

The Good News

December 2019

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

MUSINGS FROM REV. JIM

The same person has cut my hair for the last 20 years. Since I started working again, I have been getting my hair cut every five weeks so I can look professional. I had an appointment on Wednesday and arrived at noon. As I walked through the door I said to my hair-cutter/stylist, "it's a very short drive here from Pittsford." She asked, "how is it going at Pittsford Presbyterian Church?" For just a moment I wondered how much I should share. I responded, "it's complicated, but ok." Then I heard, "I belong to that church." Suddenly there was a flush of laughter from everyone, and I introduced myself to my fellow FPC friend, Marilyn Hediger, sitting in the chair next to me. Marilyn gave me permission to share this story. Val, my haircutter/stylist commented, "that just goes to show you should always be careful how much you say, you never know who is listening." Marilyn and I laughed together and she said, "bless your heart for coming to help us." I think we will be friends while I am at FPC.

Marilyn is not the first from the congregation who has said the same, "bless you for coming to help us." Those words give me motivation and inspiration. Thank you. I think we can be confident that the Lord will bless us in the days ahead, as you anticipate the arrival of a new pastor. Your waiting and expectation is an appropriate theme for the Advent season, where we explore that part of our life in Christ, or our spiritual lives, where we wait with expectation for the coming of Christ. I have always found it curious that the number 40 is frequently used in the biblical story to indicate the time needed for God to finish the work he has to do with us. If we quit and walk away at 39 days, months, or years, we have wasted our time. Forty days, months, or years are necessary and until you get there it isn't finished, and the Lord isn't done with us. So welcome to Advent, where we learn again how to wait for the Lord, how to become resilient in hope, and how to allow faith to grow deeper. We need to be a strong, trained team to be ready for the coming of the Lord.

When I met for the first time with the committee that interviewed me, before I had any inclination to help, I got a 'word from the Lord' for FPC. I am not the type that looks or listens, or even expects a 'word from the Lord.' But in the last 17 years working as chaplain at Rochester's psychiatric hospital, I seem to have gotten ears and eyes that capture something that seems from God. Please be patient if this seems peculiar. It may be. So the word which may be from God (I don't know) for FPC Pittsford is like this—two questions. The first is "what do you need from God?" This is not an operational or administrative question, but one that goes more to the power source of our life together in Christ. It requires a corporate discernment, a listening, and prayer to come to some kind of consensus of what is needed from God. It can't be 'more members, more money, or better parking.' It is fine to ask for this from God. We can and should ask for all things from God. But a better vein of asking from God are things like, 'I believe we need more joy in the congregation.' Or 'we need a stronger consensus of mission that moves powerfully outward into the world.' Or 'we need an explosion of love, surprising and coming as a gift into our life and witness together.' So, maybe from God, is this question, "what do you need?"

The second question, related to the first but also very different is, "what do you believe the Lord wants to give you, as a congregation?" What we want from God is frequently different from what God

wants to give us. It is possible that the latter question is stronger for our spiritual lives, for it pulls us up out of our own wonderings and worries. What is the gift God wants to pour into our life together in Christ that will bind up, heal, and spill over into the streets and neighborhoods where we live? God has something he wants to give. And sometimes we miss it because we aren't paying attention. So, I invite you to a corporate discernment, 'what do you need from God,' and 'what is the Lord seeking to give you.'

The last thing that came to my mind before I started here, which may be from God, is "the church needs more joy in the sanctuary." I am not sure what that means, but with all the instruments and voices, we certainly have the potential. I am absolutely fascinated by the notion that when singing in tune, overtones begin to sound that fill up the room, so there is more sound than you are making. So as the director of the chorus I sing in says, "don't try to sing louder, but sing in tune, listen, and surprisingly, 'overtones' begin to sound that fill up all of Kodak Hall." Let's see if we can so sing together in tune that overtones of the Lord sound out and fill the whole sanctuary.

Grace and peace to you.

~ Jim

Pastoral Care

Rev. Jim Widboom is on call for pastoral care. His cell number is 585.727.1295. Please feel free to contact him with any pastoral concern. Rev. Carol Anne, Rev. Steve, and Rev. Jim will soon share this responsibility and will communicate this to the congregation at that time. Blessings to all!

FPC at Candlelight Night

On December 3, First Presbyterian will be giving out free cotton candy at 45 South Main Street!

Santa in the Sanctuary

On December 8, after the church service, Santa will be in the sanctuary for families to greet Santa and take pictures at the Christmas tree. All families and friends are welcome!



