



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PITTSFORD

THE GOOD NEWS

JULY/AUGUST 2021

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### Embracing and Sharing Christ's Love

#### **CHARTING THE COURSE WITH PASTOR AARON**

With summertime underway, many of you will be taking vacation. That got me thinking about the significance of rest. In the Jewish and Christian traditions, the word that is often associated with rest is “sabbath.” Sabbath is an important concept for Christian theology. From scriptures like Exodus 20:8-11, we see that it is important to set aside a sabbath on which to put our minds and hearts on God. This is where we get the concept of sabbath as “a day of rest” or “a day for worship,” but it’s also important to see the sabbath as much more than that. Sabbath is a gift that God gives to us to show us how much we are loved. Let me explain.

Consider the story of creation in Genesis 1:1-2:4. God begins the sixth day of creation by making land animals and ends the day with the pinnacle of creation: humanity. So God creates humans and then gives them purpose. After giving humanity its purpose, the text says: “God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day” (Genesis 1:31). In other words, God assigns humans their work, but the day ends before any work is done. However, the next day is the seventh day, the Sabbath—the day of rest. That means humans were given a day of rest before they even had a chance to start their work. That’s not an accident!

In the story of creation, God is sending us a clear message: the Sabbath is a gift of God’s grace—it is not a reward to be earned! Humanity did nothing to deserve a day of rest. God freely gave humanity a day of rest to show us how much we are loved. Sabbath is an opportunity for us to simply be with God and to enjoy God’s presence in our lives. Before we could do anything to prove ourselves faithful or faithless, God gave us the gift of Sabbath.

This summer, as you spend time resting on vacation, give thanks to God for the gift of rest, not just the rest you’ll enjoy at the lake or at the ocean but the rest you experience down deep in your soul. God offers you the kind of peace and contentment from knowing that you were loved long before you did anything to earn that love. God’s love for you is unconditional. It always has been. It always will be. Rest in that love this summer and discover the larger meaning of the Sabbath.

*~ Aaron*



## Generosity Committee

Big changes are underway at First Presbyterian!! As we come out of COVID and return to in-person worship and re-opening the church to activities, you can feel the excitement!!

We are taking this opportunity to reassess everything. The Vital Congregations Initiative is doing a deep dive into where we are as a Church. The Communications Committee is exploring new ways to effectively communicate with the congregation on top of our exciting streaming and technology initiatives. Every Session Committee is exploring positive changes. Session is reviewing everything from staffing to structure, to programming, to congregational support, to budgets. And our Pastoral Staff is directing and overseeing the progress. This time frame is defining our future. Be a part of it!!

The Generosity Committee has been exploring ways to reverse the long-term decline in giving so we can provide the resources First Presbyterian Church needs to invigorate our church post-COVID. There are so many opportunities to change our trajectory and make First Presbyterian Church THE place new families seek as their faith community.

This summer, as we prepare for our fall Generosity Campaign, please take some time to think about how important First Presbyterian Church is to your family and faith journey, how we serve our local community and city, and how we are impacting our world. What can you do?

If you are already pledging today, plan to step up and increase your pledge for 2022.

If you give but have not pledged, consider pledging. Pledges are absolutely critical to establishing a budget and providing the tools we need to support and improve our programming.

If you have not given to the church, commit a small amount to a pledge for 2022.

Decide to join a church activity where you can use your skills, talents, or time to support First Presbyterian activities.

What specific programs are you excited about? Plan to support them with individual financial gifts.

As you review your estate planning, can you provide for a legacy gift? Our church financial staff is ready to answer any questions you may have and help you plan the gift.

Exciting days at First Presbyterian are here. How will you help?

Have a Great summer!

Peace!

The Generosity Team

Steve Mizelle (Chair), Faye Casey, Charlie Francis, Paul Irving, Bill Rieth, Rob Rhodes

## Memorial Garden Update

Your Memorial Garden Committee (Debbie Gaudion, Janet Jennison, Claudia Williams, Nina Oakley, Carolyn Yaekel and Deb Matrachisia) have been busy this spring. Beyond the usual weeding and caring for the existing plantings, we would like to share with you our vision for this sacred place, and the plans we will be implementing to enhance the space, creating a peaceful and contemplative garden that honors all those interred there and the families that love them.

