



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PITTSFORD

THE GOOD NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2021

Embracing and Sharing Christ's Love

CHARTING THE COURSE WITH PASTOR AARON

The Gospel of Matthew (in 14:13-21 and 15:32-38) tells us about two times Jesus miraculously fed large crowds—the feeding of the 5,000 (men, plus women and children) and the feeding of the 4,000 (men, plus women and children). I think it's really interesting that in both instances, Jesus was motivated to perform the miracle because he had been “moved with compassion.” I am particularly interested by the story of the feeding of the 5,000 in Matt. 14:13-21. Jesus was in the middle of a very exhausting period of ministry. He had just been rejected in his hometown and then learned that his cousin John the Baptist had been killed. He was trying to get a moment away from the busy-ness (presumably so he could grieve and practice some self-care), but the crowds kept pressing in on him. We are told that it was when “he saw a great crowd” that “he had compassion on them” (v. 14). The Greek word used here for “compassion” actually comes from a word that can mean “entrails” or “internal organs.” There's a reason for that. The “compassion” Jesus was feeling probably involved some strong physiological symptoms. He was having a visceral reaction in his body.

Have you ever had that kind of physical reaction? For me, it happens when I look at my kids. Sometimes I'll be watching them and suddenly feel overwhelmed with emotion that brings tears to my eyes, and I'll think, “I would do anything to make sure you're safe and loved.” Sometimes it happens to me when I see a stranger. Usually, when I get that kind of feeling, I'm *looking* at a person. I think that's what draws me to Matt. 14:13-21. Jesus saw the crowd and *then* had compassion on them.

I'm very excited about the small group study that Craig is planning for the Fall, which I will also be using as a focus for my preaching. Part of the study will involve doing a neighborhood analysis which involves observing the people who live around us and trying to imagine what their lives are like. What do they care about? What needs do they have? How can our church best serve them? In Colossians 3:12, the apostle Paul tells us: “clothe yourselves with compassion.” You and I are called to live like Jesus, who lived by showing compassion. We have to try to see the people before we can have compassion on them. I highly encourage you to participate in a small group this Fall and, together, let's grow into our future and live into our calling to show the compassion of Christ.

~ Aaron

New Members Class

There is going to be a new members class this Fall. Following the worship services at 11:30 am on September 19, 26, and October 3, meet with Pastor Aaron to learn more about the church. This class is required for anyone interested in becoming a member of the congregation, but all are welcome to attend. The first class (9/19) will cover distinctive beliefs and characteristics of Presbyterianism. The final two classes (9/26 and 10/3) will cover what our congregation is up to right now. Please reach out to Aaron (aaron.neff@pittsfordpres.org) if you are interested in membership or if you would like to attend these classes.

Young Adult Outreach

College Students – Grad Students – All 20/30 Year-olds: FPC Pittsford wants to stay in touch with YOU!

Please email the following information to erin.jacobson@pittsfordpres.org

Name:

COMPLETE mailing address:

Email address:

Cell phone number:

Thank You!

New Beginnings for Stewardship

Our theme for stewardship this fall is “New Beginnings,” and at First Presbyterian we know all about New Beginnings. In 2004, our sanctuary burned, but we then emerged stronger and more unified after reconstruction. Starting in 2017, our pastoral staff left, but we are now renewed and refreshed with great new leadership and exciting plans for the future. COVID came in 2020 and closed our building, but not our hearts, as we learned new ways to be a congregation and expanded our programs with livestream and Zoom. We emerge now from the pandemic and see that the future of our church is bright. Nor should we be surprised by this, as “New Beginnings” are gifts from God and foundational to our Christian life. As individuals, Paul tells us, “...if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!” (2 Cor 5:17). The prophet Ezekiel proclaims a message from God, “A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you.” (Ez 36:26) The Generosity Team challenges you to plan for these “New Beginnings” and for the bright future that is now upon us. This fall we will present a new “narrative budget” so you can easily understand where the money goes. We will focus on all that is accomplished by this congregation in the areas of worship, education, fellowship, and mission. We will ask you to prayerfully consider your generosity.



