



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PITTSFORD

THE GOOD NEWS

MAY 2023

Embracing and Sharing Christ's Love

CHARTING THE COURSE WITH PASTOR AARON

In February, I wrote my newsletter article about the current vision of our leaders for our church. I also made our vision the topic of a Mid-Week Meet-Up that same month and gave a detailed report about it at our congregational meeting on February 26. The vision can be summarized like this: Our church's goal is to help you grow in your faith, and we believe three things will help to accomplish that goal – worshiping, connecting, and serving. Worship inspires us, gives us life and hope, and transforms us. Connecting with others in a church group is a primary way we prove our love for God by loving one another. Serving is when we take the spiritual gifts God has given us and put them to use within the church or outside, in the broader community. Doing all three of those things will help us the most to grow in our faith.

You may also recall that I ended the report at the congregational meeting saying that a goal without a plan is just a wish. Without a roadmap for a long journey, there is little chance of reaching one's destination. A strategic plan functions like our roadmap to the future church we want to become. We have hired Leighton Ford Ministries as our consultant to lead us through a strategic planning process, which we're calling "Faith Forward." I want to take this opportunity to explain the Faith Forward initiative a little.



The process has already officially begun, and we are in the Discovery Phase. All that means practically right now is that our staff and our Treasurer have been providing some background information for our consultant. We've sent them information about the church's history, recent membership/

worship attendance trends, our church's boards and programs, the impact of COVID on our congregation, recent financial trends, and more, including the results of our 2018 Mission Study and our 2021 Vital Congregations Initiative (VCI) report (more on these later). Kevin, our personal consultant, will be visiting us in June to lead multiple focus groups of various cross-sections of our congregation and will spend time with us on a Sunday to observe our worship. During this Discovery Phase, you are also strongly encouraged to complete the Transforming Church Insight survey between now and May 21. (See my Mid-Week Meet-Up from April 19 for instructions on how to complete the survey or call the church office.) After the Discovery Phase is completed this summer, we will enter the Visioning Phase. In the Fall, Kevin will facilitate a series of retreats with our church leadership - to help them discern and review/update our mission, vision, and values, and, ultimately, craft strategic initiatives for our church - the all-important "roadmap."

(cont'd next page)

You may be wondering: Didn't we already do this sort of thing in our 2018 Mission Study and during VCI a few years ago? If you are wondering that, you aren't alone as a few people have asked that question already. The reality is that a lot has changed since 2018. COVID has altered so much about the religious landscape and, indeed, about the world in general. We are a different church today than we were then, and we have much more to discern about ourselves and our future. But just as important, how many people in our church understand the lessons we learned and insights we gained through the Mission Study and through VCI? I know I do, along with others who led or were close to those other initiatives. They are part of the reason our church leadership crafted a vision of growing faith through doing the following things: "worship, connect, and serve." But the truth is: it's actually very difficult to cast a vision that everyone can see. We learned some *very* valuable lessons through those other initiatives and, part of the reason we're seeking additional consultancy, is to help us translate those lessons into practical realities.

I'm glad you're part of the First Presbyterian family, and I look forward to taking the Faith Forward journey with you.

~ Aaron

Lectionary for May

May 7	May 14	May 18	May 21	May 28
5th Sunday of Easter	6th Sunday of Easter	Ascension of the Lord	7th Sunday of Easter	Day of Pentecost
Acts 7:55-60	Acts 17:22-31	Acts 1:1-11	Acts 1:6-14	Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16	Psalm 66:8-20	Psalm 47 or Psalm 93	Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35	Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
1 Peter 2:2-10	1 Peter 3:13-22	Ephesians 1:15-23	1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11	1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 or Acts 2:1-21
John 14:1-14	John 14:15-21	Luke 24:44-53	John 17:1-11	John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39

Members with May Birthdays

Hoping your birthday brings you many happy reasons to celebrate!
If we missed you, please let the office know.

- | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Henry Ash | Greg Irwin | Walt Scott |
| Martha Boak | Will Irwin | Tony Seacat |
| Ray Brown | Hannah Marsh | Fred Stehler |
| Rob Dunn | Margaret Mecredy | Erin Thompson |
| Allie Finkbeiner | Robert Mehalso | Paige Thompson |
| Bob Franklin | Charles Messenger | Olivia Valenti |
| Ben Gartland | Max Murray | Alison Wahl |
| Katie Gaudion | JoBeth Nichols | Gretchen Wolk |
| Jack Holzwarth | Ed Rummler | |

Welcome to Our New Members



Bill and Kathy Blackmon – Kathy is a bursar at the University of Rochester where she has worked in administration and finance for 34 years. Bill, who grew up in Pittsford, is a financial advisor at Morgan Stanley where he has worked for around 30 years as well. Kathy enjoys cooking reading, and travel, and Bill biking, golf, basketball and reading too.

