

The Good News

November 2019

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

A WEE WORD FROM DR. WEENINK

As I pen this last Wee Word from Dr. Weenink as your Interim Pastor, I can't help but think of the amount of words I have spoken or written in this capacity over the past two years. It has been such a richly rewarding, fulfilling, meaningful, and productive time for me. My prayer is that something positive has happened for you. If I were to choose one word to sum up my experience with you, the one that shoots to the surface is GRATITUDE. I am so grateful for this very short season in ministry. Yes, we had limits on what we could accomplish, but we made the best of the finite time and resources within our reach.

In our own frenetic lives, amidst the deluge of deadlines, debt, drama, and daily duties, at times we overlook the boundless dimensions of God's good gifts. It is easy for us to put blinders on our hearts and overlook a healthy attitude of gratitude.

Gratitude is a worldview, a way of looking at and living life. Rabbi Harold Kushner is a remarkable soul and an insightful theologian. In commenting on the beautiful phrase from the Twenty-Third Psalm, "My cup runneth over," he says: "Gratitude is more than remembering to mumble 'thank you.' It's more than a ritual of politeness. Gratitude is a way of looking at the world that does not change the facts of your life but has the power to make your life more enjoyable."

The literary great C. S. Lewis, as he explored his newfound faith, observed the Bible's, particularly the Psalter's, insistence that we praise and thank God. He also observed the connection between gratitude and personal well-being. He noted that the healthiest people he knew were the grateful ones, the ones always thanking. Said C. S. Lewis, "I noticed how the humblest and at the same time most balanced minds praised most, while cranks, misfits, and malcontents praised the least. Praise almost seems to be inner health made audible."¹

Rabbi Kushner captured this so movingly when he reflected: "Each night as I prepare for bed I put drops in my eyes to fend off the threat of glaucoma that would rob me of my sight and take from me the pleasure of reading. Each morning at breakfast, I take a pill to control my blood pressure, and each evening at dinner I take another to control my cholesterol level. But instead of lamenting the ailments that come with growing older, instead of wishing I was as young and as fit as I once was, I take my medicine with a prayer of thanks that modern science has found ways to help me cope with those ailments. I think of all my ancestors who didn't live long enough to develop the complications of old age and did not have pills to take when they did."²

Beyond recognizing the gift and its source, gratitude finds completion through a faithful response. In other words, Gratitude, if it is genuine, needs to be translated into action. This is really an outline for the stewardship of life, which is God's most precious gift. An authentic anatomy of thanks is not rooted in image and appearance, but heart; not what we have, but **how** and **for what** we use what we have. I pray that you will bear that in mind in your 2020 VISION.

Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude, and our expression of it, is not as complicated as we are inclined to

make it. It simply involves recognizing the gift, acknowledging its source, and making a response with both a maturity of spirit and material endeavor.

A poet wrote,

Thank God for dirty dishes;
They have a tale to tell.
While other folks go hungry,
We're eating pretty well.
With home, and health, and happiness,
We shouldn't want to fuss;
For by this stack of evidence,
God's been very good to us.

I pray that you can look deep into the recesses of your soul, not only to recognize, but radiate and reflect—an attitude of gratitude.

From the very depth of my being. From the bottom of my heart. Let me please simply say: Thank you!

Affectionately,

~ Jeffrey

1 C. S. Lewis, *Reflections on the Psalms*

2 Harold Kushner, *The Lord Is My Shepherd*, p. 154

Let me also hasten to say how grateful I am and how excited I am about Rev. Carol Anne Strawbridge and Rev. Jim Widboom serving with you. They bring a wealth of experience, insight, and ability. By disposition and wit, intellect and aptitude, capability and grace, their gifts for ministry will enrich you. You have learned a little about them. Read more as they offer a self-introduction.

Rev. James Carl Widboom...

Grew up on a farm in small town SW Minnesota. College and seminary in Chicago. Masters of Sacred Theology from Yale. My wife Jan grew up in Youngstown OH. We met in college. Two sons, Nils and Paul. Nils and family live in Larchmont, NY, Paul and family live in Hanover, NH. Served churches on LI, CT, and Rochester. Seventeen years at Rochester Psychiatric Center, head of department of pastoral care. Jan and I love to travel. Our most recent adventure was a river cruise on the Rhône River in France. We like to eat in nice restaurants. Jan loves to entertain. I enjoy gardening/farming, reading, and friendships. I was flattered to be asked to help at Pittsford Presbyterian. I wasn't looking for work. I enjoy retirement, but perhaps I can be of some help to the congregation during this transition. Also, I love music and have been a member of the Eastman Rochester Chorus since the early 1990s.