Sunday, September 12, 2021



**We are going back to two services:
8:30 am and 10 am!**

You are Invited to

The All Church Picnic

On the front lawn immediately following the 10 am Service!

FaithShare: An Effort of Our Vital Congregations Initiative Team

My Faith Journey — Debbie Gaudion

My Faith Journey is far from complete (although, at my age, it probably should be!!!!)

I have never known anything else in my personal life but the Presbyterian Church. I started as a toddler at Bethany Presbyterian in Greece, NY, then transferred to Third Presbyterian in downtown Rochester for most of my childhood, teenage, and young adult years where I was active in the choirs and youth groups.

Don and I were married in the chapel at Third Pres in 1983 and worshipped there for a few years, but once our girls came along, we decided to move to First Presbyterian in Pittsford, closer to where we lived and still live today. We also encouraged my mother to join the church with us, since my dad had passed away. It was a wonderful decision for her as she lived in the village and could walk to church most late spring, summer, and early fall Sundays.

Over the years at First Pres, Don and I have been relatively active and engaged in various committees and activities. Prior to the COVID shutdown, my two daughters were active as well, one as a trustee and the other in the backpack program for the city elementary school program.

All this is well and good as a backdrop for my Faith Journey, but it really does not address the fundamental tenet of true FAITH: BELIEVING with my whole heart in God and ACCEPTING Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior.

I can tell you honestly that I am "there" most days, but sometimes I falter out of disbelief that such GLORY and GRACE actually exist and will be waiting for me when I die; hence my work continues to let myself go completely into the Hands of God's LOVE for all of mankind.

Before my cherished mom passed away in 2019, I spent many days sitting and talking with her. She was a great lover of nature. Her gardens were beautiful and she spent hours tenderly caring for them. Her love of birds and animals knew no bounds. She always pointed me to God's existence through the myriad of examples in our natural world, and she would tell me that life is exceedingly precious....that great care and love must be given to it since it is a gift from God. She would say that in nature God shows us that life changes but does not end in death..... just as summer fades into fall and winter, spring and summer come again... they always do.

My dad, as well, found his faith in nature. There were many walks I took with him along the shores of eastern Long Island when I was a teenager. He marveled at the power and beauty of the ocean. He told me that, just as the depths of the ocean hold their own secrets that we will never come to know, so also are God's mysteries kept from us until our time has passed on earth.

Rebirth is God's message to us through the death and resurrection of Christ, most certainly, but God also communicates this Good News to us through His Creation of our natural world. When I begin to doubt, I look to the boundless examples of transformation in nature. I think of my mom and my dad.....their words, their love, their faith, and I come back on course in my spiritual journey.

Members with September Birthdays



Patricia Adams
George Adams
Kelby Ash
Alexa Ashworth
Alyssa Ashworth
Carole Bell
James Bouchard
Richard Burton
Elizabeth Bynum
Matthew Campbell
Beth Collins
Drew Diekmann
Emmalie Drake

Grace Fox
Barbara Harper
Dede Holmes
Elizabeth Johnson
Hannah Johnson
Marin Kilmer
Grady McElveney
John Mecredy
Jackson Mooney
Donna Osborne
Rob Rhodes
Kay Saxum
Kenneth Shaffer

AnnMarie Simmons
Bradley Tome
Daniel Wilborn
Claudia Williams
Roger Wilson

Wishing you a birthday full of love and gratitude!

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

Get Ready to Ring! Intergenerational Handbell Choir begins in September

What: Information meeting and Handbell introduction

When: Wednesday, September 8, 6:30-7:15 pm in the music room

Who: Open to youth & adults (grades 5 and up)

No experience necessary. Rehearsals will begin on September 15 at the new Wednesday time frame. Our hope is to offer our choir options on the same evening, so those musical folks can participate in both if they are interested. All are welcome!

