



The Good News

September 2019

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

THE VITAL CONGREGATION INITIATIVE

First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford is a vital congregation. There is a rich reservoir of resources, strengths, and qualities that distinguish FPCP as a vital congregation. There are a host of fortes in our midst of which we can be proud. First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford is a good model for ministry. We are also humbly aware of areas that call for our growth. God is good. Guidance for that growth has come to us.

In 2017, the Presbyterian Church USA launched a revitalization initiative called Vital Congregations. Two Presbyteries successfully piloted and refined that project. Genesee Valley Presbytery is among 14 presbyteries who have chosen to participate in the first wave of the 2020 Vital Congregations Initiative (VCI). Last May, two from our congregation (Cindy Becker and Heze Simmons) went to Atlanta to learn more about it. Last June, the Session voted to participate.

The purpose of the Vital Congregations Initiative is to work alongside leaders of existing congregations continually assessing, discerning, and living into faithful actions that increase vitality through intentional spiritual practices that take them deeper into following Jesus Christ, so that their own lives are changed, congregations are transformed, and the mission of God spread throughout particular communities and the world.

The Vital Congregation Initiative intentionally works to enhance what are known as the seven “marks” of vital congregations. These marks emerge out of what we know as the Great Ends of the Church. The marks are:

- Lifelong Discipleship
- Authentic Evangelism
- Outward Incarnational Focus
- Servant Leadership
- Spirit-Inspired Worship
- Caring Relationships
- Ecclesial Health

Through intentional spiritual practices (prayer, proclamation, and praise) and relational connections during this two-year process, we will seek to assess, identify, and live into transformative actions that increase vitality. We will benefit from learning the ‘best practices’ of other congregations. All is intended to deepen, broaden, widen, heighten our discipleship.

There are two facilitators from Genesee Valley Presbytery (Jim Renfrew and Susan Orr) who have been trained to guide our congregation through the process. On Sunday, September 8, Welcome-Back-Sunday, our worship experiences at 8:30 am and 10:00 am will roll-out, lift-up, and engage us in the journey to an even richer vitality. It is really important for all to make an effort to participate in worship that day and enjoy the spectacular picnic that follows.

Yes, FPCP is a vital congregation. We are a strong church. God is calling us to move from strength to strength. All athletes continue to condition. Artists and performers seek ways to improve. Scholars delve deeper into their subject matter.

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The base-line assumptions are:

- A re-return to God and re-forming of God's people is necessary.
- This is a crucial time of awakening throughout our neighborhoods, nation, and world.
- The Holy Spirit's power is changing, re-forming, and revitalizing the Church.
- It is necessary to rediscover faithful discipleship in a 21st-century context.
- God is calling the Church to transform and transcend cultures and contexts.
- We must move from inward institutions to neighborhood relationships and mission.

The core values are:

- Courage, conviction, and commitment to faithful discipleship
- Prayerful discernment
- Reliance upon Scripture
- Persistence—emboldened/enacted faith
- Honest assessment
- Resilience
- Intentional pursuits of reconciliation
- Hopefulness in change

The Vital Congregation Initiative is Not:

- A universal program instructing churches and assuring vitality and sustainable life
- Another plan that promises an immediate fix
- An attempt for the PC(USA) to tell churches what to do
- An institutional survival guide for membership numbers and buildings
- An encouragement to tweak, yet remain the same
- A return to glory days gone by
- Another "hoop" we have to jump through to call our next Pastor-head of staff.

