



The Good News

JUNE 2015

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

LECTIONARY FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE

2nd Sunday after Pentecost

June 7

1 Samuel 8:4-11 (12-15)

16-20 (11:14-15)

Psalm 138

2 Corinthians 4:13-15:1

Mark 3:20-35

3rd Sunday after Pentecost

June 14

1 Samuel 15:34-16:13

Psalm 20

2 Corinthians 5:6-10

(11-13) 14-17

Mark 4:26-34

4th Sunday after Pentecost

June 21

1 Samuel 17:(1a, 4-11,

19-23) 32-49 and

Psalm 9:9-20 or

1 Samuel 17:57-18:5

10-16 and

Psalm 133

2 Corinthians 6:1-13

Mark 4:35-41

5th Sunday after Pentecost

June 28

2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27

Psalm 130

1 Corinthians 8:7-15

Mark 5:21-43

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN-CELL

Selfies have been taken to new heights. Literally. Daredevils around the world are dragging their front-facing cameras to dangerous destinations all in the search for that one, crazy shot. How many people are willing to dangle off a skyscraper just to tweet out a photo? More than you think. It is no longer enough for us to hold our breath as Nik Wallenda sets a new world record crossing Niagara Falls or riding a Ferris wheel.



Skydiving - BASE jumping - Bicycle riding without a helmet - Telling your mother-in-law what you really think of her cooking. All of these are life activities that are far too dangerous for the average person. Similarly there are those risk-takers who run toward adventures that the rest of the world tries to avoid. There have always been the crazy few who go and do what no one else dares attempt. But, it seems to me that something of this risky behavior has changed. Those who do this wild stuff now have cameras! It is no longer enough for their own adrenaline rush from blood-cell to blood-cell so that they can tell the story at Thirsty's. White-knuckling alone is insufficient. Now they want to have you admire their picture.

This is the idea behind "rooftopping," a term used to describe the latest fad self-inflicted terror. Rooftoppers climb to some insane height, be it the top of a building or the edge of a cliff and snap a picture. But it's not just any picture. Whereas your average climber would snap a shot of his or her spectacular view, the rooftopper's entire goal is to snag a selfie - showing the world how high they are. Enter "rooftopping" into a Google image search and you'll find thousands of photos of climbers smiling brightly as their feet dangle off the edge of skyscraper, as they willingly hang by their fingertips from the top of a tower, or as they sit peacefully on the hands of Christ the Redeemer, that massive statue at the peak of Corcovado mountain in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

As we enter summer in June, I can only begin to imagine what whacky (my tentative feelings) stunts some people will attempt just so that they can share a "look at me" photo on Facebook.

I suppose that we ought to admit that Jesus was a risky fellow, too. He wasn't a self-indulgent daredevil, taking on risk for risk's sake, but Jesus did manage to find himself in a number of truly treacherous situations, often by his own design. Jesus surely knew that a particular crowd would eventually get rowdy and demand more miracles, that a certain religious leader would call for his arrest or that a demonic power would surface, screaming at the very sound of his voice.

These are the types of situations that sane, safety-loving people tend to avoid. Yet Jesus never tried to avoid them. He embraced them. He was a risk-taker. And, if you were following Jesus, it meant that you were called to be a bit of a risk-taker too, whether you liked it or not.

Imagine for a moment that Peter, James and John were all on Instagram, documenting their journey with Jesus. Of what would their photos consist? We might suppose that their collection of photos out in the cloud would be filled with more than just celebratory and congratulatory selfies with freshly healed lepers.

We would see volatile crowds - mystical mountaintop encounters - dead bodies and anxious mourners - religious cliques crowded together and talking smack - nights spent sleeping out in the cold - shots from a boat on a stormy sea and walking on water - and you'd probably see a good deal of hashtags expressing fear and overwhelming uncertainty.

Not much has changed for followers of Jesus. We continue to arrive in places where we feel like we're surrounded by enemies. Our faith still pops up as a question where we are confronted with situations where what we are about to do with our money or possessions is challenged. Jesus goes with us to work and stirs up empathy toward unbelieving friends. Jesus may grab our hands and pull us into a terrifying awareness of our sins or our deep need for divine forgiveness. He walks alongside us on ledges when we walk through the valleys of death, despair, and personal tragedy. Jesus still takes us to rooftops.

