



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PITTSFORD

THE GOOD NEWS

MAY 2022

Embracing and Sharing Christ's Love

CHARTING THE COURSE WITH PASTOR AARON

I've been recently reading the New York Times Bestseller *Atomic Habits: An Easy and Proven Way to Build Good Habits and Break Bad Ones* by James Clear. I find the title compelling because of the two connotations the word "atomic" carries. My immediate thought when I hear the word "atomic" is the incredible and explosive energy created from nuclear fission, as in the phrase "atomic bomb." The other thought I have when I hear the word "atomic" has to do with "atoms," or the smallest units of matter that make up everything around us (I know that definition isn't technically correct). When I think of those two concepts together, I think, "The smallest things can release extraordinary power," which is, actually, an apt summary of the book.

The author describes how making big, positive changes in your life depends on small, incremental adjustments. If you think to yourself, "I watch too much TV, and I want to watch less TV," you probably won't succeed in watching less TV if you depend on sheer willpower. However, if you make one little change (like storing your TV remote somewhere away from the TV) and then gradually build on that change over time, your chances of success increase.

In Philippians 3:10, Paul writes, "I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection." The Greek word he uses for "power" in that verse is the word *dunamis*, which is the etymological root for our English word "dynamite." Have you ever thought of the power of Christ's resurrection as being "dynamic" or even "explosive"? What if we began to think of it as the "atomic" power of resurrection?

In this season of Eastertide, you and I are reminded that we are people of the resurrection. We are in a process of salvation at the end of which is going to be the dynamic and explosive destruction of death itself, leaving only the possibility of endless life. That's where our journey is heading, but how do we live into that future reality now? The answer is: one incremental change at a time. What is one small decision you can make today that will help you live more fully into the coming and complete fulfillment of your salvation? It could be devising a plan to spend more time in prayer, attend worship more regularly, become a church leader, join a church group, feed the hungry, or offer forgiveness. I encourage you to read this newsletter carefully to possibly discover an opportunity to do just that, because the small decisions we make today can have eternal impacts on us and the people around us.

~Aaron

Lectionary for May

May 1
3rd Sunday
of Easter

Acts 9:1–6 [7–20]
Psalm 30
Revelation 5:11–14
John 21:1–19

May 8
4th Sunday
of Easter

Acts 9:36–43
Psalm 23
Revelation 7:9–17
John 10:22–30

May 15
5th Sunday
of Easter

Acts 11:1–18
Psalm 148
Revelation 21:1–6
John 13:31–35

May 22
6th Sunday
of Easter

Acts 16:9–15
Psalm 67
Revelation 21:10,
22–22:5
John 14:23–29 or
John 5:1–9

May 26
Ascension
of the Lord

Acts 1:1–11
Psalm 47 or Psalm
93
Ephesians 1:15–23
Luke 24:44–53

May 29
7th Sunday
of Easter

Acts 16:16–34
Psalm 97
Revelation 22:12–
14, 16–17, 20–21
John 17:20–26

Your Generosity Enables God's Ministry

Help expand our Mission work: Your Per Capita contributions in excess of the \$7,000 budget will go directly to our Mission projects. Please consider a contribution in excess of the \$35.58 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!

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 join Pastors Erin and Aaron at 11:30 am in room 201 for this 3-week class:

May 1 - What does it mean to be a Presbyterian?

May 8 - Why become a member of this church... or any church?

May 15 - Spiritual Gifts Assessment

Trustees at Work

by Faye Casey

I'll bet some of you would be surprised to learn how many rooms there are in our church building. Trustees know—because part of the duties of the Sunday Trustee is to ensure the building is secure following the services. This entails walking through the entire building, making sure some interior doors are open or closed (depending on the time of year), windows closed and locked, lights (except for emergency lighting) turned off, fire doors closed, and all outside doors are locked. Want a tour of your church building? Just ask a Trustee.

Members with May Birthdays

Henry Ash
Martha Boak
Ray Brown
Rob Dunn
Allie Finkbeiner
Ben Gartland
Katie Gaudion
Jack Holzwarth
Greg Irwin

Will Irwin
Hannah Marsh
Margaret Mecredy
Robert Mehalso
Charles Messenger
Maxwell Murray
JoBeth Nichols
Ed Rummler
Walt Scott

Tony Seacat
Frederick Stehler
Erin Thompson
Paige Thompson
Olivia Valenti
Alison Wahl
Gretchen Wolk



*Wishing you a birthday that is full of laughter,
love, and special memories!*

If we missed you, please let the office know.