The LOGOS Children's Choirs, Wee Kirksingers (grades K-2) and Celebrate Choir (grades 3-6) will continue within our Wednesday LOGOS time frame. Chimes will be explored during the Celebrate Choir time and Handbells are now being offered after dinner. This shift offers the bell choir as an option for our 5th & 6th grade youth to participate. By having an intergenerational group we hope to have those more experienced ringers act as mentors to our newcomers.

If you have any questions contact Dede Holmes at dedeholmes1954@gmail.com

Lectionary for September

September 5
15th Sunday after
Pentecost
Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23
Psalm 125
James 2:1-10 (11-13) 14-17
Mark 7:24-37

September 12
16th Sunday after
Pentecost
Proverbs 1:20-33
Psalm 19
James 3:1-12
Mark 8:27-38

September 19
17th Sunday after
Pentecost
Proverbs 31:10-31
Psalm 1
James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a
Mark 9:30-37

September 26
18th Sunday after
Pentecost
Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22
Psalm 124
James 5:13-20
Mark 9:38-50

Kenya Trip

Our church will be leading a mission trip to the In-Step Children's Home near Kitale, Kenya. We depart on Friday, January 7, from Rochester and return Sunday, January 23, 2002. The travel costs are \$1,500. We use the Ted Pollock volunteer model that says, if you pay to get there, we will fundraise for the room and board, work permits, materials, and other costs. There is an optional three-nights safari in Masa Mara that can be added on at an additional cost. Our dental team needs an office manager and an assistant (no experience required). We will also be doing light construction work on the new girls' dorms, teaching classes, running sports camps, and holding babies. All are welcome. For more information contact Dan Traina at 585-208-6839



Eve Circle

We will meet on Monday, September 27, at 12:30 pm in room 200 to discuss Lesson 5 of *God's Promise: I Am with You*.

Needle Nellies

We will meet Tuesday, August 31 from 11 am-1:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Please bring your own lunch and something to drink. It was fun to meet in person at the end of July—nice people, lots of chatter and laughter!!! Kay Saxum 385-9807



News from the Nursery School

Every year at this time I get that feeling excitement, a little nervous, mostly anticipation! We had a wonderful year last year, even with all the new rules. We will continue with some of those rules and I am forever hopeful 😊 The teachers and I are preparing for a rewarding, fun, and meaningful school year. I very much look forward to getting to know our new families and catching up with returning families. September will see meet-and-greets, sales of custom clothing, and a family get-to-know-you-better event. As always, please come visit our classrooms and view the children's art work—you will find it hard not to smile when you see their faces. Thank you for your continued support!

Teresa Zatyko, Director Pittsford Nursery School

Yoga for Wellness

You CAN do yoga! Now there is a class designed for everyone, yes you!

A 25-year experienced yoga certified Geriatric Nurse Practitioner leads a delicate but powerful class that is designed to include everyone, no matter the age or physical ability.

- designed for all levels
- you have the option to use a chair
- gain independence by building balance, strength, and flexibility
- it is a drop-in class, so you don't have to commit to anything long-term

Get your body back today so that you can live a more independent life!

Every Thursday, 10-11 am, in Fellowship Hall. \$10/pp drop in donation. Wear comfortable clothes, bring a mat. For more info call 585-766-8266 or just show up!

Sunday Evening Youth Group Schedule

2021-2022 School Year ~ 1st and 3rd Sundays

(It is noted below when Youth Group is canceled because of holidays & breaks)

6:30pm drop-off @ Locust Street door // 8:00pm pick-up @ Locust Street door

September 19 – *Wonderfully Made; Psalm 139*

October 3 – *Sabbath and Rest*

October 17 – *Trick or Treat: what Youth Should Know about Halloween*

November 7 – *Here I am Lord, Now What?*

November 21 – *Why do we thank God?*

December 5 – *Christmas Party!*

December 19 – *Preparing Our Hearts for Christ*

January 2 – (no Youth Group today)

January 16 – *Meet Martin Luther King, Jr.*

February 6 – *Pets: Our best friends*

February 20 – (*Winter Break, no Youth Group*)

