



# The Good News

October 2019

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

## A WEE WORD FROM DR. WEENINK

Two years ago I arrived in Pittsford. My heart was filled with delight, elation, gratitude, and some healthy trepidation anticipating serving alongside you in this time of transition. Now, nearly 100 Sunday mornings have come and gone. Over the course of these delightful days spent with you I've experienced some powerfully warm feelings. For me it has been an exceedingly happy, meaningful, fruitful, fun, and fulfilling time.

Walking with God is a wonderful adventure, one which is full of serendipities, surprises, and good gifts. From day one, we have understood that our covenant relationship with each other is as your Interim Pastor. By definition, that means a limited time frame. It has been within the limits of that time frame that we have been busy with all aspects of our Lord's work, witness, mission, and ministry. In addition, we intentionally looked at our rich heritage, our current context, ways we do ministry, and our connections to the larger church. We have also imagined the future and committed to new directions in ministry. We have been faithful to long-established routines and have been open to new adventures that have opened new doors along the way. We have logged-on multiple hours in meetings. There have been dreams dreamt, and a path into the future envisioned. Always, we've sought to find the 'yes' amidst the cacophony of 'nos'. We've done our best to pool our ignorance with creativity, imagination, love, and a healthy dose of humor, which has led to higher intelligence. Today I see a faith community well equipped to enter into the future God has in mind...

The limits of our time together are upon us. My service here will conclude at the end of October. My service to another congregation will convene November 1. This is not a decision we have entered into lightly or unadvisedly. I am very proud of the accomplishments, initiatives, and successes we have shared together. Officers were appraised of this time frame in mid-August in order that a smooth, seamless transition could be explored. There never seems to be perfect timing for things such as these, but I assure you that I will finish strong with careful attentiveness to details related to our separation and transition into the next season of God's work and witness here. Those efforts to-date have paid off and the congregation will benefit from the wisdom, maturity, and experience of the Rev. Jim Widboom and the Rev. Carol Anne Strawbridge. We will all work together through the month of October. They will carry-on through the next phase.

As I gather up recollections from the storehouse of reminiscence, I confess, I get a little weepy. I count myself so extremely fortunate to have had the privilege to labor alongside you in this vineyard. I have truly treasured the time spent serving this congregation through the good, the bad, the in-between; the success and failure; the joy and sorrow; the pain and the pleasure experienced in these all-to-short seasons of God's mercy. I love everyone here so very much. I humbly pray that you will forgive any oversight, omission, or any way that I have let you down. I also pray, that out of any failures along the way will be fashioned some great good for tomorrow.

Jeanne, the girls and I thank you, from the very depths of our being, for the warmth, welcome, grace, kindnesses, and acceptance you have so generously given during the time I have been in fellowship with you. You all have become a tremendously important part of our lives. We are exceptionally fond of all the folks here at First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford. While the many new and cherished

friendships we have made in such a short time will continue, once I leave, our pastoral relationship will cease and my future involvement in the life and care of the congregation will be limited in accordance with our Book of Order and presbytery policies. Thank you for the privilege of serving in your midst. We have accomplished many good things together. You have a great ministry, mission, facility, and staff. I pray that you will treasure it and them as much as I have.

Jesus has shown us that life is a long series of transitions. The Gospels suggest emphatically that life in one sense is composed of transitions, and that spiritual maturity involves some measure of “going on” instead of “settling in.” We cannot “arrive” somewhere without leaving where we are! There must be some good-byes; there must be transitions to make way for future growth. Farewells freight some sadness. But farewells carry a positive note, and this can be what makes any parting far more sweet than laden with sorrow. As painful as this process of goodbye is for me, I remain committed to finding ways, which will keep life moving and growing without getting bogged down in the past. Remember that the meaning of the word “Goodbye” is a shortened form of the phrase, “God be with you.” Perhaps the best gift we give to each other, whether we go or whether we stay, is the ongoing connectedness we find in Jesus Christ. I will forever cherish the days we have shared together with warmth and gratitude in my heart. Thank you! I will hold you in prayer and humbly hope you will do the same for my family and me. I look to the present and future ministries of First Presbyterian of Pittsford with confidence and hope as it rests in the grace, mercy, peace, and strength of God.

God is good. God is with us. That is enough. All will be well.

God-be-with-you !

