

The Fonda Reformed Church January Newsletter

Musings in the Interim

WHO DID THAT?

Must we keep thinking about Sin after Advent and Christmas have come and gone? Can't we lighten up a bit? A new year is beginning, the Christ Child has come, and we are ready to be rejuvenated by the Greatest Story Ever Told. To hear the Story, however, we must grasp its import for our present life.

There was an article in the New York Times some time back on smallpox - that it has been declared eliminated, and that the continuing discussion is over whether the two remaining sets of stock of smallpox virus in Atlanta and Moscow should be destroyed or not. The pro destruction side notes that while they exist, they can be stolen by terrorists or otherwise get loose. The con destruction side says we may not be 100% sure it's gone and anyhow who knows what research needs we might have in the future. It was an interesting article, with much to speculate about.

My theological speculations were not caught by the main issue, however. As a throwaway line, to fill up a block of print perhaps, were these words: "The last known case of smallpox was recorded in 1978, about when the AIDS virus was being discovered".

Is this coincidental? Every self respecting 21st century scientist would say yes. AIDS and smallpox have nothing do with one another. There can be no connection. Every self respecting medieval theologian, however, would see an obvious connection. In that understanding of our world, we live in a world under attack by Satan. And Satan likes nothing better than making God's world a miserable place. So when people solve one world class problem, Satan creates another.

There is not space here to deal with Satan and what the devil can mean in our modern world. But we can perhaps ask the necessary first question: Is the devil a creation of medieval moonshine? The Bible doesn't think so. We do have a rather foolish habit of rejecting as superstition proposals about the truth of our existence that we find hard to explain. Yet simply because no one now sees elves, dwarves, angels, or souls does not mean such things aren't there or weren't there in days gone by. In short, the medieval view of a world under attack may be more accurate than the modern notion that we are alone and "unmessed with" by supernatural forces. We may indeed live in a world of Sin - of Principalities and Powers.

An answer on the devil does not much affect how we live. Medieval or Modern, we all seek solutions to the woes that beset us. Some solutions are found, some are not. But an answer - along with Christmas - deeply effects why we live. If the meaning of life is no more than winning by dying with the most toys, then it does not mean very much.

Christians believe life is more than woes and toys and that it takes place on a bigger stage than the small spot we currently occupy. Expressions of that belief are part of life each Lord's Day at morning worship. I look forward to seeing you in your place at FRC. A Blessed Epiphany!

Rett Zabriskie

Fresh Uncertainties & Challenges by Betsy Marshall



The holidays are over, but do you have the joy in your heart? With all the anticipation of the coming of Christmas, Many find an emptiness in their hearts when the day has passed. Why do so many place so much importance on one day's events instead of the peace that Christmas can truly bring? Seasons and celebrations come and go, but God's love is ever with us. His love never changes.

January 2020 is upon us. A fresh new year lies ahead, but that being said... along with it comes more expectations, challenges and unresolved issues. Certainly it is wonderful to think only of the positive in our lives, but so often the opposite seems to put a cloud over our heads. The fresh challenges and uncertainties that are like an unopened gift left behind from Christmas can make anyone anxious about the coming year.

During December I read a small book, THE CHRISTMAS JAR. It had a wonderful message and made me ponder about making a GOD'S GIFTS JAR. God is always near, ready to comfort you when little things seem ever consuming. He is a light in the darkness; a calm in the storm. Here is an idea I want to share with you.

Find an empty quart size jar, dish or box. You can decorate it in an inviting way. Cut some colorful slips of paper and write the following verse locations on the strips, one on each paper.

Matthew 11:23
 Matthew 28 19-20
 Romans 15:13
 Philippians 4:13
 Corinthians 4:8-9
 Jeremiah 29 11-13
 Proverbs 3-5
 John 14:27
 Matthew 6:1-33
 Psalm 55:22
 Proverbs 4:29
 John 16:33
 Colossians 1:11-12
 Matthew 7:7-11

Place the strips in your container. When you need to find a sense of calm in the middle of a frustrating day, remove one of the strips and read the verse that is mentioned. I hope that God's message of love will give you a new sense of peace and help guide you through your difficulties. You can add your own favorite verses if you wish.

