



# The Good News

April 2019

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

## A WEE WORD FROM DR. WEENINK

### **PRES—PAR—TERIANISM: Overcoming the Law of Averages**

As these words are being penned, there is a shroud of white covering the landscape and the temperature is hovering in the teens. However, the sun is out; daylight has extended itself from early in the morning until later in the day. Hope springs eternal for the groaning of spring. When I used to play a lot of golf, about this time of year I would begin the transition of switching the spot in the garage where the skis and the golf bag have their designated spaces. There would be the normal routine of cleaning the clubs, checking the grips, and making sure everything was ready to be in full swing—equipment, mind, body, spirit. Truth be told, all the preparation and best intentions resulted in mediocre golf scores. I never, however, let it ruin a good walk. I never achieved that level of a “scratch” golfer who could come anywhere close to shooting “par.”

“Par,” by the way, is how a golf course rates every hole. Par is the number of strokes that a player is expected to need to complete play of each individual hole and to complete the entirety of the course. If a hole is a par – 4, the goal would be to get the little round white ball into the cup with four blows. Yeah, right! Not in my world. But I digress. The word par has its derivation in the world of golf. In contemporary parlance, it has a variety of connotations. Most refer to an average, a normal amount, something usual/customary/accepted, you know—a standard. Therefore, something below par is below average, or below the acceptable standard.

#### PAR

Modern psychology has done a lot of work on the importance of having a good sense of self-worth, on feeling OK about ourselves. So does the Christian faith. But our faith goes beyond this. God’s goal for us is not simply that we feel OK; not that we simply shoot PAR; but rather has a much more powerful purpose of raising our commitments to, and for, the caring of others. In Christ it is not OK to remain simply OK. There should be no such thing as an average—Pres-PAR-terian! Especially in Pittsford! Sometimes it is not OK just to be OK. God has given us the ability to be exceptional. We can exceed mere Pres-Par-terianism.

Consider the fact that PAR for the average Presbyterian in giving is \$1337.00 per member. (Year 2017). General Assembly Officer for Research Services Reconcile that with the reality that the average giving per member for our congregation is \$710.86 (Year 2018). That’s a pretty big spread. Yes:

- We are also acutely aware: 63 percent of Americans have less than \$500 in emergency savings
- Nearly half of Americans have no retirement savings
- Average American households have \$16,000 in credit card debt, \$27,000 in car debt, \$48,000 in student loan debt and \$169,000 in household mortgage.

I have often heard the statement invoked: “God loves us so much that God loves us just the way we are.” More often I fail to hear the rest of the statement: “but, God loves us too much to let us stay the way we are.” In the Christian faith we hear much that points us to this, with phrases like sanctification, growing in Christ, maturing, faith development, commitment, running the good race, spiritual formation, gratitude, and the stewardship of our lives. What an adventure this can mean for our lives if we all would strive to live into and up to it all. Conversely, when we become content with the usual routine. Our standards plummet below par.

Are we an average congregation? Are we above average as a congregation? Do you want to shoot PAR? Would you dare dream of doing better? These are the questions we consider in this Lenten season of self-examination. God calls us to realize the maximum potential of our lives. This calling demands the very best that we can do, believe, and give.

#### AN EXPRESSION OF SPIRITUALITY

Winston Churchill once said, “We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” The starting point of growing in faith is to raise our standards in the lives we want to build. God loves us just the way we are, but too much to let us stay that way. Without the rhetoric where is the growth? Without the teaching where is the learning? Without the modeling where is the imitation? Without the challenge where is the sense of accomplishment? Stewardship is an expression of our spirituality.

Much of our Christian faith can be dealt with in averages: an average church involvement, an average but good life ethically, an average concern for others, an average sense that God loves us just the way we are. I believe that a church’s focus on sound principles of Christian stewardship are part and parcel of our spiritual growth, because it is one of the few times that we have to face our faith in a specific, concrete way. Disciples we, as faithful stewards can overcome the law of averages.