In faith, affection, and love,

*~ Jeffrey*

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**Rev. James C. Widboom** is a retired Presbyterian pastor residing in Rochester. Jim served as an Associate Pastor at Penfield Presbyterian Church before he became Head of the Department of Pastoral Care for Rochester Psychiatric Center. Recently Jim served as a Temporary Supply Pastor for the Summerville Presbyterian Church, Irondequoit.

**Rev. Carol Anne Strawbridge** has been retired for five years. She served Gates Presbyterian Church for 25 years as Associate Pastor. Carole is a graduate of Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School. Carol Anne’s daughter Erica Trotto and family are members of FPC.

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## Lectionary for October

**October 6**  
**17th Sunday after Pentecost**  
Lamentations 1:1–6  
Lamentations 3:19–26 or  
Psalm 137  
2 Timothy 1:1–14  
Luke 17:5–10

**October 13**  
**18th Sunday after Pentecost**  
Jeremiah 29:1, 4–7  
Psalm 66:1–12  
2 Timothy 2:8–15  
Luke 17:11–19

**October 20**  
**19th Sunday after Pentecost**  
Jeremiah 31:27–34  
Psalm 119:97–104  
2 Timothy 3:14–4:5  
Luke 18:1–8

**October 27**  
**20th Sunday after Pentecost**  
Joel 2:23–32  
Psalm 65  
2 Timothy 4:6–8, 16–18  
Luke 18:9–14

## 2020 VISION

See What God is Doing



## 2020 Vision: See What God is Doing

A headline in the June 18 *Religion News* reads: “Amid broad drop in charitable donations, giving to God was down \$3 billion last year.” According to the latest comprehensive report on Americans’ giving patterns, charitable giving by individual Americans in 2018 suffered its biggest drop since the Great Recession of 2008-09. Giving to religion—perennially one of the biggest sectors—is estimated to have declined by 3.9% in 2018 (adjusted for inflation).

First Presbyterian is not immune from this decline. In 2018 and 2019, we used the maximum percentage allowed from our Endowment Funds to help us cover our Operating Expenses, and yet in 2019 it became necessary to dip into our Restricted Funds to cover the shortage. One doesn’t need to be an accountant to understand this is not sustainable.

This is the time of the year when we must plan for the future. Not just for 2020, but for the years to come. We will be asking you to examine your hearts (and finances) and ask that you be generous with your pledge. We will also be reminding you of the various benefits our Church provides via inserts in the bulletins and short videos shown during services. We sometimes tend to overlook or not recognize all that our Church offers, not only to members, but to those in need.

We have adopted the theme of **2020 Vision** for our campaign, to show that we are looking at the future with open and clear eyes. Yes, we will be encouraging each of you to give more. Concurrently, we will also be taking a hard look at our expenses to determine all avenues that will enable us to save without negatively impacting the services we offer.

As devastating as the fire of 2004 was to First Presbyterian, our building was repaired and our congregation recovered with renewed faith. We are once again in a time of rebuilding and significant change; working together we will continue being a strong asset to both our members and our community.

### Members with October Birthdays

Amanda Adams	Dorothy Meusburger
Jenna Adams	Jane Milholland
Erin Amborski	Dorothy Naylor
Susan Bloch	Megan Nead
Vicki Conary	Susan Patterson
Linda Converse	James Purpura III
Roberta Faloon	Beverly Reeve
Madeline Frank	Robert Smith
Rachel Gartland	Brenna Swetman
Anne Glenning	Henry Thiede
Annelise Henry	Pem Tyler
Emma Hilger	Marjorie Wallace
Sophie Hilger	Betty Willert
Margaret Kilmer	June Wilson
Marjorie MacKenzie	Powell Wright

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

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

### RAIHN

RAIHN’s 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration will take place at ARTISANworks, 565 Blossom Road, on Thursday, October 17, 6 – 10pm. The event will include grazing stations, a dessert table, cash bar, door prizes, wine pull, paddle call, photo exhibit of RAIHN’s history, and drawing for an 8-night Caribbean cruise. We will also be honoring 15-year RAIHN volunteers! Join us as RAIHN celebrates 15 years of helping families achieve sustainable independence by supporting them with tailored services, including shelter, food, personalized case management and a broad network of caring volunteers. Tickets can be purchased on RAIHN’s website at [www.raihn.org](http://www.raihn.org).





