



The Good News

SEPTEMBER 2015

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

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN-CELL

Lectionary for the month of September

15th Sunday after Pentecost September 6

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23
Psalm 125
James 2:1-10 (11-13) 14-17
Mark 7:24-37

16th Sunday after Pentecost September 13

Proverbs 1:20-33
Psalm 19
James 3:1-12
Mark 8:27-38

17th Sunday after Pentecost September 20

Proverbs 31:10-31
Psalm 1
James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a
Mark 9:30-37

18th Sunday after Pentecost September 27

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22
Psalm 124
James 5:13-20
Mark 90:38-50

Kick-Off Picnic ~ ALL STARS★ ~ LOGOS ~ Choir Rehearsals ~ Adult Education ~ Sunday School ~ Mission ~ Backpack Ministry ~ 2 Services return ~ Staff -

There is lots happening at First Presbyterian Church as we turn to September

and you will find lots of information in this issue of The Good News! We hope you had a great summer and are eager to embrace this autumn with enthusiasm. (Are you aware that enthusiasm comes from the root "entheos" which means "in God"?)



The Generosity Team is planning a wonderful series this fall that will center around the theme of "Stars" and culminate in an "ALLSTARS" Sunday on All Saints Day the 1st Sunday in November. You will be seeing star decorations popping up in different places, star related hymns and Bible passages, and galactic challenges with presentations for mission (like a report about this past summer's JASY Mission adventure in July). So, I am becoming sensitive to most everything that is "star" related. I have been practicing cutting stars out of paper.

Now when I first read a magazine article this August about "Moon and Stars," I thought this might be a story to be adapted for our Generosity team. I jumped to the conclusion that it would be about the night sky, or astronomy or space exploration. I never imagined that it would actually be about watermelons, which is why I am finding that looking at the "stars" can take us to places we never expected. But watermelons?

"Moon and Stars" is the name of a particularly valuable, dark-green, spotted variety of watermelon. An odd and beautiful melon, it has yellow specks called stars and larger spots called moons. At one point, this "Moon and Stars" variety was feared to be lost forever, but then a group of seed savers pinned down a man who was still growing it.

Because of the seeds obtained from him, this melon has been brought back from the brink of extinction to the full bloom of commercial success. The return of "Moon and Stars" was a major melon moment — especially to gardeners who are part of the esoteric world of seed savers and heirloom seeds. An heirloom seed is a type of seed that has been passed down through a number of generations, usually transmitted by seed savers who want to keep a distinctive variety alive.

Heirloom seeds are planted by people who want to enjoy fruits and vegetables that are "a taste of the past." These seed savers know that many varieties of crops, although cherished and maintained for generations, have been lost in recent years because fewer and fewer people save seed from year to year. Such gardeners believe that their heirlooms have better taste and tenderness than the varieties that have been selected for qualities such as ease of shipping, uniform appearance or ability to grow well across the country.

These heirloom seeds are valuable, and seed savers passionately pursue them. You can't find them in most seed catalogs; instead you have to acquire them from other collectors. Typical searches include a Wisconsin woman looking for a "white pole bean" handed down in her family for 87 years until the seed was destroyed in a fire. Or an Oregon resident wanting a "bird egg bean" dating back to at least 1918. Or a Missouri man offering to share seed from the "blue banana squash."

As I was learning about Moon and Stars watermelon it hit me that our church is like a bag of heirloom Moon and Stars seeds. Although our thing is mission rather than melons we find hints about what do to with the seeds of integrity, hope, joy, abundance, generosity and love that are often lost in our genetically engineered, techno-procreated world. We have developed so many new strains of knowledge but have lost the valuable Moon and Stars seeds of wisdom and faith. Many of those have been quietly stored in scripture and the communities that have cherished them. They have been kept for a time that needs them like today.

One night Jay Leno moved into his audience to ask them questions about the Bible. "Name one of the Ten Commandments," he said. "God helps those who help themselves?" someone ventured. "Name one of the apostles," Leno told them. No one could. Finally, he asked them to name the Beatles. The answer came ringing from throughout the crowd: George, Paul, John and Ringo.