I’d love to shoot PAR. Those who’ve played with me know that’s true. I just have no control over that little ball after it is struck by the club head. But I do have control over my priorities. I have complete control over the measure I give. If you think that your present giving is only OK, and out of your faith and gratitude would like to increase the proportion you return to God through the church, then you are encouraged to set forth on a specific plan. Set a long-term goal for what you would like to give as representing your faith. The biblical standard is 10 percent. One tenth, or even one fifth (and Presbyterians know a thing or two about fifths!). It may be a goal that you know you can’t reach right away, but at least an ideal you want to work toward. Then set a short-term goal—it may be only a modest move toward the ideal. But remember the old proverb that a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. Start with little baby steps and grow into a full stride. The point is to increase your giving in a concrete, manageable way toward the long-term goals that you set. This is known as proportionate giving.

God loves us just the way we are, but too much for us to remain that way. Are you satisfied with being only OK in your life of faith, or are you ready for the challenge to grow? Let your life and actions really represent your faith! Move to exceed mere Pres-Par-terianism!

Fore!

~ Jeffrey



### Lectionary for April

#### April 7

##### 5th Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 43:16–21  
Psalm 126  
Philippians 3:4b–14  
John 12:1–8

#### April 14

##### Passion/Palm Sunday

*Liturgy of the Palms*  
Luke 19:28–40  
Psalm 118:1–2, 19–29

#### *Liturgy of the Passion*

Isaiah 50:4–9a  
Psalm 31:9–16  
Philippians 2:5–11  
Luke 22:14–23:56 or Luke  
23:1–49

#### April 18

##### Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1–4 [5–10]  
11–14  
Psalm 116:1–2, 12–19  
1  
Corinthians 11:23–26

#### April 19

##### Good Friday

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

#### April 21

##### Resurrection of the Lord/Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34–43 or Isaiah 65:17–25  
Psalm 118:1–2, 14–24  
1 Corinthians 15:19–26 or  
Acts 10:34–43  
John 20:1–18 or Luke 24:1–12

#### April 28

##### 2nd Sunday of Easter

Acts 5:27–32  
Psalm 118:14–29 or Psalm  
150  
Revelation 1:4–8  
John 20:19–31



## Members with April Birthdays

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

David Boise	Jack Fox	Sue Ramsdell
Amanda Bradstreet	Peter Francis	Barbara Rarrick
Claire Brown	Carol Gavett	William Sabia
George Cooper	Jonathan Kim	Ina Marie Santolla
Christopher Dawson	Julia Larson	Sarah Tinder
John Dawson	Karen MacKenzie	Kelly Travis
Emma Fantuzzo	Donald Naylor	Kevin Voltz
Lexi Finkbeiner	Adam Pollock	

## Hospital Visitation Ministry Begins

A strong sense of mission has long been foundational to our church. As we have reflected on our journey to date, and dreamed together about our future ministries, this pull towards reaching out to others has only strengthened. Like many others in our global Christian community, we have embarked on a journey from being a church that values mission to becoming a missional church. This transition invites each of us to find ways to live out our faith in the choices we make and the priorities we act out beyond the walls of our church home. It offers us opportunities to look at the immediate communities that make up our every day lives through the eyes of our Creator, to think of mission not as a task we do from time to time but as a way of being in the world, a way of looking at what happens around us and deciding how we want to respond.

One of the ways to realize this goal to more deeply embody mission, to follow Jesus out into the world, to meet people where they are, is to renew our focus on visiting the sick. Over the next three months, we will be creating a hospital visitation team. Volunteer visitors will commit to a regular schedule when they will be on call for anyone requesting a visit. Our team will be equipped with tools and training to extend pastoral care to our brothers and sisters encountering illnesses, new diagnoses, sudden changes in health and the many spiritual responses each of us has to such events.

Do you feel called to find out more? Does your heart fill with compassion when you hear of someone who is ill? Could you or a family member benefit from such a visit from someone in our community? If you answered yes to any of these questions, we invite you to contact Jeffrey Weenink ([jdw@pittsfordpres.org](mailto:jdw@pittsfordpres.org); 989.327.8860) or Laura Bachmann ([laurambachmann@gmail.com](mailto:laurambachmann@gmail.com); 703.629.1278) via phone or email.

