



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PITTSFORD

THE GOOD NEWS

FEBRUARY 2023

Embracing and Sharing Christ's Love

CHARTING THE COURSE WITH PASTOR AARON

Where are we going as a church? Your answer will reflect what you believe the church is and what it ought to be doing. Some Christians say that the primary job of the church is to worship God. Others say it's fellowship. Others say it's community service or evangelism. What about First Presbyterian Church? What do we say?

Our February 26 annual congregational meeting will include the familiar components: receiving board, committee, financial and budget reports, and the pastors' terms of call vote. However, I also will be giving a special presentation that answers the question, "Where are we going as a church?"

For a year and a half, your elders, deacons, trustees, church staff, and I have been developing a church vision which can be summarized like this: **Our goal is to help you grow your faith.** We believe three things we do help accomplish our goal: worship, connect, and serve. *If each of us were doing all three, our faith would grow the most.*

Worship is the most important thing we do, and it helps us connect with God in meaningful, inspiring, and life-giving ways. Worship is of mutual benefit: it is for God's glorification and our spiritual transformation. *We believe that if each of us is worshipping God, it will change our lives.*

Various church groups offer opportunities to connect with each other. We need to nurture the insights and grace we receive in worship for them to grow and bear fruit in our lives. Our church relationships are among the most important ways that this happens. We study the Bible, socialize, make music, and more. *We believe that if each of us is involved in one group in the church, it will change our lives.*

Since God's love is not something we just receive but also something we share, we also believe that service is important. Each of us is uniquely gifted and called to contribute to the church's ministry (1 Corinthians 12:7) which grows our faith. Some of us are called to lead as a church officer. Others serve on committees, teach, lead prayer team members, or volunteer elsewhere. Others reach outside the church to serve our community. *We believe that if each of us is serving in one capacity for the church, it will change our lives.*

This is where we're trying to go as a church—toward greater clarity about what it means to worship, connect, and serve together as a church. I can't wait to tell you more about all this at the annual meeting on February 26. I hope to see lots of you then!

~Aaron

Members with February Birthdays

Amy Adams
Aidan Bachmann
Diana Douglas
Anne Ferris
Matt Ferris
Kim Finkbeiner
Elizabeth Gianakakis

Dan Harrison
Martha Henry
Stephen Hill
James Kearney
Liz Mehalso
Pat Miller
Amy Oldfield

Chris Oldfield
Erin Reeve
Kelsey Swetman
Marlys Whitcomb
Chris Zimmer

Hoping your birthday brings you many happy reasons to celebrate!

If we missed you, please let the office know.

You Made a Difference!!

In September the Generosity Committee challenged you to “Make a Difference” in the life of our church via your pledge for 2023. You more than surpassed our challenge through your pledges of \$515,637—**nearly a 3% increase over 2022 pledges** of \$502,516. We trust this confirms your commitment to our church, our leaders, and our programs. The Committee also recognizes that many of you give of your time and talents as well, and for that we are always grateful. The Committee is truly blessed by your response, thank you for YOUR generosity!

The Generosity Committee

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



Lectionary for February

February 5

5th Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 58:1–9a [9b–12]
Psalm 112:1–9 [10]
1 Corinthians 2:1–12 [13–16]
Matthew 5:13–20

February 12

6th Sunday after Epiphany

Deuteronomy 30:15–20 or Sirach 15:15–20
Psalm 119:1–8 1
Corinthians 3:1–9
Matthew 5:21–37

February 19

Transfiguration of the Lord

Exodus 24:12–18
Psalm 2 or Psalm 99
2 Peter 1:16–21
Matthew 17:1–9

February 22

Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1–2, 12–17 or Isaiah 58:1–12
Psalm 51:1–17
2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10
Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

