

# N e w s b r i e f

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

March, 2002

## From the Pastor's Pen-Cell

It came too quickly! It isn't that we didn't know. But Lent seemed to arrive so early and it is hard to imagine that before the month of March ends we will have celebrated the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Last year we had snow on the ground all though March . . . about 4-5 fresh inches almost every day. And last Easter we had a glorious sunrise service along the canal with temperatures in the 60s. We can only begin to guess what the month will bring.

Some of you have been following a particular Lenten discipline, restricting diets, adding regular times of private worship to each day, focusing on acts of charity. Although some view Lent as a time of minor key hymns, a time to mourn our sins, and a period of self-imposed restriction, it comes with the blessing and joy of renewal, refocus, and hope.

This past month you held an annual meeting and as I reviewed and read through the annual report I realized what an awesome job of ministry you are doing. Sure, we can always find places for improvement, but you are a great congregation that tries to live out the great ends of the church.

- the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind;
- the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God;
- the maintenance of divine worship;
- the preservation of the truth;
- the promotion of social righteousness; and
- the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.<sup>1</sup>

As we move toward spring, your Session will begin to evaluate how we might be specific in our planning to achieve these in a changing world. You have been blessed with excellent leadership and I am grateful to Cal Graziano who has led the budgeting process and been a thorough manager of the church's funds as treasurer. It was a joy to have Cal re-elected treasurer for 2002. Nancy Sprenkle has given us creative, thought provoking classes and opportunities in adult enrichment and her leadership of the Adult Enrichment Committee will be missed as she focuses energy in God's call to her a little differently. Thank you, Nancy. Chris Longyear has been a parliamentarian, scribe, and secretary of this congregation as she has served as clerk. She has set a high example of what a Clerk can be to a Presbyterian Congregation. Thank you Chris for such faithful and excellent ministry. We are grateful that LaDonna Black has become our new clerk and already we can see what special attention and thoroughness she brings to this ministry of service.

Actually, the list would be almost endless if we were to express our gratitude to outgoing officers, staff, and members who seek to live out these great ends. My hat is off to you all! But, for a moment, we focus our attention on the cross and resurrection and realize what an incredible gift has been given to us in Jesus Christ. Bruce

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<sup>1</sup> G-1.0200 2. The Great Ends of the Church, the *Book of Order*



## STU'S SPOT

Our Lenten journey has begun again. Probably the most I've said or heard is "how early" it is. I do recognize that the calendar time is earlier but the whole understanding of Lenten experiences may seem earlier with the 'long' situations our world seems to be in: Israel/Palestine, Ireland, global terrorism, recession, unemployment.

No matter what your current focus may be, Lent need not be only more of the same. In the first passion time the disciples heard Christ's warnings, but they were pitifully oblivious to the reality, as would I be. So also when Easter came, it seemed impossible that Christ could be alive again.

Years have come and gone and we listen, or can hear, the witness not only of Matthew, Mark, Luke, John and Paul, but we hear the millennial whispering of countless Saints who were dead but are now alive, whose lives were empty but now have hope, who had reached the end only to discover a new, life filled, eternity touched beginning.

No matter whose grave or the gravity of the situation in Christ Jesus "We make our song: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!" A

Peace,

### ADULT ENRICHMENT WINTER OFFERINGS

from Nancy Sprenkle

SUNDAY MORNING - 11:30 AM

Program I - "The Poetry of Lent" -  
Beginning

March 3 until and including the 24<sup>th</sup> we will reflect on the story of Lent through Scripture and poetry. Bring a poem, write a poem or just come to share and discuss what you hear. Led by Rev. Stu Buisch

Program II - Led by Rev. Bruce Boak

SUNDAY EVENING PROGRAMS - 7:00 PM

April 7 - "Who Moved My Cheese?" - Penny Cannon

April 28 - "Family - Transitional Lifestyles" -

Susan Horowitz

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY - 9:30 AM & 7:30 PM

GETTING INTO THE "ACTS"! - This group is continuing to look at a chapter a week of "Acts". Led by Rev. Stuart Buisch. Join us in room 201 for coffee and study.