Carry the meaning of Christmas with you each and every day. I hope you make your own jar and God's gifts bless you each and every day in the year ahead. I will be taking some time off in the year ahead, but know that you are all important to me, and I treasure your friendship and support. Till I pick up my pen again, MAY THE LORD BLESS YOU AND YOURS IN THE COMING YEAR.

Yours in Christian Love,

Betsy Marshall

Outreach Ministry

January 2020

We are hoping that 2020 will be the year you become a part of one of the wonderful ministries of the Fonda Reformed Church. Your interest and new ideas can really add so much in making these ministries even better. We look forward to your input, as members of the congregation and it's communities.

The Outreach Ministry is looking forward to enhancing our ministry and different ways to reach out to others, but we need your help. Please see a member of the Outreach Ministry if you would like an overview of this ministry. We would love to have each of you join us, as we make plans for 2020.

With your help and that of the Ecumenical Food Pantry, we were able to provide food baskets and gift certificates to Aldi's for (20) families during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Thank you for supporting this and all of the outreach efforts.

Each year, you have generously helped us reach out to children in our area, by providing Christmas gifts to so many children through "Adopt an Angel". Your generosity and willingness to help these children and their families is greatly appreciated. Thank you to Cindy and Lymon Barnett for your dedication to this worthy cause.



During January, we invite you to help us decorate the "Mitten Tree" with mittens, gloves, hats and scarves you make yourselves or can purchase. We sincerely appreciate your help in providing these warm mittens and hats to those in need.

Our next Outreach Ministry meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 8th in Fellowship Hall. Please note: In the event of bad weather, we may need to cancel. Call Kathie (518)853-3330 for cancellations or anytime if you have any questions.

Happy New Year to you and your family from the Outreach Ministry!

Churches Learning Change

“Help for the Journey”

We are all on a journey. And on this journey, we learn, we struggle, we grow, and hopefully we become more of who God wants us to be – our best selves, fully alive. We are not alone on this journey. Of course, God is with us. “God with us” is the very truth of Christmas. We also need people, and people need us, to become fully alive.

There is a small group from our church family who have made a commitment to each other to be intentional about this journeying process – to hold one another accountable, to pray together, to listen without judgment, to dream together, to speak with courage and honesty, to be willing to be transparent.

These are definitely not easy things to do and honestly not the ways I generally show up to church, my job, meetings, or even to my relationships with family and friends. I am not so great at courage or transparency. I don't think the church in general is great at these ways of being either. We would rather hide our true selves, allow people to know just what we want them to know of us, shrink away from conflict, and from love-filled honesty that would, in the end, lead us to “better.” And we would rather find problems or inconsistencies outside of ourselves so we don't have to focus on our own.

Authenticity, integrity, courage, self-reflection, active listening, transparency, saying what is so – these are some of the principles of Churches Learning Change (CLC). In other words, these are the practices that lead to congregational transformation. And it starts with our own personal renewal. I joined the CLC team because I wanted to work on being authentic. I wanted my secret/private self to match my public self. I wanted to be a person of greater integrity. Maybe that is a selfish reason to be a part of a church team, but maybe not since the only person I am able to change is myself. We cannot expect anything or anyone to be different if we aren't willing to change ourselves. However, our hope as a CLC team is that our working on and learning personal renewal will also positively impact the church as a whole.

We will do our best to be visible and to communicate with you through the newsletter, our worship times, and in one-on-one conversations. We seek your prayers for us as a CLC team (Troy Chatwin, Gretchen Subik, Dave DeLaney, Bonnie Kruger, Deb Silvernail, Karen Patterson and Pastor Rett). Please pray that we will live out these practices/vows. Pray for wisdom and direction as we dream up ways to positively impact our church and community. And pray for our church during this unique and hard time of transition and healing, that we might keep our eyes fixed on the God calling and equipping us to be fully alive.



