



The Good News

JULY/AUGUST 2015

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

Lectionary for the months of July/August

6th Sunday after Pentecost July 5

2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10; *Psalm 48*
2 Corinthians 12:2-10
Mark 6:1-13

7th Sunday after Pentecost July 12

2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19
Psalm 24; Ephesians 1:3-14
Mark 6:14-29

8th Sunday after Pentecost July 19

2 Samuel 7:1-14a
Psalm 89:20-37
Ephesians 2:11-22
Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

9th Sunday after Pentecost July 26

2 Samuel 11:1-15; *Psalm 14*
Ephesians 3:14-21
John 6:1-21

10th Sunday after Pentecost

2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a
Psalm 51:1-12
Ephesians 4:1-16
John 6:24-35

11th Sunday after Pentecost

2 Sam. 18:5-9, 15, 31-33
Psalm 130; Ephesians 4:25-5:2
John 6:35, 41-51

12th Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14
Psalm 111
Ephesians 6:10-20
John 6:51-58

13th Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 8:(1, 6, 10-11) 22-30,
41-43; *Psalm 84*
Ephesians 6:10-20
John 6:56-69

14th Sunday after Pentecost

Song of Solomon 2:8-13
Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9
James 1:17-27
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN-CELL

Pretty soon, Martha and I will do our annual trek to the Jersey Shore where for 42 summers I have led worship at the Wells Memorial Presbyterian Church on the island. But, Rochester is a vacation destination, too and when we leave, extended family members use our home in Pittsford and take advantage of the canal path and other trails, access to the Finger Lakes, Lake Ontario, shopping at Eastview and hiking in Mendon Ponds. I think they have a better idea of area restaurants than we do. If they are making a vacation trip to upstate New York the cost of motel rent is a bargain.



But, when we head to the shore we pack . . . and pack . . . and pack. It isn't the luggage! No it's the food, the suntan cream, the beach supplies, and the tome of a book we have been saving for vacation reading. We have a ton of baggage! We could never make the trip if we had to fly. Long in advance of July, we started to put things in the garage for the day we'd head to the shore. But, then just this week I read a startling verse from the gospel of Mark, chapter 6 where Jesus was giving packing instructions:

He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two - He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics.

If you have flown in the last 15 years, you know that the TSA will scrutinize you. Of course you can't throw in guns, knives, crossbows, a mace from the 14th century or similar items in your carry-on luggage. But what's the problem with mascara, toothpaste, mouthwash, hair gel, yogurt, chocolate pudding or such in your bag? They are OK, but permitted in sizes just a tad above microscopic. A few personal care items are permitted in small amounts. (Actually, the Transportation Security Administration would be happier if we all took nothing more than the clothes we are wearing for our journeys by plane.

But, isn't this essentially what Jesus told his disciples when he sent them out in pairs to heal the sick and call people to repentance. "Take nothing for the journey," he told them. Actually, according to Mark, Jesus did allow them to take a staff and wear sandals, and of course, the set of clothes they were wearing. (Guess they weren't going to expect to stay very long in anyone's house as they were to be an olfactory challenge). But, just like the TSA, Jesus had a list of *prohibited* items: no bread, no bag, and no money in their belts or second tunic. (In variants of this story appearing in Matthew and Luke, Jesus doesn't even allow the staff and sandals.)

Apparently they were to depend on God to provide for them through the hospitality of strangers. How they traveled and were welcomed was to be itself a demonstration of God's care. So, it seems to me that Jesus was suggesting they check no bags and take the smallest of a carry-on.

What is the implication here for me? For you? For us? What kind of baggage should we leave behind for vacation or anytime for that matter? What burdensome personal history do we drag around that interferes with us living in the present? Maybe our baggage is the nonproductive ways tend to employ when dealing with conflict, inappropriate responses that are triggered at inopportune moments, unaddressed fears from childhood, psychological damage from abuse, frightening ideas about God - in fact, just about any holdover from our past that prevents us from getting on well in our relationships or with our daily responsibilities.

Sometimes such baggage gets so heavy that we need counseling or psychological help to unload it. And that's hard, because we may have cloaked ourselves so heavily in counterproductive attire that we'd feel naked if we really stripped. What can we do about our baggage?

I live with one of the world's best list makers and I thought that maybe leaving a list for us that included prayerfully asking God to help, leaving the poisonous bottles of blame behind, accepting responsibility for who we are, or seeking some professional help along the way. Then, as my list was growing and becoming somewhat burdensome, I thought maybe we should:

Let Jesus handle the baggage!

