



The Good News

April 2021

First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford
Embracing and Sharing Christ's Love

CHARTING THE COURSE WITH PASTOR AARON

When I first announced the Session's decision to begin re-opening in March, I had said I feel I can see a light at the end of the tunnel. That spirit of hopeful expectation is what I was also trying to capture in my prayer during the March 14 worship service marking the one-year anniversary of our shut-down when I compared us to Moses on Mount Nebo surveying the Promised Land. I'd like to reflect on that passage of scripture with you now.

In Deuteronomy 34:1-3, Moses ascends Mount Nebo, and the Lord shows him the Promised Land. Mount Nebo, which is east of the Jordan River, gave Moses the perfect view to see the land of Canaan west of the Jordan River. The Israelites had actually come close to entering Canaan once before. In a place called Kadesh-Barnea, they had sent twelve spies into the land to bring back a report of what they found there. The report of Caleb, one of the spies, was: the journey will be difficult, but it will be worth it. All the other Israelites heard was, "The journey will be difficult," and so they said, "No thanks." As a result, Moses and all the Israelites spent the next 40 years living as nomads, wandering through the deserts south and east of the Dead Sea. As Moses stood, peering out at the Promised Land after a lifetime of wandering, I can't help but think he felt a sense of relief and hope. Even though Moses himself wouldn't enter the land, his days of wandering were finally over.

The story of the Israelites in the desert is not a perfect analogy for the past year under COVID, but I think it resonates nonetheless. For most of you, the year has felt difficult, exhausting, and, perhaps, a little aimless. As the COVID vaccine continues to become available for more people, I wonder: do we dare hope that an end is in sight? I cannot help not having hope. In addition to the relief and hope that Moses might have felt looking out onto the Promised Land, I wonder if he also felt some caution. After all, back in Kadesh-Barnea they had come close to entering the land but ended up wandering for 40 years instead. Entering the land would require the cooperation of the Israelites. Likewise, entering our "Promised Land" (life after COVID) requires our cooperation and continued effort to see this journey through.

There are so many things I look forward to doing together as a congregation: worshiping with everyone in the building, singing together, hugging, eating together, going on mission trips together, going on retreats together, and more. I know you want to do those things, too. Let's desire to do those things so much that we also do what's necessary to make sure we get there, by continuing to follow the guidelines of health and government officials. We're almost there! Let's finish the race with strength! Lent is ending and Easter is coming! Our time of preparation is almost over, and a new life awaits us! Thanks be to God!

~ Aaron

Lectionary for April

April 1

Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1–4 (5–10)
11–14
Psalm 116:1–2, 12–19
1 Corinthians 11:23–26
John 13:1–17, 31b–35

April 4

Resurrection of the Lord/Easter

Acts 10:34–43 or Isaiah
25:6–9
Psalm 118:1–2, 14–24
1 Corinthians 15:1–11 or
Acts 10:34–43
John 20:1–18 or Mark
16:1–8

April 18

3rd Sunday of Easter

Acts 3:12–19
Psalm 4
1 John 3:1–7
Luke 24:36b–48

April 2

Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13–53:12
Psalm 22:1–31
Hebrews 10:16–25 or
Hebrews 4:14–16, 5:7–9
John 18:1–19:42

April 11

2nd Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:32–35
Psalm 133
1 John 1:1–2:2
John 20:19–31

April 25

4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:5–12
Psalm 23
1 John 3:16–24
John 10:11–18

Needle Nellies

Happy Days are here again- Tuesday, March 30!!!
Needles Nellies will meet by Zoom at 11 a.m.
Please bring a smile, any new patterns
and, maybe even lunch

2021 Lenten Schedule

UPDATED

Sunday, March 28 - 10:00 am **Palm Sunday Service** *

Thursday, April 1 - 7:00 pm **Maundy Thursday Service** *

Friday, April 2 - 7:00 pm **Good Friday Service**
(in-person and livestreamed)*

Sunday, April 4 - 7:00 am **Easter Sunrise Service**
(in-person, Port of Pittsford)

Sunday, April 4 - 8:30 am **Easter Sunday Service**
(in-person)
10:00 am **Easter Sunday Service** *
11:30 am **Easter Sunday Service** (in-person)

* = livestreamed

In-person attendance requires registration through our website.