PANCAKE & FRENCH TOAST BREAKFAST

Town of Mohawk Fire Department is holding their Pancake and French Toast Breakfast from 7am - noon at the Town of Mohawk Fire Department January 12th, February 9th and March 8th. Price is \$8 for adults, \$4 children (7-12) & free for children 6 & under. Come on over and support the T.O.M. Fire Dept!!



Good Taste

Inspirational Speaker—Mary Elfasser

*Monday, January 13, 2020 * 11:30 a.m.*

*Holiday Inn * Route 30A * N. Comrie Avenue * Johnstown*

\$17.50 (Pay at the door.)

Lasagna or Turkey Sandwich with Soup

Rolls, Dessert, and Coffee or Tea

Complimentary childcare is available upon request at time of reservation.

For reservations, call Gloria 518-853-3126 or

women2connect@yahoo.com.

Sponsored by CHRISTIAN WOMEN CONNECTING

Recipe Exchange & Apron Parade

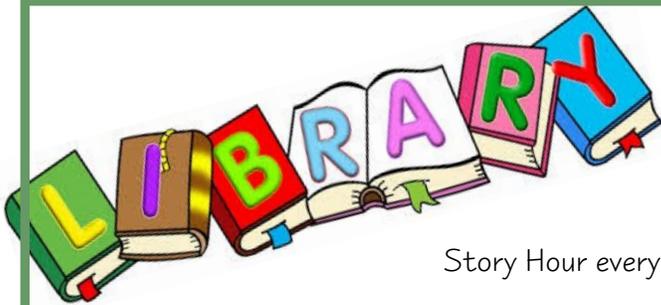
Prizes will be awarded for the Funniest, Most Original, Oldest, and Most Colorful Aprons!

Open Mic Night on Saturday January 18th

Fultonville Courthouse 10 Erie Street at 6:30pm

For questions reach out to Tom Staudle or Cosby Gibson

**Open
Mic
Night**



The Frothingham Free Library

28 West Main Street, Fonda

(518)853-3016

Story Hour every Tuesday at 11am includes stories, crafts, singing, and fun

For additional information, find us at BlogSpot & Facebook – Like us on Facebook!

Library Hours - Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 11am – 7pm,

Friday 12 – 7pm, Saturday 9am – 1pm

Children must be accompanied by an adult to any library program.

The way you live your days is the way you live your life!

MAKE MOMENTS MATTER

What are you doing this year or in the new year that will affect your future?

What are you doing this month to grow your ability?

What are you doing this week to make a difference in someone's life?

What are you doing today to savor the gift of life God has given us?

To realize the value of ONE YEAR, ask a student who failed a grade.

To realize the value of ONE MONTH, ask a mother who gave birth to a premature baby.

To realize the value of ONE WEEK, ask the editor of a weekly newspaper.

To realize the value of ONE HOUR, ask the lovers who are waiting to meet.

To realize the value of ONE MINUTE, ask a traveler who just missed a flight.

To realize the value of ONE SECOND, ask the driver who just avoided a car accident.

To realize the value of ONE MILLISECOND, ask the athlete who won a silver medal at the Olympics.

If life is truly just a vapor, treasure every moment you have.

You might not have a white flag indicating your last lap on the racetrack of life,
but I encourage you to live like it's your last go-around and savor every turn! Ready? Set. Go!

Written by Bianca Olthoff

Faithwalking 101

Coming soon to Camp Fowler – Speculator, NY 1/26-1/28.

