

The Good News

MAY 2016

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

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN-CELL

Lectionary for the month of May

6th Sunday of Easter

May 1

Acts 16:9-15

Psalm 67

Revelation 21:10, 22-25:5

John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9

Ascension of the Lord

May 5

Acts 1:1-11

Psalm 47 or Psalm 93

Ephesians 1:15-23

Luke 24:44-53

7th Sunday of Easter

May 8

Mother's Day

Acts 16:16-34

Psalm 97

Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17

20-21

John 17:20-26

Day of Pentecost

May 15

Acts 2:1-21 or Genesis 11:1-9

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

Romans 5:1-5

John 16:12-15

Trinity Sunday

May 22

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31

Psalm 8

Romans 5:1-5

John 16:12-15

2nd Sunday after Pentecost

May 29

1 Kings 18:20-21 (22-29)

30-39

Psalm 96

Galatians 1:1-12

Luke 7:1-10

If April showers bring May flowers, what do May flowers bring? The Kindergarten answer is "Mayflowers bring Pilgrims." Yes, I know that this is the May Good News, but I'm actually writing this in April and at the moment, I've been seeing lots of grey sky, much rain and drizzle, and thinking a lot about May flowers. My mind then makes all kinds of goofy connections like, "Was it a rainy April when Noah got the message from God to build the ark? So let's go there . . . to the ark. I think about Noah's Ark most every day since there is carved ark sitting on my desk that was purchased in Kenya. The carver made the animals and placed them inside. At one time I collected lots of statements about the ark like, "Noah was floating his stock while everyone else was in liquidation."



Back in 1976 Hollywood released to theaters the movie, *In Search of Noah's Ark*. At the time pastors were deluged (well sort of) with questions since many who saw the film got the impression that Noah's ark had definitely been found. Particularly memorable was a fuzzy telephoto photograph of what some thought might be the ark. However, later expeditions proved that the object was simply a large rock formation.

Then in the 1980s and '90s, many were misled by network news stories and newspaper articles that claimed the ark had been found at a completely different location. Reports were of a ship-shaped structure 15 miles from Mount Ararat. Unfortunately, various exaggerated claims about this site were spread. This location is often referred to as the Durupinar Site. It was internationally promoted by an American nurse-anesthetist Ron Wyatt, who was known for making inaccurate claims. Geologic surveys, subsurface radar and core-drilling data later confirmed beyond any doubt that this odd formation was not the ark. It is merely a geologic feature common throughout the Ararat region. There are tons of lessons to learn about God's commands, Noah's obedience, divine displeasure, and ultimate promises that come to mind every time we see a rainbow.

We have the Biblical details in Genesis chapters 5-10. Almost every culture on Earth includes an ancient flood story. Details vary, but the basic plot is the similar: torrents of water destroy all but a lucky few.

- Older than Genesis is the Babylonian epic of Gilgamesh, a king who embarked on a journey to find the secret of immortality. Along the way, he met Utnapishtim, survivor of a great flood sent by the gods. Warned by Enki, the water god, Utnapishtim built a boat and saved his family and friends, along with artisans, animals and precious metals.

- Ancient Greeks and Romans grew up with the story of Deucalion and Pyrrha, who saved their children and a collection of animals by boarding a vessel shaped like a giant box.

- Irish legends talk about Queen Cesair and her court, who sailed for seven years to avoid drowning when the oceans overwhelmed Ireland.
- European explorers in the Americas were startled by native legends that sounded similar to the story of Noah. Some Spanish priests feared the devil had planted such stories in their minds to confuse them. (Robert Ballard's Search of the Evidence of Noah's Flood," *National Geographic*, 2004).

So, pulling together a number of analysis let us consider what would happen if Noah built the ark in Pittsford in 2016.

The Lord spoke to Noah and said, "In six months I'm going to make it rain until the whole earth is covered with water. Evil people will be saved. But I want to save some good folks and two of every kind of living thing on the planet. I am ordering you to build an ark.

In a flash of lightning the Lord delivered the specifications. "Ok," said Noah. Six months later it started to rain. The Lord saw that Noah was sitting in his front yard, not far from Rand Place in Pittsford. He was weeping and there was no ark.