The Generosity Committee is inviting you to **MAKE A DIFFERENCE**. This is the theme we have chosen for our upcoming 2022-23 Campaign. The gifts we give to First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford make a difference in the lives of many in our community, our country, and the world. Just think what we could do if we increase our gifts!!

Over the next few months, we will share difference-making stories. At the same time, we invite you to share your stories about making a difference and offer suggestions as to other opportunities to do so.

Please share your stories by reaching out to any member of our Generosity Committee. We'd love to talk with you and pass your stories along via the *Good News* and other communications.

Your Generosity Team: Lewis Becker, Chair; Faye Casey; Paul Irving; Steve Mizelle; Bill Rieth; Rob Rhodes

To ALL of the Congregation and Staff:

On a recent sunny spring day, the Zamani children and their cousins were whizzing around the parking lot on their new bicycles with huge smiles on their faces. Bonnie Dunn and her teaching team had just completed the first English class at the house for the women who were all sitting on the back steps. The previous evening, the same women and their husbands had used computers donated by the congregation for their online English classes.

Your enthusiasm, assistance, prayers, and donations have all helped to get our new neighbors on a path to a success in the USA. Apologies for the tardiness of this thank you but we, the family's Caring Circle, have been going at full speed since the family arrived. We did not know what we didn't know when we agreed to welcome a refugee family in January 2022. But we have had a lot of on-the-job training, a few stumbles, and lots of laughter and cups of tea. Mere words cannot express our gratitude.



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 goodbye until September, for others it is until we meet again. In the month of May the children will visit Lollypop Farm, Long Acre Farm, the Pittsford Dairy, and take a ride on a school bus! All the classes will have year-end celebrations. We continue to offer our very popular summer camp for all children. We will celebrate our staff on Teacher Appreciation Day. We will also have end-of-the-year parent conferences for our YK children. It has been a challenging year for all of us; we have survived and grown, thanks to each other 😊 Thank you so much for all your support and encouragement! Happy Summer!

Teresa Zatyko, Director Pittsford Nursery School

Join Us for Yoga!

Spring is here and your body needs yoga so that you can garden, golf, or take long beautiful walks and see all the flowers. Yoga is for keeping yourself mobile, flexible, and strong.

Drop-in Yoga:

- every Tuesday and Thursday
- 10-11am
- Chapel on the second floor
- \$10 drop-in donation

Wear comfortable clothes and bring a mat.

OPTIMISTS and Friends

Friday, May 13, 1:00 pm, Fellowship Hall.

We will have social time to start, followed by grace, lunch, and announcements. "The Bee Man" from Victor will be joining us. Learn about bee pollination and successful sustainable farming. He will also sell farm products: honey, maple syrup, honey mead (in his vehicle). Bring your Honey Money! Please bring your own lunch and table service.

We will provide decaf coffee, hot water, tea bags, sugar, creamer, and cookies. If you plan to join us, please RSVP to (585) 586-5688 or connect@pittsfordpres.org by Wednesday, May 11.

Landscape Volunteers Needed

We are looking for volunteers to help care for the church grounds this coming season. Work includes weeding, trimming, some watering, and possibly some planting. If you are interested, please contact Debbie Gaudion debbieanne0204@gmail.com

Anthony Circle

Anthony Circle will meet on May 11 at 10am in the library. Clara will share her video on Boldt Castle.

Deacon Fellowship Events

Hike - Saturday, May 21, at 10am. Meet at Locust Street parking lot. We will determine our route based on the weather and the group preferences.

Cooking Club - Sunday, May 22, at 5pm. Help us prepare a meal of local Rochester favorites. We will be making Chicken and Artichoke French, Greens and Beans, Garbage plates with Zweigle's and more. Cost is \$7.

Sign up in Fellowship Hall or contact Dan Traina at dtraina@rochester.rr.com or 585-208-6839 for more information.

Powerful Tools FOR Caregivers

Powerful Tools for Caregivers is being offered **starting Thursday, April 21, 2022**, by certified leaders Sherry Pomeroy & Rebecca Hyde. Classes help caregivers take better care of themselves while caring for an adult friend or relative. Whether you provide care for a spouse, partner, parent, or friend; whether you're down the block or miles away, yours is an important role. This course is for family caregivers like you!

