

The Good News

JANUARY 2016

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 January 3

Jeremiah 31:7-14
Psalm 147:12-20
Ephesians 1:3-14
John 1:(1-9) 10-18

Epiphany of the Lord January 6

Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
Ephesians 3:1-12
Matthew 2:1-12

Baptism of the Lord January 10

Isaiah 43:1-7
Psalm 29
Acts 8:14-17
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

2nd Sunday after Epiphany January 17

Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm 36:5-10
1 Corinthians 12:1-11
John 2:1-11

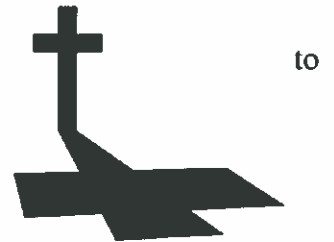
3rd Sunday after Epiphany January 24

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
Luke 4:14-21

4th Sunday after Epiphany

Jeremiah 1:4-10
Psalm 71:1-6
1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Luke 4:21-30

Shadow work! Don't get too excited here. Just because we've had an unusually warm December, I'm not about suggest that Punxsutawney Phil will see his shadow in January and throw weather prognostications into a tizzy. Shadow work is just a tad different from what "The Shadow Knows."



In 2016 we pump our own gas, assemble our own furniture and book our own travel. In years past, other people used to do this work for pay. But now we do it ourselves, for free. Craig Lambert has written the fascinating book *Shadow Work: The Unpaid, Unseen Jobs That Fill Your Day*. Clearly, these small efforts can become amalgamated into lots of time.

As offices are downsized, shadow work adds to our work that at one time was done by secretarial staff. At home, we go to the Internet for guidance on our medical problems and we spend countless hours coordinating the extracurricular activities of our children. Technology has taken off and we simultaneously have crammed more stuff into our already full to-do lists.

Sure, some might say that this DIY approach is empowering. But Lambert urges us to look at the consequences of all this "shadow work" or self-service. "Shadow work" makes us not just busier, but exhausted and isolated," writes Ann Hulbert in a review of Lambert's book. We are interacting more with our screens than with other humans. We do it at unreasonable hours.

Every summer that Martha and I head to Avalon, NJ for vacation we marvel that we are not allowed to pump our own gas. The Garden State self-service gas station ban dates back to 1949, when the New Jersey Legislature passed the Retail Gasoline Dispensing Safety Act, primarily over concerns about the safety of consumers pumping petroleum themselves. Other states followed suit but eventually overturned their self-serve bans. New Jersey's law, meanwhile, lives on as an iconic peculiarity of life in the Garden State -- almost a badge of honor for New Jerseyans who haven't a clue how to work a pump.

The beginning of a new year is usually the right time to ask ourselves about how we are spending our time. An analysis may reveal how much is devoted to shadow work.

Elizabeth Grace Saunders wrote an article for the Harvard Business Review with the title: "Are you proud of how you're spending your time?" She urges us to stop doing what seems to be most urgent, and "start intentionally investing in what's most important." This is something with which I struggle. There's a difference between what is most urgent and what is most important.

Saunders encourages us to prioritize family and friends, take vacations, stay healthy and finally know ourselves. "In my experience," she writes, "it's so easy to lose track of who you are, what you enjoy, where you are in life and where you're going, unless you purposely and intentionally take time to reflect."

As we study our time, we also study our values. "There are people and things in this world, and people are to be loved and things are to be used. And it is increasingly important that we love people and use things, for there is so much in our gadget-minded consumer-oriented society that is encouraging us to love things and use people."

It seems to me that the apostle Paul has a similar concern. Perhaps this is why he writes the Christians in Corinth about the gifts of the Spirit. He wants them to be proud of how they are spending their time, and to make sure that they're focusing on the "Spirit work" that they can accomplish as members of the body of Christ.

One of the dangers of all our shadow work is that it distracts us from Spirit work.

"Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak."

Amazing, isn't it, how the truths of the Bible can leap centuries and speak to us? We are still "enticed and led astray" -- maybe not by Greco-Roman idols, but by emails, text messages, phone apps, social media and web-sites. Like the Christians of Corinth, we focus more on what is urgent than on what is important.

So what does spirit work entail or how does it interact with our day to day. I say that we go to the theological dilettante Johnny Cash who picked up on this important balance when he warned people not to be so "heavenly minded" that they're "no earthly good."

We cannot just say we love our neighbors; we must actually perform acts of love.

- We cannot simply believe in forgiveness; we must forgive those who hurt us.
- We cannot only talk about justice; we have to do justice.

