



The Fredonia Presbyterian

November 2025
Newsletter of the
Fredonia
Presbyterian
Church

From our Pastor

A Different Kind of Pioneer

Rey Spangler recently got me into a reality show—the one about the modern pioneers. I'm not usually a reality show person, but I was excited because there's a gay couple with a child. There are only three families, and for one of those to be a gay couple was just too much to pass up. It's a show produced by the beloved Joanna and Chip Gaines, and they caught major flack for their family choices. And they doubled down—no apologies.

I couldn't help but think of that word *pioneer*. Someone who goes first. Who blazes a trail, not for the sake of attention, but so that others might walk a little more freely behind them. Maybe that's what the saints did, too.

This month, as we celebrate All Saints' Sunday and baptize a child into the family of faith, I'm struck by how often faithfulness means stepping out into the unknown. It's building something when you don't yet see the blueprint. It's believing there's a harvest even if you're only sowing seeds. It's trusting that love will find its way forward—even when the world says it doesn't fit the mold.

We stand on ground cleared and cultivated by saints—some we've known, some we haven't. And now it's our turn to keep clearing, planting, and blessing new beginnings.

As we move into November, with its quieter days and grateful hearts, I'm giving thanks for all the pioneers of faith and love—those who go first, those who hold the line, and those who dream of a world where everyone belongs.

peace, holly

Meal Train is an amazing new thing!

We all know, cooking can be tough. Even more so under duress, and so deacons want to spread the comfort of a prepared dish to those ill, grieving, or just unable to cook for themselves for a time. Guess what, there's an app for that! Welllll, the coordination part, if not the actual cooking. If you can help, **even occasionally**, please contact Melissa C.



The Fredonia Presbyterian

STAY GOLD -by Joe Calarco

As Carol and I walked into Shea's Theater for the presentation of the musical "The Outsiders" we noticed people wearing caps and t-shirts with "Stay Gold." The story by S.E. Hinton revolves around the rivalry between two teenage gangs, The Socs (Socials), Haves from the West side vs. the Greasers, Have Nots from the East side (reminiscent of "West Side Story"). After the final rumble which ends in a death, Greasers Ponyboy and Johnny must escape from town. Filled with fear and despair, Ponyboy recites Frost's poem to Johnny, "Nothing Gold Can Stay."

Nature's first green is gold,

Her hardest hue to hold.

Her early leaf's a flower;

But only so an hour.

Then leaf subsides to leaf.

So Eden sank to grief,

So dawn goes down to day.

Nothing gold can stay.

Frost's theme is that the beauty of nature, flowers, sunrises, are short lived and will pass away. Like the first yellow daffodil of Spring, like the red rose of Summer, their colors will fade, and blossoms will fall. The leaves of green will turn to scarlet and gold before fluttering down to earth. Even the glory of a golden sunrise will dissolve into the light of day.

God created Eden, a paradise on earth. Adam, Eve, and Cain soon brought sin and death, and the gold of paradise tarnished and faded away. So it is with humankind; we have fallen from innocence into corruption. Each of us is born with the golden light of a new life. Have gratitude, giving thanks for the beauty of nature around us and hold on to the Christ-Spirit within us. Each and every day, appreciate the small things in life, a butterfly, a hug, a smile, and be willing to give and to receive. Most of all, always remember that this life on earth is temporary and will fade into death.

Our heavenly life will be eternal. We must hold on to our divine spirit. With his dying words Johnny pleads with Ponyboy to hang on to his spirit of youth and to the beauty of life and to "Stay Gold."



The Fredonia Presbyterian

Inspirations

Literature- Leif Enger, "I Cheerfully Refuse" (book)

Music- Madi Diaz, "Fatal Optimist" (album)

Art- Brandon Lazore, "Haudenosaunee Harvest" (painting)

Plant- Evening Primrose



Line from a Hymn That Makes you go "hmm"

"Morning by morning, new
mercies I see"

-Great is Thy Faithfulness

Deacon of the month (oct)

Melissa Chwojdak

Thank you Melissa!

Foods of the month (nov)

Christmas type foods

Session Quick Notes from October Meeting:

- Jennie O'Boyle was our deacon liaison; we discussed continuing this to further communication
- Continuing work on co-chairs and delegates
- Still looking for a Sunday School teacher candidate
- 2026 pledges are outta sight; **thank you to all**

Editor's Note

"And when you work with love you bind yourself to yourself, and to one another, and to God."

-Kahlil Gibran, *The Prophet*, "On Work"

I've been astounded this glorious October at all this church does. And by this church, I mean you.

From a stellar kid and her mama rallying our church fam to stand up for what's right, to over 3,500 pounds of food collected by many drivers and sorted by many hands, from a fella quietly cleaning our gutters on a crisp sunny afternoon, to a lady taking time out from a hectic upcoming move to teach others how to do holiday market, from those who make beautiful music for us, to those who clean out closets because a family had a fire and needs coats; we are a truly a church of many colors. Of much talent, and time given.

I remember, about 6 months in, having this epiphany moment in the pew one Sunday. "Ohhhh, this is a *working* church....," I mused. Thank you, thank you, for making it so. For working with love. As we approach a time of warmth, gratitude, but also stress and overwhelm, may we do this as much as we can.

