

The Fonda Reformed Church February Newsletter

Musings in the Interim

News for You

Remember the “Good Old Days” before churches had newsletters? How did we find out things? In the church of my youth, the Ladies Aid Society met every Monday morning, beginning with bible study, coffee, and - for those who wished - continuing through the day into the Quilters Club. Not only did these women provide all of the content of our church life that was not Sunday Morning Worship, they ensured that the participants needed for the various aspects of church life both knew about it and showed up. The proverbial alien from Mars would have had no clue as to what was producing all this activity as there were few if any physical elements or remainders. (We had no church bulletins either - who needs such a thing when the liturgy is set and the minister tells us what to do?) He would have returned to his little spaceship puzzled, perhaps suspecting they were all either robots or magicians.

Times change. Now we have not only bulletins and newsletters, we have websites and FaceBook, and SMS and email. And still, we announce things in church on Sunday morning. Community life requires communication, but the method and content of that communication changes - now more rapidly than ever before. It is now easier than it ever was to spend a lot of time, effort, and money to get no observable result at all. The Saturday New York Times had nearly a full page of listings of religious services, led by the largest ad on the page by the Marble Collegiate Church, from the 1930's until the early 2000's. Now there is no such page and no such listings. The churches are all still functioning, but newspaper ads add nothing. And when was the last time you looked at paper Yellow Pages for anything? Indeed, do you even have such a paper book in your house? Who would think spending money today to put Fonda Reformed Church in the Yellow Pages was a good idea?

For FRC, the day has come to wonder about the use and effectiveness of our printed newsletter. There are the obvious up front issues - we spend money on a mailing permit, we need to mail 200+ to use the permit, and paper and production time cost money as well. The effectiveness of a print newsletter is also a question: does it communicate to folk who otherwise would not know about church life?

The effectiveness question is not answerable just now, so a newsletter is going to continue. But the cost factor has some much more clear parameters. The suggestion is that we move FRC from a print newsletter to an electronic one, thereby saving the costs of mailing and paper. And an electronic newsletter has some advantages that print never has, not least the ability to access the information at will when it is needed.

You will find information elsewhere in this newsletter about how we are going to proceed. Care will be taken to provide a printed newsletter to those few in our congregation who are not able to access an electronic one. And who knows, perhaps some young person whose sole source of information is the electronic world might find there the beginning thread that leads to God.

Rett Zabriskie

This new method of newsletter delivery is a learning experience for us, so we thank you for your patience as we work out the details. The end goal is to find a way that best serves our congregation in regards to distributing the newsletter.

At this moment the March newsletter is planned to be our last bulk mailing. This does not mean we are no longer mailing, but only mailing to those who have specifically requested to receive the newsletter that way. If you don't let us know you're interested in receiving a paper newsletter by mail, the March newsletter will be the last you'll receive that way.

If you prefer the computer screen to paper, please send an email to fondareformedchurch@yahoo.com. In the email please place "newsletter" in the subject line, and let us know you'd prefer an emailed newsletter to a mailed paper copy. Each month the PDF file of our newsletter will be sent right to your inbox. Choosing both email and paper mail is an option, too.

After the March newsletter, we are also planning on having paper newsletters available to be picked up in church. If we don't hear from you, this will be the method you've chosen to get the newsletter. Please let us know your delivery preference by contacting us in one of the following ways. Again, if we don't hear from you, that will mean you're choosing to pick up a newsletter at church.

Call: (518) 853-3621

Email: fondareformedchurch@yahoo.com

Snail mail: Newsletter

PO Box 536

Fonda, NY 12068

Thank you again for your patience!

Cara



Outreach Ministry February 2020

We are grateful for your support and generosity as we, (the Fonda Reformed Church) reach out to area communities and the world at large. The Outreach Ministry welcomes your opinions and constructive critique as we move forward with events for 2020. We have been discussing new ideas and ways to improve/change some of our ongoing events. As Christians, we need to "know" God and to reach outside of our pews. Each one of us have the ability to be HIS hands and feet. Let's move forward with "clear intent" to serve God and to serve others.

