



# The Fredonia Presbyterian

July/August 2025  
Newsletter of the  
Fredonia  
Presbyterian  
Church

## From Our Pastor

There's something sacred about a baseball game. My brother took me to a Rangers game while I was in Texas--it was awesome.

Maybe it's the rhythm of it—the way it stretches out slow and steady, like a good Sunday. Maybe it's the way people gather, sharing stories and sunflower seeds. Or maybe it's that glorious moment when the crack of the bat sends a whole stadium to its feet, shouting hope into the summer sky (or shouting "Yeet", which is apparently the new thing).

Baseball, like faith, is full of waiting. There are long innings where nothing much seems to happen. There are errors and strikeouts and moments where you wonder if you're ever going to make it home. But then—unexpectedly, wonderfully—grace breaks in. A line drive. A stolen base. A catch made on the run. A second chance.

Sound familiar?

Our spiritual lives aren't always fireworks and walk-off homers. More often, they're a series of small plays. Showing up. Keeping watch. Trusting the signs. Listening for the Spirit's signals and being ready to run when it's time.

And like any good team, we don't do it alone. We cheer each other on. We forgive the dropped balls. We believe there's always another inning. That even when we're behind, it's not over. Not yet.

So this summer, whether you're in the pews or in the bleachers, remember: faith is a game of inches and endurance. Of grit and grace. And of always keeping your eye on the ball—even when the sun's in your eyes.

Play ball, friends.

And may the peace of Christ be with you—especially in extra innings.

## Help Wanted

This is the last issue of the newsletter Susan Pepe will be editing. Do you know how to turn your computer on and off? You probably have the skills needed to be the next editor!



# The Fredonia Presbyterian

## BE KIND

By Joe Calarco

While in Florida, I am a Mentor for 25 fifth grade boys. We met once a week and have “lessons” on life skills such as character, service, respect, responsibility, honesty, fairness, and citizenship. At the end of the 12-week program, we celebrated with a graduation. Each boy spoke on the one “lesson-trait” that meant the most to him. The #1 trait that influenced them was...KINDNESS! (note: this was not one of the official lessons). They felt that Kindness was the basis of all the other traits. and had the greatest effect on their lives.

Destiny Houston from WNY was selected as the “Kindest Kid in America.” She defined Kindness as “being kind to others when no one else is watching.” In the article, “Always Be Kind” Donna Volmerding, 77, offers words of wisdom to the next generation. “Always be kind, even if you don’t feel like it. Some of the biggest regrets I have in my life are times when I was unkind. Be honest, but temper everything with kindness.”

Once I was the recipient of an unusual act of kindness. As a young teacher, I taught at Fredonia High School but lived in Dunkirk. To supplement my income, I taught English at Dunkirk Summer School. It was a sweltering summer, and my 30 students suffered through the heat while reading Romeo and Juliet. They were a rough and rowdy group and would prefer to be outside of a hot classroom, rather than trying to understand Shakespeare. We had a tenuous relationship. They let me teach and I did not hassle them. On the last day of class. I told them that I would release them early to enjoy the rest of their summer, and that I was moving today from Dunkirk to Fredonia. As I lived 2 blocks from school, I walked home, thinking of the arduous day ahead of me, moving 23 large boxes with all our belongings. It would take at least 7 or 8 car trips of loading and unloading. Fifteen minutes later, I arrived home to a surprise. All the moving boxes were gone. My wife said, “Your students took them in pickup trucks.” “Oh, no!” I moaned, “they don’t know where our new house is.” I thought that it must be a last day joke on the teacher. We drove to the house and there were no boxes in the garage. When we entered the house, I could not believe what I saw. We found all the labeled boxes in the appropriate rooms. I never saw the students again. But I remember their unconditional act of kindness.

Presbyterian minister, child advocate and creator of his “Neighborhood,” Mr. Rogers stated: “There are three ways to ultimate success. The first way is to be kind. The second way is to be kind. The third way is to be kind.” I believe that Jesus would agree with Tim McGraw’s lyrics, “Always stay humble and kind.”