It is promising, purposeful, well-planned, with some proven results. Step-up and step-into the Vital Congregation Initiative. In a spirit of verve, vivacity, and vigor—I am yours in faith,

~ Jeffrey

Lectionary for September

| September 1 12th Sunday after Pentecost | September 8 13th Sunday after Pentecost | September 15 14th Sunday after Pentecost | September 22 15th Sunday after Pentecost | September 29 16th Sunday after Pentecost |
|---|---|--|--|--|
| Jeremiah 2:4–13 | Jeremiah 18:1–11 | Jeremiah 4:11–12, 22– | Jeremiah 8:18–9:1 | Jeremiah 32:1–3a, 6– |
| Psalms 81:1, 10–16 | Psalms 139:1–6, 13–18 | 28 | Psalms 79:1–9 | 15 |
| Hebrews 13:1–8, 15– | Philemon 1–21 | Psalms 14 | 1 Timothy 2:1–7 | Psalms 91:1–6, 14–16 |
| 16 | Luke 14:25–33 | 1 Timothy 1:12–17 | Luke 16:1–13 | 1 Timothy 6:6–19 |
| Luke 14:1, 7–14 | | Luke 15:1–10 | | Luke 16:19–31 |

“Transforming Lives”!

September 22 is Mission Sunday! Both services will feature speakers from organizations we support and a Mission Fair will be held in Fellowship Hall. See how we currently reach out to over 15 organizations to make a difference!

Visitation Team is Available

A team of four people have been trained for hospital and home visitation. We are helping with continuity of pastoral care.

Janette Henderson: janette.henderson@gmail.com; 585-313-4945

Bowen Keller: bkeller@rochester.rr.com; 585-442-3373

Barb Smith: barbarasmith13@gmail.com; 585-746-0754

Dick Sprenkle: dick.sprenkle@gmail.com; 585-381-8990

But we need your help! Although we call the chaplain's office at the hospitals daily, not every new patient lists their church affiliation—so we've missed a few. Please contact one of us if you know of anyone in the hospital who would like a visit. Don't presume we already know (we don't mind if we are told by multiple people). Please contact Britta in the Church Office if someone is in the hospital or sick at home, but would prefer no visitors. We will make sure that prayers are said for the patient. Encourage your family/friends to list FPC in the church affiliation line on admission. (We do understand that this might not be the patient's highest priority at the time.) Please call us if you know of a member who would like a home visit for any reason. Let's continue to cultivate a culture of praying, visiting, and caring for one another.



Members with September Birthdays

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Patricia Adams | Barbara Harper |
| Rollie Adams | Dede Holmes |
| Kelby Ash | Elizabeth Johnson |
| Alexa Ashworth | Hannah Johnson |
| Alyssa Ashworth | Grady McElveney |
| Carole Bell | John Mecredy |
| James Bouchard | Jackson Mooney |
| Richard Burton | Donna Osborne |
| Elizabeth Bynum | Kay Saxum |
| Beth Collins | Kenneth Shaffer |
| Drew Diekmann | Bradley Tome |
| Emmalie Drake | Daniel Wilborn |
| Grace Fox | Roger Wilson |

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

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

Pastor Nominating Committee Update

Currently, our Ministry Information Form (MIF) has been viewed by 478 people. There are currently 678 positions posted in the Church Leadership Connection (CLC) out of Louisville—129 of the 678 are positions available for those seeking their first call. There are 53 positions vacant in NY and of the 2,039 call seekers in the CLC, 228 Personal Information Forms (PIF's) prefer NY.

Since, the PNC had its 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 this year. Since then the PNC has reviewed approximately 150 PIF's, had numerous phone and Skype interviews, listened to sermons and have called references of potential candidates.

The four potential candidates that we told you about last month, who visited Pittsford and preached in a vacant pulpit in our Presbytery, have either decided that they are no longer being called to Pittsford or the PNC felt they were not the correct candidate for Pittsford.

The PNC is currently in the process of reviewing more PIF's, as well as revisiting past potential candidates and performing more phone and Skype interviews. We are viewing these candidates in a different light due to the recent changes occurring as a result of Carrie's departure and the Session adopting the Vital Congregation Initiative that will be launched this Fall.

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.

