



The Good News

November 2016

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

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN-CELL

Lectionary for November

Nov. 1—All Saint's Day

Dan. 7:1-3, 15-18

Ps. 149

Eph. 1:11-23

Luke 6:20-31

Nov. 6—25th Sunday after Pentecost

Hag. 1:15b-2:9

Ps. 145:1-5, 17-21 or

Ps. 98

2 Thess. 2:1-5, 13-17

Luke 20:27-38

Nov. 13—26th Sunday after Pentecost

Isa. 65:17-25

Isa. 12

2 Thess. 3:6-13

Luke 21:5-19

Nov. 20—Christ the King/Reign of Christ

Jer. 23:1-6

Luke 1:68-79

Col. 1:11-20

Luke 23:33-43

Nov. 27—1st Sunday of Advent

Isa. 2:1-5

Ps. 122

Rom. 13:11-14

Matt. 24:36-44

Fifth grade students at Ogle Elementary School in McKinney, Texas, belong to the *Lost Planet* book club. Last February this club started as a part of the school library where they read the sci-fi novel, *The Lost Planet*. Then, using an acrostic poem generator app on library computers, they selected key words from the story and wrote a series of statements about that word—one each beginning with the letters of that word, in order. For example, one student came up with this, using the word EARTH:

*Every 24 hours it is night and day
Atmosphere protects us
Rotates on its axis
Temperature differs in different climates
Has northern and southern hemisphere*

Another student developed an acrostic on the planet name TRUCON:

*Tons of zinnjerha
Runaway chase
Unsafe for humans
Can be a home
One and only place for Parker
Never stay outside*

You'll have to talk to a fifth grader to know what all of that means, but you no doubt have encountered acrostics before. In fact, the Bible has them, although you probably didn't know it, since the acrostic would only be noticeable in Hebrew. Such is the case of Psalm 145. Each statement of the psalm is built on a successive letter of the alphabet—the Hebrew alphabet, that is. (There are 22 characters in the Hebrew alphabet, but only 21 verses in Psalm 145. However, verse 13, which is twice the length of the other verses, contains two statements, giving the psalm the full complement of the alphabet.)

Noting that this psalm is an acrostic is helpful in studying it, for it excuses us from trying to read it as an essay or a cohesive discussion—a designation we would never use for the notes about Trucon. Acrostics on almost any topic are generally not comprehen-



sive treatises where one sentence logically leads to the next. Rather, *acrostics are usually a collection of loosely connected statements all applying to a central topic.*

This is certainly the case with Psalm 145. Carlos Wilton has been the pastor of the Point Pleasant Beach Presbyterian Church in Point Pleasant, N.J. He was in the hospital when some of us from First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford slept in the church there to help rebuild houses in the community. Although we slept there, I made a visit to the hospital and had the opportunity to have a brief visit and prayer with Carlos. We talked a little about Psalm 145, a portion of which I read beside his bed.

Carlos made some commentary. He said that most of us only know Psalm 145 piecemeal. He then mentioned specific verses including 3, 8, 15, and 18, that pastor types frequently use as calls to worship, invitations to confession, and words of pardon. He added that Psalm 145 is a veritable repository of worship liturgy.

Now the central theme of this psalm, which ties it together, is simply the word, "Praise!" In Hebrew, "praise" is *tehillah*, and the Talmud says, "Everyone who repeats the *Tehillah* thrice a day may be sure that he is a child of the world to come." The psalm is regularly used in morning and evening services in synagogues. And in the early church, it was the Scripture text used at the midday meal.

Psalm 145 makes its alphabetical assertions about the glory of God without attempting to explain or prove them. They are stated as self-evident truths in which we are invited to rejoice. They are simple phrases that say simple words of faith like, "I believe in you."

This is sort of like an old Peter, Paul and Mary song, "Hymn" (by Noel Paul Stookey, James Mason and Karen Gold) where the person in the song remembers going to church as a child, and speaks to God about visiting some Sunday services now as an adult. In some of the churches, the singer says, "They talked a lot about You / And they spoke about Your giving." When they then passed the offering basket, the singer says, there was just time to write a note, "And all it said was I believe in You."

