dark on March 23rd for Earth Hour.
- Voted to accept and submit the stats report Holly and Ellen compiled.
- Ways to make the front of our sanctuary more accessible for folks using wheelchairs and other assistive devices.

The next meeting will be Thursday, April 18, 2024 at 6 pm.

Over the Coffee Cups

Fredonia High School's recent production of *Beauty and the Beast* was a HIT! Congratulations to both Reese and Jackson who were involved in the production.



Fredonia Presbyterian Church
219 Central Avenue
Fredonia, NY 14063

**We will be Assembling Hygiene Kits for Church World Service.
The collection runs April 1 - April 19.**

Instead of bringing in hygiene kits you have assembled at home, this year we are asking folks to bring in items needed for the kits. We will have an “assembly party” during coffee hour April 21. There is a basket at church with cards that contain names and quantities of items needed. Hoping everyone will be able to participate, the cards range from *1 Bar of Soap* to *5 Hand Towels*.

- Hand towels should measure 15" x 28" to 16" x 32". No fingertip, bath, dish towels, or micro-fiber.
- Washcloth. No micro-fiber.
- Wide-tooth comb (at least 6 in. of teeth) removed from the package. No picks or pocket combs.
- Fingernail **or** toenail clipper removed from the package (either is acceptable).
- Bath-size bar of soap in the original package.
- Toothbrushes should be in the in the original package.
- Standard size Band-Aids.

**\$2.00 is what postage costs for CWS to transport each kit to its final destination.
A donation toward this postage is greatly appreciated.**

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