Then he asked one woman, "Give me one piece of Bible advice." She said, "God has shown you what is good. And what does the Lord require of you but to act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with God." (Micah 6:8) Leno raised his eyebrows and asked, "Where did you learn that?" She said, "That seed was planted at my church and I have wanted to water it and take care of it ever since."

Heirloom seeds are not meant to be hoarded, but to be shared.

"The faithful are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper" (Psalm 1:3). What is true of Moon and Stars melons is true of people! See you in church! It is watermelon seed-spittin' time!

Bruce



Help Is Only A Phone Call Away!

Here at the First Presbyterian Church, we have female and male trained Stephen Ministers ready to help our parishioners facing tough times. A Stephen Minister is a member of our church who has received 50 hours of training in how to provide distinctively Christian care; a person who is ready to focus on your needs; a trustworthy confidant who will keep everything you say—and even your identity—confidential; and someone who will

faithfully meet with you on a weekly basis for as long as your need persists. We all experience challenges in life, times when we could benefit from the support of a caring Christian friend. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to provide you, a family member, friend, or neighbor with confidential, one-to-one Christian care necessary to make it through a crisis or difficult time. Let a Stephen Minister help. Contact any of our Stephen Minister Leaders: *Jane Hunter, Alice O'Dwyer, Barbara Smith, Dick Sprenkle or Carol Tiemann, or either of our pastors, Bruce or Carrie* any time you or a friend are in need.

UPCOMING DEACON FUN ACTIVITIES

Church Picnic - Sunday September 13 at 11:30am - Everyone is invited to our annual picnic after the 10:30am service. Start the new school year by catching up with friends outside on the lawn.

Euchre Night - Saturday September 19 at 7pm - 45 S. Main Street, Pittsford Village

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



OPTIMISTS:

Welcome back Optimists. Our first program will be on Friday, September 11 at 5:50 PM

Our program is a "Tale of Two Cities" presented by our own Ray Feasey, who will be speaking about his early prewar childhood in England and in the United States.



TREASURER'S REPORT

Through July our deficit of \$47,000 is about \$26,000 higher than budget. Pledge income is running about \$15,000 below budget. July was particularly low, but we expect receipts to increase following the summer months. Expenses are running about \$12,000 higher than budget. We invested in a new phone system/internet provider and also converted our lighting system to energy saving bulbs. These investments will be recouped in lower monthly operating expense and we will achieve greater efficiency and functionality for the staff. The 2015 deficit is projected to be about \$21,000; a similar level as last year. This reflects higher giving by our members to support increased benevolence giving and a modest salary adjustment for our pastors and staff.

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

Our boards and committees have identified projects and improvements that are beyond the scope of their budgets. Some examples: we would like to illuminate the beautiful stained glass windows in the front of the sanctuary; our computer lab is used by our children for Sunday School bible study and needs a variety of equipment. A list of all Un-funded Projects can be found in the "Giving" section of our website <http://www.pittsfordpres.org/>. Should you be interested in helping to fund any of these needs, please speak with Bruce or Carrie.

FALL SCHEDULE



Beginning September 13

8:30 & 10:00 AM	Worship	<u>Office Hours—Beginning Sept. 6</u> 8:30 AM—4:30 PM Mon.—Fri.
9:15 AM	Choir Warm-up	<u>Cesca's Hours—Tues. & Thurs.</u> 8:30 AM—4:30 PM
9:45 AM	Adult Ed	
9:30 & 11:00 AM	Fellowship	
10:00 AM	Church School K—12 Grade Nursery & Preschool	

LOGOS is an after school, mid-week enrichment program that has impacted lives for 20 years. Running for approximately 23 weeks beginning in September, LOGOS engages young people, K-12 in the life of the church, providing opportunities to learn about God, have fun and create lasting relationships with others.

This year our LOGOS program starts on September 16. Register online at www.pittsfordpres.org under education.

New this year

Children join worshipers for Communion

On Communion Sundays, which are typically the first Sunday of every month, children are invited to come right down to Sunday school instead of going into worship. Then after the sermon, shepherds will bring the children up to participate in the Mouse Report and Communion.



Coming on September 13th

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.

In every bag you will find:

A children's spiritual offering form; a children's worship directory; a white board and dry erase marker; crayons and pencils; tissues



When children leave worship or after the service the bags can be returned to the basket under the tree.

