



# The Good News

January 2020

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

## MUSINGS FROM REV. STEVE

Dear Friends,

Attitude Counts! A while ago the Rev. David Tinker wrote an article that focused on "Attitude." He pointed out that our attitude always brings one of two things to those around us: blessings or bruises. The choice is ours. In the course of this day, we will encounter many people. Tonight, they might talk about us. Will they say, "I met this person today who was the most cheerful person I ever met." Or will they say, "Let me tell you about the grouch I had to deal with earlier." Will they remember you or me as a blessing in their day or as a bruise? Will they be glad for the encounter we had or mad about it? Will they look forward to seeing us again? Or, will once have been one time too many? Will the people we encounter even remember us? Do we want them to remember us? I hope the answer to these last two questions is yes.

We are Christians. We are called to leave an impression. Remember the scripture verses about Christians (you and I) being the salt of the earth and the light on the hill? (*Matthew 5:13-15*) Wherever we go we leave behind us, embedded in the minds, hearts, and souls of those we encounter the impression of God. As long as we, in any manner, bear the identity of "Christian," the things we say and do and our attitude will either draw people closer to God or will push people away from God.

During the Christmas season we greet each other with "Merry Christmas!" But do we leave one another merry? Do we in our encounters increase the joy of those around us? And, now that Christmas is over, are we still actively trying to help people be merry? Or has that been packed away for the season along with the rest of our Christmas ornaments? Are we still wearing a merry attitude in the spring of our step, the lilt of our voice, and in the sparkle of our eyes? God needs us to be faithful witnesses always, but especially in the gray times of life. And, as we know well, January and February especially in Rochester can be pretty gray. Our attitude says more to others about our understanding of God; about our connection to God than our words. In the days ahead we may have gray skies, but thanks to the birth of our Lord, a bright light is always present and ready to be shared.

Let us begin the New Year with a determination to keep our attitude connected to the joyous reality of Emmanuel, God With Us. Let us look for the light of his presence and let us be ever ready to bring the hope of that light to others. Attitude Counts!

In Christ's love and service,

~ Steve

# Lectionary for January

<b>January 5</b> <b>2nd Sunday of Christmas</b> Jeremiah 31:7–14 Psalm 147:12–20 Ephesians 1:3–14 John 1:(1–9) 10–18	<b>January 6</b> <b>Epiphany of the Lord</b> Isaiah 60:1–6 Psalm 72:1–7, 10–14 Ephesians 3:1–12 Matthew 2:1–12	<b>January 12</b> <b>Baptism of the Lord</b> Isaiah 42:1–9 Psalm 29 Acts 10:34–43 Matthew 3:13–17	<b>January 19</b> <b>2nd Sunday after Epiphany</b> Isaiah 49:1–7 Psalm 40:1–11 1 Corinthians 1:1–9 John 1:29–42	<b>January 26</b> <b>3rd Sunday after Epiphany</b> Isaiah 9:1–4 Psalm 27:1, 4–9 1 Corinthians 1:10–18 Matthew 4:12–23
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## Generosity Team

In this Advent Season, as we await the coming of Christ, we are grateful for the pledges we have received for the 2020 year. And we would like to remind those who have not yet turned in their pledges to please do so prior to the end of the year. Our 2020 budget will be prepared in January—your pledges help us to create a realistic budget.

As always there are two components to the budget—income and expenses. Pledges aid us in determining our anticipated income, thus their importance. At the same time, your church staff and officers have been tasked with evaluating their expenses and identifying where we might reduce expenses without reducing benefits. To date, \$20,000 in savings has been identified and either have or will soon take effect. The effort to reduce expenses will be an ongoing task, enabling First Presbyterian to remain financially strong.

We appreciate that many of you increased your pledges for 2020. Thank you for your faith in God and our church. The season of Joy is upon us—Rejoice!!

## 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 2019 member statement, they must be dated in 2019 and received in the church office no later than Thursday, January 2, 2020 indicating “2019 contribution”. Should you have a question on your contributions to date, please contact Maria at 586-5688.

