

The Fonda Reformed Church Newsletter



Newsletter

Fonda Reformed Church

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Fonda, NY 12068

Change Service Requested

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(518) 853-3621

Prepare
YOUR



LIFT UP YOUR HANDS TO
HIM IN PRAYER

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

If you would like to add or remove someone on the prayer list please let the church office know (518)853-3621 or fondareformedchurch@yahoo.com Thank you!!

***Please continue to pray
for those who grieve.***

Please pray for our missions:

The Ford family as they retire from the mission field and settle into their new home in Virginia
Haven of Hope Farm & Residence

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.

Individuals with health concerns:

Willie E. Baker (C. Henry)
Paula Frasier Bobilin
Ruthie Burke
Lois Brockey (K. Patterson)
Polly Calhoun
Cherie Craig (M. White)
Suzanne Douglass (J. Perez)
Jaye Evangelista
Rebecca Finn (G. Kimball)
Bryan Finn, SR (G. Kimball)
Laurie Fischer
Carrie Fonda (G. Kimball)
Charlene Fonda (G. Kimball)
Judy Ferguson
Joan Francisco
Vernon Francisco, Jr.
Paul Frasier
Carla Goodwin (Tina Belfance)
James Hernigle (S. Emery)
Jay Hine
Gus Joyce (B. Marshall)
Sue Sammons Kennedy
Stacy Kimball
Peter Klock (S. Emery)
Megan Kucel
Lisa Knapp (Pete Perez)
Sebastian Lasher (Rob Garren)
Bob Langdon
Tom Lewis
Rosanne Lybolt
Tara Nimmo (D. Klim)
Al Mancini
Art Marshall
Anas Mashhadi
Pat Mosher
Andrea Rogers
Hunter Rose
Wendy Sargalis (C. Bruno)
Robert Smith (L Huth)
Deana Smith (B. Guiffre)
James Santangelo (B. Guiffre)
Cheyanne Sawyer (G. Kimball)
Brendan Schuffleburg (J. Perez)
Sue Swanson
Helen Tarvin (C. Henry)
Steve Urbanczyk (Blackwood)
Bob VanAlstyne (M Francisco)
Carolyn Whipple
Bill Whipple
Lu Wilmot
Judy Wilson

January, 2024

Dear Friends,

The holidays, days off, and a cold that will not quit kept pushing back my writing this message. Finally, after days of staring at the blinking cursor on a blank page, I put out a call on Facebook to see if any of my friends had any ideas for something that would be worth sharing with you as we begin this new year together. They shared with me all sorts of ideas, many new years' greetings. But in the end, my sister-in-law reminded me of the person whose name filled 2023 – the great Taylor Allison Swift.

Now, the fact that I know her middle name may tell you the impact that she has had in my house for the last few years. I took my daughter – then 8 – to see Taylor in concert at Met Life Stadium in 2018. It poured rain, and as we all stood in the rain together, Taylor Swift sang. And Taylor danced. And she did not slack off a bit for the cold deluge that was drenching us all. And at one point, she told us, “Anyone can come to a concert, but only a true friend will stand in the rain for you. So you are all my friends.” (This led to several years of me joking that I was friends with Taylor Swift.) As we got into the car, drenched and cold, I promised that next time we would see her indoors.

As my daughter grew, so did Taylor. We followed her relationships and heartbreaks. I followed the issues with her record label, and Beryl eagerly waited for each of “Taylor’s versions” to drop. And Taylor gave the world new music. Different sounds and different styles, but all her own.

All of which led up to 2023’s Eras Tour. It was billed as a journey through her musical “Eras”, with some songs from every album. It had elaborate sets and costumes that changed to represent each one. Her fans dressed in costumes and traded friendship bracelets and the shows had a general positive energy. We didn’t get to see a show live, but did see the concert film, and the energy translated. People sang and danced and had an amazing time.

And what does any of this have to do with God and the church and a New Year’s newsletter message?