Rev. Carol Anne Strawbridge...

grew up in Durham, NC. After graduating from Mary Baldwin College with a BA in psychology, I married my high school sweetheart, Bob. Kodak, Bob's career, brought us to Rochester in 1978. Our two daughters, Robin and Erica, graduated from Brighton High School. In 1990, I graduated from Corlgate Rochester Divinity School, followed by ordination. I served as Associate Pastor of Gates Presbyterian Church with an emphasis on youth ministry, Christian Education, and mission outreach. Sadly, Bob died in 1998. I retired from Gates in 2014. Retirement has been filled with interesting travel, joyful lay with her two preschool grandchildren, and intriguing opportunities with Genesee Valley Presbytery. Currently I serve on the board of ROCSalt, Committee on Ministry, and the Advisory Board of the Rochester Jamaica Organization. Daughter Robin Muller and her family live in Hong Kong, daughter Erica Trotto and her family live in Pittsford and are FPC members.

Thoughts on Generosity

Like Bartimaeus (Mark 10:46), perhaps you're blind to the way our church budgets for the upcoming year. This article will open your eyes to the process we use to set our annual financial course.

We depend on giving to sustain our operations. As we mentioned in the October *Good News*, our expenses are now exceeding our income. How'd that happen? Expenses have remained relatively fixed year to year. However, our giving has declined \$100,000 or an average of 5% per year over the past three years. Much of this decline is due to member demographics through the loss of faithful members to death and relocation.

Our church strongly supports mission and worship. Much of the paid staff's time is tied to those two aspects of our Mission Statement: We are a caring community, growing spiritually as disciples of Jesus Christ. Together we spread the good news of Jesus through worship, fellowship, education, prayer, and especially mission.

As the 2019 narrative budget shows, we spend 30% of our budget on Mission, 25% on Worship, 22% on Education, and 23% on Fellowship. Worship outlays include worship leadership, music, and special services (weddings, funerals, youth service). These combine to provide a meaningful and spiritually uplifting experience.





Education includes Sunday school, LOGOS, Bible studies, adult enrichment, and small groups. We support opportunities for all ages and formal, as well as informal education. For Fellowship, we support youth activities, pastoral visits, the fellowship hour (think donut holes & coffee), meeting and greeting our neighbors, member assistance, and prayer support. These activities all create a warm and welcoming environment.

Our Mission Statement puts an emphasis on Mission for a good reason. The Outreach Committee takes 10% of annual church contributions (Benevolence) and allocates it to local, regional, and international organizations. In 2019 this amounted to \$61,000. In addition to that, indirect mission contributions total over \$110,000. Indirect mission contributions are the amounts given for Special Offerings, Fund Raising (e.g., Habitat for Humanity, Presbyterian Women Penny Pincher proceeds), participant contributions for mission trips, disaster relief, and JASY trips, as well as annual distributions from Endowment Funds designated for Mission by donors. Our total Mission contribution of \$170,000 represents 20% of all funds received by the church.

For a relatively small active congregation, our donations of time, talent, and money have made wonderful impacts all over. Please consider your 2020 pledge carefully and know that your involvement has a worldwide impact.

The Generosity Team

2019 Narrative Budget

	Mission	\$236	30%
	Worship	\$197	25%
	Education	\$173	22%
	Fellowship	\$181	23%
	Total	\$786	100%

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 3 21st Sunday after Pen- tecost Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4 Psalm 119:137-144 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12 Luke 19:1-10	November 10 22nd Sunday after Pen- tecost 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 17 23rd Sunday after Pen- tecost Isaiah 65:17-25 Isaiah 12 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 Luke 21:5-19	November 24 Christ the King Jeremiah 23:1-6 Luke 1:68-79 Colossians 1:11-20 Luke 23:33-43
--	--	---	--	--

Year-End Giving

We are grateful for the financial support from the congregation and know that many folks plan to make contributions at year end. Fulfilling your 2019 Stewardship commitment, if able, or making that planned contribution is particularly important this year. Here are a couple of **TAX TIPS** that may be of value in deciding how to make your contributions:

Donating appreciated stock from a **TAXABLE ACCOUNT** will avoid capital gains tax. Please contact Maria in the office (Tuesdays through Thursdays, 586-5688) on the process and to ensure she is aware of your intent (brokers may not provide adequate donor information). Stock donations should be made by **December 1**, to ensure timely receipt and posting to your 2019 member account.

