

The Good News

OCTOBER 2015

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

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN-CELL

Lectionary for the month of October

19th Sunday after Pentecost October 4

Job 1:1, 2:1-10
Psalm 26
Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12
Mark 10:2-16

20th Sunday after Pentecost October 11

Job 23:1-9, 16-17
Psalm 22:1-15
Hebrews 4:12-16
Mark 10:17-31

21st Sunday after Pentecost October 18

Job 38:1-7, (34-41)
Psalm 104:1-9, 14-35c
Hebrews 5:1-10
Mark 10:35-45

22nd Sunday after Pentecost October 25

Job 42:1-6, 10-17
Psalm 34:1-8, (19-22)
Hebrews 7:23-28
Mark 10:46-52

"Dear Jesus," Freddie wrote. "If I get a red wagon for Christmas, I won't fight with my brother Hank for a year."

Upon reflection Freddie realized that he could never keep that promise and so he tossed the letter into the wastepaper basket and with his 1st grade print wrote, "Dear Jesus, if I get a red wagon for Christmas, I will eat all my vegetables for a year." When he checked with his Mom about how to spell "vegetables" it occurred to him that these would include broccoli.

This was a Catholic family and so Freddie took the family statue of the Virgin Mary that sat on the right side of the mantel in the family room. He stuffed the statue in an old gym bag and shoved the bag into the rear of his closet.

"Dear Jesus," he began a third time, "If you ever want to see your mother again . . ."

This story has been around for a long time, but so have the concepts of bribery and ransom. Did you know that multi-lettered, glued-together ransom notes are really more Hollywood than history? In the most infamous kidnapping cases (like the kidnapping of the Lindbergh baby and Patty Hearst), we discover that high profile ransom notes were handwritten, hastily scrawled for maximum impact.

But, in 2015 ransom notes may be about our computers as much as they are about us. Criminals know that our data is important to us. It isn't just people about which we care. A new generation of digital kidnapers now abducts data through sneaky infiltrating malware. They then demand a ransom from the computer's owner before releasing back the control of the data.

This abusive "ransomware" is a major new crime in our digitally connected world. You innocently visit a website or receive an email that looks informatively harmless. But attached is the ransomware virus that infects your computer's operating system. The ransomware makes your data inaccessible to you. Pop-up messages bring false hope that for \$25 (or \$500 sometimes), payable by credit card or bitcoin you can have control returned. This is malware of the worst kind. It is cyber kidnapping.

It occurs to me that not only are our computers infected with "viruses" so are our lives. We feel like we are held captive by our sinful behaviors until a ransom is paid and our consciences relieved and Christians learn that Jesus is the ransom. Payment of the ransom then presents us with the paradox of gratitude.

Jesus said, "Whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all." This is a different perspective for political candidates eyeing polls. Followers of Jesus do not hold others hostage to their ambition and personal gain. Instead, they give of themselves in service of others. It's the paradoxical economics of Jesus: You only gain when you give away.

Don't think so? Check out 1 Timothy 2:5-6 or 1 Corinthians 6:20

In God's eyes, we are all stars. God promised Abraham descendants as numerous as the stars (Genesis 22:17) and we have been gifted to reflect God's light to the world. We encourage you to invite other stars to our church and each time anyone brings a guest to any worship, mission project, concert or event, they can alert Carrie cnm@pittsfordpres.org and earn a star. For every five stars brightening the skies at First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford, the person inviting these new stars will be gifted an aster flower whose name is derived from the Greek word for star. Should one of these stars happen to join our congregation during the November 1, 8 and 15 New Members Class, the member who first invited the new star will be entered in a raffle for a star-studded evening for two at GeVa. Shine on!





Sometimes It's Hard to Ask for Help ~ We're brought up to be strong, self-sufficient, independent people. We tend to think that if we ask for help, it is a sign of weakness. So we try to keep our struggles hidden, stuffed deep inside. However, that's not god's plan. Galatians 6:2 says "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ". God wants us to care for others - and allow others to care for us in our time of need. Stephen Leaders: *Jane Hunter, Alice O'Dwyer, Barbara Smith, Dick Sprenkle or Carol Tiemann*. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you!