"Noah," shouted the Lord, "Where is my Ark?"

"Lord please forgive me," Noah begged. "I did my best. There were big problems. First I had to get a building permit for the Ark construction project and your plans didn't meet village code. So I had to hire an engineer to redraw the plans. Then I got into a big fight over whether or not the Ark needed a fire sprinkler system recommended by the Town Fire Marshall. My neighbors objected, claiming I was violating zoning restrictions by building the Ark in my front yard. I had a visit from the Parking Monitor who gave me a ticket. He suggested that I would also need a variance from the Village Architectural Review Board and the Village Planning Commission who said that the Ark didn't comply with the Erie Canal Improvement Plan. Furthermore he handed me a community event form to be completed and filed with the Village Clerk.

It was a real challenge to get enough gopher wood for the Ark. There was a ban on cutting trees to save the Spotted Owl. I had to convince U.S. Fish and Wildlife that I needed the wood to save the owls. However, there is a ban on collecting owls, so there will be no owls on the Ark. Members of the Carpenters Union from the city arrived and began picketing the construction project. They prevented any supplies from being delivered by Rochester Lumber. I had to negotiate a settlement with the National Labor Relations Board before anyone was permitted to pick up a saw or a hammer. Now we have 16 carpenters going on the boat and still now owls.

I started to gather animals beginning with a pair of deer that we tracked and caught near Mendon Ponds, but I was abruptly sued by an animal rights group. They objected to me taking only two of each kind. We got the suit dismissed, but then the EPA notified me that I couldn't complete the Ark without an Environmental Impact Statement on your proposed flood. They didn't take kindly to the idea that they had no jurisdiction over the conduct of a Supreme Being. Then the Army Corps of Engineers requested a map of the proposed new flood plain. I gave them a globe.

I thought that we were pretty well set, but had a visit today wanting to know if the Ark Construction had anything to do with the proposed Westport Crossing Apartment Complex.

Currently I'm still trying to resolve a complaint from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the Immigration Service who are fearful that some of the carpenters are undocumented immigrants. The IRS has seized all my assets claiming I'm trying to avoid paying taxes by leaving the country and probably am trying to sail down the canal, the Hudson and on to Panama. Just today I got a new boat use tax for the Finger Lakes to help manage the aquatic hydrilla infestation of lake weeds.

Lord, I think it is going to be minimally another five years before I will get your Ark finished.

The sky cleared. The sun began to shine. A new rainbow arched across the Monroe County sky. God could see that the punishment had already been sufficiently severe. It was just that this was a different kind of flood.

Bruce

Optimists
Susan B. Anthony – Then and Now

Optimists will meet on Friday, May 13. We gather at 5:30 and eat at 6pm. Remember to bring your table service and a donation of a paper product for the Pittsford Food Cupboard.

Dinner tickets for \$11 each must be purchased after church on Sundays May 1 and 8 or call the church office no later than Friday May 6. We must give an accurate number to our caterer so plan ahead and purchase your ticket or call the church office prior to the deadline.



Our program will be presented by Deborah L. Hughes, President and CEO of the National Susan B. Anthony House and Museum located in Rochester at 17 Madison Street. Deborah will talk about this historical facility and Susan B. Anthony – Then and Now.

News from the Nursery School

Once again we are preparing to say goodbye. May is the last month of the school year for our 2's, 3's and 4's. Our Young Kindergarten children end in June. For some it is good bye until September, for others it could be good bye until we meet again. In the month of May the children will visit Lollypop Farm, go to the Pittsford Dairy and visit Tinker Nature Center. All the classes will have year end celebrations. We will also have an end of the year picnic. We continue to offer our very popular summer camp for all children. We invite you to visit and view all the children's accomplishments. Thank you so much for all your support and encouragement! Happy Summer!



Hola Amigos!
The First Presbyterian Church of Chili is taking a mission trip to

Intibuca, Honduras
September 21-30, 2016
and we would love you to join us!

