

The Good News

January 2015

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

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN-CELL

LECTIONARY FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY

2nd Sunday after Christmas Day
January 4
Jeremiah 31:7-14
Psalm 147:12-20
Ephesians 1:3-14
John 1:(1-9) 10-18

Baptism of the Lord
January 11
Genesis 1:1-5
Psalm 29
Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:4-11

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
January 18
1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20)
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
1 Corinthians 6:12-20
John 1:43-51

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
January 25
Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Psalm: 62:5-12
1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20

Now I really don't have anything against Boston, but I have learned through the internet and magazines that only seem to linger around Doctors' waiting rooms, that Boston still has a few very strange traffic laws its books. So here are several of those coupled with suggestions for driving in Boston from the Boston Globe:



- When on a one-way street, stay to the right to allow on-coming traffic to pass.
- Never, ever, stop for a pedestrian unless he flings himself under the wheels of your car.
- The first parking space you see will be the last parking space you see. Grab it.
- Never get in the way of a car that needs extensive bodywork.
- Always look both ways when running a red light.
- Never use directional signals when changing lanes. They only warn other drivers to speed up and not let you in.
- Making eye contact revokes your right of way.

Is Boston the only place in our great land where such traffic advice is either legal or advised? Well certainly not!

- In Little Rock, Arkansas, "no person shall sound the horn on a vehicle at any place where cold drinks or sandwiches are served after 9 p.m."
- For decades it was illegal for a woman to drive down Main Street in Waynesboro, Virginia, without her husband walking in front of the vehicle waving a red flag.
- In Montana, it's illegal to leave a sheep unescorted in a truck.
- Tennessee has a law that prohibits shooting at animals from a car, unless that animal happens to be a whale. If you see a whale on the side of the road in, say, Chattanooga then, by all means, blast away.
- In San Francisco, car wash owners are restricted from drying off vehicles with used underwear. Now what do you suppose initiated this statute? Weird traffic laws have always been a part of American culture, but, in John's gospel, the best rules of the road are those that lead us straight to Jesus.

Traffic laws in Jesus' day were a whole lot less stringent and weird since most people of the poorer classes traveled by foot (as did sheep, by the way). Jesus may have walked thousands of miles in his lifetime, all without ever honking a horn or making a left on red. But, as he traveled, he began to define a different set of rules for those who would follow him on those ancient roads and for those of us who follow him today.

Here at the beginning of a New Yea, after having just read from the gospel of John those usual verses from chapter 1 on Christmas, I thought that it might be good to take my time to read through the entire gospel in the month of January. Since John has 21 chapters, I could take the weekends off (Saturday and Sunday) and still make it through the whole book. The story seems to open with Jesus on the road from the place of his baptism (likely on the Jordan River near the Dead Sea) back to Galilee, his home territory. The road running along the Jordan was the main north-south route through the region, and Jesus and his people would have traversed it many times. But on this journey home he had a few new road rule and we see it before we get out of the first chapter:

Rule #1: FOLLOW. "Follow me" (v. 43). This first rule is the equivalent of Jesus holding up a red flag and waving it in front of those who would come after him. Note that it's said in the imperative -- not a suggestion or a request but a command. It's not simply "think about me" or "consider me." It's "follow me." To be a disciple of Jesus is to leave the route you were on and take a narrow, one-way road behind him which might take us all down some unique highways in 2015.

John opens with Jesus calling disciples. Jesus is acting relationally here rather than legalistically. His instruction is not "Here is how you must live." His first words are, "Follow me."

John Buchanan, writing in *Christian Century* (March 20, 2012), says: "*Jesus did not ask Peter, James and John to subscribe to a set of theological propositions, nor did he want them to feel anything. He asked them to follow, to decide to get up from what they were doing and go with him.*"

Some will hope that in 2015 someone will hand them "certainty" to be accepted on a blind platter. That is not what following Jesus means. In 2015 maybe following Jesus will be a time for us to discover the curious connection between the way we think and the way we bond. It could be a time for us to engage in mission, to sacrifice a snippet of convenience to make the world better, to discipline ourselves to worship or deepen our faith by engaging in ministry or fellowship. If you think that framing life's issues in black-and-white, either/or, on-and-off alternatives is following Jesus, your path will lack resiliency. [My thinking about this paragraph was needled by the writing of Edwin H. Friedman, *Friedman's Fables* (Guilford Press, 2014), 112.]

I say, "Let's follow Jesus in 2015!" He is the way! There are lots of suggestions in this month's *Good News* to begin the journey!