Further on, the song mentions hearing conversations "where they mentioned Your existence / And the fact that You had been replaced by Your assistants." When the singer was invited to comment, "All that I could say was I believe in You."

Psalm 145 is sort of like this. It contains theology, of course, for it is all about God. But it's not a study in doctrine or a quest for more understanding. It's not a plea for God to be more self-revealing. It is simply a way of saying, "I believe in you and praise you."

And let's say plainly that such a declaration is enough to get you to the door of the kingdom of God. It's not the whole of the Christian faith, but it's the starting point, for without it, there's no incentive to even seek entry into the kingdom. In the gospel of Mark, when the father of the boy who was having dangerous seizures asked Jesus to help if he was able, Jesus responded, "If you are able! -- All things can be done for the one who believes." (9:23)

Not every Christian has the gifts of witness and explanation, and thus not every Christian is comfortable articulating what they believe and feel. Surely there are people who have little interest in theological debate, but who say to God in truth, "I believe in you."

We're not saying that such persons never have any doubts about God or that they are deaf to those who do. But they—and perhaps some of you are among them—just find that the major question about God within themselves is settled enough that it doesn't keep resurfacing.

They hear ardent unbelievers and even moderate skeptics bleating their viewpoint, but for them, it comes down to saying honestly to God, "I believe in you."

Now, we might make the case that believing in God is not enough. Someone is sure to suggest that belief in God needs to move from intellectual assent to commitment of oneself to that belief. It is indeed possible to believe in God as a concept but live functionally as though God makes no difference. This is a topic for another month. However, as we approach Thanksgiving you might want to dust off Psalm 145. It doesn't have the word "Thanksgiving" in it, but it does have references to The Creator and would be a fitting blessing. Then, if you'd like to make up your own acrostic, like Psalm 145 and like we do on Mother's Day sometimes, you could write down the word "God" and think of words that begin with G – then O – and then D. It is short enough that even children could participate.

Bruce

GOD

Good
Omnipotent
Demanding

Gracious
Omniscient
Delightful

Glorious
Open-hearted
Dynamic

Giving
One
Dazzling

WORSHIP THEMES FOR FALL 2016

LOVING GENEROUSLY is our Fall 2016 theme and we will celebrate God's generosity and yours as we bring our commitment cards for 2017 to worship on Sunday, November 3. There will also be an opportunity to use electronic giving on our website and an example of this year's commitment card published below. Bible studies and video series exploring the loving generosity of the "Donovan Family" are happening too. Come any week. Wednesdays at 7:15pm in room 200.

Oct. 23	KEEP YOUR PROMISES What happened in Kenya this summer
Oct. 30	GIVE FREELY Treasurer Rob Rhodes Presentation
Nov. 3	LOVE GENEROUSLY Dedication of Commitment Cards—Communion— Necrology for All Saints Sunday

COMMITMENT CARD

LOVING GENEROUSLY

In 2017 I intend to express my love for God and others by generously giving through the First Presbyterian Church.

(Here indicate gifts of service, time, or talent)

And giving _____ per week, month, quarter, year for a Yearly Total of \$_____

Name _____ Phone _____

Email _____ Offering Boxes ☐ yes ☐ no

Cut off and keep this stub for yourself

In 2017 I intend to:

Volunteer within the church in _____

Serve Jesus Christ by _____

The Person in my life I need to forgive is _____

I need to ask forgiveness from _____

I need to invite into my life _____

Give _____

Deacon Events

- Hiking – Saturday, November 5, at 2pm. Meet at the church and carpool to Tinker Nature Center. See the new Fairy Houses!
- Game Night/Euchre – Saturday, November 5, at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome!
- Cooking Club - Sunday, November 27, at 5pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will prepare breakfast dishes. Cost \$7
- Eastman School of Music Student Concert - Friday, December 2, at 7pm. We will meet in room 200 for pre-concert chat and then carpool to Kodak Hall. Listen to this free concert performed by student symphony and the chorale.
- RIT vs. Sacred Heart College Hockey - Saturday, January 7, 2017. Cost \$12 - Call Dan Traina at 208-6839 for tickets/info.