Presbyterian Women

This fall PW will have the Penny Pincher sale, which is our largest fundraiser. The monies from this sale of donated household items allow us to support many charitable organizations. One of them is African Girls Can in northern rural Uganda. We support these two young girls, Sharon Akao and Salome Adong, who aspire to be a doctor and an engineer. One year of education including uniforms, books, room and board, plus many extra-curricular activities only costs \$500 per girl. This schooling can break the cycle of poverty and a life without options. Presbyterian Women of FPC has committed to pay for the high school education of these two girls until they graduate.



Pittsford Food Cupboard Announces MOVE

After 20 years at the Old Pickle Factory, the Pittsford Food Cupboard will be relocating to 3800 Monroe Avenue Suite #26. The First day at the new location is Tuesday, September 3. Our new location is 50% larger, directly on bus route #47, accessible and climate controlled. We serve clients in eight zip codes: 14620, 14607, 14445, 14534, 14610, 14618, 14506 & 14472. There are no income requirements and no appointment is needed, just bring ID and one piece of mail less than 30 days old. We are a client choice food pantry with fresh fruits & vegetables, bread and frozen meat, in addition to non-perishable items. Clients may participate every other week. Hours are Tuesday and Friday 9:30am to 1:30pm and the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month 9:30–11:30am. Call 264-9860 for information. We are also looking for volunteers willing to work two 2 hour shifts per month.

HIP! HIP! HOORAY! Come Join the Volunteering to build our HIP Habitat House

Please pick up information you need to start volunteering in Fellowship Hall! We are building on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. You have a choice of volunteering for the morning from 9-12 or a full day from 9-4.

How about a family day on a Saturday with your teenagers! If they need volunteer hours for their school, this will certainly count toward their goal. Construction volunteers must be at least 16 years old. 16 and 17 year-old volunteers must have a parent or guardian's consent. Youth Permission Forms are at the Rochesterhabitat.org/youth site. No building skills are needed to volunteer, as you will be shown what to do within your ability. All tools will be provided at the job site. More information is available at Rochesterhabitat.org. Come join us for a great experience!

RAIHN News

Another successful rotation of RAIHN hosting homeless families at First Presbyterian Church was held in July. We hosted five families, including moms and their young children. Our next rotation will be Sept. 29–October 6.

We have many faithful volunteers who make this program work! However, new volunteers are always needed for all parts of the program, including making meals, hosting in the evening or overnight, and setting up for guests in our Sunday School rooms above Fellowship Hall. Please contact local coordinator, Barbara Smith, at barbarabsmith13@gmail.com or 585-746-0754.

If you are interested in attending an orientation given by the area RAIHN to learn more, here are upcoming times and locations:

· Thursday, October 10, 6:30 pm, Webster United Church of Christ, 570 Klem Rd, Webster
OR Second Level Training

· Monday, September 30, 6:30 pm Eastside Church, 1350 Fairport Rd, Fairport
If you would like to attend, please RSVP at 506-9050 or coordinator@raihn.org

And one more note—SAVE THE DATE!! RAIHN has scheduled its 15th Anniversary Celebration for Thursday, October 17, 6–10pm, at ARTISANworks. This will be a time for celebration as well as a time of fundraising for RAIHN. Plan to attend and celebrate with area supporters of RAIHN!

Optimists Questionnaire

The Optimists Club, heretofore oriented to older members of the congregation, is reorganizing to be more age inclusive and become an adult social group for our wider church community. The group for many years has met once a month, except for July and August, for dinner and an educational or entertaining presentation. We would like to know what would appeal to current and prospective new members and would very much appreciate your input via this questionnaire. Please return to the church office, the welcome table in the lobby, or to the Optimists table in Fellowship Hall after services on September 8 or 15.

What has been or would be the strongest draw for you in deciding whether to attend a meeting?

The sociality _____

The presentation topic _____

A meal out _____

I always come anyway _____

What are the presentation topics that are or would be most interesting to you?