Amy Carleton – A teacher's aide and private music teacher, Amy has joined us from the First Baptist Church in Memphis, Missouri. She currently lives with her mother, Kay Saxum, and is herself the mother of three. Amy enjoys accompanying our children's choir and is also part of our handbell and chancel choirs.



David T. Hartney – David works in Buffalo and lives with his wife Donna near Branchport. His "second jobs" are being a soccer referee and a volunteer ambulance driver. He is joining FPC from the First Presbyterian Church in East Aurora.

Derrek and Emily Schartz (and little Wesley) – Derrek and Emily recently moved to this area and both are residents at the University of Rochester Medical Center. They welcomed Wesley into their world in December and have been loving the first few months of parenthood. The couple enjoys hiking, skiing, and exploring the food scene—and they are excited to be at FPC and meet everyone!



Melissa Wood – A retired special education teacher, Melissa is a passionate animal lover who enjoys the company of Springer Spaniel Buster and Tabby cat Spanky. She loves getting dirty in her garden and attends the Pittsford YMCA.

OPTIMISTS

OPTIMISTS will meet on May 12 at 1 pm in Fellowship Hall. Lunch will be served (\$5 per person). Please mark your calendar now and plan to bring a friend! Watch for further details as the date gets closer.

Landscape Helpers Needed

The landscaping season is here at First Pres! Volunteers are needed to care for the church grounds and gardens.

We will meet on Church Street on May 24, 9:00 to 11:30 am (rain date is May 25, same time).

The June date is the 14th from 9:00 to 11:30 am (rain date on June 15, same time)

Bring your own equipment. Snacks and water provided.

Hope to see you there!!!

Debbie Gaudion

debbieanne0204@gmail.com

Anthony Circle

Anthony Circle will meet on May 10, at 10 am, at church. We will carpool to Highland Park. Bring a bag lunch. RSVP to claudiaw1949@gmail.com

Watch for Breaking News!

Many changes are happening with Greater Rochester Habitat for Humanity! Our next build will be happening soon and we will be building a new home every year!



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. We begin May by celebrating our teachers, they are so devoted and see their students as their own children. Our Young Kindergarten children end in June. They will be going on a bus ride courtesy of the Pittsford Central Bus Garage. For some it is goodbye until September, for others it could be goodbye until we meet again. In the month of May, the children will visit Long Acre Farm and go to the Pittsford Dairy. 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 invite you to visit and view all the children's accomplishments. Thank you so much for all your support and encouragement!

Teresa Zatyko, Director Pittsford Nursery School

Sunday Morning Bible Study

Sunday mornings, at 8:15 am, Craig is teaching the book of James. We will be studying the Book of James and exploring our response to being a Christ follower. We will also explore who James was and his importance to the early church.

YOUTH CAMPING @ CAMP WHITMAN on SENECA LAKE ~ May 12-14, 2023

o We have reserved four large cabins at Camp Whitman on Seneca Lake in Dresden, N.Y. for May 12-14. We will leave after school on Friday and return on Sunday morning.

o The reserved cabins have beds, mattresses, heat, electricity, and indoor plumbing! You can view photos of camp and the cabins at www.campwhitman.org

o Saturday morning, we will also offer mission/service hours (if you are a confirmand in need of remaining hours to meet the 8 hours required for Confirmation this will provide up to 5 hours) as we help clean up around camp for their 2023 season.

o We will have campfires, s'mores, hiking, time by the lake, and a lot of fun together!

o Friends are welcome to join us!

o Please RSVP to Pastor Erin at 585-204-2012.



Christian Education

A HUGE thank you to all of our Church School teachers, classroom helpers, mentors, and LOGOS volunteers who served our children during the 2022-2023 school year!

We thank God for each of you. You shared yourself and your love for God with our children and youth and YOU yourself have been a gift to First Presbyterian. When you volunteer to teach Sunday School, you are faithful to the promise that each of us makes at baptism to help raise our children in the Christian faith.

We have had a growing early-K through 2nd grade class, with unpredictable numbers ranging from 6 to 12. In LOGOS as well, the fluctuations have left people scrambling, but throughout it all the teachers have provided grace and leadership. THANK YOU!

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 FPCP Library

Children's worship on May 21

The children have started planning a worship service based on the Bible passages around the ascension of Jesus. They have been practicing their musical offering as well as working on exciting additions. We have started working on a backdrop art piece that will light up the sanctuary. If your child would like to participate, please join us on Sunday morning or let Craig Kunkle know.