The Mitten Tree is just one example of your generosity and we sincerely thank you.

Hats and mittens completely covered the tree and students at F.F.C.S. and people visiting the Ecumenical Food Pantry will benefit. Thank you!

We will NOT be meeting in February, but you are welcome to contact Kathie Carpenter (518) 853-3330 or any member of the Outreach Ministry if you have or would like more information regarding this ministry. Please know that you're always welcome to join us for meetings or any of the events we sponsor.

Our next Outreach Ministry meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 4th in Fellowship Hall. *Please note*** We will cancel in the event of bad weather.**

Expect the Unexpected by Betsy Marshall

Have you ever noticed your heartbeat comes in twos? Thump thump... thump thump. It's a partnership; hand in hand it beats through out the day, day in & day out. You breath...inhale/ exhale... inhale/ exhale. Something gets in your eye and you blink; open/ close...open/close. Yes, things happen in twos.

Likewise life comes with its ups & downs. Seems to be when you least expect it, the inevitable comes, and the rug gets pulled out from under you. How do you deal with it? I'm not always good at accepting the unexpected. I get angry, vent... then try to pick up the pieces. My mom use to say TAKE A DEEP BREATH! INHALE. EXHALE. That's all well and good, but after the dust settles the issue is still there. What then?

Christmas and New Year's had it's challenges for certain. My patience was definitely pushed to the limits. It just seemed that everyday the unexpected pushed me to The limits. The more things that happened unexpectedly, the more annoyed I became. Illness came and left, lost items were found, broken items were replaced and I got through my "less is more" holidays. Honestly, I can't say I want a repeat of the last 4 weeks, but I survived.

I tried to remind myself that "this too shall pass." Guess what? It did!! One night in the midst of my "unexpectedly happenings", I took out a pad and started writing down things that were blessings in my life. Before you know it, my anger subsided and I started to feel my blood pressure go down. I still missed things that had not come to pass, but realized that I could get on without them. Next day I visited friends and family and tried to be a positive force in the lives of others. The more I allowed myself to be positive; the more positive I became. Funny how that happens.

Sometimes you just need to expect the unexpected!! Yes, there will be disappointments in life, but the good news is there will also be unexpected joys in life too. Often these joys are right there before our eyes, but we are too consumed by the "stuff of life" to even see what it right before us. I tend to be an authority on that.

After one very upsetting day, I sat in the front room and just stared at the pages of a book I was reading; 30 minutes passed before I managed to get myself out of the "WHY ME " place I was in. I LOOKED OUT THE WINDOW AND NOTICED BIG WHITE FLUFFY SNOWFLAKES FLOATING DOWN FROM THE HEAVENS. God was sending me a message for sure. The otherwise dark evening skies were beautiful. As the streetlight revealed the scenic beauty of SNOWFLAKES dancing hither and yon, my heart felt lighter. So it was. The heavy weight of everyday circumstances suddenly lifted and I smiled. The more I smiled, the better I felt. I bowed my head and thanked God for the wakeup message he had sent me.

EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED. Our Father is ALWAYS with us ..reaching out to calm our anxious hearts. He is always there ready to listen to our needs and wants. Why then don't we not feel his presence? Perhaps we just need to shut out the clamor of everyday life and look for him. Perhaps we need to look up and look for him. He is there, if only we search for him. Perhaps we need to make room for God.

Last night a jar of candle wax spilled on our new carpet. I could hear my mom saying, "Get brown paper and your iron." I stayed calm and did just that. After 30 minutes of applying heat to the brown paper and watching green wax get pulled out of the carpet, the carpet was like new. My patience and calmness has gotten me thru an unexpected circumstance. God can do that for us, if we open our hearts & minds to the possibilities.

