



The Good News

May 2019

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

A WEE WORD FROM DR. WEENINK

SOME AUDIO — SOME VISUAL — SOME SENSORY INTEGRATION = ...

It never fails. I will say to my wife Jeanne in advance of a worship service, “I think I’m about ready.” “Ready for what?” she would ask. “Ready with my sermon... I think I have it finished... you know, I think now, maybe, I’m good to go...” “Great!” she would respond. She would resume what she was doing and say just loud enough for me to hear: “I hope you realize that most of the population are visual learners.” As I would feel all the air come out of my sails and the initial sting wear off, I’d realize: Yep, that’s true. I can’t change that. We are less and less conditioned to auditory stimuli alone. At one point in time it was pretty much our only option. It takes effort to pay attention to a preacher. (Remember, I can see you!) Jeanne has done far more work and study in brain research while I have been buried with Bultmann, Barth, and theology books. Once again, Jeanne is right. What Jeanne was lovingly telling me is: A didactic, linear approach in worship is a “way to deliver a concept.” A sensory, multimedia approach, in contrast, (as the recognized worship innovator Sally Morgenthaler suggests) “invites you into the Grand Story.”

Don’t we all crave ways to be invited and engaged in the Grand Story of God’s redemption? The worship experience can and should appeal to a variety of senses. That is why I am pleased with the Session and Trustee’s action earlier this year to carry out an audio, visual, and on-line streaming overhaul in order to enhance the entire worship experience. Nearly 60% of churches use some form of projection technology at least yearly, with nearly half of all congregations using computer-based projectors weekly. Our goal has been to enhance the worship experience, encourage participation, convey information, and create an environment to allow for a richer, even more meaningful spiritual encounter.

This endeavor was not entered into lightly or unadvisedly. Everyone was acutely aware that this was a delicate consideration. There was, no doubt, trepidation. It was no small feat to figure out a way to install such enhancements without violating the architectural integrity of our worship space. Every effort has been made to make sure they are not a distraction. Many people, lots of prayer, a bunch of brain power, and continued conversation allowed your leadership to find a solution. We have avoided the use of screens and any “moving parts.” The monster speakers suspended from the ceiling are gone. Yes, there is a trade-off. There are two projectors now suspended from the ceiling. But, once an image is projected on the wall, one does not notice the projectors. Now, we can have a glimpse of the choir as Dr. Chase draws the very best out of them and they sing their hearts out. Now, we can watch Dr. Frank ‘make the pipes sing.’ Now, we can explore a whole new frontier of possibilities for presentation.

On Palm Sunday we were able to roll-out the enhancements in time for the choir’s memorable presentation of Gabriel Fauré’s Requiem. Over all, the roll-out was successful and has been well received. There were some glitches. We will continue to learn from them and find ways to improve. There is still work to do. It is encouraging to experience the positive response from the congregation. We even had a live-stream worship participant all the way from Barcelona, Spain! The best is yet to come.

The life of the faith community prospers when we come together. The live-stream capacity allows for participation when it is not physically possible for one to be present. No one intends for live-streaming to replace the on-site presence of the people of God as they gather. It does, however, allow for this remarkable

faith community to expand the reach of what it has to share. God knows, this household of faith has a lot to share! And it is all good. Be sure to “Like” First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford if you use that particular form of social media. Share the links that are now available. The live-stream is available to share anytime. Go to the church web-site and pass the word.

Inherent in every technological change that brings good are unintended negative effects. The incorporation of these elements will continue to be navigated carefully, sensitively and sensibly. Our goal is to be vigilant here. Your thoughtful remarks and constructive criticisms will be taken into full consideration.

Some audio, some visual, some sensory integration will undoubtedly lead to some new possibilities for spiritual formation and faith fulfillment for us to be blessed, and for us to be a blessing.

Faithfully, *~ Jeffrey*

Wills

You have heard that everyone should have a will. Do you realize that you have no control over how your estate is settled unless you have a will? If you do not have one, the state will make a will for you and your wishes may not be fulfilled. If you have property or investments or own your home it is wise to arrange for some reasonable distribution of your assets when you no longer need them. A will can do that—asserting your wishes for children, grandchildren, and even charities. Don’t forget your church! You can also provide a gift that will continue to give as you remember the church in your will.

The Session has in place an Endowment Fund policy which protects the principal of all bequests ensuring that such gifts will serve the needs of this congregation for generations to come. The vessel is in place. Generous, forward thinking people have provided some sound beginnings. There is room for everyone to give a gift that keeps on giving. No amount is too large or too small. By completing a will you leave a legacy that loved ones will enjoy. As a matter of faithful stewardship the church encourages members to complete their will, and cordially invites all to carefully, prayerfully consider making provision for the church.

