



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PITTSFORD

THE GOOD NEWS

DECEMBER 2022

Embracing and Sharing Christ's Love

CHARTING THE COURSE WITH PASTOR AARON

We are doing something a little different this year with Advent. Most years, we read some passages from Matthew's and Luke's Gospels about the birth of Jesus. This makes sense since Matthew and Luke give us the most explicit narratives describing the birth of Jesus. Even John's gospel, in its own way, tells us about the birth of Jesus (John 1:14, "The Word became flesh and lived among us.")

Mark's Gospel, on the other hand, tells us nothing about the young life of Jesus and begins the story with his baptism as an adult. What could Mark's Gospel possibly have to say to us during Advent, the season when we are anticipating the birth of Jesus? It turns out that Mark has a lot to tell us. At least that's what Pastor Erin and I are hoping to convey to you in worship throughout Advent.

The miracle of the birth of Jesus is really about the Incarnation, the fact that, in Jesus, God became flesh and bone. What does the Incarnation of God-the-Son in Jesus Christ mean? It means that God loves the physical universe enough to become a part of it. It means that God understands what it's like to be human, its pain and pleasure, its joy and sorrow, its triumph and tragedy. It means that the physical world is not at odds with the spiritual world, but that both can and do contain goodness and God's presence. All of these things, while not being about Jesus' birth, are only possible because of Jesus' birth.

Throughout Advent, we will be drawing on insights from Mark's Gospel and from the book *Holy Disruption* (which many of you are reading) in order to gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of God's Incarnation in Jesus Christ. Just as Jesus "showed up" in the flesh to be with us 2,000 years ago, I hope you will show up in the flesh some Sunday during Advent.

~Aaron

First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford

SECOND SUNDAY CONCERTS

Sunday November 13, 2022 3pm | The Suen-Kam Guitar Duo
Shiuen Huang Tzeng and Kenneth Kam, guitars

**Sunday, December 11, 2022 3pm | Christmas Cantata
and Handel's Messiah Sing Along!**

Sunday, January 8, 2023 3pm | "Some Enchanting Piano Duets"
Bonnie Choi and Kevin Nitsch, piano

Sunday, February 12, 2023 3pm | "16th Annual Choral Extravaganza"
University of Rochester Chamber Singer, Julie Covach
Nazareth College Chamber Singers, Eric Rubinstein

Sunday, March 12, 2023 | "Give Me your Hand: A Celebration of Women Poets"
Heather Holmquest, soprano
Chris Petit, piano

Sunday, April 2nd, 2023 3pm | Easter Cantata
First Presbyterian Chancel Choir and soloists, Jared Chase

**Sunday, May 14, 2023 3pm | A Woman's Life and Love:
A Journey of the Heart Through the Ages**
Jessica Ann Best, mezzo-soprano
Yoshiko Arahata, piano

A free will offering is collected with a suggested donation of \$10 Adults and \$5 Children/Students.
For more information visit: pittsfordpres.org/concerts



BLUE CHRISTMAS
*...a service of Christmas worship for those who
are feeling less than joyful this holiday season.*

Tuesday, December 20 ~ 7:00pm

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PITTSFORD**

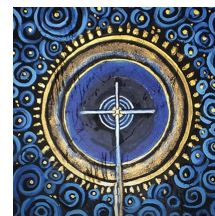
Lectionary for December

December 4
2nd Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 11:1–10
Psalm 72:1–7, 18–19
Romans 15:4–13
Matthew 3:1–12

December 11
3rd Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 35:1–10
Psalm 146:5–10 or Luke
1:46–55
James 5:7–10
Matthew 11:2–11

December 18
4th Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 7:10–16
Psalm 80:1–7, 17–19
Romans 1:1–7
Matthew 1:18–25

December 24
Christmas Eve
Isaiah 9:2–7
Psalm 96
Titus 2:11–14
Luke 2:1–14 [15–
20]



December 25
**Nativity of the Lord
Christmas Day**

Christmas Dawn
Isaiah 62:6–12
Psalm 97
Titus 3:4–7
Luke 2:[1–7] 8–20

Christmas Day
Isaiah 52:7–10
Psalm 98
Hebrews 1:1–4 [5–12]
John 1:1–14



First Presbyterian Church Pittsford

2022 Advent and Christmastide

Generally, Sunday services will be at 8:30 and 10 am.

