



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PITTSFORD

THE GOOD NEWS

JUNE 2023

Embracing and Sharing Christ's Love

CHARTING THE COURSE WITH PASTOR AARON

I love a book with a provocative title. One such book is called *Autopsy of a Deceased Church*. It was written by Thom Rainer, who is a well-known Christian researcher, author, and church consultant. Every year, approximately 5,000 churches close permanently. In the aforementioned book, Rainer gleans from his thirty-plus years of experience consulting with hundreds of churches to identify 12 common traits that exist in most churches that have died. The intent of the book is to help churches recognize those traits in themselves before it's too late and they can course correct. Some of the traits he identified include: the church was driven by its members' preferences; the church refused to look like its community; the church rarely prayed together; and the church had no clear purpose. To me, the most powerful of the traits he mentions is one he calls "slow erosion." The decline of a church's energy, ministry, and impact is often slow and imperceptible. Unless a church is paying close attention to itself, its people sometimes don't realize it's on the brink of extinction until just before it happens.

Again, the intent of the book is to help churches identify these deadly traits before it's too late. At the conclusion of the book, Rainer mentions some actions a church can take if they recognize they have some symptoms of "church sickness." Here are two of the actions that I think are relevant for us here at First Presbyterian. #1 Pray that God will open the eyes of the leadership and members for opportunities to reaching into the community where the church is located. #2 Take an honest audit of how church members spend their time being involved.

We are in the middle of our Faith Forward initiative. During this process, our church leadership will be reviewing, discerning, and updating our mission, vision, and core values as a church, as well as creating a "roadmap" to help us become the future church God desires us to be. Toward #1 above, I ask you to pray that, through Faith Forward, we will see more opportunities to adapt ourselves to the needs of the people who live here in Greater Rochester. Toward #2 above, the church just finished completing the Transforming Church Insight survey. Thanks to those who completed it. Additionally, our personal consultant Kevin will be visiting us in June to facilitate focus groups of various cross-sections of the church to find out what you love about our church and what you'd like to see change. Some of you will be participating in those focus groups, and all of you will have the opportunity to meet Kevin if you come to worship on June 18. After Kevin's visit in June, we will have finished the "Discovery Phase" of the process and will receive a Discovery Report in the summer, detailing their analysis of what they learned from the survey and focus groups. The "Visioning Phase" begins in October.

Please keep First Presbyterian Church in prayer as we do the important work of the Faith Forward initiative and seek to reverse the effects of slow erosion.

~ Aaron

Pizza & Pulling (weeds) Party!

Sunday, June 11, immediately following the second service, we will have a multi-generational event that will be fun and serve our church and community by beautifying our Memorial Garden. First we nourish you, then you join folks from the Memorial Garden Committee and do some light weeding, spread some mulch, and tend to the markers. Bring your favorite tools and gloves or use what we provide.



To get in on the fun and have enough pizza, please sign up in the Fellowship Hall after services or call/email Deb Matrachisia at 585-752-5584, debmat9267@gmail.com.

Landscape Help Needed on the Church Grounds!

Wednesday, June 14, at 9:00 am. (rain date on the 15th, same time).

Please bring your own equipment for weeding and trimming. Snacks provided. See you there!
Debbie Gaudion debbieanne0204@gmail.com

Deacon Fellowship Events

Saturday, June 3, 3 pm – 9 pm. Picnic at Mendon Ponds Devil's Bathtub shelter.

Sunday, June 4, 6 pm - Cooking Club - Nuevo Italiano cuisine. We will be making our own pizzas in Fellowship Hall. Cost is \$8.

Sunday, June 18 - Dads and Grads Strawberry Social after each service. Please sign up today for serving or bringing 2qts of cleaned and cut strawberries.

Lectionary for June

June 4

Trinity Sunday

Genesis 1:1–2:4a
Psalm 8
2 Corinthians 13:11–13
Matthew 28:16–20

June 11

2nd Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 12:1–9
Psalm 33:1–12
Romans 4:13–25
Matthew 9:9–13, 18–26

June 18

3rd Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 18:1–15 (21:1–7)
Psalm 116:1–2, 12–19
Romans 5:1–8
Matthew 9:35–10:8 (9–23)

June 25

4th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 21:8–21
Psalm 86:1–10, 16–17
Romans 6:1b–11
Matthew 10:24–39

Members with June Birthdays



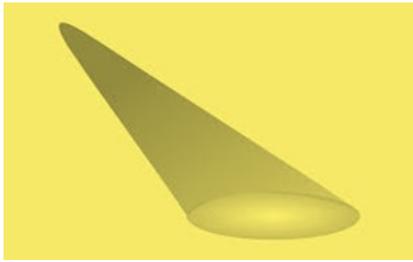
Ann Athy
Tristan Bachmann
Jan Currie
Betsy Enstrom
Jacob Fantuzzo
Gemma Fernaays
Robert Glenning
Dick Harper

Edwin Hediger
David Hill
Janet Jennison
Samantha Kearney
Natalie Larson
Kaylee Maas
Kelly Maas
Karen Milla

Sharon Peet
Linda Richards
Charles Scott
Sandy Seacat
Korinne Smith
Nancy Sprenkle
Susie Wahl
Morgan Wilson

Hoping your birthday brings you many happy reasons to celebrate!

