



The Good News

SEPTEMBER 2016

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

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN-CELL

Lectionary for the month of September

16th Sunday after Pentecost

September 4

Jeremiah 18:1-11

Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18

Philemon 1-21

Luke 14:25-33

17th Sunday after Pentecost

September 11

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28

Psalms 14

1 Timothy 1:12-17

Luke 15:1-10

18th Sunday after Pentecost

September 18

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1

Psalms 79:1-9

1 Timothy 2:1-7

Luke 16:1-13

19th Sunday after Pentecost

September 25

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15

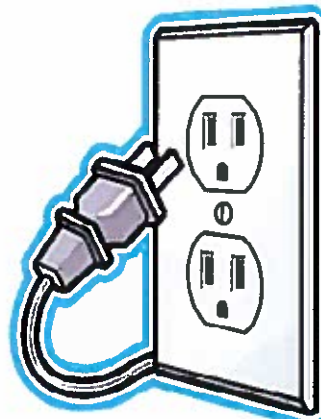
Psalms 91:1-6, 14-16

1 Timothy 6:6-19

Luke 16:19-31

As we enter the fall we are going to be exploring the theme, "Loving Generously" and if there is one thing that most of us love, it is "time off!"

Finland, Brazil, Tunisia and France mandate 30 days off a year -- and this doesn't count any federal holidays. How many such vacation days are mandated by the U.S. government for workers? Zero. Now, I have no desire to make this into a political platform but merely thought of this as interesting information for Labor Day that has been collected by a spermologist. (No -- be careful with the use of this word. In its direct form it means "a picker of seeds" but in most dictionaries it means, "A collector of trivia.")



So we are about to reach Labor Day weekend, considered by many as summer's last gasp. It's the final day of the year, according to some fashion police, when you can wear white. It's a time for picnics, parades and pools. After Labor Day, picnics diminish and public pools sort of close for the season.

In the United States, we recognize 10 public holidays for which many have a paid day off from work (Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Presidents Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day). In other parts of the world those days vary in number. India and Colombia, for example, provide the greatest number of public holidays (18), while workers in Mexico receive the least, only seven.

But listen to this: Most countries around the world have labor laws that mandate employers give a certain number of paid time-off days per year to workers *in addition to the federal holidays*. For example, our friends to the north in Canada get at least two weeks off -- by law -- from work. And workers in Brazil, France, Tunisia and Finland get 30 days off! *This does NOT include national holidays.*

While we love our paid holidays and vacation time, we don't normally measure the value of our lives by how we spend our leisure time. We know that we're more likely to be evaluated by our professional or work life. When we meet people for the first time, one of the questions that inevitably comes up is, "What is it that you *do*?" The question is not, "Hey, how do you like to spend your time off?"

I love vacation time and I hope you do too. One of my favorite quotes comes from an interesting Presbyterian writer. Her name is Anne Lamott. She says, "**Almost everything will work again if you unplug it for a few minutes, including you.**"

We do need to unplug from time to time. It was part of God's plan after feeling a little exhausted at creation. But when we experience extended periods of time feeling as though we are not contributing anything meaningful, we struggle. Maybe this is why so many lottery winners continue to go to work every day, even though their checking accounts are suddenly hefty.

The need to *contribute in a useful way* also explains why some people struggle with retirement. We all want to know *that we have a purpose*.

Ask the average person to describe a vision of paradise, and you're likely to hear something about a tropical beach, palm trees, a chaise longue and umbrella drinks. That's not God's vision of paradise. In the paradise God creates -- the garden of Eden -- all the trees are "pleasant to the sight and good for food" (Genesis 2:9). God places the humankind in the garden "to till it and keep it" (v. 15).

God's vision of paradise includes productive labor. Is our imagination so impoverished that we can't share the same vision?

