



The Good News

January 2019

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

A WEE WORD FROM DR. WEENINK

Epiphanies, Revelations and Reminders

It was a Christmas Eve epiphany. It happened twenty-five years ago, but the experience is still vividly in my mind's eye, as if it happened yesterday. Our Family Christmas Eve Service took place in the Chapel at 5:30 pm. It was a progressive and highly participatory Christmas pageant. It was always a bit of a boisterous, raucous, noisy, excited worship event. The chancel was set up with risers, a huge illuminated star, and, of course the manger complete with a slumbering, baby doll Jesus in it. Mothers, Fathers, Grandmas, Grandpas, Brothers, Sisters, Aunts, and Uncles with exuberant children everywhere—they all took their places. Every seat was filled. Then arrived the time in the service when the pageant began. Children played the parts. They dressed—oh so fittingly. There was Mary and Joseph. There were angels with halos and wings and shepherds with burlap-like-looking shawls. Everything went well. No one missed a prompt or an appearance. Everything was in keeping with the script.

Then came the Wise Men wearing their robes and crowns. Said the narrator in keeping with the mime of entering royalty—"where is he who is born King of the Jews." (Matthew 2:2) Then it happened—something that was not in the script. Little two-and-a-half-year-old Kailyn, wearing white, adorned with wings and a halo made out of pipe cleaners piped out. She spoke up with the innocent clarion quality only a child can exclaim: "He's right there!" She pointed to the manger. The congregation broke out in mirthful laughter. It was a priceless instant. Beneath the humor of the moment, was a profound event—a revelation. It wasn't in the script, but it was a true Epiphany.

The word Epiphany comes from the Greek verb *epiphanein*, meaning 'to show' or 'to appear.' Other English words find derivation from it: 'cellophane,' because what's underneath shows. 'Fancy' and 'fantasy' and 'phantom,' alluding to appearance. Epiphany is the appearance of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, all the non-Jewish peoples of the world who previously didn't bow to the king of Israel. Epiphany is the full manifestation of God in human form—Immanuel—God with us.

Kailyn said it best – "He's right there."

The central claim of the Christian faith is that in Jesus Christ God came near. Christ's giving of himself away for others was nothing less than God's giving God's own self away, surrendering to the forces of death, so that everlasting, abundant new life could be released upon the world. I like the way the Biblical scholar Marcus Borg puts it: "Jesus discloses that at the center of everything is a reality that is in love with us.... At the center of this reality, there is one who is in love with us and who wills our well-being. Jesus counters the conventional wisdom's understanding of God as one who makes demands on us and before whom we must cower and fear." He reveals God as the compassionate God who wants to be close to us; who is the force of the transformation of all of human life. (Borg, *Jesus: A New Vision*)

For John Calvin, this was God's great genius. He wrote, "In Christ, God made himself little in order to accommodate himself to our capacity." [cf *Readings in Calvin's Theology* – Donald McKim, p. 42.]

Remember little Kailyn's insight when you ask:

Where is the God child? —

He's right there!

When times are tough and the way is not clear—remember —

He's right there!

When doubts plague and uncertainties overwhelm—remember —

He's right there!

When fear overcomes you—remember —

He's right there!

In the gladness and glory of this epiphany—

In the assurance of Christ's continued presence —

May we all have an abundantly blessed New Year in faith, fun, fulfillment, fellowship, worship, service, study, and spiritual formation.

Remember—through all of these things —

He's right there!

Yours in faith, *Jeffrey*

January 13, 2019

New Officers Ordination / Installation at the 10 am worship

All Officers Training with lunch provided following the worship

Wassail Bowl – between the 8 pm and 10:30 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

The evening is always a festive time to “catch up” with folks we may have not seen for a while. Fellowship Hall is the venue for conversation and renewing ties immediately following worship. All are welcome to linger and renew connections with a warm cup of the traditional spiced apple beverage – Wassail, following worship. Hosting are Jeanne and Jaime Weenink.

Members with January Birthdays

James Bishop

Lauren Blowers

Josh Cordova

Austen Fagan

Lilly Fantuzzo

Ashley Finkbeiner

Adina Flynn

Taylor Frank

Matthew Kilmer

Jane Landsman

Karen Maher

Noel Nichols

Nina Oakley

Allison Ranslow

Madison Ranslow

Colleen Rouse

Lucien Rouse

Mary Elizabeth Scheu

Barbara Smith

Elena Travis

Zachary Travis

Elisabeth Tyler

B.J. Vesling

Henry Walbaum

Barbara Welsh

Garrett Wilson



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

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

Lectionary for January

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 13

Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 43:1–7

Psalms 29

Acts 8:14–17

Luke 3:15–17, 21–22

January 20

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 62:1–5

Psalms 36:5–10

1 Corinthians 12:1–11

John 2:1–11

January 27

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Nehemiah 8:1–3, 5–6, 8–10

Psalms 19

1 Corinthians 12:12–31a

Luke 4:14–21

Stewardship Update

As of December 13, we had received 195 participation cards with stated commitments of \$500,332. Nearly half of the cards provided an increase over their 2018 contribution... THANK YOU! We are most grateful to all who have responded.

