

# The Good News

APRIL 2016

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

## FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN-CELL

### Lectionary for the month of April

#### 2nd Sunday of Easter

April 3

Acts 5:27-32

Psalm 118:14-29 or

Psalm 150

Revelation 1:4-8

John 20:19-31

#### 3rd Sunday of Easter

April 10

Acts 9:1-6 (7-20)

Psalm 30

Revelation 5:11-14

John 21:1-19

#### 4th Sunday of Easter

April 17

Acts 9:36-43

Psalm 23

Revelation 7:9-17

John 10:22-30

#### 5th Sunday of Easter

April 24

Acts 11:1-18

Psalm 148

Revelation 21:1-6

John 13:31-35

Witnesses in a courtroom are sometimes thought to be "non-responsive" when they intentionally or unintentionally duck a question.

**DA:** "Doctor, how many autopsies have you performed on dead people?"

**Witness:** "All my autopsies have been performed on dead people."

**Lawyer:** "What was the first thing your husband said to you when he woke that morning?"

**Witness:** "He said, 'Where am I, Cathy?'"

**Lawyer:** "And why did that upset you?"

**Witness:** "My name is Susan."

**DA:** "Doctor, before you performed the autopsy, did you check for a pulse?"

**Witness:** "No."

**DA:** "Did you check for blood pressure?"

**Witness:** "No."

**DA:** "Did you check for breathing?"

**Witness:** "No."

**DA:** "So, then it is possible that the patient was alive when you began the autopsy?"

**Witness:** "No."

**DA:** "How can you be so sure, doctor?"

**Witness:** "Because his brain was sitting on my desk in a jar."

**DA:** "But could the patient have still been alive, nevertheless?"

**Witness:** "Yes, it is possible that he could have been alive and asking questions in a courtroom somewhere."

With my apologies to all of the amazing attorneys I know, I provide this introduction to illustrate that sometimes there is a ducking of a question in the answers that we provide. We've also seen a lot of duck and weave with all of the presidential candidate's town hall meetings and debates, too. But ultimately we sense it in the post-resurrection appearance of Jesus when Peter duck's the Master's inquiry, "Do you love me?"

I used to think that I could turn on my TV at almost any time of day and see the question ducking on Law and Order. We've learned the lingo and until shows like this most of us didn't have a clue what "exculpatory evidence" was. We now have a better idea about what constitutes an especially "heinous" crime. We can surmise when a witness is being "badgered" and testimony is merely "hearsay." We may have even fooled and convinced ourselves that TV has prepared us to be our own attorneys with the abilities of Jack "Hang 'Em High" McCoy, Perry Mason, Elsbeth Tascioni (The Good Wife), Ben Matlock, Saul Goodman (Breaking Bad) or Denny Crane (Boston Legal). Their cases are usually wrapped up in about an hour with stunning confessions.

Courts are rarely like this. They are generally far more boring and repetitive, and a lot of the arguing and resolves takes place behind closed doors. We rarely get that "You can't handle the truth!" moment from a witness. In fact, when witnesses do appear in court, they often fail to answer the attorney's questions altogether. Witnesses can be so notoriously unable or unwilling to answer the question that there's a whole lexicon of phrases that lawyers (both TV lawyers and real attorneys) use to request the judge to force the witness to give a definitive response.

My target in this month's article isn't really attorneys at all, but witnesses. "Objection! Non-responsive!" is the line used by a lawyer when a witness is ducking the question. There are plenty of ways to duck a question with a non-answer and answering a question with a question may be good for a classroom but not a courtroom. We are pretty good loophole locators. Even Peter tried it when encountered his risen Lord by the Sea of Galilee. After Jesus' death, Peter went back to fishing. Jesus appeared there according to John 21 and asked, "Peter do you love me?" Actually in Greek we read it, "Peter do you agape me?" (Agape – faithful, unconditional commitment that is self-sacrificing and value creating). Peter's answer is, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love (Phileo) you. (Phileo – to value and love like a brother – Philadelphia, the City of Brotherly Love)

Jesus was not Tevye seeking a response from Golde, "Golde, do you love me?" Jesus wasn't trying to ascertain a romantic expression and feeling from Peter.