In many corporations, there used to be a department called "personnel." At that time the emphasis was on "persons." Then they morphed into departments with the title, "human resource department." These areas of companies sounded as if people were being catalogued into becoming ingredients for manufacturing. Well, we are progressing! The giant Wall Street investment firm Goldman Sachs has chucked that term (human resources) in favor of a newer one: "human capital management." They now have an HCM department. For a firm trying to increase "value" it feels like a department that makes people feel devalued, like equipment to be used.

As we come through the fall at First Presbyterian Church we will be looking progressively at the theme, "Loving Generously." When we love we feel like we have a purpose and when we are loved we feel valued. The church has an important message that the world desperately needs. When we unplug a little over the summer, we begin to realize how important experience, service, and God's creation are. So after one service on the 1st Sunday of September we will begin a splendid fall with an all church picnic and then we will plug back in and examine God's purpose for us to:

- Be Grateful
- Work Hard
- Believe in Yourself God
- Enjoy Life
- Keep Your Promises
- Give Freely
- Love Generously

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 kitchen.

CAMERON UPDATE – September will be our last delivery of summer clothing to Cameron Clothing House. Please hold on to your winter items until November.

WELCOME BACK NAOMI CIRCLE! ~ Our new season starts on Sept. 19, 12:30, in room 200 at the church. As usual, please bring lunch and mug. Our program is titled "Aging In Place." When asked, many seniors respond that they want to remain in their home as they age. Marsha Raines (LMSW), Certified Professional Geriatric Care Manager and president of Marsha Raines & Assoc. will explain how to make that possible

Non-members welcome!

EVENING CIRCLE~ will start off the new year on September 26 at 7:00 PM, in Room #200. Program to be decided.



PENNY PINCHER DATES & INFO

Summer is still with us, but it's time to gather your items to donate and think "SALE."

DROP-OFF DATES: Please don't leave items outside.

Mon, Sept 26: 9:30 – 5 PM, Tues, Sept 27: 9:30 – 5 PM, Wed, Sept 28: 9:30 – 3 PM

SALE DATES:

Thurs, Sept 29: 10 – 5 PM, Fri, Sept 30: ½ Price 10 – Noon, \$2 Bag Sale Noon – 1:30 PM

ITEMS NEEDED: Small appliances, antiques, collectibles, books, CDs, DVDs, sports equipment, holiday items, dishes, glassware, furniture, jewelry, household, kitchen and craft items, stationery/office items, toys, games and puzzles, tools and garden equipment, linens and electronics.

Please be sure that all electrical items are in working order and that all computers are complete. All donations should be clean and usable. Please mark sizes on sheets, tablecloths, etc. with a tag or tape. This really helps.

WE DO NOT ACCEPT Large exercise equipment, skis, boots, poles, single glasses and cups, grills or clothing

Many thanks for the brown bags! Plastic bags and handled shopping bags may be brought in with your donations.

Sign-up for sale volunteers, women and men, will begin Sunday, Sept 4, in Fellowship Hall after each service. The sale is a great way to meet people who attend "the other service."

If you have extra space in a garage, etc. where you could store items for people who are moving long before the sale, please let me know. Questions? Liz

WEB CLUB SCHEDULE 2016

New winter meeting time starting Nov. 9th
2 pm-4pm in the Church Library

Sept. 14th "One Summer America 1927" by Bill Bryson

The story of the amazing summer of 1927 and the incredible events which start with Lindbergh's historic flight across the Atlantic.

Meeting gathers at 7:30 pm at the home of Clara Travis 26 Pepperwood Court. **Please call Clara if you plan to attend. All are welcome!**

Oct. 12th - "Dark Money: The Hidden History of the Billionaires Behind the Rise of the Radical Right." by Blake Crouch.

From Amazon "Jane Mayer spent five years conducting hundreds of interviews-including with several sources within the network-and scoured public records, private papers, and court proceedings in reporting this book. In a taut and utterly convincing narrative, she traces the byzantine trail of the billions of dollars spent by the network and provides vivid portraits of the colorful figures behind the new American oligarchy."