Even churches can carry baggage. Usually it is a massive steamer trunk labeled "we've always done it this way." Our traditions are a mixed blessing. On the one hand they are a source of stability and connectedness. A classic hymn standing the test of time and the immortal words of the Lord's Supper or the Lord's Prayer sustain us. On the other hand, tradition can be an impediment, limiting our ability to adapt to the demands of mission to a rapidly-changing world.

During the French and Indian War British officers traveled through America's North Country, followed by wagon-loads of luxury items like fine china and wooden furniture. That was the way officers traveled along the paved roads of Europe -- but, along the Indian trails of upstate New York this baggage was ludicrous. Traveling light on the journey of Christian discipleship may require us to leave certain beloved, but cumbersome, traditions behind.

"Wealth is not chiefly the product of the individual, but largely the joint product of the community."

Ask some MBA students to identify the source of that quotation. Many will assume some communist wrote those words. But, they were penned by a true champion of capitalism: Andrew Carnegie. His company eventually morphed into what became U.S. Steel.

At mid-life, Carnegie relinquished day-to-day management of his industrial empire and concentrated on giving his money away. Some of it helped to purchase the 1st pipe organ at 1st Presbyterian Church of Pittsford. Carnegie Libraries dot the landscape of small-town America. The Carnegie Endowment for the Arts funds a rich menu of theater offerings. Pittsburgh's Carnegie-Mellon University has educated generations of students.

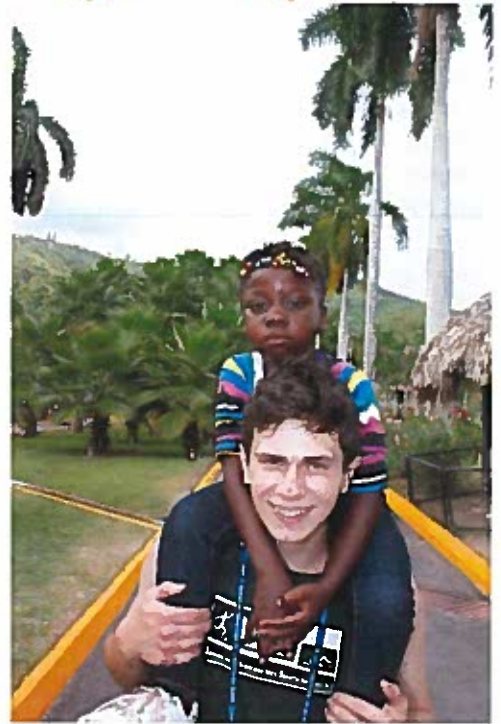
"The man who dies rich dies disgraced," said Carnegie. By the time he died, he had learned something about the virtues of traveling light.

If you are traveling this summer. Pack light! You'll be more rested. But most of all, don't forget to take Jesus with you and send along a report to takejesuswithyou@pittsfordpres.org

Bruce

Youth Happenings {7th-12th Grade}

We are headed off to Jamaica for JASY Camp on July 3rd. We will return on July 12th with many pictures and stories to share.



Then 3 weeks later, we are off to Philadelphia for Urban Serve. We will leave on July 26 and return on August 1!



For more information, contact Joelle at (585)993-0142 OR joelle.truax@pittsfordpres.org



Christian Education

Let there be peace in the kingdom!

During the children's service the drama kids of First Presbyterian Church taught us about relationships, the environment, and Christ's call to us to act justly. Animals jumped out of the famous painting of "Peace in the Kingdom" and looked at the human world around them. They saw a broken world with broken relationships, but learned that we can make a difference if we let Jesus be our example.

Thank you cast for leading us in worship and once again doing an amazing job. Thank you Dede Holmes for all the hard work you did leading these stars.

Upcoming Events	
Men's Prayer Breakfast	7/5 7:00 am
Prayer Support Group	Mondays 11:30 am
Wednesday Evening Book Club	Wed. 7:00 monthly
Lectionary Study	Wed. 7:15 pm
Men's Ecumenical Group	Thursdays 7:15 am
Adult Study	Sundays 9:45 am

Vacation Bible School July 20-24 8:45-12:15

Welcome to Everywhere fun Fair, where children experience the love of Jesus, meet welcoming friends from the Bible, and reach out to their neighbors from Japan, Zimbabwe, the United Kingdom, Australia, and Mexico. While at Everywhere Fun Fair, children will enjoy activities and experiences that demonstrate God's welcoming love to everyone:

Each day they will encounter ways to love and serve God and be a neighbor to the world.