All livestreamed services can be accessed at
www.pittsfordpres.org/live.

Thank You from PW

The Board of Presbyterian Women would like to sincerely thank all of the members of our congregation who contributed to the 2021 Second Mile Giving campaign. We are very grateful for your support in this time of COVID and happy you have enabled us to continue our mission obligations.

Members with April Birthdays



Dylan Bachmann
David Boise
Amanda Bradstreet
Claire Brown
George Cooper
Christopher Dawson
John Dawson
Sarah Dunlap

Patrick J. Dunn
Emma Fantuzzo
Alexis Finkbeiner
Jack Fox
Peter Francis
Janette Henderson
Julia Larson
Karen MacKenzie

Donald Naylor
Dylan Parker
Adam Pollock
Sue Ramsdell
Barbara Rarrick
Ina Marie Santolla
Kelly Travis
Kevin Voltz

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

Flower City Habitat for Humanity

Patrice worked on our coalition house on Holworthy Street as she worked to fulfill her requirement of sweat equity hours to become a homeowner. Another success story with Flower City Habitat for Humanity!

Right from the beginning of the homebuyer program, Patrice quickly identified how she would fit sweat equity into her work schedule and had already begun saving for her down payment. In addition to completing the required financial literacy and homeowner maintenance classes, Patrice also attended the optional Cooking Matters course provided by Foodlink.

“I’ve done more in the homebuyer program than I ever thought I could. My savings is full, I’m eating healthier meals, and I can feel life getting better. I pray for the day my home is ready, and I pray for the people who are building it.”

Patrice’s house on Campbell Street was dedicated on March 13. Habitat staff, and the donors and volunteers from the Thrivent-Harvest Faith Build partnership made this home possible!



“The Lord heard me” Patrice said, as she broke into tears upon seeing the nearly complete home.

Website Warning Messages

We have received reports of church members receiving error warnings when accessing our fpcp.us and/or pittsfordpres.org web addresses. These warnings are from web browser or firewall software programs not finding these web addresses on their lists of recognized sites.

These warnings come from the user’s computer and, unfortunately, the church can do nothing to resolve the problem. Because these warnings are a function of each user’s operating system, web browser, and firewall/virus protection, we also are not able to give specific instructions on how to fix the problem on all computers.

However, here are several options:

Identify fpcp.us or pittsfordpres.org as a “trusted site” to your web browser or firewall software.

Again, each web browser and firewall software has different settings so it is not possible to give one set of instructions on how to specify a trusted site. A suggestion is to look under the software’s advanced settings.

Use the alternate website address. For example, if you get a warning with fpcp.us, try pittsfordpres.org. If one of these works, you may wish to bookmark it or set it as a favorite (different web browsers have different terminology) so you can get to the website easily in the future.

Go through a search engine, such as Google or Yahoo. Type in something like “churches in Pittsford, NY” and look for FPC.

Despite the dire warnings, nothing is dangerous about our website. The software companies, for your own benefit, do not want you to go to sites that they don’t recognize. Hence, the ominous and somewhat misleading wording of their warning messages.

A YEAR



OF CHANGE





News from the Nursery School

April is typically a short month, but that does not mean we rest ☺ We love learning about the changes in the weather, how it affects our environment and animals who live outside. We will be studying seasonal changes in the farm yard. We may pretend part of our classroom is a farmyard! Our YK children will have end of the year parent conferences. All registered parents will receive needed paperwork. Our fundraising committee is hoping to sell our custom clothing, we plan on having a Spirit Week in late April. We are so grateful to be here, thank you for all your support!

Teresa Zatyko, Director Pittsford Nursery School

Deacon Events

Game Night - Friday, April 30, at 7pm - join us on-line at Game Board Arena to play Carcassone, Seven Wonders, Stone Age, Sushi Go, and other community card games. You must set up a user account and email dtraina@rochester.rr.com to join our church's group.



Fun times at the March Deacon Cooking Club!