But over half the families/individuals have yet to complete a card. Please take a moment....find that card (or go online).....and indicate your intent to support the church in 2019. EVERY ONE and EVERY DOLLAR COUNTS!!

End of Year Gifts

Fulfillment of your planned or intended giving for the year will help us balance our budget and fund our commitments. Contributions may be mailed to the attention of Maria DiGiambattista, our financial administrator, or made through the giving tab on our website <https://www.pittsfordpres.org/>. In order for contributions to be included in your **2018 member statement**, they must be dated in 2018 and received in the church office no later than Thursday, January 3, 2019 indicating "2018 contribution". Should you have a question on your contributions to date, please contact Maria at 586-5688.

Pastor Nominating Committee Update

Our Minister Information Form was approved by the Committee on Ministry at our local Presbytery office. We have submitted this form (our church's resume) to the National Office of PCUSA in Louisville, KY. The next step is for Pastor Information Forms to be matched with our church's information. The committee will start phone and Skype interviews during the winter months. Please keep us in your prayers.

Calling All Scouts

February 10, 2019 will be Scout Sunday. If you were involved in Scouting in any way, we would like to hear from you. We are looking for individuals to share how being a Scout made them reverent and how Scouting shaped their lives. Please contact Jeffrey.

We especially want to recognize former Scouts who have gone to the Kingdom. Please call the office with names or e-mail Jeffrey, Carrie or Jeff Steele.



A very celebratory Judicial Process Commission Christmas party for mothers and their children

I want to extend my thanks and gratitude to everyone who helped make the party for the Judicial Process Commission mothers and their children a big success. Jane Pedersen's book group filled Xmas socks and the ladies in the Naomi and Eve Circles gathered bus passes and toiletries to fill the handbags for the mothers. The bags were perhaps their only gift of the season and much appreciated by one and all. The Fellowship Hall looked festive with Betty Willert's placemats with cleaning and set-up/take-down by John and Bill. Melanie Jones, with help from Tyler Logan and 4 youth volunteers, created reindeer, wreaths, and snowmen with the kids. The delicious food was lovingly cooked and served by the Anthony Circle members with a shout-out to Claudia Williams and Judy Messenger. Pat Miller's carol playing was perfect and Dick Kievit was a jolly Santa Claus with assistance from his #1 elf, Sue.

A veteran's group of inmates at Attica State Prison, with yarn supplied by the PCP knitting group, crocheted wonderful animals for the children. Many thanks to Janette Henderson for her help with organizing this. Lifetouch and Stephanie Kusse donated their time and equipment to create family portraits and photos of the children with Santa. For many of the families, this is their 1st or best photo and a blessing from Lifetouch. After the general hub-bub (or organized chaos) of the evening, we all received hugs of thanks from the moms. We all are truly blessed and I thank you for sharing those blessings with the women and children of JPC.

Happy New Year, Lee Fox

Optimists

January 11, 2019—Jim Bird, The Galápagos Islands

Optimists will meet for lunch (bring your own) at 12:30 pm and eat at 1 pm. Cost is \$2 to cover dessert.

Our speaker is Jim Bird who will be talking to us about the Galápagos Islands where he spent 11 days hiking, birding, snorkeling, and taking wonderful pictures in 2010. The program will provide an overview of geography, geology, and animal life to be found there. Included will be tips for those who are planning their first trip to the islands.

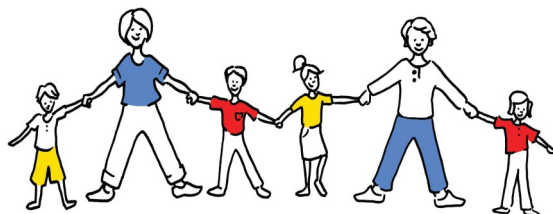
Deacon Event

Cooking Club - Sunday, January 13, 2019 at 5 pm in Fellowship Hall - Korean-themed meal taught by Eun Hui Loss. Cost is \$7. Sign up in Fellowship Hall.

WEB Club

All are welcome to join us at anytime. We generally meet the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 2pm in the library. Below is a list of dates we will be meeting and the books selected. Come join us!