But perhaps it will occur to you as it does to me, that it is one thing to stare down death. It's another to defeat it. If you have to be out on the edge with anyone it might as well be the only one who has risen from the grave by his own power. Yes, there will be those days when storms rage and he is napping in the boat. But what would you expect from a risk-taker like Jesus? He's been here before. He is unfazed by fear. And besides, Jesus asleep in your boat makes for a nifty picture.

For those of you who want to take a "selfie" or a "groupie" of your family this summer . . . please see TAKE JESUS WITH YOU in this *Good News*.

Bruce

UPCOMING DEACON FUN ACTIVITIES

Young Adults Game Night - Friday night June 19 at 7pm in Fellowship Hall.

Garden Club—Saturday June 6 at 8:30 AM—We will be planting/landscaping at Grace House. Meet in the church parking lot.

2nd Annual Golf Outing—June 8 - Winding Creek, 5 PM. \$8.00 per person. - Ed Oliver.

Hiking Club—Saturday June 20 at 4:00 PM—Historic Walking Tour of Pittsford let by Village Mayor Bob Corby. Meet in church parking lot. We will end tour at Pittsford Farms Dairy for ice cream. Learn the history of the buildings, houses and people in our village.

Rochester Red Wings Baseball Game—Monday June 29 at 7pm. Details to follow.





**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.

Starting in September

The Stars of the Intertestamental Era: 500 BC – 6AD

A course on the "stars" whose lives burned brightly in the dark skies between Israel's Exile and the birth of Jesus.

- Sep 13, 15 - Overview: The Torque of Salvation Story
- Sep 20, 15 - Restoration in/of Jerusalem
- Oct 11, 15 - Faith vs Culture: We Are Holy They Are Not
- Oct 18, 15 - Theodicy: A Righteous God and Suffering
- Nov 8, 15 - Alexander the Great and His Impact on Israel
- Nov 15, 15 - Aristotle, Plato and Socrates vs Hebrew Holiness
- Nov 29, 15 - The Case of the Vanishing God
- Jan 10, 15 - Forced Feeding of Greek Culture
- Jan 17, 15 - The Rise of the Law: God's Presence Rediscovered
- Jan 31, 15 - Vomiting the Greek Culture: The Maccabean Revolt
- Feb 14, 15 - Daniel and Apocalypticism
- Feb 21, 15 - The Nature of Prejudice
- Feb 28, 15 - Independence Again: Jerusalem & Maccabees
- Mar 13, 15 - A Compromised Allegiance: Rome Takes Over

Christian Education

Upcoming Events	
Men's Prayer Breakfast	6/7 7:00 am
Mary Weller Circle	6/8
Optimists	6/12 5:30 pm
Naomi Circle	6/15 12:30 pm
Anthony Circle	6/8 5 pm
Evening Circle	6/14 6 pm
Prayer Support Group	Mondays 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
Adult Study	Sundays 9:45 am



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



MARY/WELLER ~ We are planning on going out to lunch for our June meeting. Place not determined yet, but can call me at if interested. Thanks, Muriel Nothhard.

NAOMI CIRCLE ~ Naomi Circle will gather for lunch at the home of Alice Swetman June 15 at noon. Callers will remind members what to bring. This will be the last meeting until next fall.
Happy Summer!

ANTHONY CIRCLE ~ will hold it's last meeting of the year on Monday June 8 at 5:00 PM. We will meet in the kitchen to prepare and serve dinner to guests from RAIHN. Please contact Janette Henderson if you are interested in joining us. Anthony Circle will not meet in July or August—hope to see you in September!

EVENING CIRCLE ~ will have their potluck dinner at Margaret Mecredy's on Sunday June 14 at 6:00 PM. RSVP to Norma Ryther or Margaret Mecredy.

KNITTING GROUP ~ We will be meeting for the last time before summer break on Tuesday May 26 from 11:1:30. You are welcome to come and say "Hi" or knit with us. Please bring your sandwich or yogurt and we'll furnish tea and coffee. Congregation, please consider donating yarn if you've decided not to do the project you though you would do...three years ago...or more. Have a great summer and we'll meet Tuesday, September 29 for 11—1:30. Questions??? Call Kay Saxum.

