



The Good News

February 2019

For the members and friends of the First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford

A WEE WORD FROM DR. WEENINK

Shabat — Sabbath

The story is told of a wagon train on its way from St. Louis to Oregon. Its members were devout Christians, so the whole group observed the habit of stopping for the Sabbath day. Winter was approaching quickly, however, and some among the group began to panic in fear that they wouldn't reach their destination before the heavy snows. Consequently, several members proposed that they discontinue their practice of stopping for the Sabbath and continue driving onward seven days a week.

The proposal triggered a lot of contention in the community. So finally it was suggested that the wagon train should split into two groups—those who wanted to observe the Sabbath and those who preferred to travel on that day. Both groups set out and traveled together until the next Sabbath day, when one group continued while the other remained at rest.

Who do you think got to Oregon first? It was those who kept the Sabbath. They are the ones who reached their destination first. Both the people and the horses were rested, restored and renewed by their Sabbath observance that they traveled much more vigorously and effectively the other six days of the week.¹

There is a Greek proverb that states “the bow that is always bent will soon cease to shoot straight.” In the book of Genesis we see how God placed in Creation this same essential rhythm. Six days, God worked; on the seventh, God rested. Jesus, we read in the Gospels, was an individual of intense activity. He preached, taught, listened, and healed. He worked; then, we are told, He withdrew. Jesus did more than withdraw. He prayed. He set His compass, wound His watch, set the time with a focus on God. He rejuvenated and renewed.

Marva Dawn says, “When we cease from all our labors to control or to understand, there is time in our space for the eternal.” Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel wrote, “On the Sabbath we specifically care for the need of eternity planted in our own soul.” And Theologian John Calvin, the founder of what we know as the Protestant Work Ethic said: “On the Sabbath we cease our work so God can ... work in us. (Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), *Invitation to Sabbath*)

Lots of prayer has gone into learning about the benefits of clergy renewal leave/sabbatical and actually taking the leap to try it. Continued prayer is needed in order that it will not only be done well, but that we will also find it as an occasion for mutual growth. It requires creativity and willingness on the part of clergy to respond in spirit and take responsibility for personal and ministerial growth. It takes the same willingness on the part of the congregation. The Session has endeavored diligently to engender that willingness in approving a clergy renewal leave—a sabbatical for Rev. Dr. Carrie N. Mitchell that will commence at the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday, March 6, and will conclude at the first of June. This is all possible because Carrie was awarded a grant through the Lilly Foundation specifically intended for Clergy Renewal.

The purpose of a clergy renewal leave is to “replenish the well” emotionally, physically, intellectually, and spiritually. Your leadership has learned from a host of congregations and clergy who have undertaken a renewal leave (or sabbatical) and the Lilly Foundation how that should and should not happen. It should not happen, on one hand, in the form of a vacation, or, on the other hand, an academic course of study, but

¹Marva Dawn, *Keeping the Sabbath Wholly*, p. 65

rather through intentional experiences that will “make one’s heart sing.” I commend to your reading the *Handbook for Clergy Renewal Leave* (sabbatical leave) which will be made available to you in the church office. It will contain the design for the leave; ways in which Carrie and her family will be able to find the spaces and places “to make their hearts’ sing”; some frequently asked questions; contact persons and a host of other useful information.

While this is something new for us, and may raise some anxiety, it promises immense propensity for growth. If you are experiencing a tinge of anxiety about this, please know that this is not unusual. In many regards this is a leap of faith that is accompanied by elements of fear and uncertainty that come “before the plunge.” Our intent, as a congregation and staff, is to concentrate on the immense potential for growth and understand that God is in this plan. We are all confident that there will be no disruption of pastoral services during this renewal time.

Poet Wendell Berry, a deeply spiritual individual, takes a walk every Sunday morning and then goes home and composes a Sabbath poem. Here is one he wrote in 1979:

Whatever is foreseen in joy	And yet no leaf or grain is filled
Must be lived out from day to day.	By work of ours; the field is tilled
Vision held open in the dark	And left to grace. That we may reap,
By our ten thousand days of work.	Great work is done while we’re asleep.
Harvest will fill the barn; for that	When we work well, a Sabbath mood
The hand must ache, the face must sweat.	Rests on our day, and finds it good.