The second service is also livestreamed at www.pittsfordpres.org/live.

* = also livestreamed

Sunday, November 27

1st Advent

Sunday, December 4

2nd Advent

Saturday, December 10

Youth Lock-In & Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 11

3rd Advent

3 pm Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 18

4th Advent

Tuesday, December 20

7 pm Blue Christmas Service*

Saturday, December 24

Christmas Eve

4:30 pm Kid-Friendly Family service*

8 pm Candlelight Service with choir & bells*

10:30 pm Candlelight Service with soloists*

Sunday, December 25

Christmas Day — Christ is born!

10 am service only*

Sunday, January 1, 2023

New Year's Day

10 am service only*

What is a Blue Christmas Service?

Blue Christmas services typically take place on the winter solstice. This year ours is scheduled for the evening before the solstice. We often think of the winter solstice as the day with the shortest amount of light, but it is also the night with the longest period of darkness. You can choose to attend or participate in a Blue Christmas service for many reasons. Some people come because they are experiencing grief, illness, fractured relationships, depression, anxiety, or any number of other things that make being joyful during the Christmas season difficult. Others may come to support or pray for loved ones who are experiencing a time of difficulty.

It may sound like this service would not fit in with the time hope and celebration we experience at Advent and Christmas, but the purpose of the service is to remind us of the joy that we ALL share in the Incarnation.

"The Incarnation is a reason for celebration that God loved us so much that God sent Jesus to be with us, but it is also a reason for celebration that Jesus came to walk with us through the pains of life as well. I wish we could better hold these two messages together." - Rev. Christa Brewer, FPC Myrtle Beach

Please consider joining us in person or virtually for the Blue Christmas Service. If you have any questions, please reach out to Pastor Jacobson at 585.204.2012 or erin.jacobson@pittsfordpres.org

Members with December Birthdays

Brittany Adams	Jackie Campbell	Ellen Henry	Bill Smith
David Adams	Gordon Fagan	Becky Olson	Jennifer Sutton
James Amborski	Yazmin Fernaays	Dale Pollock	Mary Lou Teumer
Linda Ashworth	Cal Graziano	Allan Reeve	Jamie Tyler
Joan Attardo	Hunter Green	Carol Schacht	Louisa White
David Avery	Emily Haines	Aaron Scheu	Zachary Zimmer

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

If we missed you, please let the office know.

LOVE CAME DOWN AT
CHRISTMAS

**Cantata by Joel Raney for choir,
soloists, and orchestra**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11TH AT 3PM
21 CHURCH ST, PITTSFORD, NY

FOLLOWED BY
HANDEL'S MESSIAH
SING ALONG!

Poinsettias Dedications

We offer the opportunity to honor, remember, or thank someone you love with a dedication and donation toward the purchase of poinsettias for church. A booklet of the dedications will be available by Christmas. For a donation of \$10 each, dedication forms can be filled out after both church services on November 27 and December 4, 11 and 18. Dedications and donations may also be made on our website. Donations beyond the purchase price of the poinsettias will go toward Presbyterian Women's mission projects. The poin-

settias themselves will be available following the 10:30 pm service on December 24 on a first come basis.