Lectionary for December

December 1

1st Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 2:1-5
Psalm 122
Romans 13:11-14
Matthew 24:36-44

December 8

2nd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
Romans 15:4-13
Matthew 3:1-12

December 15

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 22

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

December 29

1st Sunday after Christmas Day

Isaiah 63:7-9
Psalm 148
Hebrews 2:10-18
Matthew 2:13-23

Members with December Birthdays

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

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

Brittany Adams	Lanie Harper
David Adams	Ellen Henry
George Alger	James Higbee
James Amborski	Chris Longyear
Ken Anderson	Rebekah Olson
Linda Ashworth	Jennifer Peet
Joan Attardo	Dale Pollock
Linda Davey	Allan Reeve
Gordon Fagan	Bill Smith
Nance Falter	Eloise Terho
Yazmin Fernaays	Mary Lou Teumer
Cal Graziano	Jamie Tyler
Hunter Green	Louisa White
Emily Haines	Zachary Zimmer



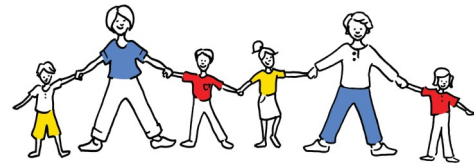
Stewardship Results

The Generosity Team is pleased to announce that as of Celebration Sunday, November 17, we have received 125 Participation Cards totaling \$364,327. That is a good start as we look to increase our 2020 commitments over the \$529,000 pledged for 2019. Thank you to those who have submitted a card and we look forward to every-ONE's participation!

Please send your card to the church office, include it in the offering plate, or go online at the church website, click on the "Giving" tab and select "Participation Card."

<https://www.pittsfordpres.org>

Let us find the joy in sharing and fulfilling God's call to each of us.



News from the Nursery School

This time of year many special memories are made. Some are made with our preschool family. Downstairs in the preschool the children are very busy in the classrooms, preparing handmade gifts for those they love, preparing for special memories. We will be setting up a Giving Tree for our families to give gifts to those in need. We will have a Holiday Party on the evening of December 6, families come in their pajamas and we will eat treats! Beginning December 16, if you are a First Presbyterian Church member and you have a child preparing for preschool, you have first preference from then until December 31 to register your child for the upcoming school year. Please come see me in my office in the preschool for a registration packet that will be available starting December 1. You can also find one on our website. We wish all of you a wonderful holiday season and many blessings in the coming year. Thank you for all your support and as always, please come visit!

Teresa Zatyko, Director PCNS

Anthony Circle

- December 10, 10 am. Christmas brunch at Anne Ferris'- ARC gifts and crafts
 - December 12, 4:30–6:30 pm. Christmas dinner for JPC. A wonderful mission.
 - January 2, 10 am. Coffee in room 200
- Contact Claudia 474-3135

Needle Nellies

Meeting Date: Tuesday, November 26, 11:00 am-1:30 pm. Bring your smiles and projects. I can hardly wait!! Questions? Call Kay Saxum 385-9807

Children's Choir Opportunity!

We need young voices to join us for the annual Christmas Cantata. The Children's choir will learn the old English carol, *Good Christian Friends Rejoice* to sing with the Chancel Choir on Holst's anthem called *Christmas Day*. The children will learn the song during Sunday School and LOGOS rehearsals. The concert itself will be at 3pm on December 8 and there will be a dress rehearsal on Saturday morning, December 7. This will be a wonderful experience for our kids and church family and I hope you'll consider joining us.

Contact Dede Holmes for more information. dedeholmes1954@gmail.com

What: Singing with the Christmas Cantata on December 8

What: *Good Christian Friends Rejoice* with the Chancel Choir

Who: Open to all children K and up

Where: We will learn the song during LOGOS and Sunday School

The Children's Choir will also be singing on the following dates:

- November 24, 10 am service: The LOGOS choirs will be singing *How Good it is to Give Thanks* based on Psalm 136 from the balcony accompanied by Dr. Frank on the pipe organ
- December 8, 3 pm: Christmas Cantata & Messiah Sing Along
- December 24, 4:30 pm: Family Christmas Eve Service-Logos Bell & Vocal Choirs with a special part for the congregation too!



Cub Scouts in Action at FPC

On Saturday, November 9, an intrepid group of Cub Scouts from Packs 341 and 171 braved the cold weather and snow to rake leaves from our churchyard. Their efforts are appreciated by all.