After breakfast, in the gospel of John Jesus took a deposition of sorts. "Simon, son of John," Jesus asks, "do you love me more than these?" These disciples? These fish that have just been caught? Actually we will find that Jesus asked the question three times that go sort of like this.

- 1) Peter do you agape me?
- 2) Yes Lord, you know that I phileo you.

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- 1) Peter do you phileo me?
- 2) Yes, Lord, you know that I phileo you.

How wonderful it would have been if Peter had quit ducking and his third answer would have been, "Yes, Lord, you know that I agape you. Peter stepped down from the stand. It seems as if his answer wasn't quite what Jesus had hoped, but our Lord found it enough to start a ministry and then commanded the disciple, "Feed my lambs!"

We are in post resurrection mode now and waiting for Pentecost. But as we awaken to the newness of spring, may we come alive to the hopeful assurance that even in our dodging and ducking, God has found enough faith in our Lenten and Eastertide journey a seed of faith from which ministry and mission can grow. May God provide enough rain and sunshine and this pastor just enough Sunday manure, to help the seeds sprout and flourish.

*Bruce*

Optimists  
"A Russian Travelogue"

Optimists will meet on Friday, April 8. We gather at 5:30 and our catered lasagna dinner will be served at 6. Please remember to bring your table service and a donation of a paper product for the Pittsford Food Cupboard.



Tickets for \$11.00 each must be purchased after church on Sundays March 27 and April 3 or call the church office no later than April 4. **We must give an accurate number to our caterer so plan ahead and purchase your ticket or call the church office prior to the April 4 deadline.**

Dick and Nancy Sprengle will begin our journey to Russia in Moscow and travel to Red Square, the Kremlin, St. Petersburg and stops in several cities traversing 16 locks and various waterways. Come and join us for our trip to Russia.

**News from the Nursery School**

Spring has sprung! During the month of April our 4s will learn about Bus Safety and take a bus ride as well as visit Firefighter Nate and learn about Fire safety. Our 3s will be visited by Firefighter Nate bringing with him his fire truck! Our YK children will have parent conferences. We will have our annual Parent



Orientation meeting for our incoming parents as well as two fundraisers: one to Yotality and a Wine Tasting at Kings Bend Lodge. We also continue to have full afternoon enrichment classes. Please come visit us, you can view the children's Spring artwork, listen to their beautiful voices and be inspired by their innocence!

Teresa Zatyko, Director Pittsford Nursery School

**MOTHER'S DAY CHILDREN'S CHOIR STARTS SOON!**

Rehearsals begin on Wednesday April 6<sup>th</sup> and will follow on consecutive Wednesdays from 4:15 -4:45 in the Choir room.

This choir is open to all children k-8<sup>th</sup> who would like a short term commitment with a chance to share in worship on May 8<sup>th</sup>.

Help us make Mother's Day extra special this year!

**SUNDAY REHEARSAL OPTION TOO!**

When Logos ends in March Spring activities start up in full. If this is the case for your family we would like to offer an alternative rehearsal time for those children who have Wednesday commitments and might still like to participate in the Mother's day choir.

SEE THE OPTIONS ON THE LOGOS BULLETIN BOARD IN THE LOBBY AND SIGN UP FOR YOUR PREFERENCE!

## STEPHEN MINISTRY

Christ Caring for People through People ~ That's the motto of Stephen Ministry. The Stephen Minister's role is to bring God's love into the lives of people who are going through a difficult time or experiencing a crisis.



What do Stephen Ministers do? They listen to you, care for you, support and encourage you, and pray with and for you. And in the midst of this confidential, one-to-one, caring relationship, God's healing love comes pouring through.

If you or someone you know is facing a crisis-large or small-and could benefit from the caring presence of a Stephen Minister, talk with one of our Stephen Leaders: *Jane Hunter, Alice O'Dwyer, Barbara Smith, Dick Sprenkle or Carol Tiemann.*  
**Our Stephen Ministers are there to care!**

## WEB Club Schedule for 2016

All meetings start at 7:30 pm. Please call host if you plan to attend.