## Cameron Community Ministries

We are only a few weeks out from the Ribbon Cutting on Cameron's Teen Center! We hope you have the date saved: September 25 at 4:30pm! For the next few weeks, we will be accepting housewarming gifts including items that we still need to make the Center complete. Contact Cindy Becker for more information (cindyleebecker74@gmail.com)



## Help Needed to Build Our "HIP" Habitat for Humanity House

Come have fun volunteering to build our HIP house! No skills or tools needed!

Our HIP house at 120 Holworthy Street is moving right along and now is sporting a roof. We do need volunteers from First Pres to do our part in the construction. Just three hours of your time, from 9-12 Wednesdays, Thursdays, or Saturdays would be a great help. You can volunteer for mornings or stay all day. Please check the web site [Rochesterhabitat.org](http://Rochesterhabitat.org), scroll down to HIP Build and click on VOLUNTEER to see what dates are available. Construction will continue probably into November and dates to volunteer will be added as needed. Please contact Dianne Brown at [dibrown@rochester.rr.com](mailto:dibrown@rochester.rr.com) for help if needed.



You will be surprised at what fun it is and a real feeling of satisfaction helping a family to have a dream home of their own who otherwise could not attain this goal. Remember no skills or tools are needed! Hope to see you on site soon!

## Penny Pincher Sale Reminder

This year the Presbyterian Women's Penny Pincher Sale is the week of **October 6-11, 2019**

**Table Set-Up:** Sunday, Oct. 6, 11:30am-1:30 pm

**Drop-off Dates:** Monday, Oct. 7, 9:30am-5pm;  
Tuesday, Oct. 8, 9:30am-5pm; Wednesday, Oct. 9,  
9:30am-noon

*Please don't leave anything outside*

**Sale Dates:** Thursday, Oct. 10, 10am-5pm

Friday, Oct. 11: ½ Price Sale 10am-noon

\$2 Bag Sale 12:15-1:30pm

**Load Van & Clean Up:** Friday, Oct. 11, 1:30-4pm

As you clean out, reorganize, or downsize in the next few weeks, please keep us in mind for donations. Our Wish List includes: small working appliances, antiques, collectibles, books, CDs, DVDs, sports equipment, holiday items, dishes, glassware, furniture, jewelry, kitchen and household items, craft supplies, stationery/office items, toys, games and puzzles, tools and garden equipment, electronics and linens.

*All donations must be clean and usable.*

We do **NOT** accept: clothing, large exercise equipment, grills, large appliances, skis, boots and poles.

*These can be donated to the PTSA Sale.*

If you have a large or unusual item you wish to donate, please ask first.

Please mark sizes on sheets and tablecloths with a piece of tape—this really helps.

Please be sure that all electrical items are in working order and that all computers are complete—we only accept flat screens.

We are also in need of brown paper grocery bags (Wegmans, Trader Joe's). Please ask for "paper" at the check-out for the next few weeks and place the paper bags in the box in the Lobby Room any time. Clean plastic bags and shopping bags for use at the sale may be donated with your sale items in October.

We will be in Fellowship Hall after each service for volunteers to sign up starting on September 8. We need all the help we can get and volunteering is a great way to meet those elusive people from the "other" worship service!



## News from the Nursery School

Once again, as always, it happens so fast, Autumn is here! Here at the Preschool we have decorated our school with acorns, apples, pumpkins, and Fall leaves. After a few weeks of school everyone has transitioned into a new and fun routine. The kids are thinking about Halloween and so are we 😊 We are planning a trip to Chase Pumpkin Farm, as well as practicing our safety drills and enjoying afternoon enrichment programs. We will be visiting the Pittsford Fire House and learning about fire safety. Our YK class will have an Open House to show off their accomplishments. As always, please visit us, we love showing off! Thank you for your support!

Teresa Zatyko, Director Pittsford Nursery School

## Brass and Organ Concert

Sunday, October 13, at 3pm

Wilmot Brass Quintet with Bruce Frank

Come join us for a concert featuring the brass faculty from Nazareth College and Bruce Frank in a concert of organ and brass music in the sanctuary on our wonderful Taylor and Boody organ.

## Eve Circle

Eve Circle will meet Monday, September 23, at 12:30pm in room 200 to discuss our plans for the year.

## Yoga

Gentle Yoga continues to meet Thursdays at 10:30am in the chapel. Drop in and join us with your yoga mat and \$10.

Thanks to the **Pittsford Farms Dairy & Bakery** for their contribution of ice cream for the fall picnic that was enjoyed by so many.



Fall is officially here! —The days are starting to cool off and before you know it, night will be here earlier. Join us this month at all of our events, including a Haunted Hayride, Halloween Movie night, and a few other surprises to be had!

