



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PITTSFORD

THE GOOD NEWS

NOVEMBER 2022

Embracing and Sharing Christ's Love

CHARTING THE COURSE WITH PASTOR AARON

I love reading to my kids for many different reasons, including the fact that I almost always learn something new when reading to them. Children's books today are so educational and interesting. I was recently reading them a book called *Corn is Maize*, written by Aliko Brandenburg. The book is an illustrated children's book that tells the story of the history of corn. Unlike most plants, corn cannot grow wild. If an ear of corn falls to the ground, it will not grow any new healthy corn plants without human intervention. Did you know that? I certainly didn't! So... where did the first corn plant come from?

For a long time the answer to that question was a mystery until scientists found scraps of a plant in a cave in Mexico that were more than 5,000 years old. What they had found was an early "ancestor" of modern corn, whose kernels were each wrapped in their own husk or pod and loosely attached to their stalk. This "pod corn"—over a period of hundreds of years—was cross-pollinated by other grasses so that the ears of the plant began to grow stronger and larger. The indigenous people of the Americas discovered the plant, found that it was good for them, and continued to cultivate and improve it to make it more like the corn we know today.

What does any of this have to do with the church? Well, it's November, and corn is frequently a Fall-time decoration; corn mazes are a favorite activity after harvest time; and creamed corn, corn casserole, and cornbread are traditional menu items at family Thanksgiving dinners. But the connection is greater than that. Think of corn as a metaphor for the church. A lot of churches across America feel like early corn right now. Single kernels barely hanging on. Like corn, I think churches really need to be cross-pollinated in order to grow healthier and stronger. What does that mean literally? Well, cross-pollination happens across different plants, and, likewise, I think churches need to intentionally seek out relationships with different Christians. There are Spanish- and Korean-speaking churches in the Greater Rochester Area. There are historically African American churches in the city. There are churches around us who believe differently, worship differently, and prioritize differently than we do. Maybe one of the best things we can do right now is get to know those churches. It's beautiful to realize that difference can make us stronger.

As you are sitting down to Thanksgiving dinner this year, I encourage you think about corn and how our church can be cross-pollinated so that we can grow healthier and stronger.

~Aaron

All Saints' Day

...will be observed in worship on Sunday, November 6th in person at 8:30am & 10:00am, & live-streamed at 10:00am.

6th

Nov.



Lectionary for November

November 1

All Saints' Day

Daniel 7:1–3, 15–18
Psalm 149
Ephesians 1:11–23
Luke 6:20–31

November 6

22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Haggai 1:15b–2:9
Psalm 145:1–5, 17–21
or Psalm 98
2 Thessalonians 2:1–5,
13–17
Luke 20:27–38

November 13

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 65:17–25
Isaiah 12
2 Thessalonians
3:6–13
Luke 21:5–19

November 20

Christ the King

Jeremiah 23:1–6
Luke 1:68–79
Colossians 1:11–20
Luke 23:33–43

November 27

1st Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 2:1–5
Psalm 122
Romans 13:11–14
Matthew 24:36–44



Generosity/Stewardship Committee

Make a difference in our church family and in those it touches. Pledge cards are coming. They present an opportunity to gratefully acknowledge the blessings God has bestowed upon us and to join with others in stating that we have prayerfully committed ourselves to go forward together sowing our time, talents, and treasure in furtherance of our Christian mission. Giving is a spiritual exercise. Joyful generosity is an essential aspect of the Christian experience. Let's do it together!

The Generosity Committee

Lewis Becker (Chair), Faye Casey, Paul Irving, Steve Mizelle, Pastor Aaron Neff, Rob Rhodes, Bill Rieth



Members with November Birthdays

Diana Adams
 Rita Alger
 Gene Athy
 Patricia Aydelotte
 Jena Boise
 Dianne Brown
 Jan Buhlmann
 John Canham
 Myra Carrier
 Virginia Cooper

Kyle Cunningham
 David Francis
 Will Gianakakis
 Diane Graziano
 David Hartney
 Marilyn Hediger
 Lori Hill
 Bo Keller
 Ruth Keller
 Steve Kleindienst

Sally Lyddon
 Olivia Marsh
 Sharon Martinez
 Katelyn McElveney
 Dee Pedersen
 Ross Pedersen
 Nicholas Polizzi
 Brook Price
 Jackson Price
 Jamie Rhinehart

