



The Good News

June 2019

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

A WEE WORD FROM DR. WEENINK

NEW REALITIES REQUIRE THAT WE BE SOMETHING NEW

I pen these words on the National Day of Prayer. I lift up prayer for all faith communities. Houses of worship around the world, places for reflection and peace, have been targeted with violent attacks. The horrific incidents that have taken place have been heavy on people's hearts. They weigh heavily on my heart.

As I pray, I express sadness over the most recent attack on people of faith and deep concern for the victims and their families. The attacks upon houses of worship have not been limited to or focused on just one religion. Easter celebrations were shattered in Sri Lanka when suicide bombings killed 257 (at last count) people at three churches and three luxury hotels. A month before that, a gunman slaughtered 50 people at two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand.

The deadly Poway synagogue shooting in San Diego on the last day of Passover is the latest in a series of attacks that raise profound questions about keeping sacred spaces safe. It took place six months to the day of the Tree of Life synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh. Recently, it has been reported that three Louisiana area African American church were burnt down.

In 2017, 25 people died in a shooting at a Baptist church in Sutherland Springs, Texas. In 2015, nine African American worshippers, including a pastor, were killed by a white supremacist, after they prayed with him in Charleston, South Carolina

The line-up of victims, heroes, and assailants just seems to blur together like the streams of our tears and deluge of our sorrow. There's scant enough time to mourn before the next crime is committed. It grieves my heart.

The extremity of these atrocities leave us stunned and numbed, held us helpless in their wake and confused by their lack of meaning. I, like you, find myself sickened and shocked by the magnitude of callous hatred; devastated by the sweeping loss of life, and reminded yet again that this world is severely and sickeningly broken. Such brokenness is even evident in Pittsford. Racism rearing its ugly head within our schools and community is not acceptable. (You will find more commentary about this in an opinion editorial submission to the *Democrat & Chronicle* from the Pittsford Area Clergy.)

The senseless taking of innocent lives sears the hearts of compassionate people. Attacks on people of faith gathered in prayer, in the sanctity of their chosen sacred spaces are an affront to humanity. Any attack on any house of worship is heinous and should be denounced. The detestable, despicable, diabolical, deadly, cowardly massacres by radicalized or demented individuals violates our sense of security, let alone the sanctity of life, and represents an assault against every one of us. Such vile acts of violence are so insidious because they strike to the sinew of the soul leaving us angry in the present tense and anxious/fearful about the future.

Such events are a challenge to those of us who call ourselves Christian, who believe in and count on God to be with us in this life and who speak of God's blessings and help and protection in this world. The challenge is to make some sense out of it, as best we can.

When we look at the life of Jesus, there are some common themes that establish who he is and who he hopes we will be. Many times as believers, we find ourselves arguing about what Jesus was really about—but at the end of the day, there are some base line assumptions upon which we all should be able to agree.

The teaching of Jesus Christ is about living life, full of grace, wisdom, and discernment, free from hypocrisy. He taught about loving enemies, not killing people, valuing life, not seeking revenge, looking out for people in need. In short, loving all people. Period, nothing more—nothing less. A wise pastor once said, "You've never locked eyes with anyone who doesn't matter deeply to God." In the entire canon of his life, Jesus goes painfully out of his way to make sure everyone knows that every person, every life, every soul—matters.

While tragic events are oftentimes marked by people coming together, there are still those who seize them as occasions to spew divisive opinions. Some of them are in the name of Christianity. There has been plenty of bodacious rhetoric and finger pointing about who is to blame.

GUNS Some have suggested that if more guns were allowed, tragedies such as these would have left far less casualties. But as far as I am concerned, such an eye-for-an-eye intellect will simply leave the world blind. There are now more guns than people in America.

FEAR If, as someone has said, perfect love casts out fear, then conversely, exploited fear casts out clear thinking. People of faith need not succumb to exploited fear.

Somehow we must muster the ability not to fear the wrong things in the wrong way, and to fear the right things in the right way. While it's not wrong to fear, fear can lead us to disastrous mistakes in judgment. Fear is an essential, protective, defense mechanism. However, outside life in the wilderness, in the modern world, fear is a response that requires critical, careful calculation. Which means to acknowledge fear; weigh our fears and respond thoughtfully, rationally, reasonably without allowing fear to possess us.