CAMERON COMMUNITY MINISTRIES UPDATE ~ Finally, we can start to dress for warm weather! Please remember Cameron's Clothing House as you decide what to keep and what to give away. All clean, gently-used seasonal clothing would be greatly appreciated, and yes, we do take shoes and sandals. We will deliver throughout the summer months. Please place your donations in the Cameron containers in Fellowship Hall, and remember to have them in boxes or sturdy bags that are manageable. New underwear and socks are always needed, as are personal hygiene items (travel or regular size). Thanks! Liz -

PENNY PINCHER SALE

From Joyce Drake

The sale will be here soon.

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 outside church doors at anytime. Sale dates are: Thursday, **September 24** 10:00 AN—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.

THIRD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
presents



A Service of Choral Evensong

The Chancel Choir
of Third
Presbyterian
Church

John Wilkinson

Pastor

Peter DuBois

Director of Music

Caroline Robinson

Assistant Organist



**Sunday,
May 31**

4:00 p.m.

Free admission

(donations accepted)

**Third
Presbyterian
Church**

East Ave at Meigs St
Rochester, NY

585.271.6513

www.thirdpresbyterian.org

The 60-voice Chancel Choir of Third Presbyterian Church will present this Service of Choral Evensong in the tradition of English cathedrals and collegiate churches. This reflective liturgy is full of music, scripture and prayer. It will include works by Rochester native James Buonemani, Jonathan Dove, H. Balfour Gardiner, Bryan Kelly, John Rutter, and Ralph Vaughan Williams. The service of Evensong will be followed by a reception.

The Chancel Choir serves as the cornerstone of an active music and arts ministry. In addition to singing weekly services from September through June, they perform several major works yearly, accompanied by orchestra.

They have toured Great Britain twice, in 2001 and 2005—singing concerts and serving as Choir-in-Residence at Rochester Cathedral, and at London's St. Paul's Cathedral.

Update from In Step Children's Home

This year has started out busy with Jeff the director of In Step going back to the states for the "waste water summit." The main goal to explore which of the presented ideas would be the best fit for our location. While he was out I was able to fill in with his usual duties of going to town to get supplies to keep the home operating. To help cover some of my responsibilities Terry Kiser, a member of the board, came and helped with things on site while I was in town.

The school was the major project so far this year. We were able to build two more classrooms which will be enough until the 2017 school year starts. The whole building got a face lift and we started planting some vegetation in front. We have also been blessed with the ability to get some playground equipment including two merry go rounds, a small climbing umbrella, and two slides. The latest addition three sand boxes actually have turned out to be a completely foreign concept here. Trying to explain to some of my fundis (local labor) was quite comical. Even when they were complete they were not sure what the point was, however the kids love them. I had added some hidden treasure of one shilling coins, which might have been a bad idea on my part because they removed all of the sand from two of the boxes in search of them.

While Terry was here he made a set of cabinets for the main kitchen. He didn't get the doors installed before he flew out so it reverted back to me. Also for the kitchen a movable rack was welded for holding vegetables, soon another will follow. The pots of food that have to be carried from the kitchen to the veranda (dining hall) have gotten to the point where they are too heavy for two people to carry so a small trolley has been built for that purpose. The green houses were moved from their former location and I welded together some trellis supports to hold wires with string hangers to support the tomatoes. After three years of trying to instruct our farmers on compost, Jeff and I decided to show them just what we have been describing. Much like the sand boxes it seems like a foreign concept for them, now it has been a struggle to get them to use it. Whenever I can find the time I have been really working on rearranging and organizing the workshop, trying to get a place for everything to go where it is accessible not only for me but also for the volunteer teams that come.

As most of you know Julia our on site nurse left to start her own family. After her departure I had taken over the job of preparing medicine. Thank you all for your prayers because the overall health of the children seems to be much better, with few cases of malaria and other sickness. All of us here are very thankful for! Currently Carla has taken over the medicines but we are still praying for God to bring us another nurse and to smooth the way for the local doctor to get all the clearances to open the clinic that is here ready and waiting for him.

I thank you all for your continued prayers and support. I know my grandfather always said that it takes three groups of people to make ministries work: the prayers, the givers and the boots on the ground. After being here I can see just how true that is! There is no group that is more important, there are days when we here are carried through the day with only your prayers, thank you all.