Cheers! Where everybody knows your name...

Please wear a name tag to church Sunday, November 20. Everyone can wear a church-given name tag, a name tag you design or a name tag you create upon arriving at church. Our intent is helping one another greet one another by name. November 20th is also the Advent Preparation Brunch at the conclusion of the 10am worship service so having name tags will enhance our fellowship after worship. A cheery thank you to everyone!



Optimists November Meeting—Friday, November 11 “Christians in the Middle East”

With roots to Damascus, Syria, Rev. Roula Alkhouri will be giving us an inside look at “Christians in the Middle East.” She was blessed as part of the Presbyterian and Catholic communities there. She is currently pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Batavia. Her passions in ministry include spirituality, biblical studies, centering prayer, interfaith connections and social justice. Join us for a first-hand view of a continuing important topic.

We will gather at 5:30 and dinner will be served at 6pm. We will be enjoying turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, yams, green bean casserole, cranberry sauce and dessert. Tickets will be available in Fellowship Hall on Sundays October 30 and November 6 or call the church office no later than Friday November 4. **Plan ahead as we must give an accurate count to our caterer.** Please bring your own table service and a donation of a paper product for the Pittsford Food Cupboard.

Naomi Circle

Naomi Circle will meet for lunch November 21 at 12:30pm with brown bags and mugs. After a short business meeting, our speaker, Valerie O'Hara, will give a slide lecture about Pike Stained Glass Studios in Rochester. Valerie's presentation will include some of the process used to restore our stained glass windows after the church fire. Non-members are always welcome.



Evening Circle

The Evening Circle will meet on November 28 at 7:00pm in Room 200. Any questions, call Margaret Mecredy at 381.6430.



Cameron Community Ministries Update

A COUPLE OF REMINDERS – Thanks for all of the summer donations. They were excellent, and much appreciated. Now we look toward winter and a change to warm items. As usual, all genders, ages and sizes are welcomed. They are in need of men's coats, boots and gloves, in particular. There is also a special need for hygiene items such as toothpaste and brushes, shampoo, conditioner, lotion, soap and body wash, deodorant, razors, shaving cream, combs and brushes, Q-tips, toilet paper and feminine products. Travel sizes are fine, but full-size products are needed for the hygiene bags that they supply to families. Size 5 diapers are also hard to keep in supply. Anything you can provide would be wonderful. Place your donations in manageable bags or boxes in the Cameron containers in the Lobby Room, and we will do the rest. Questions? – Liz, 223 3052

HIP HOUSE DEDICATION

Come to the dedication of our HIP house and see what members of our church and the other participants in our Habitat Interfaith Partnership Coalition have been building over the Summer and Fall at 320 Orange Street in Rochester. Dedication will be November 19 at 11:00am and refreshments will be served.

Our 6th Habitat for Humanity house is nearing completion but we still need volunteers! We are working on painting and trim, floors and tiling. This is your last chance to contribute your time and talent to help an energetic young woman, Kareny Morales, with a 2-year-old son fulfill her dream of owning a home. She completed her 300 "sweat equity" hours months ago but still comes on site to work and to meet the people who are helping her achieve an important goal in her life.

Directions to 320 Orange St.: Exit 490 at Childs St. Turn right onto Childs St. Go two blocks and turn right onto Orange St. 320 Orange St. is down two blocks near the end of the street on your left. School 17 is at the end of the street and you can park in the school parking lot if on-street parking is unavailable.