Arts _____

Famous people _____

Local or New York history _____

Book reviews _____

Other history _____

Nature _____

Church related _____

Musical _____

World travel _____

Entertainment _____

Activity such as a movie or concert _____

Other _____

Would/do you have a preference for potluck or catered meals?

Potluck _____

Catered _____

Any suggestions for a different name for the group? _____

Would you prefer luncheon to dinner meetings in January, February, and March? _____

Would it be helpful if transportation were available for evening meetings in the winter, or would you be disinclined to attend evening meetings in winter in any case? _____

If you would like to be added to our E mail list, what is your E mail address? _____

Comments: _____

We are back to two services on
Welcome Back Sunday!



You are Invited to

The All Church Picnic Sunday, September 8, 2019

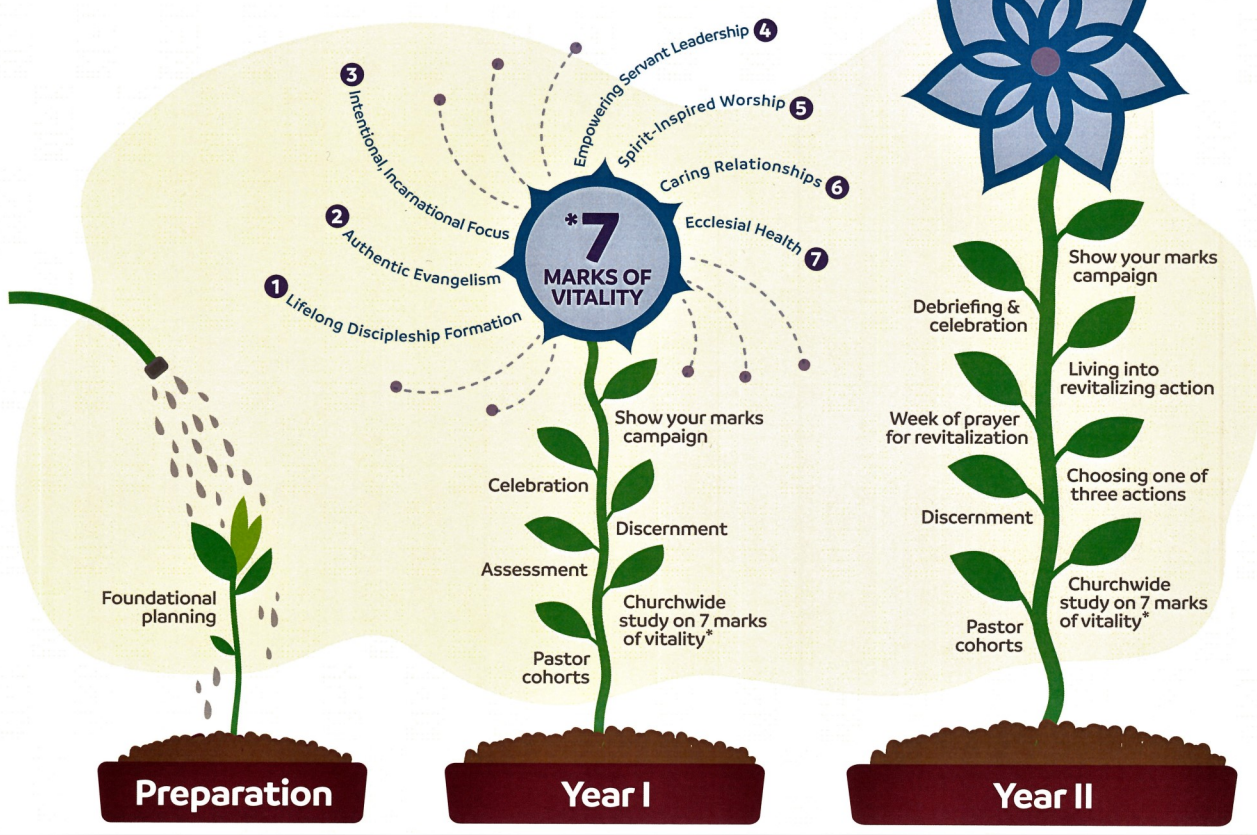
On the front lawn immediately
following the 10 am Service!

