



The Fredonia Presbyterian

May 2025
Newsletter of the
Fredonia
Presbyterian
Church

From Our Pastor

I've talked about it a lot—but that's because it made a lasting impact on my life. And if it feels like old news, let this be a reminder: what's old news for some is fresh—or enduring—news for others.

On August 3, 2019, KC and I were sitting in our new living room, assembling some storage shelves we'd bought a few days earlier at the Lowe's and Walmart complex called Cielo Vista. Suddenly, sirens erupted around us. We watched cop after cop after cop race down the highway below our foothills. Then our phones buzzed with alerts: there was an active shooter.

We learned that a man had walked into that Walmart, shooting anyone who looked Hispanic. We learned about each of the lives that were lost. We went to vigils. We grieved. We read parts of the shooter's manifesto with disbelief and rage. We consoled our youth group—90% Hispanic—worried that their skin made them unsafe.

I don't know if I ever truly hated the shooter, but the confusion and raw anger I felt toward him certainly bordered on sin.

That's why, when I read an article this week about his sentencing, I wept—sitting in my Western New York living room, almost 2,000 miles away. My heart melted as I read how two of the victims, Yolanda and Adriana, asked to hug the shooter in forgiveness. Judge Medrano wept, too, as he asked them, *"Would that help you and your family seek comfort, peace, and healing?"*

"Yes," they both replied.

And then the shooter, Patrick Crusius—though shackled—arranged his restrained body to hug back as best he could.

I don't know what kind of forgiveness I could offer in their shoes. But I do know this: the world doesn't need more rage disguised as righteousness. It needs healing. It needs grace with a spine. And sometimes, the ones who have every reason to hold on to bitterness are the very ones who teach us how to be free.

Spring is Here!! And it is time to think of our Memory Garden. Anyone in the community can purchase a memory slate. The slates measure 4"x4". For \$15 one name will be put on the plaque. \$20 for two names. For \$30 you can also add a laser engraved portrait. Please email Holly. We have an order form on line. Go to fredoniapres.org and click on engage and then find *Memory Garden*.



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AH, SPRING!

Spring is a time of transition from winter to summer. It is a time when seasons change from a cold grip to a warm embrace, from a gray heavy blanket of clouds to light wisps of white floating in a blue sky, from a landscape of brown and white to yellows, pinks, purples and multi hues.

Spring is also a time of transformation from dormant to living, from dark to light, from barren to life.

Our very first thoughts of Spring are ones of life,
A season of rebirth and renewal free from strife.
Everything seems to come alive in the Spring,
From the tiny buds to the birds on the wing.



May these Spring months inspire and remind,
In Spring, new possibilities we find.
A time to let go of the cold winter's sting
and embrace the miracle that comes in the Spring. (C. Pulsifer)

Spring reminds me of my teen years, working in our family grape vineyard. While my friends were basking in the warm sun and sand in Myrtle Beach, I was shivering in the cold, wet and mud of Fredonia. We had to repair the broken posts and wires caused by winter's wrath. The weather progressed from snow flurries to rain showers, and finally to sunshine. I was excited to see birds flitting from newly green bushes and the soft gray budded pussy willows. Wildflowers were pushing their colored petals up from their winter beds. The air was fresh and clean. Our little creek ran cold and clear. I felt awake and alive. I was surrounded by the birth of Spring. I even got a tan (windburn).

"The winter is past; the rain is over and gone.
The flowers appear on the earth.
The time of singing has come." (Song of Solomon 2:11-12)

Most of all, Spring has the renewal of life. It is the time of the Resurrection. Like Nature and Jesus, let us be resurrected from the darkness to light, from death to life. Ah, Spring brings new life.

By Joe Calarco

May's Foods of the Month are Flour, baking powder, and salt.



Help Needed

We need a couple more teams to work our table at the once a month Farmers' Market. We are at the Farmers' Market the second Saturday of each month.



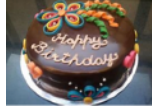
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May Birthdays

17 Janine Scaccia
Maia Amatuzzo

18 Susan Pepe
19 Reneé Salamone

22 Carolyn McMinn



Raise Right

Raise Right is a nonprofit helping other non-profits. The idea is simple: people will sign in to our church account online, buy a gift card from one of dozens of available... think Amazon, Walmart, Home Depot, Whole Foods, Kohl's, Panera... Then our church makes a small profit from the company.

Our code is **XNWWL9KRHYQ6**. Choose "join an existing program" and put in the code. Then it is a piece of cake. Any questions? Ask Holly for help.

Hygiene Kit Collection

We will continue collecting Hygiene kits until May 4. Bring in assembled kits or pick up a slip at church and bring in just that item(s).

To better meet the needs of the folks receiving the kits, adjustments have been made this year to what each kit should include. If you have already bought items for kits following last year's guide lines, no worries. Through June they will still accept kits made to last year's specifications.

The supplies needed to make a kit follow. Every item that goes into the kit should be NEW.