Nope, we’ve “never done anything like this before.” Continue in prayer that, with God’s help, we will figure out how to do it well and grow together in witness, faith and service.

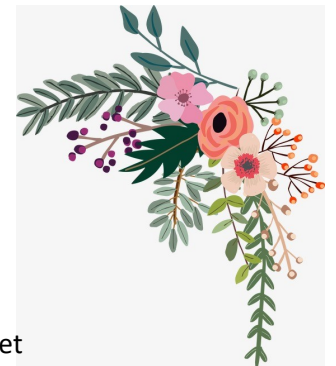
Shabat Shalom (peaceful Sabbath)

Yours in faith, *Jeffrey*

Members with February Birthdays

Amy Adams	Liz Mehalso
Aidan Bachmann	Pat Miller
Diana Douglas	Erin Reeve
Anne Ferris	Gordon Sawrey
Matt Ferris	Nancy Skelton
Kim Finkbeiner	Kelsey Swetman
Elizabeth Gianakakis	Theodore Wallace
Stephen Hill	Marlys Whitcomb
James Kearney	Chris Zimmer

Wishing you a birthday that is full of laughter, love, and special memories!
(if we missed you—please let the office know)



Lectionary for February

February 3 4th Sunday after Epiphany Jeremiah 1:4–10 Psalm 71:1–6 1 Corinthians 13:1–13 Luke 4:21–30	February 10 5th Sunday after Epiphany Isaiah 6:1–8 (9–13) Psalm 138 1 Corinthians 15:1–11 Luke 5:1–11	February 17 6th Sunday after Epiphany Jeremiah 17:5–10 Psalm 1 1 Corinthians 15:12–20 Luke 6:17–26	February 24 7th Sunday after Epiphany Genesis 45:3–11, 15 Psalm 37:1–11, 39–40 1 Corinthians 15:35–38, 42–50 Luke 6:27–38
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Mission Possible!

On December 26, a group of volunteers headed to Myrtle Beach, SC: Dan Harrison, Janette Henderson, Craig and Calypso Kunkle, and Dan Traina from Pittsford, NY; Nick Tangney from Hartford, CT; Bev and Adam Pollock from Venice, FL; and Leah Preston from Charlotte, NC. There we met up with two old friends, Joanne and David Churchill, who now live in nearby Conway.



The reconstruction team with the home owners.

We stayed at the Timberlake Baptist Church and largely worked on a house owned by Sam and Cleah in the Rosewood section of Socastee. Their house is across the road from the Intercoastal Waterway and backs onto a retention pond—they were doomed when Hurricane Florence caused flooding in the area in September—their house was five feet underwater and they lost almost everything.

Everything was well planned—materials were on site, Adam got us organized, and pairs of experienced team members worked their tails off for 7 days—in fact they dry-walled the whole 2,000 sq ft house in five days!

Bev did an amazing job of cleaning up the trimmings and sweeping up all the dust created by the gang, and Janette shopped and cooked three meals a day.

One of the most rewarding things was the fact that the owners helped with the work. Sam had been an electrician, and he and his brother worked on restoring the electric lines and plumbing. Interactions and conversations with the owners were so satisfying for the volunteers, and Sam was so kind and grateful for our help—he actually took all the volunteers and several family members out for lunch at his friend's diner one day—delicious southern cooking.

We took a day off on Sunday, attended worship at the Baptist church and headed to Conway for a BBQ of smoked brisket at the Churchill's—and then it was back to work on Monday. I don't think a single person on the team was awake for New Year's Eve, having worked 8am-6pm every day. Most of us returned home around January 2—tired, but grateful for the opportunity to enjoy each other and know we had helped one family in distress.



One room of the house before..... and after.

Pastor Nominating Committee - Update - We have received our first batch of prospective ministers from PCUSA Headquarters. We will be conducting first round phone interviews in the upcoming weeks. Keep our committee in your prayers.

