



# The Fredonia Presbyterian

November 2024  
Newsletter of the  
Fredonia  
Presbyterian  
Church

## From Our Pastor

This is for the November newsletter, but as I write this, football players, ghouls, unicorns, and witches are walking down the street for Halloween. To quote KC, "Halloween isn't over until the election is—nothing's scarier." With the scary bit not quite behind us, I turn to the Church.

We have liturgies of the early church that date back to the second century, when Christians were still heavily persecuted. In essence they were funerals. Those about to join the church would take off their clothes as a means of putting off the old, anxiety-ridden life and walk down into the water. The priest would place them under the water saying, "Buried with Christ in baptism." While rising, "Risen to new life in Christ."

They put on new clothes as a symbol of putting on Christ. The rationale was to go ahead and confront death and get it over with. Once they were no longer anxious about Caesar's persecutions of the church, they were free to boldly proclaim the gospel. The profound theological truth being... You can't scare dead people.

This actually feels really profound as I bite my nails reading the news. It feels like maybe going to Texas (google some of the TX political ads that are outright and heinously against and hateful towards the queer community) for Thanksgiving can be lovely no matter the outcome. It feels like we can do anything together if we're truly doing things together with God's love in our motivation, our being, our actions, our prayers.

So, as a people who have already died to this world, may come to the water as often as we need to rise from it, not scared of the evils, greed, power, lust, and hate of this world. May we live instead for justice, kindness, and walking humbly with our God.

## Art Discover's Community Celebration of Dia De Los Muertos

Friday, November 1 from 6-8 pm



Please invite friends and join us for the installation of our ofrenda (a place of joyful remembrance) and artifacts. Enjoy traditional music and foods. Take the opportunity to create a memento of a departed loved one to place on the ofrenda.



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## KOINONIA

The word “Koinonia” appears in the Greek New Testament 20 times. The term meant “Christian Fellowship” or “to gather together for the purpose of Christian Fellowship.” In the early Church, “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and KOINONIA, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” (Acts 2:42) The term has been adopted as the name of the ecumenical Christian movement that came from the Roman Catholic experience called in Spanish, Cursillo which means “short course”. Koinonia is the lay group that has developed out of the ancient tradition of Curcillo.

Today, we have Koinonia Weekends (Men and Women) which focus on the meaning of God’s grace, the necessity of spiritual growth through prayer, study and action. It stresses the need to take Christ’s message to the community and the world, both individually and through the Church.

Recently, Carol and I participated in a Men’s Weekend at Chautauqua Institution. I was on team and Carol served in the kitchen. Each Weekend has a theme determined by the Rector. The theme for our Weekend was “to Overcome.” “I have told you all this so that you will have peace of heart and mind. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows; but cheer up, for I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)

During this weekend a group of 31 men prayed, sang, ate and bonded together. At my table sat 5 strangers who shared their struggles to overcome their personal suffering to become Brothers-in-Christ. One in his early 70’s, had been a loving caregiver for his wife who had recently passed away from Alzheimers. For 7 years, 24/7 he had a role and purpose; now he was lost socially and spiritually. Another in his mid 60’s, had survived 2 traumatic car accidents and now wonders why he is alive to tell his story. A third in his late 30’s recently discovered that his wife was having an affair with a married man. He is in doubt of the future of his marriage. The fourth is a Methodist pastor who is struggling with the realignment of the modern Church which has strayed from Biblical teachings. And then there was me, who struggles everyday to be a better Christian.

All of us from different lives, sharing different struggles, seeking a common goal, to overcome.

We all have our personal trials, challenges, struggles and sorrows. At times, we feel isolated and abandoned by others and by our God. This is the time for Koinonia, Christian Fellowship. Whether it is at a Bible Study, coffee group, our coffee hour after worship, or listening to a friend who is hurting, it’s all about unconditional love. “For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in the midst of them. (Matt. 18-20)

The source of the peace of heart and mind is, of course, Jesus. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, and the love of Jesus, and the grace of God, we are heirs of heaven and are able to overcome the ways of the world. Do not fear or be dismayed by daily suffering for we are all Brothers and Sisters, as children of God.