This will be a 10 day mission trip to Intibuca Honduras. We will be partnering with Shoulder to Shoulder, a medical mission that works side by side with USA volunteers and Honduran local medical staff and communities to provide needed medical care and education to the rural area of Intibuca Honduras. Currently, Shoulder to Shoulder operates 7 primary health centers, Women's health care, Dentistry, and a bilingual school. Our work will be split between one of Shoulder to Shoulder Medical Clinic's in Santa Lucia, Intibuca and their Good Shepherd bilingual school in Camasca Intibuca.

While in Santa Lucia we will be completing construction projects that will vary between concrete repair, painting, cleaning and installing/repairing water collection system. When we arrive in Camasca, we will split our days between working with the kids at the school and the other half of the day we will attend to the school's construction needs.

If you are interested please contact Whitney Scoville from the First Presbyterian Church of Chili

UPCOMING DEACON FUN ACTIVITIES

Friday April 29 – 7pm – Eastman School of Music Philharmonia and Choral Singers performing in Kodak Hall. Free Concert with a pre concert talk. Meet at church in Room 201 and car pool together to show.

Saturday May 7 – 5pm – Cooking Club – Meet in Fellowship Hall. Cost \$7 Learn to cook a new meal. We all prepare the meal together and then enjoy trying out new foods. This month's theme is Kentucky Derby Cooking from Louisville.

Saturday May 21 – 10am – Garden Club – Outreach at Grace House. Help plant flowers, spring clean-up and work day at their 4 half way houses on Norton Street

Monday June 6 at 5pm – Golf Outing at Winding Creek in Farmington – 9 holes Cost \$10. Sign up with Ed Oliver in Fellowship Hall.

Sunday June 19 after both Services – Dad's and Grads Ice Cream Social

Friday June 24 at 7pm – Rochester Red Wings Baseball Game vs. Louisville Sluggers. Tickets \$10 will be available in Fellowship Hall next month.

Thursday September 29 to Sunday October 2, 2016 – Adirondack High peaks Hiking Trip. Staying in near Johns Brook Lodge (Keene Valley, NY) in Camp Peggy O'Brien. Will climb Mt. Marcy, Gothics and the Great Range. Cost is \$75 for Cabin plus travel and food. Very Limited space. Sign up with Dan Traina 585-208-6839

FPCP's Concert Series concludes the 2015-2016 season with **Concentus, a Women's Chorus on Sunday, May 15th at 3:00 pm**. They will present a "Festival of Song and Lilacs", celebrating music of rebirth and hope, as we bask in the scents of the season!



Join us for this wonderful concert during Rochester's Lilac Festival.

Update: The Pittsford Food Cupboard (PFC) serves more than 4,000 households in Monroe County, "Feeding Hope One Family at a Time".

The PFC's mission is to help alleviate hunger for families in need who live in a six zip code area between the City of Rochester, Pittsford, Brighton and East Rochester by supplementing 10 days of food supplies per month ultimately contributing towards clients' independence. Clients come from all walks of life, many just needing a little help to get through a period of unemployment or illness. Others need assistance because of inadequate fixed incomes, a disability or uninsured medical bills, single parenthood or an increase in household size.

In 2015, the PFC served 9,476 people through the tireless work of over 100 volunteers. The PFC has a variety of flexible volunteer programs that make it easy for members of the community, adults and young people, to get involved and to volunteer as a group or an individual. Besides collecting food, assisting clients, helping with office work, stocking shelves or picking up food, volunteers can "Adopt-A-Shelf", hold can and bottle drives, or be a sponsor and coordinate food drives at their organization. For details, visit www.pittsfordfoodcupboard.net or contact Suzy Ward, the new Executive Director, directly at 585-746-5676. Thank you for your prayers, your food donations, and your critical financial support.

Upcoming Events

SO-SO Gatherings—April 24th, May 15th

Rock Climbing—April 20th & 27th, May 11th

Confirmation Celebration—May 1st

Crazy Game Night—May 27th

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.



End of Year is Fast Approaching

If you see a youth in passing or on Sunday morning, don't forget that they are starting to worry about end of the year. Ask them how they're doing and what's going on in their life!



Couches!!!!

The youth are looking for some new couches to put into the youth room! If you have any couches in decent condition that you would like to give to us, please let Tyler know!