The classes give you tools to help:

- Reduce stress
- Improve self-confidence
- Manage time and set goals
- Better communicate
- Make tough decisions
- Locate helpful resources



Powerful Tools for Caregivers gives you the confidence and support to better care for your loved one—and yourself. **Online classes will be held every Thursday for six weeks starting April 21 and ending May 26, 2022, from 3:00-4:30 PM.** Assistance with Zoom will be available. The class, which is offered at no charge, includes *The Caregiver Helpbook*, a resource book for caregivers.

Contact Sherry, Faith Community Nurse, Orchard Park Presbyterian Church, at sherry@oppchurch.org or call 716-662-9348 for more information or to register for the class. Registration deadline is Friday, April 15.

*"After taking this class I am a more confident caregiver!
Having tools to resolve problems is a definite advantage in becoming
a better caregiver and a happier, wiser, healthier me ... and a healthier 'us'!"*
- PTC Class Participant



Powerful Tools for Caregivers (PTC) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit based in Portland, OR. For more information, visit the website at <https://www.powerfultoolsforcaregivers.org>.



Come Find Comfort & Connection

Faith & GriefSM Retreat

Friday, May 20 thru
Sunday, May, 22
Starts with Dinner Friday evening

Hosted by
1st Presbyterian Church, Pittsford
21 Church St, Pittsford, NY

RSVP at
<https://conta.cc/3tR5wKF>
or contact Deb Matrachisia at
debmat9267@gmail.com

First Presbyterian Church is partnering with Faith & Grief ministries to regularly offer their retreat about understanding and living with grief. This retreat will be a great resource for our greater community. If you know of anyone who might benefit from participating in this retreat please let them know about this opportunity.

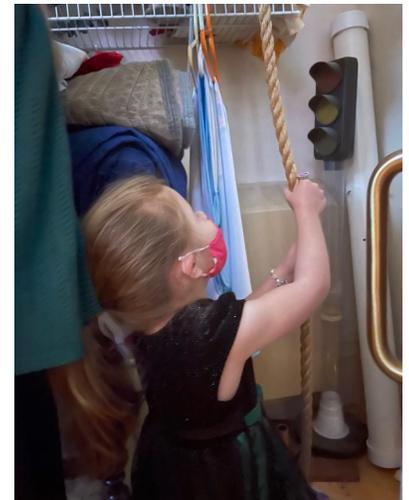
Christian Education

Children Will Lead Worship on May 22

The Children's Youth Choir and the Sunday School program have been working together to plan worship on May 22. Through May, Sunday mornings children will be able to be a part of the youth choir and learn music, create a sermon puppet show, or practice a reading. This will be a hands-on chance for kids to learn about worship and choose how to use their talents.

If you are not able to come Sunday mornings but would still like to participate, contact Craig in the office and he will find a role for them, either pre-recorded or live.

one of our little congregants starting worship by ringing the church bell →



This Summer—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 playground. We would love for you and your family to join us. The first will be on Wednesday, June 29, at the Allen Creek School playground. Future dates are July 13 at Jefferson Road and August 10 at the Spiegel Center.

Teacher Appreciation June 12

All Teachers and Shepherds are invited to gather for a luncheon on Sunday, June 12, at 11:30 am. We want to say thank you for enabling Christian Education to happen! Please bring your partner and children if you desire. We will eat together and then briefly talk about the Christian Education program. Look for an email with signup.

Online Workshop Opportunities for Building Healthier Congregations through Presbytery

Sunday, May 1 **Who Will Roll the Stone Away? Tent of Nations Pursuit of Peace and Justice 12:30 pm**

If you are interested, contact Craig for details. Please share the information for these workshops with anyone you believe would benefit from them—your congregation, colleagues in ministry, family, and friends.

