



Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast
May 21, 2023
"Maintaining Our Dignity During Adversity"

"Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. [Romans 5:3-5, NIV]"



Joni Eareckson Tada's Story

Joni Eareckson Tada led a very active young life following her parents' active lives. Joni enjoyed hiking, tennis, and swimming. However, when she was 17 years old, a diving accident changed the trajectory of her life. Diving into shallow water in Chesapeake Bay she fractured two vertebrae and became a quadriplegic paralyzed from the shoulders down.

During her two years of rehabilitation, she experienced anger, depression, suicidal thoughts, and religious doubts. However, through occupational therapy, she learned to paint with a brush between her teeth and began selling her artwork. Today

she often writes pencil or pen in mouth. To date, she has written over forty books, recorded several musical albums, starred in an autobiographical movie of her life, and is an advocate for people with disabilities.

Joni founded "Joni and Friends" in 1979, an organization to "accelerate Christian ministry in the disability community" throughout the world. She has served on the National Council on Disability under Presidents Reagan and George H.W. Bush. She also served as an advisor to Condoleezza Rice on the Disability Advisory Committee to the US State Department. During her time on the national Council on Disability the Americans with Disabilities Act was passed. For more about Joni's work, see <https://www.joniandfriends.org/jonis-corner/>.

"God always seems bigger to those who need Him the most. And suffering is the tool he uses to help us need Him more." - Joni Eareckson Tada

Our Christian Dignity

Adversity is a common experience in life, and it can take many forms: illness, loss, financial hardship, relationship problems, and more. In the face of such challenges, it can be tempting to give up hope and lose our sense of Christian dignity. Yet, there are those who manage to keep their faith and their sense of worth even in the midst of great difficulty, like Joni Eareckson Tada. In conclusion, maintaining dignity during times of adversity is not easy, but it is possible. By focusing on our relationship with God, serving others, and looking for opportunities to find meaning and purpose, we can find hope and maintain our sense of dignity and purpose even in the darkest of circumstances. Remember: we are not alone. God is always with us, even in our darkest moments.

Prayer box: let us pray for Dean's soul and comfort for his grieving family; let us also pray for healing and comfort for Andy L, Robin, Lynn, Bill, Mark, Joyce, and Andy P; let us pray for comfort for those who mourn; pray for hope for those who have suffered due to severe weather and violence. Lord, hear our prayer!