Food, Games, Dunking Booth, Face Painting, Friends,
Family, and More !!



Presbyterian Mission
Theology, Formation
& Evangelism

Vital Congregations Initiative Two-Year Revitalization



Eve Circle

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

Yoga

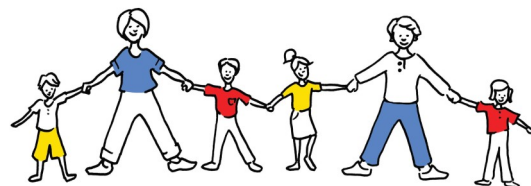
Gentle Yoga continues to meet Thursdays at 10:30 am in the chapel. Drop in and join us with your yoga mat and \$10.

Needle Nellies

Needle Nellies will get together Tuesday, August 27, in the library from 11 am–1:30 pm. Popcorn, pretzels, coffee, and tea will be provided. Looking forward to seeing everyone!! Questions? Call Kay Saxum 385-9807

Cooking Club

Sunday 9/22 at 5pm in Fellowship Hall. We will be preparing a LOCAVORE meal with all ingredients sourced within 100 miles of Pittsford. Join us for fun, food and friendship. Cost is \$7. Sign up after church or call Dan Traina at 208-6839.



News from the Nursery School

As I write this it is a beautiful early August day. No thought of school.....except here at the preschool. I am so excited, as always, for this time. 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. We welcome four new staff members: Eileen Corletta, Stacy Hollenbeck, Joie Markham, and Kathy Woodruff! September will see meet and greets, sales of t-shirts, and a family “get to know you better” event. As always, please come visit our classrooms, 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

Music Offerings

There are some exciting things planned in the future for the music program. For more information please visit <https://www.pittsfordpres.org/music>

Chancel Choir: There are choral options for everyone, from children to adults, beginners to experienced musicians. New members are always welcome and childcare is available!

First Practice: Wednesday, September 11, at 7 pm

Special Events 2019-2020:

December 8, 2019 - Christmas Cantata and Messiah Sing Along

February 9, 2020 - Choral Extravaganza Concert

April 5, 2020 - Palm Sunday Requiem

Rehearsals: Wednesdays 7-8:30 pm and Sundays 9:15 am (Childcare available)

Contact: Dr. Jared Chase | (303)506-1114 | musicdirector@pittsfordpres.org

Join Handbells: We are looking for a few new members! The first rehearsal will be on Monday, September 23, at 6:30 pm. Weekly rehearsals are held on Mondays from 6:30-7:30 pm and we share our music during various 10:00 am Sunday services throughout the year. While it is helpful to have a background in reading music, it is not a requirement. Training and practice in bell technique and music reading occurs during each rehearsal.

Please contact Dr. Mary Carlson at mcarlso3@naz.edu or (585) 442-3387 if you are interested!

Children’s Music: Our children’s music program is woven into our LOGOS Wednesday afternoon opportunity. The choirs include Wee Kirksingers, K-2nd Vocal choir Celebrate Choir, 3rd-6th Vocal choir Chime Choir, 3rd & 4th graders learn basic ringing skills on Hand chimes Junior Kirkringers, 5th & 6th graders learn more advanced ringing skills on Hand bells

Rehearsals: Wednesdays 4-6 pm; Contact: Dede Holmes | (585) 624-4157 | dedeholmes1954@gmail.com

Fall is just around the corner! We hope you had a wonderful and relaxed summer! Make sure you're ready for the new semester for school. And while you're at it, check out some of these great youth events coming up!

| | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Sept 7 | Youth Kick Off | Wahl House, 5-7 pm |
| Sept 8, 15, 22, 29 | Sunday School | Church, 10-11 am |
| Sept 11, 18, 25 | LOGOS | Church, 4-7 pm |
| Sept 21 | Monthly Movies | Church, 6-8:30 pm |
| Sept 22 | Bob Ross Sunshine Club | Church, 7-8:30 pm |
| Sept 28 | Mini Golf | Parkside, 11-2 pm |
| Sept 29 | Youth @ RAIHN | Church, 5-6:30 pm |



Join us on **September 7** for our annual Youth Kickoff at the Wahl House! Come and partake in delicious food, great fun, and even better company! Jump in the pool, enjoy the hot tub, play some yard games and roast s'mores over the fire! We will have a lot of fun, plus some updates on what will be going down with the youth this year!

In addition to the monthly mission events offered during the year, the church is also looking for some youth who would be willing to help out with the ARC Residents on Sunday mornings. In addition to earning some extra missions hours, this is a wonderful opportunity to work and thrive with some new people of varying abilities across all kinds of different areas. Ask Tyler for more details!

Also new this year, the youth will be offering a Monthly Movie Night at the end of each month. **The first one is September 21, from 6-8:30 pm.** Not only will these be for youth, but we will also be opening these up to 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

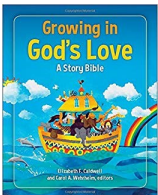
Fifth Annual art Exhibit

Is Your Child an Artist?

On August 26 we are accepting art pieces from children connected with the church. These pieces will be displayed, with adult art, until the following Monday. The pieces come from different mediums, such as wood, clay, paint, and textile, and from people of all ages. There will also be an official open viewing time Wednesday, August 28, from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. This is the main time for family and friends to come see the art. Postcards like the picture below are available to send out and invite friends and family.

We encourage children, and their families, to be a part of the show. Up to 3 pieces can be brought into the church on or before August 27. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Craig in the

| Upcoming Events | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Men's Prayer Breakfast | 9/1 7:00 am |
| Naomi Circle | 9/16 12:30 pm |
| Eve Circle | 9/23 12:30 pm |
| Not so Basic Bible Study | Mondays 7:30 pm |
| Needle Nellies | 8/27 11 am |
| 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 |



2nd Grade Bibles

This year we will be presenting Bibles during worship on September 8 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.

LOGOS Registration open!

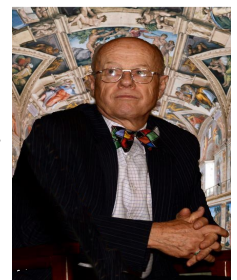
LOGOS will start up again this year on September 11. Everyone is so excited to get started meeting old friends and new friends. This year the theme is "Be My Flashlight". Please join us in making this year another amazing LOGOS experience. To register or learn more: <http://www.pittsfordpres.org/registrations>

The Gospel of Matthew in Context by Rev. Rod Frohman

"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. His multicultural, Greek-speaking, Jewish/Gentile, upper-middle-class congregation in the city of Antioch of Syria is: a.) ignorant of who Jesus was, b.) doubts the real presence of Christ in their lives some 50 years after Jesus' crucifixion/resurrection, and c.) is under some persecution from the Jewish religious establishment in the city of Antioch, a group of people with whom they are in the process of reluctantly parting.

So Matthew gathers oral and written Jesus stories, tosses in a few of his own, and writes a Jesus story to say, "It was tough back then too. God seemed both present and absent then. Now, in 90 A.D., (the approximate time of the writing of the gospel) Christ will always be with us when we turn around, change, and imitate his example among all types of people while simultaneously living a simple, unpretentious, and fruitful life."

Join us on **Sept 15, 29; Oct 6, 13, 20; Nov 10, 17 at 11:30 upstairs in room 201** for this amazing Bible class.




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

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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

*First Presbyterian Church of
Pittsford is a good model for minis-
try. We are also humbly aware of
areas that call for our growth.
God is good. Guidance for that
growth has come to us.*

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| <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 & 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>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> |
| | |  |