Registrations are available at <http://www.pittsfordpres.org/education>



Take Jesus with you

This summer as you travel or play, remember to take Jesus with you. Then take a selfie of you and the miracle man. In the pool, at the office, mowing the lawn, playing a board game. Then post the picture to the churches Facebook page or send it to takejesuswithyou@pittsfordpres.org and we will post it for you. Get your colorable Jesus at <http://www.pittsfordpres.org/jakejesus>



A Great Way You Can Help a Hurting Friend

Do you have a friend, neighbor, coworker, or relative who is going through the difficult time? Here's a great way you can help them—tell them about our Stephen Ministry! Stephen Ministers are Members of The First Presbyterian Church who have received special training to provide high quality, confidential, one-to-one, Christian care to people who are grieving the loss of a loved one, coping with a cancer diagnosis, going

through a divorce or separation, battling a chronic illness (or caring for a spouse or parent who is chronically ill), experiencing a great deal of stress, facing the loss of a job – or encountering any of countless other life challenges.

Stephen Ministers meet weekly with their care receivers to listen, care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support. (Males are matched with males, and females are matched with females.) The caring relationship lasts for as long as the person needs care. It's free, and it's a powerful way you can help a hurting friend.

To learn how to connect someone you know with a Stephen Minister, talk with one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders: *Jane Hunter, Alice O'Dwyer, Barbara Smith, Dick Sprenkle or Carol Tiemann*. Our Stephen Ministers are there to care!

UPCOMING DEACON FUN ACTIVITIES

Rochester Red Wings Baseball Game—Monday June 29 at 7pm. Tickets on sale in Fellowship Hall for \$9.00.

Supper Club - Sunday July 19 at 5pm in Fellowship Hall - Spanish Tapas. Appetizers will be prepared.



OPTIMISTS: Our tent is folded for this season but we'll be back in September. Thanks for your support in the past – we look forward to your continued participation in September ! Interesting programs, Fellowship and delicious catered dinners . Friends always welcome !!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



MARY/WELLER, NAOMI, ANTHONY AND EVENING CIRCLES ~ are taking well earned vacations. They will all resume again in September. All ladies are invited to join anyone of the circles. Please watch for details in the September *Good News*.

PENNY PINCHER SALE

Hope everyone has a great summer and will be getting items ready for our sale.

Drop off your items: Monday, **September 21**, 9:30 AM—5:00 PM, Tuesday, **September 22**, 9:30 AM—5:00 PM and Wednesday, **September 23**, 9:30 AM—3:00 PM. Please do not leave items out side church doors at anytime. Sale dates are: Thursday, **September 24** 10:00 AM—5:00 PM and Friday, **September 25**, 1/2 price 10:00 AM—noon, \$2.00 a bag noon—1:30 PM.



Items needed: small appliances, antiques, books, collectibles, dishes, furniture, jewelry, kitchenware, linens, sorts equipment, tools, toys, and electronics. All electrical items must be in working order and all computers must be complete. We would also appreciate your brown paper grocery bags for our bag sale on Friday.

Donations from the congregation for the sale, please have in clean condition. If you donate any linens, it would help us if you could measure the item and put it on the item with tape or a piece of paper.

We will not be accepting the following: exercise equipment, skis, poles, boots, single glasses or cups, outside grills and please no clothing.

Signup for workers, both men and women for the sale will begin Sunday, August 30 in the Fellowship Hall after service.

Do you have extra storage space that you could store items in for people who are moving before the sale? Call Louise Thompson evenings.

REMINDER ~ August 9 is the deadline for the September *Good News*. Please place it in the mailbox in the workroom or email it to admin@pittsfordpres.org

Church Summer Hours: June 28—September 13
Church Office Summer Hours: June 21—September 14

Church Worship : 9:30 AM
Nursery-Pre-K & CE for K—5th grades will be available

Office Hours: Monday through Thursday: 9:00 AM—4:00 PM



IMPORTANT MESSAGE ~ A guest of the Church owns an all black, hooded, zipper up, mid length, Anne Klein raincoat. There were eye drops in the coat pocket.

The coat was hung on the coat rack on the end nearest the Church entrance on May 31, 2015.

After the Trinity Sunday service the raincoat had gone missing.

