



The Good News

November 2020

First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford
Embracing and Sharing Christ's Love

CHARTING THE COURSE WITH PASTOR AARON

For many months now, the Strategic Communications Committee (SCC) has been hard at work trying to ensure the clarity and effectiveness of our church's communication with its members and with the wider community. One of those efforts has been to create a tagline for our congregation. I wrote about this recently in my Mid-Week Meet-Up but want to make sure that everyone sees this. Sometimes people confuse a mission statement for a tagline. A mission statement is an expression of a shared goal; it's what we believe our purpose as a congregation is. A tagline is different. A tagline is a short, pithy, and memorable expression that summarizes our mission statement and is useful for "telling our story." It accompanies our name on our website, our official letterhead, on social media, and everywhere else our name is known. (It's even on the top of our newsletter now!) The SCC went through various iterations of a tagline before settling on one. The Session recently adopted the following tagline: **Embracing and Sharing Christ's Love**. Let me explain the message behind this tagline.

Jesus said that the most important things God asks of us are to love God and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Everything we do as a community of faith, from interpreting scripture to the way we organize ourselves as a community, should be viewed through this lens of love for God and love for one another. That's why First Presbyterian Church is about **embracing and sharing Christ's love**.

When you think about an embrace, it's something that should involve two people. It is about allowing yourself to be embraced, while also embracing the one who embraces you. Just think about how awkward a hug would be if only one person was actively engaging in it! We believe that God is reaching out to embrace us and, indeed, does embrace us. God's love for us is unconditional and without limit. Our purpose in life is to reciprocate God's embrace of us with our own embrace of God. We do this at First Presbyterian in our worship. The purpose of worship is to celebrate and embrace God and God's love of us in Christ. This is the most important thing we do as a church.

There's another important aspect of this embrace of God. All 8 billion people alive on the earth, as well as those who ever lived and those who ever will live, are made in God's image. In other words, whatever is in us that is good and kind and faithful and loving is the fingerprint of God in our lives. It is a reflection of God's own self. It is evidence that we are made in God's image. By embracing Christ's love, we are not only embracing that love as it is expressed to us directly from God but we are embracing that love as it is expressed to us through one another. We seek to treat one another with dignity, respect, humility, and love, because we see the image of God in each other and desire to embrace it. We do this at First Presbyterian in our prayer groups, Bible Study groups, Presbyterian Women circles, Sunday School, youth group, fellowship times, and other small group meetings. We are a community, which means we believe that everyone belongs together. Our embrace of Christ's love in each other allows us to have unity despite our differences.

It is a fundamental part of our faith to also share Christ's love. 1 John 4:19 says that we love because God first loved us. Once we become aware that we are recipients of Christ's love, we cannot keep it to ourselves. Every time we show mercy and compassion, we share Christ's love. Every time we serve those in need, we share Christ's love. Every time we tell someone about their inherent value, we share

Christ's love. We do this at First Presbyterian through our care-giving groups, our missional efforts, and our evangelism.

At First Presbyterian Church, **embracing and sharing Christ's love** is the way we follow the teaching of Jesus to love God and to love one another.

~ Aaron

Contacting Pastor Jacobson re: Pastoral Care and Prayer Requests

I have really enjoyed getting to know many of you over the past month and a half. I consider it a holy privilege to be entrusted with your prayer requests, and pastoral care needs. Since we are constantly endeavoring to be better at communicating with one another, I thought it would be helpful (especially during COVID-19 when I am sometimes working remotely) to offer multiple ways to reach me regarding pastoral care needs or prayer requests.

▪ You can always call or text my church cell phone number - 585.204.2012

(if you leave a message it is also confidential; I am the only one who checks the voicemail)

▪ You can email me at - erin.jacobson@pittsfordpres.org

▪ The "Contact" section of the church website offers a form to connect with me and Pastor Neff via the same message. Please indicate in these messages if the request is confidential, or can be shared widely.

Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord.

James 5:14

In Christ's Peace, Pastor Erin Jacobson

Deacon Events

▪ **Game Night** - Friday, November 13, at 7pm - Set up an account at [Game Board Arena.com](http://GameBoardArena.com) and join us for community games such as Sushi Go, For Sale, Incan Gold and Settlers of Catan. Contact Dan Traina at dtraina@rochester.rr.com or 585-208-6839 for more information. All are welcome.

▪ **Village Historical Walk** - Saturday, November 14, at 2:00pm. Meet in Locust St. parking lot. The hiking club will be touring the village and learning about federal style architecture, underground railroad, and other unique Pittsford details. We will also be learning about our church's outreach and mission connection throughout Monroe County.

▪ **Cooking Club** - Saturday November 14 at 6:00pm - Virtual Zoom gathering to make American Goulash. Email dtraina@rochester.rr.com to get the recipe. You purchase the ingredients before hand, then join us to cook "together" and share stories while we enjoy our creation.

Wednesday Evening Bible Study

The group is studying some of the women of the Bible and how God is revealed through their stories. If you would like to join the study of the Book of Ruth, please let Pastor Aaron know.

Lectionary for November

November 1 All Saints' Day

Joshua 3:7-17
Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13
Matthew 23:1-12

Revelation 7:9-17
Psalm 34:1-10, 22
1 John 3:1-3
Matthew 5:1-12

November 8 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25
Psalm 78:1-7
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Matthew 25:1-13

November 15 24th Sunday after Pentecost

Judges 4:1-7
Psalm 123
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Matthew 25:14-30

November 22 Christ the King

Ezekiel 34:11-16,
20-24 Psalm 100 or
Psalm 95:1-7a
Ephesians 1:15-23
Matthew 25:31-46

November 29 1st Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 64:1-9
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:24-37



Living Through Giving

We are in the middle of our fall Stewardship Campaign ... and MAJOR changes are underway at First Presbyterian. We are blessed to have our new leadership, Pastor Aaron Neff and Associate Pastor Erin Jacobson, join Craig Kunkle to lead us forward. We feel the **HOPE** and **EXCITEMENT** in store for our future. We are **REASSURED** through our leadership teams and Pastoral Staff. Our new communications methodologies are providing faster information sharing and new ways to **CARE** for each other. We have a new **VISION** of growth and faith for First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford.

The Book of Order uses the word “**OBLIGATION**” to describe one aspect of our Membership in the Church. It is the generous giving of our **Time, Talents, and Financial Wealth**. It is the **Stewardship** that we shower on each other to build a better church home and prepare for the spiritual growth of our church.

You will receive your pledge card package this week from the Generosity Team. **November 8** is our *Pledge Sunday* when we consecrate our gifts to First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford. We ask that you prayerfully consider how your 2021 pledge can help us grow and make a difference in OUR church home, in the Rochester community and the world.

Consecration Sunday

We will receive and celebrate our 2021 support for the church on **Sunday, November 8**. As with so many other aspects of church life we have had to make some changes due to the coronavirus. The Participation Card you receive in the mail can be submitted at the 8:30 am service or you are welcome to drop it off in the church parking lot between 11:00 am-1:00 pm and receive a thank you “cookie and candle.” All are encouraged to join on a “Zoom Call” at 5:00 pm Sunday evening to receive a blessing from Pastor Aaron, light the candle you receive, and enjoy our cookies together! If you cannot submit your card in person, please complete the confidential online card (<https://www.pittsfordpres.org/participation-card>) or mail it to the church office.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88939392874?pwd=SDJZzJSd1BncmhkazJhWDI3TUJkUT09>

Meeting ID: 889 3939 2874

Passcode: 991308

Dial in (audio only) 646 876 9923 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 889 3939 2874

Passcode: 991308



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

Members with November Birthdays

Diana Adams
Rita Alger
Gene Athy
Patricia Aydelotte
Jena Boise
Dianne Brown
Jan Buhlmann
John Canham
Virginia Cooper
Ray Feasey
David Francis