God Bless, Adam Pollock In Step Director of Operations



In Step Academy



Umbrella climber by Baby house



Sand box



Merry go round



Upper Kitchen cabinets



Lower Kitchen cabinets

TAKE JESUS WITH YOU!

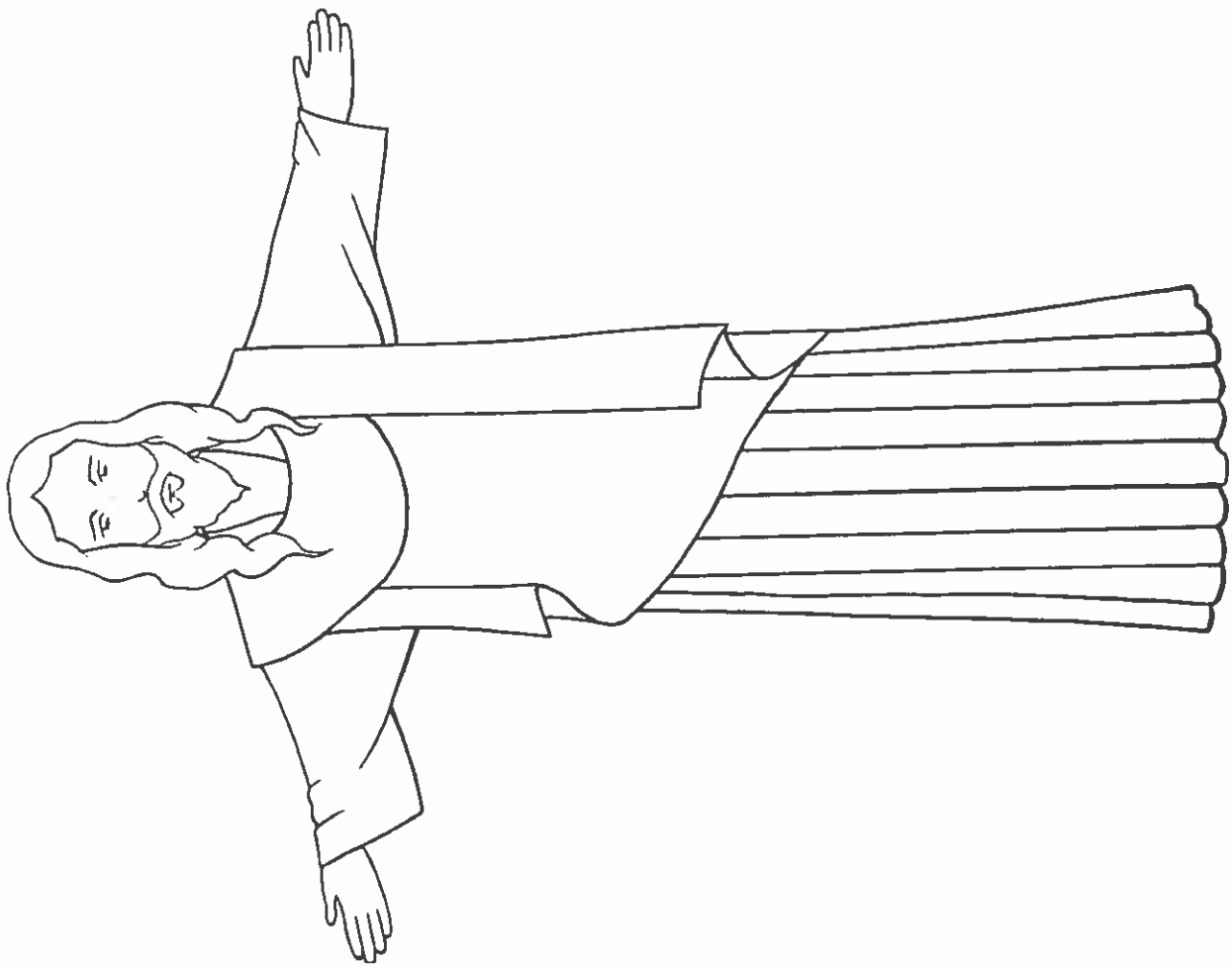
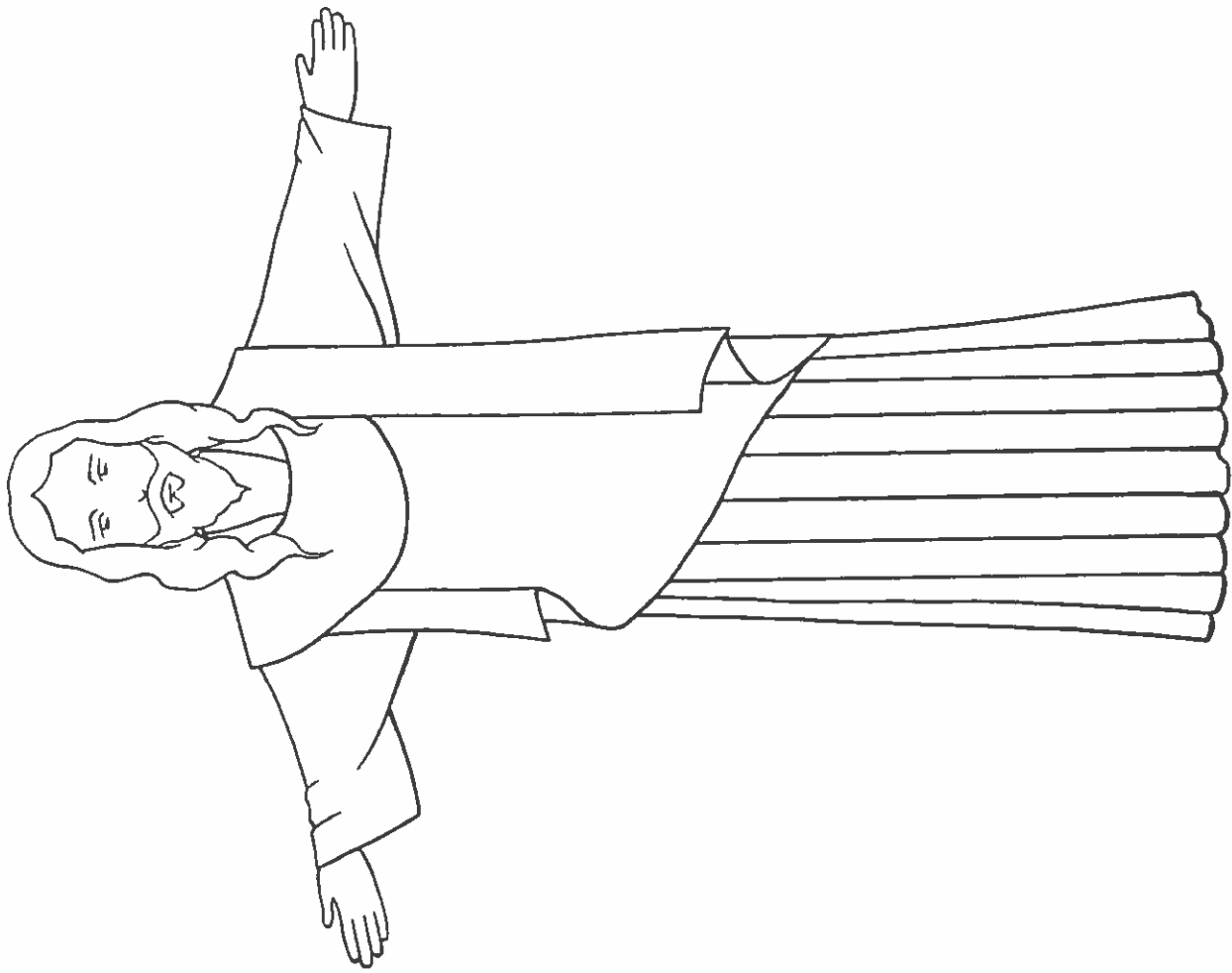
takejesuswithyou@pittsfordpres.org

