



# The Good News

MARCH 2016

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

## FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN-CELL

### Lectionary for the month of March

#### 4th Sunday in Lent March 6

Joshua 5:9-12

*Psalm 32*

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

#### 5th Sunday in Lent March 13

Isaiah 43:16-21

*Psalm 126*

Philippians 3:4b-14

John 12:1-8

#### Passion/Palm Sunday March 20

**Palms:**

Luke 19:28-40

*Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29*

**Passion**

Isaiah 50:4-9a

*Psalm 31:9-16*

Philippians 2:5-11

Luke 22:14-23:56 or

Luke 23:1-49

#### Resurrection of the Lord/ Easter

**March 27**

Acts 10:34-43 or

Isaiah 65:17-25

*Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24*

1 Corinthians 15:19-26 or

Acts 10:34-43

John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12

#### Easter Evening

Isaiah 25:6-9

*Psalm 114*

1 Corinthians 5:6b-8

Luke 24:13-49

Thomas Alva Edison may be the greatest inventive genius the world has ever known. By the age of 38 he had registered over 500 patents and is the only person to have registered at least one patent every year for 65 years. We learned these feats while browsing through Edison's winter home in Ft. Myers, Florida. Although Martha and I haven't taken winter vacations before, we were gone for 5 days early in February, visiting with friends in Naples, FL.

They had rented a house for the month and there was a bedroom not being put to use. The price was right and we caught a plane south, enjoying 72° weather, but arriving back in Rochester in time for a -6° weekend followed by a post Presidents' Day snow dump.



Easter comes early this year. Before we end March some of us will have watched a lot of late night basketball, surviving the grey and brown cessation of winter by following the NCAA tournament. We will have entered Holy Week with Palm/Passion Sunday worship, and brought the full penitential period of Lent to a climax with Communion on Maundy Thursday and a service of Tenebrae or darkness on Good Friday.

Roman Catholic traditional practice has been to have the service of Tenebrae on Wednesday evening in order to keep the Eucharist and Mass of the Lord's Supper on Maundy Thursday when Jesus initiated the sacrament during his last meal. Good Friday then retained its more traditional focus on the Jesus' death by crucifixion, the Lamb of God slain for the sins of the world. Protestants around the globe have tended to also celebrate Maundy Thursday with foot washing and Communion but most of their Tenebrae worship has been observed on Good Friday, recalling not only the dark day when Jesus died, but how the synoptic gospels describe the weather at crucifixion saying, "darkness fell over all the land.")

Since Lent refers to the period when the days are becoming longer and brighter (Lent coming for the word "lengthen") perhaps we should pick up where we started and say something more about Edison and light. Incidentally, when he died, all of New York City acknowledged his death by turning off the power and all of Manhattan went dark. It was a way of saying, "this is how the world would have looked if God had not blessed us with the inventive genius of Thomas Edison."

The Edison and Ford Winter Estates is a beautiful and educational place to tour in Ft. Myers. Actually Henry Ford once worked for Thomas Edison and he built a home in Florida next to his former boss and mentor. There are 20 acres of historical buildings to explore along with artifacts and hundreds of inventions. While there I kept my eye out for any mention of the inspirational and apocryphal account that Thomas Edison had been dismissed from grammar school because he was an "addled" child. Although the word means "confused" it was sometimes used to describe someone who was "inept," "mentally deficient" or lacking in ability. The storyline describes Edison's mother receiving a note from a grade school teacher, telling her to keep Thomas at home since he was mentally ill and incapable of learning. According to the story his mother told him that the note said he was a genius and the school could not provide an environment to help him learn.

Years later, after his mother's death Edison supposedly found the real note in the corner of a desk drawer and wrote in his diary: "Thomas Alva Edison was an addled child that, by a hero mother, became the genius of the century." It is a magnificent, motivational story, especially for those who struggle early on to read. However, what we learned in Florida is that Edison was dyslexic, making it difficult to succeed in an 1800s classroom. The idea that Edison didn't know he was "addled" doesn't ring true. The Foundation for Economic Education reports that Edison was well aware of his teacher's diagnosis and that he was enraged by it. The headmaster of the school, Rev. G. B. Engle wasn't a lot of help.

Thomas's mother, Nancy did remove Tom from school, resolving to educate him herself. It is sad to admit that Rev. Engle was known to whip students with a leather strap for not knowing answers or having memorized written passages for study. One account says that the only whippings worse than Rev. Engle's were those administered by his wife. It is true that Edison's teacher called him addled or difficult, that his mother defended and homeschooled him and that she had a big impact on the man he would become. But the inspirational portion of her hiding the letter and lying to Edison doesn't appear to be true.