On Stewardship

When we grow as stewards,
we share the news of the Gospel
in all the settings
of work and leisure.

When we grow as stewards,
we share our wealth
and possessions
with those persons and agencies
in ministry to people in need.

When we grow as stewards,
we give willingly of our time
and abilities
in our private lives
and in the public order,
using the gifts God has given us
to assure that all creation
is fulfilled.

When we grow as stewards,
we assure that the world
will remain a gift
for future generations.

Stewardship is the lifestyle
of Christian discipleship.

Lectionary for May

May 5	May 12	May 19	May 26	May 30
3rd Sunday of Easter	4th Sunday of Easter	5th Sunday of Easter	6th Sunday of Easter	Ascension of the Lord
Acts 9:1–6 [7–20]	Acts 9:36–43	Acts 11:1–18	Acts 16:9–15	Acts 1:1–11
Psalms 30	Psalms 23	Psalms 148	Psalms 67	Psalms 47 or Psalms 93
Revelation 5:11–14	Revelation 7:9–17	Revelation 21:1–6	Revelation 21:10, 22– 22:5	Ephesians 1:15–23
John 21:1–19	John 10:22–30	John 13:31–35	John 14:23–29 or John 5:1–9	Luke 24:44–53

Pulpit Guest Rev. Dr. Christine Chakoian

On May 19, we will be privileged to receive the ministry of Rev. Dr. Christine Chakoian as our pulpit guest. Dr. Chakoian is currently the Vice-President for Advancement for Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Previously Dr. Chakoian served as pastor/head of staff at First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest, Ill., and Community Presbyterian Church of Clarendon Hills, Ill. She has served congregations in Oregon, Ohio, and New York. She is a graduate of the University of Illinois (B.A.), Yale University Divinity School (M.Div.), and McCormick Theological Seminary (D.Min.).

In service to the church and community, Chakoian is a member of the Dean's Advisory Council at the University of Illinois College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; the Moveable Feast preaching colloquium;

trustee Presbyterian Publishing Corp.

Her books include *Common English Bible – Women's Bible* (editorial board member and writer), *Cryptomnesia: How a Forgotten Memory Could Save the Church*, *Covenant Bible Study* (co-host/editorial board member), *Feasting on the Gospels* (editorial board member and writer), and *For Worship, Fellowship, and the Work of the Kingdom*. Chakoian has also written a number of articles for such publications as *Christian Century* and *The Presbyterian Outlook* and has contributed to Chicago Sunday Evening Club and Day One videos.

Christine will be resourcing the work of the Generosity Team with strategies for Planned Giving and Annual Giving during her visit to Pittsford.

Banners

Six beautiful banners are being unveiled through this time of congregational renewal. Four have been interpreted to date through a sermon series and multiple small-group educational gathers. Each banner depicts one of the great "ends" (goals) for the church. They were lovingly prepared by Diana Adams, Dianne Brown, Lynn Cos, Dede Holmes, Jane Hunter, K. Lee, Eun Hui Loss, Del Machiele, Sue Oliver, Katie Pech, Debbie Scudder, Barbara Smith, and Claudia Williams. There are interpretive pamphlets describing the banners and their symbolism located in the Narthex. Gratitude is extended to all for these beautiful visual interpretations of the church's great ends.

Eve Circle

Eve Circle will meet Monday, April 22, at 12:30 pm in room 200 to discuss chapters 10 and 11 of *The Reason for God* and to plan preparing the taco RAIHN dinner for Monday, April 29.

Music From Terezin



Saturday, May 11th at 3pm

*Lutheran Church of the Incarnate Word
597 East Ave, Rochester, NY 14607*

Sunday, May 12th at 3pm

*First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford
21 Church St, Pittsford, NY 14534*

Pre-Concert Chat before each concert at **2:30 pm**

by Beneta Silberstern, widow of Henry Silberstern,
who was interned at Terezin.