"Dark Money is a book that must be read by anyone who cares about the future of American democracy." Location to be announced. Meeting at 7:30pm



FPCP Concert Series 2016-2017

On **Sunday October 2 at 3:00 pm.** the series opens with another wonderful concert by the **Cordancia Ensemble Orchestra.** Conducted by David Harman, they will present Mozart's Serenade in B-flat major and Antheil's Serenade for Strings, among others. Hearing this musical group in our sanctuary is akin to going to the RPO with out having to go downtown.

FALL AND WINTER TIMES

Beginning September 11

8:30 & 10:00 AM	Worship
10:00 AM	Adult Ed
9:15 AM	Choir Warm-up
9:30 & 11:00 AM	Fellowship
10:00 AM	Church School
	K-12th Grade
	Nursery & Preschool

Office Hours—Beginning September 6

8:30 AM — 4:30 PM Monday—Friday

Cesca's Hours—Beginning September 6

8:30 AM — 4:30 PM Tuesdays & Thursdays



News from the Nursery School

It is upon us, a NEW school year! What an exciting, yet sometimes apprehensive 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. We welcome a new teacher to our staff, Fran Barnes! September will see meet and greets, sales of t shirts and a parent "get to know you better" event. Please keep in mind our children will continue to be dropped 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, 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!



Upcoming Deacon Activities:

Sunday September 11, 2016—Church Picnic after the 10:00 AM Service.

Thursday September 29 to Sunday October 2, 2016—Adirondack high peaks mountain climbing trip. Staying near Johns Brook Lodge in Camp Peggy O'Brien. Cost \$75. Call Dan Traina for details .



LOVING GENEROUSLY



MAKE SURE YOU ARE IN THE FAMILY PICTURE

Our Fall Theme – LOVING GENEROUSLY kicks off on September 11, just before our all church-homecoming picnic. After the 10:00am service that day we will take a family picture (front lawn if weather is nice, sanctuary if it isn't. 6 week-fellowship and study opportunities will begin the following week.

- 9/11 - 2 Services @ 8:30 and 10:00, All Church Picnic & Picture
- 9/18 - Jeremiah 8, 1 Timothy 2, Luke 16
- 9/25 - **Be Grateful**
- 10/2 - **Work Hard** - (World Communion Sunday)
- 10/9 - **Believe in Yourself God**
- 10/16 - **Enjoy Life**
- 10/23 - **Keep Your Promises** – (2016 Kenya Mission Presentation)
- 10/30 - **Give Freely** – (Report by Treasurer Rob Rhodes)
- 11/3 - **Love Generously** – (All Saints, Necrology, Prayer Before National Election, Consecration of 2017 Stewardship, Communion)



LOGOS

Registration open!

LOGOS will start up again this year on September 14. Everyone is so excited to get started meeting old friends and new friends.

This year the theme is "A Toast to 25!" because it is our 25th year having a LOGOS program. Please join us in making this year another amazing LOGOS experience.

To register or learn more <http://www.pittsfordpres.org/signup>

3rd Grade Bibles.

Bibles will be given to 3rd graders on September 11 during the 10 am worship. If you know of a third-grader who would like a Bible, please contact the church office 585-586-5688.

This year you can choose the traditional full Bible which we normally give or a graphic novel version on display in Fellowship hall.

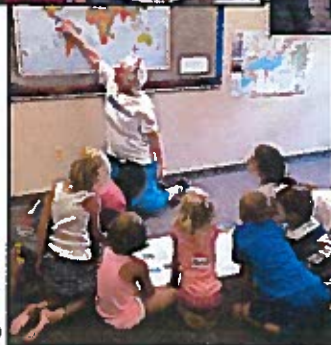
Christian Education

Upcoming Events

Men's Prayer Breakfast	9/4 7:00 am
Optimists	9/9 5:30 pm
Anthony Circle	9/21 9:30 am
Naomi Circle	9/19 12:30 pm
Evening Circle	9/26 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
Adult Study	Sundays 9:45 am

First Families in Fellowship

Starting in September a new fellowship group will be forming for families with young children. We will be playing at the church or out on the town. Children get to play and adults get to know one another. The first few activities are below. If you would like to participate email Melissa Reichman, or let Craig know in the office 585-586-5688.