In the New Testament book of Romans we begin to get a little breakdown of all the tasks that are part of a Christian community. Sometimes, the scale of these gifts or ministries gifts is very small. The New York Times columnist David Brooks recently asked his readers to describe their purpose in life and how they found it. One of them, Kim Spencer, wrote, "My purpose is simply to be the person ... who can pick up the phone and give you 30 minutes of my time to help you in your time of crisis ... I can listen to you complain ... I can look you in the eye and give you a few dollars in the parking lot ... I can help keep you afloat with a little boost."

Our challenge is to clear away our Shadow work so that the gifts of the Spirit can be put to use. We can begin by turning off our screens for a while and turning toward each other. Sometimes that needs to happen in our own homes.

It's only when we look each other in the eye and engage in real conversation that we can show each other the love of God. This might not seem to be the most urgent of work, but it is usually the most important.

As we move from shadow to Spirit, replacing the earthly with the heavenly and the urgent with the important we may find ourselves closer to God, closer to Jesus and closer to each other. We may also find that it is time well spent.

Bruce

⁴ Romans 12:1-2.

News from the Nursery School

Happy 2016! We wish you many blessings in the coming year! Here at the pre-school we are returning to our normal schedule. The children will be going to the Planetarium as well as visited by the Story 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 4's and YK children will have parent conferences. The staff is preparing for our Open House which will be on Sunday, January 10 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 for your continued support!



FPCP CONCERT SERIES 2016

This year marks the tenth year of concerts in our sanctuary.



The 2016 Series offerings are:

The U of R Choral Extravaganza
Bruce Frank, Organist
Concentus Women's Chorus

Sunday February 28, 2016 at 3:00 pm
Sunday April 17, 2016 at 3:00 pm
Sunday May 15, 2016 at 3:00 pm

OPTIMISTS

On Friday January 8 we return to our winter fellowship gathering schedule for Optimists by gathering at noon and eating at 1 p.m. Please bring a sandwich and we will provide dessert and beverages. Our program is "Drums on Parade" presented by John Beck, who many of you member of the "Presidents he played throughout his Military duty. When his tour was up, he went back to school, finishing degrees in Music at the Eastman School. This was the corps' loss, and the RPO's gain, for John went on to become the principal Timpanist of the RPO. We are hoping John will bring one of his drums and demonstrate some basic ruffles and flourishes. We will support the Pittsford Food Cupboard by collecting paper products each month. A CHANGE: Please purchase an advance ticket during coffee hour on Sunday December 27, or Sunday January 3 or call the church office before January 5. You wouldn't want to miss a yummy dessert by neglecting to buy an advance ticket. Tickets are \$2.



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, January 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 ~ *Start the new year off right with Naomi Circle! We will meet Monday, Jan. 18, at 12:30, in room 200. Come see Ed Hediger's slides from a trip that he and Marilyn made to the amazing Flower Festival in Madeira, Portugal.*

EVENING CIRCLE'S ~ next meeting will be on January 25, 2016. Where we will continue our study on 'Why Jesus Crossed the Road'. All women are welcome.

WEB Club Schedule for 2016

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

January 13th - "The Quartet: Orchestrating the Second American Revolution, 1783-89" by Joseph Ellis. It is the unexpected story of why the thirteen colonies, having just fought off the imposition of a distant centralized governing power, would decide to subordinate themselves anew.*



Home of DIanne and Ray Brown, 1094 Yorkshire Drive, Victor

February 10th- The Nightingale by Kristen Hannah. The book tells the story of two French sisters - one in Paris, one in the countryside - during WWII; each is crippled by the death of their beloved mother and cavalier abandonment of their father; each plays a part in the French underground; each finds a way to love and forgive. *

Home of Nancy Sprenkle, 103 Stuyvesant Road Pittsford,

Host To Be Determined

THANK OUR SCOUTS—TROOPS 341 AND 171

The weekend of Nov. 7 & 8 was a busy one for our Scouts. On Saturday nearly 60 youths (Cub Scouts and siblings) from Cub Scout Packs 171 and 341, chartered by FPC, came together to rake leaves from the Church lawn, flower beds and clear our walkways. On Sunday, about 14 Boy Scouts and 4 adult leaders from Troop 171, chartered by FPC, conducted their Rake 'n' Run activity where they visited homes of a number of FPC members to rake their fall leaves. The efforts of all the Scouts are appreciated.



Save the date...