COURAGE The key to courage is not the banishment of all fear but fear of the right things in the right way. At its best, the church teaches us in a culture of fear and fear mongers to demonstrate to the world the joy of living by faith rather than in terror. A Christian is called to be a showcase of what Jesus can do that the world cannot.

If we are truly the people that Jesus died for, then we cannot be bound up, locked down, sheltered-in-place, or paralyzed by the tragedies that confound us. In the days after the Easter resurrection, the disciples finally left that stuffy apartment in Jerusalem where they had been bound by fear and dread. They walked along the road to Emmaus. They went back to fishing. They sat down for a charcoal breakfast on the beach which was prepared by their master. They came to terms with their new reality.

We are confronted with what some call a "new normal." Abnormal as it seems, we do face some new realities. We cannot be what we were before; but we can be—in fact, we need to be—something new.

This is what we Christians do. We are a people of Christ's resurrection, and we cling to the promise that we will be resurrected, too. We need to be out there living, breathing, being, doing in ways that we can show—it is really so.

RESPONSES Let's find meaningful, purposeful ways to stand united against hate and address it, not only after it happens, but by enforcing norms and standing for our shared values long before any other violations take place.

When acts of hatred and violence are carried out against innocent people, people of any faith, as they gather to pray and worship, or simply live, move and have their very being; we need to call it out and denounce it.

We can be in prayer and in spirit with others who are hurting because of the escalated climate of hatred.

We need to take all reasonable precautions and safety measures, as reasonable and as spiritually helpful. (Your Officers have been studying and composing a comprehensive Emergency Action Plan).

Collectively, as people of faith, let's come together during this troubling time to root out hate in all its forms and show the nation we will never be divided by these despicable acts of violence.

Yours in faith,

~Jeffrey

Lectionary for June

June 2

7th Sunday of Easter

Acts 16:16–34

Psalm 97

Revelation 22:12–14,
16–17, 20–21

John 17:20–26

June 9

Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1–21 or Genesis
11:1–9

Psalm 104:24–34, 35b

Romans 8:14–17 or

Acts 2:1–21

John 14:8–17 [25–27]

June 16

Trinity Sunday

Proverbs 8:1–4, 22–
31

Psalm 8

Romans 5:1–5

John 16:12–15

June 23

2nd Sunday after Pen- tecost

1 Kings 19:1–4 [5–7] 8–
15a

Psalm 42 and 43

Galatians 3:23–29

Luke 8:26–39

June 30

3rd Sunday after Pen- tecost

2 Kings 2:1–2, 6–14
Psalm 77:1–2, 11–20

Galatians 5:1, 13–25

Luke 9:51–62

Planned Giving

Many members say they wish they could do more to help. Consider ways you can help through planned gifts. Planned gifts can take various forms. There are appreciated securities that can be transferred to the church. One can name the church as a beneficiary in one's Life Insurance policy. Various Charitable Gift Annuities or Trusts can provide ways for individuals to do more to help the church. Pray about it. Think about it. If you have questions, there are many individuals available to help you find the answers you need.

Pastor Nominating Committee Update

We have reviewed over 150 resumes, contacted 30 candidates for first interviews, performed several second interviews and skype interviews, called dozens of references and have listened to hundreds of sermons. We are making good progress in finding our next senior pastor. PCUSA in Louisville has over 2,000 call seekers in their system and more than 50 churches looking for a senior pastor head of staff. Continue to keep our committee in your prayers as we travel through this time of discernment.

Optimists

Optimists will celebrate the beginning of summer and end of our year with a picnic on Friday, June 14. Women of Note will entertain us with popular songs from different eras in American music. Women of Note is a group of 16 women who sing for fun at various events around Rochester and donate any proceeds to different charities. They rehearse at Pittsford Presbyterian. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided, and salads and desserts will be brought by members in our potluck tradition. Cost will be \$5 per person. Social hour will be at 5:30 pm, and dinner will be at 6:00 pm.