One of my favorite songs is "It Is Well With My Soul". Not only is the harmony beautiful, but the words give a message of hope to all those who have a troubled heart. The 23rd Psalm also gives us hope when we are troubled. All our needs and wants are provided thru Him. Just as we are reminded of the Peace, Joy, Hope, & Love that Christmas brings when we light the advent candles. We are assured other God is with us always and will comfort us. Reread the 23rd Psalm and fill your hearts with the greatest promise of all times. Be comforted by these words during your moments of need and despair. There is a God. HE is the best friend you can ever want. HIS unending gifts will be all you need to keep a peaceful heart in 2020 and beyond. Expect unending love and you will find your hearts overflowing.

God loves you & so do I.

Yours in Christ,

Betsy Marshall

The Henry Cussler College Scholarship applications are available

in the Administrative Assistant's office in a folder on the wall labeled "Scholarship Forms"

This scholarship is for a \$500.00 maximum, one time only award.

Please complete the application and attach your 2nd semester college schedule. Please put your completed forms in Nancy Langdon's folder **no later than February 15th**. Please contact Nancy if you have any questions (518) 852-0386

**The Fonda Reformed Church will be serving NOAH on February 16th
If you're interested in serving please contact Pat Brooking.**

If you'd like to read one Sunday, please sign up for the Sunday of your choice in the back of the sanctuary.

American Sewing Guild

A new Neighborhood Group is forming
Carole Martin will be co-leading with Stacey DeLaney.

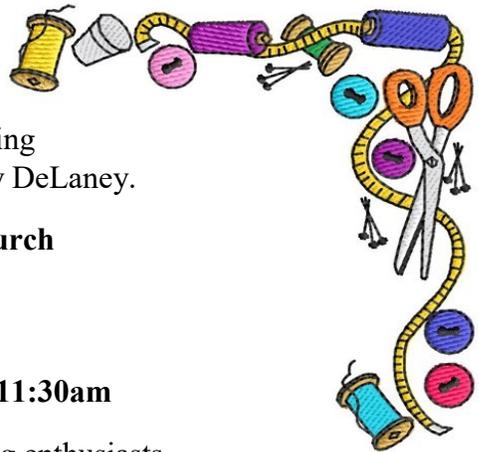
Coming to the Fonda Reformed Church
19-21 Broadway
Fonda, NY

Starting February 15th 2020 from 9:30-11:30am

We will have varied topics of interest for sewing enthusiasts.
Our Schedule of dates is listed below. Our first meeting, along with introductions and icebreakers will include a discussion & video on sewing room organization. Janlynn, from the Quilted Boutique in Colonie will be joining us in April as a guest speaker.

Meeting Dates: February 15th, March 21st, April 18th, May 16th, June 20th, July 18th, August 15th, September 19th, October 17th, November 21st, December 19th

If you would like further information you can email
Carole: aunt.spot@verizon.net
or Stacey: Delaney.stacey1@gmail.com.



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 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 Department!!



Lungs 4 Laughter Fundraiser

February 26th 5-7:30pm at the Broadalbin Hotel.

A fundraiser for Ryan Pickering who grew up in Broadalbin Perth.

He is in need of a second lung transplant and is required to fundraise to meet his transplant requirements. Ryan had his first transplant seven years ago and has since married his beautiful wife Emilie and together have three wonderful children.

The event is \$25 a person kids 8&under are free

The ticket includes live music, house salad, homemade bread, ziti, vodka rigatoni, and meatballs. They are also looking for raffle items and desserts to be donated to the event if anyone is able to help in either way.

Tickets are presale or purchased at the door the night of the event!

Please contact the Broadalbin Hotel if you're interested in helping, donating or attending (518) 883-5414

Journey of the Heart *Inspirational Speaker—Elaine Miller*

*Monday, February 10, 2020 * 11:30 a.m.
Holiday Inn * Route 30A * N. Comrie Avenue * Johnstown
\$17.50 (Pay at the door.)*



**Pot Roast with Roasted Red Potatoes & Carrots
or Honey Mustard Chicken Salad**

Rolls, Dessert, and Coffee or Tea

Music—Linda Edwards

*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

Elaine Miller
An Author's Journey



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!