**April 13th - Catherine the Great: Portrait of a Woman** by Robert K. Massie  
- *The Pulitzer Prize-winning author of Peter the Great, Nicholas and Alexandra, and The Romanovs returns with another masterpiece of narrative biography, the extraordinary story of an obscure German princess who became one of the most remarkable, powerful, and captivating women in history.*



*Born into a minor noble family, Catherine transformed herself into empress of Russia by sheer determination. For thirty-four years, the government, foreign policy, cultural development, and welfare of the Russian people were in her hands. She dealt with domestic rebellion, foreign wars, and the tidal wave of political change and violence churned up by the French Revolution. Catherine's family, friends, ministers, generals, lovers, and enemies—all are here, vividly brought to life. History offers few stories richer than that of Catherine the Great. In this book, an eternally fascinating woman is returned to life.\**

*Home of Karin McNamara,*

**REMINDER ~ APRIL 10** is the deadline for the May GoodNews. Please place your article in the GoodNews mailbox in the back room, or email it to [admin@pittsfordpres.org](mailto:admin@pittsfordpres.org)





## Upcoming Events

SO-SO Gatherings—March 20th, April 10th and 24th

LOGOS Gatherings—March 16th and 23rd

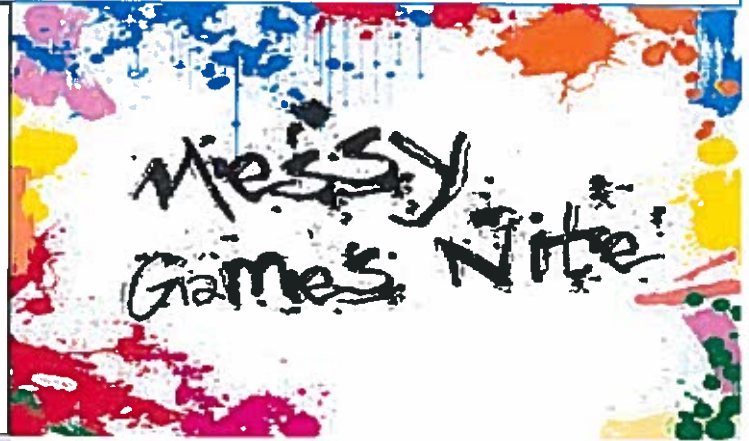
Messy Game Night—April 15th

Flower City Work Camp—March 28th-April 1st

Triennium—July 18th-24th

### Youth Triennium 2016

Triennium is happening once again July of 2016. All rising Freshman through graduated Seniors are invited to attend. Join 5000 fellow Presbyterian youth in worship, fun and learning for a week at Purdue University.



### Couches!!!!

The youth are looking for some new couches to put into the youth room! If you have any couches in decent condition that you would like to give to us, please let Tyler know!

### Flower City Work Camp

Join your fellow Rochester Youth March 2016 as we help make Rochester a better place to live. Join us as we go out and change



# THANK YOU Christian Education

## Teacher Appreciation Lunch

All Teachers and Shepherds are invited to join together for a lunch on Sunday, April 10th at 11:30am. Please bring your spouse and children if you desire. We will eat together and then briefly talk about the Christian Ed. program. This is provided to say thank you for enabling Christian Education to happen.

## Sign up for a small group

Starting on April 3rd, come browse the signup sheets for small groups. Each facilitator will have a group sheet where you can put your name down. You can also call the church office to get your name added to a sheet. Each group will be capped at 10 participants. Below are a list of current groups and the facilitators. If you would like to facilitate a group please contact the church office.



Small groups meet for prayer, fellowship, learning, inspiration, and conversation. The members covenant to meet for six weeks, during which they mentor each other in their lives of faith. Come meet new people who want to explore what it means to be a Christian in the midst of our current culture.

Groups that do not fill up will be asked to join other groups.