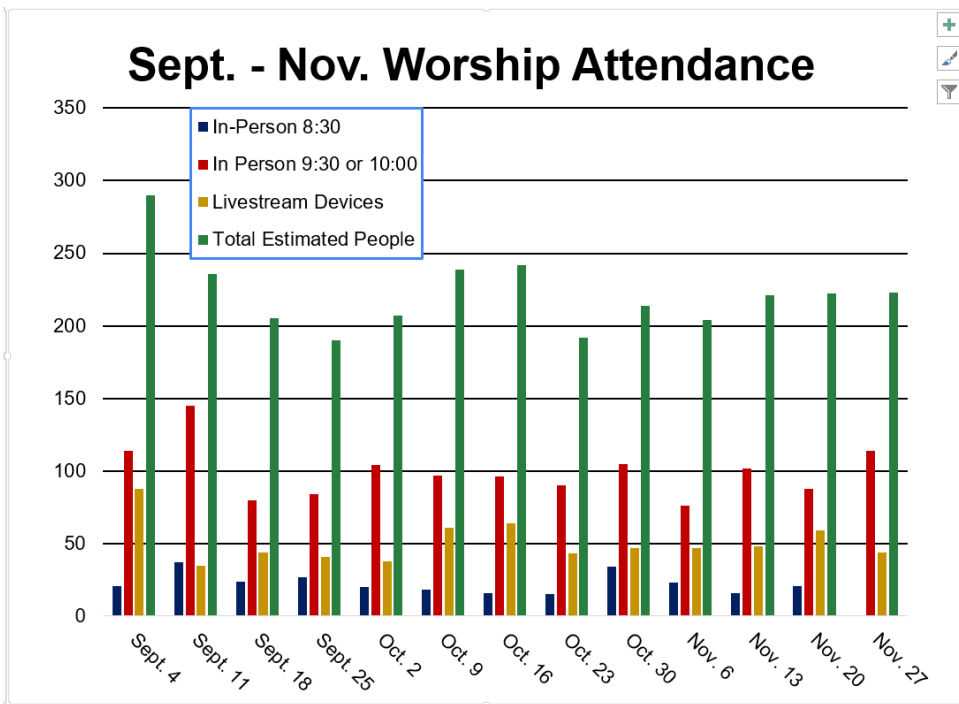
February 26

1st Sunday in Lent

Genesis 2:15–17; 3:1–7
Psalm 32
Romans 5:12–19
Matthew 4:1–11

Christmas Eve Attendance throughout the Last Years

It may be of interest to compare the in-person and livestream attendance for all the Christmas Eve services combined over the last five years. As you will see by the numbers below, while it may sometimes seem that fewer people worship with us, that is really not the case. And please keep in mind that the livestream numbers count individual devices when oftentimes more than one person may be watching—so online attendance is actually higher than listed.



Christmas Eve Attendance

2018: 566 in person
 2019: 526 in person
 2020: 473 online
 2021: 429 in person and online
 2022: 589 in person and online

Which means—we broke the attendance record of the last five years!

First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford **SECOND SUNDAY CONCERTS**

**Sunday, February, 12 3:00pm
 "CHORAL EXTRAVAGANZA"**



Nazareth College Chamber Singers
 Eric Rubinstein, director



U of R Chamber Singers
 Julie Covach, director



Pittsford Mendon HS Choir
 Kelly Jordan, director

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



New Members Class

Are you interested in becoming a member of the church or just want to learn more about the current vision of the church?

Then let the church office know and join Pastor Aaron at 11:30 am in room 201 for this 3-week class:

March 12 - What does it mean to be a Presbyterian?

March 19 - Why become a member of this church... or any church?

March 26 - Spiritual Gifts Assessment

New Officers' Biographies

Oliver Ash – Elder, Class of 2025

Oliver is a student at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School.

Kathy Dunn – Deacon, Class of 2025

One of our newest members, Kathy has enjoyed meeting new friends at FPC and “continuing to find the path God has set” for her. She has experience as a Sunday School teacher and a Stephen Minister. She delights in many activities but family time tops it all.

Julie Howe – Deacon, Class of 2025

A member of FPC for about ten years, Julie likes to “work with a group of people to care for our church members.” She is a physical therapist and enjoys hiking, yoga, pickle ball, and playing the harp.

Bob Huot – Trustee, Class of 2025

Bob joined First Presbyterian in 1970! A product design engineer by training he enjoys hunting, sporting clays, dog training, and playing bridge. He is excited about the addition of our two new “outstanding” ministers.