COME AND ENJOY

"It's A Wonderful Life" will be performed at our church on Monday, December 22 at 7:00 pm. The actors from Spotlight Theater in Fairport will entertain us with their talented students. Proceeds will go to our mission commission. Tickets will be available in Fellowship Hall December 14 & 21 and at the door before the show December 22. Cost is \$10 with a family limit of \$40.





Christian Education

Sunday School Studies Mission

Heifer Season is upon us. Time for children grades Pre-K through 5th grade to start creating masterpieces. During Sunday school children will learn about mission and make items to be sold at the Heifer Fair. They will learn that helping a family to own an animal, not only feeds the family but helps them become self sufficient.

Crafts this year include: 2nd & 3rd Grades - Glass etching, 4th & 5th Grades Candle making

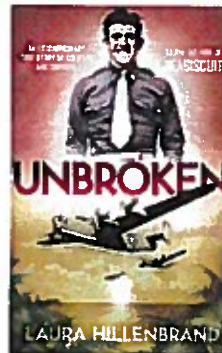
The **Heifer Fair** will be *February 8th* this year. Just after the youth service.



Sunday January 4th, 2015

Pittsford Presbyterian Movie Group
4pm with optional Dessert or Dinner
to follow. Pittsford Cinema

Unbroken, an epic drama that follows the incredible life of Olympian and war hero Louis Louie Zamperini, Elder Hollywood Presbyterian Church, who, along with two other crewmen, survived in a raft for 47 days after a near-fatal plane crash in WWII only to be caught by the Japanese Navy and sent to a prisoner-of-war camp. Adapted from Laura Hillenbrand's (Seabiscuit An American Legend) enormously popular book, Unbroken brings to the big screen Zamperini's unbelievable and inspiring true story about the resilient power of the Christian spirit.



DR. Rod Frohman Continues his Bible Study

THE FIRST FIVE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

Session 5	4-Jan-15	<i>The Human Person as Yahweh's Partner</i>
Session 6	11-Jan-15	<i>The Nations as Yahweh's Partner</i>
Session 7	18-Jan-15	<i>Creation as Yahweh's Partner</i>
Session 8	25-Jan-15	<i>Summary of the Course</i>

Sundays at 11:30am – 12:30pm --The Chapel (accessible by elevator) -- Light Snacks will "tide us over"

Upcoming Events

Men's Prayer Breakfast @Messengers	1/11 7:00 am
Mary Weller Circle	1/13 11:30 am
Optimists	1/9 12:30 pm
Naomi Circle	1/19 11:30 am
Anthony Circle	1/20 9:30 am
Evening Circle	1/27 7 pm
Not so Basic Bible study	Mondays 7:30 pm
Prayer Support Group	Tuesdays 11:30 am
Wednesday Evening Book Club	Wed. 7:00 monthly
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 Kid

December 28: Pj's in Worship
 Children invited to stay in worship.
 January 7: LOGOS Resolution
 January 14: LOGOS P.J.'s Movie night
 January 21: LOGOS Surprise Night
 February 8: Heifer Fair

MEET YOUR NEW CHURCH OFFICERS

Thomas Kim, Trustee, Class of 2017

Tom has been a member of 1st Presbyterian for 8 years. He and his wife Rochelle have two sons. Tom is currently a Bio-chemistry professor at RIT. He enjoys ballroom and west coast swing dancing and is interested in many ministries in the church. He has sung in the choir, played in the bell choir and served as both an elder and a Sunday school teacher. He has also participated in small group fellowship, instrumental music, RAIHN, Habitat for Humanity, Committee on Preparation for Ministry and a pastoral nominating committee.

What excites Tom most about the growth of 1st Pres is the ability to share Christ's teaching to a new generation and to give hope and comfort to our needy brethren.

C. Allan Reeve – Trustee, Class of 2017

Allan has been a member of 1st Presbyterian for 22 years. He and his wife Beverly have three grown daughters. He is an attorney and is a partner in a law firm in Rochester. He enjoys music and serves on the Hochstein Board. Allan has been an elder, a trustee, sings in the choir and participated on a mission trip to Malawi in 2002.

Bob Huot – Trustee, Class of 2017

Bob has been married to his wife Lynne and they have two adult children, John and Becky. Bob retired from Eastman Kodak after 40 years in product design engineering. He is an avid sporting clays shooter and duck and deer hunter. Bob has served as Trustee in the past and is delighted to be serving again.

Jeff Steele – Trustee, Class of 2017

Jeff has been a member of 1st Pres for 27 years. He and his wife Julie have two adult sons, Ryan and Kevin. Jeff is a Mechanical Engineer and he enjoys investing and photography. Jeff has served as Trustee a number of times in the past and is presently the liaison to the scout troops that currently meet here at 1st Presbyterian Church Pittsford.