Pumpkin Fest - Wickham Farms - September 24 - time TBD
Church - Pumpkin Carving - October 21 - 6PM

Live Nativity Scenes - Power's Farm - Early December - time TBD

VBS 2016

Upcoming Youth Event—School is starting soon! We are looking forward to seeing you all again for another fantastic year!

Back to School Bash at the Wahls!—Coming Soon!!!

SOSO—September 25th—First of the Year

LOGOS—September 14th, 21st and 28th

Confirmation Orientation—September 18th

Paintball—September 17th—First Youth Event of the Year



With the new year comes a new confirmation class! Carrie does a fantastic job with each new class and once again she has a fantastic year planned! Don't miss out on this wonderful time in life!

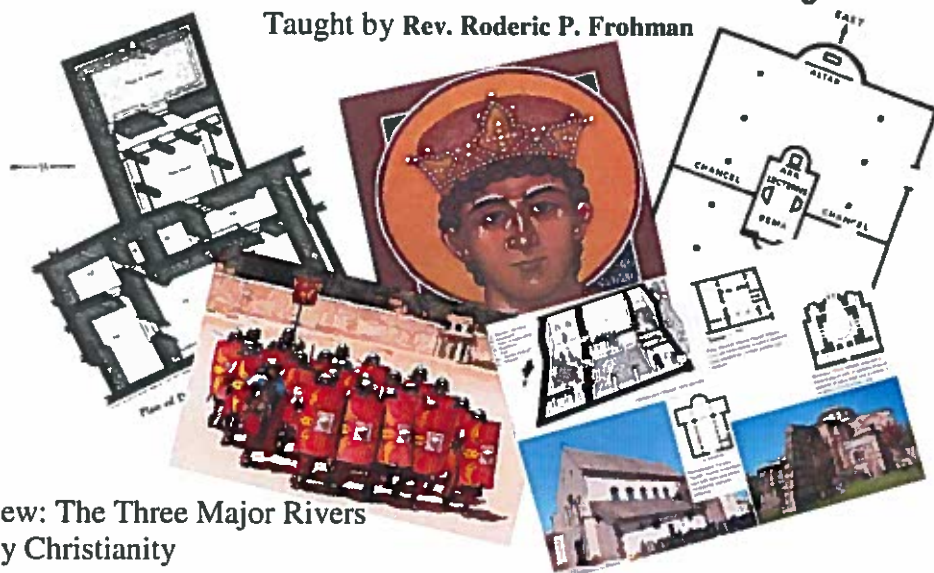
It's a start to a whole new year! Lots of fun new events and ideas, from fun games and food to mission and bible studies. We hope to have all of you join us at anytime you can! You are all always welcome for anything and we encourage you to bring any friends who would enjoy themselves with us!





Jesus to Constantine: The Revisionist story

Taught by Rev. Roderic P. Frohman



Session 1	September 18	Overview: The Three Major Rivers of Early Christianity
Session 2	October 9	The Diversity of Forms of the Primitive Christian Story
Session 3	October 16	The Diversity of Voices - the Women - a Systematic Silencing
Session 4	October 23	The Diversity of Voices: Paul, James and John
Session 5	November 13	The End of the Christian Synagogue
Session 6	December 4	Religious Conflict: Marcian and the Rise of Gnosticism
Session 7	December 11	The Proto-orthodox Reaction: 135 - 235 AD
Session 8	January 22	The Empire Strikes Back: 235 - 270 AD
Session 9	January 29	Thermidor: the Constantinian Revolution: 270 - 325 AD
Session 10	February 12	The Uses of the Past: Summary of the Course

Sundays
11:30am - 12:30pm
Upstairs Room 201
(accessible by the elevator)
Light refreshments

While some early Christians were moving west to Italy, the trajectory of the story in the New Testament, many other believers, probably in greater numbers, journeyed east along other land routes, including the Silk Road and the ancient Persian Royal Road through Baghdad/Babylon and into northern Mesopotamia. There they built great and enduring churches. Then it was called Persia, or to be precise, the Sassanid Persian Empire.