Optimists—Please Note New Date

February 15, 2019—Dr. Jared Chase, A Life in Music

Optimists will meet for lunch (bring your own) at 12:30 pm, followed at 1 pm by A Life in Music with our own Dr. Jared Chase (Jackson's Daddy). Jared is a professional conductor, trumpet performer, and professor of music at Nazareth College. There he oversees the Wind Studies program. He is also the music director for the New York State Ballet, a frequent conductor for Rochester Lyric Opera, and our wonderful music director at First Pres. Cost is \$2 to cover dessert. Make your reservations on 1/27 and 2/3 after both services. Hope to see you there!

Upcoming Music Events

Faure Requiem - The Chancel Choir will present Faure's Requiem with orchestra on **April 14, Palm Sunday**, during worship service. New members are encouraged to join and sing with us! Rehearsals begin on Wednesday, February 6, at 7:00pm. Please contact Jared Chase (musicdirector@pittsfordpres.org) for more information or if you are interested.

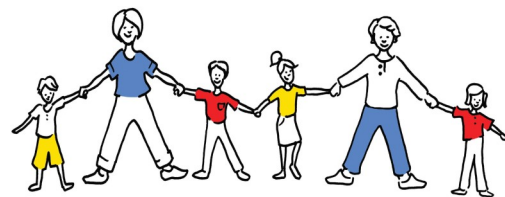
Upcoming February Concerts

Sunday, February 10, 3pm: Through the Lens of War. Join Eric Kesler, baritone, Kimberly Upcraft-Russ, soprano, and Chisato Marling, alto saxophone, in a recital of songs from poems by children who were killed in the Holocaust and texts from Walt Whitman's diary of the Civil War

Sunday, February 17, 3pm: Choral Extravaganza
An annual tradition, this year featuring choirs from U of R, Nazareth College, and our FPC Chancel Choir.

Sunday, February 24, 3pm: Nazareth College Outreach Recital

A special recital of college students from Nazareth College.



News from the Nursery School

February can be a cold and snowy month outside, but you would never know it if you visited the preschool. It is a short month, especially with a week off, but every day is action packed! We will be visited by the mail carrier; she will discuss her important job and take with her Valentine's cards that the children have made for their parents. We will offer parent conferences for our 3's parents; communication is crucial to good relationships. Of course, we celebrate Valentine's Day with cards and special games. We will also have a family Valentine's Day Party where the children will dance and play! Our year is now more than half over. Thank you for your continued support!

Teresa Zatyko, Director, Pittsford Nursery School

WEB Club

All are welcome to join us at anytime. We generally meet the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 2pm in the library. Below is a list of dates we will be meeting and the books selected. Come join us!

February 13: *Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate

March 13: *Crazy Rich Asians* by Kevin Kwan

April 10: *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng

May 8: *The Alice Network* by Kate Quinn

June 12: TBD

Needle Nellies will meet Tuesday, January 29, in Fellowship Hall from 11 am to 1:30 pm. Be prepared to talk, laugh, and extend friendship. Welcome to all! Questions? Call Kay 385.9807

Eve Circle will meet January 28 at 12:30 pm in room 200 to discuss chapters 5 + 6 of *The Reason for God*.

Gentle Yoga continues to meet on Thursdays at 10:30 am in the Chapel with a certified teacher. Come and join us with your yoga mat and \$10.



Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.
Lamentations 3:22-23

Valentine's Luncheon for Widows

The Annual Valentine's Luncheon for Widows' 5th Edition will be held Saturday, February 9 from 12:00-2:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. Enjoy a luncheon of soup, salad, quiche, and dessert prepared by your Deacons! This year we would like to "share the love" by bringing donations of toothbrushes and small toiletry items to benefit those less fortunate than us. Invitations will be sent soon, but PLEASE remember you are invited if you are a widow, despite the effective (or ineffective) delivery of mail. Join us, and bring a friend. We only ask you RSVP by February 4 to either Debbie Matrachisia at 752-5584 or the church office at 586-5688.