"God is closer than you think" by John Ortberg.

This 6 week bible study promises to show us ways to connect with God, sense his presence and direction for our lives. Please invite a friend and join us. Typically we have 10-14 ladies from different churches and diverse backgrounds. We have a lot of fun and it is a great way to connect with women in our community.

Feel free to come any Tuesday evening.

During lent services the bible study will be attending Wednesday evening services

For more information contact Sherri Gray (518)332-2512 or Gretchen Subik (518)853-3678

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 (518) 369-3781

Adult Bible Study Sunday mornings at 9:30am-10:15am before worship in the Cussler center. "Meeting Jesus" by Leighton Ford.

This 13 week study draws from the 4 Gospels and gives us a fresh look at the real Jesus. The guide draws on the four books of the gospel tells us the story of Jesus. Please feel free to drop in and join the discussion it is always interesting and this is a great way to kick off the new year spiritually. For more information contact Pastor Rett (210)819-7629 or Sherri Gray (518)332-2512

DIG DEEPER TOGETHER

Early Riser ONLINE Group Every Saturday at 6:00 am No long term commitment or homework required! We are working on putting Jesus first before all the other "business of life." Contact Deb Silvernail for details - dsilvernail@ffcsd.org

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Matilda Zaetz & Joy Haggart
- 5 Tom Persse & Kyle Nare
- 6 Bob Frenyea & Art Marshall
- 7 Rebecca Newkirk
- 8 John Nare II & Carolyn Smith
- 9 Sarah Subik
- 13 Scott Ferris
- 15 Chris Jones & Abigail Douglas
- 16 Amiah Valdez
- 21 Russel Pedrick, Sr.
- 22 Christine Pedrick
- 23 Brandon Akey
- 25 Heather Hanson & Teagan Moran
- 29 Matthew Bruno

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 3rd Laura and Andrew Bowles
- 11th Joe and Bev Guiffre
- 14th Ed and Polly Calhoun
- 17th Clay and Kathie Carpenter

February 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.



February 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
 Many hands make light work!
 The sign up list is in the foyer outside of the sanctuary. If you have questions find Carolyn Whipple or Gretchen Subik!



February Potluck 2/16

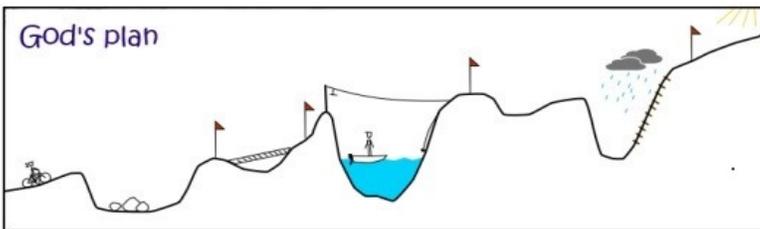
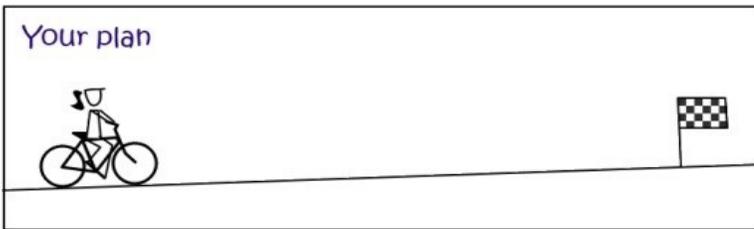
Please come and join us for our famous Turkey dinner. Bring a side dish of your choice. We will also be packing take out containers for anyone who would like to share a little of our Sunday warmth.
 Just see someone in the kitchen if you're interested in a take out container!