*I am about to do a new thing;  
now it springs forth, do you not  
perceive it? I will make a way in  
the wilderness and rivers in the  
desert.*  
*Isaiah 43:19*

## To those who enjoy ministering through this family of faith:

First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford will contribute \$28,872 as its 2019 share for administrative and mission support of the Presbyterian Church USA, locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. Here is the per person summary:

\$24.70 – per person spent locally in Rochester (Presbytery)

8.95 – per person for General Assembly (nationally and internationally)

**\$33.65 – per person total that First Presbyterian Church provides our connectional church**

Our church gives this Per Capita member support to fund the mission and ministry of the greater church. PDA (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance) administration is one of many items covered. Payment of Per Capita lets us use our outreach giving on mission trips we make to places like Columbia, SC or Baton Rouge, LA, and most recently Houston, TX. Locally, Per Capita covers the cost of our Presbytery Office so that we can do ministry with RAIHN, Grace House, ROC SALT and more. We will pay \$33.65 per member out of our budget.

## Cameron Community Ministries

Our work with Cameron in 2019 continues with monthly lunch service. One or two volunteer openings still exist for the 3rd Monday of many months. Contact Cindy Becker at 703-4878 or cindyleebeck-er74@gmail.com. Watch for news on the expansion



of Cameron Campus and fall opening of the NEW Teen Center as our team participates in this exciting new mission!

## 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!  
April 10: *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng  
May 8: *The Alice Network* by Kate Quinn

## Optimists—April 12

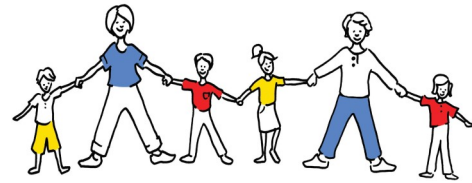
Our speaker is our own Nevan Fisher from Nazareth College. The program is: China 2019: Grabbing the Pig by the Tail; an examination of China under the rule of Xi Jinping. (This is the Chinese Year of the Pig.) We will gather at 5:30 pm for dinner at 6:00 pm. Hope to see you there. Sign-up in Fellowship Hall on the two Sundays prior to April 12.

## Income Tax Tip

Required to make a distribution from a retirement account? A direct charitable distribution is not taxable. And the offsetting loss of charitable deduction may be lessened/eliminated with the new higher standard deduction. Consult your tax advisor to see if this contribution method benefits you. We are most grateful for your support of the ministry and mission of our church.

## Anthony Circle

April 10 - 10am Easter Baskets for ARC friends  
April 30 - 5-7pm RAIHN dinner



## News from the Nursery School

Once again we are anticipating Spring and all its glory. We will start studying seasonal changes, especially those in the farm yard. We hope to visit Springdale Farm and Lollypop Farm. Our YK children will have end of the year parent conferences. In the middle of the month, we will be away for Spring Break. Before we leave we will have Spring Egg Hunts! We will have our annual Parent Orientation meeting for our incoming parents. We also continue to have several full afternoon enrichment classes. Our fundraising committee will hold a garage sale on Saturday, April 27, from 9-2, please come and check it out! Come visit us in the classrooms, you can view the children's Spring artwork, listen to their beautiful voices, and be inspired by their innocence!

Teresa Zatyko, Director, Pittsford Nursery School

## Upcoming Music Events

### Sunday, April 14, 10 am: Faure Requiem

The Chancel Choir and soloists Eric Kesler and Alison Wahl 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! Please contact Jared Chase ([musicdirector@pittsfordpres.org](mailto:musicdirector@pittsfordpres.org)) for more information or if you are interested.

### Camp Whitman Service Day - Saturday, April 27, 9:30am - 1:00pm

Our neighborhood #5 team will be painting cabins, replacing roofs, and clearing trails at Camp Whitman, 150 Whitman Rd., Penn Yan. Cost is \$5 and includes lunch. We will meet at church at 8:15am and car pool. Sign up with Dan Traina in Fellowship Hall.

## Eve Circle

Eve Circle will meet Monday, March 25, at 12:30 pm in room 200 to discuss chapters 8 and 9 of *The Reason for God*.