Tres M Ministerios

Three from FPC will join a team of fifteen to serve in Tabi, Q. Roo, Mexico. Ginny Vorhis, Carole Bell and Dr. Weenink will be part of the delegation Tres M Ministerios.

The Village of Tabi (Tah-Bee) is in the central portion of the Province of Quintana Roo on the Yucatan Peninsula. It is west of the town Felipe Carillo Puerto. Further to its West is the province, or state – Yucatan. If one goes due East one would enter into the Sian Ka'an international biosphere, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/410>

The population is under 400 and reflects the life of a typical lowland Mayan village. The name Tabi is said to mean "trap," likely referring to the thatch-covered holes invaders fell into as they chased escaping Maya into the bush. The Spanish captured and enslaved the Maya. This region was home to the Maya insurrection against the Spanish.

A facility intended to serve as a health clinic was started in 2001 and never finished. The team will work with the villagers to transform it into a multi-use community center. Three churches are uniting to help spearhead the effort and mobilize the community. We will help them finish the facility. We will clean the deteriorating concrete structure; remove vegetation; pour a 'concreto' (2' layer of concrete on the roof); do some plumbing and electrical work under the guidance of hired workers, and connect with new friends with whom we will worship, work and play – side by side.

Ginny, Carole and Jeffrey will be on this journey from January 24 - February 2. Please pray for them and the others who will be serving on this mission and seek them out upon their return to hear more about how God is at work in this region.

If you want to contribute to the effort the following items are useful to residents of Tabi. Any donations will be distributed among them. For youth: soccer equipment – balls, air pumps etc. Baseball gloves will be of lasting interest. For men: baseball caps, leatherman tools. For women: hair ties, barrettes, sewing kits/supplies, Tupper-type storage containers. For everyone: small LED flashlights, toothbrushes, combs, brushes, personal care items, umbrellas (esp. collapsible come in handy both when the sun shines and when it rains).



It's a Brand New Year! The holidays are over and we are continuing our transitions into our new events. We look forward to seeing you all during your busy schedules! Make sure to come and check out some of the new paintings on the walls in the Youth Room!

January 23, 30 + February 6, 13:	LOGOS	4:00-7:00pm @ Church
January 26:	Youth Midterm Breaks	4:00-8:00pm @ Church
January 27 + February 10:	Sunday Night Youth	7:00-8:30pm @ Church
February 3:	Youth Sunday!!!	both Services @ Church
February 3:	Confirmation Class	11:30am-1:00pm @ Church

Check out this throw-back to our Youth Service last year! Make sure to come and see us this year for the Youth Service on February 3! We'll be at both services!!



Attention all youth! We know how hard you work, so come and join us on January 26, for some post mid-term relaxation! Great fun and good food and a mini movie marathon! If you have suggestions on food or movies, make sure to let Tyler know! Otherwise, join us that evening in the Youth Room from 4-8pm. We can't wait to see you all there!

Cameron Community Ministries

Our December lunch prep at Cameron Community Ministries a week before Christmas consisted of putting 100 bag lunches together amidst the Christmas meal package being handed out. The place was rocking and so was our crew of Dianne Brown, Anne and Charlie Francis, and Cindy Becker plus Cameron helpers and staff—Sarah, Manuel and Shyae! In 2019, we've committed to sending a four-person team every third Monday of the month for a 10 am-2 pm shift. January and February spots are mostly filled but if you'd be willing to sub or take a later month, we'd love to give you a glimpse of this special mission. Please text/call Cindy Becker at 585-703-4878. Another opportunity to help is by donating new underwear (socks too) for all ages from babies to adults. Items should be kept in their original package. Of course, clothing donations, especially men's pants and shirts, are always welcomed. Just deposit any of the above in the Cameron bins and we'll take it from there. Many thanks for your support!





LOGOS Kids and Ash Wednesday Service

The LOGOS kids will sing in the Ash Wednesday service March 6 at 7 pm. They will be placed early in case families have to leave. Everyone is invited to stay for the short service if possible.