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 9/6
Mary Weller Circle	9/14 11:30 am
Optimists	9/11 5:30 pm
EVening Circle	9/28 7pm
Naomi Circle	9/21
Anthony Circle	9/15 9:30 am
Not so Basic Bible study	Mondays 7:30 pm
Prayer Support Group	Tuesdays 2:00 pm
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

Youth Happenings



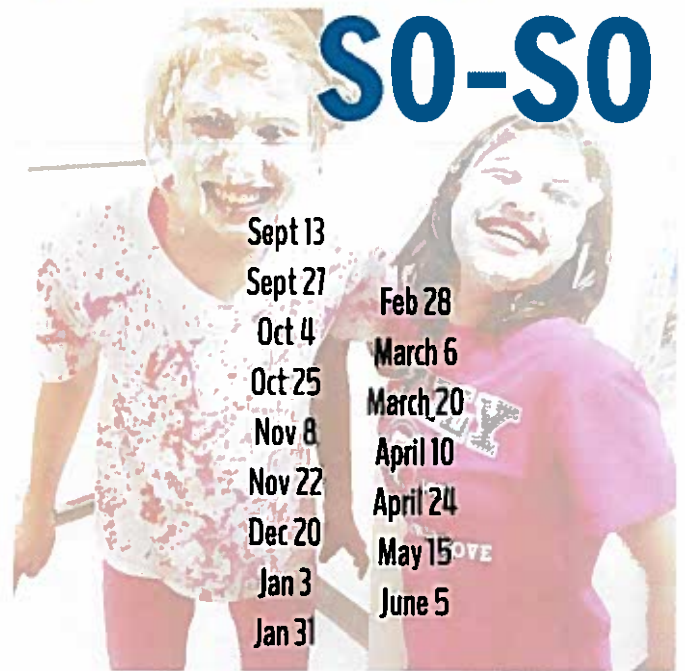
Calendar of Events

- Aug 26- Scavenger Hunt
- 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

- Sept 13
- 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



Kick-off Scavenger Hunt & Ice-Cream Sundaes

Wednesday, Aug. 26
6-9pm



LOCAL MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

- Sept 19- Cameron Community Services
- Oct 3 - RAIHN Day Center
- Oct 23 - Parent Drop Off Day
- Dec 15 - JPC Christmas Party



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



ANTHONY CIRCLE ~ Our circle emphasizes mission and women's fellowship. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 8 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, September 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-WELCOME BACK ~ Our first meeting of the season is Monday, September 21 at 12:30. Come prepared with lunch and mug and to hear Maria Battista-Hancock from the Hochstein School of Music give a presentation on Music Therapy 92:00). Non-members always welcome.

EVening Circle ~ Our first meeting of the season will be on September 28 We will meet upstairs on in Rm. 200 at 7 PM. Please come and enjoy studying the Bible with us.

PENNY PINCHER SALE From Joyce Drake

The sale will be here soon.

Drop off your items: Monday, and Tuesday, **September 21 & 22**, 9:30—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—12:00 PM, and \$2.00 a bag 12:00 PM—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.

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.

Signup for workers, both men and women for the sale will begin Sunday, August 30 in the Fellowship Hall after service.



Z BEST HOTS ARE COMING!

Returning this year at the annual Penny Pincher sale September 24—25, Jon Zatyko will be selling hot dogs, cheeseburgers, Italian sausage, Grilled chicken and more! He will be located outside near the Church Street entrance to the church. Partial proceeds will be donated to the church. Hours of operation are Wednesday—Fri. 11am to 2pm. Please be sure to stop by and indulge in some tasty treats for your lunch!

Wednesday Evening Book Club Schedule for Fall.

Come and enjoy an evening with Harper Lee on Sept. 9 at 7:30 pm. We will discuss the classic "to Kill a Mockingbird" along with the recent release of "Go Set a Watchmen" .This meeting is being held at the home of Karin McNamara, 42 Split Rock. Please call Karin at 381-5982 if you plan to attend.

