



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PITTSFORD

THE GOOD NEWS

JANUARY 2022

Embracing and Sharing Christ's Love

CHARTING THE COURSE WITH PASTOR AARON

Happy New Year! There is something satisfying about turning the page of a calendar or about writing a new year number every time you date a document. After the doozy of a year we had in 2020, I think we all assumed 2021 would surely be an improvement. Well, 2021 sure gave 2020 a run for its money! I'm looking forward to what 2022 has in store for us, because I cannot help being hopeful.

The celebration of a new year is a perfect opportunity to remember that the message of the Gospel is about new beginnings, new opportunities, and new life. There is a verse in the book of Revelation that I especially like. The author of Revelation is describing the future day when God will make a new creation, when Jesus says in 21:5, "Behold, I am making all things new!" I think I especially like this verse because of the very specific wording that is used in it. Notice that Jesus did not say, "I am making all new things." Instead, he said, "I am making all things new."

You'll notice that there is a significant difference between making "all new things" and making "all things new." When Christ's work of salvation reaches its completion in the future, and he destroys the powers of sin and death, once and for all, he is not going to destroy you and me and the earth we live on along with it. He loves his creation. He is not going to scrap it and start over. He is going to simply remove all of its imperfections. The image Revelation 21:5 depicts for us conjures up many ideas, but there is one that I think is particularly relevant for us in 2022. The saving work of God is a work of renewal, not destruction. You and I are the culmination of all the experiences we've ever had. We cannot change the past, but we can allow God's saving grace to work in us to make our lives and experiences (as affected by sin and death, as they are) full of meaning and beauty. The journey we've been on at First Presbyterian Church over the last two years has been hard, as we've faced so many challenges due to the ongoing pandemic. But Christ promises to make all things new. There is nothing that Christ cannot redeem. Together, let's look forward to the new year with hope and prepare to see all that God is going to renew in us.

~ Aaron

UPDATE! Stewardship Campaign Report

As of December 14, we have received 154 pledges totaling \$464,000. This is 22 fewer commitments, but \$8,000 more in dollars than this point in last year's campaign. It is very gratifying to see that 50% of households increased their pledge over last year while only 14 households found it necessary to reduce their 2022 commitment. It is also encouraging that 11 households either made a pledge for the first time or resumed pledging in 2022. We are within \$23,000 of matching 2021 commitments, which would be a significant turnaround in pledge trends. A thank you to those who have made a commitment and an invitation to those who have not yet pledged to do so by year's end.

Your Generosity Committee

Year End Contributions

In order for contributions to appear on your December membership statement, they must be received in the church office no later than Tuesday, January 4, 2022. The check must be dated in 2021, and indicate "2021 Contribution" in the memo line. Your support allows us to fulfill our mission, and we are exceedingly grateful.

Amazon Smile

If you purchase through Amazon and set up an Amazon Smile account then ½% of your purchase value will be contributed to the church by designating First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford as your charity. There is no cost to you or expense to the church. Simply go to smile.amazon.com and designate FPCP as your charity. You can even use your existing Amazon account. This is yet another way you can help further our ministry and mission.

Did You Know? Free Mammograms

Cancer Services Program (www.GetScreenedRochester.org) pays for mammograms and diagnostic services for the uninsured. If you need a mammogram and don't have insurance, free mammograms for uninsured women 40 years of age and older are available. To qualify you must not presently have health insurance that covers breast screening. <https://www.ewbc.com/billing-insurance/mammograms-for-uninsured-underinsured/>