Well, while her religious credentials are unknown, here are three things that I think the church can learn from Taylor Swift:

Recognize the Era you are in and celebrate it: For each of her albums, Taylor is willing to reinvent herself, her style, her music. And she loves and recognizes each of these Eras for making her the artist that she is today. High school heartbreak, the young adult finding themselves, swoony romance, crushing losses – these are all part of her catalogue, and she sings them all. But she also is always looking forward to where her vision, her life, and her passion is going to take her next. And she isn’t afraid to begin a new Era when that passion is taking her in a new direction. We in the church sometimes get stuck in an Era, a way of being, a look or style that has worked. It is important for us to recognize our past, but not hold onto it so tightly that it stifles possible creativity and growth.

(Continued from previous page)

Be the most authentic version of yourself you can be: Swift has developed enough maturity to know who she is, and enough confidence to proclaim that. In all of her Eras, no matter the differences, she is always herself. She decides who she is going to be, and is accountable to herself to make it work. But her changes are purposeful, and planned out, and follow a vision. Everything is a choice. Every fan might not love every era, but they love her and follow her through it. We in the church sometimes go off and make changes for the sake of change. Things are random or not well thought out. They try to please others instead of being true to who we are in this moment. We need be our authentic self, accountable to God, and move purposefully in the direction we are called to go in this time. It might not be what we would have done in another time, and it might not be where we finally end up. But authentic, purposeful movement will get us where we want to go as we move through each era.

We all have eras. God has Eras too: One of the things that made the concert so much fun, is that each person in the audience had moved and changed just as much as Taylor had. We could remember where we were when we first heard a song, or we realized that the lyrics hit us differently on that day than they did even five years before. Just as we move and change, so God moves and changes how he meets us. Lamentations tells us that God is “new every morning.” God meets us where we are and guides us to the next way he wants us to be. And God will be with us in the rain and be our friend.

Taylor has a song called “New Year’s Day” and the chorus says, “Don’t read the last page, but I stay when it’s hard, or it’s wrong, or we’re making mistakes. I want your midnights, but I’ll be cleaning up bottles with you on New Year’s Day.” And this is the vision of love that we have, for God and for one another, this year, next year, every year.

So as we turn the page on 2023 and look forward to whatever 2024 holds, may we celebrate the era we are in. And as we move and work together as God’s church in this era, we can sing to one another our songs, and hear each other’s hearts, and through it all, look to the God, who has put us together to spread his harmony throughout the world.

Pastor Linda

WORSHIP IN THE MONTH OF January

January 7

First Sunday after Epiphany

Ordination and Installation of Consistory

Worship: "The Art of Neighboring—Who is My Neighbor", Luke 10:25-37

Communion

January 14

Second Sunday after Epiphany

Worship: "The Art of Neighboring-Fearing Your Neighbor", Luke 5:27-32

January 21

Third Sunday after Epiphany

Worship: "The Art of Neighboring—A Neighborly Heart", Phillipians 2:1-11

January 28

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Preaching Elder Deb Silvernail is leading worship

Zoom meeting information

Our worship information is the same each week Please feel free to save this sheet with the log in information!

Topic: Fonda Reformed Church Sunday Worship

Meeting ID: 481 802 235

Password: 233126

Telephone audio: 929-205-6099 (New York)

We are also on Facebook Live—you can watch live or catch up with the recording later.