Please consider coming and attending this marvelous retreat. This is a fantastic opportunity to work on your relationship with God. As you participate you will discover your true self and see the areas that you desire to make changes and impact the world through Christ. This workshop will show you areas that stand as obstacles of living a mission for Christ by focusing on spiritual formation, inner healing an emotional maturity and missional living. Faithwalking is the beginning of seeing your past and present life experience through how God has shaped your life for service

Faithwalking is a spiritual formation process where people are increasingly following the way of Jesus, experiencing ongoing transformation, and developing effective practices for missional living: serving the poor, the marginalized, and those in need; working for the common good; and restoring individuals, social systems, communities, and nations to God's intended design.

Through teaching and coaching, leaders are empowered to equip their communities to live the fully human, fully alive life that Jesus lived.

This seminar is offered at no charge, as the church has received a grant from the Albany Synod to cover expenses. Please prayerfully consider attending.

For more information contact a member of the Churches Learning Change Group – Troy Chatwin, Bonnie Krugar, Debbie Silvernail, Gretchen Subik, Dave Delaney, Karen Patterson or Pastor Rett.



DID YOU KNOW we are working on emailing the newsletter **to those that prefer the computer screen to paper**. If that is you and you would like your newsletter EMAILED please just send an email to **fondareformedchurch@yahoo.com**

In the email please place newsletter in the subject line, include your name and let us know if you no longer want the paper one sent. Each month the PDF file of our newsletter can be sent right to your inbox!



*Praise team practices every Wednesday at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary.
If you are blessed with the gift of music we would love to have you join us!*



HEY LADIES!

BIBLE STUDY Tuesday evenings at 7:00pm in Fellowship Hall

Anyone can join any time!

We usually have 10-15 ladies that love to laugh and share.

We will be starting John Ortberg - God is Closer than you think. This bible study promises to show us ways to connect with God, sense his presence and direction for our lives. This study will show us how to enjoy a joyful vibrant, moment-by-moment relationship with our heavenly Father.

"This can be the greatest moment of your life because this moment is the place where you can meet God".

Please invite a friend and come join the fun.

For more information please contact Sherrie Gray (518)332-2512

HEY FELLAS! MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

**Men's bible study meets every Friday morning
at 6:15 in the meeting room.**

If you have any questions please contact David Patterson



Adult Bible Study

Sunday mornings at 9:30am before worship

Early Riser Group

Every Saturday at 6:00 am at the church.

No long term commitment or homework required!

Come when you can.

We are working on putting Jesus first before all the other "business of life." Contact Deb Silvernail for details.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Bonnie Jo Kruger
- 5 Alex Pedrick
- 6 Hank Nare
- 9 Liane Lewis
- 10 William Kruger
- 13 Ronald Wilmot III
- 16 Carolyn Whipple
- 19 Karen Patterson , Terry Kimball & Russel Pedrick, Jr.
- 21 Sidney Vanderbilt
- 23 Jack Adams
- 24 Phillip Boshart, Jr.
- 25 Ashlee Carpenter-Bryant
- 26 Linda Sambuca & Michael Wilmot
- 28 Rob Garren & Penny Pollock
- 29 Brooke Carpenter
- 30 Micah Kimball
- 31 Brenda Wilmot & Clark Subik

January Scripture Readers

Readers are always needed and appreciated! If you're interested in reading please sign up on the list in the foyer outside of the sanctuary.



January Coffee Hour Hosts

Hosts are always needed and appreciated. Please consider signing up with a friend or a group of people to host a coffee hour. The sign up list is in the foyer outside of the sanctuary.



January Potluck 1/19

Following church service please join us for a wonderful meal. Come and join us for taste of Soup, Chili, Chowder or Boulliabaissees. Bring your favorite dish to pass- we will also be looking for breads, cornbread and deserts. We will be packing take out containers in the kitchen for anyone that needs a little extra warmth this winter. This is a wonderful time to fellowship and get to know some truly wonderful people.

We apologize if we missed your birthday or anniversary.

If we did, it probably means we don't have it.

Please let the Church Office know of birthdays or anniversaries to be included, or if any of the information needs to be corrected.