Poinsettia Dedications

Poinsettia Dedications will be available in the Fellowship Hall on Sundays after both services from November 24 until December 15. Dedications may also be mailed to the church (attn.: Poinsettia Dedications) until December 19. Plants will be \$8. Please make checks out to the church. If there are any questions, please contact Norma Ryther at 485.0050.

2019 Advent and Christmastide

(unless otherwise noted, Sunday services will be at 8:30 and 10 am)

Sunday, December 1 1st Advent	Families and children of the church will light the Advent candles each Sunday during the season
Sunday, December 8 2nd Advent	10:00 am Vocal Quartet Sanctuary 3:00 pm Christmas Cantata w. Children's Choir & <i>Messiah</i> Sing-Along followed by a Finger Food Appetizer & Dessert Reception
Sunday, December 15 3rd Advent	5:00 pm Christmas Youth Party
Saturday, December 21	7:00 pm Youth Lock-In
Sunday, December 22 4th Advent	10:00 am Handbells
Tuesday, December 24 Christmas Eve	4:30 pm Family service w. Children's Choir 8:00 pm (soloist) & 10:30 pm (soloist, choir) Candlelight Service
Wednesday, December 25 Christmas Day	Christ is born! Merry Christmas!
Sunday, December 29	10:00 am Service (no 8:30 am service)



Vital Congregations Initiative

Over the next two years we will be hearing the abbreviation VCI or Vital Congregations Initiative a lot... so, who is involved and what is it? The short answer to who is—all of us. Each of us will have a role in the coming years as we reflect on our role in the church and the community at large. The purpose of The Vital Congregations Initiative is to work alongside leaders of existing congregations continually assessing, discerning, and living into faithful actions that increase vitality through intentional spiritual practices that take them deeper into following Jesus Christ, so that their own lives are changed, congregations are transformed, and the mission of God spreads throughout particular communities and the world. Our VCI Team will work with others from across the presbytery, exploring who we have been and where the spirit is calling us to go. Introductory meetings have already occurred, and we are preparing a Lenten study of the Seven Marks of Vital Congregations, which are:

- **Lifelong Discipleship Formation** vs. complacent “Christian” piety, simply teaching good morals, or offering the latest program
- **Intentional, Authentic Evangelism** vs. “Jesus freaks;” “Christian” hypocrisy; a committee
- **Outward Incarnational Focus** vs. inward institutional survival; closed communities of assimilation/exclusion
- **Empower Servant Leadership** vs. the Pastor’s job; monopolized leadership; hiring the young, energetic pastor
- **Spirit-Inspired Worship** vs. self-gratifying worship, stale ritual divorced of meaning, or consumer entertainment worship
- **Caring Relationships** vs. any other social club; façades, hypocrisy, and judgment of “church” and “religion.”
- **Ecclesial Health** vs. unhealthy dysfunction; toxic environments; obsolete and irrelevant buildings

...Until then if there are any questions about VCI please contact one of the team members below. We look forward to this congregational reflection and growth alongside each of you.

Cindy Becker: cindyleebecker74@gmail.com; 585-703-4878

Lee Fox: lee.freeman.fox@gmail.com; 585-261-7092

Dan Harrison: danieljharrison@gmail.com; 716-491-8724

Jason Lehman: jason.lehman@unicell.com; 585-322-4657

Luis Martinez: veloz36@rochester.rr.com; 585-200-8260

Heze Simmons: heze.simmons@gmail.com; 585-200-8260

Barbara Smith: barbarabsmith13@gmail.com; 585-746-0754

Tanya Van Dorn: trvandorn@icloud.com; 585-339-8753

Youth Happenings

Winter is most definitely here! With the first snow already behind us, make sure you're all keeping warm! Why not do that at any of our myriad different events. Mission and fellowship and fun abound! Food included!

December 3 (Mission)	Candlelight Night	Village, 5-8 pm
December 4	LOGOS	Church, 4-7 pm
December 8	Bob Ross Sunshine Club	Church, 7-8:30 pm
December 8, 15	Sunday School	Church, 10-11 am
December 12 (Mission)	JPC Christmas Party	Church, 5:30-7:30 pm
December 15	Youth Christmas Party	Church, 5-8 pm
December 21-22	Youth Christmas LockIn	Church, 7pm



Soup sale was an overwhelming success this season! Thank you so much for all of our wonderful families for allowing us to get this done! And an extra thank you to our wonderful congregation for loving our soup so much! We made over \$600 on our delicious and warm soup this time around and we could not be more thrilled about that. We can't wait to use this money to help in our different mission events and causes.