Vacation Bible School

Everyone is invited to join us this year for Vacation Bible School. Children who are able to use the bathroom independently through adults are encouraged to register.

Vacation Bible School this year will be held the last week of July or July 24-29. We will be inside and outside and learning about the Spirit of God as Living Water as well as what clean water can mean for many people of the world. The Curriculum is written by the "Living Water for the World" ecumenical group started by the Presbytery of the Living Waters.

Living Water World Missions (LWWM) exists to share the good news of Jesus Christ by providing life-saving, "living" water to people in need throughout the world. Through LWWM, mission teams are deployed throughout the world to install the Living Waters for the World water system, designed to produce up to 300 gallons of clean drinking water per hour.

Registration forms are online www.pittsfordpres.org/vbs or by calling the office at 585-586-5688

Our church is having a Book Fair!

Do you have what you need to keep your kids busy this summer? Stop by our Book Fair and shop award-winning Bibles, books, and videos for babies to ten-year-olds. Save up to 15% plus free shipping on all Book Fair titles.

Stop by the Fellowship Hall on May 15, 22, and 29 between 9:30 and 12 to get faith-filled books and videos for your kids.

Our Book Fair is sponsored partially by Sparkhouse Family that is committed to telling stories that help parents instill an open-hearted, transformational, lifelong Christian faith in their children at every age and stage. The books will include some from their Frolic series, which combines child development principles and faith concepts to help little ones take their first steps in faith. There will also be books for older youth and teens.

Coming up for Kids Special - Mother's day Choir

Christian Education

Upcoming Events

Men's Prayer Breakfast	5/1 7:00 am
Optimists	5/13 5:30 pm
Anthony Circle	5/18 9:30 am
Board games and Euchre	5/21 7 pm
Naomi Circle	5/16 12:30 am
Evening Circle	5/21 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

STEPHEN MINISTRY ~ CHRIST CARING FOR PEOPLE

THROUGH PEOPLE ~ That's the motto of Stephen Ministry.

The Stephen Minister's role is to bring God's love into the lives of people who are going through a difficult time or experiencing a crisis. What do Stephen Ministers do? They listen to you, care for you, support and encourage you, and pray with and for you. And in the midst of this confidential, one-to-one, caring relationship, God's healing love comes pouring through.

If you or someone you know is facing a crisis-large or small-and could benefit from the caring presence of a Stephen Minister, talk to one of our Stephen Leaders *Jane Hunter, Alice O'Dwyer, Barbara Smith, Dick Sprenkle or Carol Tiemann*. **Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you!**



WEB Club Schedule for 2016

May 11th - Major Pettigrew's Last Stand: A Novel by Helen

Simonson - You are about to travel to Edgecombe St. Mary, a small village in the English countryside filled with rolling hills, thatched cottages, and a cast of characters both hilariously original and as familiar as the members of your own family. Among them is Major Ernest Pettigrew (retired), the unlikely hero of Helen Simonson's wondrous debut.



The Major leads a quiet life valuing the proper things that Englishmen have lived by for generations: honor, duty, decorum, and a properly brewed cup of tea. But then his brother's death sparks an unexpected friendship with Mrs. Jasmina Ali, the Pakistani shopkeeper from the village. Drawn together by their shared love of literature and the loss of their respective spouses, the Major and Mrs. Ali soon find their friendship blossoming into something more. But village society insists on embracing him as the quintessential local and her as the permanent foreigner. Can their relationship survive the risks one takes when pursuing happiness in the face of culture and tradition?*

Host - To Be Determined

June 8th - The Road to Character by David Brooks - With the wisdom, humor, curiosity, and sharp insights that have brought millions of readers to his New York Times column and his previous bestsellers, David Brooks has consistently illuminated our daily lives in surprising and original ways. Now, in *The Road to Character*, he focuses on the deeper values that should inform our lives. Responding to what he calls the culture of the Big Me, which emphasizes external success, Brooks challenges us, and himself, to rebalance the scales between our "résumé virtues"—achieving wealth, fame, and status—and our "eulogy virtues," those that exist at the core of our being: kindness, bravery, honesty, or faithfulness, focusing on what kind of relationships we have formed.*

Host To Be Determined

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.



