



The Fredonia Presbyterian

September 2025
Newsletter of the
Fredonia
Presbyterian
Church

From Our Pastor

As the school buses roll back onto our streets and backpacks reappear in our homes, we enter a season of fresh beginnings. The start of a new school year is always a mix of excitement and nerves—not just for students, but for families, teachers, and all of us who support them. It's a reminder that learning isn't confined to classrooms; it is a lifelong journey, stretching across generations, classrooms, and communities.

This year, as we step into this new season, I encourage all of us to embrace a spirit of curiosity and courage. There will be challenges—tests to take, projects to complete, and new relationships to navigate—but there are also opportunities: opportunities to grow, to connect, and to show kindness in unexpected places. Just as the children and young adults in our lives bring energy and wonder to the world, we too can approach our days with openness and hope.

In our congregation, we have a chance to be part of that growth. We can celebrate achievements, lend a listening ear, and remind one another that learning is never just about facts and figures—it's about understanding, empathy, and resilience.

Let us also remember to lift up our teachers, administrators, and school staff in prayer. Their work shapes not only minds, but hearts and futures. May they have patience, creativity, and joy in abundance.

As we step into this new school year together, may we all—young and old alike—be reminded that each day is a fresh page, a chance to learn, to love, and to shine God's light into the world. Here's to curiosity, courage, and community in the days ahead!

Go Big Blue! Go Marauders! Go Hillbillies! Go Bulls! (who am I missing!?)

WOW!

Our late August yard sale was a great success, raising \$1466!!

BIG thank you's to all helpers (there was a LOT of stuff), staffers, donators, and shoppers!

Upcoming Picnic!

The Deacons will throw a church picnic after worship on Sunday, September 21st!

Hot Dogs served;
bring a dish to pass if you're able.
All welcome!



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FINAL REUNION

Summer is the time for weddings, picnics and... reunions. As local former English teacher and school nurse, we are invited to class reunions. This summer Fredonia High School class of '75 celebrated their 50th class reunion at Shorewood Country Club on a beautiful evening. It was a sentimental journey to reconnect with former students. However, the highlight for me was that they had brought a copy of my FHS Senior Yearbook of '63. There I was on the football, basketball, and tennis teams, in black and white photos, at age 17, 63 years ago. What struck me the most was our class motto: "Ah, but a man's reach should exceed his grasp, Or what is a heaven for?" (Robert Browning)

The motto had no real meaning to me then, but its significance grows as I age. I think of the Wright brothers who reached for the sky and of Neil Armstrong who reached for the moon. Whether it was an inventor like Thomas Edison who finally succeeded in lighting his bulb after 10,000 attempts, or an artist like Michelangelo who painted the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, individuals have been reaching beyond their grasp.

How does the motto inspire me in my life? I remember my 4-year-old granddaughter asked me "Grandpa, how do you get to Heaven?" And a 90-year-old woman lying in a hospital bed asked me, "Joe, what is Heaven like?" I did not know how to answer either one. I was still thinking earthbound. I was not thinking Heavenward. My earthly "grasp" was short of my heavenly "reach." The motto means more than success on earth; it inspires us to strive for Heaven. Spiritually, we must reach beyond our earthly life to attain our heavenly life. Until the final reunion.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 "For the Lord Himself shall descend from
heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump
of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we which are alive
and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet
the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever."

Thus, a man's reach should exceed his grasp, then we will all be together to join the
Heavenly Reunion!
---By Joe Calarco





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Hello! I'm Trish Lehn, your new editor. I'm a writer and reader, and an enthusiast of fall projects and literature in general. I'm excited about this enterprise and hope to serve you even half as well as my predecessor.

I shall start by saying a gigantic thank you to Susan Pepe, mover & shaker extraordinaire, who has compiled and edited this publication for over 13 years! Sue, you're amazing, and we thank you so very much for this service every month.

As I feel my way these next few issues, I'd love to hear from you! Any feedback is appreciated, good or not so good (yes, really, how else will I know?). I'd also encourage you to say yes to your own inner creativity by submitting an article, an idea for an article, or your artwork. Like a lovely September pond, just jump in! It gets the heart pumping.

I'll try not to make too many big changes at once, but again, if you have something you'd like to see or not see, please let me know at trisha.lehnen@gmail.com

Inspirations

Literature- Khalil Gibran, "The Prophet" (book)

Music- Sharon Van Etten "Mistakes" (song-rock)

Art- Charles Burchfield (see "Burchfield Penney Art Center" group on Facebook- weekly paintings paired with Burchfield's journal entries)

Phone Game- "Blossom Word Game" by Merriam Webster

Line from a Hymn That Makes you go "hmm"

"Give us the courage to
enter the song"



-Here in This Place

Gardeners! Got Plants?