For those over 70 ½, choosing to contribute a portion of your **REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTION** from a **RETIREMENT/IRA ACCOUNT** excludes that charitable contribution from taxable income. Under your instruction, the account custodian simply sends a check directly to the church (not to you). Although you do not receive a charitable deduction on your tax return, this deduction may not be as beneficial with last year's tax law change.

Consult your tax advisor if you are considering tax advantaged charitable contributions, and refer any questions to Maria. Rest assured we are grateful for your contribution in all cases.

Cooking Club - Sunday, November 3, at 5pm in Fellowship Hall - We will be preparing and enjoying a GERMAN-themed meal. Cost is \$7. Sign up in Fellowship Hall or contact Dan Traina at 208-6839.

Anthony Circle will meet on Saturday, November 23, 9:30-11 am, for kitchen prep for the Advent Brunch and also on Sunday, November 24, 9 am-noon for the brunch itself.

Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) Update

Currently, our Ministry Information Form (MIF) has been viewed 589 times. There are currently 627 positions posted in the Church Leadership Connection (CLC) out of Louisville--- 36 of the 627 are positions available for those seeking Head of Staff(who supervise one teaching elder and other staff) from our MIF. There are 954 PIF's seeking a Head of Staff position, of those 954 seekers in the CLC 222 Personal Information Forms (PIF's) prefer NY.

Since, the PNC had it's first meeting in early October of 2018, we developed the MIF, then we had to have our MIF approved by Session and the Committee on Ministry in December of 2018, then we had to enter our MIF information into the CLC system in Louisville, then we received our first batch of potential candidates in January of 2019. Since then the PNC has been meeting weekly and sometimes more frequently to review the 9 batches of PIF's which equates to approximately 175 PIF's, had numerous first phone interviews, Skype second interviews, listened to sermons and have called references of potential candidates.

The four potential candidates that we told you about in August that either they decided not to move forward with us or PNC did not feel they were the right fit for Head of Staff for Pittsford, Carrie's departure and the Session's adoption of the Vital Congregation Initiative, that was launched in early September, gave the PNC an opportunity to revisit existing PIF's under a new light and request additional PIF's to review from the CLC.

As we shared with the Congregation at both Services on October 6th that we will be having two potential candidates visit Pittsford later in October.

We ask that you please keep us in your prayers as we continue to go through this process of listening for what God and the Holy Spirit are guiding us to do for First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford.

Can Ya Kenya?

A mission group is heading to Kenya again this year and we want you to join us! There are plenty of jobs for all skills and abilities at the Rehema for Kids orphanage (formerly known as In Step):

- help with the babies and toddlers—how are your cuddling skills?
- teachers' aids to help in the classrooms and anyone who can teach a STEM class to the older kids
- we are donating the finances to build a covered picnic pavilion where the older children can eat—helping or supervising the building by local workers is another opportunity
- two dentists are making a return trip and they need assistants to escort the children, hand them equipment etc. (on the job training will be provided!)
- we also have a pediatrician going and she would love to have an assistant with a nursing, medical technician or health background to help her.

The trip is from December 27 to January 11, which includes an optional safari at the end. The total cost is around \$1,800 for airfares etc. and some need-based scholarships are available. The church covers all the on-the-ground expenses while at Rehema. If you are interested or want more information, please call Dan Harrison (716-491-8724) or Dan Traina (585-208-6839)



Cameron Community Ministries

The time has come! Cameron Community's Teen Center is open thanks to a true collaboration of staff, volunteers, donors, and especially the youth.

See Cameron ministries.org or Cindy Becker for information on how you can help the Center, kitchen or clothing house. This is the place - now is the time.