### Women's small group

**Time:** Thursdays at noon: 4/21; 4/28; 5/5; 5/12; 5/19; 5/26

**Facilitator:** Rev. Carrie Mitchell **Location:** library at church

### Monday small group

**Time:** Mondays at 7pm: 4/18; 4/25; 5/2; 5/9; 5/16; 5/23

**Facilitator:** Barbara Smith **Location:** Barbara Smith's home

### Tuesday small group

**Time:** Tuesdays at 7pm: 4/19; 4/26; 5/3; 5/10; 5/17; 5/24

**Facilitator:** Sandra Young

**Location:** Sandy and Rick's museum

### Small group

**Time:** Day of the week to be determined 7pm

**Facilitator:** Maria and Tim Smith **Location:** Their home

## Upcoming Events

Men's Prayer Breakfast	4/3 7:00 am
Optimists	4/8 5:30 pm
Mary Weller Circle	4/11 11:30 am
Anthony Circle	4/20 9:30 am
Board games and Euchre	4/15 7 pm
Naomi Circle	4/18 12:30 am
Evening Circle	4/25 7 pm
Not so Basic Bible study	Mondays 7:30 pm
Prayer Support Group	Mondays 11:00 am
Wednesday Evening Book Club	Monthly 7:30 pm
Lectionary Study	Weds. 7:15 pm
Men's Ecumenical Group	Thursdays 7:15 am
Women's Bible Study	Fridays 9:30 am
Adult Study	Sundays 9:45 am

## Coming up for Kids

Mar 27th Easter  
everyone worships together

## Special

## Mother's day Choir

for kids K-8. Rehearsals are Wednesdays at 4:15 or Sunday at 11:15 am, continuing until Mother's day.

## ONLINE GIVING FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### ***Why is the church offering this service?***

Use of credit/debit cards and online purchasing are becoming more popular, as check usage declines. Online giving is much more convenient than preparing and bringing/ mailing checks to church. The contributions are instantaneous and you get email confirmation.

### ***How do I make donations?***

Through the church website: <http://www.pittsfordpres.org> click on the "Giving" link at the top of the page, then click "Give Online Now". You will be directed to a Donation page.

You may make a one-time contribution or set up a secure account with a user name and password to simplify future donations (and you will have instant access to your contribution history). Recurring donations can be set up for any amount and any frequency and can be modified by you at any time. Ease of payment also helps members budget their contributions throughout the year.

### ***What donations may I make?***

You may make a pledge or offering contribution for our annual budget, a Special Offering, Memorial gift, or designate a contribution or payment to any fund raising activity or mission event. Literally any contribution or payment you currently make to the church by check can be done electronically.

### ***How do I pay?***

You may elect to have funds transferred from a checking/savings account or by a debit/credit card payment.

### ***Is it secure?***

The payment process meets the strictest standards set by the payment card industry. Within the church, only the Financial Administrator has access to your payment information, and you will continue to receive a quarterly statement detailing all contributions/payments to the church.

### ***Is there a cost?***

There is no cost to the donor. The church incurs a nominal charge for checking/savings contributions and a 3% fee for debit/credit card payments. You have the option of increasing your contribution to cover the card fee. To minimize church expense, it would be helpful if large donations were made by check.

### ***Who provides the service?***

We have contracted with Vanco Payment Solutions; a leader in nonprofit and church payment systems in business for 17 years with over 30,000 clients. Visit their website: <http://vancopayments.com/>

### ***How does the church benefit?***

We no longer have to process your paper checks (bank bill pay programs also send us paper checks). This saves time and is more secure...and better for the environment!! Members making recurring contributions help smooth out our cash flow. Churches have also found that ease of giving often results in an increase in giving.

### ***Where can I get more information?***

Contact Cesca Koron, Financial Administrator (586-5688 or [cesca.koron@pittsfordpres.org](mailto:cesca.koron@pittsfordpres.org)) or Rob Rhodes, Treasurer (425-9888 or [robrhodes24@frontiernet.net](mailto:robrhodes24@frontiernet.net))

## **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

**ANTHONY CIRCLE** ~ is a group of women who emphasize mission and fellowship. We meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 9:30 am in the church kitchen (unless we are doing a mission project on another day that month!) For more information contact Janette Henderson.