Did you notice the black walnut missing from the south west corner? Our neighbors on the other side of the fence requested the removal of that tree—and they paid for it! The tree was overgrown. Black walnut trees are not “friendly” with most plants (their acidity limits the kinds of plants that can grow). This has given new light to that corner. The hellebores and sweet woodruff are loving the sunlight. Soon there will be a beautiful “Angel of Patience” statue on the old stump in that corner. Plans are in the works to give the corner benches a new coat of paint, hopefully before the end of summer.

The row of Arborvitae on the western side, bordering our new neighbors at the former Masonic Lodge, have seen better days. Entering the Memorial Garden, one can see right through the trees to the neighbor’s garage. We want to maintain the harmonious “green walls”. In the fall, the existing trees will be removed, their stumps ground up, and replaced with a dense row of narrow Arborvitae.

At the same time, our arborist will be planting a 5’ Arborvitae between the two to the left of the pergola on the eastern side of the garden. The sweet woodruff currently in that spot will be transplanted around the cross in the center of the garden. This will provide a much-needed barrier between our sacred space and the sidewalk around the church. The purchase of the statue and our big fall project are pending approval of the Trustee Buildings and Grounds Committee.





## DID YOU KNOW?

**We Offer Kitchen Deconstruction Services FOR FREE!**



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# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## Members with July or August Birthdays

Brady Adams	Lydia Diekmann	Abigail Howard	Gail Miller	Ryan Steele
Wendy Amborski	Caleb Drake	Mary Jo Hultz	Emily Oldfield	Rachel Taylor
Oliver Ash	Arthur Falter	Addie Ivey	Owen Oldfield	David Testa
Madeline Ashworth	David Ferris	Sophie Johnson	Sadie Oldfield	Carol Tiemann
Robert Avery	Sylvia Fix	Gerry Johnston	Sonja Poe	Evan Michael Tome
Cindy Barben	Anne Francis	Geraldine Kelly	Marissa Polizzi	Ginny Vorhis
Nancy Chesterton	Charlie Francis	Bob Klie	Joseph Reiners	Piper Wilson
Brandon Cooper	Lauren Gerew	Alexa Knapp	Robert Shone	Donald Zimmer
Martha Crawford	Meredith Glenning	Sara Loveys	Maria Smith	Mary Ann Zipfel
Dick Crawford	Caroline Hill	Will Marsh	Tim Smith	
Matthew Crowley	Daniel Holmes	Daniel Mecredy	Kevin Steele	

*Wishing you a birthday full of love and gratitude!*

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

## Lectionary for July

<b>July 4</b> <b>6th Sunday after Pentecost</b> 2 Samuel 5:1–5, 9–10 Psalm 48 2 Corinthians 12:2–10 Mark 6:1–13	<b>July 11</b> <b>7th Sunday after Pentecost</b> 2 Samuel 6:1–5, 12b–19 Psalm 24 Ephesians 1:3–14 Mark 6:14–29	<b>July 18</b> <b>8th Sunday after Pentecost</b> 2 Samuel 7:1–14a Psalm 89:20–37 Ephesians 2:11–22 Mark 6:30–34, 53–56	<b>July 25</b> <b>9th Sunday after Pentecost</b> 2 Samuel 11:1–15 Psalm 14 Ephesians 3:14–21 John 6:1–21
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## Lectionary for August

<b>August 1</b> <b>10th Sunday after Pentecost</b> 2 Samuel 11:26–12:13a Psalm 51:1–12 Ephesians 4:1–16 John 6:24–35	<b>August 8</b> <b>11th Sunday after Pentecost</b> 2 Samuel 18:5–9, 15, 31–33 Psalm 130 Ephesians 4:25–5:2 John 6:35, 41–51	<b>August 15</b> <b>12th Sunday after Pentecost</b> 1 Kings 2:10–12; 3:3–14 Psalm 111 Ephesians 5:15–20 John 6:51–58	<b>August 22</b> <b>13th Sunday after Pentecost</b> 1 Kings 8:(1, 6, 10–11) 22–30, 41–43 Psalm 84 Ephesians 6:10–20 John 6:56–69	<b>August 29</b> <b>14th Sunday after Pentecost</b> Song of Solomon 2:8–13 Psalm 45:1–2, 6–9 James 1:17–27 Mark 7:1–8, 14–15, 21–23
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## Deacon Events

**Kayaking** - Thursday, July 15 and Thursday, August 19 at 2:00pm. Meet at Mendon Ponds Boat Launch off of Douglas Rd. This is an easy one-hour paddle around Hundred Acre Pond and Deep Pond.