### WEB CLUB

### THE WEDNESDAY EVENING BOOK CLUB

7:30 PM

March 13 - "One Thousand White Women: The Journals of Mary Dodd" by Jim Fergus. Home of Ann Kunkel, 4 Sheridan Court. Please call 248-8847, if you plan to attend.

April 10 - "Larry's Party" by Carol Shields. Home of Nancy Sprenkle, 103 Stuyvesant Road - 381-8990. A



### Youth Christian Education News and Notes

### Heifer Fair A MOOOOOOving Event!

From Betty Wells

Were you there? Did you feel the Fellowship Hall vibrate with the excitement of the children and the joy of the Holy Spirit? Did you go fishing for a fish magnet made by the 3 & 4 year olds? Did the 6<sup>th</sup> graders make you a sundae? Did you eat your fill of chickie cookies? Are you writing on pig, sheep or dried flower notes? Are your pennies in a new piggy bank? Is a sheep holding your recipes? How far did you "bunny hop"? Have you needed your "booboo" bunny yet? Do you have a fish box on your dresser? What special person received an "alternative gift" from you?

Because you were there, the Church School will be sending \$2,881.45 to Heifer Project International! This means that poor families around the world will be receiving

1 cow	9 flocks of chicks
3 sheep	2 pigs
3 goats	3 trios of rabbits
1 llama	1 set of tree
10 schools of fish	seedlings

fingerlings  
1 water buffalo (highly recommended by Ted Pollock) and a camel!!!

That's a lot of hope in their lives.

Thank you to everyone for your generosity, to the Church School teachers for your creativity, to the children for your joy, to Paige, Caitlin, Emily and Laurel, our math wiz cashiers, to Ernie for your patience, to Trudy Bartleson for your time, skills, and materials, and to our renewed "Faith the Cow" for being udderly fantastic. A

# What's Up with Youth Ministry

from Dan Kulp

I am amazed at some of the films that our young people are allowed to watch. I remember a couple of years ago when a seventh grade girl mentioned the film American Pie. She said her parents let her see it and didn't mind the contents of the film!

Did they not understand that the movie takes sex extremely casually? That the "girls" are mere prizes to be obtained? That sex was something to be conquered? That being a virgin was viewed as the lowest form of teen life? Were you ignorant of these things when you allowed your seventh grade daughter to go?

Perhaps you didn't care. Maybe you have given up your role as a parent. You have either surrendered to our culture, or are simply uninterested. I am saddened by your withdrawal from the "good" fight.

For those of you that have not given up, be encouraged. Our high schoolers participated in the Presbytery wide event-Midnight Movie Madness. They viewed films that seemed to take a healthy responsibility for enriching the lives of those that paid money to watch. If you haven't seen them, go! They are worth every penny.

\* The first movie was "A Walk to Remember."

Based on a novel, the movie tells the story of a teenage girl with a relationship with Jesus Christ. She doesn't mind carrying a Bible to school or standing up for her faith. Her convictions ultimately lead to the transformation of the town punk.

\* The second movie was the classic tale "The Count of Monte Cristo". Set in the Napoleon Era, it chronicles the story of a man falsely imprisoned. He seeks revenge and is even consumed by it, until he meets a man of faith in prison. The old man teaches him life lessons, which although initially ignored, later come back to the lead character. One overriding theme is that God will bring you justice, not yourself.

\* The third and final movie "Big Fat Liar," is a simple movie with a simple message. Lying leads to trouble, and, honesty is the best policy. This film is sure to appeal to more of the Junior Highers.

- Yes, we did stay up all night at Hoyt's Greece Ridge Cinema. Yes, we had all the popcorn and soda we wanted. And

yes, we had a great time. Thanks to Matt Wahl, Mike Higgins, Alisa Haskins and Bridget Preston for volunteering. A

## From Sandy's Desk...

Incredibly, the end of March will find us through Lent and the celebration of Easter day. The early season has hastened some of our plans this year but it gives us an extra amount of spring planning time that we don't always have.

The good timing of the Presbyterian Educator's Conference in Toronto this year has also helped with our process for planning our entire Christian Ed. approach. I do want the entire congregation to know of our planning and our progress. Please know that anyone interested in C. E. here at First Pres. is invited to be part of our process.

