



# The Fredonia Presbyterian

January 2025  
Newsletter of the  
Fredonia  
Presbyterian  
Church

## From Our Pastor

My cousin Heather picked us up from the Denver airport and when I shrieked at the bizarre, giant statue of a blue horse with glowing red eyes, she told me all about this crazy conspiracy that starts with that statue. Long story short, a man died making the statue which somehow led to people thinking there were underground tunnels, which led people to think the Masons are involved, which led people to think the airport actually a hub for CIA or the actual Camp David or the Illuminati.

Based on this clearly formed and easy to follow trajectory of conspiracy \*insert sarcasm\*, I then had to know everything. So, I found a great podcast about the CIA Conspiracy. All this to say, at the opening of each show, the hosts say, "But, we're not conspiracy theorists—we are however curious, open minded, and have a healthy dose of suspicion." I love this!

As we head into a year of unknowns, I invite you to be curious, open minded, and have a healthy dose of---meh, sure, suspicion or rather the mind to question. And maybe you think I mean to our politics or world safety or in the aftermath of recent ISIS resurgence, safety on our own soil and yes, I guess I do. But, more about our inner selves.

Be curious about what intrigues you or be curious about what your friend or partner pays attention to. Be curious about the next odd Scripture you read or about what God might be pointing out to you. Have an open mind to the niche hobbies people have or niche jobs that we never think about. Have an open mind about what the Holy wants you to see.

Finally, be suspicious/question when someone says they're fine, when they clearly aren't. Don't bombard them, but do add them to your prayers and remember that moment the next time you see them. Question the news. But also question how you take the news in and what it does to you. Question the feelings you have: need space? Take it. Need to workout, get to the gym. Need to set boundaries, draw those lines!

So, from Denver on this blistering, cold day, may a conspiracy podcast ignite your senses and may curiosity of Jesus, the open mind and arms of God, and the thoughtfulness of the Holy Spirit be with you all.



Many thank you's are in order. Thank you to the Rechlin/Gordon and Calarco families for our delicious Pancake Breakfast, everyone who helped with the Christmas Festival, everyone who helped with Fred Basket, everyone who made this Christmas season seem special.



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## **NOW WHAT?**

By Joe Calarco

Now that the last notes of Christmas Carols have faded away, and colored lights have grown dim; the gaily wrapped presents opened and holiday cookies eaten. Now that the decorations are stored in their totes and returned to the attic. Now that the Nativity is gone, is the magic of the Christmas Spirit also gone? Now what?

Lighting of the five Advent candles serve as harbingers of the coming of Christ.

First is “Hope”. Hope in the present as well as in the future. Hope is the number one request of those whom I ask how I can pray for them in my prayer book. Hope kept Holocaust survivors alive in death camps. Hope gives us light in our times of darkness and anticipation for our future in eternal life. Let us be hopeful Christians

Second is “Peace”. Peace for inner self as well as for the world. Peace is on the lips of people of all religions and countries. We all pray for world peace. However, peace must be within each of us. Let Peace begin with me. Let us be peaceful Christians.

Third is “Joy”. Joy in our hearts as well as for others. Joy is what makes the spirit sing and the heart glad. We must see the joy that is around us in nature, in others, and in ourselves. Let us be joyful Christians.

Fourth is “Love”. Love of God as well as of our neighbor. Love is the gift that keeps on giving. The more you give, the more you receive. Love makes us human as well as spiritual. Love is life; life is love. Let us be loving Christians.

(Continued on Page 3)

Images from Bing and Carol Groat.



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## Now What? (Continued from Page 2)

Fifth is “Christ”. Christ in Spirit as well as in our lives. Christ is the center of the Advent wreath and is the center of our lives. Christ offers us Hope, gives us Peace, creates Joy, and is the birth of Love. Let us be Christ-like Christians.

Now that New Year’s resolutions have been made and broken, it is time to return to the reality of daily living. Now is the time to incorporate the true meaning of the Advent candles in our lives, everyday of the year.

Now what? Live everyday of the year with the Christmas Spirit.

By Joe Calarco

### January Birthdays

- 3 Joan Van Dette
- 4 Patty Lynn
  
- 7 Cain Forest Palmer
- 10 Audrey Kowmas
  
- 13 Carol Groat
- Grace Rinehart
  
- 14 Emily Rodriguez
- 15 Ron Hagberg
  
- 16 Katie Prendergast
- 29 KC Clark-Porter



### January Anniversaries

- 3 Susan & Rey Spangler 2004
- 4 Tom & Maureen Webb 1975
- 25 Rob & Carol Groat 1969



### In Memorium

- Larry Kibbe 1/11/24
- Leon Thompson 1/11/24



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## January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			New Year's Day	Food Pantry 4:30-6:30  Narcotics Anonymous 7		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Worship 10:30  Communion			Food Pantry 1-3	Rotary 12-1  Food Pantry 4:30-6:30  Narcotics Anonymous 7		Farmers' Market Masonic Temple  Lakeshore Fellowship 12-6
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Worship 10:30  Epiphany  Star Words Chosen		FeedMore WNY Delivery 12-2:30  Girl Scouts 6-7	Food Pantry 1-3	Food Pantry 4:30-6:30  Session 6  Narcotics Anonymous 7		Food Pantry 10-12
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Worship 10:30  Congregational Meeting after Worship  Installation and Ordination of Officers	Martin Luther King Day  Inauguration Day  Art Display Installed 10-3	Art Display Installed 10-3	Compeer Craft Group 12:30-2:30 in the Library  Compeer Guy Time in Library 3-4:30  Food Pantry 1-3	Art Display Installed 10-3  Food Pantry 4:30-6:30  Narcotics Anonymous 7	Art Display Installed 10-3	First Hike 10  Lakeshore Fellowship 12-6
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
Worship 10:30  Installation of Officers		Girl Scouts 6-7	Food Pantry 1-3	Food Pantry 4:30-6:30  Narcotics Anonymous 7		



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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  
Gerald  
Jessie  
Janine D.  
Alba Talavera  
Jimmy  
Rhonda Daminiski  
Susan Lis  
Jenna

Elizabeth English  
Elaine  
David Leffel  
Jay East & Julie Newell  
Sam  
Carol

Roger W.  
Sam & Kristi Lauer  
Tracy  
Autumn  
The Daly-Griffith Family  
Sharon Duff-Kibbee  
Avery  
Laurie  
Ron Hagberg  
Tim



## Prayer List (continued)

Denise  
Wayne  
Aunt Linda  
Burris/ Angel Families  
Bob & Dawn Dopler

Willie  
George  
Kitty  
The Chwojdak Brothers  
Charles & Carrie

Kim & Walt  
Ben Broclier  
Ryan Williams  
Jack Borman  
The Gerdts Family

Fredonia Presbyterian Church  
219 Central Avenue  
Fredonia, NY 14063

## Congregational Meeting

A congregational meeting will be held after worship on Sunday, January 19. We will discuss and vote on Holly's terms of call and discuss the budget along with a few less serious topics. Hope you can make it!

## First Hike

SUNY's hiking path is calling us! Saturday, January 25 meet at 10 am in the church parking lot. Then we'll head to the path to do some easy hiking with a little spirituality thrown in with the good fellowship and exercise. Hope you can join us.



Our next food delivery from FeedMore WNY will arrive on Tuesday, January 14 between 12 and 2:30. We'll know a more exact time the day before. Many hands will make light work!

January 2025