This empire, lasting from 224-661 AD was the last pre-Islamic empire. It was about the same size as was the empire of Alexander the great some 600 years earlier. The name of this empire is probably a brand new word to most of us. The fact that it is new is a clear example of the hole in our historical cheese. This empire held the territory between Israel and India until it was taken over by the Moslems in 661 AD. This is to say that for 400 years the Christian church existed and thrived in another secular empire, indeed an enemy to the Roman Empire, in a loose affiliation of a variety of Christian traditions which historians call, "the Church of the East." So, simultaneously with the development of the Church of the West, was the Church of the East.

But the Church also went south to Africa. The strength of Christianity in Egypt enabled the faith to expand up the Nile and deep into Africa. Nubia survived as a Christian kingdom from the sixth century through the 15th dominating the Nile between Aswan and Khartoum going all the way south to the Sudanese border. Ethiopia, or as it was known as, Abyssinia, was converted even before Constantine accepted the faith. The kingdom's ancient center was in Aksum, in present day Tigray, Ethiopia. By 340 A.D. this city was the kingdom's main Christian bishopric lead by Christian King Ezana. So, where is original the mainstream of Christianity? There isn't one. There are three.

Optimists September Meeting



Friday September 9

The Media, the Economy and the Election

Cutting through the noise of the 2016 election, Josh Boak will give an inside look at how the United States is faring and changed during your lifetimes. An economics writer for the Associated Press, Josh will walk us through the overlooked trends in the monthly jobs report and how to evaluate what experts and politicians say in an increasingly fractured media environment. Among his responsibilities at the AP is fact-checking presidential candidates. There will be an opportunity for questions.

We will gather at 5:30 and dinner will be served at 6. We will be enjoying spiral ham, field green salad, hash brown potatoes and dessert. Tickets will be available for \$13 in Fellowship Hall on Sundays August 28 and September 4 after worship or call the church office no later than Friday September 2. Plan ahead as we must give an accurate dinner count to our caterer.

Please bring your own table service and a donation of a paper product for the Pittsford Food Cupboard.

A PROJECT TO HELP ROCHESTER'S HOMELESS POPULATION ~ The First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford is again participating in Project Homeless Connect, a one-day event which will be held at Blue Cross Arena on September 15, 2016. The event connects homeless people with critical services in a "one-stop" venue. It will bring together a wide range of community agencies and professionals to provide the homeless with access to health care, social services, legal advice, food, medical care and much more—all within a caring and safe environment. We can help by collecting and contributing new and gently used winter wear, primarily coats. Sizes for men, women and children are all greatly needed. A collection box will be available early the week of July 25 until the first week in September. Please look through your closets and tell your friends. For more information about Project Homeless Connect, visit HomelessConnectRochester.org.



OUTREACH: PDA MISSION OPPORTUNITY— COLUMBIA SOUTH CAROLINA

Saturday October 22-29, 2016. Cost \$200. We will be rebuilding flood damaged houses as part of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program. Call Dan Traina for information.

NEWS! HABITAT INTERFAITH PARTNERSHIP (HIP)

Our HIP build on Orange St. is coming along great, thanks to all of you have volunteered your time on site! Our build will continue through October and possibly a week or so into November.

We continue to need volunteers so please check your calendars and sign up! With cooler weather in sight we should have some very pleasant building days this fall. It has been very hot this July and August on site! If you are having difficulty signing up to work on the WEB site "rochesterhabitat.org" (and many have!) please let me know and I can help. Contact me at "dibrown@rochester.rr.com".