UPCOMING DEACON FUN ACTIVITIES

Supper Club - Sunday September 20 at 5pm - Fellowship Hall - Mediterranean Theme foods. Cost \$7

Supper Club ~ Sunday October 18 - at 4:30pm - American Home Cooking - we will be going to Grace House on Norton Street to prepare supper and fellowship with the residents. These men have been recently released from prison and have chosen to live in a Christian half way house as they rebuild their lives.



Young Adult Game Night and Euchre Night ~ Saturday October 24 - Both in Fellowship Hall at 7pm..

TREASURER'S REPORT

Although we typically experience a slowdown in pledge receipts over the summer months, this year has been particularly slow as we are \$29,000 below budget thru August. Keeping your pledge payments current allows us to fund our many activities, programs, mission work, and church operations. Should you have questions about your pledge balance, please contact Cesca Koron, financial Administrator at 586-5688.

Parents' Night Perks at First Pres: Treat the kids to an evening out on Friday, October 23rd between 5-9pm. We invite our young children under the age of ten to an engaging evening of games, crafts, a movie, pizza, popcorn, dessert and fun! Infant care is available upon request. Both kids and parents will enjoy the perk of having special time!

A suggested donation of \$10 will go to Youth Mission as our youth will be engaging the youngsters. Sign your child up by calling the office at (585) 586-5688. Space is limited to 20 children so sign up quickly! If you have questions, please feel free to contact Carrie Mitchell at cnm@pittsfordpres.org.

REMINDER ~ If you would like to make a year-end donation using the sale of **stock**, please plan to have it completed by **December 1** so it will appear on your 2014 statement. **Mutual Fund** donations take a little longer to process, please have them in by **November 15**. If you have any questions please email Cesca Koron at cesca.koron@pittsfordpres.org or call her at 586-5688 - ext. 23 and she will be happy to answer them and walk you through the process.

News from the Nursery School

Happy Fall! Here in the Preschool we



have decorated our school with pumpkins, gourds, Fall leaves and apples. We have introduced some exciting afternoon enrichment classes and are working on a fundraiser called Square One Art. The kids are thinking about Halloween and we are too. We are planning a trip to Chase Pumpkin farm, as well as practicing our safety drills. As al-

ways, please visit us, we are proud to show off our accomplishments. Thank you for your support!

Wednesday Evening Book Club Schedule for Fall.

October 14, 2015

"The Interestings" by Meg Wolitzre
Home of Nancy and Dick Sprengle
103 Stuyvesant Road.

November 18, 2015

"All the Light We Cannot See" by Anthony Doerr
Home of Tim and Maria Smith
19 Bromley

December 9, 2015

"Wesley the Owl" by Stacy O'Brien
Home of Ruth Keller
10 Marbeth Drive

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

ANTHONY CIRCLE ~ Our circle emphasizes mission and women's fellowship. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 20 at 9.30am in Room 200—all women are invited to join us. For more information call Janette Henderson 248-9386.

MARY WELLER ~ will meet on Monday, October 12 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 October 19, 12:30 in the Room 200. Please bring your mug and lunch and welcome Dr. rod Frohman, who will be presenting a summary of the first five books of the Bible in the months of October and November. Non-members always welcome.

EVening Circle ~ will be meeting on October 26. We will meet upstairs in Rm. 200 at 7:00 PM. Please come and enjoy studying the Bible with us.



New this year

Children join worshipers for Communion

On Communion Sunday Oct. 4, children are invited to come right down to Sunday school instead of going into worship. There they will 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 participate in the Mouse Report led by the pastor. Following the Mouse Report children will leave the front and sit with their parents to worship together. Children will have learned that whether they eat and drink is up to the parents.



We are trying out this change because we have realized that children get to confirmation without experiencing 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.

Children's Worship Totes

Worship totes are now available to help your child connect with worship. Each child can pick one up before going into the Sanctuary.

One way adults and children can respond to all that God has given us is during the offering. Now children can fill out a "Children's Offering" sheet located in the Worship Tote.

This form directs children to think of creative ways they can help God in the coming week. Could they help their teacher at school, reach out to someone new, try to be nice to a sibling, or look for those in need?



We encourage the children to bring these forms forward with them at the beginning of the Mouse Report to be collected at the Lord's Table with the later offerings.