## Deacon Fellowship Events

- **Game Night**—Friday, January 24 at 7pm in Fellowship Hall – Join us for euchre, board games and more. All are welcome.
- **RIT Hockey Game**—Saturday, January 25 at 7pm – vs. Canisus College. Tickets are \$12. Sign up in Fellowship Hall and we meet at the game.
- **Cooking Club**—Sunday, January 26 at 5pm – Sicilian Themed meal – We will prepare, cook, and then enjoy a meal related to the cuisine of Southern Italy and the Island of Sicily. Cost is \$7.
- **Valentine’s Luncheon** for widows—Saturday, February 8 at noon. Lunch will be served consisting of Quiche, salad, soup and desserts. Special music will be on tap. Sign up with Debbie Matrachisia in Fellowship Hall or at 585-752-5584.
- **Eastman School of Music Philharmonia Concert**—Wednesday, February 19. Meet at church at 6:45pm to car pool to Kodak Hall at the Eastman Theater for this FREE student classical concert.
- **Jesus Christ Superstar** – Rochester Broadway Theater League – Sunday, February 23 for the 1pm show. We will have lunch together after our 2nd service and then car pool to the Auditorium Theater. Cost to be determined based on ticket availability. Must pre-purchase tickets.

Sign up for all events in Fellowship Hall starting Sunday, January 12, 2020 or call Dan Traina at 585-208-6839

## Members with January Birthdays



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

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

Jim Bishop  
Lauren Blowers  
Peggy Burton  
Josh Cordova  
Austen Fagan  
Lilly Fantuzzo  
Ashley Finkbeiner  
Adina Flynn  
Taylor Frank  
Ann Kay Hotaling  
Matthew Kilmer  
Jane Landsman  
Karen Maher  
Noel Nichols  
Nina Oakley  
Allison Ranslow

Madison Ranslow  
Colleen Rouse  
Lucien Rouse  
Mary Elizabeth Scheu  
Barbara Smith  
Jan Smith  
Mabel Stehler  
Ashley Stern  
Elena Travis  
Zachary Travis  
Elisabeth Tyler  
BJ Vesling  
Henry Walbaum  
Barbara Welsh  
Garrett Wilson



## News from the Nursery School

Happy 2020! A new decade filled with hope and new adventures ☺ We wish you many blessings in the coming year! Here at the preschool we are returning to our normal schedule. The 4's and YK children will be visited by some service dogs and will start new afternoon enrichment programs. 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 next to the parking lot. The 2's and 4's will have parent conferences. The staff is preparing for our Open House which will be on Sunday, January 12, from 2-4 pm. Our staff and board members will be present to show off 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 PCNS

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## Anthony Circle

Anthony Circle will meet Tuesday, February 4, at 10 am in room 200 to make Valentine's.

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## Devotional Reflection Group

A group of members here at First Presbyterian, who read either D-365 free online and/or *The Upper Room* available every two months in the lobby, invite you to join in their email discussions. Some members, after reading these devotional materials, respond by email, some just read the devotionals, some keep up by reading the emails. Over the past year, this has developed into a community of love and support, plus a closer connection with Jesus and God. Since all contact and conversation is done through email anyone can participate. To join please email Britta in the office at [connect@pittsfordpres.org](mailto:connect@pittsfordpres.org) and she will add you to the email group. Call Claudia for questions (474-3135).

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## Needle Nellies

Needle Nellies have been invited to Jan Smith's home (41 Harper Drive) for coffee, chatter, and possible knitting on Monday, December 30, 9-11 am.

Our next regular get-together will be January 28, 11 am-1:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Yes, that will be 2020!!

Questions: Kay Saxum 385-9807

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## Eve Circle

Eve Circle will prepare RAIHN dinner on Tuesday, January 7, at 5 pm. We will meet Monday, January 27, at 12:30 pm in room 200 to discuss chapter two.

## **Pastor Nominating Committee Report**

Our 11 person committee prepared our church's resume (MIF) about one year ago and submitted it to PCUSA National Headquarters in Louisville, KY. We started reviewing batches of pastoral candidates that matched our requirements (Education level, Experience as Head of Staff, Leadership Competencies, Salary range, etc). The second step was phone interviews with our entire committee. The third step was SKYPE interviews on-line where we could see the candidate and talk on more in-depth topics.

In April 2019, we invited two candidates to Pittsford for Neutral Pulpit visits. This is a 2-3 day intensive interview culminating in hearing the candidate preach at a Presbyterian church in our area. Neither of these first two candidates were the right fit for FPC. The next two candidates to get invited for neutral pulpit visits were here when Pastor Carrie Mitchell announced her resignation. Both candidates withdrew their names from consideration because they felt our requirements had significantly changed.

We spent the summer revising our resume (MIF) and had the third set of two candidates come into town in October. We offered the Head of Staff position to one candidate and the "Call" was accepted. During the next six weeks we worked out the logistics of Committee on Ministry interview, preaching at our church, negotiating salary, along with many other details. A few days before we could announce the candidate's name and relevant dates, the candidate changed their mind. We continue to meet as a PNC and will have a new Head of Staff Pastor "SOON." We just don't know what soon means in GOD's time frame. Dan Traina & Lew Becker, Committee Co-Chairs.