Christmas Poinsettias Dedication Form – for Presbyterian Women's Mission Outreach

In honor of _____ check# _____ cash

In memory of _____

With thanks to _____

\$10.00 each

Given by _____ (Purchased by : _____)

Checks should be made payable to **First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford**

Dedications can be submitted after both church services on Nov. 27, and Dec. 4, 11 and 18

You may also mail the form and payment in by Dec. 12 to:

ATTN. Poinsettias Dedication, First Presbyterian Church, 21 Church St., Pittsford, NY 14534

2023 Stewardship Campaign Update

The Generosity Committee would like to thank all who have participated to date in our annual Stewardship Campaign. As you all noticed, we had placed a Stewardship Thermometer in the lobby on November 6. This year the Generosity Committee asked the Leadership of the Church (Deacons, Elders and Trustees) to try to get their pledges in by November 3. The thermometer represented \$165,000 which came from 48 pledges as of November 3.

Here is a quick update as of November 14: **107 pledges totaling \$384,607**

However, Maria does need a little help as two of the pledge cards that were placed in the Church on Consecration Sunday were anonymous, they are as following:

\$350 – Monthly Contribution = \$4,200 for the year

\$4,850 – Yearly Contribution (also indicated it was from one person)

So, if you recognize these pledge amounts and timing, please reach out to Maria in the church office.

Again, the entire Generosity Committee thanks you for your ongoing support and commitment during this year's Stewardship Campaign. We will be updating the thermometer in the lobby as the campaign progresses over the next few weeks as well as the church website. So, if you have not yet returned your pledge card or gone online to fill out your pledge for 2023, please do so in the near future.

Blessings and Peace in Christ for the Generosity Committee

Lew Becker (Chair), Faye Casey, Paul Irving, Steve Mizelle, Rob Rhodes, Bill Rieth



News from the Nursery School

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to our family at Pittsford Nursery School and The First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford! Our first semester of school is beginning to end, we see so much growth, especially social and emotional. The children are thriving and having the best time! They are busy making many holiday crafts. The most important one is the gift of themselves.

Beginning December 16, if you are an FPC member and you have a child preparing for pre-school, you have first preference to register your child for the upcoming school year until December 31. You can find a registration packet for every program on our website beginning December 1.

We wish all of you a wonderful holiday season and many blessings in the coming year. Thank you for all your support, here's to a safe and hope-filled 2023!!

Teresa Zatyko, Director Pittsford Nursery School

OPTIMISTS

Friday, December 9, 1:00 pm, Fellowship Hall. We will have social time to start, followed by grace, lunch, and announcements. Join us to sing Christmas Carols. Our pianist will be Amy Carleton. We collect non-perishables for the Pittsford Food Cupboard.

Please bring your own lunch and table service. We will provide decaf coffee, hot water, tea bags, sugar, creamer, and cookies. If you plan to join us, please RSVP to (585) 586-5688 or connect@pittsfordpres.org by Wednesday, December 7.

Buy Your 2023 Calendar at Cameron!

\$20—11 x 17 in.—all proceeds go to Cameron's Afterschool Program!

Contact Cindy Becker at cindyleebeck-er74@gmail.com.

Makes a great hostess or appreciation gift. Thank you for Making A Difference at Cameron!



Our 2023 Confirmands, part one

Name: **Finley Yaekel**

Family here at FPC: **parents Tanya Van Dorn and Erik Yaekel, grandparents Judith and Larry Van Dorn, and grandparents Carolyn and Carl Yaekel**

Grade: **8th**

Favorite Class: **history**

Favorite Movie: ***Patriot***

If I could visit any place in the world it would be: **Iceland**

My hobbies: **equestrian**

My Nickname: **Finn**

My most prized possession: **a picture of my old horse**

Two words that describe me: **kind and smart**

My dream profession is: **Olympic-level rider**

People (outside of parents) I most admire: **my grandpa**

My favorite Bible story: **Moses**

If I had one million dollars I would: **buy a nice house, put some aside for school, and donate some**

If I were to pick one characteristic of Jesus I most like it would be: **that he doesn't care what people think of him**

One question I want to ask Jesus someday: **I'm not sure**

Words that describe the day I was baptized: **I don't remember it - I was 4 months old!**

How can we pray for you? **you can pray for both of my grandmas**



Scouts Raking Leaves

Saturday, November 12, Cub Scouts from Packs 171 and 341 raked leaves all around (front, sides, back, and parking lot) our church. Their efforts are appreciated by all.