Below is the rest of our schedule for 2015

October 14, 2015

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

November 18, 2015

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

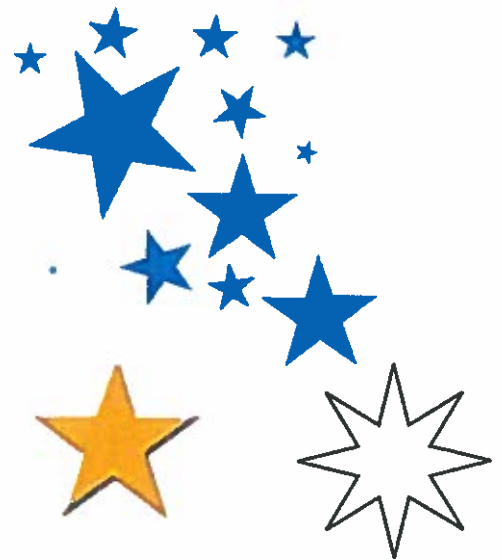
December 9, 2015

"Wesley the Owl" by Stacy O'Brien
Home of Ruth Keller
10 Marbeth Drive
359-2779

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

FALL WORSHIP SERIES

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| September 13 | TWINKLE TWINKLE★
(2 Services + Picnic) |
| September 20 | PHOSPHORESCENCE★
(Bibles to 3 rd and 8 th Grade) |
| September 26 | ELEVEN STARS★
(JASY Summer Mission Highlights) |
| October 4 | STAR BRIGHT★
(World Communion) |
| October 11 | CONSTELLATIONS WE CANNOT CONTROL★
(Isaiah 13:10) |
| October 18 | INFINITE INCANDESCENCE★
(Special Video) |
| October 25 | CELEBRITY STAR WARS★
(All Choirs Sing Together) |
| November 1 | ALL STARS★
(Our Celebration Sunday) |





LOGOS

LOGOS is an after school, mid-week enrichment program that has impacted lives for 20 years. Running for approximately 23 weeks beginning in September, LOGOS engages young people, K-12 in the life of the church, providing opportunities to learn about God, have fun and create lasting relationships with others.

The Four Parts of LOGOS are.....

Bible Study: A thorough grounding in the Bible is essential to the development of Christian life and character. The weekly study of scripture informs and directs how we live our lives as part of a Christian community.

Worship Skills: This is the time to learn about worship and to prepare for leadership as you sing and ring for congregational worship.

Recreation Play: Play is one of the best ways we practice treating one another as a child of God. Each week is different with a variety of crazy and fun activities.

Family Time: LOGOS Family Time is not just a time to eat dinner. "Table families" care for and about each other as they share food, fun and conversation around the table each week.

****The ONLY rule of LOGOS is:**

Everyone is to treat everyone else as a child of God. No one has the right to treat anyone else as if they do not matter.

We are a congregation that wants our children to have a solid foundation of Christian values. We want to help you grow children who will stand tall and take responsibility – proud to proclaim and share their love for Jesus Christ to others.

- Sept. 16 (Compass) Puppet Show
- Sept. 23 (Capture) Powder Mill Park
- Sept. 30 (Rockin') A time to dance!
- Oct. 7 (Friendship) Bring a friend!
- Oct. 14 (Tithe) Mission minded
- Oct. 21 (Re-phrase) Ecclesiastes 3 1-8
- Oct. 28 (Ghostly) Stories of the past
- Nov. 4 (Computer) Build & tear down...
- Nov. 11 (Peace) A time for war
- Nov. 18 (Harvest) A time to gather
- Nov. 25 NO LOGOS
- Dec. 2 (LOVE) Hope, joy, peace
- Dec. 9 (Sing) Christmas Caroling
- Dec. 16 NO LOGOS
- Dec. 23 NO LOGOS
- Dec. 30 NO LOGOS
- Jan. 6 (Epiphany) New Beginnings
- Jan. 13 (Rollin') Bowling Bash-offsite
- Jan. 20 (Multiply) Fishes & loaves
- Jan. 27 (Miracle) Jesus Heals
- Feb. 3 (Cozy) Film fun!
- Feb. 10 (Hate?) A time to love...
- Feb. 17 NO LOGOS
- Feb. 24 (Talent) Share your talent
- Mar. 2 (Best) Bring your Buddy!
- Mar. 9 (Honor) Pleased with our Pastors
- Mar. 16 (Vote) Kids Choice Awards
- Mar. 23 (Feast) Pot Luck Family Dinner

