



The Fredonia Presbyterian

February 2024
Newsletter of the
Fredonia
Presbyterian
Church

From Our Pastor

Have you heard of a Friction Audit? It's actually a business practice, but I kind of like it for 1. personal uses 2. church uses. Maybe you'll find it useful too!

In our Session Retreat I talked to the Session about this practice. It is where you do an audit of all the friction you're running up against. Say you're a baker and the fancy flour you love is getting harder to get and more expensive. That is friction. So, you come up with 3 ways to stop that friction.

1. Use other flour
2. 2. Raise menu prices
3. 3. Mill your own flour!

I've been loving this practice because it's been helping me not just fret about something. Once you put it on paper, even if you don't come up with the 100% perfect solution, there is less friction. It also asks you to get creative. The first and second solutions are usually the easy ones. It's that third one that asks you to think.

I don't like to think of Church as a personal improvement or self-help kind of thing, but when I have the chance to write about something without the pulpit in front of me, I think it's so helpful for Christians to have less friction so they can focus on worship, on discipleship, and loving kindness. When you've got friction all of those are difficult things. So, maybe this isn't a Christian practice, but I encourage you to give it a try so that Christian practices can move into your daily life without that other static in the way.

Peace!

Notes from the Session:

The Session met on **December 14, 2023** at 6 pm. Attendees: Rev. Holly Clark-Porter, Jeff McMinn, Janine Scaccia, Carol Calarco, Cori Coia, Sandy Johnson, and Susan Pepe. Holly opened with prayer and a quorum was declared. The agenda was accepted and the November minutes were accepted as amended.

Discussed —

- Success of the Head Start mitten and underwear collection. Enough donations to share with Rural Ministry and Santa for Seniors.
- Switching from Johnson Control (fire alarm system) to DFT which would monitor the fire alarm system.
- Having an All Saints Service focusing on those grieving.

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Unmasked

Kevin is a typical 5th grade boy, a bit taller than his classmates. He is quiet, shy, and seldom talks. He is new to this school, leaving his previous school because he was bullied. Kevin is a member of our mentoring class of 15 Mentors and 24 boys. We Mentors strive to be male role models to develop social manners and communication skills, especially public speaking. All of the boys are encouraged to speak before the group in every class. Now that Covid has passed its peak, we no longer wear white masks which hide our faces and smiles. However, Kevin continues to wear a black mask that covers his nose and mouth. When he speaks in front of the class, he does not show his face or his smile.

While eating, Kevin would pull down his mask below his lower lip, put food in his mouth, then raise his mask once more. The cause of his behavior is to hide the crooked condition of his teeth. To correct his teeth would take 24-30 months and over \$10,000 (no insurance). One of the Mentors has decided to help Kevin by supporting him with encouragement and fund raising so he may live a normal life... unmasked.

“Don’t be fooled by the face I wear, for I wear a thousand masks, And none of them are me. Don’t be fooled, for goodness sake, don’t be fooled. I give you the impression that I am secure, that confidence is my name and coolness is my game, And I need no one, but don’t believe me. Beneath dwells the real me in confusion and aloneness, and fear. That’s why I create a mask to hide behind. Each time you’re kind and gentle, and encouraging, Each time you try to understand because you really care, my heart begins to grow wings. Who am I you wonder. I am every man you meet and also every woman that you meet. And I am you, also.” (“The Mask”, Author unknown)

We all wear our self-created mask hiding our real selves. Let us help each other to remove our masks from each other and from ourselves and, like Kevin, live unmasked.

“The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” (1Samuel 16:7)

By Joe Calarco

Looking Toward the Future

Maundy Thursday: March 28th at Fredonia Methodist Church, 6pm. Dinner with FMC, UCC, FPC. We bring **desserts and bottled water**. Please let Holly know if you're planning to attend and what you'd like to bring.

Good Friday: March 29th Worship Service at 6 p.m. in our church.

Put it on your calendar!



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Because of the weather, the **Annual Meeting**, originally scheduled for January 14, was rescheduled for January 21. After voting to clean up our bylaws, approving Holly's terms of call, and electing several new officers and committee members, our congregation still had energy to generate good ideas and ways to bring new energy to 2024.

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

Join Us!

The Deacons are hosting a special coffee hour February 11 to honor our volunteers.

Join Us!

Our Lenten season will begin with an Ash Wednesday service on February 14 at 12:00 pm. Ashes will be imposed.

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.

Fredonia Farmers' Market



Join Us!

As part of our Art & Discovery ministry, February 25 we will be participating in a *Lenten Practice: Hearts and Hands*. Cards of cheer, hope, and love will be made in Fellowship Hall after our church service. No art talent or experience necessary. Easy and fun!

Sympathy is Extended:

To Jennifer O'Boyle on the death of her uncle, Larry Kibbe on January 11th.

To Susan Guziec and her family on the death of her father, Leon Thompson on January 11th.

To Ned Divine on the death of his friends, Dennis Paul and Don Brisky.

To Mark Thomas on the death of his friend, Aaron Peters.