Images from Bing



# The Fredonia Presbyterian

## July Birthdays

5 Jeff McMinn  
7 Beverly Styborski  
9 Susan Spangler  
11 Bridget Mackowiak

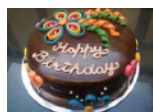
13 Tammy McCool  
14 Carol Calarco  
17 Trisha Lehnen  
18 Frank Valente

21 Susan Royal  
22 Marge Benton  
Braxton Kristan  
23 Jennifer O'Boyle  
31 Rickey Miller

## August Birthdays

2 Vince Vacanti  
3 Tom Gordon  
4 Jennifer Miller  
Denise Widmer

5 Noah Rinehart  
11 Russell Leone  
14 Elliana Leone  
21 Kathy Dloniak



22 Tom Salamone  
23 Nancy Roberts  
24 Ned Divine  
28 Wing Lee Haight Wills

29 Dick Watt  
30 Peggy Tiffany

## July Anniversaries

1 Audrey Kowmas & Denise Widmer 2015  
27 Vince & Ellen Vacanti 1974

## August Anniversaries

9 Katie & Matt Prendergast 2022  
10 Jeff & Susan Guziec 2022  
13 Susan Royal & Wayne Jones 1988  
20 Travis & Xin Gordon 2016  
26 Bridget Mackowiak & Matthew Carman 2018

## Help Needed

We need a couple more teams to work our table at the once a month Farmers' Market. We are at the Farmers' Market the second Saturday of each month.

July's Foods of the Month are  
**Condiments**  
Think Picnic!

**Marge Benton is turning 100** on July 22! We're giving her a card shower. Bring your cards (addressed and stamped) to church and we will send them all together.  
Marge Benton  
4901 Connecticut Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20008



# The Fredonia Presbyterian

## Dessert Fest and Cassadaga Band Concert July 8 at 6:30



This year the Dessert Fest and concert will be starting at 6:30 PM. Have your dinner then join us for dessert (hopefully something red, white, and blue) and a song. Bring a lawn chair.

If you are able to bring a dessert, please sign up in Fellowship Hall.

## Thank you!

Blanket Sunday we collected \$315.

Tool Sunday we collected \$170.

So, we were able to send Church World Service \$485.

The 2025 six month report is in from CWS. Already this year they have provided folks with 27,847 kits and blankets. That includes 12,720 hygiene kits and 6,610 blankets.

From Tiffany DeTienne who works on the Congregations Team at CWS: "So far this year, thanks to your partnership and compassion, CWS kits have been shared from Grand Rapids to Chicago, Dallas to Cleveland, and Annapolis to Poughkeepsie—reaching neighbors in family resource centers, warming shelters, soup kitchens, refugee welcome centers and communities facing tough times.

This winter, CWS placed a crucial role in California's wildfire recovery by helping establish the Wildfire Resource Hub, which provided a wide array of services—from emergency aid to long-term recovery support. CWS Kits were a part of that response."

## 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.

Be on the outlook for information on

**Presbyterians 101**, a short series on who Presbyterians are, what we believe, and other fun stuff. Class is open to everyone - long time presses or newbies.

## Please Help the Folks Who Depend Upon Fred Basket

With summer travel plans affecting the schedules of folks who normally work the food pantry, we have some time slots in July and August that could use your help.

When we have our next FeedMore WNY delivery we will need help receiving and stowing our new groceries. The date and time are yet to be determined.



# The Fredonia Presbyterian

July 2025

| Sunday   | Monday | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday                 | Friday  | Saturday  |
|--|--------|---|--|--------------------------|---|---|
|  |        | 1   | 2  | 3                        | 4   | 5   |
|  |        | Horizon Band 12-2   | Fred Basket<br>12:30-4:30<br><br>Band Rehearsal<br>6:30  | Narcotics<br>Anonymous 7 |  |   |
| 6  | 7      | 8   | 9  | 10                       | 11  | 12  |
| Worship 10:30<br><br>Communion                         |        | Horizon Band 12-2<br><br>Dessert Fest &<br>Cassadage Band<br>Concert 6:30 | Fred Basket<br>12:30-4:30<br><br>Funeral Dangler<br>1-2  | Narcotics<br>Anonymous 7 |   | Farmers' Market<br>Barker Commons<br>9-1<br><br>Lakeshore<br>Fellowship 12:30-7 |
| 13   | 14     | 15  | 16   | 17                       | 18  | 19  |
| Worship 10:30<br><br>Congregational<br>Meeting - Short |        | Horizon Band 12-2<br><br>Theology on Tap<br>5ish                          | Fred Basket<br>12:30-4:30<br><br>Our Church<br>Breakfast 8:30 am   | Narcotics<br>Anonymous 7 |   | Fred Basket 10-12   |
| 20   | 21     | 22  | 23   | 24                       | 25  | 26  |
| Worship 10:30  |        | Horizon Band 12-2<br><br>Theology on Tap<br>5ish                          | Fred Basket<br>12:30-4:40<br><br>Conpeer Craft<br>Group 12:30-2:30<br>in the Library<br><br>Compeer Guy Time<br>3-4:30 | Narcotics<br>Anonymous 7 |   | Lakeshore<br>Fellowship 12:30-7   |
| 27   | 28     | 29  | 30   | 31                       |   |   |
| Worship 10:30<br><br>Deacons and Zoe<br>Installation   |        | Horizon Band 12-2<br><br>Theology on Tap<br>5ish                          | Fred Basket<br>12:30-4:30  | Narcotics<br>Anonymous 7 |   |   |
|  |        |   |  |                          |   |   |
|  |        |   |  |                          |   |   |
|  |        |   |  |                          |   |   |