www.facebook.com/fondareformedchurch

Consistory

Consistory meets on the first Monday of the month at 7pm

Elders

Ruthie Cook
Stacey DeLaney
Bob Kruger
Jill Perez

Deacons

Judy Ferguson
Rob Garren



JANUARY Birthdays

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

JANUARY Anniversaries

- 12 Mitch and Linda Gold

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 Phone: (518)853-3621

Office Email: fondareformedchurch@yahoo.com

January

Monday	1		New Year's Day
Tuesday	2	10:30-1pm 9am-12pm 7pm	Glen-Mohawk Seniors Pastor Linda's Office Hours Women's Bible Study
Wednesday	3	8:30-11am 9am-12pm 12pm 3-5pm 7pm	Mom's Morning Out Pastor Linda's Office Hours Pastor Linda Facebook LIVE Fonda Food Pantry (Fultonville RC) Praise Practice
Thursday	4	9am-12pm	Pastor Linda's Office Hours
Friday	5	6:15 am 8:30am-11am	Men's Online Bible Study Mom's Morning Out
Saturday	6	6am 12:30-2:30	Early Riser's ONLINE Prayer Group AA Meeting
Sunday	7	9:30 am 10:30 am 11:30am	Praise Practice & Sunday School Worship with Communion and Installation of Ruthie Cook as Elder Congregational Meeting after service
Monday	8	8:30-11am 6pm	Mom's Morning Out Girl Scouts
Tuesday	9	9am-12pm 7-8pm	Pastor Linda's Office Hours (10:30 am Pastor at Wells House) Women's Bible Study
Wednesday	10	8:30-11am 9am-12pm 12pm 3-5pm 7pm	Mom's Morning Out Pastor Linda's Office Hours Pastor Linda Facebook LIVE Fonda Food Pantry (Fultonville RC) Praise Practice
Thursday	11	9am-12pm	Pastor Linda's Office Hours
Friday	12	6:15 am 8:30-11am	Men's Online Bible Study Mom's Morning Out
Saturday	13	6am 12:30-2pm	Early Riser's ONLINE Prayer Group AA Meeting
Sunday	14	9:30 am 10:30 am 12-1pm	Praise Practice and Sunday School Worship- 2nd Sunday after Epiphany NOAH
Monday	15		Pastor Linda away: Denominational Meeting (1/15&16)
Tuesday	16	10:30am-1pm 7-8pm	Glen-Mohawk Seniors Women's Bible Study

January

Wednesday	17	8:30-11am 9am-12pm 12pm 3-5pm 7pm	Mom's Morning Out Pastor Linda's Office Hours Pastor Linda Facebook LIVE Fonda Food Pantry (Fultonville RC) Praise Practice
Thursday	18	9-12pm	Pastor Linda's Office Hours
Friday	19	6:15 am 8:30-11am	Men's Online Bible Study Mom's Morning Out
Saturday	20	6am 12:30-2:30pm	Early Riser's ONLINE Prayer Group AA Meeting
Sunday	21	9:30am 10:30 am 11:30 am 2-3pm	Praise Practice and Sunday School Worship—Third Sunday after Epiphany Potluck Lunch after Service Girl Scouts
Monday	22	8:30-11am 6pm 7pm	Mom's Morning Out Pastor Linda out of office for Workshop Girl Scouts Consistory Meeting
Tuesday	23	10:30am-1pm 9am-12pm 7pm	Glen-Mohawk Seniors Pastor Linda's Office Hours Women's Bible Study
Wednesday	24	8:30-11am 9am-12pm 3-5pm 7pm	Mom's Morning Out Pastor Linda's Office Hours (12pm Facebook LIVE) Fonda Food Pantry (Fultonville RC) Praise Practice
Thursday	25	9am-12pm	Pastor Linda's Office Hours
Friday	26	6:15 am 8:30 –11am	Men's Online Bible Study Mom's Morning Out
Saturday	27	6am 12:30-2:30pm	Early Risers ONLINE Prayer Group AA Meeting
Sunday	28	9:30 am 10:30 am	Praise Practice and Sunday School Worship—4th Sunday after Epiphany, Preaching Elder Deb Silvernail leading worship
Monday	29	8:30-11am 6pm 7pm	Mom's Morning Out Girl Scouts Worship Meeting
Tuesday	30	10:30am-1pm 9am-12pm	Glen-Mohawk Seniors Pastor Linda's Office Hours
Wednesday	31	8:30-11am 9am-12pm 3-5pm 7pm	Mom's Morning Out Pastor Linda's Office Hours (12pm Facebook LIVE) Fonda Food Pantry (Fultonville RC) Praise Practice

Between small groups, serving our church or serving the community we want to encourage you to find what fits you the best and get involved!

Tuesday Night Women's Bible Study

Ladies' Bible study group meets Tuesday evenings, 7-8pm in the Cussler Center. We will be studying Colossians and Philemon in a study by Max Lucado

For more information contact Sherri Gray (518)332-2512 or Gretchen Subik (518)848-2682

Wednesday Evenings Praise Practice

If you're musically gifted, and Praise Practice is continuing give Karen Patterson a shout. We meet Wednesdays at 7pm and on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am before service.

Saturday Morning Early Risers!

