



The Fredonia Presbyterian

September 2022
Newsletter of the
Fredonia
Presbyterian
Church

From Our Pastor

The leaves are already starting to change. The students are back at college. It's humid but no longer crazy hot. And, pumpkin spice is gracing us with her Fall presence already. But, I am now quite ready to let Summer go and I need to hold onto every last drop until there are no longer pink heirloom tomatoes at the Farmer's Market. Just as I was stuck between the excitement of chunky sweaters and the lament of losing fresh produce, I read this poem.

Once, in the cool blue middle of a lake,
up to my neck in that most precious element of all,

I found a pale-gray, curled-upwards pigeon feather
floating on the tension of the water

at the very instant when a dragonfly,
like a blue-green iridescent bobby pin,

hovered over it, then lit, and rested.
That's all.

I mention this in the same way
that I fold the corner of a page

in certain library books,
so that the next reader will know

where to look for the good parts. + Tony Hoagland

Turning of the seasons is like little reset buttons, mini-New-Year's-resolution reminders and I love that about the new seasons. But, and, yet--this poem reminds me that in the here and now, God is giving us little gifts so that we might respond to today instead of waiting for tomorrow.

Just the other day, I was in the yard ashamed of how weedy our front yard is, but as I began to weed, I found tucked up next to the house a 4 ft. tall heirloom tomato plant. It was growing in the shadow of a bush, so it only had one tomato on it. As I write this, it is still green, but new flowers are starting to turn into little fruits because we propped it up and tied the plant to the porch so it can get some sunlight.

One day someone or some bird haphazardly plopped an heirloom tomato in a terrible place to the side of our porch. It grew against all odds: no one knew it was there to water when the drought was here. No one knew to give it sun or impatiently, gleefully watch the plant anticipating its fruit. It just took time, day by day to try and see what it could grow.

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MY GREATEST POSSESSION

By Joe Calarco

Two questions: What are my possessions? What could I not live without? I own a beautiful brick Tudor home on a creek. I own a 2014 car. I own stuff. Friends of ours lost everything in a house fire: clothes, pictures on the wall, family albums, furniture, books, everything. Yet, they survived, rebuilt, and went forward with their lives. I would like to think that I could do the same. All of our earthly possessions are merely on loan from God.

In "Walden" Henry David Thoreau built a one room cabin and lived in it for two years to fulfill his desire to "live life simply." His theme throughout his life was to "Simplify, Simplify." A similar quote, attributed to both Gandhi and Mother Teresa, is "Live simply, so that others may simply live." When is enough, enough? It is never enough. It's true, "Less is More." The older I become, the less important possessions become. As the Shaker hymn goes, "'Tis a gift to be simple, 'tis a gift to be free."

Thus, I have my hopes for a possession-free life, to be simple and free. So, what do I value in life? My family is, of course, the people I love the most. What is wealth without health? My creed is "Health is wealth." My memories of my experiences and people in my life are also valuable to me. I am keeping a prayer book of requests from others. The number one request for prayer is for "peace of mind."

How do I/we achieve peace of mind? It all leads us back to Faith in God. "Seek first the Kingdom of God, and all these things will be given unto you." My prized possessions? Faith and hope in a loving God is my greatest gift. What could I not live without? Salvation for eternity. My legacy that I would hope to leave for my children and grandchildren is not my possessions, but my faith.

From Our Pastor (continued from page 1)

This feels very spiritual to me, like God in the form of a tomato plant. It feels very Gospel to me, like Jesus reminding his followers to notice the unnoticed instead of trying to get ahead for your own profit.

As we linger between the seasonal start of football and late summer harvest, my prayer for us is that we notice the dragonflies and tomatoes of today, giving praise for the God who does not wait for us to be better but is here with us constantly.



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Tom and Betsy White Recently Returned from a Trip to Alaska.