Members with June Birthdays

Caitlin Amborski
Ann Athy
Tristan Bachmann
Joan Brown
Janice Currie
Sibert Douglas
Betsy Enstrom
Jacob Fantuzzo

Gemma Fernaays
Joanne Flentke
Robert Glenning
Tim Harper
Edwin Hediger
David Hill
Janet Jennison
Samantha Kearney

Nathaniel Kim
Natalie Larson
Shirley Lawrence
Sharon Peet
Charles Scott
Beth Warren

Wishing you a birthday that is full of laughter, love, and special memories!
(if we missed you—please let the office know)

RAIHN

Pittsford Presbyterian volunteers have completed another successful rotation of providing an evening meal and a safe place to sleep for guests of the Rochester Area Interfaith Hospitality Network! Volunteers from Christ Episcopal and St Paul's Lutheran have supported our efforts. RAIHN asks Host Faith Communities, along with Support Congregations, to host for one week four times each year. Our next rotation will be July 14–21.

First of all a great big thank you to all of you who volunteered during this rotation! Names are too numerous to mention, but thanks to members of a recent small group who responded to a challenge from the author of the curriculum to do something for those without a home—a meal and evening activity were enjoyed by guests. Thanks to youth who shared their space at church so children could have a place to play. And thanks to members of Naomi Circle who served an evening meal to guests. Wow! You are awesome!

For more than 13 years Pittsford volunteers have been giving time to RAIHN families! More volunteers are always needed. Volunteers give direct service to families, including

- making and serving an evening meal
- hospitality after dinner
- staying overnight at church
- bringing breakfast bagels or muffins on weekend days
- babysitting children (teens can help with this!) while parents attend a skills class

But there are many other jobs which might not involve direct contact with guests, but are essential to our success! These include scheduling volunteer time, preparing “welcome” items for guests prior to the rotation, laundry of bedding after rotation, writing articles or making an announcement in church about our mission.

After 13 years, RAIHN is looking for new volunteers along with renewal for long time volunteers. Please consider joining in this worthwhile mission! Watch for further information on bulletin board, flyer on welcome table, on some Sundays in Fellowship Hall after church or contact Barbara Smith.
(746-0754 or barbarabsmith13@gmail.com)

New News About Our 2019 HIP Build for Habitat for Humanity



We have a homebuyer for the house we will co-sponsor on Holworthy Street! Zuleika Perez came to the states from Puerto Rico to start over, bringing her four children and elderly mother with her. They are presently living in a crowded 2-bedroom apartment. We are excited to meet her and work with her building a 5-bedroom house.

This is one of four houses on Holworthy within 200 feet of each other and will give us more opportunity for volunteering and also to meet and work closely with other faith-based volunteers. Construction is expected to commence in June so we will keep you posted!

If you haven't registered yet, please do so! Let Dianne Brown (dibrown@rochester.rr.com) know that you have registered so we have a record of the volunteers from First Presbyterian! There are instructions for signing on the habitat website at Rochesterhabitat.org.

You will not be able to sign up for volunteering until the date of the start of construction is known. Please check the website as to when construction will begin!

We will no longer be doing a rehab on Campbell St. All volunteers who signed-up for Campbell St. are welcome to keep their day or to cancel.

Needle Nellies

Our next get-together will be Tuesday, May 28, from 11 am–1:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. The last meeting before summer break will be Tuesday, June 25—same time, same place. Please bring your lunch and any new yarn or patterns that you want to share. Questions? call Kay Saxum, 385-9807

Scouts at First Presbyterian



◀ Scouts help clean up FPC. On Easter Saturday, April 20, an intrepid group of Boy Scouts from Troop 341 braved 40 degree temperatures and rain to pick up leaves and sticks from our Churchyard and Memorial Garden. We very much appreciate their efforts.

Many Hands Make Light Work — On Friday, April 26, Boy Scouts from our Troops 171 and 341 spread mulch on the PCNS playground. Afterward leaders and scouts from both troops saw the new floor in the Martin and Suzanne Suter scout room for which both troops contributed money. ➤

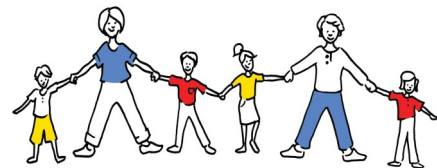


Summer Special Music

In order that we may continue to praise God with beautiful music during the summer worship services we need volunteers! If you are interested in offering special music (singing/playing) over the summer please contact Bruce Frank.