## Welcome to Our New Members!

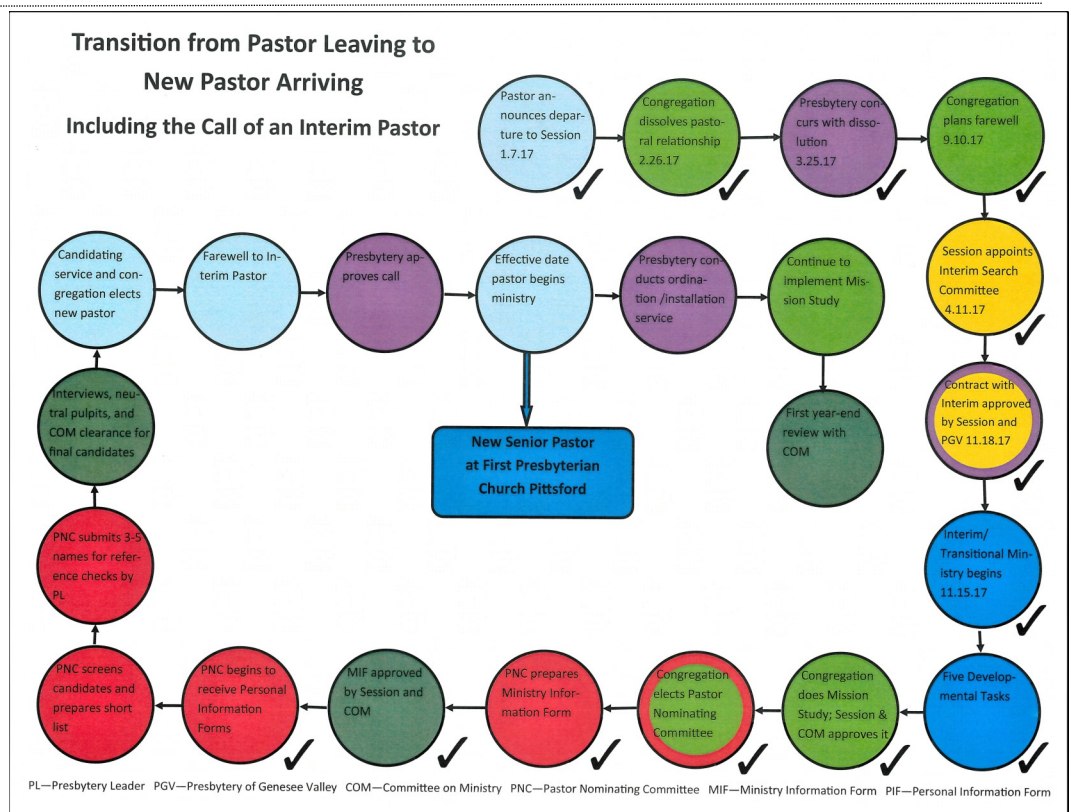
**David Boise** - My story begins in 1995 when I was born into a loving and caring family. Since then, I graduated high school from Naples Central School, served in the United States Army as a Patriot Missile System Operator and Maintainer, and found true love and happiness with my wife Jena. Now, I am attending the Rochester Institute of Technology in pursuit of a BA in Finance while also preparing for the 4+1 MBA program. I have also been accepted into two more families, just as loving and caring as my own. The Pedersens and First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford. No matter what is going on in my life, I always feel welcomed and at home, empowered and loved, by the ones around me. I am very blessed to be a part of each of them.

**The Campbells** - Matt and Jackie met in Rochester and, after leaving for business in 1991, moved back here with Charlie after he graduated HS so all of us could be closer to Jackie's family, friends, and where she grew up. Matt and Jackie both worked for Intel Corporation and are now retired. We enjoy many outdoor activities all year round and look forward to making new friendships. The Presbyterian Church is very welcoming, friendly, and informal while emphasizing all the Christian values in word and actions.

**Vicki Conary** - My family moved to Perinton in 1961, and I attended St. John of Rochester, Catholic Church. I went to Fairport Central Schools, then went into my chosen profession of nursing. I have been a member of Christ Episcopal Church of Pittsford, since before my children were born, in the late 70s. God has blessed me with four beautiful grandchildren (soon to be six). He has now richly blessed me by introducing me to Robert Klie, whom I will marry next November. Through Bob, I have met so many lovely people here and feel warmly welcomed. I look forward to supporting the church's mission & outreach wherever I am able.