Here are some wonderful facts about Edison: He built his first lab in the family basement at the age of 10 and labeled all the bottles "poison" so that no one would steal them. Edison was very hard of hearing and believed that helped him to concentrate on his experiments. At the Grand Trunk Railroad, 14-year-old Edison saved 3-year-old Jimmie MacKenzie from a runaway boxcar. Tom became a telegraph operator and requested the night-shift so that he had more time to work on his experiments. In 1869, at the age of 22 he got his first patent for a telegraphic vote-recording machine. The machine worked but was a retail flop. On Christmas Day, 1871 at the age of 24, Edison married 16-year old employee Mary Stilwell whom he had known for 6 months. Mary gave birth to three children, the first two Edison nicknamed "Dot" and "Dash." Two years after Mary died, Edison met 20-year old Mina Miller. Tom was obsessed with her when he met her and later wrote, "Got thinking about Mina and came near being run over by a streetcar. If Mina interferes much more will have to take out an accident policy." Edison taught Mina Morse code so they could communicate in secret by tapping into each other's hands when her family was around. One day, Edison asked .-- --- ..- ... -.- --- .. -- .- ..- .-.- --- . and Mina replied -.- ...

Well there is much to learn about Edison and all that he accomplished. But as wonderful as his inventions and discoveries are, nothing can compare to a humble itinerant rabbi who taught about compassion and relationships, challenged the status quo, healed those who were sick and was then murdered by people he loved. "Snopes," "TodayIFoundOut" and other internet debunking and fact checking websites do raise questions about many Biblical interpretations. However, there is something that amazes them and it has less to do with genius and invention than the words you can read on the back of the door at the Garden Tomb in Jerusalem believed by many to be the burial place of Jesus. Those words say, "He is not here. He is risen." This is the news the world is waiting to hear. The lights are turned on and we realize that despite the darkness that seems to permeate our news, God has a message of forgiveness, hope and new life.

*Bruce*

## **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, March 14 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 March 21, 12:30, room 200, with lunch and mug. Just in time for Easter, don't miss Craig Kunkle's presentation (2:00) on the history of Pysanky Eggs and demonstration on how to make one.

**EVENING CIRCLE'S** ~ EVENing Circle will meet March 28 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. March 24 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



**ORDERS WILL BE TAKEN FOR EASTER LILIES** ~ after Church services on March 6, 13, and 20 or online at [www.pittsfordpres.org/lilies](http://www.pittsfordpres.org/lilies). Each lily ordered will be \$8 online, cash, or by check made payable to First Presbyterian Church. Lilies will be purchased for display on Easter Sunday. The extra money collected will be donated to support the Presbyterian Women's mission outreach. When purchasing your lily, you will have the opportunity to honor or remember friends and family by filling out the form in-person or online. A listing of all those remembered and honored will be available at the Easter Sunday service. Questions? Please call the church office at 586-5688.





## Bible research software available in the library

Two bible study software packages have been installed on the computer in the library. This computer is meant to augment the printed reference materials located on the shelves.

### About Accordance Bible Software

Accordance Bible Software has been innovating in computer-assisted biblical studies since first released in 1994 and remains the premier program of choice for biblical scholars, students, pastors and any individual desiring to understand the Scriptures at a deeper level. Accordance is designed for Mac, Windows, and iOS. Free online training and more information can be found at <http://www.accordancebible.com>.



### Glo Bible

Glo is an award-winning interactive Bible that brings the text of Scripture to life through HD videos, high-resolution images, articles, 360-degree virtual tours, and much more. Glo for PC is the most robust platform, and includes all 6 lenses, media, and the full functionality of Glo available today. [Www.globible.com](http://www.globible.com)

**Training Available in the library at 11:30 on both March 6 and March 13**

## Look for small groups in April

Starting in April we will be advertising several small groups in Fellowship hall. Each will be on a different day of the week at varied times. Groups may meet in the church or at peoples homes.

Small groups meet for prayer, fellowship, learning, inspiration, and conversation. The members commit to meet for seven 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.



# Christian Education

## Upcoming Events

Men's Prayer Breakfast	3/6 7:00 am
Optimists	3/11 12:30 pm
Mary Weller Circle	3/14 11:30 am
Anthony Circle	3/16 9:30 am
Board games and Euchre	3/19 7 pm
Naomi Circle	3/21 12:30 am
Evening Circle	3/28 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

Logos Dates:

Mar 2nd	Best: Bring your Bestie
Mar 9th	Pleased with our Pastors
Mar 16th	Kid's Choice Awards
Mar 23rd	Potluck Family Dinner

## Upcoming Events

SO-SO Gatherings—February 28th-Surprise Night, March 6th and 20th

LOGOS Gatherings—February 24th, March 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd

Ticket to Mission—March 6th, 13th and 20th

Youth Movie Night!!—March 11th

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.