Our 2022 Confirmands, part two

Name: **Ellie Dreywood**

Parents: **Jen & Sean**

Grandparents: **Sue and Ed Oliver, Kathy Machiele**

Grade: **8th**

Favorite Class: **math**

Favorite Movie: ***Step Brothers***

If I could visit any place in the world it would be: **Aruba**

My hobbies: **lacrosse, golf, skiing**

My Nickname: **el**

My most prized possession: **my phone**

Three words that describe me: **kind, independent, outgoing**

My dream profession is: **general surgeon**

People (outside of parents) I most admire: **my cousins Austen and Gordie**

My favorite Bible story: **The Lion and the Cave**

If I had one million dollars I would: **go on a shopping spree**

If I were to pick one characteristic of Jesus I most like it would be: **to be able to walk on water**

One question I want to ask Jesus someday: **Why did you help all these helpless people?**

Words that describe the day I was baptized: **peaceful, loving**

Where I was baptized: **Faith Lutheran in Penfield**

How can we pray for you? **Pray I will always make great choices in life. And my grades.**



Name: **William Michael Gianakakis**

Parents: **Lou & Elizabeth Gianakakis**

Grade: **8th**

Favorite Class: **math**

Favorite Movie: ***The Last Samurai***

If I could visit any place in the world it would be: **Greece**

My hobbies: **soccer, basketball, baseball**

My Nickname: **Will**

My most prized possession: **sneakers**

Three words that describe me: **athletic, funny, tall**

My dream profession is: **radiologist**

People (outside of parents) I most admire: **my grandfather**

My favorite Bible story: **Samson and Delilah**

If I had one million dollars I would: **donate to the National Alopecia Foundation, buy shoes, dogs, and food**

If I were to pick one characteristic of Jesus I most like it would be: **forgiveness**

One question I want to ask Jesus someday: **What is your favorite color?**

Words that describe the day I was baptized: **I don't remember I was too young.**

Where I was baptized: **Catskill, New York**

How can we pray for you? **Pray that my hair will grow back or God will teach me how to deal with it.**

Name: **Linden Kilmer**

Parents: **Margaret & Matthew Kilmer**

Grade: **8th**

Favorite Class: **math**

Favorite Movie: **Legally Blonde**

If I could visit any place in the world it would be: **Hawaii**

My hobbies: **lacrosse and basketball**

My Nickname: **Lindy Lu**

Three words that describe me: **loving, sympathetic, and hardworking**

My dream profession is: **orthopedic surgeon or anesthesiologist**

People (outside of parents) I most admire: **People who make a positive impact on my life and the world.**

My favorite Bible story: **The Good Samaritan**

If I had one million dollars I would: **travel the world, help people in need. and buy clothes**

If I were to pick one characteristic of Jesus I most like it would be: **compassionate**

One question I want to ask Jesus someday: **Why did he die on the cross for sinners?**

Words that describe the day I was baptized: **joyful and inspiring**

Where I was baptized: **First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford**

How can we pray for you? **You could pray for my family and I to stay healthy and safe.**



**ALL ROADS LEAD
▶ TO WATSON ◀
YOUTH CONFERENCE**

July 24th-27th, 2022

Youth entering 7th through graduated 12th grade are invited to attend the first of its kind Youth Conference sponsored by the Presbyteries of: Cayuga-Syracuse; Genesee Valley, Geneva & Western NY

**KEY NOTE SPEAKER: REV. JIMMIE HAWKINS
DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC WITNESS (PCUSA)**

Cost includes all meals, housing, & programming for the conference located on the beautiful retreat center of Watson Homestead in Painted Post, NY. For more info contact your Presbytery's registrar: Michelle Allen at 716.799.4321 or pastor@eastavonchurch.com

(WHERE) DO YOU SEE GOD IN THE WORLD?



Camp Whitman on Seneca Lake is looking for an LPN or RN to work at camp this summer the weeks of:

June 26-July 1

July 3-8

July 24-29

Competitive Pay & Discounted Camp Tuition

Contact Lea Kone

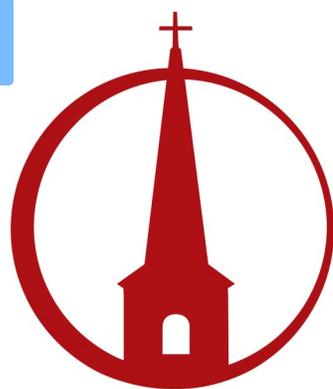
at director@campwhitman.org

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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

*The small decisions we
make today can have
eternal impacts on us
and the people around
us.*

<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>Temp. Supply Assoc. 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 Services: 8:30 and 10:00 am in-person 10:00 am also livestreamed Communion is offered on the first Sunday of each month.</p> <p> </p>
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