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Notes from the Session - December 14, 2023 meeting (Continued from page 1)

Discussed —

- Cost of our building insurance, changing to a thermostat that can be controlled remotely, moving of the church school students into the nursery.
- Deacons' Easter and Christmas flowers. What a nice job Carol Calarco did decorating the church.
- And approved the financial report.
- The safety issues the large TV on the cart poses.
- Changing the by-laws to reflect committee spending over \$500 needing Session approval.
- The Food Pantry is now the Fred Basket. We had another apple donation from Sam Farms.
- Scott Foley cleaned the gutters and eaves. Thank you, Scott.
- Putting off repair on the front steps until the spring.
- The Nominating Committee has a full slate of nominees for the upcoming election.
- Memorial Garden will commence in the spring of 2024.
- The need for an Auditing Committee.
- Equal Exchange. Is this a ministry we are able to continue?
- A review of the by-laws. Congregation will need to review them before the annual meeting.
- A Session retreat being held on January 27, 2024 which will serve as the monthly Session meeting.
- The budget line by line. After the review the 2024 budget was approved.

Notes from the Session:

The Session met on **November 16, 2023** at 6 pm. Attendees: Rev. Holly Clark-Porter, Jeff McMinn, Janine Scaccia, Carol Calarco, Cori Coia, Sandy Johnson, and Susan Pepe. Holly opened with prayer and a quorum was declared. The agenda was accepted and the October minutes were accepted as amended.



Discussed —

- What to do with extra pews in Fellowship Hall.
- Sunday School will be relocated to the nursery.
- The sewage backup in the basement (Thank you to Tom Gordon for clean up) and kitchen ceiling leak.
- Food Pantry being renamed Fred Basket. Ron Chwojdak has facilitated a grant from the Silver Creek Fire Dept. which will help us add meat and produce to Fred Basket.
- Deacons working with the Boys and Girls Club on Christmas Pointsettias.
- Ellen was out with Covid so financial report tabled until available.
- Plans for the Dec. 10 pancake breakfast.
- Plans for Alternative Christmas. Dec. 1, 3:30-6, Dec. 2, 9-3, and Dec. 3, Noon - 1. Nativity boards set up in the sanctuary Nov. 26 and begin greening the church.
- Pursuing a second person to help count money on Sundays.
- Nominating committee is meeting in an effort to have vacated spaces on boards and committees filled at the annual meeting (January 14, 2024).
- Jimmersontown Presbyterian Church's appreciation of the old hymnals.



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February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
						Farmer's Market 10-1 Masonic Temple
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Worship 10:30 Communion				Putnam Insurance 8-4		Lake Shore Fellowship 12-5
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Worship 10:30 Ordination and Installation of Officers Special Coffee Hour		Girl Scouts 5-7	Ash Wednesday Service 12 	Rotary 12-1 Session Meeting 6		Food Pantry 10-12 Farmer's Market 10-1 Masonic Temple
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Worship 10:30			Bible Study 1 @ Fredonia Place			
25	26	27	28	29		
Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour - Lenten Practice: Hearts and Hands		Girl Scouts 5-7				



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Prayer List

Donna Heintzman
 Joe Dolce
 Dick Ackley
 Joy Hite
 Zachary Dloniak
 Dick Watt
 Gary Chwojdak
 Sandy McBride
 Deb Harris
 Susan Harris

Jordan Mendyk
 Tracy
 Toni-Jo Mitchell
 Mick
 Jennifer O'Boyle
 Cheryl Connelly
 Kevin
 Lorraine & Joe
 PJ Meadows
 John LaMancuso



Lucy Thomas
 Elaina
 Jessie
 Baby Julien
 Nikki Smalls
 The Siegle family
 Clara
 Diane Bell
 Nancy Dewitt
 Bill

Rick Lundquist
 Duane Dustin
 Margie
 Lydia Wright
 Joe Gullo
 Mike Rechlin
 Kristen & Cardel
 Steve Gordan
 Lorraine Withington

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



In Memoriam

Gerard Rocque 1/12/23

Prayers for people in Perry Iowa after a school shooting.
 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 and the Girl Scouts.

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

Images from Bing and Carol Groat.

Fredonia Presbyterian Church
219 Central Avenue
Fredonia, NY 14063



**The 2nd Annual Celebration of African American
Music:
The Voice of Resistance**

Do you sing, play an instrument, or wish to celebrate a vivacious choral tradition? Please join Orchard Park Presbyterian Church in its 2nd annual Celebration of African American Music. This year, the Celebration will feature choral works by Black composers and arrangers in traditional, spiritual, and gospel genres - an open ecumenical community choir will perform. A concert event at the church (4369 S. Buffalo Street) is tentatively set for Sunday, February 25, at 4 p.m.

Please email Rev. Dr. Wylie Hughes (wylie@oppchurch.org) or call the church office (716-662-9348) if you would like to participate. Sheet music and online practice recordings for the concert will be distributed between now and February with rehearsal times to be set at a later date.

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