Janet Kearns – Deacon, Class of 2025

Janet has been attending worship at FPC since 1986 and took the step to become a member just three years ago. She is a retired elementary school librarian and, not surprisingly, enjoys reading as well as gardening. Janet is excited about the opportunity to learn from others and to share her faith.

Bob Mecredy – Elder, Class of 2025

Bob has been attending First Presbyterian with his wife Margaret for almost 30 years. He was employed in the management of a nuclear plant and is now enjoying singing in our choir and playing handbells. He is also the chair of the Presbytery Budget Committee and “a fan of Cleveland’s (long-suffering) sports teams.” Bob would like to grow the worship experience at FPC.

Judy Miller – Deacon, Class of 2025

A recently retired accountant, Judy enjoys playing golf and going to the movies. She joined FPC in 2021 and thinks of the church as having “a warm and friendly feeling.”

Mark Pedersen – Elder, Class of 2024

A long-time member of FPC, Mark has had a distinguished career in the U.S. Navy Reserve Judge Advocate General’s Corps, and as an assistant district attorney in Monroe County, a law clerk for the Hon. Charles J. Siragusa, U.S. District Judge, and a Federal Magistrate Judge in Rochester. He is an FCC-licensed radio operator, and volunteers with BSA Troop 273 in Fairport and the New York Naval Militia. Mark believes, with new pastors in place, “the church has the opportunity to offer services to new families in the area; but new families need to learn about us first.”

Melissa Schmitt – Deacon, Class of 2025

Melissa and her husband Derek attend church with their two small children, Graham and Abby. Melissa is a data analyst for Xerox. In her spare time she acts as the building chair for their elementary school’s PTSA and enjoys running, baking, and reading. Melissa appreciates the church’s “adaptability to the needs of members, for example offering livestream.”

Luke Wright – Deacon, Class of 2025

Luke attends First Presbyterian with his wife Andrea and their children Will and Lily. He is a Labor and Employment Attorney and in his free time likes to hike, travel and root for the Bills. Luke is enthusiastic about our new pastors and new member engagement.

Will You Make Some Cookies for Us?

The Parish Life Committee which organizes the receptions after memorial services is in need of home-baked cookies. Please consider making a batch, or two, or three, and put the container or bag of cookies in the freezer with a note "memorial service" on it. Many thanks in advance!



News from the Nursery School

Can it be? February?! The month of love and typically lots of snow! In the classrooms we will discuss community helpers—those who help us in our everyday lives. One of these helpers will visit us, the dental hygienist. The 3's parents will have conferences with their child's teachers. The children will be making Valentine's cards for their parents which will then be mailed to them. Of course, we will celebrate Valentines' Day with cards and special games. We will also have a week off for President's week. We will have a parent-night-out fundraiser. We continue to register children for next school year and have started another session of our afternoon enrichment classes. This is of course on top of all the learning we do in our classrooms, be it social or academic, our children are growing and progressing before our eyes! Our year is now more than half over. Thank you for your continued support!

Teresa Zatyko, Director Pittsford Nursery School

OPTIMISTS

OPTIMISTS enjoyed a time of socializing to begin the New Year. Meetings will continue to be at 1:00 pm on the second Friday of the month with a hot meal for lunch. The next meeting is on February 10. Watch for more information about a program. So mark your calendars and bring a friend!

Valentine's Luncheon for Widows

Our 7th edition of the Valentine's Luncheon for Widows will be Saturday, February 11, from 12:00-2:00pm in our Fellowship Hall. Invitations will be sent out soon, but feel free to reply to either Debbie Matrachisia at 585-752-5584 or the church office at 585-586-5688 with your reservation. Once again we will entertain you with the a cappella quartet 20th Century Vox!, feed you with soup, salad, quiche and dessert, and send you off with more love and goodies! Feel free to invite a widowed friend. We will collect donations for Green Angels. If you need transportation, we will try to find you a ride. Further information will be coming soon! Save the date!

Anthony Circle

On March 8, at 11:30 am, we will be having lunch at Fox's Deli at Winton Place. RSVP to Claudia 474.3135, by March 1.