Office (518)853-3621 or email fondareformedchurch@yahoo.com

Still Looking for Resolution Ideas? Here are 50 to Get You Thinking

Faith

1. Read your Bible 20 min/day
2. Join a Bible study
3. Increase your tithing
4. Volunteer at church
5. Attend a conference or retreat
6. Memorize 12 Scripture verses

Marriage

7. Go on 12 date nights
8. Pray together each night
9. Read a marriage book together
10. Connect with a mentor couple
11. Have more sex
12. Find a new hobby you both enjoy

Parenting

13. Schedule weekly 1-on-1 time
14. Stop yelling or nagging
15. Start a new morning routine
16. Reinforce the rules more consistently
17. Take a family vacation
18. Limit screen time to 30 min a day

Home

19. Tidy up every night before bed
20. Declutter all the junk
21. Deep clean all the forgotten spaces
22. Finish up old home projects
23. Finish a renovation or remodel

Friendships

24. Host a girls' night out once a month
25. Make 3 new friends
26. Cut ties with toxic friends
27. Share your struggles honestly
28. Stop gossiping

Health

29. Exercise 3x a week
30. Stop eating after 9pm
31. Get 8 hours of sleep every night
32. Drink 4 glasses of water a day
33. Lose 10 pounds
34. Switch to natural soaps/make-up

Work

35. Read 1 work-related book a month
36. Learn a new work-related skill
37. Find ways to streamline mundane tasks
38. Get more organized
39. Get a new job, promotion or raise

Financial Situation

40. Create a budget (and stick to it!)
41. Eat at home 6 nights/week
42. Bring in an extra \$500 a month
43. Reduce bills by \$200 a month
44. Save for a large purchase
45. Pay off student loan or credit card debt

Self

46. Quit social media
47. Wake up early each day
48. Learn to be more confident
49. See a counselor to address past hurts
50. Address your fears head on

Prayer

Loving God,

I pray that you will comfort me in my suffering, lend skill to the hands of my healers, and bless the means used for my cure. Give me such confidence in the power of your grace, that even when I am afraid, I may put my whole trust in you; through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen

Please Pray for individuals with various health concerns:

- Jeanne Streeter
- Stacy Kimball
- Marilyn Kimball
- Rick Tylutki (Heart health)
- Ernie Brookings
- James Santangelo (Bev Guiffre)
- Sue Swanson (Jeanne Streeter)
- Bob Langdon
- Sebastian Lasher (Rob Garren)
- Jeff Hawley (Jeanne Streeter)
- Deana Smith (Bev Guiffre)
- Cathy Waite (Sally Emery)
- Lisa Knapp (Pete Perez)
- James Pearce (Gloria Kimball)
- Steve Urbanczyk (Blackwood)
- Theresa Conbeer (K. Carpenter)
- Bill Coons (Phyllis Healey)
- Nicole Tobey (Maureen White)
- Carla Goodwin (Tina Belfance)
- Carol Buddles (M. White)
- Richard Persse (B. Marshall)
- Kenneth White (M. White)
- Louise Boyer
- Bill Whipple
- Scott McLean
- Lois Brockey (K. Patterson)
- Melody VanNostrand (S. Gray)
- Rebecca Finn (Gloria Kimball)
- LaVern Jones Sr.
- Cherie Craig (M. White)
- Patty Banks (Maureen White)
- Paul Frasier
- Betty Hernigle (Sally Emery's Sister)
- Francis Winkler (G. Subik)
- Alice Richer (C. Henry)
- Sheri Humphrey (Cancer)
- Brette Lee Wilson Zayicek (Stage 4 brain tumor)
- Sarah Woodcock
- Joan Francisco
- Whitney Helwick (Sally Emery)
- Drew Hale
- Phala Chatwin
- Harold Jacobsma

Please continue to pray for those who grieve

Please pray for our missions:

Haven of Hope Farm & Residence
The Ford family serving in Lebanon
The Lampens serving in Romania

Other prayer requests:

Our Shut-ins
Students
Ministries of our church
Government leaders
Our service men and women, and their families
Family & friends separated from Jesus Christ
Those who are struggling through hardships.