If we missed you, please let the office know.



SPOTLIGHT on

Habitat for Humanity GREATER ROCHESTER INTERFAITH BUILDERS “GRIB”

What is “Greater Rochester Habitat for Humanity”?

As of January 1, 2023, Flower City Habitat for Humanity merged with Ontario and Wayne counties to form **Greater Rochester Habitat for Humanity “GRHFH”**. This new entity is the local Habitat for Humanity site which builds affordable homes using volunteer labor and “sweat equity” hours by the future homeowner. Over 250 homes have been built in the Rochester area through Habitat for Humanity.

What is “Habitat Interfaith Partnership” (HIP)?

Our church belongs to the Pittsford area “Habitat Interfaith Partnership” (HIP) supporting GRHFH. HIP has recently lost major funding from some of our partner churches making it difficult to meet its previous commitment of building one house every three years. All other Rochester area faith coalitions have also been struggling to fundraise and find volunteers.

What is “Greater Rochester Interfaith Builders” or “GRIB”?

The Rochester area faith coalitions (Pittsford “HIP”, Brighton, Greece, Webster, Penfield, and Perinton) have formed an “Umbrella” coalition called the *Greater Rochester Interfaith Builders* or “GRIB”. Each individual coalition pledges a certain amount towards the \$100,000 yearly goal and collectively we will build a house each year.

How does our church support HIP and the GRIB?

Our Mission and Outreach Committee budgets a yearly donation to HIP for its pledge to GRIB. Have you ever bought a pie for Thanksgiving at church? That is one of many fundraisers for Habitat. Our church members are eager volunteers on the job site, sawing, hammering, painting, landscaping, and helping to build homes.

When will the next GRIB home be built?

Starting in July, GRIB will break ground on Akerman Street in the Beechwood area of Rochester. This will be a 2-story, 3-bedroom home.

How can I help?

There will be plenty of volunteer opportunities. No skills are required! There will be onsite education and tools are provided. *Caution, you may become addicted!* Look for volunteer opportunity postings in the bulletin and other church communications. Sign-up sheets will be in Fellowship Hall.

How can I donate?

Buy a pie, send a check to our church designated “Habitat Build,” or make an RMD from your IRA to our church for Habitat. You can donate items to ReStore which supports GRHFH. A skilled “deconstruction crew” at NO CHARGE will gladly remove your kitchen cabinets and counters. Appliances, furnishings and more are welcomed.



News from the Nursery School

Till we meet again.... I am starting a new chapter in my life—what does that mean? Many things to many people. To me it means saying goodbye one last time to what I have come to know as my second home. I hope to see you all around town. 😊 Our school is once again offering summer camp to our children. The school year has now ended, but not without smiles, hugs, and tears. All our toys and books are packed away waiting for September to be played with again. The children are gone, off to summer adventures, but we think of them often; they are always in our hearts. Though we may be parted, we often remember special memories, laughter, and love from the nursery school at the First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford!

Teresa Zatyko, Director Pittsford Nursery School

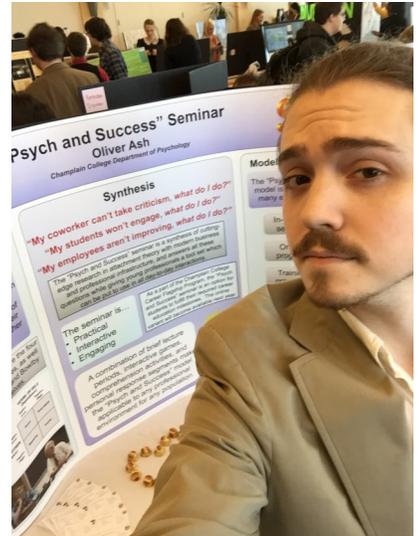
Welcome to Our New Members



Rosicela Milla and David Arnall – Rosi and David are excited to join First Presbyterian. They enjoy hiking, traveling, and exploring the Finger Lakes Region.

News from the Outreach Committee

Oliver Ash has been attending First Presbyterian for as long as he can remember. Currently he is a student at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School here in Rochester, and is financially supported with a Michel Scholarship from the Outreach Committee.



He plans to attain an MA in Theological Studies before moving on to a PhD in Religious Studies in 2024. His primary mission is to become an educator on world religion at the college level. Although he studies all religions, his areas of focus are Zen Buddhism, mystical-contemplative Christianity, and the intersections between the two.