# The Fredonia Presbyterian

## August 2025

| Sunday                     | Monday | Tuesday                 | Wednesday  | Thursday                 | Friday | Saturday  |
|----------------------------|--------|-------------------------|--|--------------------------|--------|---|
|                            |        |                         |  |                          | 1      | 2   |
|                            |        |                         |  |                          |        |   |
| 3                          | 4      | 5                       | 6  | 7                        | 8      | 9   |
| Worship 10:30<br>Communion |        | Deacons 1-2             | Fred Basket<br>12:30-4:30  | Narcotics<br>Anonymous 7 |        | Farmers' Market<br>Masonic Temple<br>10-1   |
| 10                         | 11     | 12                      | 13   | 14                       | 15     | 16  |
| Worship 10:30              |        | Theology on Tap<br>5ish | Fred Basket<br>12:30-4:30  | Narcotics<br>Anonymous 7 |        | Fred Basket 10-12<br><br>Lakeshore<br>Fellowship 9-6                                  |
| 17                         | 18     | 19                      | 20   | 21                       | 22     | 23  |
| Worship 10:30              |        | Theology on Tap<br>5ish | Fred Basket<br>12:30-4:40  | Narcotics<br>Anonymous 7 |        |  |
| 24                         | 25     | 26                      | 27   | 28                       | 29     | 30  |
| Worship 10:30              |        | Theology on Tap<br>5ish | Fred Basket<br>12:30-4:30<br><br>Compeer Craft<br>Group 12:30-2:30<br>in the Library<br><br>Compeer Guy Time<br>3-4:30 | Narcotics<br>Anonymous 7 |        |   |
| 31                         |        |                         |  |                          |        |   |
| Worship 10:30              |        |                         |  |                          |        |   |
|                            |        |                         |  |                          |        |   |
|                            |        |                         |  |                          |        |   |



# The Fredonia Presbyterian

## Prayer List

Joe Dolce  
Jessie  
Lorraine Withington  
Dick Watt

Elizabeth English  
Carmen  
Deb  
Sharon Duff-Kibbee

Chris Schwartz  
Bob Hagberg  
Laurie  
Wayne

Jenn O'Boyle  
Jay East  
Julie Newell  
Margaret Kohl

Sarah  
Annerose Pietsch  
Donna Rocque  
Brian Sisson

Kyrie  
Frank and Mary  
Rey Spangler  
Paruk

Th Nazari Family  
The McKay Family



Please pray that good things come  
**Katie Sanders's** way.

**Dick Watt's** health does not permit visitors. He is on Hospice care. Please keep Dick and his daughter, Laura, in your prayers. A card is always welcome.  
3705 Bard Rd.  
Cassadaga, NY 14718

## Sympathy is Extended...

To Kathy Hoffmann on the death of her uncle, Hans Hoffmann.

To Chris Witkowski and his family on the recent death of his brother, Philip Witkowski.

To Jennifer O'Boyle and her family on the death of her cousin, Rhonda Daminski, on June 7<sup>th</sup>.

To Jennifer O'Boyle and her family on the death of her aunt, Nancy Clees.

To the family of Braydon Wilson who died June 1. Braydon was a freshman at Fredonia High School. Pray for his family and also the students and teachers at FHS.

To the family of Rev. Rodney Houck who died in Ohio on June 19. Rodney was the minister here at Fredonia Presbyterian Church for 11 years, from 1982 to 1993. A service is planned for July 26 at 11 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist church on Temple Street in Fredonia.

## In Memoriam

11 George Shumaker

8/2024

A memorial service was held June 7th in our church for Charles Divine.

**Fred Kids** are on summer break.

Hoping to see them in church on Sundays, Holly has planned services that are a little shorter.

Fredonia Presbyterian Church  
219 Central Avenue  
Fredonia, NY 14063



### **Saturday, August 23**

August 10 you may start bringing items for the sale to the library.

People will be needed to help set everything up and work the day of the sale.

Sign up sheets for workers will be in Fellowship Hall in July.