Arranged by Center for Holocaust Awareness and Information (CHAI)

Free Admission, Donations Gratefully Accepted



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Kathleen Suher & Pia Liptak, Artistic Directors

Members with May Birthdays

Henry Ash	Margaret Mecredy	Frederick Stehler
Martha Boak	Bob Mehalso	Stephen Stott
Newman Brown	Charles Messenger	Erin Thompson
Ben Gartland	Max Murray	Paige Thompson
Chell Gilda	JoBeth Nichols	Olivia Valenti
Jack Holzwarth	Walt Scott	Gretchen Wolk
Hannah Marsh	Tony Seacat	



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

Cameron Community Ministries

Enrich Others, Enrich Yourself - The expansion of the Cameron Campus is officially underway with the renovation of the house purchased next door. Over the coming months, it will be transformed into a Teen Center, thus expanding the current after-school program for elementary-age children to include high school students. As participants in the newly-formed Teen Program Committee, we will be an integral part of this exciting project. In our quest to become more involved with missions that promote personal development, education and self-sustaining skills, the Teen Center is an excellent choice for our mission dollars and labor. If you have any interest in volunteering when the center opens in the fall and being on the cutting edge of this new endeavor, please contact Cindy Becker at 585-703-4878 or cindyleebeck-er74@gmail.com. Also, monetary donations can be specified to be used exclusively for this project. Thank you for your consideration.



WEB Club

All are welcome to join us at anytime. We generally meet the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 2pm in the library. Below is a list of dates we will be meeting and the books selected. Come join us!

May 8: *The Alice Network* by Kate Quinn

June 12: TBD

Optimists—May 10

The Optimists meeting on Friday, May 10, will feature K. C. Fahy-Harvick, who will present "The Four-Season Garden." Ms. Fahy-Harvick has 30 years' experience in gardening and owns her own business, Gardening Matters. She writes articles for *Life in the Finger Lakes* magazine and makes presentations on diverse gardening subjects. She has special interests in perennials, easy-care garden maintenance, and birds. Her presentation will be accompanied by slides to illustrate her design principles. Social hour is at 5:30 pm and dinner of chicken caesar salad will be at 6:00 pm. Admission for dinner and lecture are \$13/person and will be for sale Sunday mornings April 28 and May 5. All are welcome.



Memorial Garden Committee

The Memorial Garden Committee is in need of new members who have some botanical knowledge and a willingness to tend the garden, maintaining and expanding on its beauty and feeling of quiet meditation.

If you feel that your talents are going to waste and would like to serve, please contact Nancy Skelton at 943-8443

Needle Nellies

Needle Nellies will meet Tuesday, April 30, 11 am–1:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Bring your lunch and smiles, please. Kay Saxum 385.9807



News from the Nursery School

Once again we are preparing to say goodbye. May is the last month of the school year for our 2's, 3's and 4's. Our Young Kindergarten children end in June. For some it is good bye until September, for others it could be until we meet again. In the month of May the children will visit Lollypop Farm, Tinker Nature Park, the Pittsford Dairy, hear a performance of a Tiny Tots Concert and take a ride on a school bus! All the classes will have year-end celebrations. We will also have an end of the year picnic. We continue to offer our very popular summer camp for all children. We will have a trike-a-thon, accepting donations to the Golisano Children's Hospital. We invite you to participate in all the children's celebrations. Thank you so much for all your support and encouragement! Happy early Summer!

Teresa Zatyko, Director, Pittsford Nursery School

Big Change In Our 2019 Hip Build For Habitat For Humanity!!

Instead of doing a rehab on Campbell St. we will be building a 5-bedroom house at 126 Holworthy Street with a co-sponsor to partner with HIP! This is one of 4 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!

All volunteers that signed-up for Campbell St. are welcome to keep their day or to cancel. If you keep your day you will likely work on other houses.

If you haven't registered yet, please do so! Let Dianne Brown know that you have registered so we have a record of the volunteers from First Presbyterian!

Spring hasn't made up its mind yet! The warm and sunny season is trying to break through. How better to celebrate it than with some loving and warm fellowship with the youth group!

April 15–19:	Flower City Work Camp	all week in Rochester
April 27:	Neighborhood Mission	9 am–1 pm @ Camp Whitman
April 28:	Sunday Night Youth	7–8:30pm @ Church
May 1, 8, 22:	Wonderful Wednesdays	5–7pm @ Church
May 5:	Confirmation Banquet!	11:30 am–12:30 pm @ Church
May 18:	Mini Golf	Parkside Mini Golf
May 19:	Youth Cookie Sale	8:30–11:30 am @ Church

The youth are participating in this year's Presbytery Mission Day, and they want the congregation to know that they're all invited too!

This is a full-on multigenerational event, that will reach out to everyone.

Our church is a part of Neighborhood #5, so we will be headed to Camp Whitman! The camp is a lovely place that provides many wonderful adventures for both kids and adults in the warmer seasons every year.

On Mission Day, we will be painting cabins, replacing roofs, clearing trails and so much more. There is something to do for someone of any skill level!