JASY Camp 2023

We hope to return to Kingston, Jamaica, in July 2023 for the JASY



Camp Mission trip. We haven't been able to do a mission trip in a while and this is a great way to jump back into mission for the members of our congregation. If youth, young adults, parents, or anyone in the congregation are interested in volunteering for the JASY mission, please contact Dan Traina or Louise Thompson by December 15. We will have a short follow-up meeting on December 18 after the 10 am service to touch base with our team of volunteers.

Youth Events for 7th – 12th Grades



Save the DATES!



Dec. 10-11 – Christmas Caroling and Youth Lock-In

Feb. 5 – YOUTH SUNDAY

Feb. 19 – 25 MISSION TRIP (more details to come!)



Christian Education

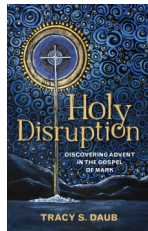
Adult Education Opportunities
Sunday Morning Bible Study 10:00 am hybrid
Monday Night Bible Study 7 pm Zoom
Tuesday Highlands Bible Study 1 pm Highlands Music Room
Wednesday Bible Study 7:15 pm hybrid
Thursday Women's Bible Study Noon FPC Library

Listen and Learn

During Advent, Lucien Rouse will lead a lecture series on the Biblical references within Handel's *Messiah* and how the composer has adapted scripture to tell the story of the coming Messiah. You can listen at 11:45 am after worship on November 27, December 4 and 18 in person in the sanctuary. Dr. Bruce Frank, music professor and FPC's Associate Director of Music and Organist, will be teaching on December 11 on the musical history of the same piece. You can also watch from home, live on the church's website and YouTube channel.



Family Devotional



Adult Devotional

Two Devotionals this year

These two devotionals are available for pickup at church. The Family Devotional can be emailed to families if needed. The Adult Devotional will follow along with the themes of worship as we go through Advent. The Adult Devotional can also be found in online stores for shipping to your home.

Looking for Worship Leaders for Family Worship Service at 4:30 pm Christmas Eve

Children who would like to participate in leading the Family Christmas Eve Service can get a part from Craig. Readings can be anywhere from one sentence to a longer passage, based on the child's age and comfort level. If your child wants to participate we can find a part for them. We can also use "stage crew" and greeters at that service.

We will practice during Sunday School and arrange for practice sessions the week before Christmas Eve so children can become comfortable speaking into the microphones.

LOGOS Schedule

November 30
Disco Lights and Dancing
December 7
12 Days of Christmas Sing-a-long
December 14 & 21
Choir Rehearsal Only
December 28
No LOGOS

Heifer Shares as Christmas Gifts

Need a Christmas gift for someone who has it all? Does your gift recipient value ending hunger and caring for the Earth? Then buying a share of an animal in their name is the perfect gift! Shares of any amount may be purchased in Fellowship Hall after each Advent worship service. You will receive a card designed by the children of First Presbyterian for you to give that recognize the donation made in their honor.





First Presbyterian Church
21 Church Street
Pittsford, New York 14534
www.pittsfordpres.org

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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

The physical world is not at odds with the spiritual world—both can and do contain goodness and God's presence. *Rev. Aaron*

<p>The Rev. Aaron Neff <i>Pastor and Head of Staff</i> 585.643.1240 aaron.neff@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>The Rev. Erin Jacobson <i>Associate Pastor</i> 585.204.2012 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>Leslie Harvey <i>Custodian</i> 585.364.2430 lharvey@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> dedeholmes1954@gmail.com</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 Service: 8:30 am in-person 10 am in-person and livestreamed</p> <p>Communion is offered on the first Sunday of each month.</p> <p> </p>
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