Members with November Birthdays

Diana Adams	Ruth Keller
Rita Alger	Steve Kleindienst
Gene Athy	Olivia Marsh
Patricia Aydelotte	Katelyn McElveney
Jena Boise	Dee Pedersen
Dianne Brown	Ross Pedersen
Jan Buhlmann	Nicholas Polizzi
John Canham	Jamie Rhinehart
Virginia Cooper	Colleen Robinson
Ray Feasey	Mary Rootes
David Oliver Francis	Bert Sabia
Diane Graziano	Joanne Stiles
Marilyn Hediger	Emma Walbaum
Lori Hill	David Woehr
Bo Keller	Laura Zimmer

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

(if we missed you—please let the office know)



News from the Nursery School

What a beautiful season we are fully embracing 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, fundraising T Shirts were distributed; we have set up farmers markets in the classrooms and we are working on our Square One Art Projects. We sold many beautiful mums for our parent's front steps and yards. We will have a professional photographer here to take photos. The YK class will have parent teacher conferences. In the month of November, we collect food for the Pittsford Food Cupboard. At the end of the month, just before our Thanksgiving Break, we have a feast! Yes, we are busy, but we have much to be thankful for. I wish all of you a wonderful Thanksgiving! Thank you for your continued support!

Teresa Zatyko

Stump the Pastor

An opportunity for you and your children to interface with Rev. Jeffrey Weenink. On October 20, after church, Pastor Jeffrey will be doing a Stump the Pastor event for families. Kids and adults will be able to enter a 3 x 5 card with their religious question and see if he can answer it on the fly. Join us upstairs in the chapel. Light Refreshments available but stop in Fellowship Hall.

Christian Education

Upcoming Events

Men's Prayer Breakfast	11/3 7:00 am
Anthony Circle	11/23 9:30 am
Eve Circle	10/28 12:30 pm
Naomi Circle	11/28 12:30 pm
Needle Nellies	11/26 11 am
Not so Basic Bible Study	Mondays 7:30 pm
Prayer Support Group	Mondays 11:00 am
Bible Study	Weds. 7:15 pm
Men's Ecumenical Group	Thursdays 7:15 am
Adult Study	Sundays 9:45 am

Advent Brunch

This year the Advent brunch will be held on November 24, right after the second worship service. There will be delicious treats, craft activities for kids and adults, and many laughs with your First Presbyterian Family.



Children's Advent Calendars

This year we are again 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 Sunday before Thanksgiving and during the Advent Brunch.



Youth Happenings

Halloween is over and its time to prep the turkey! Join us during this month of November for many different Fall and Thanksgiving activities! Turkeys shall be abundant and apples will be had. Maybe even some fun in the leaves outside! Join us and come and see!

Upcoming LOGOS events:

Nov 6	Lighten up the Mood!
Nov 13	Stars and Stripes
Nov 20	Just be
Nov 24	CHOIRS SING IN WORSHIP
Nov 27	Let's go camping

November 3	Soup Sale	Fellowship Hall, after Church
November 3, 17	Bob Ross Sunshine Club	Church, 7-8:30 pm
November 6, 13, 27	LOGOS	Church, 4-7 pm
November 9	Fall Festivities!	Church/Village, 4-8 pm
November 10, 17	Sunday School	Church, 10-11 am
November 23	Monthly Movies	Church, 6-8:30 pm

It's that time of the year again! Cold is coming, and how better to fight off the coming winter and frost than with some delicious, hot, hard-worked soup! Each bowl is made passionately by our loving youth and their families. Varieties of chicken noodle, taco, broccoli cheddar and other soups are yours to enjoy! November 3, after both services in the Fellowship Hall! Will also be available later in the week based on what is left!



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

Non-Profit Org.
PRST STD
US Postage
PAID
Pittsford, NY
Permit No. 6

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

*Gratitude is a worldview, a way of
looking at and living life.*

<p>The Rev. Dr. Jeffrey D. Weenink Interim Pastor Ext. 25 jeffrey.weenink@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>The Rev. Jim Widboom Temporary Supply Pastor Ext. 42; Thursday, Friday, Sunday JCW@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>The Rev. Carol Anne Strawbridge Temporary Supply Pastor Ext. 41; Monday CAS@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>Tim Carder Custodian Ext. 33</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 Service: 8:30 & 10:00 am Communion is offered on the first Sunday of each month.</p>
		