Congregations in Conversation

With Mark Achtemeier

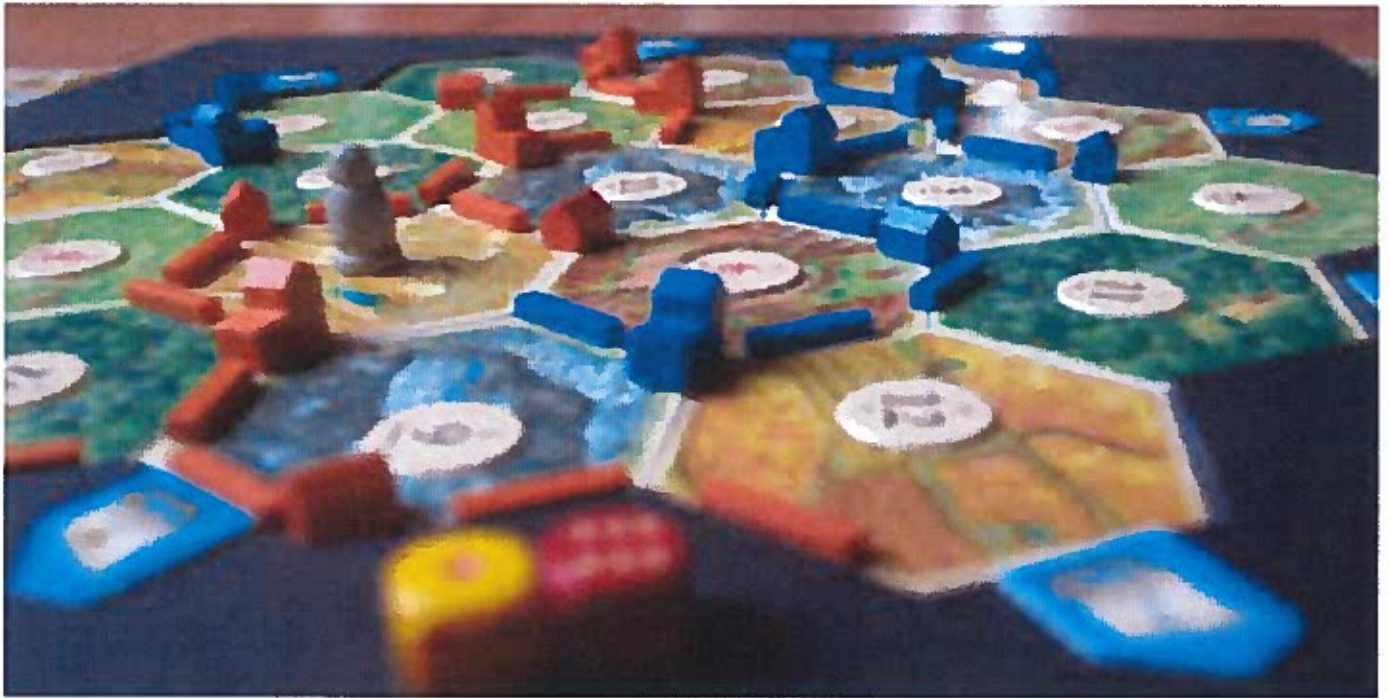
Saturday, February 13, 2016

8:30am to noon at Third Presbyterian church

The year 2015 brought marriage equality to the mainstream of our nation and into the polity of our church. Pastor, writer, and theologian, Mark Achtemeier, will lead us in conversation

We will consider how people of differing views live together in this time of change, and why that is a good and godly thing. We will then reflect on our challenge to speak an authentic word to the world about a sexual ethic that is "faithful to Scripture and inclusive of committed gay couples."

Do You Like Board Games, Free Food and New Friends??



Board Game and Euchre Night!

**Friday, January 16th starting
promptly at 7:00 P.M.**

**Join us at First Presbyterian Church
Pittsford! Free food and drinks and
fun all around. Young adults, college
age and 20somethings greatly encour-
aged!**

Contact Tyler with any questions!



Children join worshipers for Communion

On Communion Sunday January 3, after the mouse report, K-5th graders will join together to learn about Communion, the seriousness of the celebration, and how we act during this time of worship. Then after the sermon, shepherds will bring the children up to sit with their parents to experience Communion. Children will have learned that whether they eat and drink is up to the parents.

We have realized that children get to confirmation and have not experienced The Lord's Supper first hand. We believe this sacrament is powerful for all ages as is God's love and grace which is enacted in and through our participation.

4 year old Bibles

On January 24th the church will be presenting Bibles to 4 year olds. Please let us know of how your 4 year old's name should appear on the book plate.