On February 7, 8 and 9, Pem Tyler, Sylvia Fix, Stacey Leyland and I attended the Toronto conference, bringing back information and new ideas from over twenty workshops between us. The conference was excellent, well organized and brought together experts from all over Canada and the USA. Noted educators including the Plenary and Worship leaders and the main speaker, Herbert O'Driscoll gave us so very much to bring back and use here.

ON MARCH 17, WATCH FOR THE TABLE DISPLAYS IN FELLOWSHIP HALL AND COME AND TALK TO US ABOUT WHAT WE LEARNED.

AND, come and be a part of our five-year "futuring" process. We will begin with a brief meeting in my office on February 24 but if you cannot be there and are interested in helping us plan what we want our C.E. program to look like five years from now, what our children should know as they move to a higher class level and what curriculum we will use for adults and our children, COME AND BE WITH US!!!

### LOGOS from Sylvia Fix

March 6 - Prayer door hangers  
The word - Thoughtful  
March 13 - Teacher/Volunteer Appreciation  
Night. The word -  
Appreciation  
March 20 - Kids Choice Awards  
The word - Decision  
March 27 - Grand Finale (Pot Luck)  
The word - Hallelujah

Have a great summer! See you in  
September ! A

## Christian Education Committee

from Reneé Shaffer

There will be a Sunday School Open house for grades K-6 on March 10, 2002. All are invited to attend after the 10:00 AM service during coffee hour time. Refreshments will be served in the classrooms. This will be a fun way to see what our children are learning in class.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month, the children are asked to bring items for the Pittsford Food Cupboard. Please bring these items up to the Mouse Report.

Five people attended the Toronto conference on Christian Education. A booth will be set up sharing the information and excitement of new ideas, in Fellowship Hall.

A C.E. Task Force is being formed to:

1. Standardize goals for each grade level
2. Review our current curriculum and look at others.
3. Discuss our five-year goal and how to implement.

Anyone interested please call Sandy Pacyga at 586-5688 Ext. 30. This will be a fun way to get involved in curriculum.

We now have 200 Bible related and scriptures set to music songs on cassette tapes with printed lyrics! Ask Sandy for details.

Last, parents kindly review your child's Sunday school lessons etc. They work so hard and are proud of their efforts. Grade 4 folks are learning the Books of the Bible and love to be asked to recite them. We look forward to seeing folk at our 1<sup>st</sup> open house.

Congratulations to LOGOS. Their hot tub night was a "splash". Remember LOGOS needs you in 2002.

On March 30, Dan Kulp and band members will be participating in a CD release concert from 7:00 – 11:00 PM at Victor High School. Portions of proceeds will be given to Heritage Christian Home. More information will be posted. Come hear D.I.G. who was also featured at Darien Lake this past summer, and enjoy Christian fellowship.

Pass on a smile, Reneé A



## Music Notes

from Cary Ratcliff

March 17 Choral Worship: Psalms in America

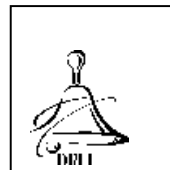
The Bible's songbook, the Psalms, contains a vast range of religious expression, contained mostly in classic two-lined poetry. Many composers have been inspired to find the right music for their ecstasy, darkness, or searching beauty. America's tradition of choral settings of Psalms has been especially vibrant in the last two generations. Join us as the Choir presents a program of selections, with orchestra of strings, trumpet and harp, at the 10 o'clock service.

**Anthony Circle** is actively seeking new members!!

We meet at 9.30am on the second Thursday of the month either in Fellowship Hall or at the home of a member. We are the "young" circle and welcome children (or babysitting can be arranged). We will be meeting on March 14<sup>th</sup> at the home of Judy Messenger, 232 Shoreham Dr. (Phone 473-1048). Please join us.

## The Bell Corner

from Ruth Hugenbruch



Ever hear of an organization called the AGEHR (America Guild of English Handbell Ringers)? This group is an out growth of NEGEHR (New England Guild Of English Handbell Ringers), which was begun in 1937 in Massachusetts by Margaret Shurcliff. She was the first person in the United States to own a set of English Handbells. By 1954 Handbells had spread beyond New England so the idea of an American Guild was proposed. Shurcliff became the first president.