March 6 – *What is Ash Wednesday, anyway?*

March 20 – *Learning Compassion: Why indifference is the enemy.*

April 3 – *Loving Your Enemy... as hard as it sounds.*

April 17 – (*Easter Sunday, no Youth Group*)

May 1 – *Am I praying the "right" way?*

May 15 – *What Digital Story are You Writing?*

June 5 – *Pentecost: Happy Birthday Church!*

June 19 – (***Dads and Grads Sunday***, no Youth Group)

Sunday evening Youth Group Fellowship is for youth in grades 6-12. If you have any questions, please reach out to Rev. Erin Jacobson at erin.jacobson@pittsfordpres.org, call or text at 585.204.2012. This schedule is **not exhaustive** of all Youth Activities for 2021-2022! Keep an eye out for updates about "Junior High only" and "Senior High only" recreation opportunities in the coming months!

Presbytery of Genesee Valley Fall Family Outing

a **HARVEST** of RIGHTEOUSNESS and PEACE

September 25, 2021

at **Stokoe Farms Pumpkin Patch & Harvest Fest**
35+ wholesome family [activities](#)

10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

[Stokoe Farms](#) 656 South Rd, Scottsville, NY 14546

11:30 a.m.
Worship Service

- Peace & Global Witness
- w/ Sara Lisherness & Rosemary Mitchell (PCUSA)

12:15 p.m.
Sandwich Buffet

- Sticky Lips BBQ
- Adults \$5, under 18 FREE
- Registration required

LOGOS

Registration open!

LOGOS will start up again this year on September 15 at 4:15 pm. Everyone is so excited to meet old friends and make new ones!

This year the theme is LOGOS....LIVE!!. Please join us in making this year another amazing LOGOS experience. To register or learn more go to <http://www.pittsfordpres.org/family-registration>

Second Grade Bibles

This year we will be presenting Bibles during worship on September 12 to all 2nd graders. If you know of any 2nd graders who would like a Bible, please let Craig know in the office or by email. craig.kunkle@pittsfordpres.org

First Families in Fellowship

Families with young children

In September, a new fellowship group will be forming for families with young children to gather at the church or out on the town. Children get to play and adults get to know one another. If you would like to participate, let Craig know in the office 585-586-5688; craig.kunkle@pittsfordpres.org.

**JESUS WAS
IN A SMALL GROUP.
I'M JUST SAYIN'...**

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Acts 2:42

The Bible talks a lot about neighbors. Both in the Old and New Testament; even from Jesus we hear the theological concept of neighbor discussed. But we currently live in a society where many of us don't know our physical neighbors, not to mention those who live farther down the street.

You are invited to join with the whole church community as we try to understand who our neighbors are, and how they fit into the church's story.

Starting the first week of October several small groups will start to meet for seven weeks. These groups will discuss who our neighbors are, both physically and spiritually. This guided study will help us with our struggle to connect to those around us. Then, each Sunday the sermon will focus on what each group has studied during the week. Although you do not need to have been in a group to understand the sermon, we hope that your experience will have been enriched by your exploration.

Starting on September 12 and until the first week of October, where and when the groups will be meeting will be posted in Fellowship Hall and summarized in the bulletin. I hope you will choose to join one of these small groups. They will meet in church, in homes, or on Zoom.

Christian Education

Upcoming Events



Men's Prayer Breakfast	no Sept. 10/3 7 am
Naomi Circle Room 200	9/20 12:30 pm
Eve Circle	9/27
Back to Basics Bible study Zoom	Mondays 7:30 pm
Prayer Support Group Zoom	Mondays 11:00 am
Lectionary Study Hybrid	Weds. 7:15 pm
Men's Ecumenical Group Hybrid	Thursdays 7:15 am
Adult Study	Sundays 9:45 am

First Presbyterian Church
of Pittsford
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www.pittsfordpres.org

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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

*We have to try to see
the people before we can
have compassion on
them.*

<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>Steve LaVilla <i>Custodian</i> Ext. 33; steve@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 Services: 8:30 and 10:00 am in-person 10:00 am also livestreamed Communion is offered on the first Sunday of each month.</p> <p> </p>
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