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## **Vital Congregation Initiative Update**

We are just weeks away from the start of our Revitalization through the Vital Congregation Initiative. The materials have been received and the VCI Cohort, as well as First Presbyterian Ministers, are excited to get started on our Lenten study that will begin in earnest in February as we explore "The Seven Marks of a Vital Congregation."

**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

Our next Cohort meeting will take place at First Presbyterian on January 8th as our VCI team hosts other church cohorts from the presbytery of Genesee Valley.

Stay tuned for more information about how the entire congregation can be involved in this important initiative.



On Saturday, November 16, the Gaudion family installed an arbor at the entrance to our Memorial Garden. Debbie procured the arbor for a substantial discount and then her husband, Don, and son-in-law, Mike Thon, together with Bob Collins, constructed the arbor. Everyone is encouraged to stop by, view and appreciate the work of the Gaudion family.

## **Our Memorial Garden Has a New Entrance!**



# Youth Happenings

**Most wonderful and warm Holiday Greetings from the youth! We hope your families have had a wonderful and festive time this season!**

January 5 + 26	Bob Ross Sunshine Club	Church, 7-8:30 pm
January 5, 12, 19 + 26	Sunday School	Church, 10-11 am
January 8, 15, 22 + 29	LOGOS	Church, 4-7 pm
January 10 (Mission)	Youth @ RAIHN	Church, 5-7 pm
January 18	Youth Extravaganza	Church, 5-7 pm
January 24	Youth Monthly Movies	Church, 6-8 pm
February 2	Youth Sunday	Church, 8-11 am



**Youth Sunday is coming up soon! Every year on Super Bowl Sunday the youth take over the sanctuary to switch things up a little bit. Come and hear many of our amazing youth showing off all their different musical and speaking talents. We'll celebrate with joy and praise, and will make sure to get us all out on time to watch the big game that day! We hope to see you all in service with us!**

**Remember, if you are thinking about participating in JASY 2021 with the church, make sure to let us know sooner versus later! We are putting together our list of participants earlier this year to allow for more time for fundraising, bonding, and overall planning for our trip. If you are interested or have any questions whatsoever, please reach out to Tyler or Louise or Tom Thompson. We hope you'll think about trying this wonderful mission experience with us!**



### 4 Year Old Bibles

On January 26 the church will be presenting Bibles to four-year-olds during the 10 am worship service. If you have or know of a four-year-old who would like a children's Bible, please let us know how your child's name should appear on the book plate. I have been told by many parents and grand parents that children love to read this book every night before bed.

### Jesus Christ Superstar

To prepare for the Deacon's upcoming outing to *Jesus Christ Superstar* on February 23, we will have an adult Bible study for four weeks on January 26, February 2, 9, and 16 at 11:30 am upstairs in the education wing.

You walk out from this movie truly understanding that Jesus' life stood out against enormous political, social, religious, and military expectations. The scene where Jesus responds to the dancing Zealots is the crux of the movie and of Jesus' life. "Neither you Simon, nor the 50,000, nor the Romans, nor the Jews, ...understands what power is, understands what glory is, understands at all."  
 - Neil MacQueen

Please join us to explore the Biblical, Cultural, Theological, and Artistic impact of the musical.

# Christian Education

### Upcoming Events

Men's Prayer Breakfast	1/5 7:00 am
Anthony Circle	2/4 10 am
Eve Circle	1/27 12:30 pm
Naomi Circle	1/20 12:30 pm
Needle Nellies	1/28 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

### LOGOS Choir Accompanist Needed

Do you know someone who has a talent for playing music to accompany our children during LOGOS choir practice? We are in need of someone who will play while Mrs. Dede directs choir. LOGOS choirs meet from 4pm to 6pm. A small stipend is available. Give all leads to the office or Jared Chase.



My battery ran out.

### Upcoming LOGOS events:

Jan 8



Jan 15



Jan 22




Jan 29

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

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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

*“As long as we, in any manner, bear the identity of ‘Christian’, the things we say and do and our attitude will either draw people closer to God or will push people away from God.”*

<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 &amp; 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><b>First Presbyterian Church</b> 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><b>Worship With Us</b> Please join us for Sunday morning worship.</p> <p><b>Worship Service: 8:30 &amp; 10:00 am</b> Communion is offered on the first Sunday of each month.</p>	
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