*For each new morning with its light,
for rest and shelter of the night,
for health and food,
for love and friends,
for everything, Thy goodness sends.*

*For food in a world where many walk in hunger;
For faith in a world where many walk in fear;
For friends in a world where many walk alone;
We give you thanks, O Lord*

If you would like to add someone to the prayer list or know that someone can be taken off please let the church office know (518)853-3621 or email fondareformedchurch@yahoo.com Thank you.

January

Wednesday	1		HAPPY NEW YEAR
Thursday	2	12 - 1 pm	Fonda Food Pantry open
Friday	3	6:15 am	Men's Prayer Group - Cussler Center
Saturday	4	6:00 am	Early Risers Prayer Group
Sunday	5	9:30 am 9:30 am 10:30 am 11:45 am 2-4:00 pm	Adult Bible Study Sunday School Worship/Communion Coffee Hour Girl Scouts
Monday	6	8:30am 6-7:30pm	Moms Morning Out Girl Scouts—Fellowship Hall
Tuesday	7	10:30 am 7:00 pm	Glen-Mohawk Seniors - Fellowship Hall Ladies Bible Study
Wednesday	8	8:30 am 4:30-6 pm 6:30 pm 7:00 pm	Mom's Morning Out Fonda Food Pantry open Outreach Praise Practice
Thursday	9	12 - 1 pm	Fonda Food Pantry open
Friday	10	6:15 am 8:30 am	Men's Prayer Group - Cussler Center Mom's Morning Out
Saturday	11	6:00 am 9:00 am	Early Risers Prayer Group Odyssey of the minds
Sunday	12	9:30 am 9:30 am 10:30 am 11:45 am	Adult Bible Study Sunday School Worship Coffee Hour
Monday	13	8:30am 6-7:30pm	Moms Morning Out Girl Scouts—Fellowship Hall
Tuesday	14	10:30 am 7:00 pm	Glen-Mohawk Seniors - Fellowship Hall Ladies Bible Study
Wednesday	15	8:30 am 4:30-6 pm 7:00 pm	Mom's Morning Out Fonda Food Pantry open Praise Practice

January

Thursday	16	12 - 1 pm	Fonda Food Pantry open
Friday	17	6:15 am 8:30 am	Men's Prayer Group - Cussler Center Mom's Morning Out
Saturday	18	6:00 am	Early Risers Prayer Group
Sunday	19	9:30 am 9:30 am 10:30 am 11:45 am	Adult Bible Study Sunday School Worship/Communion POTLUCK!
Monday	20	8:30am 6-7:30pm	Moms Morning Out Girl Scouts—Fellowship Hall
Tuesday	21	10:30 am 7:00 pm	Glen-Mohawk Seniors - Fellowship Hall Ladies Bible Study
Wednesday	22	8:30 am 4:30-6 pm 7:00 pm	Mom's Morning Out Fonda Food Pantry open Praise Practice
Thursday	23	12 - 1 pm	Fonda Food Pantry open
Friday	24	6:15 am 8:30 am	Men's Prayer Group - Cussler Center Mom's Morning Out
Saturday	25	6:00 am	Early Risers Prayer Group
Sunday	26	9:30 am 9:30 am 10:30 am 11:45 am	Adult Bible Study Sunday School Worship/Communion Coffee Hour
Monday	27	8:30am 6-7:30pm	Moms Morning Out Girl Scouts—Fellowship Hall
Tuesday	28	10:30 am 7:00 pm	Glen-Mohawk Seniors - Fellowship Hall Ladies Bible Study
Wednesday	29	8:30 am 4:30-6 pm 7:00 pm	Mom's Morning Out Fonda Food Pantry open Praise Practice
Thursday	30	12 - 1 pm	Fonda Food Pantry open
Friday	31	6:15 am 8:30 am	Men's Prayer Group - Cussler Center Mom's Morning Out