Minute for Mission

Cameron Update

On March 11, our members delivered to Cameron Community Ministries 11 huge chicken casseroles and almost 10 gallons of garden salad with dressing as well as several desserts. This continues our ministry to feed those in need. The casseroles were served to the 100 people who arrived for meals the next day along with the salad.



Currently Cameron is doing "take out" only but hopefully, as more and more people are vaccinated against COVID, in-person dining can resume soon. The Cameron volunteers miss our time in the kitchen preparing the meals together.

As part of this mission, Cameron also serves as a food cupboard, dispensing milk, eggs, bread, and groceries to those who come for the meals. They also have a clothing closet and run a teen center and after-school program during non-COVID times.

If you are interested in providing food for our monthly Warm Meal mission, contact Cindy Becker at cindybecker74@gmail.com. The menu for April is pasta casseroles.



First Presbyterian Church Pittsford

Youth Group

April 11 & 18

7-8pm on Zoom or In-Person!



Please RSVP to
Pastor Erin
to attend **IN PERSON** at -

erin.jacobson@pittsfordpres.org
or text 585.204.2012

Christian Education

Wonderful Wednesdays

Come join us for a five-week afterschool program for kids K-5 and 6-12 Wednesdays April 7 through May 5. Children and youth will meet at church from 4:30 to 6:00. K-5 will participate in games, Bible study, crafts and fun. Contact Craig Kunkle in the church office to sign up or for more details.

Children and Youth Choir

Join children from across our Presbytery with a Virtual Children's Choir, celebrating the feast of Pentecost. Children (with or without choir experience) are invited to sing *Come Down O Love Divine*. James Kealey (Associate Director of Music/Organist, Third Presbyterian Church, Rochester) will compile recordings to create a virtual choir. The finished piece will be ready for us to use for worship on Pentecost. Contact Craig Kunkle in the office to participate.

Virtual Children's Choir



WHAT

All children (with or without choir experience) are invited to join a Presbytery wide virtual choir project

The hymn to be recorded will be
Come Down O Love Divine

WHEN

Recordings are due by May 1st, with the finished piece ready for any interested church to use for Worship on Pentecost

MORE INFORMATION

Any interested churches or families are invited to email James Kealey (Associate Director of Music/Organist, Third Presbyterian Church, Rochester) to receive further instructions


@: jkealey@thirdpresbyterian.org

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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

*Our time of preparation is
almost over, and a new life
awaits us! Thanks be to
God!*

<p>The Rev. Aaron Neff <i>Pastor and Head of Staff</i> Ext. 25 aaron.neff@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>The Rev. Erin Jacobson <i>Temp. Supply Assoc. Pastor</i> Ext. 24 erin.jacobson@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>Craig Kunkle <i>Director of Christian Education</i> Ext. 30 craig.kunkle@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>Britta Konau <i>Office & Communications Coord.</i> Ext. 21 britta.konau@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>Maria DiGiambattista <i>Financial Administrator</i> Ext. 23 treasurer@pittsfordpres.org</p>	<p>Tim Carder <i>Custodian</i> Ext. 33; tim@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>Dr. Jared Chase <i>Director of Music</i> musicdirector@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>Dr. Bruce Frank <i>Associate Director of Music and Organist</i> bfrank345@gmail.com</p> <p>Dede Holmes <i>Director of Youth Choirs</i> dmh91654@frontiernet.net</p> <p>Joshua Burke <i>Livestreaming Technician</i> josh@pittsfordpres.org</p>	<p>First Presbyterian Church 21 Church Street, Pittsford, NY 14534 Phone 585 586-5688, Fax 585 586-8090 connect@pittsfordpres.org www.pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>Worship Services: 8:30 am in-person (reservation required) 10:00 am live-streamed Online Communion is offered on the first Sunday of each month.</p> <div data-bbox="1015 1514 1524 1999">  <p>The bottom right section of the table contains a blue Facebook logo on the left and a detailed black and white illustration of the First Presbyterian Church building on the right. The church has a prominent steeple and is surrounded by trees. Below the illustration is a decorative banner with the text 'FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH' and 'PITTSFORD, N.Y.'.</p> </div>
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