There is an early-morning ONLINE prayer group for you early risers! Join us at 6:00 am to start your day in a wonderful way! For more information or assistance setting up Zoom please contact Debbie Silvernail.

dsilvernail@ffcsd.org

Sunday

Sunday school is in session (following the FCSD Schedule)

*If teaching is your passion we would love to have you join our Sunday School teachers /and get in on the rotation to teach a Sunday School Class. Sunday school is at 9:30, before the church service each week.

Volunteer for Worship

There are also opportunities to get involved in the worship service. Have you considered reading scripture, lighting candles or hosting a coffee hour?

Sign-ups can be found on the table in the upstairs atrium.

Interested in exploring a deeper connection to Christ by joining the church?

Please speak to Pastor Linda or one of the Elders.

The Food Pantry is always looking for reliable, dedicated volunteers to help feed our community. From picking up food, organizing shelves, cleaning the pantry to working a Wednesday time slot... there is a space for you! Contact Steve Cook 518-853-3621

If you have ideas on how to help our community we would love to hear them so please let us know!

We would love to team up and do awesome things!

Call the church office - (518)853-3621 fondareformedchurch@yahoo.com

	Church Office	518-853-3621
Pastor	Linda Gold	518-853-2130
Treasurer	Doug Hall	518-848-9557
Music Director	Karen Patterson	518-684-0321
Custodian	Ronnie Pollock	518-853-3296
Sunday School Director	Cindy Mitchell	518-853-3712
Finance Ministry	Nancy Langdon	518-853-1224
Worship Ministry	Bonnie Kruger	518-853-4398
Prayer Chain	Peg LaBarge	518-853-4318
Building & Property	Peter Perez	518-774-0585
Hospitality Ministry	Gretchen Subik	518-853-3678
Outreach Ministry		518-853-3621
Fonda Food Pantry	Steve Cook	518-853-3513
	Troy Chatwin	518-795-4477

Glen-Mohawk Senior Citizens



The Glen-Mohawk Senior Citizens Group meets every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. at the Fonda Reformed Church Hall. Anyone over the age of 55 is welcome to attend a meeting and see what we are about. Our meetings usually last about an hour and light refreshments are served.

We are a very active group and we would welcome new members. If you are interested, please contact President Joe Mancini at 518-853-4875 or Vice President Gloria Kimball at 518-853-3126.

This Month:

January 11th, 1pm: A \$6 Senior Movie which includes popcorn, a drink and entrance to one of the movies at the Johnstown Movieplex.

January 29, 11:30-1:30: Lunch on your own and a free movie at the Johnstown Holiday Inn.

A jaded journalist learns about empathy, kindness and decency from Fred Rogers in “A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood”, starring Tom Hanks. Please let Gloria know if you will be attending.



“Life is a Gift”

International Speaker: Mae Ogsbury

Monday, January 8

at 11:30 am at the Holiday Inn, Route 30A (N. Comrie Ave.) Johnstown

Beef Stroganoff over noodles and vegetable

or BLT on white toast with Chicken Rice Soup

Dessert: Crème deMenthe Sundae

Sandy Maceka will present the history of Elizabeth Cady Stanton

\$17.50 pay at the door

For reservations, call Patti @ 518-842-1997 Or email womentoconnect@gmail.com

Childcare available upon time of reservations Sponsored by CHRISTIAN WOMEN CONNECTING

Ways to Financially Support our ministry

Monthly Using your Bill Pay

You can set up your monthly or weekly offering using your bank online bill pay. Set up recurring payments on your bank’s electronic banking site and you won’t need to worry about remembering or catching up if you are away.

Offering Envelopes

We have offering envelopes available for your giving. Using envelopes allows you to receive a statement annually with your giving. If you do not already receive envelopes, please contact Nancy Langdon (518 852 0386) or Doug Hall (518 848 9557)

Electronic Giving —on hold

Our plan to offer electronic giving is on hold while we work out a few issues that have arisen. We will update you if we are able to resolve them and offer it.

NOAH—Needy or Alone and Hungry

This program serves a free meal every Sunday to between 60-150 people. FRC has a team that prepares and serves these meals several times throughout the year.

Our 2024 dates are: January 14, April 7, June 30, September 22 and

December 8. If you are interested in helping next year, please contact

Sherri Grey for more information and to sign up