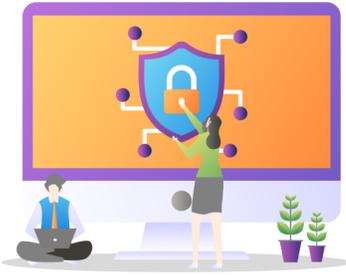
Colleen Robinson
 Mary Rootes
 Bert Sabia
 Allen Schacht
 Joanne Stiles
 Dan Traina
 Emma Walbaum
 David Woehr
 Laura Zimmer

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

If we missed you, please let the office know.



EMAILING SAFELY



Staying Safe Using Email

Phishing is the fraudulent practice of sending emails purporting to be from a reputable person or organization in order to induce individuals to reveal personal information, such as passwords and credit card numbers. At FPC Pittsford, we want to be a place that people can trust to have their best interests at heart, but there are countless imposters who are more than happy to exploit that trust. Occasionally we get reports that members of the Presbytery have received emails soliciting information, monetary donations, or gift cards while impersonating the Presbytery Leader, Susan Orr. This has also happened at several local churches and synagogues across the country.

This is a common scam targeting religious groups throughout the nation, as reported by AARP in 2021, and there's little that we can do to prevent future occurrences, except provide you the tools to be vigilant.

From the above referenced AARP article:

"The deceit unfolds like this:

1. The bad actors hijack the identity of a religious leader or, say, an administrative staffer at a house of worship.
2. They text or email congregants with a sob story: A cancer patient is hurting for cash. A man was tossed out of work. A family's home has flooded after the pipes burst.
3. There's always an excuse as to why the religious leaders can't help at that moment. That they are unavailable is often the rationale for seeking outside help.
4. If, as instructed, the victim of the scam buys gift cards, the cards' serial numbers and PINs are handed over to the impostor through a call or digital photo.
5. The criminals disappear, leaving their victims reeling.

AARP's Amy Nofziger, who oversees its free, toll-free Fraud Watch Network Helpline (877-908-3360), says there's been an uptick in clergy scams during the pandemic as millions of people worship remotely. "We see and hear these horrible stories about people not having food on their table or seeing loved ones sick," she adds, "and our love for our community and church compels us to help." Nofziger says complaints about clergy scams used to trickle in to the Helpline once or twice monthly; since the global health crisis, there have been five or six reports weekly."

Remember; we will NEVER ask you for money in an email and definitely never ask you to send gift cards electronically. All church staff emails end with @pittsfordpres.org. If you have questions or want to learn more, please reach out to Pastor Jacobson.

Good News Jail & Prison Ministry's Annual Prayer Breakfast

The Outreach Committee extends the invitation to the Good News Jail & Prison Ministry's annual Prayer Breakfast to the members of First Presbyterian. This inspirational event takes place on, Saturday, November 5, at 8:30 am. The program takes place at Faith Baptist Church, 1095 E. Henrietta Road, Rochester 14623. Those attending the event in the past have truly been impressed by the testimonials of the Jail Ministry's successful program participants as they follow a new path in life with God by their side. Cost: *Free will donations*. To attend, a signup sheet will be available in Fellowship Hall following the October Sunday services or contact the church office at 586-5688. Reservations are requested by the morning of Wednesday, November 2. This is a great opportunity for members to support one of the many Outreach programs at church.



Anthony Circle

Anthony Circle will meet November 19 to set tables, and prepare strata and potatoes casseroles for the Advent Preparation Brunch from 10 am-2 pm.

On November 20 we will reheat and serve the brunch along with our youth.

Eve Circle

Eve Circle will meet Monday, November 28, at 12:30 pm in Room 200 to discuss Chapter 6, "Bathsheba" in *What My Grandmothers Taught Me*.



