



The Good News

April 2020

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

FROM THE PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

“Good News” indeed! As you’ve hopefully heard by now, on Sunday, March 15, 2020, our congregation voted overwhelmingly and enthusiastically to call Aaron Neff as our next Pastor/Head of Staff. Aaron has most recently served as solo pastor at United Presbyterian Church of Corfu, NY. He and his wife Laura have three young children (Esther, Clara, and Gabriel) and will be a welcome addition to our church family.

Despite (and with special precautions for) the coronavirus outbreak, many of our congregation had a chance to meet and greet Aaron and Laura on Saturday afternoon, March 14, and to participate in a Q&A session Saturday evening—both in the sanctuary and via live streaming video. On Sunday morning over 120 of us gathered as Aaron led worship and preached his “candidating” sermon. Many more participated via live streaming. There followed a special congregational meeting, a unanimous vote (including many by text, phone, and email), and Aaron’s acceptance of the call. His start date is a bit fluid given the coronavirus, but we hope he’ll be starting with us sometime in May.

This is a historic day in our long journey of faith here at First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford. Please pray for a smooth and successful transition and for the continued health and safety of all concerned.

UPDATE FROM PASTOR JIM AND SESSION

It has been a race to keep up with rapidly changing recommendations to prevent the spread of Covid-19. Thursday of last week your Session met and decided to shut down the church building. On Friday, staff put together a plan. However, by the end of the day another communication prohibiting all non-essential gatherings including worshipping communities was received. On Saturday morning, personnel committee members debated whether staff could work from home. Monday morning, all staff, personnel chair, and Clerk of Session met to decide whether the church office would close. The plan is to remain open on a limited basis with Britta at church M, W, F, Maria, T and Th and Tim Carder, our custodian, several mornings a week.

With this question relatively solved, we move ahead to find ways to stay connected and reminded that we are loved and cared for no matter our circumstances. We hope to begin streaming a daily prayer service from the sanctuary, and continue to stream Sunday worship. Many, many families and individuals are viewing the streaming services. Please stay tuned, and call the church office, staff, and pastors with any concerns and questions. Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Jim Widboom

<https://www.pittsfordpres.org/live>

From the directors of Christian Education and Youth Ministry

Children's ministries are emailing Sunday school materials, including computer games and videos, to families to keep learning. Adult education: There is a Wednesday night Bible Study at 7:15 pm that people can join by computer or phone. If you would like to receive the Sunday school materials or join our Bible Study, please email craig.kunkle@pittsfordpres.org

We know our youth and their families are in trying times right now. Changed schedules and constant time together is not always easy. Remember that we at the church are always available when needed. Tyler and the youth will be doing several different online events in the coming weeks, including but not limited to: group chats, video calls, online movie nights, online group games, bible study nights and so much more! We hope to see you all involved at some point.

Vital Congregations Initiative

Excerpt from Byron Presbyterian Church March-April Newsletter: At a recent meeting, some of us were commenting that it would be easier to work with the Seven Marks if they did not have such 'difficult' names! So, here is a shorthand attempt to help us understand what each Mark is asking us to explore as a church:

Mark 1: **Lifelong Discipleship Formation:** Living into and growing our faith, each day and every day.

Mark 2: **Intentional Authentic Evangelism:** Sharing the Good News by merging God's story with our story in our relationships with those in our lives.

Mark 3: **Outward Incarnational Focus:** Answering Christ's command to go out into the world sharing the Good News by answering the call to serve and be in mission.

Mark 4: **Empower Servant Leadership:** Helping everyone in our church community to identify and use their spiritual gifts in serving the Lord, both in the church and the larger world.

Mark 5: **Spirit Inspired Worship:** Worship that consistently and caringly calls us into a deeper relationship with God and with one another.

Mark 6: **Caring Relationships:** Seeing people as Christ sees them by meeting ALL people where they are and desiring their well-being within the household of God.

Mark 7: **Ecclesial Health:** Through prayerful discernment, are we who God is calling us to be and are we who we say we are --- could we be more fully committed to God's calling?



Members with April Birthdays

Dylan Bachmann	Emma Fantuzzo	Donald Naylor
David Boise	Alexis Finkbeiner	Adam Pollock
Amanda Bradstreet	Jack Fox	Sue Ramsdell
Claire Brown	Peter Francis	Barbara Rarrick
George Cooper	Carol Gavett	William Sabia
Christopher Dawson	Janette Henderson	Ina Marie Santolla
John Dawson	Jonathan Kim	Kelly Travis
Sarah Dunlap	Julia Larson	Kevin Voltz
Patrick J. Dunn	Karen MacKenzie	



Wishing you a birthday that is full of laughter, love, and special moments!

(if we missed you—please let the office know)