Concentus Women's Chorus - Sunday, June 9, 3pm
- Choral Journey Around the World
\$15 adult/\$5 student tickets available at the door.
Reception to follow the concert.

Concentus returns to First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford for our Spring Concert, celebrating music in many languages from around the world. We will be singing in Russian, Spanish, French, Gaelic, Japanese, Hebrew, Portuguese, Finnish, as well as English. Works by Abbie Betinis, Eric William Barnum, and Cary Ratcliff, among others!



News from the Nursery School

Our school year has now ended, with many 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. We offer summer camp during June, hopefully the weather will cooperate! Thank you so much to all of you who helped make this past school year a wonderful success. Though we may be parted, we remember often special memories and the nursery school at the First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford!

Teresa Zatyko, Director, Pittsford Nursery School

Office Revamp

The church office has undergone some modification to enhance form and function. The Financial Administrator will now have secured, dedicated space. The main office will allow some alternatives for storage and work space. We will also add work stations for volunteers. The Trustees have managed this project as cost effectively as possible. Thanks go to Bob Collins, Ron Pollock, John O'Flaherty for construction and painting along with a host of volunteers who helped with dismantling and moving. The former work-stations have been repurposed and will serve the Pittsford Food Cupboard in their new quarters.

It sure is a rainy season! Make sure to come and warm up through our lovely youth smiles at some of these wonderful events below!

May 19, June 2 + 16:	Bob Ross' Sunshine Club	7-8:30pm @ Church
May 22 + 29, June 5 + 12:	Wonderful Wednesdays	5-7pm @ Church
May 25:	Mini Golf	12-2pm @ Parkside Mini Golf
June 9, Pentecost:	Confirmation Celebration	10am Service
June 9, Pentecost:	End of Semester Exam Bash	6-8pm @ Church
June 16:	Dads and Grads Celebration	10am Service
July 5-12:	JASY	Jamaica
July 15-20:	Triennium	Purdue University, Indiana

The youth are gearing up and finalizing everything for our upcoming JASY mission trip. We cannot wait to see all the smiling faces of all the kids again, and are sure it will be a fantastic time once again! While we are already fully booked and leaving soon for this trip, there is always 2021; so make sure if you're interested in attending in the future to let us know! We always love taking new people along with us!



It is an exciting time of the year once again. Pentecost! This time of the year means so much to us and more specifically to our group of youth confirmands each year! They have worked hard to make it through the process this year and we are excited to welcome them with open arms into our church family!

Christian Education



Vacation Bible School

July 22 - 26 from 8:45 am—12:15 pm

Everyone is invited to join us this year for Vacation Bible School. Children who are able to use the bathroom independently through adults are encouraged to register.

The theme for this year is "Games for the Body, Mind, and Spirit."

Vacation Bible School this year will be held July 22 - 26 from 8:45 am - 12:15 pm. We will be inside and outside and learning all about God.



Upcoming Events

Men's Prayer Breakfast	6/2 7:00 am
Optimists	6/14 5:30 pm
Naomi Circle	6/17 12:30 pm
Eve Circle	6/24 12:30 pm
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

Art Show



Start thinking about what you will show in the art show coming up on Wednesday, August 28. This show is to highlight what art members create throughout the community. All people of all ages and skill levels are encouraged to participate.

Do you sew, paint, draw, do pottery, wood working, or work in any medium you would like to display in the art exhibit? On Wednesday, August 28, there is an open house for the public and people from the church from 6:30-8:30pm with light refreshments. Post card invitations for you to mail out to your friends will be available Sunday, June 16.

We Appreciate Our Teachers

I would like to encourage all members of the church to show their appreciation for those dedicated individuals who have worked all school year to teach the children and youth about God and Grace. This year brought many changes to the younger grade programs. Adults jumped right in to work together to make a great program.

Making a year-long commitment is not easy. This last year was a successful beginning of a new program.


Please join me in thanking these passionate and dedicated individuals. Job well done.

First Presbyterian Church
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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

If we are truly the people that Jesus died for, then we cannot be bound up, locked down, sheltered-in-place, or paralyzed by the tragedies that confound us.

<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>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> 
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