



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PITTSFORD

THE GOOD NEWS

JANUARY 2023

Embracing and Sharing Christ's Love

CHARTING THE COURSE WITH PASTOR AARON

A few years ago, *Forbes* surveyed people working in businesses and found that 45% of frontline employees would rather remain in the status quo than welcome the necessary change to reach for something bigger and better. This survey really just tells us something we already know intuitively: people don't like change. What I'm about to say may not make sense at first, but I believe it's true: Christians should be some of the most adept people at navigating change. And here's the reason why I think that: change is built into the foundation of our faith. Let me explain.

Christian discipleship is founded on repentance. In the New Testament, the Greek word that we translate into English "repent" is the word *metanoēō*, and it means "to have a change of heart" and "to turn from sinning." The New Testament begins with John the Baptist and Jesus both preaching the same message: "Repent!" In other words, being a follower of Jesus involves recognizing that we need to follow Jesus because without his help and guidance, we would be lost and going where we shouldn't go. That is a process of change.

Additionally, change is often forced upon us by our environment or circumstances, and part of Christian discipleship involves acquiring the tools we need to adjust to such changes. When we experience a tragedy or a loss, our faith helps us to grieve and gives us the hope, peace, and resiliency to continue making meaning and finding purpose despite our new circumstances. The work of the Holy Spirit in our lives to help us during those times is a work of change. Thank God for that.

Finally, as culture and society evolve and change around us (as they have done around other Christian communities for thousands of years!), it is the responsibility of faithful disciples to allow the Holy Spirit to show us more effective ways of expressing and living into our faith. The Church, while remaining similar in many ways over time, has drastically changed since its beginning. This is the nature of the faith journey.

As people of Christ, we are people of change. Change remains "unnatural" for us, but that is why God has given us the Holy Spirit—to empower and enable us to do what is necessary to become the people God desires for us to be. As we begin a new year together, let's trust in the work God is doing and wants to do in us to become more like Christ tomorrow than we were yesterday.

~Aaron

Members with January Birthdays

Lew Becker

Jim Bishop

Lauren Blowers

Peggy Burton

Josh Cordova

Chelsea Cunningham

Austen Fagan

Lilly Fantuzzo

Ashley Finkbeiner

Adina Flynn

Taylor Frank

Ann Kay Hotaling

Matthew Kilmer

Michael Labombarda

Jane Landsman

Karen Maher

Noel Nichols

Nina Oakley

Allison Ranslow

Madison Ranslow

Neil Richards

Colleen Rouse

Lucien Rouse

Barbara Smith

Jan Smith

Ashley Stern

Joan Thomas Miller

Elena Travis

Zachary Travis

Elisabeth Tyler

BJ Vesling

Jane Vesling

Henry Walbaum

Garrett Wilson

Hoping your birthday brings you many happy reasons to celebrate!

If we missed you, please let the office know.

Thank You! Thank You!

The Generosity Committee is grateful for your commitments of time, talent and financial support, without which our church would be only a building. Instead, it is our spiritual home where we find warmth, love, friendship, hope, support and peace. As we welcome in the New Year we pray that you will find all of these and more in our community of faith.

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

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 FPC as your charity. You can even use your existing Amazon account.

This is yet another way you can **Make a Difference** furthering our ministry and mission.

Year End Contribution

To ensure your 2022 contribution statement reflects your intended 2022 gift, please have your check/online gift marked "2022 contribution" in the church office no later than Wednesday, January 4, 2023.

Lectionary for January

January 1

1st Sunday of
Christmas

Isaiah 61:10—62:3

Psalms 148

Galatians 4:4—7

Luke 2:22—40

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 8

Baptism of
the Lord

Isaiah 42:1—9

Psalms 29

Acts 10:34—43

Matthew 3:13—17

January 15

2nd Sunday after
Epiphany

Isaiah 49:1—7

Psalms 40:1—11

1 Corinthians 1:1—9

John 1:29—42

January 22

3rd Sunday after
Epiphany

Isaiah 9:1—4

Psalms 27:1, 4—9

1 Corinthians 1:10—18

Matthew 4:12—23

January 29

4th Sunday after
Epiphany

Micah 6:1—8

Psalms 15

1 Corinthians 1:18—31

Matthew 5:1—12

Some of the Things that Happened at FPC in 2022!





You are invited to the


Workshop



Explore the nature of grief, share your story
and explore spiritual practices designed to
provide comfort as you grieve.

RSVP

faithandgrief.org/events/pittsford-saturdays/

faithandgrief.org/events/pittsford-tuesdays/

or call at 469-616-1795



Saturdays at 10 am ET
Starting 2/18



Tuesdays at Noon ET
Starting 2/21



Hosted by
1st Presbyterian Church, Pittsford
21 Church St, Pittsford, NY



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PITTSFORD



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

Sunday, January 8, 2023 3pm
"Some Enchanting Piano Duets"

Bonnie Choi and Kevin Nitsch, piano

An eclectic collection of works which, taken together, strive to truly engage the listener, each in its own way. The duet arrangements of Bach's religious music touch our souls. The transcription of the deeply moving third movement of Rachmaninoff's Second Symphony touches our hearts. The Chaminade pieces remind us of our connection to the simplicities of nature coupled with a craving for the exotic. Finally some Brahms reimagined in salsa rhythm goes directly to our innate capacity to respond to sound through dance, no matter how unexpected the source.