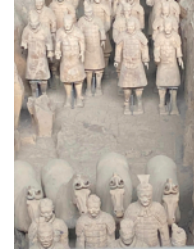
By Joe Calarco



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## Over the Coffee Cups



Lily, Johnny, Henry and John Sr. went to China on June 18<sup>th</sup> and came back to the US on August 13<sup>th</sup>. We had a very successful trip with our little ones, full of travel, sight-seeing, food, and visiting with family and old friends. Lily hadn't been back to her hometown for almost 10 years and she has family who had never met Johnny and Henry, so it was very special event for everyone.

We visited a total of 11 cities from 4 different provinces: Ningxia, Shanx, Hebei, and Guangdong. Highlights included visiting the Gobi desert in Ningxia, the Terracotta Warriors in Xi'an, the old cities of Kaifeng and Luoyang, and the mega-cities of Guangzhou and Hong Kong.

We appreciate Fredonia Presbyterian Church's well-wishes, encouragement, and support in this undertaking. We are always interested in sharing our experiences, so if you see Lily or me and have a question about anything "China", please ask!

## Feeding Fredonia Challenge

With help from so many people in this church, so many businesses and organizations in this community, so many students and staff members in the Fredonia schools the Feeding Fredonia Challenge was able to collect more than a ton of food to support the Fred Basket. As of this writing we have collected

**2,657.3 Pounds!**

## Thank you!

to the team who cleaned up Rt. 39 on October 17.



## Unpack those Nativities!



Dates for the Alternative Christmas are December 5-7, 2024.

**Invite Your Friends!**

## Narcan Training

November 13 at 7 PM

Free and Open to the Public

As part of our commitment to mental health and to our community, we're hosting a Narcan training. Take the training and you may someday save a life.



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## November 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
October is American Indian Heritage Month					El Dia de los Muertos 6-8	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
All Saints Day Worship 10:30  Communion  Daylight Savings Begins	Art Discovery 5	Theology on Tap 5ish at The Next Chapter Book Store  Election Day  Girl Scouts 6-7	Food Pantry 1-3	Food Pantry 4:30-6:30  Narcotics Anonymous 7		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Worship 10:30	Veterans' Day  Art Discovery 5	Theology on Tap 5ish at The Next Chapter Book Store.  Girl Scouts 6-7	Food Pantry 1-3  Narcan Training 7	Rotary 12-1  Food Pantry 4:30-6:30  Narcotics Anonymous 7		Food Pantry 10-12  Farmer's Market Masonic Temple 10-1
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Worship 10:30  Stewardship Pot Luck after church	Art Discovery 5	Theology on Tap 5ish at The Next Chapter Book Store.  Girl Scouts 6-7	Compeer 12:30-2:30  Food Pantry 1-3	Food Pantry 4:30-6:30  Narcotics Anonymous 7		Lake Shore Fellowship 12-6
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Worship 10:30	Art Discovery 5	Theology on Tap 5ish at The Next Chapter Book Store.  Girl Scouts 6-7	Food Pantry 1-3  Compeer Craft Group 12:30-2:30			Lake Shore Fellowship 12-6



# The Fredonia Presbyterian

## 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
- 26 Ron Chwojdak  
Mark Thomas  
Cora English  
Jacob English
- 29 Susan Guziec



## November Anniversaries

- 3 Dustin & Marcie Lukach 2007
- 7 Ned & Lillian Divine 1987
- 8 Stephen & Barb Lucariello 1980
- 17 Holly & KC Clark-Porter 2011
- 23 James & Susan Pepe 1996
- 24 Ron & Melissa Chwojdak 1978
- 26 Joe & Carol Calarco 1986



**Theology on Tap** meets every Tuesday, 5ish-6:30ish, at The Next Chapter Book Store. Bring your own beverage.

Do you ever check the hallway **bulletin boards** at church? If not you are missing "Thank you" notes from Koinonia of Chautauqua Co., Church World Service, and the Fredonia Schools as well as a postcard from Ireland. Hmmm, who sent us a postcard from Ireland.

Images from Bing and Carol Groat.





# The Fredonia Presbyterian

## Notes from the Session

The October 16, 2024 meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. Holly Clark-Porter. In attendance: Diane Bell, Cori Coia, Carol Calarco, Susan Pepe. Excused: Rey Spangler. The agenda and September minutes and addendum to the September minutes were approved.