Youth Christmas events are back once again! This year we have a plethora of events for you to partake in. Come help out with some mission at the JPC Christmas Party on December 12 where we will help with crafts and fun! Or come to our youth Christmas Party on December 15 where we will eat a lot of Christmas-related food and exchange white elephant gifts! Last but definitely not least, on December 21, join us at our annual Christmas LockIn—we will stay up all night with Christmas movies, some painting, late night laser tag, and so much more!

Christian Education

LOGOS invites families

LOGOS invites families to join them to watch the Christmas Movie “The Star: A tale of faith and friendship” on December 11, at 4:45 pm in the Youth Room. Come watch with us this story of a small but brave donkey named Bo who yearns for a life beyond his daily grind at the village mill. One day, he finds the courage to break free, embarking on the adventure of his dreams. On his journey, he teams up with Ruth, a lovable sheep who has lost her flock, and Dave, a dove who has lofty aspirations. Along with three camels and some eccentric stable animals, Bo and his new friends follow the Star and become accidental heroes in the greatest story ever told—the first Christmas.

Adult Daily Advent Devotionals

An adult advent devotional book is available on the table in the lobby. This book is made up of devotions written by teachers and students from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. There is also an Advent Devotional App, Ebook, and other ways to get the devotionals outlined in the book.

Christmas Family Worship Participants needed

This year the children will be leading worship during the 4:30 pm Family Service on Christmas Eve. To prepare children will be given prayers and readings to practice. We are asking children who want to participate to attend a dress rehearsal. Participants need to arrive at 3:45 pm on Christmas Eve for the 4:30 pm service. We are also looking for children who would be willing to dress up as pageant characters with no speaking lines. Costumes provided. Contact Craig in the office to participate.



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 through December 15. You will receive

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

By decision of the Christian Education Committee this donation will go to support Presbyterian Mission Giving. This change was made so that all of your money will go to what you decide to buy and not to administration or advertising costs.

Upcoming Events

Men's Prayer Breakfast @Messengers	12/2 7:00 am
Anthony Circle	12/10 10 am
Eve Circle	12/23 12:30 pm
Naomi Circle	12/16 12:30 pm
Needle Nellies	12/26 11 am
Not so Basic Bible Study	Mondays 7:30 pm
Prayer Support Group	Mondays 11:00 am
Bible Study	Weds. 7:15 pm
Men's Ecumenical Group	Thursdays 7:15 am
Adult Study	Sundays 9:45 am

Upcoming LOGOS events:

Nov. 27	No LOGOS
Dec. 4	Twinkle Lights
Dec. 11	Choir and optional movie “The Star”
Dec. 18	Choir Only
Jan. 1	No LOGOS
Jan. 8	Where are my Batteries
Jan 15	Set up your tent

Children's Advent Calendars

This year our Advent Family Devotions come from Illustrated Children's ministries. One packet will be available for each family with children. Each packet contains cut-out stages and characters to act out the Christmas story each week. Also included are the script and devotionals for each week. Color yours and start the fun! Others interested can reserve a packet by contacting Craig in the office. The materials will become available the Sunday before Thanksgiving and during the Advent Brunch.

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of Pittsford
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Pittsford, New York 14534
www.pittsfordpres.org

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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

“Your waiting and expectation is an appropriate theme for the Advent season, where we explore that part of our life in Christ, or our spiritual lives, where we wait with expectation for the coming of Christ. “

<p>The Rev. Jim Widboom <i>Temporary Supply Pastor</i> Ext. 25; Thursday, Friday, Sunday JCW@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>The Rev. Carol Anne Strawbridge <i>Temporary Supply Pastor</i> Ext. 41; Monday CAS@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>The Rev. Steve Becker <i>Temporary Supply Pastor</i> Ext. 42; Tuesday, Wednesday SB@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>Craig Kunkle <i>Director of Christian Education</i> Ext. 30 craig.kunkle@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>Tyler Logan <i>Director of Youth Ministry</i> Ext. 31 tyler@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</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>Dr. Mary Carlson <i>Director of Hand Bell Choir</i> mcarlson74@gmail.com</p>	<p>First Presbyterian Church 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>Worship With Us Please join us for Sunday morning worship.</p> <p>Worship Service: 8:30 & 10:00 am Communion is offered on the first Sunday of each month.</p>
		