**Game Night** - Friday, July 16 and Friday, August 20 at 7:00pm in Fellowship Hall. Family game night. All are welcome. We play card games and board games.

**Hiking** - Saturday, August 21 at 9:30am - Meet at Locust St. church parking lot. We will decide our hike depending on weather and participants.

**Cooking Club** - Sunday, August 22 at 6:00pm - Grilling-themed meal. Cost is \$7. We will meet on Church St. lawn and grill corn, fresh vegetables, ribs and more. Since there is no access to church kitchen at this time, this event will take place entirely outside.

Email DanTraina at [dtraina@rochester.rr.com](mailto:dtraina@rochester.rr.com) or call 585-208-6839 to sign up or get more information.

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## Eve Circle

Eve Circle will meet Monday, June 28 at 12:30 pm at Cindy Barben's home to discuss Lesson 4 of *God's Promise, I Am With You*. Questions, call Margaret Mecredy 381-6430.

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## Gentle Yoga

Gentle yoga will continue to meet through the summer in Fellowship Hall on Thursdays 10 - 11 am. Bring your mat and \$10 .

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## Needle Nellies

Needle Nellies will meet by Zoom Tuesday, June 29 at 11 am.



## Night Without a Bed

Family Promise is sponsoring an awareness and fundraising event titled "Night Without a Bed" on Saturday, June 26. It is a social media challenge to raise awareness about family homelessness. Participants are asked to spend the night sleeping anywhere without a bed, i.e. in your car, on your living room floor, etc.; to take a picture of yourself and your family; and to share it on social media using the *#NightWithoutaBed* and *#fpgroc* hashtags. It is also a fundraiser. Anyone or group can register at this site: <https://www.nightwithoutabed.org/organizations/fpgroc>

We hope you consider supporting this event and helping us raise funds for families who are experiencing homelessness. For more information, visit <https://www.fpgroc.org/night-without-a-bed>

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The view from the chancel when we livestream!



### What Our Seniors are Planning

**Brenda Allison** will attend Chatham University in Pittsburgh. She will be majoring in Biology with the 3+2 accelerated Physician's Assistant Program.

**John Canham** will attend RIT in the exploratory engineering program and is looking forward to it immensely.

**Austen Fagan** will attend the nursing program at Xavier University this fall.

**Ashley Finkbeiner** will attend Penn State Smeal College of Business.

**Grace Fox** will attend Alfred University pursuing a Bachelors of Fine Arts/ Masters of Business degree.

**Ellen Henry** will attend Lehigh University to study environmental engineering and environmental studies.

**Katelyn McElveney** will attend Niagara University in the fall for nursing and attain her nurse practitioner's degree.

**Sadie Oldfield** will attend the University of Rochester in the fall and double major in Biology (pre-med track) and Music (saxophone).

**Emily Oldfield** will attend the Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam majoring in Music Education with concentrations in clarinet and voice.

**Owen Oldfield** will attend Nazareth College majoring in biomedical science and minoring in music (tuba and voice).

**Garrett Wilson** will attend the Paris Institute of Political Studies to study Economics on the Euro-Africa track in the Dual BA program with Columbia University. His first two years will be in Reims, France, and his second two years will be at Columbia in New York City. He is very excited about this adventure.

# Christian Education

## Sunday School to be held at 10 a.m. during the second service

Now that families are able to attend the second service together, we are moving Sunday School back to its traditional time of happening during that service. After the Mouse Report children will leave for the Fellowship Hall. The class will start there, and crafts will be held downstairs. Masks will still be worn throughout Sunday School time. Sunday School will continue through the summer.

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## Nursery Opening Up

Starting July 1, the Nursery Room will be open for families during worship on Sunday mornings. The rooms will be unstaffed. You can participate in the worship service by listening to the speakers in the room.

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## Young Families in Fellowship

During this summer, Christian Education will create opportunities for families to get together once a month. We will gather at playgrounds around Pittsford. Come meet other faithful families, let the kids play together—and **let us make dinner for you!** We will meet Wednesday evening, July 28, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm at Thornell Farm Park – 480 Mendon Rd. The second event will be on August 25 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm at Allen's Creek School Playground.

**THANK YOU!**

I am so thankful for every prayer, card, and message of healing and love you all sent while I was recovering from surgery.

Thank you so much,  
Pastor Jacobson



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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

*God's love for you is unconditional. It always has been. It always will be.*

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**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.