January 9: *Gold from the Well* by Josh Apo
February 13: *Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate
March 13: *Crazy Rich Asians* by Kevin Kwan
April 10: *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng
May 8: *The Alice Network* by Kate Quinn
June 12: TBD



News from the Nursery School

Happy New Year! We wish you many blessings in the coming year! We at the preschool are returning to our typical schedule, we enjoy being creatures of habit ☺. During the month of January we will be visited by the Story Lady who will sing and show off her puppets. We may take a trip (depending on the weather!) to the Bird Song Trail at Mendon Ponds Park. We will be building an ice sculpture of all colors and sizes next to the parking lot, please check it out! The 2's and 4's will have parent/teacher conferences. Open enrollment for next school year begins on January 1. The staff is preparing for our Open House which will be on Sunday, January 13, from 2-4 pm. Our staff and board members will be present to give tours of the school and answer any questions. Please spread the word to your friends and neighbors about our preschool. Thank you for your continued support!

Teresa Zatyko, Director, Pittsford Nursery School

RAIHN

(Rochester Interfaith Hospitality Network)

The next RAIHN rotation at First Presbyterian Church will be December 30, 2018 to January 6, 2019. Can you help? Contact Barb Smith



Cameron Community Ministries

November's lunch prep at Cameron was preceded by a complete holiday meal distribution to be prepared by the families for Thanksgiving. While feeding the hungry is the primary goal, we are witness to so many other positive services and impromptu interactions. As we roll into 2019, we'll be reviewing how we can enhance our support of the staff, volunteers, and program recipients. Interest has been expressed in assisting with advancement, job search and procurement services, computer assistance, mentoring and child/teen programs. Your feedback and questions are always welcome. Feel free to contact Cindy Becker at 585-703-4878 cindyleebecker74@gmail.com

The Presbytery of Genesee Valley Presents
**CONGREGATIONAL
 LEARNING DAY**

For New and Experienced Church Leaders and Church Members

Saturday, February 9, 2019

8:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Optional Working Lunch Course 12:15 PM-1:45 PM

Perinton Presbyterian Church

6551 Pittsford-Palmyra Road, Fairport, NY 14450



Courses of Interest for All Congregational
 Leaders and Members!!

TEN MORNING COURSES

NINE "WORKING LUNCH" COURSES

REGISTRATION IS \$5.

The optional box lunch is an additional \$8.
 It is being catered by ARC of Monroe.

Fully accessible facility



**CHILDCARE AVAILABLE
 WITH PRIOR REGISTRATION**



USE THE LINK BELOW FOR ONLINE REGISTRATION:

(contact Cheryl Battaglia for questions with online registration at 585-242-0080 or financialadmin@pbygenval.org)
<https://pbygenval.org/congregational-learning-day/>

REGISTRATION FEE: \$5.00 PER PERSON (registration form includes payment information)

SCHEDULE:

Registration & Hospitality 8:30 AM

Worship 9:00 AM

Morning Courses 9:45 AM - 12:00 PM

"Working Lunch" Courses 12:15 PM - 1:45 PM

LUNCH: Bring your own brown bag lunch
 or order a box lunch for \$8.00.

LUNCHES MUST BE PRE-ORDERED

AND PAID FOR IN ADVANCE;

No extra lunches will be available
 the day of the event.

(registration form includes payment information)

Create a career rooted in
 kindness and compassion.

Celebrate Diversity and inclusion.

Be You. Be The Arc.



The Arc.

Monroe
 New York

arcmonroe.org/careers

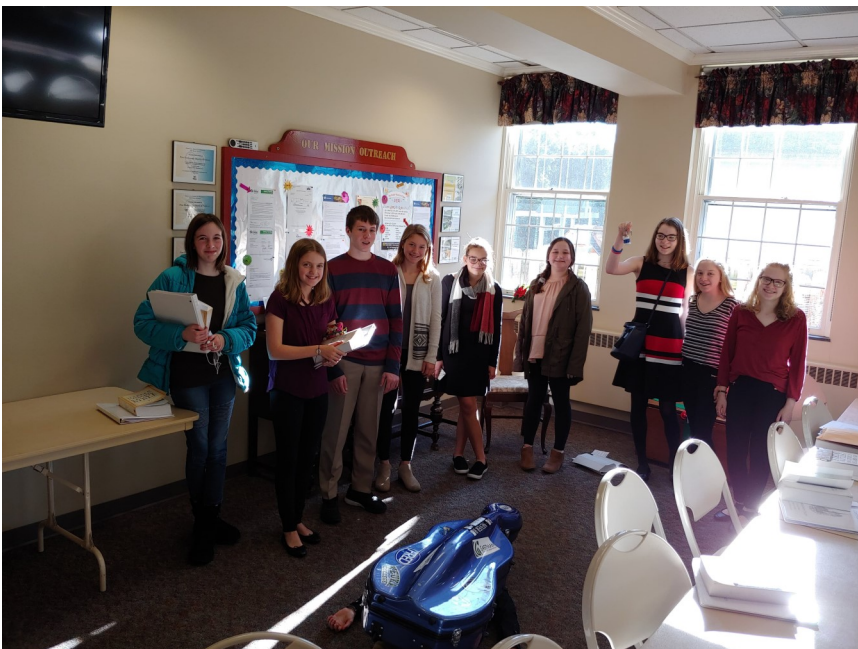
Winter Youth Schedule—Winter!! It's chilly and definitely winter time now! Doesn't matter that the south currently has more snow than us, because we know ours is coming! Make sure to be aware of all these upcoming youth events in the snowy, holiday season!

