



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PITTSFORD

THE GOOD NEWS

APRIL 2022

Embracing and Sharing Christ's Love

CHARTING THE COURSE WITH PASTOR AARON

My two-year old son is in the habit of frequently asking, “Why?” “Be careful to hold your cup with two hands.” “Why, Dada?” “You need to hold my hand when we go down these stairs.” “Why, Dada?” “One cookie is enough for you to eat.” “Why, Dada?” I try to always respond to him with something more than, “Because I said so.” I try to give him an honest reason why I’m telling him to do something. Most of the time, an honest explanation is all he wants.

Answering the “Why?” question can sometimes be annoying or frustrating. It takes less time and mental energy if we don’t have to explain ourselves. It would be so much easier if kids would just “get it” and do what we want. But that’s rarely how it works. Nevertheless—and this may surprise you—I wish more people would act like kids and frequently ask, “Why?”

In his book *Start with Why: How Great Leaders Inspire Everyone to Take Action*, Simon Sinek explains a concept he calls the Golden Circle. The Golden Circle is a learning tool to illustrate the reason some leaders are so successful at compelling actions. It uses a series of three concentric circles. The outer most circle is “WHAT,” describing the things we do. The middle circle is “HOW,” describing the way we do the things we do. The innermost circle is “WHY,” explaining the reason for the other two circles. Most people understand the WHAT and HOW but seldom the WHY. Just consider our church. WHAT do we do? We worship, we eat, we socialize, we learn, and we serve. HOW do we do it? We have committees and boards and meetings. But do we know the reasons for WHAT we do and HOW we do it? Some of us might, but what about people outside the church? Do they know the WHY? Would we expect them to care about WHAT we do and HOW we do it if they don’t know the WHY?

Sinek says that WHY is connected to the part of our brains that controls decision-making. If we don’t know the WHY for our church, we’re probably going to care very little about it, let alone be able to help other people care about it, too. As we continue our journey through Lent, I encourage you to ask WHY frequently and with honesty. Why do we do what we do? Why should we be doing them now? In one way or another, our answer to those questions should lead us to Easter, which is the single greatest WHY for everything we do and believe as Christians.

~Aaron

Lent Services

Sunday, April 10	8:30 am	Palm Sunday Service
	10:00 am	Palm Sunday Service *
Thursday, April 14	7:00 pm	Maundy Thursday Service *
Friday, April 15	7:00 pm	Good Friday Service *
Sunday, April 17	7:00 am	Easter Sunrise Service (Port of Pittsford, at the Canal behind Library)
	8:30 am	Easter Sunday Service
	10:30 am	Easter Sunday Service *

all services are in person

* = also livestreamed

Lectionary for April

April 3 5th Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 43:16–21
Psalm 126
Philippians 3:4b–14
John 12:1–8

April 10 Palm/Passion Sunday

Liturgy of the Palms
Luke 19:28–40
Psalm 118:1–2, 19–29

Liturgy of the Passion

Isaiah 50:4–9a
Psalm 31:9–16
Philippians 2:5–11
Luke 22:14–23:56 or Luke 23:1–49

April 14 Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1–4 [5–10] 11–14
Psalm 116:1–2, 12–19
1 Corinthians 11:23–26
John 13:1–17, 31b–35

April 15 Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13–53:12
Psalm 22
Hebrews 10:16–25 or Hebrews 4:14–16; 5:7–9
John 18:1–19:42

April 17 Resurrection of the Lord/Easter Day

Acts 10:34–43 or Isaiah 65:17–25
Psalm 118:1–2, 14–24
1 Corinthians 15:19–26 or Acts 10:34–43
John 20:1–18 or Luke 24:1–12

April 24 2nd Sunday of Easter

Acts 5:27–32
Psalm 118:14–29 or Psalm 150
Revelation 1:4–8
John 20:19–31

Members with April Birthdays

Dylan Bachmann
David Boise
Amanda Bradstreet
Claire Brown
Charlie Campbell
George Cooper
Sarah Dunlap
Patrick J. Dunn
Emma Fantuzzo

Alexis Finkbeiner
Jack Fox
Peter Francis
Janette Henderson
Julia Larson
Karen MacKenzie
Donald Naylor
Dylan Parker
Adam Pollock

Ted Price
Sue Ramsdell
Barbara Rarrick
Evan Rhodes
Lucien Rouse Sr.
Kelly Travis
Kevin Voltz

*Wishing you a birthday that is full of laughter,
love, and special memories!*

If we missed you, please let the office know.



