

# The Fredonia Presbyterian

FEBRUARY 2026



Betye Saar, "Twilight Awakening" 1978

Image obtained from [www.nga.gov/artworks/black-artists?modal=pagm-149026](http://www.nga.gov/artworks/black-artists?modal=pagm-149026)

## Here's what has happened in the last month and what's to come!

On January 4<sup>th</sup>, in celebration of Epiphany, we received star words to herald in and guide us throughout the new year. Was yours fitting? Mine was "Create," and certainly a goal and a joy. On the 11<sup>th</sup>, we attended to our annual budget, and we voted upon and installed new deacons and session members. With gratitude we welcome Kristi Leone, Matthew Carman, and Betsy White to session, Sandi Askin to deaconship, and Jennie O'Boyle as renewed deacon. So excited for all we can do together in the coming year. Snow and bitter cold prevented in person worship on the 25<sup>th</sup>, and sadly we were not able to celebrate Susan and Jim Pepe as they transition to their new home in Rochester. Susan, we love you forever and can't thank

you enough for all you have done through the years for our church. You will be so missed.

We move into February with a session retreat. As noted at the congregational meeting, all are encouraged to bring thoughts, issues, and ideas to any member of session. This can only help us to grow and thrive in 2026! Snowstorms notwithstanding, let us worship, sing, and help each other during this month of honoring Black History; and love, always love. It's also Library Lover's month. Our county's small town libraries are full of wonderful surprises.

Enjoy this month's newsletter! -T

## In this newsletter you can expect:

-Excerpt from MLK Jr's speech  
-news, volunteers (page 2)

-Birthdays, Anniversaries, In Memoriam, Prayer List (page 3)

-Church Calendar (page 4)

-Articles & Points of Interest from our congregation (page 5+)

## “Levels of Love”

-excerpt from MLK Jr’s sermon, 9/16/62, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA

“Let me rush on to that point which is explained by the Greek word “agape.” Agape is higher than all the things I have talked about. Why is it higher? Because it is unmotivated; it is spontaneous; it is overflowing, it seeks nothing in return. It is not motivated by some quality in the object. Utilitarian love is motivated by some quality in the object, namely the object’s usefulness to him. Romantic love is motivated by some quality in the object, maybe the beauty of the object or the quality that moves the individual. A mother’s love is motivated by the fact that this is her child, something in the object before her. Move on up to friendship, it is motivated by that quality of friendliness and that quality of concern that is mutual. Go on up to humanity, humanitarian love; it is motivated by something within the object, namely a divine spark, namely something sacred about human personality. But when we rise to agape, to Christian love, it is higher than all of this. It becomes the love of God operating in the human heart. The greatness of it is that you love every man, not for your sake but for his sake. And you love every man because God loves him.”

### Volunteer Spotlight



#### Our choir!

Often moving us to tears or cheers, we love hearing you sing.

Thank you for all the time and effort you put in each and every Sunday.

We appreciate you Carol, Zoe, Cori, Ryan, Susan S, Susan R, Kenna, & Quinn!

(Side note: maybe you’d like to give choir a try? All are welcome, just show up to practice Sunday mornings, 9:30)

### Per Capita 2026

The National Presbyterian Church, Synod and Presbytery of Western NY, (our church governing bodies), ask each local church to contribute toward their costs of supporting services to the local churches as well as ministry nationally and worldwide. These costs are calculated on a per member basis. The current charge (called per capita) per member is \$40. If you would like to cover your per capita, you may indicate on your check or a pew envelope “Per Capita.” Thank you.

# February 2026- the news in people



## Birthdays

- 13 Henry Irish
- 16 Mason Miller
- 17 Rob Groat  
Kathy Hoffmann
- 23 David Coia III  
(Misser)  
Gordon Carman  
(1<sup>st</sup> Birthday!)
- 26 Betsy White

## Food of the Month

### Soups & Broths

## Deacon of the Month (Jan) Peg Sisson

Thank you Peg!



## Prayer List

- Lorraine
- Carrie
- Deb
- Jordan
- Lisa Dubenion
- Sharyn Duff-Kibbee
- Gary Chwojdak
- Nardel Hector
- Jennifer & Mike
- Wayne & Susan
- Grandma Tarele
- Susan Faust
- Liz & Brandon
- Aunt Kristi
- Frank
- Johnny
- Dawn
- Shirley
- Carter
- Steve
- Gary
- Julie McFarland
- Danielle
- Amanda
- AJ
- Sandi Askin's family
- Patrick & Dan Duff-  
Williamson
- Dennis Spangler
- Lenora White
- Kate



## Prayer List cont'd

- Eric Moon
- Elizabeth English
- Zuccolo family
- Mark Thomas
- Mikayla
- Annette
- Janna
- Grandpa Frank
- Faruk's brother

## In Sympathy

To the family of Barney  
Harrison, recently passed.  
He was a friend of  
John Irish.

To the family of Nicole  
Castro Giovanni.

With Kathy Greco and her  
family on the death of  
Larry Greco.