**MARY WELLER** ~ will meet on Monday, April 11 at 11:30 AM in Fellowship Hall. Please bring your lunch and least coin and enjoy the fellowship and help work on a new blanket.. All women of the church are invited to attend. If not a regular member, please contact Shirley Lawrence.

**NAOMI CIRCLE** ~ will meet on April 18, 12:30, room 200, with lunch and mug. Program to be determined.

**EVENING CIRCLE'S** ~ EVening Circle will meet April 25 at 7:00 PM in Room 200 to continue their book discussion. Books are available for those who need them. Any questions call Margaret Mecredy.



**KNITTING GROUP** ~ Everyone invited: to talk, knit, cross stitch, crochet. April 26 at 11:30 (or time that fits your schedule). Bring lunch—coffee, and tea are provided.

Yarn donations create wonderful projects!! Let's keep everyone warm and loved.

Questions? Call Kay Saxum.  
No attendance—no dues.

## **CONCERT SERIES NEWS**

Grab your passports for a musical tour! Bruce Frank will play An organ recital on Sunday, April 17 at 3:00 as part of First Presbyterian's Concert Series. He will take us on a Musical Journey through the continent of Europe, England, and America, with pieces by J.S. Bach and Robert Schumann (Germany), Girolamo Frescobaldi (Italy), Herbert Howells (England), Marcel Dubré (France), and David N. Johnson (USA). Join us to enjoy a truly international concert.



Mothers' Day is Sunday May 15. A wonderful way to celebrate Mom is to bring her to hear the women's chorus CONCENTUS. These very talented women will brighten Mom's day as they make a return performance at 3:00 pm in our sanctuary. This will conclude our 2015 -2016 Concert Series is a beautiful way.



## **UPCOMING DEACON FUN ACTIVITIES**

**Sunday April 3 at 5pm** - Cooking Club – Fellowship Hall – French Themed meals - \$7 – We learn how to prepare 4 dishes, cook the meal, and then enjoy eating and fellowship.

**Monday April 4 at 7pm** – Classical Music pre show talk and concert – meet at church for a short discussion of that night's program. Then car pool to Kodak Hall to hear the Eastman School of Music Philharmonia perform works by Mendelssohn (Overture to Ruy Blas), Castelnuovo-Tedesco (Guitar Concerto #1) and Mozart (Symphony #38 – Prague). This is a free concert in a relaxed atmosphere.

**Saturday April 23 at 3pm** – Hiking Club – Meet at church and car pool to Mendon Ponds for an easy 2 miles hike (about 1 hour). Led by Cindy Barben. Sign up in fellowship hall with your email included. In case of bad weather, we will send an email with alternative plans.

**Garden Club – TBD**

**Monday June 6 at 5pm** – Golf Outing- Winding Creek Golf Course in Farmington – Sign up with Ed Oliver or in fellowship Hall. Cost is \$10

**Friday June 24 at 7pm** – Rochester Red Wings vs. Louisville Sluggers baseball game. \$10. Tickets will be available in fellowship hall in June. See Dick Kievit for details.

## **MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS**

**Chris and Margaret Callahan** come to us with lovely five-month-old Lucy. Chris is a teacher and Margaret is a physician. Chris coaches HS football in Webster and they both love spending summers outside on the boat at Keuka Lake.

**Steve and Mazie Mizelle** have already been adding their harmonious voices to our choir. Mazie teaches biology and hematology at MCC and Steve racks up his frequent flyer miles working with small businesses. They have four grown children who all live outside of NY state and they have been Deacons, Elders and even Clerk of Session in former churches.

**Zach Smith and Liz Morgan** return to us in the sense that Zach grew up in this church and they are excited to have their two-month-old daughter Katherine baptized here in the new future. Zach is a salesperson at Hoselton Auto Mall and Liz is an oncology nurse. They both enjoy camping and look forward to becoming a part of this faith community.

**Jane Vesling** is also formalizing her return to us as she and her three siblings grew up in this church. She too is a nurse in our community. In addition to being a tremendous healer, she has been ministering with our ARC members and spreading smiles wherever she is.

**Corrina Valley** is a special education teacher who recently moved here from Hawaii after having retired from teaching near Scranton, PA. She enjoys traveling, studying and organic living.