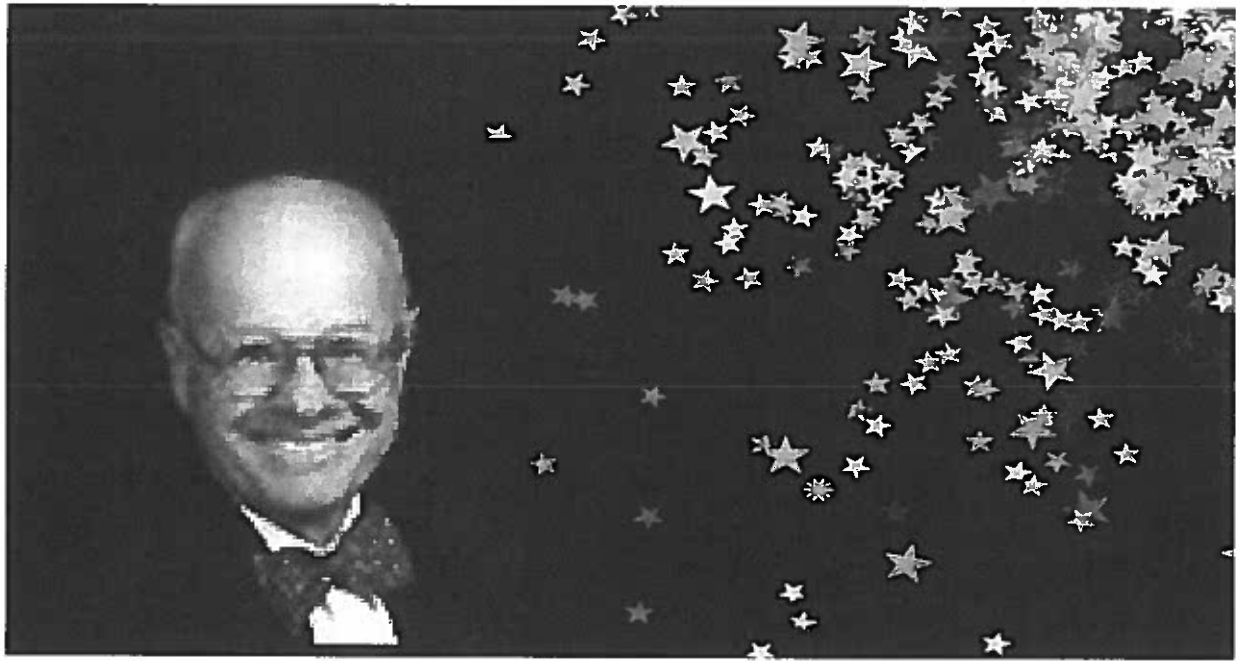
Please check your coat racks at home to determine if you may have donned the wrong coat. The owner is very anxious to have her coat back.

Summer Sunday School

This summer Sunday School classes will continue. All the children grades K-5 will be in one group. Weather permitting we will use the pick-nick table outside for our lesson, possible work on a craft, and have some playground time. We are also trying to staff a new summer pre-k and summer nursery class. If you are going to be around in the summer and would like to help in any of these classes contact Craig in the church office (586-5688) or Elizabeth Gianakakis.



ADULT ED & ROD FROHMAN PRESENTS:



THE STARS OF THE INTERTESTAMENTAL ERA:

A course on the "stars" whose lives "burned brightly" in the dark skies between

ISRAEL'S EXILE AND THE BIRTH OF JESUS

Begins September 13 after the 10:00 Service in The Chapel

September 13

September 20

October 11

October 18

November 8

November 15

November 29

January 10

January 17

January 31

February 14

February 21

February 28

March 13

SEE WEEKLY TOPICS ON BACK PAGE

First
Presbyterian
of Pittsford, NY

Fall 2015	Class #	Title	Bible
13-Sept	#1	Over view: The Torque of Salvation Story	General
20-Sept	#2	Restoration in/of Jerusalem	III Isaiah, Ezra, Nehemiah, Psalms, Obadiah Joel, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi
11-Oct	#3	Faith vs. Culture: We are Holy - They Are Not	Ezra, Nehemiah, Ezekiel, Jonah, Ruth
18-Oct	#4	Theodicy: A Righteous God and Suffering	Job
8-Nov	#5	Alexander the Great and His Impact on Israel	II Maccabees
15-Nov	#6	Aristotle, Plato and Socrates vs. Hebrews Holiness	Psalms
29-Nov	#7	The Case of the Vanishing God	Ecclesiastes, Proverbs, Sirach, Wisdom of Solomon, Song of Solomon
10-Jan	#8	Force Feeding of Greek Culture	I & II Maccabees
17-Jan	#9	The Rise of the Law: God's Presence Rediscovered	Tobit and Sirach
31-Jan	#10	Vomiting the Greek Culture: The Maccabean Revolt	I Maccabees
14-Feb	#11	Daniel and Apocalypticism	Daniel, Prayer of Azariah, Song of the Three Young Men, Susanna, Bel, The Dragon
21-Feb	#12	The Nature of Prejudice	Esther, Judith, and I Esdras
28-Feb	#13	Independence Again: Jerusalem & Maccabees	Book of Jubilees
13-Mar	#14	A compromised Allegiance: Rome Takes Over	Barruch, Prayer of Manasseh, Wisdom of Solomon