Grieving and Healing at Holiday Time, a one day retreat for widows will be held from 9am to 7pm on Saturday, December 10 at the Mercy Spirituality Center. The day will include multiple workshops with three presenters, three meals, and chair massages to support relaxation and enhance your experience. Presenters include Rev. Dr. Lynn M. Aquafondata, mental health counselor, Rev. Katie Jo Suddaby, sand mandala artist, and Jessica Millan, financial advisor who specializes in working with widows. For more information or to register contact Lynn at 585.330.1340. crossbridgecounseling.com/widowsretreat

"THINGS WILL GET BETTER—JUST HOLD ON". You appreciate your friends' concern. But until things do get better, you need extra support. A Stephen Minister would like to provide that caring concern by being there to listen. For more information about Stephen Ministry please contact one of our pastors or one of our Stephen Leaders: *Jane Hunter, Alice O'Dwyer, Barbara Smith, Dick Sprenkle or Carol Tiemann.* **Stephen Ministers care!** A Stephen Minister Greeter is available at the back of the Sanctuary prior to the 10:00 AM service.



It's Medicare Open Enrollment Season —Our own Nancy A. Skelton, CLU will present a review of Medicare Advantage Plans on Sunday, October 30, after worship at 11:30am in Room 201. Bring your questions and be informed. Nancy started a new firm T65 & Beyond, LLC after retiring from the brokerage firm KAFL, Inc., which she started in 1991. T65 & Beyond concentrates on the Medicare market as well as small group and individual health insurance. T65 is appointed with all of the major insurance companies in our area. Come to the meeting and be better informed about plan choices and which of the many plans might best fit your needs.



News from the Nursery School

We are now full into the Fall season and enjoying every minute of it! Here at the pre-school, children have transitioned to school routines, made friends and are building lasting bonds. Our parents got to know each other better at our Fall gathering, fundraising T Shirts are coming; we have set up farmers markets in the classrooms and working on our Square One Art Projects. In the month of November we collect food for the Pittsford Food Cupboard. At the end of the month, right before our Thanksgiving Break, we have a feast! We have much to be thankful for. I wish all of you a wonderful Thanksgiving! Thank you for your continued support!

Teresa Zatyko, Director Pittsford Nursery School



The Mosaic of Peace: Witnessing for Peace and Wholeness in a Land Called "Holy"

Elder Susan Orr, Presbyterian for Mission & Education,
Presbytery of Genesee Valley

Join us: November 15 at 6pm in Fellowship Hall

Soup and sandwiches provided

"As US Presbyterians, we continue to empower Christians in the Holy Land. Never stop praying and educating yourselves about the political, social, and economic situation of the occupation and plight of my people. Go and tell the stories you've heard—the good and the bad—because the greatest gift you can offer is advocacy." Fouad Twal, Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem (retired)

We will briefly examine the history and complexity of the issues that exist today between Israel and Palestine. We will also reflect on Susan's life-changing experiences as a participant in the Mosaic of Peace, the Presbyterian Peacemaking Conference to Israel/Palestine in 2014 and 2016.

Christmas Pageant Volunteers Needed

Each week of Advent we need volunteers to be Christmas characters, light candles and lead worshippers in prayer. Then on December 20, during Sunday morning worship, all the traditional characters will bring the pieces together in one service. Children are invited to sign-up to help with the pageant. During sign-up please specify if you are available to help Nov. 27, Dec. 4, or 11 for Advent Candle lighting or Dec. 18 for the full pageant. Contact Craig in the office 586-5688.



Advent Preparation Brunch

This year the Advent preparation brunch will be held November 22 right after the second worship service. There will be delicious treats, craft activities for kids and adults, a time to refresh your advent wreaths, and many laughs with your First Presbyterian Family.

If you do not have a wreath and would like to make one please inform Craig in the office.

Children's Advent Calendars

Again this year we are happy have available Children's Advent Calendars. These calendars lead children through all 24 days of the Advent season. They will also mirror the large wooden calendar that will be used during Worship. One calendar will be made for each family with children. Others can reserve a copy by contacting Craig in the office. They will start to be available the Sunday before Thanksgiving and during the Advent Brunch.



