



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PITTSFORD**

THE GOOD NEWS

MARCH 2023

Embracing and Sharing Christ's Love

CHARTING THE COURSE WITH PASTOR AARON

Many of the Church's rituals and practices that we know today were codified after Christianity became the religion of Rome in the fourth century AD. The Church's observance of Lent seems to be firmly established by this time. However, a time of preparation leading up to Easter seems to have been the practice of the church from nearly its beginning. Before it was a season of forty days, it seems to have been a time of fasting and prayer for a few days before the Easter vigil, especially for new believers who were preparing to be baptized at the vigil.

We don't tend to observe Lent this way anymore. Modern-day Protestants don't generally hold Easter as the ideal date to baptize new believers, as the early church did; so Lent does not, for us, have the association with preparation for baptism that it used to hold. (Although I do think it's very appropriate that I will be leading a new members' class during Lent, with some new members set to join the church on Palm Sunday!)

I want you to try to imagine something with me. Try to imagine you have no or little familiarity with Christianity. What would you want to know about this new religion? What would you expect to learn from adherents to this religion? What would you want to know about the church and its purpose? Learning the answers to these questions would tell you something about the very heart of the Christian faith. Even if you are not a new believer right now, pondering these questions is exactly the sort of thing Lent is meant to offer us. Lent is a time to reconsider the meaning and purpose of everything we do as followers of Christ.

So why are you here? How does Jesus impact your life? What makes the church important in the world? What makes it different than anything else? As we begin our strategic planning process this year, it is my hope that our answers to these questions will become known to us with greater clarity.

~Aaron

Lectionary for March

March 5

2nd Sunday in Lent

Genesis 12:1–4a
Psalm 121
Romans 4:1–5, 13–17
John 3:1–17 or
Matthew 17:1–9

March 12

3rd Sunday in Lent

Exodus 17:1–7
Psalm 95
Romans 5:1–11
John 4:5–42

March 19

4th Sunday in Lent

1 Samuel 16:1–13
Psalm 23
Ephesians 5:8–14
John 9:1–41

March 26

5th Sunday in Lent

Ezekiel 37:1–14
Psalm 130
Romans 8:6–11
John 11:1–45

Per Capita Contributions

Help expand our mission work: Per Capita contributions in excess of the \$7,000 annual budget will go directly to our mission projects. Please consider a contribution above the \$36.45 per member we contribute to our denomination. An average gift of \$45.00 from 200 members would provide an additional \$2,000 to those in need!

Your Generosity Team



Pastoral Care and Prayer Requests

This is your quarterly reminder that there is a phenomenon that happens in churches where, when a church member is injured or ill, no one reaches out to the pastors to let them know about prayer requests and concerns because *church members assume that their pastors are already aware of the concern*. While there have been many instances where we have already been aware of concerns shared with us, we would ALWAYS rather hear these concerns multiple times as opposed to not hearing them at all.

- You can always call or text my church cell phone number - 585.204.2012
- You can email me at - erin.jacobson@pittsfordpres.org

Thank you for your help in caring for one another!

Hoping your birthday brings you many happy reasons to celebrate!

If we missed you,
please let the office know.



Members with March Birthdays

Carin Ash	Sofia Fantuzzo	Bud Miller
Andrew Ashworth	Stacy Ferris	Adam Pedersen
Walter Aydelotte	Hanna Fox	Doug Peters
Alexis Babcock	Kimberly Gibson	Allison Robinson
Trudy Bartleson	Jim Hotaling	Jackie Roblin
Brian Belcher	Lisa Hughes	Virginia Skuse
Barbara Bruins	Ed Johnson	Sandra Testa
David Bruins	Cecilia Jones	Philip Tinder III
Faye Casey	Jennifer Longwell	Clara Travis
Joseph Fantuzzo	Donna MacKenzie	Evelyn Van Arsdale
Mary Kay Fantuzzo	Bob Mecredy	Emily Wilborn



New Members Class

Are you interested in becoming a member of the church or just want to learn more about the current vision of the church?

Then let the church office know and join Pastor Aaron at 11:30 am in room 201 for this 3-week class:

March 12 - What does it mean to be a Presbyterian?

March 19 - Why become a member of this church... or any church?

March 26 - Spiritual Gifts Assessment

A Letter of Thanks

In the middle of July I required open-heart surgery which required four bypass grafts. On October 31, there were complications which indicated that my bypass surgery was not functioning, and my heart was working at only 10 to 15% capacity. While in ICU with a heart balloon pump, reality started to set in. Sue had informed the family, the church, and friends of the situation. At this point I put myself in the hands of God and the medical staff, as I knew people were in prayer for me.

Fast forward to now, six stents and an abundance of prescriptions have my heart working at 80%.

Prayers work, as I believe this would not have happened without them. God brought the situation to allow me to write this letter of thanks. Thank you all for your thoughts and prayers. And thank you Sue for being with me the entire journey.

