



# The Fredonia Presbyterian

November 2023  
Newsletter of the  
Fredonia  
Presbyterian  
Church

## From Our Pastor

I read about the poet Jane Kenyon, who was born in 1947. Her grandfather was a preacher and was known as staunch and a bit scary, which caused her to wander away from Christianity. Later in life, she found her way back to the church but she saw theology as creative. She saw theology in everyday things, which she writes so beautifully about in her poems.

As we reach November, it feels like a good time to give thanks to this community and take a big deep breath. The time will change and dark will come earlier. Days will be crisp and chilly. Forecasts of snow are already on the horizon. So, after such good work on Feeding Fredonia, let us rest and give way to hygge, fire places, and cozy sweaters. So, now I turn it back to Jane to help us settle in.

Let the light of late afternoon  
shine through chinks in the barn, moving  
up the bales as the sun moves down.

Let the cricket take up chafing  
as a woman takes up her needles  
and her yarn. Let evening come.

Let dew collect on the hoe abandoned  
in long grass. Let the stars appear  
and the moon disclose her silver horn.

Let the fox go back to its sandy den.  
Let the wind die down. Let the shed  
go black inside. Let evening come.

To the bottle in the ditch, to the scoop  
in the oats, to air in the lung  
let evening come.

Let it come, as it will, and don't  
be afraid. God does not leave us  
comfortless, so let evening come.



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## To Life

by Joe Calarco

“Chai” is the Hebrew word for “Life.” In Scripture, to give Chai is to give spiritual life. Thus, the origin of the popular Jewish toast of celebration, “L’chaim”, to Life.

Doug, a retired dentist, is a member of my Men’s Bible Study in Ft. Myers, FL. We are a mixed group of men, including: educators, contractors, law enforcers, even a professional baseball pitcher (who struck out the great New York Yankee star, Micky Mantle 7 times). Doug and I became friends and bonded on a personal level. After I returned home, he remained in Florida While playing Golf, Doug collapsed on the course. Fortunately, a physician playing nearby gave Doug CPR until EMTs arrived. After heart surgery, Doug resumed playing golf.

When I returned to Ft. Myers the next season, and resumed our Bible Study, I learned of Doug’s golf/heart incident. After our Bible discussion, the conversation turned to cardiac health. Everyone shared what treatments or medication they were taking. When asked what medication I take, I jokingly remarked that I drink a glass of red wine every night.

In a quiet voice Doug smiled and replied that he also has a glass of red wine every night. At 5 o’clock, he raises his glass in celebration of his day of life. He toasts to the Great Physician, in thanksgiving, “l’chaim,” to Life.

I now follow Doug’s ritual and it has brought new meaning to my daily tradition. When I stand on the bank of the creek, with my glass of red wine, it is not for “medicinal” purposes, but now it is a toast to my Creator for one day more of life, “l’chaim”!

*One day at a time, Sweet Jesus*

*That’s all I am asking of you*

*Just give me the strength*

*To do every day what I have to do*

*Yesterday’s gone Sweet Jesus*

*And tomorrow may never be mine*

*Lord help me today, show me the way*

*One day at a time (Wilkin/Kristofferson)*

(Continued on page 3)



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## To Life (Continued from page 2)

Paul encouraged us to live for the day. “Therefore do not worry about tomorrow for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.” (Matt 6:25-34)

There have been several versions of the adage “Live one day at a time”, but at our last prison ministry meeting, I heard a new one, “Don’t worry about tomorrow...God is already there.”

Finally, as I sip my mug of tea, I smile at the inscription on the mug,  
“This is the day the Lord has made,  
Let us rejoice and be glad in it” (Psalm 118:24)

“L’Chaim,” To Life

## Please Pray:

for the Keryx ministry, Joe and Carol Calarco, and the team. Joe will be going into the prison the first week in November.

for our Global Partners in Ministry: Friends of the Presbyterian Education board in Pakistan.

for our Local Partners in Ministry, Compeer Chautauqua.

for the Cuba ministry and Nancy Cuervo.

Through the Presbyterian Education Board and your generous donations we have been able to sponsor a day student, Neriah Kamal, in her quest for an education.



Let’s pray for Neriah, her family, and all those making sure girls in Pakistan can attend school.

Joy is living in a community that collects so much food for its Food Pantry that new records are set and the Pantry overflows.

## 5,000 pounds

and counting! As of Sunday, October 29th that was the unofficial total for the food collected during this year’s Feeding Fredonia Challenge.

There is still food to be weighed so we will have a final tally and lots of thank you’s the December newsletter.





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## November 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
				Putnam insurance 8-4		Farmer's Market 10-1 Barker Commons
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Worship 10:30 Communion	Art Discovery 6-8	Girl Scouts 5-7		Rotary 12-1		Lake Shore Fellowship 12-5
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Worship 10:30 Mission Committee Mtg. after worship	Art Discovery 6-8		Bible Study. Fredonia Place 1	Session Meeting 6		Food Pantry 10-12 Farmer's Market 10-1 Barker Commons
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Worship 10:30	Art Discovery 6-8	Girl Scouts 5-7				
26	27	28	29	30		
Worship 10:30	Art Discovery 6-8					

Images and photographs are from Bing, Ellen Vacanti, Lilly Li, and Carol Groat.



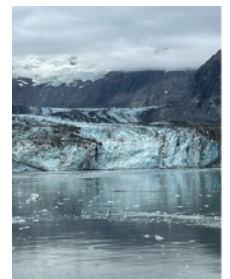
# The Fredonia Presbyterian

## Over the Coffee Cups

Ellen Vacanti had her one and only cruise of a lifetime in September. She had always wanted to go to Alaska and finally checked that box.