Diane Graziano
Marilyn Hediger
Lori Hill
Bo Keller
Ruth Keller
Steve Kleindienst
Olivia Marsh
Katelyn McElveney
Dee Pedersen
Ross Pedersen
Nicholas Polizzi

Jamie Rhinehart
Colleen Robinson
Mary Rootes
Bert Sabia
Allen Schacht
Joanne Stiles
Emma Walbaum
David Woehr
Laura Zimmer

Youth Happenings

The Youth have had two exciting meetings on Zoom the last two Sundays in October!

On October 18 Pastor Jacobson shared some information to help the youth get to know her better. They also discussed the scriptural concept of lament, the Biblical mandate to feed the hungry, and World Food Day. On October 25 they had a costume contest!



The winners were:

Most Creative - Charlotte Keller "Orange M&M"

Silliest - Jackson Price "Old Man"

Scariest - Margot Price "The Devil"

Best Pet - Piper Keller "Hot Dog"

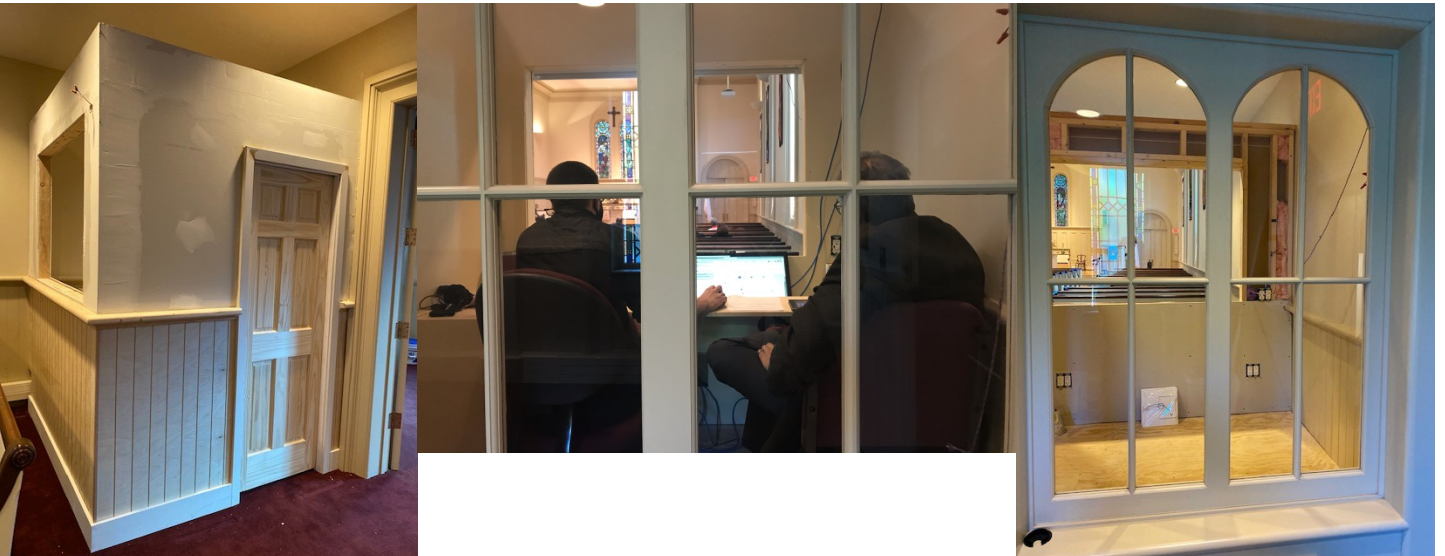
The Youth will continue to have a Zoom meeting option every Sunday evening at 7:30pm on Zoom. On November 8 we will also start meeting IN PERSON at church at 7:30pm. If you are not already on the Youth Group news list, please email Pastor Erin Jacobson at erin.jacobson@pittsfordpres.org



We will continue to have a Zoom meeting option at 7:30pm every Sunday, along with "in-person Youth Group" beginning on November 8 at 7:30pm.