Membership in the Guild and attendance at festivals increased rapidly so that by 1959 membership grew from 200 to 600. In 1977 membership reached 4000 and is presently at 10,000. Each membership could represent from one to six bell choirs.

This wonderful organization (the official bi-monthly journal of the AGEHR) strives for musical excellence through: national and area events; publications; the exchange of ideas related to techniques of ringing; composing; and arranging music; conducting; and other timely information. National events are held to bring together ringers and directors from all over the world while area events permit a more limited geographic participation. These events are a prime source of new ideas for both ringers and directors thereby uniting people through a musical act.

What does this have to do with the First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford? And our Handbell Choirs?

It is because of the AGEHR that all of us have learned most of what we know about bell ringing. It has given us know-how, confidence in what we teach to all, and has made our ringing, techniques, and repertoire far above average.

Each summer thanks to you, some of us are sent to a Conference where we meet new ringers and directors, take classes: on new and old techniques, on care of our bells, on composing and arranging with an opportunity to read through scads of new music. We also meet composers and directors of high esteem.

In the year 2004 AGEHR will celebrate it's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

It is difficult to know what we would have done without this wonderful organization and for all it has done to help us be better bellringers and directors. May it continue for many years.

**OPTIMISTS** will hold their first meeting of the Spring season on Friday, March 1 at 6:15 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Our program titled "**Backstage at Geva Theater**" will be presented by Nan Hildebrand, Geva's

Director of Development. (Please remember to bring your table service.)

If you are not already a member, but would like to attend or want further information, please call Sue Suter at 381-5297.

From Bert Sabia

**Naomi Circle** will have a business meeting on Monday, March 18 at 11:30 AM. Bring a sandwich and mug. Followed by a meeting in the Library.

## Book Review

From Ellen Kinnen

On Monday, March 18 at 1:15 PM the Church Library Committee and Naomi Circle are co-sponsoring a book review of "The Red Tent", a novel based on the lives of Old Testament women.

Anita Diamant's book, a fictitious story around a narrative found in the Book of Genesis, concerns the only surviving daughter of Jacob. In Biblical times a red tent was a place of solace for tribal women when they were ill or having children.

The book will be reviewed by Patricia Reece who taught English at the Canandaigua Academy for 33 years and has served on the Town of Canandaigua Planning Board for many years.

Anyone who is interested in hearing the review is welcome to come.

Time: 1:15 PM, March 18 Place: Church Library

## LOCAL MISSION UPDATE

From Elaine Johnson and Sally Day

Many thanks to the following cookie bakers and drivers for the year 2002:

Paige and Roxanne Skuse ; Sue Feasey; Doris Perry; Martha Boak; Jane Burkey; Gayle Stiles; Kay Clark; Peggy Burton; Georgia Trolley; Sue Benson; Linda Davey; Pamela Flynn; Joe & Lori Reiners; Carmenza Gutierrez; Barbara Rarrick; Amelia Taylor; Cracker Ten Hagen; David Hill; Diana Hamilton; Judy Johnson; Jamie Holler; Judy Weniger; Barbara and David Bruins; Julie Steele; Claudia Williams; Sally Chamberlin; Bev Pollock; Debbie Gaudion; Marty Keller; Abby Taylor; Ed & Ellen Kinnen; Margaret Mecredy; Bill Gavett; Darrel Zipfel; Kay Saxum; Jane Hunter; Sally and Pierce Day; Mary & Stuart McCarty. Thanks also to the women of Mary/Weller, Naomi, and Anthony Circles, who rotate baking for Haneayah Cottage.

We are still in need of bakers in November and December. Call Elaine Johnson (381-3018) to volunteer. The boys are very grateful!

## CAMERON UPDATED WISH LIST - As

you can see, there is still a need for warm clothing. Winter isn't over yet! We had asked you to hold off on clothing until spring, but please check your closets one more time for winter items. We'll take them through March 8, and begin taking spring/summer clothes in April. As usual, place donated items in the Cameron bin in Fellowship Hall. Non-seasonal clothing and all other items on the list are appreciated at any time. Extra lists

are available on the table in the Lobby. Questions? Call Liz Mehalso – 223-3052.