Sunday School:	May 7	May 14	May 21	May 28
K-2	Intergenerational Worship	No Bake Cookies	Children's Worship	Flaming Headband
3-5		Practice		In Worship to see Confirmation

Children Join Adults During Communion and Intergenerational Worship

On May 7, Communion Sunday, children will be present throughout the whole worship service. This helps them to understand the full breadth and importance of the worship experience.

The service will be intergenerational, which means it will be designed for all school-aged children and adults to be able to fully participate and engage. You will see worship stations where interactive worship activities can be found.

We encourage you to mark May 7 on your calendars for this meaningful family worship experience.

Our 2023 Confirmands, part three



Name: **Benjamin Gianakakis**
Family here at FPC: **Elizabeth and Lou Gianakakis**
Grade: **8th**
Favorite Class: **Science**
Favorite Movie: **Star Wars**
If I could visit any place in the world it would be: **Hawaii**
My hobbies: **video gaming, lifting**
My Nickname: **Ben**
Three words that describe me: **organized, artistic, lazy**
My dream profession is: **doctor**
If I had one million dollars I would: **invest and give back to help the environ-**

ment

One question I want to ask Jesus someday: **Is there life outside of Earth? How big is the universe? What is the afterlife like?**

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

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

Name: **Madilynn Lake**

Family here at FPC: **Jen and Matt Lake**

Grade: **8th**

Favorite Class: **social studies**

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

My hobbies: **dance**

My Nickname: **Maddie**

My most prized possession: **my childhood stuffed animal**

Three words that describe me: **confident, intelligent**

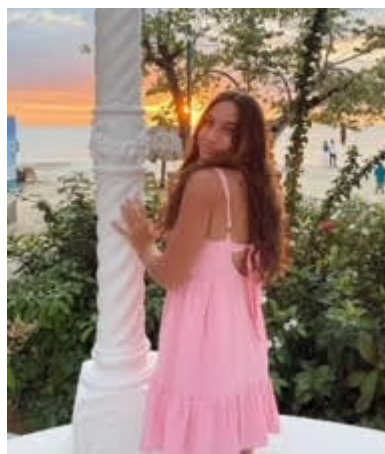
My dream profession is: **detective**

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

My favorite Bible story: **the birth of Jesus**

If I had one million dollars I would: **put it into a college fund**

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



Name: **Addison Finkbeiner**

Family here at FPC: **Kim and Greg Finkbeiner**

Grade: **8th**

Favorite Class: **Math**

Favorite Movie: **Elf**

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

My hobbies: **lacrosse**

My Nickname: **Addie**

My most prized possession: **my dogs**

Three words that describe me: **athletic, caring, friendly**

My dream profession is: **vet**

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

My favorite Bible story: **the birth of Jesus**

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

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

Our 2023 Confirmands, part three, contd.

Name: **Margot Elizabeth Price**

Family here at FPC: **Brook and Ted Price**

Grade: **8th**

Favorite Class: **Math and English**

Favorite Movie: **Top Gun 2**

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

My hobbies: **tennis, singing, fashion**

My most prized possession: **my cross necklace**

Three words that describe me: **kind, considerate, passionate**

My dream profession is: **fashion designer or dermatologist**

People (outside of parents) I most admire: **my grandmas, my brother, my English teacher**

My favorite Bible story: **Noah and the ark**

If I had one million dollars I would: **I think I would save it up for a mansion.**

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

One question I want to ask Jesus someday: **I would ask him if I was a good servant.**

Where I was baptized: **First Presbyterian**

Words that describe the day I was baptized: **I was too little to remember.**

How can we pray for you? **to keep me safe, healthy, and happy**



Name: **Andrew Stern**

Family here at FPC: **Amy Stern and Josh Stern**

Grade: **8th**

Favorite Class: **Social Studies**

If I could visit any place in the world it would be: **Boulder, Colorado**

My hobbies: **camping**

Three words that describe me: **funny, laid back, adventurous**

My dream profession is: **electrician**

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

My favorite Bible story: **David and Goliath**

If I had one million dollars I would: **spend it with friends and family**

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

Where I was baptized: **First Presbyterian**

Words that describe the day I was baptized: **I don't know – I was a baby.**

How can we pray for you? **pray for my health**



Calling all Graduates!



"Dads and Grads" Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday, June 18, during the 10 am worship service. Please send us the graduation information that you would like celebrated for your high school senior or college graduate by June 1. Information (including photos) can be sent to erin.jacobson@pittsfordpres.org



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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

*I look forward to taking
the Faith Forward jour-
ney with you.*

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: 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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