Are you dividing any perennials this fall? Consider giving a split to our Memorial Garden, such a nice way to remember your loved one. We could especially use shade loving plants.
Text Trish, 716-785-8870

To obtain a 4"x4" plaque for your loved one, see the form on our website under the "Engage > Memory Garden" tab



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September 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
September is Suicide Prevention Month	Labor Day	Theology on Tap 5ish at The Next Chapter Book Store Fred/Dunkirk Back to School	Food Pantry 12:30-4:30pm Presbyterian 101 (last meeting) 6pm	Narcotics Anonymous 7pm		Lakeshore Fellowship 12:30-7pm
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Choir Practice 9:30am Worship 10:30am Communion Sunday School resumes		Theology on Tap 5ish at The Next Chapter Book Store	Food Pantry 12:30-4:30pm	Narcotics Anonymous 7pm		Fredonia Farmers Mkt 9am-1pm
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Choir Practice 9:30am Worship 10:30am Disability Inclusion Sunday		Theology on Tap 5ish at The Next Chapter Book Store.	Food Pantry 12:30-4:30pm	Narcotics Anonymous 7pm		Food Pantry 10am-noon Lakeshore Fellowship 12:30-7pm
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Choir Practice 9:30am Worship 10:30am Church Picnic after worship-see p. 1 Int'l Day of Peace		Theology on Tap 5ish at The Next Chapter Book Store.	Food Pantry 12:30-4:30pm Compeer Meeting 12:30-4pm	Narcotics Anonymous 7pm		
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
Choir Practice 9:30am Worship 10:30am		Theology on Tap 5ish at The Next Chapter Book Store.	Food Pantry 12:30-4:30pm	Narcotics Anonymous 7pm		Blessing of the Animals 10am



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September Birthdays



1 Linda Malcolm
4 Erin Bennett
Audra Comerford
Tom Van Dette
6 Crista Hagberg
7 Matt Prendergast
11 Maureen (Mo) Webb
Summer Rose Sanden
12 Adam Lukach
14 Cameron Rinehart
16 Megan Kristan
23 Danny Phillips
25 Marcie Lukach
26 Amber Rinehart
28 Lorraine Withington
30 Susan Bennett

New Baby!!

So many congratulations to Cindy Rechlin & Tom Gordon on becoming grandparents again!

Opal June Voss Gordon

was born July 23rd, 2025

to parents Britta Voss and Matt Gordon,
many congratulations!

We're excited to meet her one fine Sunday!

September 2025

Images from Bing.

September Anniversaries



4 Frank & Brittany Valente	2022
24 Russell & Kristi Leone	2017

Around Town

(**see page 4 calendar for events specific to our church)

Tuesday 9/9 6:30pm, 37 West Main St,
Brocton

"Threads of History:
Interviews with Elders"

Thursday 9/11 7pm, Opera House
"The Story of the Stone Cutters:
Headstones & Beyond"

Th-Sa 9/18-9/20 7:30pm, Main St. Studios
"Shades of Blue"

A new play by local writer, Michael Tuccio

Saturday 9/20 2pm, Ch. Co Fairgrounds
"2025 Lake Erie Rumble" (demo derby)

Deacon of the month (aug)

Jennie O'Boyle

Thank you Jennie!



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Prayer List



Elizabeth English
Carmen
Deb
Sharyn Duff-Kibbee
Laurie
Wayne
Jenn O'Boyle
Julie Newell
Margaret Kohl
Sarah
Annerose Pietsch
Donna Rocque
Brian Sisson
Katie Sanders
Kyrie
Frank & Mary
Rey Spangler
Greg Chwojdak
Gary Chwojdak
Nardel Hector
Holly Clark-Porter
Jenna
Amanda Foy
Jennifer & Mike
Jonah & Elijah
Shaundra & Art
Tucker
Lisa Dubenion
Phyllis Kordos

In Memoriam

-Susan Guziec's mother
Doris Thompson 9/29/24

Joy Hite 9/30/24

Prayers...

For those who have lost a loved one to suicide, this
Suicide Prevention Month.

For our Local Partners in Ministry; Compeer, Chautauqua
Girl Scouts, and Narcotics Anonymous.

For our Global Partners in Ministry; Friends of the
Presbyterian Education Board in Pakistan, and the young
girl we sponsor, Neriah.

For students, bus drivers & aides, teachers and staff
upon return to school. And for parents adjusting to new
schedules!

August Session Quick Notes: Session met 8/21, all in attendance

- We will have an upcoming baptism- Cru Levandoski's grandmother has requested our church's involvement, this was approved by unanimous vote
- Feeding Fredonia challenge is in the works and will take place 10/12-10/25
- Session approved Fredonia High School's request to use our sanctuary for Advanced Music Performance (AMP) recitals in January
- A motion was made, seconded, and all approved to hire a Sunday School Teacher to spotlight a curriculum. Reece returns as helper/caregiver.



Ah, September! Zinnia, dahlia, goldenrod, thrive. Butterflies make their way south, the light takes on deep golden, deeply introspective tones. Thank you Lord, for our harvests, the ripening of seeds with which to begin again, for our glimpses of You in September sunsets.



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219 Central Ave

Fredonia, NY 14063

Special Events in September

Sunday 9/7- Communion Sunday, Sunday School starts up again, and our Fall Stewardship kickoff begins.

Saturday 9/13- come see us at the Fredonia Farmers' Market! Fair trade coffee, tea, chocolate, and more.

Sunday 9/21- We will celebrate as a congregation at the church picnic, held by the Deacons after worship. Hot dogs provided, but bring a dish to pass if you can. All are welcome!

(Upcoming) 10/4- Blessing of the Animals 10AM