NAOMI CIRCLE ~ Join us with lunch and mug on Monday, May 16, 12:30, for Naomi Circle's meeting at the church in room 200. Ock Hee Hale, Honeoye Falls, will share her journey about life in South Korea as a child and how she came to focus on helping people face death and dying here in the U.S.

Non-members always welcome.

EVENING CIRCLE'S ~ EVENing Circle will meet April 25 at and May 21 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.

KNITTERS ALERT!!! ~ **April 26** Meeting from 11-1:30 in Room 200. Anew baby hat pattern will be available.

Please bring your sandwich, yogurt or salad—coffee and tea will be provided.

May 31 Meeting—Same as above

This will be our final get-together until September 27.

I learn something new each month which usually has nothing to do with knitting. Jan Curry learned to make pom-poms for hats with a very sophisticated kind of too last month. Diana Adams was "The Teacher" for that project. NO TUITION!!!

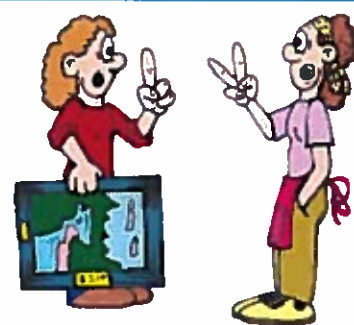
It's fun to be together. Please remember, NO MEMBERSHIP, NO DUES, NO ATTENDANCE TAKEN. Can you beat that offer??? Questions? - Kay Saxum



PENNY PINCHER SALE UPDATE ~ Yes, there will be a

Penny Pincher sale this year! The dates are September 29 & 30. Set-up days will be September 26, 27 & 28. As you clean out your cupboards, closets, basements and garages this summer, please keep us in mind. A complete list of the clean, usable items that we accept will appear soon.

Remember... no clothing. (That may be placed in the Cameron bins in the Lobby Room any time.) For now, we would appreciate your full-size brown, paper grocery bags which will be used for our Bag Sale on Friday afternoon. There will be a container in Lobby Room soon. Also, if you have any clean space (garage, barn) to store large items that members want to donate but need to move out sooner than September please let me know. If you would like to help plan this church-wide fundraiser, give me a call. I have a "vice-chairman", and we would love to have a "committee"! Thanks - Liz Mehalso



**First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford
Catholic Family Center - Refugee Assistance Programs**

Refugee Companions

Each year the United States admits thousands of refugees without hope for a peaceful return to their homeland. Catholic Family Center (CFC) Refugee Resettlement programs help settle refugees upon their arrival in the United States, providing a broad set of services such as airport reception, assistance securing housing and accessing medical, educational, employment and public benefit agency services.

What is a Refugee Companionship Team?

Refugee Companionship Teams are volunteers from congregations, businesses social or other groups who provide support for refugee families. The team is connected to a newly-arrived refugee family, and the support provided builds upon the resettlement services of Catholic Family Center (CFC) refugee resettlement staff.

What are the specific obligations of being a team volunteers?

Some examples of the different ways that teams provide help include the following:

Home Set-up - setting up the refugee's home or apartment - putting together beds & arrange furnishings.

English Language - providing afterschool tutoring to refugee children and adults

Home Economics - assisting with grocery shopping; helping manage a household budget

Visiting the family in their home - see how they live, what their needs may be and discuss these with the CFC case manager

Cultural Orientation - helping the family in their efforts to understand the nuances of American culture such as public safety issues, personal hygiene practices or standards of child supervision

Community Navigation - showing them bus routes or how to get around the city to places they may need to go; introducing them to recreational and cultural facilities; helping them connect to their own ethnic community within Rochester; assisting them in obtaining library cards and internet access.

There is no financial obligation and the average length of commitment is approximately six months from the refugee family's date of arrival. Second language skills are not necessary.

Background checks and volunteer orientation is required by Catholic Family Center.

If you are interested in being part of a Refugee Companionship Team, please contact either:

Susan Deasy

Vince Harper