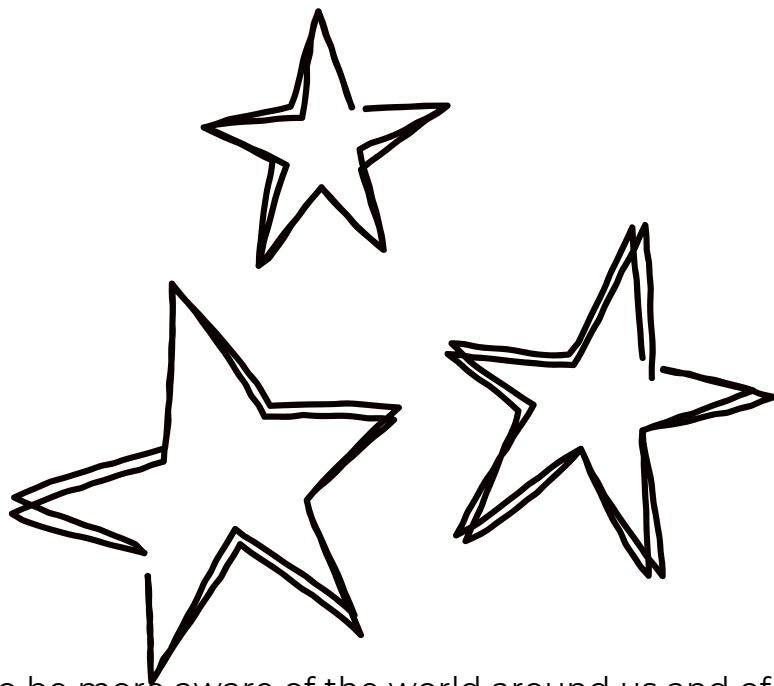
To the Pritchards on the  
loss of their daughter, 49  
years old.

## In Memoriam

Charles Divine 2/11/25

Feb 1, 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Choir 9:30 Worship 10:30			Fred Basket Food Pantry 12:30-4:30	Girl Scouts 5:30-6:30 NA -7pm		Lakeshore Fellowship 1:30-8
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Choir 9:30 Worship 10:30 "All You Need is Love" Quilt Art Exhibit by kids & teens thru Art Discovery			Fred Basket Food Pantry 12:30-4:30	Deacons Meet- 4PM NA -7pm	GCN-6p-9p	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Choir 9:30 Worship 10:30			Ash Wednesday Svc---12p-1p Fred Basket Food Pantry 12:30-4:30	Girl Scouts 5:30-6:30 NA -7pm		Fred Basket 10-12 Lakeshore Fellowship 12:30-6
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Choir 9:30 Worship 10:30			Compeer 11am Fred Basket 12:30-4:30	NA -7pm		Lakeshore Fellowship 12:30-6



## Star Words #3 -by Joe Calarco

Rev. Holly challenges us to be more aware of the world around us and of the spiritual being within us. One way she does this is with her Star Word activity, which originated from a pastor-friend, Mardi Huld Glass, who developed this project for her Doctor of Ministry. The goal is to reflect upon the Star Word throughout the day.

My first Star Word was "Light." It was perfect for me. God said, "Let there be Light." Jesus tells us that in this world of darkness, we are to be the Children of Light.

My second Star Word was "Nature." It was perfect for me. I could always find God in His creation. Walking and praying in the woods are sacred to me.

Now, my third Star Word is "Accept." I was a bit disappointed when I drew out my yellow star. I was expecting something warm and fuzzy like "Love" or something colorful like "Rainbow." But "Accept" is not exciting, nor emotional. It's just plain, Accept.

I have always thought of myself as an accepting guy. However, I soon realized that my acceptance of others, of ideas, and of even myself was in words only. (Maybe there is something to this Star Word after all).

I began to be aware and truly accepting of others, regardless of race or sex, politics or religion, education or social status, as children of God.

As I became less judgmental and more accepting, strained acquaintances became friends. As I became more open to different ideas, my view of the world became more inclusive, that we are all connected.

Finally, being more accepting of myself, I felt less stressed, humbler, happier. Spiritually, I felt that I had become more "Christ-like."

Thus, my Star Word, "Accept" is perfect for me.

What is your Star Word?



Joe Sorci, "Genesis" -26x18 on paper.

Joe is a renowned painter and sculptor living in Forestville, NY

# Art Discovery Highlights, January/February 2026



A great way to start the new year! We celebrated another exhibit in our Young Artist series:

"Off the Canvas, Felt Painting and Sculpture", featuring artist Emma DuBois. Our reception for Emma brought in many community visitors who found her work to be charming and unique, and marveled at her talent to create felt paintings using wool and needle.

**AD Registration begins soon!**

Want to be a part of Art Discovery?

Text Lucy Andrus at 716-467-3392 around the end of February with name and email to be notified of dates.

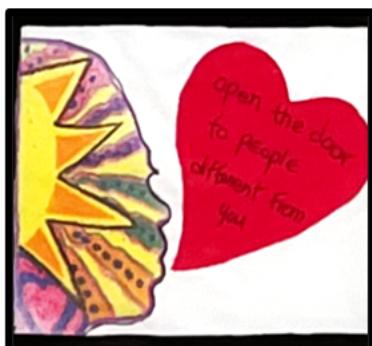
Class fills fast!



**Wishing all a Happy New Year!**

Inspiration: Isaiah 43:18-19

*Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up.*



**Upcoming Event 2/8/26!**

"All You Need Is Love"  
Messages of Love, Hope, and Service

Quilt Art by children & teens from the Art Partners Program.

All are welcome, 2/8/26 ~11:45 am  
Fellowship Hall, 219 Central Ave



Original photographs by Carol Groat

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<a href="http://www.fredoniapres.org">www.fredoniapres.org</a>	219 Central Ave Fredonia, NY 14063

*Thank you for reading!*