We flew to Fairbanks. Spent a day touring the city including the Ice Museum, the Pioneer Village and the riverfront park. Next was three days in Denali National Park. The drive there was amazing – largely wilderness with high green mountains on either side accented by deep river gorges. In Denali we were treated to a very rare site – a view of Mt. Denali. According to Park Rangers, only about 30 percent of the visitors to the park actually get to see the mountain. Because the area around it is protected wilderness, views of the mountain are from 70 to 80 miles away. We were very excited to see it. We also saw all the wildlife one could ask for, Caribou, Moose, Dall Sheep, Golden Eagles, Prairie Dog, Beaver. We also spent some time on ATV adventure paths surrounded by the most amazing mountains and scenery. Before leaving Denali National Park we went on our first river raft ride. Let's just say it was the coldest adventure and the longest 11 miles we have ever endured. Again, the scenery was beautiful despite my chattering teeth!

Next up was a bubble top train ride to Anchorage. Miles of gorgeous wilderness, mountains, streams, and rivers dotted by the occasional Caribou and Moose. After a wonderful meal in Anchorage, we boarded another bubble top train to head to Whittier. At Whittier we boarded the Nieuw Statendam cruise ship that would take us through Glacier National Park and the Inside Passage down to Vancouver.

In Glacier National Park we took a ferry boat right up to the Hubbard Glacier. The glacier is such a bright blue due to the density of the ice. We saw a bear on the shore then sea otters. Harbor seals and Stellar sea lions dotting the ice floes around the glacier. The cruise ship then traveled past several other glaciers including the Turner and the Hatch glaciers. All are amazing to see.

Next on the cruise agenda was a stop in Skagway. Here, we took a train ride from shore up into the mountains following the path the gold seekers took to the Yukon. The views were incredible and we crossed the Canadian/USA border. The trestles built for the trains as long ago as the 19th century are amazing feats of engineering and are still being used.

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Tom and Betsy White... (continued from page 3)

Next stop on the cruise was Juneau. Juneau is the capital of Alaska and can only be reached by boat or plane. There are no bridges to the mainland since it is all wilderness on the mainland. This is the same for Skagway and Ketchikan. In Juneau we got our first glimpse of Bald Eagles and we took a



whale watching boat trip. We were fortunate to find a pod of 5 Humpback whales. They did a feeding technique called bubble net feeding. Basically, they all swam in a circle rounding up the fish then at the same time all come to the surface with mouths open to scoop up the fish. It was amazing to see all 5 mouths rise out of the water at the same time, something the guide said was very rare to see. He was as excited as we were! And to top it off, then each whale performed a full breach of the water - "jumping high in the air and splashing back down. Again, the guide was very excited saying that is rarely seen from humpback whales. On the return to shore we found a mama humpback and her calf frolicking in the water - raising their tails and "waving" with their fins. It was a very exciting couple of hours on the water.



Ketchikan was our last stop before Vancouver. In Ketchikan we went on a hike through a wilderness preserve looking for bears. They have constructed wooden, elevated walking paths so that the bears are free to do their thing without interference from tourists. We were fortunate to watch a bear fish for salmon, catch one and carry it off for lunch. Then we made a quick stop at a Raptor preserve where they are housing injured birds hoping to return them to the wild. However, they have a resident Bald Eagle, Barred Owl and Red Tailed Hawk that will never be able to return to the wild. It was nice seeing those birds up close.

Our last day was in Vancouver. Here we took in some of the sites on a hop-on-hop-off bus, went to the top of the observation tower, watched the steam operated clock do its thing and enjoyed a wonderful meal at Earl's.

All in all, it was an amazing trip. On the flight home from Vancouver our pilot continued our touring by pointing out landmarks we were flying over which included a view of Mt. Ranier with Mt. St. Helens behind it. We were very fortunate in that all our flights took off on time, landed early and our luggage arrived with us every time.



