



The Fredonia Presbyterian

March 2024
Newsletter of the
Fredonia
Presbyterian
Church

From Our Pastor



One of the fun things about my call to this church is the variety of backgrounds people are coming from. In my former churches, a majority of the people were Presbyterians, Presbyterians with a few Methodists who married a Presbyterian. But, here, I've really enjoyed learning to pastor people who come from Catholicism, Pentecostal, Mega-ish, nothing, other mainlines, and yes, cradle Presbyterians.

As I was planning the Lenten Theology on Tap (each Tuesday from 5ish to 6:30pm at Downtown Brew), I was thinking about the mix of people who might show up. And, I recalled something I hadn't thought of in years. Scholar and theologian, Walter Wink wrote an article about leading Christian education, aka Bible studies. He said (I'm paraphrasing), when looking at sacred text, everyone is equal. The biblical scholar and a person who has never read scripture before all

have an equal say, an equal "get" at the text. We might all bring different wisdom but none of it is more important than the other.

He is so right! Sitting around the table, we all had very different backgrounds and our conversation was richer for the varying ways we all came to the text: some never having heard the story, some very well versed. Did we fix all the worlds' problems, no. But we did fix a couple and from our equal turns at scripture and learning from the story, we talked about who the Church is and who we can be. And, you'll be seeing fruits of this first meeting soon. That's the way to Lent!

May our work, our shared wisdom, and our equal footing bring us further and further into the hope of God!

Per Capita \$\$

If you are able, \$36 will take care of your per capita. The \$36 is sent to the Presbytery office to support the Presbytery's programs. This includes helping congregations, like ours, find ministers (think Holly).



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Until All Are Fed

“Bless us, O Lord, and these Thy gifts, which we are about to receive, from Thy bounty. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen”

This standard blessing before meals serves as a reminder to give thanks for our “Daily Bread.”

While in Florida, Carol and I volunteer at the Gladiolus Food Pantry. Every Wednesday (10-1) we join ---others to serve over 200 families (nearly 1,000 monthly). Clients fill grocery carts with fresh produce, frozen meats, canned and boxed foods, breads, and desserts. As they walk out the door, they have their choice of a plant or bouquet of flowers. In addition, there is a food tent offering free hot dogs, and a cool drink. Human service groups provide social service information, and a mobile medical unit provides health care. It is quite an operation.

Recently, Carol and I along with 70 volunteers bagged 5,000 pounds of rice and beans. We attended a Hymn Sing where the price of admission was a bag of canned goods. Last week, we participated with an international group, “Feed My Starving Children.” In two hours, we bagged over 16,000 meals for children around the world. Our church here had a “Souper” Bowl Sunday, where attendees wore their favorite team jerseys (Go Bills) and donated cans of soup. All these efforts, and many others, have one goal - to feed the hungry.

Our fledgling Fredonia Food Pantry, although having fewer resources of food, money, and volunteers, shares the same mission of feeding the hungry and providing for the disenfranchised. As the number of the needy grows, so must our efforts to provide for them. As the hands and feet of Christ, it is our command to feed His children. “Fred Basket” is our way of sharing not only our bread with others, but also God’s love.

When Jesus fed the 5,000, He fed them all, no questions asked. As a friend reminds me, “I would rather be a giver, than a receiver.” And so, I give thanks for my Daily Bread and the gift of sharing it with others... Until all are fed.

— by Joe Calarco



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Put It On Your Calendar!

Maundy Thursday: March 28th at Fredonia Methodist Church, 6pm.

We'll be having dinner with Fredonia Methodist Church and United Congregational Church. **Desserts and bottled water are our responsibilities.** Please let Holly know if you're planning to attend and what you'd like to bring. Oh, oh! Your schedule is not going to allow you to bring something this year.

No problem. Just let Holly know you will be there. More important to have you there than another dessert. There is also a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall.

We will gather downtown at the Methodist Church at 6 pm for dinner and worship.

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

The service will be dramatic and include loud sounds. If you have a child or someone in your family for whom sensory is important, they are welcome to hang out in Fellowship Hall, the couches in the Penfold Room, or the library.

Easter Sunday: March 31st at 10:30 am. This is a good time to invite someone who may want to go to church on Easter, but is not sure where they would feel comfortable just showing up.

Invite them to our "come as you are party."



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.

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

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

A Wish for the Week Ahead

May you discover at least one good thing in every day, even if you have to put on your glasses and squint.
May you carry hope in your pocket, courage in your heart, and love in both hands. May you remember it is not mandatory to respond to ignorance, foolery, and/or provocation; your peace is valuable and besides, you're busy with more important matters.
May your coffee sustain you, may your kindness guide you, and may your humor keep you out of jail.



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Nancy Hoffmann



The Fredonia Presbyterian

March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
						Farmer's Market 10-1 Masonic Temple Lake Shore Fellowship 12-5
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Worship 10:30 Communion	Art Discovery 6-8	Lenten Theology on Tap 5-6:30 Downtown Brew			Soup & Show 6 pm	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Worship 10:30	Art Discovery 6-8	Girl Scouts 6-7 Lenten Theology on Tap 5-6:30 Downtown Brew		Rotary 12-1 Session Meeting Postponed until April		Food Pantry 10-12 Farmer's Market 10-1 Masonic Temple
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Worship 10:30	Art Discovery 6-8	Lenten Theology on Tap 5-6:30 Downtown Brew	Bible Study 1 @ Fredonia Place			Lake Shore Fellowship 12-5
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Worship 10:30	Art Discovery 6-8	Girl Scouts 6-7 Lenten Theology on Tap 5-6:30 Downtown Brew		Maundy Thursday 6 pm FMC	Good Friday 6:00	
31						
						



The Fredonia Presbyterian

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

March Birthdays

8 Kelly McCoy
 13 Tom White
 18 Rosie Sanden
 21 Tom Webb
 24 Sallie Piazza
 28 Sharon Muggle



In Memoriam

William (Sharon Muggle's father) March 2024
 Susan Lauricella 3/22/23

Anniversaries

Christopher & Megan Kristan 3/5/2016


Ordinations

Holly Clark-Porter 3/22/15
 KC Clark-Porter 3/22/15



Images from Bing and Carol Groat.

Fredonia Presbyterian Church
219 Central Avenue
Fredonia, NY 14063



Soup and a Show Series

MARCH 8, 6:00PM

Exploring Art and Culture
at Fredonia Presbyterian Church
with Lucy Andrus, Prof. Emeritus, BSU

Cloth that Tells a Story: Exploring
West African Textile Arts