Oliver has also been working in the Nazareth College Center for Spirituality for the past year and will be presenting his research on an ancient Christian text at the upcoming Sacred Texts and Human Connections international conference. He was also recently awarded the Daggy Scholarship by the International Thomas Merton Society and will be attending the ITMS annual conference at Notre Dame in June.

In the meantime, Oliver can be found assisting with LOGOS, helping out with Sunday School programs at FPC, or otherwise trying to get people excited about nameless theologians who died nearly two thousand years ago.

Needle Nellies

Needle Nellies is happening on June 27, 11 am - 1:30 pm in room 204. Bring your lunch, drink and a smile.



Celebrating Cameron Community Ministries

Cameron Community Ministries recently held their 40th Anniversary Gala featuring the spectacular Cameron Kids Steppers and Choir just formed this year. Joining Executive Director Olivia Kassoum-Amadou as co-hosts were Mayor Malik Evans, Rep. Joe Morrelle, and WROC news anchor Natalie Kucko. Cameron guests included several local businesses and organizations. The Presbytery of Genesee Valley was recognized for its founding role and partnership. The Rev. Michelle Sumption accepted an award on behalf of the Presbytery and its churches. Guests who work collaboratively in mission with Cameron attended from the Presbytery, First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford, Christ Church Pittsford, Irondequoit Presbyterian, and others.

Cameron is an urban outreach community center located in the Lyell-Otis neighborhood that addresses basic needs and emergency services to help families and individuals achieve self-sufficiency. It is a high-crime district with a violent crime rate of six times higher than suburbs and 60% higher than the city's average. Volunteers, donors, government, and exceptional leadership help Cameron Community families overcome these challenges. For more information on programs, go to Cameroncommunity.org or email cindyleebecker74@gmail.com.



First Pres Spring Picnic in the Park

Please join us for our First Pres Spring Picnic in the Park—Mendon Ponds Park that is. It's on Saturday, June 3, starting at 3 pm. Mark your calendars! This fellowship event is for our whole church family and is being hosted by your Deacons. We are planning games (capture the flag, lawn games, and board games) in the afternoon. The potluck dinner will start at 6 pm. Bob Dunn will offer music after dinner. We will conclude with a marshmallow roast around 8 pm. Please bring a dish to pass and beverages of your choice. The picnic will be in the Devil's Bathtub picnic shelter, ample parking is available adjacent to the shelter. We also recommend that you bring lawn chairs for the evening festivities. Please feel free to join us for the entire event or just a segment. If you plan to join us for dinner, please sign up in Fellowship Hall after Sunday worship or RSVP to Dan Harrison or Britta and let us know if you are bringing an appetizer, main course, or dessert. Hope to see you all there!

WHITEWATER RAFTING ON THE GENESEE RIVER



TUESDAY,
JUNE 27

**SCHOOL'S OUT CELEBRATION FOR
YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12!**

Contact

presbyterianyouthministry@gmail.com
for more information and to register!



Christian Education

Thank You for the Children's Service

A special thank you to all the kids who helped make the Children's Worship so memorable. The Ascension puppet show followed by the exuberant singing of *Over my Head* accompanied by Bob Dunn and Pastor Neff were both very special. The "flames of the spirit" tissue paper backdrop was completed by many helping hands both young and old and illuminated the sanctuary. It was fun to create and sing together. We are a lucky church family indeed, and as the children said, **Blessed be God!**

Adult Education Opportunities

Sunday Morning Bible Study
8:15 am hybrid

Monday Night Bible Study
7 pm Zoom

Tuesday Highlands Bible Study
12:50 pm Highlands Music Room

Wednesday Bible Study
7:15 pm hybrid

Thursday Women's Bible Study
Noon FPC Library

Kids at the Church Picnic

The church picnic will be on Saturday, June 3 (for more information, see the announcement on previous page). Christian Education will have some activities for young kids available for families to do together. These will include craft ideas and bubbles. Capture the flag will be organized by Deacons for older kids.



Young Families in Fellowship

Each month this summer, the church kids and their families will be out at area parks eating grilled cheese sandwiches and playing on the playgrounds. We would love for you and your family to join us. The first gathering will be on Wednesday, July 5, at the Jefferson Road School playground. Future dates are July 26, August 16, and August 30.

Summer Sunday School

The church begins having one summer service on June 25 at 9:30 am. After the Mouse Report, children can meet their teacher in the Narthex for a group Sunday school. Typically we go outside to the picnic tables to learn, study, discuss, and play. Children can be picked up outside or in the Narthex after worship.

First Presbyterian Church
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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

... help us become the future church God desires us to be.

Pastor 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 starting June 25:</p> <p>9:30 am in-person and livestreamed</p> <p>Communion is offered on the first Sunday of each month.</p> <p> </p>
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