Respectively,

Ed and Sue Oliver

Music Opportunities

Join in with the Children's Choir to sing on Palm Sunday, April 2. The LOGOS K-6 choirs are learning a joyful song *Lo, He Comes, Sing We Hosanna!* and the song will also be taught during Sunday School on the four Sundays of March. Hopefully some children will be able to join us in this lively anthem.

We will also be leading a Palm Parade during the opening hymn that morning and all children are welcome to join in the procession around the sanctuary.

Our Handbell Choir is looking for one or two spring ringers to join us on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm in the choir room. We have a faithful core group but never enough hands to ring all the parts for 2-3 octave music. If this is something you'd like to give a try, don't hesitate, beginners are always welcome. Contact dedeholmes1954@gmail.com if you have any questions.

JASY - Sponsor a Camper

For several Sundays, we will be holding our JASY "Sponsor a Camper" campaign, in which you will learn a little more about this July's JASY camp mission trip to Kingston, Jamaica, and the positive impact it has made on the Jamaican youth who attend the camp, as well as on the First Pres volunteers. We are also asking for your financial support. Would you please consider making a donation for the camp? You can sponsor a camper for the week for \$75 or help fund lunches or sports equipment for the campers at any donation amount. You can donate by check directly to JASY or to First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford and note JASY in the memo. We would love to tell you more about our mission in Fellowship Hall after both services on February 26 and March 5.

Thank you for your support!

Louise and Tom Thompson, Adam Pedersen, and Dan Traina



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PITTSFORD



First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford **SECOND SUNDAY CONCERTS**

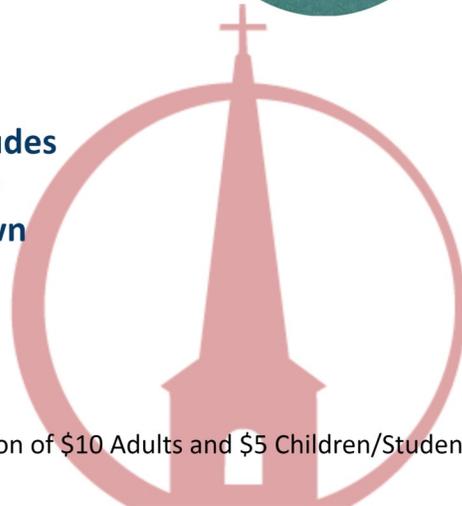
Give Me Your Hand: A Celebration of Women Poets

Sunday March 12, 3:00pm

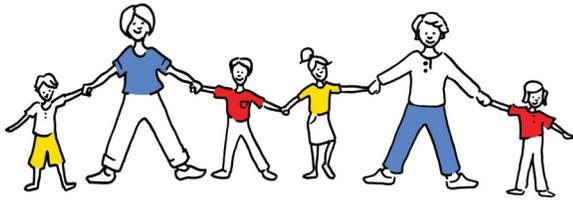
Heather Holmquest, soprano

Bruce Frank, piano

This recital spotlights the interplay of language and music that is the art song, focusing on historically marginalized artists. The program features poems by women writers Emily Dickinson, Maya Angelou, and Edna St. Vincent Millay set to music by American composers Aaron Copland, Margaret Bonds, B. E. Boykin, and Justin Wallace. It also includes songs by Mary Turner Salter, a recently rediscovered composer who set her own poems.



A free will offering is collected with a suggested donation of \$10 Adults and \$5 Children/Students.
For more information visit: pittsfordpres.org/concerts



News from the Nursery School

On the calendar Spring is supposed to arrive in March—you'd never know in Rochester! That is why we take the kids outside on the playground every time it is possible. Our Special Events Committee is planning a movie night for our families, I love it when we can all be together. With St. Patrick's Day we can study colors, rainbows, and the spectrum. March is National Literacy Month; we will focus even more so on the literature in our classrooms. We will focus on specific authors and artists. We will have an Egg Hunt in each of our classrooms, with this we will seriously begin discussing the beginning of Spring ☺. All our activities involve skills the children need to learn, at the same time they are loving the time they are here! Thank you for your continued support!

Teresa Zatyko, Director Pittsford Nursery School



Anthony Circle

Anthony Circle will be cooking for Cameron Community Ministries on April 26. Carpooling from church at 9 am. Call Cynthia VanHoute-Purpura with questions (455-4803).

Eve Circle

Eve Circle will meet Monday, March 27, at 12:30 pm in room 200 to discuss future meetings and topics.

OPTIMISTS Save the Date

OPTIMISTS enjoyed a meal followed by discussion of sharing family stories between the generations for their February meeting. The next meeting of OPTIMISTS will be on March 10 at 1 pm. Again there will be a hot meal (\$5 per person) and a program/discussion. Put the date on your calendar and invite a friend to join you! Watch for more information as the date gets closer.