Christian Education



Upcoming Events

Men's Prayer Breakfast	11/6 7:00 am
Optimists	11/11 5:30 pm
Anthony Circle	11/16 9:30 am
Naomi Circle	11/21 12:30 am
Evening Circle	11/28 7 pm
Not so Basic Bible study	Mondays 7:30 pm
Prayer Support Group	Mondays 11:00 am
Wednesday Evening Book Club	11/9 2:00 pm
Lectionary Study	Weds. 7:15 pm
Men's Ecumenical Group	Thursdays 7:15 am
Adult Study	Sundays 9:45 am

Upcoming Youth Events—We are looking forward to seeing you all again for another fantastic year!

SOSO—October 30 and November 7

LOGOS—October 26, November 2, 9, 16 and 30

Paintball—To be rescheduled

Corn Maze at Long Acre Farms—October 21st from 6:00pm-9:00pm

JASY—We are continuing this year once again with our trip to Jamaica! We would love to have anyone come who is interested. Applications are due October 28, so act fast! If you would like more information or have any questions contact Tyler—tyler@pittsfordpres.org.



With the new year comes a new confirmation class! Carrie does a fantastic job with each new class and once again she has a fantastic year planned! Don't miss out on this wonderful time in life!



It's a start to a whole new year! Lots of fun new events and ideas, from fun games and food to mission and bible studies. We hope to have all of you join us at anytime you can! You are all always welcome for anything and we encourage you to bring any friends who would enjoy themselves with us!

WEB Club

November 9: *First Women: The Grace and Power of America's Modern First Ladies* by Kate Anderson Brower

From the best-selling author of the "Residence," a backstairs look inside the White House comes at the story of the modern first ladies and an in-depth look of their years within the confines of their role as wife of the President and their interactions with the other members of this unique club.

Meeting from 2 pm until 4 pm in the Church Library



HOLIDAY PIES FOR



Flower City

Habitat for Humanity®



Holiday Pie Sale for Flower City Habitat for Humanity

- Homemade pies are from Kelly's Farm Market in Hilton, NY
- Made from scratch without preservatives with fruit grown on their farm
- Pies are deep, 10 inch homemade fruit pies, weighing about 4.5 lbs
- ❄️ Pies freeze nicely, buy and serve throughout the holidays ❄️
- Pie proceeds go to Flower City Habitat for Humanity projects in Rochester

LET YOUR DESSERT DO GOOD THIS YEAR!

Orders due: November 6, 2016

Pie Pick-up: November 22, 2016

Location: Fellowship Hall
First Presbyterian

Time: noon-4:00 pm

HABITAT HOLIDAY PIE SALE ORDER FORM (Please print clearly)

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

PIE VARIETY	QUANTITY	PRICE	TOTAL ENCLOSED
Apple Crumb		\$16	
Apple Raspberry		\$16	
Pumpkin		\$16	
Holiday Crumb (Apple, Cranberry, Pineapple)		\$16	
Apple Crisp		\$12	

In lieu of or in addition to pies, I would like to make a donation to Habitat for: _____

GRAND TOTAL: _____

Please make checks out to: First Presbyterian Church

And write in the check note section: HIP Pies

NOVEMBER – A Month of Thanksgiving

Tuesday, November 1
Sunday, November 3

All Saints Day

Love Generously

Communion

Dedicate Commitment Cards

Necrology – remembering those who
entered heaven from our fellowship

Daylight Savings Time Ends

Packing Party for College Freshmen at
the Boaks

Tuesday, November 8

Election Day

Wednesday, November 9

Prayer for Healing, 7:15pm in the Sanctuary

Friday, November 11

Veterans Day

Sunday, November 15

Congregational Meeting – Election of Officers

Saturday, November 19

Habitat House Dedication

Sunday, November 20

Advent Brunch

Thursday, November 24

THANKSGIVING

Sunday, November 27

1st Sunday of Advent

Thanksgiving Dinner Prayer

Heavenly Father, on Thanksgiving Day
We bow our hearts to You and pray.
We give You thanks for all You've done
Especially for the gift of Jesus, Your Son.
For beauty in nature, Your glory we see
For joy and health, friends and family,
For daily provision, Your mercy and care
These are the blessings You graciously share.
So today we offer this response of praise
With a promise to follow You all of our days.
Amen.

