



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PITTSFORD

THE GOOD NEWS

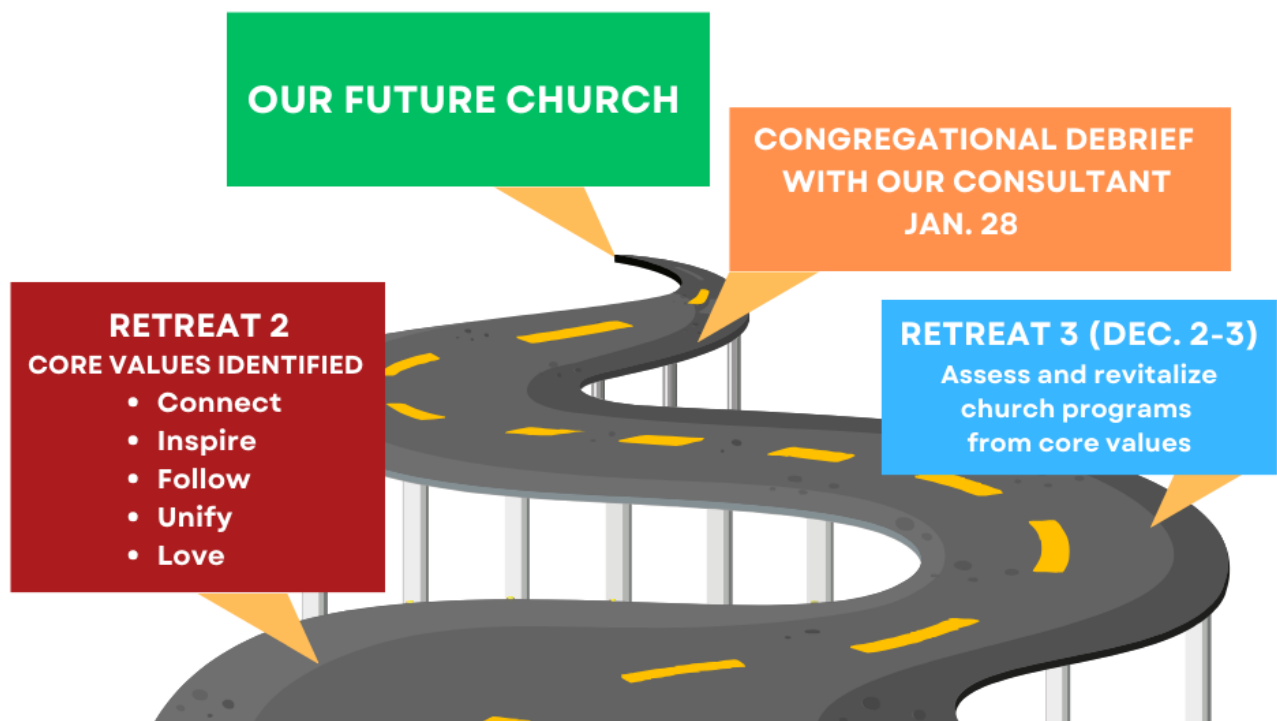
DECEMBER 2023

Embracing and Sharing Christ's Love

CHARTING THE COURSE WITH PASTOR AARON

Advent, which begins Sunday, December 3, is a time of new beginnings. The liturgical calendar resets with Advent, and we think afresh about the story of salvation history. Advent is a time for reflecting on our deep longing for the Messiah to come and to give thanks that, indeed, the Messiah has come in Jesus. It is appropriate that, during this season of new beginnings, our Vision Team is making progress on our Faith Forward initiative. Our Vision Team will convene at a third retreat in December, and our consultant Kevin Graham Ford will be talking to the whole church at a congregational debrief on January 28. On this road to revitalization (illustrated by the graphic below, created by our Strategic Communications Committee), our desire is to follow Jesus into the future. That just happens to also be the purpose of Advent.