Take Jesus with You is an idea for this summer (2015) at First Presbyterian Church. We hope that it helps to keep our church family connected. We encourage you to take Jesus with you to the beach, out to dinner, when hanging with grandchildren or making new friends on Keuka Lake or the Adirondacks.



1. Create your own Jesus! You can print out the double template (heavier paper or card stock work best, but you can use whatever you like).
 - A. Bruce says that if you have access to a laminating machine it would be good to laminate Jesus. This way, if he attempts to walk on water or spills a lot of root beer, he'll be protected.
2. Be creative! Decorate Jesus! What might his robe say? What color is his hair? Any accessories? You can make more than one.
3. Place a reminder on the back of your Jesus on how and where to upload pictures to takejesuswithyou@pittsfordpres.org.
4. Take a picture with Jesus. You can have someone else take your picture with Jesus. Maybe he will go to the beach with you or Europe or sailing? He can pack easily. Maybe he will have dinner with you on Park Avenue.
5. Then send your picture to takejesuswithyou@pittsfordpres.org. We'll post pictures on our wall and you can check and see all the places Jesus has been.
6. Take lots of pictures with Jesus.
7. We think that Jesus would like to go to worship some Sunday when you are on Cape Cod or visiting Washington, DC. It is certainly OK to talk to friends about Jesus when taking his picture at the Zoo or some monument.

We'll have Jesus at the church for you to take with you, too. You can find him on the welcome table or in Fellowship Hall.



Youth Happenings {7th-12th Grade}

We had a blast doing our Wednesday Rock Climbing for the month of April and May. Special thanks to Matt and Craig for coming each week to help out so we could climb away!



Friday, May 22– Capture the Flag: 5-9pm

We will be playing in the woods. The woods have valleys and swamps so dress appropriately!

There will be food and drinks!

Bring friends– the more the merrier!

The address is 540 Wahlmont Drive Webster NY 14580.



SUMMER IDEAS....

Our events tend to slow down during the summer, but I'd love to still do a few things. Let me know if you are going to be around and things you'd be interested in doing!

For more information or to RSVP, contact Joelle at joelle.truax@pittsfordpres.org

TELL ME ABOUT THE "GOOD NEWS"

Do you feel no one really understands or cares about your suffering? After all, doesn't everyone have their own set of problems to deal with? Consequently, you may withdraw quietly from others when deep down you wish someone would notice, ask how you are feeling, and give you a shoulder to lean on. Stephen Ministers are compassionate and specifically trained to listen. If you are suffering the loss of a loved one, or find yourself in turmoil over financial, physical, spiritual or other pain, a Stephen Minister can help. A Stephen Minister could spend an hour a week with you at your convenience. Everything is always totally confidential. A Stephen Minister can help you find comfort and feel God's love. For more information or to receive help from a Stephen Minister, contact one of our Stephen Leaders: Jane Hunter, Alice O'Dwyer, Barbara Smith, Dick Sprenkle, Carol Tiemann or one of our pastors. **Our Stephen Ministers are there to care!**



OPTIMISTS: If you have a "green thumb", or wish you had a "green thumb", the Optimists program on Friday, June 12, "Spring Wildflowers in Sun and Shade", is for you! Join us and "kick those dismal winter memories to the curb", as you listen to Master Gardner, Chris Benard's presentation of some familiar, and some not so familiar, members of the Plant Kingdom. You'll be surprised at what you will learn. Chris has lived in Victor, NY, by way of Pittsburg, for some 24 years. She is a graduate of Liberty State College, near Wheeling, West Virginia and earned her Master's Degree in Education, from Temple University, in Philadelphia. She has been struck by things Botanical, ever since the age of 10, when she was given a Brownie camera and spent her paper route earnings on film and processing. Chris will reinforce this by use of colored slides, from her collection throughout her presentation.



Our meal, on June 12 will be our annual sumptuous picnic (in Fellowship Hall) complete with hots, hamburgers, salads, dessert and beverage. We gather at 5:30 PM and eat at 6:00 PM. Bring your own table service and a non-perishable item for Pittsford's Food Cupboards. Tickets will be available, in Fellowship Hall, following both services on May 31 and June 7, for the bargain price of \$5.00 "per". Come "picnic" with us!

Treasurer's Report

Our annual per capita contribution of about \$30 per member helps enable local and regional Presbytery mission efforts. Your per capita contribution supports this portion of our operating budget and furthers our commitment to Mission ministry.

Children's Musical

Please join us for the Children's musical on June 14th during the 10am service. A small but stalwart group has been working hard to present the timeless story of *Peace in the Kingdom* by Cynthia and Michael Marion. Through catchy tunes and lyrics, poignant truths teach the importance of building community and respecting all of God's creation. Please check out the Logos bulletin board in the lobby to see this year's stars. These kids will inspire you!