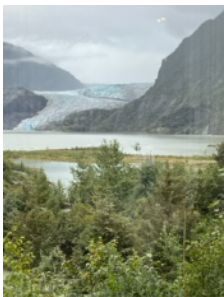
Ellen and her brother, Donald McPherson & his wife, Kathy, who live in Saratoga Springs, NY, traveled together to Vancouver, Canada. Her brother Gordon McPherson & his wife, Diane, who live in Camano Island, WA met them in Vancouver.

The cruise ship left from Vancouver and the first stop was Juneau, Alaska where they went on a whale watch and did some sight seeing which included traveling by bus to the Mendenhall Glacier Park. They found a wonderful fish 'n chips place and had excellent halibut.



The next stop was Skagway, Alaska where they took the White Pass & Yukon Route train along the gold rush route. Beautiful mountains & glaciers surround the trail. Can't imagine what it was like to make this journey in 1898. They saw the old train bridge over a gorge, not much remains of it, built in 1900. They stayed on the cruise

ship to visit Glacier Bay. There they saw several glaciers but the best was Johns Hopkins Glacier! The area to this glacier had just opened the end of July and we passed ice chunks in the aqua blue water and 10 or more seals lying on huge pieces of ice. The ship did a 180 so people on the other side of the ship could enjoy it also. It was very interesting to see how this huge cruise ship could turn in one place. Glacier Bay closes in October, so, we were fortunate to see it.



The last stop was in Ketchikan, Alaska where we took a boat and toured an old salmon canning operation. We took a path that went over a little brook, probably glacier run off, up a hillside and saw the salmon trying to reach the top. Some had to try and try again, not sure if they made it. We took a bus to a native area, Kichxáan Anáaski, where they make the totem poles seen all over Ketchikan. We saw the building where huge logs were in the process of becoming a totem pole. There was a circle of totem poles out in the park area and each had a story. One was meant to embarrass a man who had promised to send back money to them but never did. His future ancestors had wanted the totem pole taken down but it would cost them \$10,000 so they said to leave it up!

In between all these adventures, life on the cruise ship was amazing. There were shows, music/bands in the club area, viewing from the upper deck, different activities, and did I say the food was incredible? Well, the food was incredible!!

We cruised back to Vancouver and spent a few days with Gordon & Diane at their new house in Camano Island. Then the 3 New Yorkers made their way back home. The flights were good and on time. We found an excellent Italian restaurant in the O'Hare airport. Don & Kathy went on to the Albany airport and I to the Buffalo airport. What great memories!!



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## Over the Coffee Cups (continued)

Marge Benton is slowly adjusting to all the recent changes in her life. One benefit of her move to Washington, DC is the frequent visits from her family. Here's a picture of Marge sharing a book with one of her great-granddaughters.



Marge appreciates any cards and notes sent to her. Her contact information is  
Marge Benton  
Forest Hills of DC  
4901 Connecticut Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20008

A few members of the congregation were recently able to attend an art show hosted by the Mental Health Association of Chautauqua County. Wing Haight-Wills, who has been an artist since she was 2, had work displayed. Go onto the church's FaceBook page to see the story and the interview Spectrum News did with Wing.

From the interview: "It's just something that is within me and is natural to do," Wing said. "I don't feel like I would be me, without creating art. And I don't personally remember a time that I wasn't creating some type of art."

If you've ever noticed the painted rocks outside Ellen's office or seen a highly decorated envelope in the offering plate, that's Wing's work, too.

Susan Pepe recently ran into Terry Schrontz in the grocery store. If his big smile is any indication, he is doing pretty well. Right now he is looking forward to hunting season and says to say, "Hello", to folks he knows.



**Don't forget** to take cans with a deposit to Can King (just tell them to donate the money to the Food Pantry) or bring them to church.

Also, those empty ink cartridges Ellen recycles generate revenue for the church. The box to collect them is in the Penfold Room.





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## Prayer List

Donna Heintzman  
Joe Dolce  
Dick Ackley  
Dick Watt

Joy Hite  
Zachary Dloniak  
Deb Harris  
Sandy McBride

Susie Harris  
Jordan Mendyk  
Tracy  
Toni-Jo Mitchell

Mick  
Jennifer O'Boyle  
Cheryl Connelly  
Kevin

Lorraine & Joe  
PJ Meadows  
John LaMancuso  
Lucy Thomas

Elaina  
Jessie  
Larry & Sharon Kitty  
Nick

Jennifer Souder  
Rebecca  
Jack Rudy  
Sujat Parikh

Baby Julien  
Nikki  
Carrie Divine  
Lorraine Withington



## November Birthdays

1 Jackson Spangler  
4 Dustin Lukach

5 Mark Piazza  
8 Ellen Vacanti  
Steve Harp

11 Chloe Palmer  
17 Lillian Divine

18 Cori Coia  
21 Travis Gordon

29 Susan Guziec



## November Anniversaries

3 Dustin & Marcie Lukach 2007

7 Ned & Lillian Divine 1987

8 Stephen & Barb Lucariello 1980

9 Ron & Janine Scaccia 1996

17 Holly & KC Clark-Porter 2011

23 James & Susan Pepe 1996

24 Ron & Melissa Chwojdak 1978

26 Joe & Carol Calarco 1986



Fredonia Presbyterian Church  
219 Central Avenue  
Fredonia, NY 14063

## **The Dates for the Alternative Christmas Have Been Set**

Lots of jobs will be available when we set up for the 2023 Christmas Festival.

Friday, December 1, 3:30-6

Saturday, December 2, 9-3

Sunday, December 3, 12-1

Nativities will be needed. Might you loan yours?

Folks will be needed to work each shift.

Greeters, hosts in the sanctuary where the nativities are displayed, bakers for the refreshment table, cashiers, workers at the Equal Exchange and SERRV tables.

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