Children in the pre-k room will be practicing the song "Jesus Loves Me" in preparation.

Sunday School Studies Mission

Heifer Season is upon us. Time for children grades Pre-K thorough 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.



The **Heifer Fair** will be *January 31st* this year. Just after the youth service.

PJ's and plushies in worship

December 27 families are invited to worship together

Several times a year children are invited to stay in church to experience all of the worship service with their family. These times are typically around holidays. We hope that children can learn and experience the love of worship as they grow up. On these days there is no formal Sunday school, however there will be an alternative worship space in Fellowship Hall that day if children choose not to stay in the Sanctuary.

Christian Education

Upcoming Events

Rod Frohman	1/10 11:30 am
Men's Prayer Breakfast at the Messengers	1/3 7:00 am
Mary Weller Circle	1/3 11:30 am
Evening Circle	1/25 7:00pm
Naomi Circle	1/18 12:30pm
Anthony Circle	1/20 9:30 am
Optimists	1/8 12:00
Not so Basic Bible Study	Mondays 7:30 pm
Prayer Support Group	Monday 11:00 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

Upcoming for Logos:

January 6
Epiphany: New Beginnings
January 13
Surprise Night
January 20
Multiply: Fishes and Loaves
January 27
Miracle: Jesus Heals

Upcoming Events

SO-SO Gatherings—December 20, January 3rd & 31st

Lock-in—December 28th: 7 pm-7 am

LOGOS Gatherings—January 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th

Glacier Ridge Snow Tubing—January 9th

Soup Sale—January 10th

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. **Applications are due January 10th!!!**



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 lives and help those in need. **Applications are due by January 20th!!!**



MEET OUR NEW CHURCH OFFICERS

Laura Bachmann – Elder, Class of 2018

Laura has become a member of 1st Pres. in March of this year. Her husband's name is Charles (Chip) and they have three children, Tristan Gabriel, Aidan Micah, and Dylan Isaac. Laura is in her second year of a Masters Degree at CRCDS and is pursuing ordination to ministry.

Adam A. Pedersen – Youth Elder, Class of 2017

Adam is our new youth elder and has been attending our church since he was two years old. He has been a member since he was confirmed a year ago. Adam is a 9th grade student at Minerva Deland in Fairport and is a member of Fairport Crew and also wrestles at school. He is also a Patrol Leader in the boy Scouts and he enjoys bike riding and watching movies. Adam has worked on some local mission projects as part of his confirmation.

Barbara Smith – Elder, Class of 2018

Barb has been a member at 1st Pres for 25 years (or so). She is very active in mission work: going on Disaster rebuilding trips, is a member of our Outreach committee, is a RAIHN Coordinator and was previously with Living Water for the World.

Elena Travis – Youth Elder, Class of 2017

Elena has been coming to our church with her family since she was an infant and has been a member since being confirmed in May of this year. She is a freshman at school and is very involved in volunteer work, visiting the Golisano Children's Center, and donating stuffed animals to children at the center for Christmas. Elena loves music and is taking voice lessons, enjoys computer games and watching movies. She loves that the people of First are so caring and generous.

Bill Bartosch – Trustee, Class of 2018

Bill has been a member of First Presbyterian for three years. He and his wife have four children. Bill has been a design engineer and a project manager at Kodak and is currently a manager at Carestream Health. He enjoys woodworking, building houses, hunting and fishing. He appreciates the growing church membership and the varied ministries such as Habitat and the ministry in Africa.

Steve Fernaays – Trustee, Class of 2018

Steve is a 24 year veteran who has lived in Penfield for the last 8 years. He and his wife have been members of the congregation for 4 years. Steve's daughter Yazmin led the way for him towards church leadership as she was a Youth Elder. As a Trustee, Steve hopes to get to know more members of the congregation.

Charles Francis – Trustee, Class of 2018

Charlie has been a member here at 1st Pres for 35 years. He and his wife Anne have three children: David, Katherine and Peter. Charlie is a Hematologist who enjoys water sports, cooking, reading and travel. He is a Sunday school teacher and has been an Elder, a Deacon and is now a Trustee and is a chair of Habitat Interfaith Partnership. What he appreciates most about our church is that the Spirit of Jesus is present.

Judith Labombarda – Trustee, Class of 2018

Judith has been a member here for about five years. She is a Corporate Credit Manager and she enjoys cooking, entertaining, reading, travel and gardening. In a former church she has led Bible studies, taught Sunday school and was a visiting Deacon. Judith looks forward to serving on our church board and helping identify new areas of interest and ministry within the congregation.