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

Please Pray for individuals with various health concerns:

*Loving God,
I pray that you will comfort those that are suffering, lend skill to the hands of their healers, and bless the means used for their cure.
Give them such confidence in the power of your grace, that even when they are afraid, they may put their whole trust in you; through our Savior Jesus Christ.
Amen*

Having God in your boat
doesn't mean that you'll not face
any storms.
It means that no storm
can sink your boat.
Walk in faith
and you will never walk alone



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.

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

FEBRUARY

Saturday	1	6:00 am 9-11 1-2	Early Risers ONLINE Prayer Group Odyssey Of The Minds—Fellowship Hall AA
Sunday	2	9:30 am 9:30 am 10:30 am 11:45 am	Adult Bible Study Sunday School Worship/Communion Coffee Hour
Monday	3	8:30am 6-7:30pm	Moms Morning Out Girl Scouts—Fellowship Hall
Tuesday	4	10:30 am 7:00 pm	Glen-Mohawk Seniors - Fellowship Hall Ladies Bible Study
Wednesday	5	8:30 am 4:30-6 pm 7:00 pm	Mom's Morning Out Fonda Food Pantry open Praise Practice
Thursday	6	12 - 1 pm	Fonda Food Pantry open
Friday	7	6:15 am	Men's Prayer Group - Cussler Center No Mom's Morning Out—Superintendent's Day
Saturday	8	6:00 am 1-2	Early Risers ONLINE Prayer Group AA
Sunday	9	9:30 am 9:30 am 10:30 am 11:45 am 7an-12pm	Adult Bible Study Sunday School Worship Coffee Hour TOM Pancake Breakfast
Monday	10	8:30am 6-7:30pm	Moms Morning Out Girl Scouts—Fellowship Hall
Tuesday	11	10:30 am 7:00 pm	Glen-Mohawk Seniors - Fellowship Hall Ladies Bible Study
Wednesday	12	8:30 am 4:30-6 pm 7:00 pm	Mom's Morning Out Fonda Food Pantry open Praise Practice
Thursday	13	12 - 1 pm	Fonda Food Pantry open
Friday	14	6:15 am 8:30 am	Men's Prayer Group - Cussler Center Mom's Morning Out
Saturday	15	6:00 am 9:30-11:30am 1-2	Early Risers ONLINE Prayer Group Sewing Group AA

FEBRUARY

Sunday	16	9:30 am 9:30 am 10:30 am 11:45 am 12-1pm 2-4pm	Adult Bible Study Sunday School Worship POTLUCK NOAH Girl Scouts
Monday	17		FFCS Winter Break Begins
Tuesday	18	10:30 am 7:00 pm	Glen-Mohawk Seniors - Fellowship Hall Ladies Bible Study
Wednesday	19	4:30-6 pm 7:00 pm	Fonda Food Pantry open Praise Practice
Thursday	20	12 - 1 pm	Fonda Food Pantry open
Friday	21	6:15 am	Men's Prayer Group - Cussler Center
Saturday	22	6:00 am 9-11 1-2	Early Risers ONLINE Prayer Group Odyssey Of The Minds—Fellowship Hall AA
Sunday	23	9:30 am 9:30 am 10:30 am 11:45 am	Adult Bible Study Sunday School Worship Coffee Hour
Monday	24	8:30am 6-7:30pm	Moms Morning Out Girl Scouts—Fellowship Hall
Tuesday	25	10:30 am 7:00 pm	Glen-Mohawk Seniors - Fellowship Hall Ladies Bible Study
Wednesday	26	8:30 am 4:30-6 pm 7:00 pm	Mom's Morning Out Fonda Food Pantry open Praise Practice ASH WEDNESDAY
Thursday	27	12 - 1 pm	Fonda Food Pantry open
Friday	28	6:15 am 8:30 am	Men's Prayer Group - Cussler Center Mom's Morning Out
Saturday	29	6:00 am 1-2	Early Risers ONLINE Prayer Group AA