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September 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				NA Fellowship Hall 8 PM		We're at the Farmer's Market 10-1
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Communion Deacon's Meeting after Coffee Hour				NA Fellowship Hall 8 PM		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
				NA Fellowship Hall 8 PM Session meeting 6 PM		Food Pantry 10-12 Highway Cleanup 10:30 Farmer's Market 10-1
	19	20	21	22	23	24
We See Sunday School Collection ends				NA Sanctuary 8 PM		
25	26	27	28	29	30	

MISSION YARD SALE

Do you remember that we said we needed lots of help for the yard sale? Thank you for listening! With the help of so many who worked setting up, picking up, donating, and selling merchandise we did very well and had a little fun along the way. Thanks to you our total as of this writing is **\$1,136.20**.



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Prayer List

Gina Waite Platt
Donna Heintzman

Dick Ackley
Dick Watt

Judy Sumption
Scott Foley

Joe Dolce
Michelle Patterson

Zachary Dloniak
Charles & Carrie Divine

Deb Harris
Sandy McBride

Adrianna Rodriguez
Susie Harris

Steven
Jordan Mendyk

Tracy
Ron Scaccia

Amanda
Bill Kuykendall



September Anniversaries

4 Frank Valente & Brittany Sanford 2022

8 Eric & Lauri Zebracki 1985

September Birthdays

1 Linda Malcolm

4 Erin Bennett
Audra Comerford
Tom Van Dette



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

Please keep in your prayers our Local Partners in Ministry: Narcotics Anonymous and Compeer Chautauqua.

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



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Collection of School Supplies

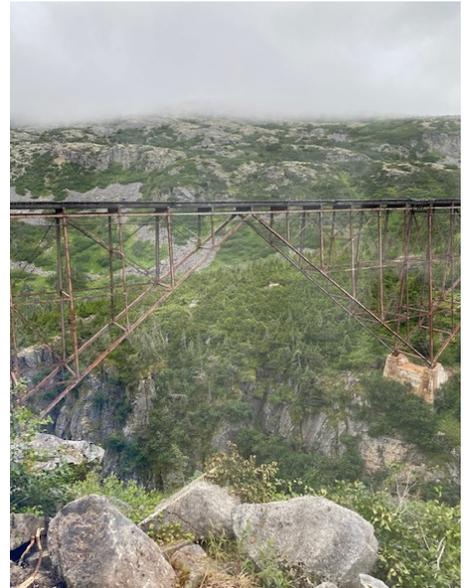
This year our collection will be supporting School 3 in Dunkirk and The Ahira Hall Memorial Library in Brocton.

School 3 is now a primary school and all of Dunkirk's Pre-K through 3rd graders will be in attendance. The Ahira Library will be losing funding in September and they could really use some help trying to maintain their children's programming. Besides the items listed, the library is hoping to enlist folks who have musical talent or a skill/craft they would be willing to share with students in an after school program.

Similar items are needed by the school and library.

- Composition notebooks
- Glue sticks
- Dry erase markers
- Pencil boxes
- Crayons (24 count or big crayons for little fingers)
- Coloring books
- Manipulatives - Play-Doh, large foam dice (educational items that children could take home and use with their families)
- Prizes for a prize bin (bubbles, balls, games)
- T-shirts (sizes 4-8 that could be used as prizes) [School 3 only]
- Socks and underwear (sizes 4-8) [School 3 only]
- Shelf stable snacks [Ahira Hall only]
- Juice boxes [Ahira Hall only]

Keep your EYES and EARS open for news about the **Feeding Fredonia Challenge** coming in October.



Highway Cleanup September 17 at 10:30 AM

This is another fun activity (like the yard sale) that gives you an opportunity to do something good for our community.

Meet at the Sheridan Liquor Store parking lot on the corner of 39 and 20.

Please bring a water bottle, sunscreen, and gloves.

The terrain will not be as rough as the Alaska picture above but wear clothes that can handle muck and thick grass.

Helmets, bags, and reflector vests will be provided.

Images from Bing.
Photographs courtesy of Carol Groat and Betsy White.

Fredonia Presbyterian Church
219 Central Avenue
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