News from the Nursery School

For me, November means family for everyone. It's a time to spend with loved ones and enjoy each other's company. We try to convey this to the children. In fact we are a family, a nursery school family, looking out for each other. Our children have learned simple routines, recognize expectations and overall feel secure and safe and of course having fun 😊 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 Family Festival, thank you so much to our Special Events and Fundraising Committees! Our Fall Plants 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 of our beautiful faces. We visited the Pittsford Fire House where we learned how to stay safe and we had a wonderful visit to Chase Pumpkin Farm. We celebrated Halloween in our own special way as we will Thanksgiving. We have so much to be thankful for, our wonderful, loving 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





Finding God in Everyday Life Presbytery-Wide Youth Retreat

Saturday, November 12, 2022
10:00 am- 4:00 pm

Hopkins Lodge - Mendon Ponds
Hopkins Pt. Lodge, Pond View Road
Henrietta, NY 14467

God isn't just found in a church. God is everywhere: in nature, in the people we meet, in things we read or listen to. God is even in you!

Even though we believe God is all around us, it can still be hard to actually see, hear, or talk to God when we want to. During this retreat, we'll practice using our senses to experience God, create our own sacred spaces in which to connect with God, and learn new and simple ways to talk with God. There will be plenty of time for fun, too!

This retreat is designed for youth in grades 6-12, and lunch is provided. The cost is \$20 with scholarships available. Please contact Pastor Jacobson to sign up!

Youth Events for 7th – 12th Grades



Save the DATES!



Nov. 20 – Service opportunity Serving at the Advent Brunch

Dec. 3 – 9:30 Service opportunity at Pittsford Food Cupboard

Dec. 10-11 – Christmas Caroling and Youth Lock-In

Feb. 5 – YOUTH SUNDAY

Feb. 19 – 25 MISSION TRIP (more details to come!)

Bible and Book Study Sundays after Worship

On November 6 and 13, after worship we will continue to discuss the book *Freeing Congregational Mission: A Practical Vision for Companionship, Cultural Humility, and Co-Development* upstairs in room 201.

Then on November 19, the book's authors B. Hunter Farrell and S. Balajiedlang Khylllep will be in room 201 to help us put into context what this vision of companionship means in our lives and our church. This educational day will have two lectures, one at 9 am and one at 10:30 am.

Christian Education

Adult Education Opportunities

Sunday Morning Bible Study
10:00 am hybrid

Monday Night Bible Study
7 pm Zoom

Tuesday Highlands Bible Study
1 pm Highlands Music Room

Wednesday Bible Study
7 pm hybrid

Thursday Women's Bible Study
Noon FPC Library

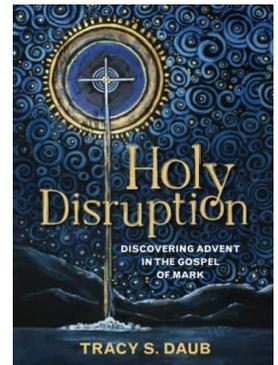


Advent Season Activities

This Advent, join our own Dr. Lucien Rouse and organist Dr. Bruce Frank who will lead us on a four-week adventure listening to and unpacking the deep connection Handel's *Messiah* has to the Bible. Starting November 27 and continuing until December 18 after worship at 11:45 am in the Sanctuary we will listen to and learn about this Holiday favorite.

The Advent Preparation Brunch will be held on November 20 in Fellowship Hall. You are invited to come join your church family and friends for a meal and create a new Christmas ornament for the tree.

This year's Adult Advent Devotional titled *Holy Disruption: Discovering Advent in the Gospel of Mark* will be available on November 20. Read along in this book every week as the Advent worship themes and sermons will relate to the readings. Join one of the several Bible study groups that will be talking about the topics covered. Books are \$10.



This Advent's Children Devotional will be a book that will also be available on November 20.

Coming up in Sunday School:

November 6

Intergenerational Worship: kids and adults worship together

November 13

Jonah
K-2: Movie
3-5: Computers



November 20

What shall I give
K-2: Clay
3-5: Decorate Cookies



November 27

Kids and Adults worship together

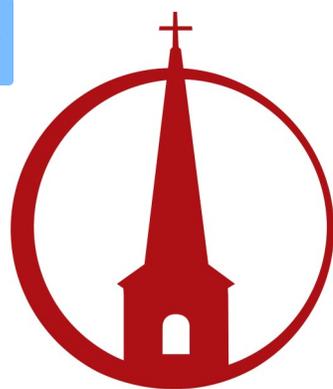
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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

*Think about how our church
can be cross-pollinated so
that we can grow healthier
and stronger.*

Rev. 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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