New Livestreaming Booth in Sanctuary

A new livestreaming booth has been built in the back corner of our sanctuary by Bob Klie, Craig Kunkle, Tim Carder, and Bob Collins. The finishes, paint color, and windows will match the existing sanctuary. FPC has also hired Josh Burke as A/V technician who will operate the livestreaming equipment.



Vital Congregations Initiative

Vital Congregations Mark 6: Caring Relationships — Tanya Van Dorn

This Mark seeks to explore and help improve our relationships with other Christians, with our neighbors, and our global community. The idea of caring relationships as a mark of a vital congregation is rooted in the simplest and most significant command in Christianity, “to love the Lord your God and to love your Neighbor as yourself.” It is hoped that investment in caring relationships, by sharing in God’s true *agape*, we will strive to move past committees of a few doing the work of many and strive for all people to find identity, purpose, and belonging in the household of God.

Maybe not so simple.

Perhaps, if we weren’t in the midst of a global pandemic and lockdown, if we weren’t all experiencing some level of distance, loss, frustration, and uncertainty. In a different time, it might feel okay to pose questions to our congregation about ways to better nurture true caring relationships as is the intent of this 6th Mark.

We could engage in robust discussions about what is good and right in caring relationships, or ways to improve Church accountability, or create a better platform to air grievances. Just a few of the many topics suggested in the VCI program. They are important topics and back in February I was really looking forward to digging into these subjects and more with my Lenten group.

But the last 6-8 weeks have changed my perspective. This morning, I want to celebrate the vital network of caring relationships that is our congregation at Pittsford Pres.

I am grateful for the supply pastors, and for Craig, Tyler, Jared, Bruce, and many others who prepare the live Sunday worship stream, and for making the experience authentic to our congregation. Thank you PNC for continuing to give your time and energy as we look forward to welcoming Aaron in the coming weeks. Thank you to the staff, officers, and committee members for ensuring our Church business continues with minimal interruption.

I am uplifted and inspired by the continuous positive outreach by our congregation, like last week’s love-to-go lunch supplies collection that had over 40 cars dropping off food and other needs for Cameron House. Thank you church ladies for the on-going texts, video chats, and outdoor (yes, appropriately distanced) get-togethers. And thank you to the Monday night virtual Lenten group, Karen and Rob, Holly, Kelly, with special guest appearances by Andrea. We were ahead of the times with our Zoom plan. As the reality of the impact of COVID-19 started to sink-in, our Monday night discussions were a blessing and an opportunity to develop new relationships through conversation, prayer, and sharing of our personal joys and concerns.

In his letter to the Galatians, Chapter 6, Paul says “Bear one another’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” Right now, bearing one another’s burdens could not seem more daunting or be more important. Thankfully, the caring relationships that are Pittsford Presbyterian are hard at work providing relief to many with love, compassion and even some well-needed laughter.

Taking additional inspiration from Paul’s letter, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.

Thank you.



Advent Preparation

Dust off your Advent Wreath, spruce up the pine branches. We will be giving out Advent devotionals to accompany your candle lighting the week before Thanksgiving. If you need candles we have some for pickup at the church.



News from the Nursery School

I read this quote once and it resonated with me, therefore I remember it! "Spring has beautiful flowers, Autumn does too, but they come in the form of leaves lighting up the trees." Here at the preschool the children are learning about squirrels, primary colors, recognizing their names, and counting how many days they have been in school. They are also enjoying our paint easels, sensory tables, and fine motor games. Our families got to know each other better at our Fall gathering, our mum fundraiser was a HUGE success; we have set up farmers markets in the classrooms and we are working on our Square One Art Projects. We had a professional photographer here to take photos outside. We celebrated Halloween in our own special way as we will Thanksgiving. We have so much to be thankful for, our wonderful families, our awesome staff, our very supportive church. I wish all of you a wonderful Thanksgiving! May we all give thanks for each other.