December 22:	Youth Christmas Lock-In	8pm-11am @ Church
January 2, 9, 16, 23, 30:	LOGOS	4-7pm @ Church
January 5:	Youth Helping RAIHN	
January 6:	Confirmation Class	11:30am-1pm @ Church
January 6 & 27:	Sunday Night Youth	7-8:30pm @ Church



Check out some of our youth living through some old memories as they continue to forge their own! The youth are thrilled to be adding their own designs and ideas to the walls at our upcoming Youth Christmas Lock-In on December 22! Starting at 8pm, we'd love to see you there for our night of games, food, fellowship, and so much more! Friends are welcome!

Flower City Work Camp Registration is closing soon! There's only a few weeks left for our youth to sign up! This year, the dates for camp are April 14–18. If any more youth are interested, please let Tyler know. Also encourage any adults who may be interested. The more adults we send, the more youth we can send and we'd just love to share our congregation members' expertise and knowledge!



In case you missed it, our confirmation class, with the help of their wise mentors, were able to crack the clues and open the first lock of our Advent-ure theme throughout the Christmas season! Make sure to check out our Sunday services if you want to help crack the rest of the locks on our Advent Chest!



Christian Education

Upcoming Events

Men's Prayer Breakfast @ Messengers	1/6 7:00 am
Optimists	1/11 12:30 pm
Anthony Circle	1/10 10:00 am
Naomi Circle	1/21 12:30 pm
Eve Circle	1/28 12:30pm
Needle Nellies	1/22 11:00 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

A Hitchhiker's Guide to Reformed Faith

On January 6 at 11:45 am we will meet to talk about the meaning and purpose of prayer.

This class will cover the main tenets of the Reformed faith. No matter how confident you currently are in your understanding of our faith, this class will be for all levels. This class will continue to teach and nurture a desire to learn more about our Presbyterian faith.



4-Year-Old Bibles

On January 27 the church will be presenting Bibles to 4-year-olds during the 10 am worship service. If you have or know of a 4-year-old who would like a children's Bible please let us know how their name should appear on the book plate.

Many parents and grandparents have told us that children love to read this book every night before bed.

Children's Offering

Up in the front of the sanctuary is a little red church waiting for your children to bring their offering up during the mouse report. Christian education is trying to bring a sense of grateful response during the worship service to young children by giving them a way to give back. Papers are available which prompt your children on how they will help God in the next week or how they have helped God in the last week. These papers, after being filled out, can be brought up during the mouse report and slid into the little red church.



Upcoming LOGOS events:



Happy New Year Jan 2

What's your guess?



Jan 9



Jan 16



Jan 30

First Presbyterian Church
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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

*When times are tough and the way
is not clear—remember —
He's right there!*

<p>The Rev. Dr. Jeffrey D. Weenink Interim Pastor Ext. 25 jeffrey.weenink@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>The Rev. Dr. Carrie Mitchell Associate Pastor Ext. 32 carrie.mitchell@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>Craig Kunkle Director of Christian Education Ext. 30 craig.kunkle@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>Tyler Logan Director of Youth Ministry Ext. 31 tyler@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>Britta Konau Office & Communications Coord. Ext. 21 britta.konau@pittsfordpres.org</p>	<p>Maria DiGiambattista Financial Administrator Ext. 23 treasurer@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>John O'Flaherty Custodian Ext. 33</p> <p>Bill Mullins Assist. Custodian</p> <p>Dr. Jared Chase Director of Music musicdirector@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>Dr. Bruce Frank Associate Director of Music and Organist bfrank345@gmail.com</p> <p>Dede Holmes Director of Youth Choirs dmh91654@frontiernet.net</p> <p>Dr. Mary Carlson Director of Hand Bell Choir 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 Services: 8:30 & 10:00 am Communion is offered on the first Sunday of each month.</p>
		