**Jan Smith** - Jan Smith grew up on Clover Hills Drive in Brighton, attended the Brighton Schools from kindergarten through 12th grades and graduated from Oberlin College in Ohio. She retired after 50 years teaching second and third graders on Long Island and in the Brighton Central Schools. Now she resides in Pittsford with her Westie dog, FRES, and travels with her good friend, Jim Schautz, a fellow '52 Brighton graduate. Jan feels so blessed to have found such a welcoming congregation at First Presbyterian Church in Pittsford.

See where we are in the process of calling a new pastor—we have come a long way!



**Spring is coming soon! The warm and sunny season is trying to break through. How better to celebrate it than with some loving and warm fellowship with the youth group!**

March 24:	Ticket to Mission	9-11:30am @ Church
March 27:	Last LOGOS!	4:00-7:00pm @ Church
April 7:	Confirmation Class	11:30am-1:00pm @ Church
April 13:	Youth Laser Tag	TBD Lasertron Henrietta
April 14 & 28:	Sunday Night Youth	7:00-8:30pm @ Church
April 15-19:	Flower City Work Camp	All Week in Rochester



Ticket to Mission has been going strong! Make sure to come and check out some of our youth's awesome personalized baskets, and try and win some of your favorites! We will still be selling tickets this upcoming Sunday, March 24th! Winners will be notified on Monday, March 25.



Make sure to check out these photos of some of our youth working at Cameron Community Ministries over their February break! We were thrilled to have a different group of youth every day, willing to come out and help!





## Guest Speaker April 27 & 28



Alonzo Johnson, coordinator for PCUSA's Self-Development of People, is coming to teach about the church's movement from toxic charity to the self-development of people on Saturday, April 27, at 6pm. He will then lead worship on Sunday April 28.

From their website: "Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People is a ministry that affirms God's concern for humankind. We are Presbyterians and ecumenical partners dissatisfied with poverty and oppression, united in faith and action through sharing, confronting, and enabling by participating in the empowerment of economically poor, oppressed, and disadvantaged people, seeking to change the structures that perpetuate poverty, oppression and injustice."

# Christian Education

## Upcoming Events

Men's Prayer Breakfast	4/7 7:00 am
Optimists	4/12 5:30 pm
Anthony Circle	4/10 10:00 am
Naomi Circle	4/15 12:30 pm
Eve Circle	4/22 12:30 pm
Not so Basic Bible Study	Mondays 7:30 pm
Prayer Support Group	Mondays 11:00 am
WEB	4/10 2:00 pm
Bible Study	Weds. 7:15 pm
Men's Ecumenical Group	Thursdays 7:15 am
Adult Study	Sundays 9:45 am

## A Hitchhiker's Guide to Reformed Faith

On Sunday, April 7, at 11:45am we will meet to talk about the Trinity. We meet in the Library off Fellowship Hall.



## Palm Parade

Children of all ages are invited to meet in the Narthex on Sunday, April 14, to participate in the Palm Parade during the 10am service. Everyone in the parade will walk around the sanctuary twice waving palm branches and then sit back with their parents. This will happen at the beginning of the service.



## Men in Shorts

On Sunday, April 7, men from the morning prayer group will be wearing shorts and their "I love my church" T-shirt. We invite any other members to join us. We do this every year because "our church is so warm we can wear shorts in the winter." Help us celebrate the warm personalities around us.



## Children will Lead Worship on May 5

The Children's Sunday school program will be working together to lead worship on May 6. Sunday mornings through April children will be able to be a part of the youth choir and learn music, create a sermon video, or practice a reading in preparation to the service. This will be a hands on chance for kids to choose how to use their talents and learn about worship. No matter how you child would like to participate there is a place for them.

If you are not able to make Sunday morning but would still like to participate, we will be sending out requests for videos to be made outside the church to support the Sermon theme. These videos can then be sent in to become part of the worship service.

First Presbyterian Church  
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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

*God calls us to realize the maximum potential of our lives. This calling demands the very best that we can do, believe, and give.*

<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 &amp; 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><b>First Presbyterian Church</b>  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><b>Worship With Us</b>  Please join us for Sunday morning worship.</p> <p><b>Worship Services: 8:30 &amp; 10:00 am</b>  Communion is offered on the first Sunday of each month.</p>
		