~ Aaron



Advent and Christmastide



Sunday, December 3

1st Advent

Sunday, December 10

2nd Advent

2 pm Christmas Cantata

Saturday, December 16

Youth Christmas Party & Caroling

Sunday, December 17

3rd Advent

Tuesday, December 19

7 pm Blue Christmas Service*

Sunday, December 24

4th Advent—8:30 am service only*

Christmas Eve

4:30 pm Kid-Friendly Family service*

8 pm Candlelight Service with choir &

bells*

10:30 pm Candlelight Service with soloists

Monday, December 25

Christmas Day — Christ is born!

Celebrate with your family and friends

Sunday, December 31

New Year's Eve—10 am service only*

Youth New Year's Eve Party

BLUE CHRISTMAS
...a service of Christmas worship for those who are feeling less than joyful this holiday season.
Tuesday, December 19 ~ 7:00pm

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PITTSFORD**



Join us in person or online at www.pittsfordpres.org/live



A Christmas Dream

Sunday, December 10th at 2:00pm



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CHANCEL CHOIR

with vocal soloists and orchestra
Jared Chase, conductor

*Works by John Rutter, Cary Ratcliff, Vaughan Williams, and more
as well as our annual "sing along" to Part 1 of Handel's Messiah*



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PITTSFORD



Deacon Event

Christmas Cantata Reception – Sunday, December 10, from 3-4 pm following the concert. Your Deacons will be sponsoring a potluck reception with appetizers and desserts. All are welcome and encouraged to bring a favorite holiday dish.

OPTIMISTS

December 8 is the next OPTIMISTS meeting. We will have a meal together (\$5 per person). Let's celebrate the Joy of Christmas with singing some carols. Put the date on your calendar and plan to come! Watch for details as the date gets closer.

Needle Nellies

Needle Nellies will meet on Tuesday, November 28, from 11 am to 1:30 pm. We'll meet upstairs in room 204. Please bring your lunch, drink, and a smile!

Lectionary for December

December 3

1st Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 64:1–9
Psalm 80:1–7, 17–19
1 Corinthians 1:3–9
Mark 13:24–37

December 10

2nd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1–11
Psalm 85:1–2, 8–13
2 Peter 3:8–15a
Mark 1:1–8

December 17

3rd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11
Psalm 126 or Luke
1:46b–55
1 Thessalonians 5:16–24
John 1:6–8, 19–28

December 24

4th Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16
Luke 1:46b–55 or
Psalm 89:1–4, 19–26
Romans 16:25–27
Luke 1:26–38

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 Dawn

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

December 25

Nativity of the Lord Christmas Day

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

December 31

1st Sunday of Christmas

Isaiah 61:10–62:3
Psalm 148
Galatians 4:4–7
Luke 2:22–40

Members with December Birthdays

Brittany Adams
David Adams
James Amborski
Linda Ashworth
Joan Attardo
David Avery

Jackie Campbell
Gordon Fagan
Yazmin Fernaays
Cal Graziano
Hunter Green
Emily Haines

Ellen Henry
Becky Olson
Dale Pollock
Allan Reeve
Carol Schacht
Aaron Scheu

Bill Smith
Jennifer Sutton
Mary Lou Teumer
Jamie Tyler
Louisa White

Hoping your birthday brings you many happy reasons to celebrate!

If we missed you, please let the office know.



Generosity Report

As of Consecration Sunday, we have received 127 commitments totaling \$412,486. This is \$33,000 ahead of last year at this time. Every commitment is critical to fulfill our ministry and reflect our call to "Share God's Blessings". If you have not taken the opportunity, you may complete a commitment on our website under "Giving/Stewardship" and click on the link to the participation card or by submitting your pledge card to Maria's attention in the office.

Your Generosity Committee



News from the Nursery School

December is a busy month! We look forward to learning about and celebrating the holidays as well as making gifts for our loved ones. Our annual Holiday Party will be taking place on Saturday, Dec. 9 in Fellowship Hall. The school is also starting to plan for the 24-25' school year. We wish all of you a wonderful holiday season and many blessings in the coming year. Thank you for all of your continued support!