- 1-gallon resealable plastic bag
- Washcloth
- Fingernail or toenail clipper (packaging removed)
- Toothbrush (in original packaging)
- Bath-size bar of soap (in original packaging)
- Travel-size deodorant (3.4 oz. or less, non-aerosol)
- Travel-size lotion (3.4 oz or less, fragrance-free, NEW only)
- Travel-size shampoo (3.4 oz. Or less, NEW only)
- Travel-size toothpaste (3.4 oz. Or less, expiration date of 1 year)
- Sturdy wide-tooth comb (6" minimum teeth, packaging removed)

\$2 per kit helps send the kits to their final destinations. If you are able to donate toward the postage, please do not put the money in the kits.

Assemble kits together on Sunday, May 18.

Images from Bing, Adobe Stock, and Carol Groat



Speaker in Sanctuary

While Ellen Calmus, director of the Corner Institute in Malinalco, Mexico is in town to speak at SUNY Fredonia, she will also be speaking in our sanctuary on May 7th at 7 pm. This is a community wide event for which we are providing the space.

Mexico's most intractable problems are found in its rural areas, where lack of education and poverty facilitate the corruption, crime and violence that make it so much harder to implement programs which could help. But how can Mexico's rural poor emerge from this vicious cycle? (from the Corner Institute's webpage)

Here is an opportunity to hear this American scholar and human rights advocate, someone who has lived in Mexico for decades, speak about some of the programs the Institute has initiated to help families (including migrants) in and around Malinalco.

“When you support the Church World Service Blankets program, you offer more than just warmth—you provide hope and love to those facing challenging times. 27,275 CWS Blankets were shared with people in need in 2024, thanks to generous donors like you.

Together, we can continue to make a difference. Join CWS in sharing compassion and blankets today!”

The **Blanket Sunday** collection will be taken on Sunday, May 11. **Mother's Day!**

FeedMore Delivery Coming Up

The next FeedMore delivery is scheduled for May 6. Time to be determined. Help will be needed to unpack the truck, check in the delivery, sort, and shelve the groceries.



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May 2025

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|-------------------|---|--|-----------------------|--------|--|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| | | | | Narcotics Anonymous 7 | | |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Worship 10:30 Communion | Art Discovery 6-8 | Food Delivery for Fred Basket Time TBD Theology on Tap 5ish Next Chapter Book Store Girl Scouts 6-7 | Fred Basket 12:30-4:30 Visiting Human Rights Worker 7pm in Sanctuary Cassadaga Band 6:30 | Narcotics Anonymous 7 | | Farmers' Market Masonic Temple 10-1 Lavender and Lemonade 10:30 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| Worship 10:30 Blanket Sunday Mothers' Day! | Art Discovery 6-8 | Theology on Tap 5ish | Fred Basket 12:30-4:30 Our Church Breakfast 8:30 am Cassadaga Band 6:30 | Narcotics Anonymous 7 | | Fred Basket 10-12 Fred Basket Mtg. 12 Lakeshore Fellowship 9-6 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| Worship 10:30 Assemble and Pack Hygiene Kits 11:30 Recital Sanctuary 3 | | Theology on Tap 5ish Girl Scouts 6-7 | Fred Basket 12:30-4:40 Cassadaga Band 6:30 | Narcotics Anonymous 7 | | |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |
| Worship 10:30 | | Theology on Tap 5ish Cassadaga Band 6:30-8:30 | Fred Basket 12:30-4:30 Compeer Craft Group 12:30-2:30 in the Library Compeer Guy Time 3-4:30 | Narcotics Anonymous 7 | | Lakeshore Fellowship 12:30-7 |
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Prayer List

Donna Heintzman
 Joe Dolce
 Dick Ackley
 Zachary Dloniak
 Dick Watt
 Avery
 Toni-Jo Mitchell
 Mick
 Cheryl Connelly
 Lorraine Withington
 Deb Harris

Susie Harris
 Gerald
 Jessie
 Jimmy
 Wayne

Carrie
 Elizabeth English
 Chris
 Carolyn McMinn
 Carmen

Haley
 Ryan
 Jill
 Deb
 Marlene



Johnny
 Samantha
 Vigo
 Deborah
 Janey O'Boyle

Sharon Duff-Kibbee
 Avery
 Carmello
 Chris Schwartz
 Bob Hagberg
 Terry and Marilyn
 Claire
 Granny
 Willow

Sympathy is Extended...

To Trisha Lehnen and her family on the death of her mother, Sharon Muggle, on April 10th.

To the family of Louis Vega who recently died.

To the family of Charles Divine who died on February 11. A service will be held June 7th. Time to be announced.

To Jenn O'Boyle and her family on the death of her cousin, Brenda.

To Barb Lucariello on the death of her friend Laurie.

In Memoriam

| | |
|-------------------|---------|
| Brenda Richardson | 5/11/24 |
|-------------------|---------|

May Anniversaries

| | | |
|---|----------------------|------|
| 1 | Tom & Joan Van Dette | |
| 9 | Crista & Ron Hagberg | 2017 |

A Special Goodbye

To Janna Cannady as she heads home. She will be missed by not just Elizabeth's family but by all in our congregation who have come to know her.

Prayers for...

The homeless.
 Athletes.
 The hungry.
 Bullies and the people they bully.

Fredonia Presbyterian Church
219 Central Avenue
Fredonia, NY 14063

**The Annual Yard Sale
Saturday, June 7**

Remember, it doesn't happen without your help.

Items may be brought to the library about 2 weeks before the sale. Exact date TBD.

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