Lectionary for January

January 2

2nd Sunday of Christmas

Jeremiah 31:7–14

Psalms 147:12–20

Ephesians 1:3–14

John 1:(1–9) 10–18

January 6

Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60:1–6

Psalms 72:1–7, 10–14

Ephesians 3:1–12

Matthew 2:1–12

January 9

Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 43:1–7

Psalms 29

Acts 8:14–17

Luke 3:15–17, 21–22

January 16

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 62:1–5

Psalms 36:5–10

1 Corinthians 12:1–11

John 2:1–11

January 23

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Nehemiah 8:1–3, 5–6, 8–10

Psalms 19

1 Corinthians 12:12–31a

Luke 4:14–21

January 30

4th Sunday after Epiphany

Jeremiah 1:4–10

Psalms 71:1–6

1 Corinthians 13:1–13

Luke 4:21–30



Members with January Birthdays

Lew Becker	Matthew Kilmer	Mabel Stehler
Jim Bishop	Jane Landsman	Ashley Stern
Lauren Blowers	Karen Maher	Joan Thomas Miller
Peggy Burton	Noel Nichols	Elena Travis
Josh Cordova	Nina Oakley	Zachary Travis
Chelsea Cunningham	Allison Ranslow	Elisabeth Tyler
Austen Fagan	Madison Ranslow	BJ Vesling
Lilly Fantuzzo	Colleen Rouse	Jane Vesling
Ashley Finkbeiner	Lucien Rouse	Henry Walbaum
Adina Flynn	Mary Elizabeth Scheu	Garrett Wilson
Taylor Frank	Barbara Smith	
Ann Kay Hotaling	Jan Smith	

Wishing you a birthday full of love and gratitude!

If we missed you, please let the office know.



What's Trending with the Trustees?

Have you ever wondered why there is a trustee on duty each Sunday, and what their responsibilities are?

The two most important tasks are, collecting the

morning offering and securing it safely in the office, and closing up the building. This means a complete walkthrough of our entire facility ensuring that all lights are off and doors and windows are closed. Lastly, we lock all exterior doors before heading home.

How can you help?

If you chair a committee or circle, teach a class, or use a church space in any capacity, please help us out by turning out the lights and closing doors and windows before you leave. To use the all too familiar but fitting phrase "We are all in this together." Thank you for helping us conserve and use our beautiful spaces wisely.

Lastly a parting picture of our fearless leader Luke Wright as he performs his last official Trustee task before completing his term. Thank you, Luke, for your true servant leadership and guidance. Stay tuned next month for more Trustee news!

Needle Nellies

Join Needle Nellies on Tuesday, December 28, in Fellowship Hall from 11 am-1:30 pm. Please bring your lunch and drink. You can relax and chat while working on your project. Kay Saxum, 385-9807



News from the Nursery School

Yes it is now 2022! A brand new year, but we continue heartfelt traditions ☺ Here at the preschool we are returning to our normal schedule. We notice the children have no problem transitioning back into their school routine. They have matured over the winter break. Open enrollment has begun. This month we will be building our annual ice sculpture next to the parking lot. The 2's and 4's will have parent conferences. We will be having our annual Open House, Sunday, January 9, from 2-4 pm, advertising our school in every way possible. Word of mouth has always been the best way to spread good news! Please do so with your friends and neighbors, thank you. Thank you for your continued support! And a very Happy New Year to you all!!

Teresa Zatyko, Director Pittsford Nursery School

Some of the Things that Happened at FPC in 2021!





Presbytery of Genesee Valley

SAVE the DATE!

Family Winter Fun Day

at Pavilion Lodge in Ellison Park

February 12, 2022

late morning  afternoon

Open to all Presbytery members and their families

- *Outdoor winter activities—sledding & ice skating
- *Shared meal
- *Warm fire

Watch for more details on the PGV website and in your email



Save the date! Registration will begin soon for Presbyterian Youth Triennium. Triennium is a gathering for High School age youth, youth leaders and young adults in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the Cumberland Presbyterian Churches. If you have questions, please contact Rev. Jacobson at erin.jacobson@pittsfordpres.org

Registration for Camp Whitman 2022 Summer Camp is open!



Did you know that our Presbytery (Genesee Valley) and the Presbytery of Geneva run and support a summer camp on Seneca Lake? Pastor Jacobson has been a camper, counselor, and director at Camp Whitman in the past, and one of HER counselors, Lea Kone, is now the Camp Director! If you have any questions please let her know. See campwhitman.org/dates-rates for the schedule and rates. Camp Whitman also offers the following discounts:

Sibling Discount: Each sibling who registers for camp will receive a \$25 discount per camper automatically applied during registration.

Multi-Session Discount: Campers who register for more than one camp session will receive \$25 off the 2nd session.

Membership Discount: All families who are enrolled as either a Companion or Patron level member will receive a 10% discount on their registration. Contact the camp and they will apply the discount. You may submit your membership application on their website.