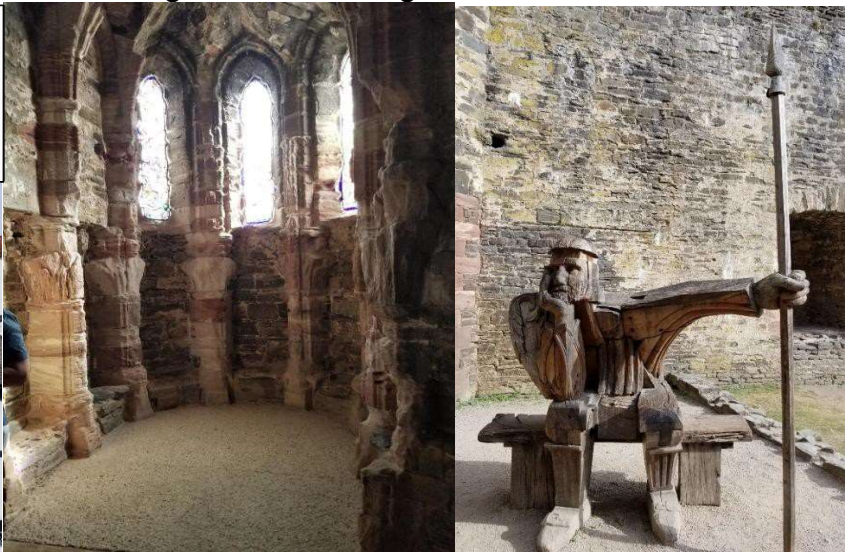
-Trish



Travels In the British Isles --by Zoe Milliman

In August I was blessed to be able to go on a cruise of the British Isles, and one of my favorite outings was our visit to **Conwy Castle in Wales**. We docked in Liverpool and then travelled by bus across the River Mersey, down the Wirral peninsula and across the River Dee into Wales. As we travelled west near the northern coast, we could see a wind farm in the distance that supplies a quarter of all the electricity for the country. Eventually we reached Conwy, a town that was originally within the walls of the large castle built over 700 years ago by Edward I. The castle was formerly accessed only by a drawbridge from the village.

Although there was a church in the village, the castle had its own chapel.



Among a row of houses by water is structure 6 feet wide, deemed the smallest house in Great Britain. Although it is no longer habitable, the last resident was 6'5" and slept with his feet out the window!



The Fredonia Presbyterian

November 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
November is Native American Heritage Month						Lakeshore Fellowship 12:30-6 pm Dia de los Muertos
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Daylight Savings time begins Choir Practice 9:30am Worship 10:30am All Saints' Sunday Communion Baptism	Art Discovery 5pm-9pm	Art Discovery Set up 10am-4pm Election Day	Food Pantry 12:30-4:30pm Theology on Tap 5ish at Raven & Thorn	Art Discovery Set up 10am-4pm Narcotics Anonymous 7pm	Art Discovery Set up 10am-4pm	Fredonia Farmers Mkt 9am-1pm
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Choir Practice 9:30am Worship 10:30am Art Discovery installation opening- Haudenosaunee Culture ~11:45am	Art Discovery 5pm-9pm	Veterans' Day -thank you vets	Food Pantry 12:30-4:30pm Theology on Tap 5ish at Raven & Thorn	Girl Scouts 5:30 pm Narcotics Anonymous 7pm	Soup and a show 5pm-8pm	Food Pantry 10am-1pm
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Choir Practice 9:30am Worship 10:30am	Art Discovery 5pm-9pm		Food Pantry 12:30-4:30pm Theology on Tap 5ish at Raven & Thorn	Transgender Day of Remembrance Narcotics Anonymous 7pm	Stewardship Soiree 6pm	Lakeshore Fellowship 12:30-6 pm
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Choir Practice 9:30am Worship 10:30am	Art Discovery 5pm-9pm	Food Pantry 12:30-4:30pm Note Tuesday!	No food pantry!! Compeer & FPC Feast 11am Theology on Tap 5ish at Raven & Thorn	Thanksgiving Day		Lakeshore Fellowship 12:30-6 pm
30 1st Sunday of Advent Choir Practice 9:30am Worship 10:30am		(Upcoming: Nativities and Alternative Market, more info to follow)				



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 |
| | Raine English |
| | Jacob English |
| 29 | Susan Guziec |

In Sympathy

With KC and Holly Clark-Porter on the loss of KC's grandmother Marian.

With Lucy Andrus and the Art Discovery family on the loss of their dear friend Audrey.

With the family in Cherry Creek who lost their home and family cat in a fire.

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 |

Prayer List

Ned Divine	Aunt Kristi
Frank (Matthew's grandpa)	
Carmen	Yongqing Li
Deb	Carrie
Sharyn Duff-Kibbee	Kathy
Laurie	Crystal & baby
Wayne	Lenny & Cathy
Jenn O'Boyle	Lourdes
Julie Newell	Diane Bell
Wayne & Susan	Susan Faust

Margaret Kohl	Sarah
Annerose Pietsch	Kyrie
Donna Rocque	Jenna
Brian Sisson	Rey Spangler

Frank & Mary	Tucker
Greg Chwojdak	Amanda Foy
Gary Chwojdak	Lisa Dubenion
Nardel Hector	Grandma Tarele
Holly Clark-Porter	

Jennifer & Mike	Joe Dolce
Jonah & Elijah	Lorraine
Shaundra & Art	The English Family



The Fredonia Presbyterian

Fredonia Presbyterian

219 Central Ave

Fredonia, NY 14063

Special Events in November

11/2 10:30 worship- All Saints' Sunday and a Baptism, Guitar concert by Luke from SUNY Fredonia at coffee hour

11/9 ~11:45 (coffee hour)- Art Discovery's opening of installation on Haudenosaunee Culture and Art. On display until 12/1

11/14 6pm-8pm- Soup and a Show by Lucy Andrus featuring Jaune Quick-to-See Smith's work, "Childhood Memories". Enjoy the exhibit, homemade soup, and fellowship. Free will offering, all are welcome.

11/21 6pm- Stewardship Soiree- wine, mocktails, and hors d'oeuvres to celebrate everyone who pledged. RSVP to holly@fredoniapres.org