### 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.



# STEPHEN MINISTRY



**Who will know...** about my problem if I talk to a Stephen Minister? This is a question many people ask. Confidentiality is the cornerstone of Stephen Ministry. No one knows what is talked about in a caring relationship except for the person him- or herself and the Stephen Minister. If you have a burden you need to share, perhaps a Stephen Minister can help. To find out more about Stephen Ministry for you or someone you know, talk with one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders: *Jane Hunter, Alice O'Dwyer, Barbara Smith, Dick Sprenkle or Carol Tiemann* or one of our pastors. **Our Stephen Ministers are there to care!**

## Optimists

### "We Have Your Backpack"

Optimists will meet on Friday, March 11. We gather at 12:30 and eat at 1 pm. Remember to bring your sandwich (lunch), your table service and a donation of a paper product for the Pittsford Food Cupboard. Dessert will be provided.

Tickets for \$2 each may be purchased after church on Sundays February 28 and March 6 or call the church office no later than March 4. Prior sign up and payment of \$2 per person is now required whether you eat dessert or not.

Dave Testa, our presenter, has provided strong leadership to this program since our church began to participate a few years ago. Come hear Dave on March 11 to learn about the school's neighborhood, the school and the students involved.



## News from the Nursery School

We have had such a mild winter we hope Spring comes early this March! But we are prepared and enjoy the snow if it does not ☺. This month we will have our pictures professionally taken, celebrate St. Patrick's Day, enjoy a

Spring Egg Hunt and see a musical production by the TYKES Theatre. March is National Literacy Month; we will focus even more so on the literature in our classrooms. We are enjoying several afternoon enrichment classes as well. At the end of the month we will begin our Spring Break. As always, please come downstairs for a visit when you are in the building. Thank you for your continued support, Happy Spring!





## UPCOMING DEACON FUN ACTIVITIES

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

**REMINDER ~ MARCH 6** is the deadline for the April GoodNews. Please place your article in the GoodNews mailbox in the back room, or email it to [admin@pittsfordpres.org](mailto:admin@pittsfordpres.org)



## WEB Club Schedule for 2016

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

**March 9th - The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie: A Flavia de Luce Novel by Alan Bradley -** *It's the beginning of a lazy summer in 1950*

*at the sleepy English village of Bishop's Lacey. Up at the great house of Buckshaw, aspiring chemist Flavia de Luce passes the time tinkering in the*

*laboratory she's inherited from her deceased mother and an eccentric great uncle. When Flavia discovers a murdered stranger in the cucumber patch outside her bedroom window early one morning, she decides to leave aside her flasks and Bunsen burners to solve the crime herself, much to the chagrin of the local authorities.\* Host to be determined.*



**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.\**

First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford  
21 Church Street  
Pittsford, New York 14534  
www.pittsfordpres.org

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## Online Giving

Easy and secure

Available now

The convenience of online commerce has all but rendered check writing obsolete. Some members have said the church is one of the few places they use checks!! Accordingly we have contracted with a vendor to provide online giving to our members. Not only does it provide an easy way to schedule recurring giving, but it also permits contributions to various Fund Raising and Mission activities even if you are not in worship to participate.

Check out the page at [www.pittsfordpres.org/giving](http://www.pittsfordpres.org/giving). We hope you find this service beneficial and encourage any feedback or questions. Contact Cesca Koron, Financial Administrator at [cesca.koron@pittsfordpres.org](mailto:cesca.koron@pittsfordpres.org) or 585-586-5688 to get more information.

## 2016 Lenten Schedule

Upcoming services during the special season of Lent

Sunday	March 20	8:30 & 10:00 AM	Palm Sunday Service
Thursday	March 24	7:30 PM	Maundy Thursday Seder
Friday	March 25	7:30 PM	Good Friday Service (with FPC Choir)
Sunday	March 27	7:00 AM	Easter Sunrise Service (Port of Pittsford)
Sunday	March 27	8:30 & 10:30 AM	Easter Sunday Services

**First Presbyterian Church**  
Phone 585 586-5688, Fax # 586-8090  
E-mail [admin@pittsfordpres.org](mailto:admin@pittsfordpres.org)  
Web page [www.pittsfordpres.org](http://www.pittsfordpres.org)