October 2, 9, 16, 23	LOGOS	Church, 4-7 pm
October 12	Youth Halloween Prep	Church, 4-8pm
October 13, 27	Bob Ross Sunshine Club	Church, 7-8:30 pm
October 13, 20, 27	Sunday School	Church, 10-11 am
October 19	Haunted Hayride	Defisher, 6:30-9:30 pm
October 26	Youth Cookie Mission	Church, 3-5pm
October 26	Monthly Movies	Church, 6-8:30 pm



Are you and your youth interested in some extra church involvement or service hours? Reach out to us for some of our multitudes of opportunities! We have many different options such as helping out in the nursery, being a Sunday School helper for the younger kids, working with our ARC volunteers, assisting with the AV system, and so much more. We would love your help and be more involved with you! Ask Tyler for details.

New this year, the youth will be offering a Monthly Movie Night at the end of each month. **This month's movie showing is on October 26, from 6-8:30—and it is Halloween themed!** The movies will not only be for youth but also families and younger kids. We hope the families view this as a way to get to know some of our older youth and show the kids what they can look forward to in the future!

# Christian Education



**Christian Education is learning about God together**

## The Gospel of Matthew in Context

"Matthew" a learned theologian, historian, and church leader, realizes that faith in Christ as the present, strong Son of God is just one generation away from extinction. Come hear how Matthew writes a book that makes it into the New Testament.

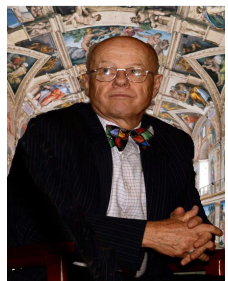
Class #3 -Oct 6 - The Congregation: A "Reluctant Parting"

Class #4 -Oct 13- Matthew's Structure: Good Bones

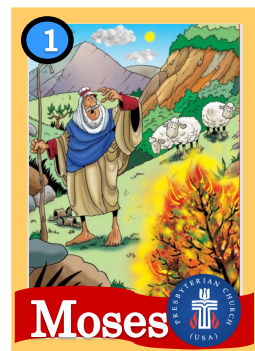
Class #5 -Oct 20- Matthew's Theology: Already and Not Yet

Class #6 -Nov 10- The Rigor and Simplicity of the Jesus Ethic

Class #7 -Nov 17- Putting it Altogether



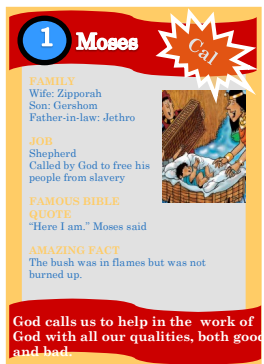
Upcoming Events	
Men's Prayer Breakfast	10/7 7:00 am
Anthony Circle	10/1 RAHN
Eve Circle	9/23 12:30 pm
Needle Nellies	10/29 11 am
Not so Basic Bible Study	Mondays 7:30 pm
Prayer Support Group	Mondays 11:00 am
Bible Study	Weds. 7:15 pm
Men's Ecumenical Group	Thursdays 7:15 am
Adult Study	Sundays 9:45 am



## Bible Trading Cards

Keep your eyes open for the new Biblical Character trading cards.

Kids will periodically get trading cards about the characters and situations they find in Scripture on Sunday mornings. These cards will tell facts about the person and a scriptural quote. Kids suggested that we have bonus cards. How many can you collect?



## Upcoming LOGOS events:

Sept 25	Shining light for the world
Oct 2	<b>Buddy Night</b>
Oct 9	Off Site
Oct 16	Let's go camping
Oct 23	Strike Up the Band
Oct 30	Ghost stories

## Wednesday Night Bible Study


Join us on Wednesday evenings at 7:15 pm in the Library as we go through Matthew chapter by chapter. The class is reading each chapter and discussing as we go along. What are the implications? How do we read it now? What is God really telling us?

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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

*“God is good. God is with us.  
That is enough. All will be well.”*

<p>The Rev. Dr. Jeffrey D. Weenink Interim Pastor Ext. 25 jeffrey.weenink@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 &amp; 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>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><b>First Presbyterian Church</b> 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><b>Worship With Us</b> Please join us for Sunday morning worship.</p> <p><b>Worship Service: 8:30 &amp; 10:00 am</b> Communion is offered on the first Sunday of each month.</p> 
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