Teachers and Shepherds

Join us Saturday, October 3 from 9:00-11:00 as we celebrate you, our fantastic volunteers, with food, fun and fellowship! Enjoy breakfast pizza, fresh fruit salad and bagels.

It's our First Annual Fall Kick Off Celebration...and it won't be complete without your fabulous presence!

RSVP by September 19th to Craig (586-5688) or any Christian Education Committee member.

Christian Education

Upcoming Events

Men's Prayer Breakfast	7:00 am 10/4
Mary Weller Circle	10/12 11:30 am
EVening Circle	10/26 7pm
Naomi Circle	10/19 12:30pm
Anthony Circle	10/20 9:30 am
Not so Basic Bible study	Mondays 7:30 pm
Prayer Support Group	Mondays 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

Logos:

Sept. 23 Powder Mill Park
Sept. 30 A time to dance
Oct. 7 Buddy Night
Oct. 14 Mission Minded
Oct. 21 Ecclesiastes 3:1-8



Youth Happenings



Calendar of Events

Check Church website for times

- Sept. 25- Bowling + Pizza
- Oct. 16-17- Lock-IN
- Oct. 30 - 9-12 - Nightmare Manor
- Nov. 20 - Sky-Zone
- Dec. 11 - Scrooge Party
- January 9 - Glacier Ridge Snow Tubing



SO-SO

- 7 PM
- Sept 27
- Oct 4
- Oct 25
- Nov 8
- Nov 22
- Dec 20
- Jan 3
- Jan 31
- Feb 28
- March 6
- March 20
- April 10
- April 24
- May 15
- June 5

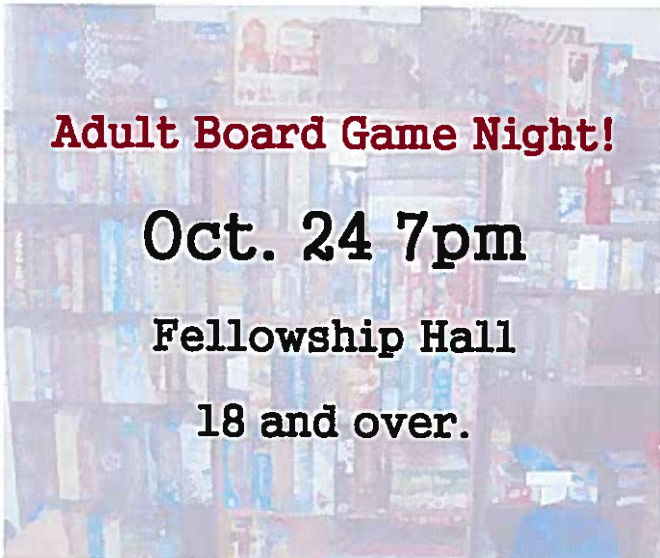


Adult Board Game Night!

Oct. 24 7pm

Fellowship Hall

18 and over.



LOCAL MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

Sept 19- Cameron Community Services

Oct 3 - RAIHN Day Center

Oct 23 - Parent Drop Off Day

Dec 15 - JPC Christmas Party



ALL STARS★ HALL OF FAME

On October 11th we will begin to put up our All Stars★ Generosity Hall of Fame! We need your input! Just cut out a star and put a name of someone who is an All Star to you. You can add a picture or something about the person if you wish. We will have some "sticky stuff" for you to attach your star to the wall. It will be near the lobby. Who is a generous All Star★ to you? When Pastor Bruce was asked to quickly name 10 "All Stars★" for him he quickly fired off a few names off the top of his head.



- ★Cal and Diane Graziano for their kindness to ARC residents
- ★Dave and Sam Testa for their untiring work with backpacks
- ★Harold McAulliffe for his plaster checking tenor voice
- ★Randi Rinehart for her extraordinary parenting patience
- ★Bob Thompson for his care of our church property
- ★Janis Croop for her volunteer work in the nursery
- ★Matt and Susie Wahl for their love of LOGOS
- ★Betty Willert for her care of our church kitchen
- ★Barb Smith for her extraordinary care of RAIHN families
- ★Bob Collins for his care of our building

Pastor Bruce told us that he was just getting started when we cut him off to tell him he was already at 10. All these have a generous spirit. Generosity isn't just about \$\$\$. It is about the heart!