Our homeowner-to-be is a 26 years old, a single mother with a 2 year old son. She works with people with traumatic brain injuries, NHTD (nursing home transition and diversion), OPWDD (office for people with developmental disabilities), and MR (mental retardation and disabilities). She has already completed many more than her 350 sweat equity hours and continues to work on site whenever she is able. She has completed all of her Habitat education classes and has saved up her down payment (and then some!). When asked why she wants to be a homeowner she says, "I'm doing it for my son. My son deserves more than this apartment. He deserves his own home to grow up in and a yard to run around in. I made it my goal for this year. I want to thank God. I believed and prayed and He helped make my goal a reality. I want to thank all of the volunteers and members of Habitat Interfaith Partnership that are helping me build this home. This opportunity has shown me that I don't want to stop here; I would love to continue to volunteer and help future families succeed in their dream/goal in achieving their future home." She is dynamite!!!! and we are thrilled to be helping her achieve this dream!

Please mark your calendars for November 19 at 11:30 on Orange Street when we will have her Dedication Ceremony of our HIP House! And in the meantime, keep volunteering!

Dianne Brown

A GREAT WAY YOU CAN HELP A HURTING FRIEND

Do you have a friend, neighbor, coworker, or relative who is going through a difficult time? Here's a great way you can help them—tell them about our Stephen Ministry! Stephen Ministers are members of The First Presbyterian Church who have received special training to provide high quality, confidential, one-to-one, Christian care to people who are grieving the loss of a loved one, coping with a cancer diagnosis, going through a divorce or separation, battling a chronic illness (or caring for a spouse or parent who is chronically ill), experiencing a great deal of stress, facing the loss of a job – or encountering any of countless other life challenges.



Stephen Ministers meet weekly with their care receivers to listen, care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support. (Males are matched with males, and females are matched with females.) The caring relationship lasts for as long as the person needs care. It's free, and it's a powerful way you can help a hurting friend.

To learn how to connect someone you know with a Stephen Minister, talk with one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders: *Jane Hunter, Alice O'Dwyer, Barbara Smith, Dick Sprenkle, Carol Tiemann* or one of our Pastors. Our Stephen Ministers are there to care!

My thank you to our Summer Soloists ~ In July, Dede and I sang a duet of "Let Us Break Bread Together". It's always a treat for me to sing with my talented daughter, followed the next week by the very talented violinist, James Schrag. Harold McAulliffe rendered his magnificent voice the next week, followed by Laura Jean and Drew Diekmann. The next, with Drew accompanying his mother, and then playing a lovely piano solo for the offertory. The following week Harold and Laura Jean sang two beautiful duets, and I'm sure they enjoyed that as much as the congregation did. This past week John and Judy Messenger, plus pastor Bruce and Dede did a quartet of "My Shepherd Will Supply My Need". The blend of their voices made it very special. We can look forward now to three weeks of instrumental sounds from Elizabeth Kinney on the cello, she is new to our worship, Hannah Seppala on the harp, and a string trio on Labor Day weekend of the Bachmann brothers, Aidan, Dylan and Tristan. If I didn't thank them now, there would be no recognition until the October newsletter and that is too late to let them know how much I appreciate their giving of their time and talent to our summer worship. I'm sure the congregation appreciates this, also.. Pat Miller

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHILDREN'S CHOIRS BEGIN ON SEPTEMBER 14

LOGOS launches into its 25th year this September and our children's choirs continue to be a vital segment of this program. Built into our Wednesday afternoon schedule are four musical groups for our children. They include:

Wee Kirksingers: Vocal choir for k-2nd graders

Celebrate Choir: Vocal choir for 3rd—6th graders

Chime Choir: Chime Choir for 3rd & 4th graders

Junior Kirkringers: Handbell choir for 5th & 6th graders



This summer a national handbell conference was held in Rochester and I spent four fun filled days learning many exciting things about bells and chimes. I look forward to sharing new music and techniques with our young ringers this fall. If you have any specific inquiries regarding singing or ringing, contact me. Enjoy the rest of your summer!

In faith and song,
Dede Holmes

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WORSHIP WITH US

Please join us for Sunday morning
worship.

Worship Services: 8:30 & 10:00AM

Communion is offered the on the
first Sunday of each month.