Tyler is heading up the group from our church this year, so if you have any questions whatsoever don't hesitate to reach out to him. And don't forget to sign up online at <https://pbygenval.org/neighborhood-mission-day/> If you have any issues signing up, let us know and we'll take care of it!



Presbytery of Genesee Valley

Neighborhood Mission Day

Saturday, April 27, 2019

9:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Join your neighbors for a day of service and fellowship!
\$5 Registration Fee covers the cost of the included lunch.

Register online at: pbygenval.org/neighborhood-mission-day/

Riverside Neighbors: ROC SALT Center

Help clean up the grounds and prepare garden beds for the community garden. We will also be readying the center's indoor space in preparation for hosting mission groups.

Meet at the ROC SALT Center, 68 Ashland St., Rochester

Valley Neighbors: Genesee-Groveland Food Pantry and the Community Garden.

We will be helping to provide support to both the food pantry and the community garden.

Meet at Central Presbyterian Church, 31 Center St., Genesee

Country Neighbors: Multiple Agencies

We will be providing service to Crossroads House, Justice for Children Advocacy Center, Batavia YWCA, and an area school.

Meet at Batavia First Presbyterian Church, 300 E Main St., Batavia

Neighborhood #5: Camp Whitman

We will be painting cabins, replacing cabin roofs, clearing trails, and preparing camp for the Spring.

Meet at Camp Whitman, 150 Whitman Rd., Penn Yan

Neighborhood 6: Presbytery Resource Center

We will be preparing the Resource Center for its big move to the Dansville Presbyterian Church.

Meet at the Presbytery Office, 1190 S. Winton Rd., Rochester

Guest Speaker Rev. Dr. Alonzo T. Johnson Leading Workshop on April 27 & Worship on April 28



The Least of These: A Missional Engagement of the Faithful in the Work of Preventing and Alleviating Poverty. Concern about issues of poverty have always been central to the mission of faith-based communities. Through movements such as the Poor People’s Campaign, anti-poverty is an issue integral to the healing and strengthening of communities. How are we as churches and communities of faith engaged in the work of preventing and alleviating poverty? How does poverty impact you? With Matthew 25 as its backdrop, the **6 pm workshop on April 27** will examine poverty both nationally and its interconnected issues. The workshop will also equip participants with strategies centered around missional organizing to create conversation and seek to leverage congregational/communal power through direct action and advocacy. Using biblical perspectives of justice, the workshop is also designed to encourage relationship and community building among participants so that they may network and together address issues of poverty and create systemic change. Rev. Johnson will also lead **worship on Sunday, April 28**.

Rev. Dr. Alonzo T. Johnson is the Coordinator for the Presbyterian Committee of the Self-Development of People Program (SDOP) Presbyterian Church (USA). Rev. Johnson has 25 years of experience in urban, congregational based organizing, youth/education, creative arts, peacemaking, anti-poverty and social justice ministries. Rev. Johnson was pastor at an urban congregation and Presbytery in Philadelphia, PA and has worked as a volunteer chaplain in prison ministry for nine years. He has a BA from Bloomfield College, NJ, and an MDiv from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. He has just currently completed the DMin program at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

Christian Education

Upcoming Events

Men's Prayer Breakfast	5/5 7:00 am
Optimists	5/10 5:30 pm
Anthony Circle	4/30 5:00 pm RAIHN
Naomi Circle	5/20 12:30 pm
Eve Circle	4/22 12:30 pm
Not so Basic Bible Study	Mondays 7:30 pm
Prayer Support Group	Mondays 11:00 am
WEB	5/8 2:00 pm
Bible Study	Weds. 7:15 pm
Men's Ecumenical Group	Thursdays 7:15 am
Adult Study	Sundays 9:45 am

A Hitchhiker's Guide to Reformed Faith

On Sunday, May 5, at 11:45 am we will meet to talk about the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. We meet in the Library off Fellowship Hall.



Children will Lead Worship on May 5

The Children's Sunday school program will be working together to lead worship on May 5. No matter how your child would like to participate—there is a place for them.

Would you like to join the email-based discussions using *The Upper Room* or *D365*? These daily discussions are available to anyone by signing up at:

<https://www.pittsfordpres.org/adults>

Herb Garden Starters


Children have been working on designing flower pots to fill with herbs. These are part of learning about mission and giving to help other people. The pots with the herbs will be available for purchase on May 5 in Fellowship Hall. Come start off your herb garden and your money will go to help others plant theirs. Proceeds will go to PCUSA's project of garden supplies to teach self sufficiency.

First Presbyterian Church
of Pittsford
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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

*God knows, this household of faith
has a lot to share! And it is all good.*

<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>Bill Mullins Assist. Custodian</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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