Kathy Woodruff, Director Pittsford Nursery School



Meet NEW Cameron Kitchen Manager, Chef Michael!

Cameron Community Ministries Update

The Cameron Kitchen is upgrading to better serve the Otis-Lyell neighborhood. Pittsford Pres and Irondequoit Pres volunteers cook twice/month. Wegmans and Michael Rickicki, a certified chef, are revamping the space and menu. Education and an apprenticeship program are in the planning stages as well. To see why you may want to play a role (small or large) in this 40-year mission, contact Cindy Becker. cindyleebecker74@gmail.com

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 Dec. 3, 10 and 17

You may also mail the form and payment in by Dec. 15 to:

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



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 December 3, 10 and 17. 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 poinsettias themselves will be available following the 10:30 pm service on December 24 on a first come basis.



On Saturday, November 11, Cub Scouts from Packs 171 and 341, both sponsored by FPC, raked leaves and picked up black walnuts from the church grounds. Their efforts are appreciated by all.



Please join Concentus Women’s chorus for an inspirational collection of reflective choral pieces to usher in the winter season on Friday, December 1, at 7 pm, at the First Presbyterian Church Pittsford. Concentus will be performing pieces by Elgar, Gjeilo, Gill, Conte, and Barnwell, among others. Collaboration with other local musicians will be a highlight of this performance. If you cannot attend Friday evening, Concentus will perform again Sunday, December 3, at The Lutheran Church of the Incarnate Word at 3 pm.



Ramp It Up!



Over the course of two Saturdays, our youth and members of FPC built a handicap accessible ramp for our new friends in Rochester. Mrs. H. has trouble with stairs and currently needs assistance getting in and out of her house. Mrs. H told us the ramp will completely change her life; we were so happy to be able to help her get some of her independence back! Craig Kunkle and Pastor Jacobson want to thank Dan Harrison, Ron Pollock, Jim Weick, and Bob Collins for all of their help with the plans, permits, and building process. We couldn't have done it without all of you!



STUDENTS WHO ARE PRESBYTERIAN
CAN EARN AN
\$80,000
PRESBYTERIAN PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP
TO ATTEND PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE.

Scholarship Available

If your child is looking at colleges, Presbyterian College in Clinton, SC is leaning into their Presbyterian heritage and offering significant (\$80,000) scholarships for all Presbyterian Church (USA) graduating seniors. Please let Pastor Jacobson know if you have any questions!



Children bleating like sheep during 1992 Christmas Eve service

Christian Education

Adult Education Opportunities
Sunday Morning Bible Study 8:15 am library
Monday Night Bible Study 7 pm Zoom
Tuesday Highlands Bible Study 12:50 pm Highlands Music
Wednesday Bible Study 7:15 pm hybrid
Thursday Women's Bible Study noon library

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 service. You will receive a card designed by the children of First Presbyterian for you to give recognizing the donation made in their honor.

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

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

We will be arranging practice sessions the week before Christmas Eve so children can practice speaking in to the microphones as well as practicing during Sunday School.

Sunday School Schedule



Dec 3

Theme: God's Peaceable Kingdom

Activity: Kids share with the birds



Computer Game:
Fluffy & God's
Amazing
Christmas
Adventure

Dec 10

Kids will Play Fluffy and learn about Advent and Christmas



Dec 17

To wonder what is possible with God

Explore what is possible

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Pittsford, New York 14534
www.pittsfordpres.org

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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

*Advent—A Time of New
Beginnings*

<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:</p> <p>8:30 am in-person 10:00 am in-person and livestreamed</p> <p>Communion is offered on the first Sunday of each month.</p> <div data-bbox="1015 1575 1518 1984">A blue Facebook 'f' icon is positioned to the left of a red circular logo. The logo depicts a church steeple with a cross on top, enclosed within a circular border.</div>
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