Kristen Thon – Trustee, Class of 2018

Kris grew up in First Presbyterian and was excited to rejoin the church last year with her new husband, Mike. They have a small business renovating and renting houses in Rochester. Outside of work, Kris enjoys hiking, camping, and spending time with her family.

Luke P. Wright – Trustee, Class of 2018

Luke has been a member of 1st Pres. for three years. He and his wife Andrea have two children, William and Lily. Luke is an Attorney (labor and employment law) and he enjoys parenting, outdoor activities and the Buffalo Bills. He has taught preschool Sunday school and is involved with assisting with RAIHN. Luke is excited about the opportunities for the Church to grow and continuing to perform mission work in the local and global community.

Cindy M. Barben – Deacon, Class of 2018

Cindy has been a member here at First Presbyterian since March of this year. Cindy considers herself a homemaker/ farmer and she owns a farm in Honeoye Falls. She also is a bee keeper, a truck driver and has been involved with a 12 step program. Cindy appreciates the way everyone at First seems to work together and tries to make a huge difference in peoples lives.

Deborah Matrachisia – Deacon, Class of 2018

Debbie has been a member of First Pres since last November. She has enjoyed serving gGod by serving His church since she was young. Whether it is working with youth, organizing events or simply providing a listening ear, however God can use her gives her life purpose. She is looking forward to serving Pittsford Presbyterian.

Zach Travis – Youth Deacon, Class of 2017

Zach has been a member of First Pres since being confirmed in 2014. He appreciates being able to share his faith with his friends and family. He also enjoys SO-SO and mission events. Zach's interests are hockey, cars (exotic) and photography. He loves taking pictures of cars at home and away and has a business selling photos of the cars he spotted and also making greeting cards of the cars. He loves that the people of this church are so caring and generous.

Nadine Wahl – Deacon, Class of 2018

Nadine and her husband Gary have been members here at First Pres for about 30 years. She has two grown daughters, Alison and Lindsay. Nadine has ministered on the Christian Education committee, taught Sunday school, led as a Deacon, served on the Logos Board and as a Table Parent. She enjoys tennis and volleyball, reading and gardening.

UPCOMING DEACON EVENTS

Saturday January 16—Game night/Euchre—7pm Fellowship Hall

Sunday January 31—Supper Club—5pm Fellowship Hall—Russian Themed meal \$7 Cost

Sunday February 14—Valentines Luncheon for Widows at 2pm in Fellowship Hall

Sunday February 20—RIT Hockey vs Niagara at 7pm—\$10 Cost

Sunday February 28—Supper Club at 6pm Mexican Theme—\$7 Cost
(Starting later because of UR Chorale)

STEPHEN MINISTRY



WHEN WE NEED GOD'S LOVE MOST ~ When is the time when we need God's love most? Of course we need that love every second of our lives, but there are times when His love is especially precious to us. Times like when we lose a loved one, or when life becomes so confusing that we do not know where to turn, or when life just becomes meaningless and depression sets in. At times like these, it is very important to have some one who cares. Our congregation has trained 20 lay people, Stephen Ministers, who offer a ministry of Christian caring here at First Presbyterian. If you or someone you know is hurting, find out more about Stephen Ministry by talking with one of our Stephen Leaders: *Jane Hunter, Alice O'Dwyer, Barbara Smith, Dick Sprenkle or Carol Tiemann.*

The **Outreach Committee** is thankful for the continued support of the **Good News Jail & Prison Ministry** with member's donations of **140+ books and periodicals** this past fall. This year round program accepts spiritual up-lifting reading materials for local prisons. The collection box has been moved to the closet at the top of the ramp in the church lobby. We remind the donors that only soft bound books and magazines are accepted. Be sure to also remove any names and addresses. Paper back bibles and publications like "The Upper Room" are welcome. Perhaps you have paperback books collecting dust on your home bookcase that have inspiring stories where the story line documents a person's life into Christ. These stories can be a positive inspiration for a person looking to better their post prison life. Program questions may be directed to Jim Weick. Thank you past donors and thank you for your future participation. **The Outreach Committee**

Year-End Giving ~ Many members inquire as to their year to date giving as they wish to generously contribute to the church and finalize their tax planning. Please refer to your third quarter statement or feel free to contact Cesca Koron, our Financial Administrator, at 586-5688 on Tuesdays or Thursdays for an update on pledge status or contributions. To be considered a 2015 contribution for tax purposes, checks must be received in the church office by Tuesday, January 5, 2016 and marked "2015 contribution".