In April we will be cooking at Cameron with Cynthia. Details to follow.

Eve Circle

Eve Circle will meet on February 27, at 12:30 pm, in room 200. We will discuss options for future study.

Faith & Grief

You are invited to our Faith & Grief Workshops at First Presbyterian, where you can explore the nature of grief, share your story and explore spiritual practices designed to provide comfort as you grieve.

Saturdays at 10 am, starting on February 18 - RSVP at: faithandgrief.org/events/pittsford-saturdays/

Tuesdays at 12 pm starting on February 21 - RSVP at: faithandgrief.org/events/pittsford-tuesdays/ or call 469.616.1795

For questions, please contact Debbie Matrachisia at debmat9267@gmail.com

Youth Sunday

Youth in grades 6-12 will lead us in worship on February 5. Please join us at 8:30am or 10:00am!



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PITTSFORD

YOUTH GROUP LOCK-IN & SLEEPOVER

Friday, February 24th to
Saturday, February 25th

GRADES 6-12

Drop off time: **Friday @ 6pm**

Pick-up time: **Saturday @ 9am**

**Both drop off and pick up will be
at the Locust Street Doors**

Contact Erin Jacobson to RSVP -
erin.jacobson@pittsfordpres.org



Christian Education

Pop-up Fellowships Books Study and Author Visit

This Lent, author and Old Testament Professor Patricia Tull will be teaching us the Bible's call to being good stewards of the planet. God has created this wonderful place and put it in our hands, the question is what is our job as Christians in taking care of it? Through her book *Inhabiting Eden* we will study the Bible and its call to us. Each chapter of Tull's book challenges us to consider our place in some of the ecological hot button topics.

Then on March 5, Rev. Tull will preach at both services and also teach two one-hour lectures after worship at 11:45 am and 1:00 pm. Lunch will be provided. The first session will be about the book *Inhabiting Eden* and during the second session she will entertain any questions about the Old Testament.

Patricia K. Tull is the author of the Bible study *Inhabiting Eden: Christians, the Bible, and the Ecological Crisis* (Westminster/John Knox), as well as the 2024-2025 Horizons Bible Study on environmental justice. As A.B. Rhodes Professor Emerita of Old Testament at Louisville Seminary, she has devoted her post-academic life to environmental theology. She is a Climate Reality presenter, a GreenFaith fellow, former program director for Hoosier Interfaith Power & Light, and the 2016 recipient of the William Gibson Eco-Justice Award. She and her spouse, the Rev. Don Summerfield, live in a net-zero energy home outside of Henryville, Indiana.

Pop-up Fellowships starting the week of February 5

Mondays

6 pm Eunhui Loss and Craig
12 Freshfield Rise, Fairport

Tuesdays

12:50-1:50 pm Craig
The Highlands Music Room
7-8 pm Susie and Matt Wahl
19 Golf Avenue, Pittsford
(special Valentines Day celebration)

Thursdays

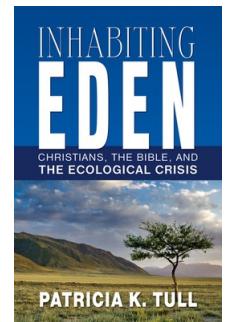
12 - 1 pm Rev. Jacobson
Church Library
3 pm Cynthia VanHoute-Purpura
Room 200 at Church

Fridays

6-7 pm Dick and Nancy Sprenkle
103 Stuyvesant Rd., Pittsford

Sundays

5:30 pm Dan Traina and
Debbie Matrachisia
45 S. Main St., Pittsford
(includes dinner)



Coming up in Sunday School:

February 5

Matthew 6:25-33
God Cares for All
Worry Obstacle Course



February 12

Matthew 7:1-5, 12
Specks and Logs
Skits and Emotions



February 19

Matthew 7:24-29
The Two Houses
Large Group Activities



February 26

Matthew 6:9-15
Jesus Teaches us to Pray
Large Group Activities



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Pittsford, New York 14534
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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

Worship.
Connect.
Serve.

<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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