Abundant Blessing

We thank you for the turkey,
The gravy and the dressing.
Dear Lord, this table overflows
With Thy abundant blessing.
Let us always be aware
That all gifts come from You,
And may we serve Your heavenly will
In everything we do. Amen.

A Thanksgiving Day Prayer

Lord, so often times, as any other day
When we sit down to our meal and pray

We hurry along and make fast the blessing
Thanks, amen. Now please pass the dressing
We're slaves to the olfactory overload
We must rush our prayer before the food gets cold
But Lord, I'd like to take a few minute more
To really give thanks to what I'm thankful for
For my family, my health, a nice soft bed
My friends, my freedom, a roof over my head
I'm thankful right now to be surrounded by those
Whose lives touch me more than they'll ever possibly
know
Thankful Lord, that You've blessed me beyond meas-
ure
Thankful that in my heart lives life's greatest treasure
That You, dear Jesus, reside in that place
And I'm ever so grateful for Your unending grace
So please, heavenly Father, bless this food You've
provided
And bless each and every person invited
Amen!

Humorous Thanksgiving Prayer

When turkey's on the table laid,
And good things I may scan,
I'm thankful that I wasn't made
A vegetarian.

Thanksgiving Pies! Order Now!

Once again we are selling pies for Thanksgiving for our HIP (Habitat Interfaith Partnership) Fund!!! HIP builds a house in Rochester every three years and raises \$65,000 for each house. This year we are just completing our sixth house at 230 Orange Street. All proceeds from this sale will go toward our 2019 Habitat house. The HIP Coalition includes the following: First Presbyterian Church; St. Louis Catholic Church, Pittsford; St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Pittsford; Christ Episcopal Church, Pittsford; Mount Olivet Baptist Church, Rochester; Temple Sinai, Penfield; The Islamic Center, Rochester; Pittsford Rotary Club; Pittsford-Mendon H.S. Habitat for Humanity Club.

Order your pies now as this year we must have our final order in to Kelly's by **Wednesday, November 9!!!!**

Pies will be delivered to First Presbyterian Church on Tuesday, November 22 for you to pick up from 12:00pm to 4:00pm. Please note on your order form if you are unable to pick up your order that day and we will put it in the freezer with your name on your order. Please remember that the church is only open until noon the following day, Wednesday, November 23, so if you want your pies for Thanksgiving dinner you must pick up your order by noon that day. The church will reopen on Sunday, November 27.



These pies arrive freshly baked and they freeze very well so if you can't use them for Thanksgiving you can save them to serve another time. They also make thoughtful gifts for family, friends and business associates. Apple Crisps are in a loaf pan, smaller than the large pies and with no crust.

Fill out the order form enclosed and mail or bring to the church with full payment enclosed by Wednesday November 9. We will also have a table in the Fellowship Hall each Sunday from October 23 to November 6 at which you may order your pies. Please note that the pies must be paid for at the time you place your order so remember your check book or have cash on hand!

FALL AND WINTER HOURS

Sunday Events

8:30 & 10:00 am ~ Worship
9:15 am ~ Choir Warm-up
9:45 pm ~ Adult Bible Study
9:30 & 11:00 am ~ Fellowship
10:00 am ~ Church School

Office Hours

8:30 AM — 4:30 PM Monday—Friday

Cesca's Hours

8:30 AM — 4:30 PM Tues-
days & Thursdays



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Worship With Us

Please join us for Sunday morning
worship.

Worship Services: 8:30 & 10:00AM
Communion is offered on the
first Sunday of each month.