Jim Murray – Trustee, Class of 2017

Jim has been a member here for over 40 years. He is the father of two sons, and the grandfather of seven grandchildren. Jim is a retired CPA and is now enjoying his grandchildren's activities. Additionally, he is an active member of Egypt's Volunteer Fire Department. Jim is pleased to see an increase in young children in our congregation.

Dr Henry Wang – Deacon, Class of 2017

Dr. Wang is excited to be a Deacon. Henry is a radiologist at the University of Rochester and with his wife, Chiru Lee, is the parent of two well-grown children, Ernest and Christine. In his spare time, Henry enjoys listening to classical music, reading and hiking in nature.

Daniel Dupre – Deacon, Class of 2017

Daniel has a Deacon's heart and anticipates serving with the Board. Dan is the father of Emma who attends Presbyterian College in South Carolina and Olivia who is in third grade at Mendon Center. Dan loves to actively serve and has done so with Army, Red Cross, Habitat for Humanity and several not-for-profit boards.

Pamela Flynn – Deacon, Class of 2017

Pam has been a member here for over 20 years. She has three adult children, Calder, Conor and Adina. Pam was a paralegal and is now enjoying semi-retirement. She enjoys reading, sewing, entertaining, and learning about her community. Pam helped build a Habitat for Humanity home and has worked with LOGOS, taught Sunday school and loves the sermons.

Judy Messenger – Deacon, Class of 2017

Judy has been a member her for 14 years. She is the mother of three sons, Gregory, James and Charles. Judy is retired and is enjoying being a wife and mother. She also enjoys theatre, music, crafting and gardening. Judy has taught Sunday school, sung in choirs, is on the Parent board, works with RAIHN and has participated in many other activities.

David Irwin – Deacon, Class of 2017

David has been a member of 1st Presbyterian for 19 years. He and his wife Joy have two adult sons, Will and Greg. David joyfully employs his communications talents with SUNY Geneseo. He enjoys grand parenting, reading, golf and traveling. He has been an elder and a member of the church renovation committee. Dave is excited about the growth opportunities that lie ahead.

Martha Boak – Deacon, Class of 2017

Martha is a lifelong Presbyterian having eleven churches throughout her years to thank for her spiritual growth, moral grounding, and wonderful friendships. When asked if she'd serve on the nominating committee, her response was, "I'd rather be a Deacon."

Nevan Fisher – Elder, Class of 2017

Nevan has been a member of 1st Pres. for about 9 years. He is a professor of Chinese and East Asian history. He enjoys international travel, reading, watching movies, gardening and spending time with family. Nevan sings in the choir, gives talks to the Optimists and helps facilitate small group fellowship studies.

Newton Green – Elder, Class of 2017

Newt has been a member for around 10 years. He and his wife Pam have two children: a daughter, Kathryn and a son, Hunter. Newt makes use of his gifts in environmental engineering, quality assurance, banking, executive leadership, and consulting engineering. He enjoys hiking, camping, mountain climbing, skiing and a number of other activities. Newt is a Confirmation class leader, a junior high youth leader and has been active in many mission endeavors.

Jen Lake – Elder, Class of 2017

Jen Lake is excited to return to Session. She is currently the Director of People Resources at ABVI Goodwill and along with her rugby-playing husband, Matt, is the proud mother of 5-year-old Maddie. She has loved learning more about our congregation and growing more in her faith through involvement. She is committed to being part of our congregation's growth spiritually, educationally, musically, as a congregation numbers-wise and through mission outreach at a local, national and international level.

Bo Keller – Elder, Class of 2017

Bo is a lifelong Presbyterian with a deep love for the church. He and Pat have together raised three wonderful children. Bo currently travels Western New York as a medical physicist involved in the treatment of cancer patients. He has served as an elder and a deacon in the past many times and is excited to serve again.