## Discussed:

- Holly officiated at 3 funerals (Joy Hite, John Krokiszki, and Virginia Heavern) 1 wedding (Yuki and Inderdeep Bajwa)
- Holly used one week of the two weeks she is given each year for continuing education, 3 Sundays of the 6 Sundays she is given off. Holly will be gone for a week of vacation in November.
- Holly has started Houses of Hope with 5 folks from the congregation. They are exploring together.
- Holly learned a great deal from her Stewardship Kaleidoscope conference.
- Thank you's to Cindy and Tom for their help with the Bajwa wedding.
- Holly has had several conversations with new visitors.
- Thank you to the Deacons and Spangler's for help with funerals.
- Beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel with the FeedMore process. Will begin ordering food for Fred Basket soon.
- FeedMore requires training for folks who volunteer at the pantry.
- The Deacons report shows the board has been very busy.
- The September financial report was accepted. Discussed the deficit and pleased it is much less than the budget projected.
- We may be adding another church school teacher to our roster of teachers.
- The Feeding Fredonia Challenge ends October 18. Under Holly's guidance it is off to a good start.
- Approved the Mission Committee sending \$500 to Koinonia of Jamestown and Chautauqua Co.
- One more order needs to go to SERRV to retain our wholesale status and be ready for the Alternative Christmas. Susan will take care of this.
- We need to start advertising and preparing for the Alternative Christmas right after Halloween.
- The boards we use for nativities need to be cleaned and new fabric needs to be purchased.
- Stewardship plans to roll out their campaign November 3.
- We need to plan a cleaning day for later in the fall.
- Thank you to Jeff and Tom for taking care of the hoses, outdoor spigots, and air conditioners.
- We have another company coming in to look at the front steps.
- We have salt for the winter. The salt and shovels will soon be coming out of the shed.
- GABO plans to start the roof project on November 11.
- Planning a Narcan training.
- We sold one pew. There is now a wheelchair accessible spot in the front of the church. The portion of the pew that was removed to make this possible is out of the way.
- Nominating committee will soon need to look at filling positions for next year.
- The Committee on Ministry is trying to change some of its focus.

The meeting adjourned with prayer. The next meeting is Thursday, November 21 at 6 PM.





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## Prayer List

Donna Heintzman  
 Joe Dolce  
 Dick Ackley  
 Zachary Dloniak  
 Dick Watt  
 Gary Chwojdak  
 Toni-Jo Mitchell  
 Mick

Cheryl Connelly  
 Lorraine Withington  
 Deb Harris  
 Susie Harris  
 Jessie  
 Janine D.  
 Jennifer O'Boyle  
 Alba Talavera

Lucy Andrus  
 Greg Chwojdak  
 Jimmy  
 Paul  
 Anna  
 Gerald  
 Rhonda Daminski  
 Susan Lis

Jenna  
 Evelyn Ryan  
 Elizabeth English  
 Baby Emma  
 Elaine  
 Ryan Williams  
 David Leffel  
 Jay East & Julie Newell

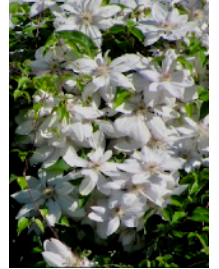
Sam  
 Carol  
 Matt & Family  
 Sam & Kristi Lauer  
 Roger W.  
 Tracy  
 Autumn



## Sympathy is Extended...

Sympathy is extended to Janine Scaccia and her family on the death of her husband, Ron. Cards to Janine at

Janine Scaccia  
 37 Carol Ave.  
 Fredonia, NY 14063



Sympathy is also extended to the family of Liam, an 8 year old who recently passed away.

## Prayers...

For peace in all countries.  
 For Pat Stokes who is heading to the Ukraine to help feed people.  
 For victims of hurricanes.  
 For those affected by war in the Middle East.

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.

## **Stewardship Potluck** *The Secret Ingredient*

November 17th after worship

Mark your calendars

Bring a dish that is meaningful to your family. Maybe a dish that has been passed down in your family or a dish that speaks to your cultural heritage.

Come celebrate another year of Fredonia Presbyterian.

Fredonia Presbyterian Church  
219 Central Avenue  
Fredonia, NY 14063

Please speak with Betsy or Tom White if you are able to occasionally work at the **Farmers' Market**.  
We have a table at the Farmers' Market the third Saturday of each month.

### **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.