ALL STARS ★ GENEROSITY TEAM

George Washington's original pencil sketch for the flag indicated 6-pointed stars, a form he apparently preferred. Betsy Ross, however, said that correct heraldry required a 5-pointed star. When Washington and his committee protested that it was too difficult to make, she took a piece of paper, folded it deftly, and with a single snip of her scissors, produced a symmetrical five-pointed star. This seeming feat of magic so impressed her audience that they readily agreed to her suggestion. **Take a thin piece of paper 8-1/2" x 10" (or an exact proportion thereof), fold it as indicated and cut yourself a perfect 5-pointed star.**

		<p>Fold a piece of paper in half (an 8 1/2 inch by 10 inch rectangle will work - just cut off the lower inch of a piece of standard typing paper). Write the letters "A", "B", "C" and "M" on it as shown in the picture. "A" and "C" are the edges along the fold. "M" is the mid-point of "A" and "C"; "B" is the vertical mid-point of the folded paper.</p>
		<p>Fold corner "A" to point "B." Mark the newly-formed corner "D."</p>
		<p>Fold corner "C" over the paper edge running from "B" to "D" (along the dotted line).</p>
		<p>Make another fold along the dotted line D-C.</p>
		<p>Cut the paper along a line from a point near one edge to a point about halfway to the point "D" (the dotted line illustrated on the left).</p>
		<p>Unfold the paper and you will have a star.</p>

BACKPACK MINISTRY - IT'S FOR THE KIDS! ~ We are now in our third school year of helping children in our community get the food and nourishment they need on the weekends when they are not in school. We have been working with School 54 in Rochester to reach a number of kids that are considered at "extreme risk of hunger" and, without help, likely would go hungry on Saturday and Sunday. Most of these children are identified as homeless and range in age from 5 to 13 years old. We intend to help 40 - 45 children this year.



We have been blessed with a number of wonderful people in our congregation who have helped a great deal over the past three years by donating time, effort, money and food to help us reach these needy children. A number of other churches and senior organizations as well as the good folks at Wegmans Food Markets have also helped a great deal. Unfortunately, the problem does not go away (the city of Rochester is now #2 in the country - behind only Detroit - in terms of childhood poverty rate - 55%+).

We need food (or money) and occasional volunteers -

Prepared pasta meals or boxes of macaroni and cheese are especially needed. Ten dollars can buy 12 boxes of mac and cheese or 10 cans of Chef Boyardee ravioli (there is a blue box in fellowship hall for your donations).

Alternatively, if you prefer, you may give or mail a check to Cesca or Doris in the church office made out to our church and they will ensure it is used immediately and specifically for the program.

Volunteers to occasionally pack the packs or deliver to the school are also appreciated (if you can volunteer contact Dave Testa at dtesta@rochester.rr.com).

Regardless of how you help, we know it will make a difference in the lives of these children. It not only helps to fill their tummies, it shows them that there are those that love them and care about them - feelings that can cause all kinds of good things to happen in their lives.

FALL SCHEDULE

Beginning September 13

8:30 & 10:00 AM

Worship

9:15 AM

Choir Warm-up

9:45 AM

Adult Ed

9:30 & 11:00 AM

Fellowship

10:00 AM

Church School K—12 Grade
Nursery & Preschool

Office Hours—Beginning Sept. 6

8:30 AM—4:30 PM Mon.—Fri.

Cesca's Hours—Tues. & Thurs.

8:30 AM—4:30 PM





**Handbell Choir
New Season
New Director**

Former Ringers and Novices (Have never played or have rung a note or two) this is for all of you. This is **AN OPEN HOUSE FOR BELLS -and RINGERS** (And would be ringers). It is an opportunity to meet Mary, try ringing a bell, and exploring our calendar. An informational gathering will take place on **Monday, September 28th 6:30 PM in the Music Room**. You will have an opportunity to meet our new director and our bells.

Handbell ringing is something that is wonderful for people of all ages. If you are age 66, 96 or in 6th grade or above, you are welcome. We'll provide a calendar that will outline ringing and playing schedule for the fall and beyond.

Regular Rehearsals will begin the following Monday 10/5 at 6:30.