Peter Botting – Elder, Class of 2017

Peter enjoyed selling real estate for 25 years after being a Quality Control and Plant Manager. Peter and Libbie have raised five wonderful children together. Peter enjoys woodworking, playing on his boat and driving his sports car. Peter has served as an elder and a trustee many times before.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

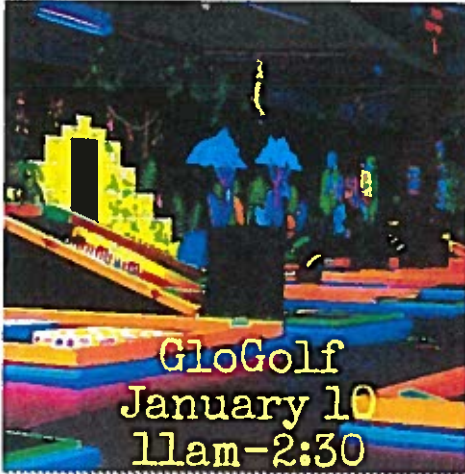
MARY WELLER ~ will meet on Monday, January 13 at 11:30 AM in Fellowship Hall. Please bring your lunch and least coin and enjoy the fellowship and help work on a new blanket. All women of the church are invited to attend. If not a regular member, please contact Shirley Lawrence.

NAOMI CIRCLE ~ will meet at the church on January 19 for its first meeting of the new year. Watch for notice of possible time change. Janet Goldman, author of *Salaam/Shalom*, will share her personal story of a Jewish woman's experiences as a teacher in a local Islamic school. Janet will share the many similarities she found between Islam and Judaism when comparing religious and cultural practices.

ANTHONY CIRCLE ~ is a group of women who emphasize the fellowship and mission aspects of Presbyterian Women. We meet on the third Tuesday of the month at 9.30 am. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday January 20th at 9.30 am in Room 200 (upstairs) at the church. All women are welcome. Why don't you give us a try in the new year? For more information, contact Janette Henderson.

EVENING CIRCLE ~ will continue with fellowship and their study of the General Epistles on Monday, January 27 in Room 200 at 7pm. Copies of the Lesson will be on the office counter. Any questions call Norma Ryther 385-6953 or Margaret Mecredy 381-6430.

Youth Happenings {7th-12th Grade}



GloGolf
January 10
11am-2:30

SO-SO

September 14th
 September 28th
 October 5th
 October 26th
 November 2nd
 November 16th
 November 30th
 December 14th
 January 4th

SUNDAY NIGHTS
 7:00-8:30PM
7TH-12TH GRADERS

January 18th
 February 8th
 February 22nd
 March 8th
 March 22nd
 April 12th
 April 26th
 May 3rd
 May 17th



Dates to save:

January 19- Soup Sale January 23rd- The Amazing Race
February 1- Youth Sunday February 13- Horizon Fun FX
March 13-14- 30 hour Famine



UPCOMING DEACON FUN ACTIVITIES

EUCHRE – Saturday, January 17 – 7:00 PM ~ 45 South Main Street, Pittsford

SUPPER CLUB – Sunday, January 25—5:00 PM in the church Fellowship Hall & Kitchen. French Canadian themed dinner. Cost \$7.

RIT vs. Army Hockey Night—Friday, January 30—7:00 PM. Cost is \$10, Tickets available after church or call Dan Traina at 208-6939 for info.



Happy 2015! We hope the new year brings joy and peace to you all. Here at the preschool we are returning to our typical schedule. The children will be visited by a group of graduate students from Nazareth to hear and learn about music. They will also be visited by the Story Time Lady who will sing and show off her puppets. We may take a

trip to the Bird Song Trail at Mendon Ponds Park. We will be building an ice sculpture next to the parking lot. The staff is preparing for our Open House which will be on Sunday, January 11 from 2-4 p.m. Our staff and board members will be present to show off the school and answer any questions. Please spread the word to your friends and neighbors about our preschool. Thank you and again, we wish you all the best in the coming year!

Teresa Zatyko, Director PCNS

OPTIMISTS ~ Program: Mary Jewett Telford—Civil War Nurse

As the Civil War raged, Mary Jewett Telford fought her own battle to become a nurse to the soldiers. Despite being turned away by Dorothea Dix and the U.S. Sanitary Commission, she persevered and was commissioned a nurse at Hospital No. 8 in Nashville, Tennessee. In 1883 she became a charter member of the Woman's Relief Corps., an organization dedicated to aiding Civil War soldiers and their families. She supported her husband, who had been severely wounded at the Battle of Stone's River, by writing short stories and traveling the country speaking for temperance. Her courage and determination for service to others was ended only by her death in 1906, but her legacy lives on. She was nominated for the National Women's Hall of Fame in 2010.



Please join us on **Friday January 9 at noon** in the Fellowship Hall for a social time with Social time at 12:30pm and lunch at 1:00pm. PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGED TIME FROM OTHER YEARS. This should eliminate parking problems experienced in the past. Please bring a sandwich, or food of your choice, table service and a paper product donation to the Pittsford Food Cupboard. Beverages and dessert will be provided. A \$1 donation is appreciated.