This Year!
Three ways to participate in Logos

Logos
Kindergarten through 4th

Loving Logos
5th and 6th Graders

Living Logos
7th Grade and up



My Thanks to the Summer Soloists, 2015

Our summer started with the angelic sounds of Hannah Seppala's harp. When she plays, she indeed does look and sound like an angel, and she is always so willing to play for us. We, the congregation get to follow her growth and development on that beautiful instrument. Then on July 5, Chancel Choir members Jane Landsman, Allan Reeve and Jeff Wright joined me in singing *America, The Beautiful*, a cappella, and I believe we stayed in tune. What fun for us! The next Sunday, James Schrag played his violin. This may be the last time we will hear James, as he's moving back to South Dakota with his mother, to tend his aging grandmother. We will miss him and his beautiful music. Then Laura Jean Diekmann shared her lovely soprano voice singing, *Love Changes Everything* with her son, Drew, accompanying on the piano. What a great duo! On July 26 we were fortunate to hear Harold McAulliffe sing a inspiring prayer and also *You'll Never Walk Alone* by my request. Harold is a member of our congregation, a former choir director here and though retired from teaching, is still very active in choral music. We always welcome him. Drew Diekmann played a piano solo on August 9, and his talent and love of music is evident in his performance. We hope that he will grace us with his playing for many years, as he is just a freshman in high school.

As I write this in mid-August, there will be four weeks before the Chancel Choir will be singing, but in the meantime we will hear two vocal quartets assembled by John Messenger that will include Bruce Boak, Jeffrey Tyler, Judy Messenger, and the other one will include Alexandra Bernal, Rebecca Kolstad and Harry Stern. They will be a part of the August 16 and 30th worship. The Messengers have sung for many years, and I look forward to their beautiful harmonies and blend of voices. They are always willing to be a part of our summer worship. On August 23, Laura Zimmer, whose family is part of our congregation, will share her voice with us. Several people have recommended her to me, and I look forward to hearing her. I'm sure she will be warmly welcomed. On Labor Day weekend the "Women of Note", directed by Heather Tianello will be a part of our worship. These women use our church for a rehearsal venue, and are looking forward to singing for us. It will be a nice finale!

So indeed, I feel blessed that so many talented people are willing to be part of our summer worship. If you have the opportunity, please give them our thanks and appreciation.

With sincere thanks to all—

Pat Miller

P.S. Special thanks to Bruce Frank for his help, always!

Thank you again to our *Peace in the Kingdom* kids!

You helped end the last choir year with a fantastic performance and a timeless message. As this busy summer winds down I'm looking ahead to another fulfilling year of making music with the youth of First Presbyterian. Rehearsals will begin on September 16 and the age and time breakdowns of the various choir offerings can be found with the LOGOS information in this issue of the *Good News*. Please direct any inquiries to me if you would like more information on the Children's Choir program. I hope to be singing and ringing with you soon!

In Faith and Song,

Dede Holmes dmh91654@frontiernet.net.

News from the Nursery School



What an exciting time of year! We are preparing and planning for another memorable school year, filled with laughter and learning. We are thrilled to be able to serve the community and its children. September will see, meet and greet, sales of T shirts and a parent "get to know you better" event. Please keep in mind our children will continue to be dripped off and picked up in the parking lot during the Penny Pincher Sale. Our parents will be asked to be patient during this busy event. As always, please come visit our classrooms, and view the children's art work. You will find it hard not to smile when you see their faces. Thank you for your continued support!



**Project
Homeless
Connect**
ROCHESTER

CLEAN OUT YOUR CLOSET AND HELP THE HOMELESS

FPC of Pittsford is participating in Project Homeless Connect by collecting clean used winter coats. Project Homeless Connect will be providing legal services, medical screenings, dental exams, housing assistance, IDs, and clothing to our homeless community at the Blue Cross Arena on 9/15/15 from 8:30 am to 3 pm. The goal is to send out each person with a winter coat. Both adult and children's' coats are needed.

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!



Asters are named for the Greek word for star.



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