Teresa Zatyko, Director Pittsford Nursery School



Children's Advent Calendars

Again this year we are happy to have available Children's Advent Calendars. These calendars lead children through all 24 days of the Advent season. One calendar will be made for each family with children. Others can reserve a copy by contacting Craig in the office. They will start to be available the week before Thanksgiving for pickup or with some delivery options.

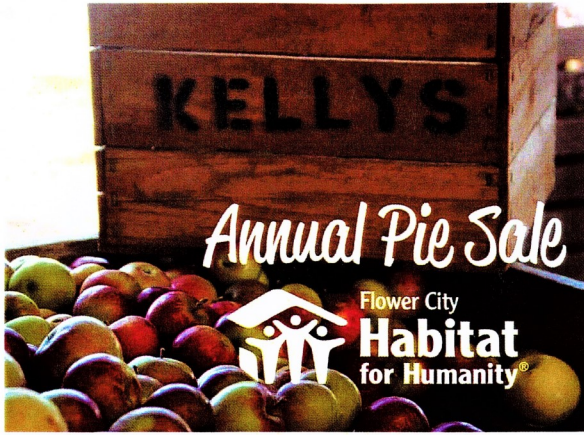
Once again it is PIE TIME for Habitat for Humanity!

Pies for Thanksgiving may be ordered to support our HIP Coalition for Flower City Habitat for Humanity Home future build. Despite Covid-19 we will endeavor to carry out our annual pie sale. Not only will you be helping our building fund but you will be supporting a local business, Kelly's Farm Market in Hilton!

These pies weigh about 4.5 lbs. and freeze nicely if you want to have some on hand for Christmas as well. Orders and/or contributions can be sent to the church with a check (made out to First Presbyterian Church).

All orders must be received by noon on Monday, November 16. Time for pick-up on Tuesday, Nov. 24 at the Locust Street parking lot will be announced later. If you have any questions please call Dianne Brown at 585-490-0015 or the church office.

Thank you all for supporting a great cause in these sad and trying days for many.



HOLIDAY PIE SALE 2020

HOLIDAY PIES FOR HABITAT HOUSES

Homemade pies from Kelly's Farm Market in Hilton, NY

Made from scratch without preservatives

Fruit pies are deep 10 inch pies, weighing about 4.5 lbs

Pies freeze nicely, buy now and serve for the holidays



Order your pies by: _____
 Pick them up on: _____
 at: _____

HABITAT HOLIDAY PIE SALE ORDER FORM

NAME: _____
 PHONE: _____
 EMAIL: _____



| Description | Quantity | Price | Total |
|---------------------|----------|-------|-------|
| Apple Crumb | | \$ 18 | |
| Apple Raspberry | | \$ 18 | |
| Pumpkin | | \$ 18 | |
| Apple Crisp | | \$ 13 | |
| Donation to Habitat | | | |
| Grand Total: | | | \$ |



Make checks payable to: First Presbyterian Church

First Presbyterian Church
of Pittsford
21 Church Street
Pittsford, New York 14534
www.pittsfordpres.org

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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

*It is a fundamental part of our
faith to share Christ's love.*

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| <p>The Rev. Aaron Neff <i>Pastor and Head of Staff</i> Ext. 25 aaron.neff@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>The Rev. Erin Jacobson <i>Temp. Supply Assoc. Pastor</i> Ext. 24 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>Tim Carder <i>Custodian</i> Ext. 33; tim@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> dmh91654@frontiernet.net</p> <p>Joshua Burke <i>AV 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 am in-doors (by reservation) 10:00 am live-streamed Online Communion is offered on the first Sunday of each month.</p> <p>https://www.pittsfordpres.org/live</p> <p> </p> |
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