## CLOTHING /HOUSE

### \*Children's Boots

Women Socks (all sizes)

### \*Women's Winter Gloves

### \*Women's Winter Scarves

New Bras (all sizes)

New Sports Bras

Men's Underwear (sizes 30-36)

### \*Men's Gloves

### \*Men's Winter Hats

### \*Men's Winter Scarves

### \*Men's Winter Coats

Infants Night Gowns

Baby Layette/Items

Chubby Children's clothing

Boys' Clothing (all sizes)

Girls' Clothing (all sizes)

### \*Girls' Socks

### \*Girls' Underwear (14-16)

### \*Boys' Underwear (14-16)

Men's Work Boots

TOPS Register Tapes

Infant Car Seats

Cooking Utensils

Dishes

Silverware

### \*Blankets

Sheets

Pillows

Washcloths

Towels

Pots and Pans

High Chairs

### \*Men's and Women's Clothing (L,XL&XXL)

Large Garbage Bags

(with handles)

## PERSONAL HYGIENE

### ITEMS

Baby Care Items & Products

### \*Diapers (Med, Lg. & X-Lg.)

### \*Shampoo/Conditioner

### \*Shaving Cream/Razors

### \*Deodorant

### \*Toothbrushes/Toothpaste

### \*Soap

Sanitary pads/Tampons

### \*Toilet Paper/Kleenex

### \*Lotion

## KITCHEN SUPPLIES AND FOOD

Baby Formula and Baby Food

Black Ground Pepper

Coffee (Regular & Decaf.)

### \*Dish Soap

Folding Tables (6-8 ft and sturdy)

### \*Freezer Bags (1 Gallon)

### \*Instant mashed Potatoes

### \*Lysol

### \*Paper Plates (9" & 6")

### \*Paper Napkins

### \*Paper Towels

### \*Plastic Food Gloves

### \*Plastic Desert Cups

Fruit cocktail

### \*Dish cloths (to wash tables)

### \*Spaghetti O's

### \*100% Juice (Boxes, Bottles or Cans)

### \*Rice (not minute rice)

### \*Salt

### \*Sugar

Vegetables (Fresh and/or Canned)

Mayonnaise

### \*Aluminum foil

### \*Foam Cups and Bowls

### \*Garbage Bags

## SPECIAL NOTES AND

### SPECIAL NEEDS:

### \*A 1 lb. Coffee Grinder.

\*Our personal hygiene products are extremely low right now.

\*We need money to buy prizes to use as incentives for the children to achieve goals.

### \*Movie Tickets

\*Coupons (Pizza, Teacher's World and blockbuster)

\*Bathing Suits (trunks and one piece) for ages 11-15, sizes ranging from small to medium

## \*URGENTLY NEEDED ITEMS

Mary/Weller Circle's next meeting on Monday, March 11 at 11:30 AM in Fellowship Hall will feature Dr. Jeffrey Wyatt speaking on "What's

New At The Zoo". Bring a sandwich and your Least Coin.

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## Stephen Ministry Corner

from Carol Tiemann

In the audiotape of *Why People Don't Heal*, Caroline Myss offers a modern retelling of Jesus' walk to the crucifixion:

Jesus is struggling up the road, dragging a very heavy cross. Simon steps forward out of the crowd and says, "Do you want help with that cross? You look like you're having a bad day." Jesus does NOT say, "Are you crazy? This is my karma – get out of the way!" Instead, Jesus says, "Thank you very much. I've had better days on earth." And Simon carries the cross for a while.

Myss used this familiar story to illustrate her point that in our journey toward selfhood, we have to get beyond ourselves, let go of the wounds in our past, and, like Simon, be willing to carry the burden of others when they're not strong enough to do it themselves.

I saw much more to the story; it struck me as a metaphor for Stephen Ministry. Like Simon, Stephen Ministers step forward out of the crowd, offering a shoulder to carry someone else's cross for a while. Simon does not try to fix Jesus' problem; he can't help him escape or drive away the soldiers. But he can offer to share the burden for a short part of the journey, to understand the pain, and to just be there.

Consider Jesus' response. He acknowledges that he is, indeed, having a very bad day. He could have refused help, insisting on "doing it himself," proving his strength and independence. But he doesn't. He thanks Simon and gratefully accepts his offer to walk with him and lighten the load.