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

Good News Jail and Prison Ministry—Please Note

The church has been notified that the local jail system is no longer able to accept books and periodicals for their reading programs. For years we have worked with the prison chaplains with your donations. Other programs remain available through the jail system where volunteers can help rebuilding inmates' lives with the chaplains. Please contact the church office if you have the time to become involved in one of their rewarding programs. We thank you for your past support.

The Outreach Committee

Eve Circle

Eve Circle will meet Monday, January 23 at 12:30 pm in room 200 to discuss Chapter 7, Mary, in *What My Grandmothers Taught Me*.



News from the Nursery School

Happy New Year Everyone! Here's to a grace-filled and peaceful 2023! It is great to see the children's happy innocent faces again! Here at the preschool, we are returning to our typical schedule. Open enrollment has begun for next school year. 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 continue to have afternoon enrichment every afternoon of the week—the kids love it! We will be having our annual Open House, Sunday, January 8, from 1-2 pm. Please spread this news to your friends and neighbors, thank you. Word of mouth has always been the best way to advertise! Thank you for your continued support of our cooperative preschool!!

Teresa Zatyko, Director Pittsford Nursery School



OPTIMISTS

Come join us at OPTIMISTS on the 2nd Friday of January 2023. Bring your friends. We will meet in Fellowship Hall, have a hot turkey dinner and friendly conversations. Kindly bring a non-perishable food or paper product for Pittsford Food Cupboard. Watch for more information in early January.

Camp Whitman

Great News from Camp Whitman! Ignoring the coldness of winter, Camp Whitman has opened registration for Summer 2023 with *discounts* available for early registrations (by 2/15/23). With varying dates available, there are loads of fun camping sessions like, "Wilderness Experience", "Splash Camp", "Sing Camp", "Create Camp", "All God's Creatures Camp" and MORE!

For more information, check out the Whitman website at www.campwhitman.com or call the church office. *See you at the beach?*

Anthony Circle

Anthony Circle will meet at 10 am.

January 11 – Making and writing Valentine's cards in room 200.

February 8 — Lamberton Conservatory and coffee. Let's carpool! Coffee or lunch your choice.

Deacon Event - Aladdin

Join your Deacon Fellowship team for Rochester Broadway Theater League's production of Disney's *Aladdin*. We will be attending the Saturday, April 15, matinee at 2:00 pm. Specially priced tickets are available for \$50. Contact Dan Traina at 585-208-6839 or dtraina@rochester.rr.com

Christian Education



The Vision of a Welcoming Church based on the Book of Acts

After worship on January 15 and 22, The Rev. Ho Dong Hwang will lead us through passages in the Book of Acts. These passages give us examples of the early church and how they welcomed new people into the faith. Join us as we consider what these texts mean for the church today. We will meet upstairs in room 201 at 11:40 am.

Adult Education Opportunities

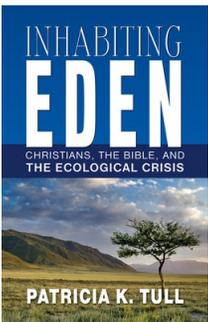
Sunday Morning Bible Study
8:15 am hybrid

Monday Night Bible Study
7 pm Zoom

Tuesday Highlands Bible Study
1 pm Highlands Music Room

Wednesday Bible Study
7 pm hybrid

Thursday Women's Bible Study
Noon FPC Library (resuming)



Lenten Pop-up Fellowship Groups

This Lent we will be studying the book *Inhabiting Eden* by respected Old Testament scholar Patricia K. Tull. This book focuses on God's call for the faithful to take care of the earth.

Tull looks to the Bible for what it can tell us about our relationships, not just to the earth itself, but also to plant and animal life, to each other, to descendants who will inherit the planet from us, and to our Creator. She offers candid discussions on many current ecological problems that humans contribute to.

The church occasionally forms temporary small groups aimed at members who may not know the power that church groups hold. We are calling these "pop-up fellowship" opportunities. These groups will last six weeks and are designed to help form new relationships and help people learn to think spiritually, whether they are just beginning a spiritual journey or looking to build on an existing one.

The Christian Education Committee is looking for people to host a group. These groups can meet at the church, in a home, or online. The group can share the leadership role, assign a leader, or Craig can come to lead your group. Groups and the opportunity to sign up for these groups will be available in Fellowship Hall starting in January.

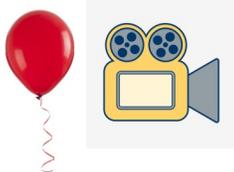
LOGOS Schedule

January 4	Maze—Bike Room Bonanza
January 11	Stretch—Yippee for Yoga
January 18	Stars—"Look up at the stars..." OFF SITE
January 25	Friends—Bring a Buddy Night

Coming up in Sunday School:

January 8

Matthew 3:13–17
Theme: John Baptizes Jesus
K-2: Craft and Balloons
3-5: Podcast Creation



January 15

Group Games



January 22

Matthew 4:23–5:11
Theme: You Are Blessed
K-2: Prayer Plates
3-5: Skits



January 27

Matthew 5:13–20
Theme: You Are Salt and Light
K-2: Cooking
3-5: Flashlight Game



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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

*As people of Christ, we are
people of change.*

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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