Guest Speaker Jan Edmiston

March 1 in the evening
March 2 from 9 am to 4 pm

Jan Edmiston, General Presbyter of Charlotte Presbytery and past Co-Moderator of the PCUSA, will come to speak to the church about ways to live out our new vision statement, created from the Appreciative Inquiry Process.

She will speak from her experience of visiting churches around the PCUSA and how she has experienced churches living into their mission in the current age.

A Hitchhiker's Guide to Reformed Faith

On February 3, at 11:45 am, we will meet to talk about the Sacrament of Baptism.

This class will cover the main tenets of the Reformed faith. No matter how confident you currently are in your understanding of our faith, this class will be for all levels. This class will continue to teach and nurture a desire to learn more about our Presbyterian faith.



Lenten Devotionals Available

This Lenten season we have available both electronic and paper devotionals from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. The paper devotionals will be available in the Narthex by the middle of February. These devotionals are daily devotionals with both scripture and reflection included. Instruction on how to obtain digital copies are included.

First Watercolor Collaboration

Cindy Barben and Craig Kunkle invite ALL to sign up for the First Watercolor Collaboration. The next date is Thursday, February 14, at 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Painters of all ability levels are welcome. We will collaborate on technique and form. Some brushes, paint, and paper are provided or bring your own. Bring something to work on yourself or paint the easy picture provided with guidance.

Vacation Bible School

Everyone is invited to join us this year for Vacation Bible School—from children able to use the bathroom independently to adults. The registration form can be found at: www.pittsfordpres.org/vbs

Vacation Bible School this year will be held July 22 - 26 from 8:45 am - 12:15 pm. We will be inside and outside and learning all about God. The theme for this year is "Games for the Body Mind and Spirit".

Christian Education

Upcoming Events

Men's Prayer Breakfast	2/4 7:00 am
Optimists	2/15 12:30 pm
Anthony Circle	2/6 10:00 am
Naomi Circle	2/18 12:30 pm
Eve Circle	2/25 12:30pm
Needle Nellies	1/29 11:00 am
Not so Basic Bible study	Mondays 7:30 pm
Prayer Support Group	Mondays 11:00 am
Bible Study	Weds. 7:15 pm
Men's Ecumenical Group	Thursdays 7:15 am
Adult Study	Sundays 9:45 am

Coming up for Kids

- Feb. 6 — LOGOS: Jars of clay
- Feb. 13 — LOGOS: Fill our hearts
- Feb. 20 — NO LOGOS
- Feb. 27 — Dive Deep

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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

*"When we cease from all our labors
to control or to understand, there is
time in our space for the eternal."*

Marva Dawn

<p>The Rev. Dr. Jeffrey D. Weenink Interim Pastor Ext. 25 jeffrey.weenink@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>The Rev. Dr. Carrie Mitchell Associate Pastor Ext. 32 carrie.mitchell@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>Craig Kunkle Director of Christian Education Ext. 30 craig.kunkle@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>Tyler Logan Director of Youth Ministry Ext. 31 tyler@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>Britta Konau Office & Communications Coord. Ext. 21 britta.konau@pittsfordpres.org</p>	<p>Maria DiGiambattista Financial Administrator Ext. 23 treasurer@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>John O'Flaherty Custodian Ext. 33</p> <p>Bill Mullins Assist. Custodian</p> <p>Dr. Jared Chase Director of Music musicdirector@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>Dr. Bruce Frank Associate Director of Music and Organist bfrank345@gmail.com</p> <p>Dede Holmes Director of Youth Choirs dmh91654@frontiernet.net</p> <p>Dr. Mary Carlson Director of Hand Bell Choir mcarlson74@gmail.com</p>	<p>First Presbyterian Church 21 Church Street, Pittsford, NY 14534 Phone 585 586-5688, Fax 585 586-8090 E-mail connect@pittsfordpres.org Web page www.pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>Worship With Us Please join us for Sunday morning worship.</p> <p>Worship Services: 8:30 & 10:00 am Communion is offered on the first Sunday of each month.</p>
		