Where are you in this picture? Most of us can identify with both Simon and Jesus; life is like that. Like Simon, we sometimes find ourselves in a position to reach out, to offer a hand up or a shoulder to lean on. (Perhaps this is the right time for you to consider becoming a Stephen Minister.) Like Jesus on this day, we sometimes find ourselves dragging heavy loads of grief, pain, or disappointment. Unlike Jesus, we sometimes struggle alone, stubbornly refusing an outstretched hand that could make our journey less lonely. (Perhaps this is the right time for you to request a Stephen Minister.)

For more information on Stephen Ministry, to inquire about a training class for Stephen Ministers, or to request a Stephen Minister, call Pastor Bruce Boak, Jane Hunter, Dick Sprengle, or Carol Tiemann

## New Member Class

from Martha Crawford

A new member class is forming that is designed to welcome families and individuals in Christian fellowship, provide information about the Christian Faith, and to discover the uniqueness of our journey with Christ. These sessions are for people who are seeking church membership and for those who are just seeking. It is a

time to explore and see if this might be a good place for you to call your spiritual home.

March 3, 9 AM to 9:45 AM at the Church  
March 10, 9 AM to 9:45 AM at the Church  
March 17, 12 Noon Luncheon, Church Fellowship Hall  
March 24, New Member Sunday, Worship Hour

If you are interested, or you know someone who is, please call the church office at 586-5688. A

## A REPORT FROM THE APNC

Your Associate Pastor Nominating Committee is hard at work in the process of selecting a permanent Associate Pastor to succeed our current Interim, the Rev. Stuart Buisch. We have received and reviewed several dozen "PIF's" (Personal Information Forms) from the database in Louisville describing potential candidates who match our criteria. We are now in the process of evaluating these candidates, ascertaining their tapes. Our ten-member committee has been meeting generally once a week since last September under the chairmanship of Wendy Kurnath, with advice and assistance from the Rev. Louise Josephson of the Presbytery's Committee on ministry and by our new acting Executive Presbyter, the Rev. Edie Gause. We placed an advertisement in the February 11 issue of Presbyterian Outlook, which should generate additional interest. In the coming weeks we will be identifying the most promising candidates and proceeding to interview them.

We ask for your continued prayers for the work and mission of our committee, that the Holy Spirit will be with us and will grant us discernment and direction as we fulfill this important task. We also ask you to pray for Stuart Buisch as he prepares to move on the next phase of his calling. We will continue to report periodically to the congregation as we move through this process. A

## LENT AND HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

3/3 Sunday	Lent 3 Communion	8:30 & 10:00 AM Worship
3/10 Sunday	Lent 4	8:30 & 10:00 AM Worship
3/17 Sunday	Lent 5	8:30 AM Worship Upstairs
3/17 Sunday	Lent 5 Choral Worship	10:00 AM Worship with Choirs
3/24 Sunday	Palm/Passion Sunday	8:30 & 10:00 AM Worship
3/28 Thursday	Maundy Thursday Communion	7:30 PM Worship
3/29 Friday	Good Friday Worship Sanctuary Open	7:30 PM Worship 12 noon to 7:30 PM
3/31 Sunday	Easter Sunrise at	7:00 AM Worship

3/31 Sunday Canal Park  
Easter Celebration 8:30 & 10:00 AM  
Worship

The Rev. Bruce G. Boak  
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Dede Holmes  
*Director of Youth Choirs*

Sharon Peet  
*Director of Joyful Noise*

Ruth Hugenbruch  
*Director of Kirkringers*

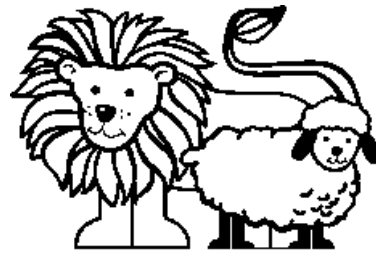
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Assist. Custodian



**March**

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Web page [www.pittsfordpres.org](http://www.pittsfordpres.org)

**WORSHIP WITH US**

Please join us for Sunday morning worship.  
Services are 8:30 AM and 10:00 AM  
Communion is offered the first Sunday of each month.

**First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford  
21 Church Street  
Pittsford, New York 14534**

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