Camp Whitman Scholarships: If your family could use support in sending your child to Camp Whitman, please contact Pastor Jacobson or Craig Kunkle.

Save the Date - Presbytery-Wide Youth Retreat January 29, 2022

On Saturday, January 29, we will be attending another Presbytery-wide youth retreat with the Presbyteries of Geneva and Genesee Valley. The retreat will be at Dansville Presbyterian Church and Lagom Landing and will include a service and mission project!

Synod of the Northeast Scholarships and Interest-Free Student Loans

The Wurffel-Sills Scholarship & Interest-Free Student Loan Program will begin accepting applications for the 2022-2023 school year in mid-January 2022. All full-time undergraduate students and full-time or part-time (at least half-time) seminary students (MDiv and MRE) who are members of a church within the Synod of the Northeast are eligible to apply. In addition to these, they will also begin to accept applications for those enrolled in coursework to obtain their CRE. The deadline to apply is April 1, 2022 for funding to begin in the Fall of 2022.

You can visit <https://www.synodne.org/wurffel-sills> for more information, or email Rev. Jacobson at erin.jacobson@pittsfordpres.org

New Opportunities

Here is a truth about most churches. If you choose to engage in one or more groups, you will build relationships where people know you and will notice if you don't come. At the same time, engaging in groups will kindle a passion for mission and worship. Call the church office to find the group for you.

You are invited to join several new opportunities offered by this church:

- Monday Night Back to Basics Bible Study with Lucien—The group will continue to meet in January working through the book of Luke. They meet by Zoom.
- Tuesday Afternoon Fellowship at The Highlands—This group is currently listening to and discussing old hymns. They meet in person in the Music Room at The Highlands.
- Thursday Women's Bible Study with Rev. Erin Jacobson—This group meets weekly in the library starting back up in mid-January.
- Daily Upper Room and d365 Discussion by Email—This group reads and emails about either *The Upper Room* or *d365*.

4-Year-Olds Bibles

On January 30, the church will be presenting Bibles to 4-year-olds. If you know of a 4-year-old who would like one, please let the office know how the child's name should appear on the book plate. Children in Sunday School will be practicing the song *Jesus Loves Me* all January in preparation for the event.

PJs and Plushies in Worship

On December 26, Families are invited to worship together. Several times a year children are invited to stay in church to experience all of the worship service with their family. These times are typically around holidays. We hope that children can learn and experience the love of worship as they grow up. On these days there is no formal Sunday school. Please feel free to come in PJs!

Sunday School in January:

January 2
Luke 2:22-40



Goal: to rejoice, like Simeon and Anna did, as we recognize God's promise in Jesus

January 9
Matthew 2:1-12



Goal: To explore Epiphany as a way to worship Jesus with the wise men.

January 16
Luke 3:1-22



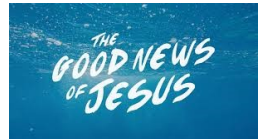
Goal: To explore baptism as the beginning of our lives of faith.

January 23
Luke 4:1-13



Goal: To learn that we can put our trust in God even when we are tested.

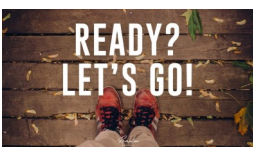
January 30
Luke 4:14-21



Goal: To reflect on the good news of Jesus' ministry and our call as disciples of Christ.

LOGOS in January:

January 5
Get Ready, Let's Go!



January 12
Time for Joy



January 19
Swim and Smile
Off Site



January 26
Get Up and Dance





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

Non-Profit Org.
PRST STD
US Postage
PAID
Pittsford, NY
Permit No. 6

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

Together, let's look forward to the new year with hope and prepare to see all that God is going to renew in us.

<p>The Rev. Aaron Neff <i>Pastor and Head of Staff</i> Ext. 25 aaron.neff@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>The Rev. Erin Jacobson <i>Temp. Supply Assoc. Pastor</i> Ext. 24 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 Services: 8:30 and 10:00 am in-person 10:00 am also livestreamed Communion is offered on the first Sunday of each month.</p> <p> </p>
---	--	--