Deacon Event

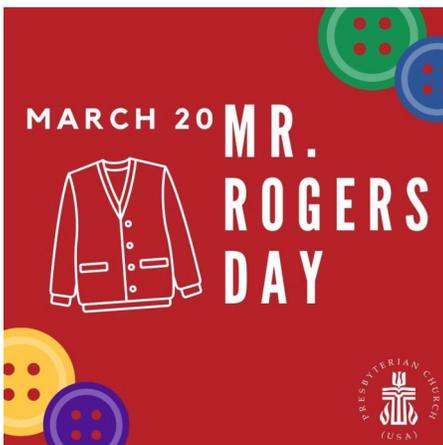
Aladdin - Saturday, April 15, at 2 pm - Come join us for the Rochester Broadway Theater League's production on Disney's *Aladdin* at the Auditorium Theater. Tickets cost \$50. Contact Dan Traina at 585-208-6839 or DTraina@rochester.rr.com to purchase tickets.

Cameron Community Ministries

Mr. Bob (Dunn) is one of the latest additions to the new Saturday Academy program at Cameron Community Ministries. Guitars donated by folks from our church and other Presbyterian churches along with Bob's lessons are another testimony to our ever-growing love for Cameron Kids. Want more information on other ways to support Cameron? Contact Cindy Becker at 585-703-4878 or cindyleebecker74@gmail.com and search Cameron Community Ministries on Facebook.



Our Youth @ Living LOGOS teens got a “dog therapy” visit from Pastor Jacobson’s Westie, Sammy, on February 15. (Sammy even said Hello to some of our littlest LOGOS attendees before dinner!)



March 20 was Rev. Fred (Mr.) Rogers birthday. The PCUSA has designated it as Mr. Rogers Day! Consider celebrating Mr. Rogers Day by honoring his legacy of sharing unconditional love with your neighbors by participating in an act of service. Fred Rogers was an ordained Presbyterian minister whose validated ministry in the Presbytery of Pittsburgh was television evangelism.

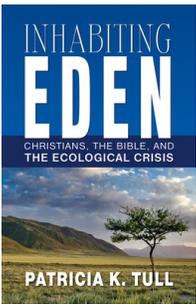
Christian Education

Adult Education Opportunities
Sunday Morning Bible Study 8:30 am hybrid
Monday Night Bible Study 7 pm Zoom
Tuesday Highlands Bible Study 1 pm Highlands Music Room
Wednesday Bible Study 7:15 pm hybrid
Thursday Women's Bible Noon FPCP Library

Author of *Inhabiting Eden* coming on March 5

On March 5, the author of *Inhabiting Eden*, the Rev. Dr. Patricia Tull, will be preaching at both services. Also after worship, Dr. Tull will be teaching two lectures in room 201. The first lecture will cover questions and discussion about her book, and the zero energy home she lives in. The second lecture will tap into her experience as a professor of the Old Testament to talk about hard passages in the first half of the Bible. This will be a time to ask hard questions about the God we see in those texts.

Food will be provided upstairs so that people can stay and hear the lectures.



Patricia K. Tull is the author of the Bible study *Inhabiting Eden: Christians, the Bible, and the Ecological Crisis* (Westminster/John Knox), as well as the 2024-2025 Horizons Bible Study on environmental justice. As A.B. Rhodes Professor Emerita of Old Testament at Louisville Seminary, she has devoted her post-academic life to environmental theology. She is a Climate Reality presenter, a GreenFaith fellow, former program director for Hoosier Interfaith Power & Light, and the 2016 recipient of the William Gibson Eco-Justice Award. She and her spouse, the Rev. Don Summerfield, live in a net-zero energy home outside of Henryville, Indiana.

Families for Lent

These resources will be available at church and mailed to those that need it.

An Illustrated Lent for Families: This is My Body explores how Jesus lived in his body on earth and invites us to take care of—and embrace the goodness of—our own bodies. Each week highlights a different story from Jesus' life and connects it to shared human experiences—like growing up, taking naps, or drinking water. By engaging with these stories through a broad lens of embodiment, *This is My Body* seeks to inspire curiosity, wonder, and awe in all ages. We hope this Lenten family resource will help you share in conversation about how God came to be human and live among us.

What you will receive:

- **Seven Family Devotions:** Weekly family devotions include a suggested scripture to read, a short reflection, discussion questions, an activity, a fun fact, and a prayer.
- **Coloring & Activity Pages:** We also include coloring and activity pages for the different weeks' devotions.

Coming up in Sunday School:

March 5

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-3
Sew a Seed



March 12

Matthew 16:13-20
You are the Messiah
Stained Glass Windows
Older Kids Visit



March 19

Matthew 18:21-35
Jesus Calls us to Forgive
Skits
Forgiveness Balloons



March 26

Matthew 25:31-46
When Did We See You Lord?
Visitors, bring a can



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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

*So why are you here?
How does Jesus impact
your life?*

<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: 8:30 am in-person 10 am in-person and livestreamed</p> <p>Communion is offered on the first Sunday of each month.</p> <p> </p>
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