We are thrilled to have Mary providing leadership for our handbell players. Mary C. Carlson, is a Professor and Director of Graduate Music Education in the Nazareth College Music Department. She received her M.Ed. and Ph.D. from the University of Missouri-Columbia with a concentration in the areas of Music Education, Wind Conducting, and Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis.



Prior to attending graduate school, Dr. Carlson taught instrumental music in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada and completed the prestigious Calgary Conducting Diploma program where she studied conducting with Frank Battisti, Eugene Corporon, John Paynter, Donald Hunsberger, and Craig Kirchoff. In addition to coordinating the Graduate Music Education program, Dr. Carlson's duties at Nazareth include teaching undergraduate and graduate music education courses, and supervising student teachers.

THE REHEARSALS ~ for the First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford Choir began Wednesday, September 9. We rehearse each week from 7:30 to 9:15. With another exciting year of music planned, perhaps it's time to think about joining the choir. New members are welcome at any point, but it's easiest for new members to get in the swing of things as we start a new year, and everybody is "new" in one way or the other. Each week we learn something new about music, grow in our faith through music, and simply have fun! We look forward to seeing new members for their first rehearsal on Wednesday, members who are starting their 40th year in the choir, and everyone in between. If you have any questions, please email our Director of Music, Dr. James Douthit at jdouthit@rochester.rr.com.

PDA MISSION TRIP OPPORTUNITY ~ Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has a site in Conway, Arkansas (45 minutes NW of Little Rock) that we are going down to help. An EF-4 Tornado touched down on April 27, 2014 killing 16 people, destroying 337 homes and damaging over 3,000 houses. We will be departing on 1/1/16 and driving with an overnight stay in Memphis, TN and returning Saturday 1/9/2016. The cost is \$150. Please contact Dan Traina at 208-6839 for more information.

**ALL STARS«
Living Generously
Fall 2015 Stewardship Emphasis
Of the Generosity Team**



Way back on January 4 of this year Bruce preached a sermon entitled, "Star Trek." It was based on a text from Matthew 2:9 (NRSV) - *When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.*

That was the start of our thinking about using "Stars" as a theme He had just had a dream about using "Stars" as a theme for the Generosity Teams stewardship emphasis this fall. Clearly YOU are the real stars in Pittsford. You have been preceded by many other "stars" including those who have gone before us to provide our building, our vision and hope. You are ALLSTARS in faith. You and your ministry is what we will celebrate as find our way through the constellations of ministry and mission this fall. Our series will culminate on ALL STARS« Sunday, November 1. This is actually All Saints Sunday. On that day we will express our gratitude to God as we make plans together for 2016.

We'll learn to cut out stars like Betsy Ross and we will decorate our church with stars. We'll have bulletin boards where we can honor the stars among us and those who have gone before. We'll sing "Star" hymns and explore "Star" passages from the Bible. See you in church!

**Doug Peters, Mark Pedersen and Aaron Hilger, Elders
John Zimmer, Trustee
Rob Rhodes, Treasurer**



Needed for our A.R.C. Sunday Church Goers - Volunteer Chaperones:

Three Volunteers for 10 a.m., Sunday, 20 Sept. 2015 - one male, one female, & one more.

Three Volunteers for 10 a.m., Sunday, 27 Sept. 2015 - one male, one female, & one more.

We have no Oct. Volunteer Chaperones. A pair of regular Sept. & Oct. Volunteer Chaperones would be very helpful. With a monthly pair of regular Volunteer Chaperones, always must ask one extra Volunteer to cover the A.R.C. people.

We never know for certain until Sunday a.m. which A.R.C. persons will attend church. Must plan for Kathy Motzer & Annamae Woodward, Judy in wheelchair, and a male Volunteer for Tom Bringley with walker (perhaps lavatory requirements).

Please contact: Diane Graziano, <coelhen2@frontiernet.net>

Coordinator of Sunday Volunteer Chaperones for A.R.C. People

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<p>First Presbyterian Church 21 Church Street, Pittsford, NY 14534 Phone 585 586-5688, Fax # 586-8090 E-mail admin@pittsfordpres.org Web page www.pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>WORSHIP WITH US Worship Services: 8:30 & 10:00 AM Communion is offered the first Sunday of each month.</p>		