OPTIMISTS

OPTIMISTS is a church group continuing since ca. 1965. Here's a bit of history: Do you know Dan Traina, so active in our church outreach? His grandmother was one of OPTIMISTS' founding organizers 57 years ago.

OPTIMISTS meet the second Friday of each month at 1 pm in Fellowship Hall. OPTIMISTS, please bring items for the Pittsford Food Cupboard. Bring your own lunch. Decaf coffee, hot water, tea bags, creamer, sugar, and cookies will be provided. Varied educational programs follow lunch. Socializing is enjoyed by all.

Next OPTIMISTS' meeting is Friday, April 8. Hope to see you.

Anthony Circle

Anthony Circle will meet Wednesday, April 13, at 10 am in the library. Bring a good book you have recently read and/or a favorite recipe.

EVE Circle

Eve Circle will meet Monday, March 28, at 12:30 pm in room 200 to discuss the introduction and Lesson 1 from Horizon's *What My Grandmother Taught Me* which is available for \$11.



News from the Nursery School

This April we will not be here for too many school days, but that does not mean we won't be busy having fun! We hope to visit Springdale Farm, have a Spring Egg Hunt, and welcome some butterflies to our classrooms. Our fundraising committee has been very busy making Gift Baskets to raffle off to families. All registered parents will receive needed paperwork. We will continue to work on all those skills we need to know, especially how to get along with our neighbors. We will have some time off near the end of the month for Spring Recess. We are so grateful to be here, thank you for all your support!

Teresa Zatyko, Director Pittsford Nursery School

Yoga for Wellness

Drop-in yoga continues in the chapel on both Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 –11 am. Please join us with your mat and \$10. Get your body back for spring!



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EASTER LILIES– for Presbyterian Women's Mission Outreach Check # _____ Cash

In honor of _____

In loving memory of _____

With thanks to _____

Given by _____ Purchased by _____

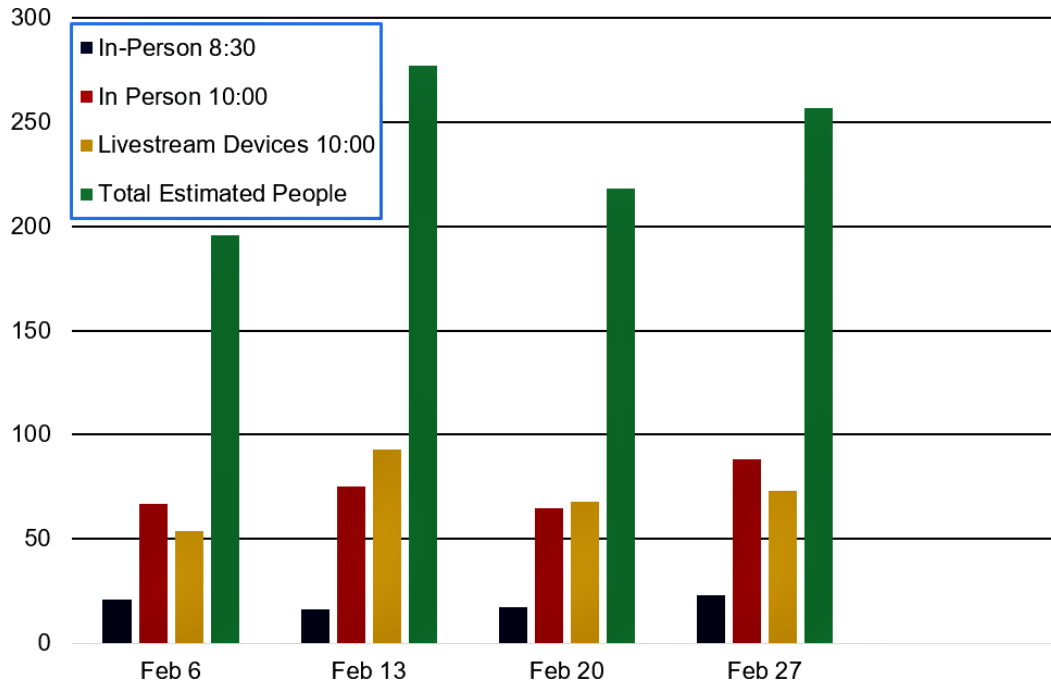
Checks should be made payable to **First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford**



\$8.00 each

Lilies will be sold Sundays, March 27-April 10 in church. If ordering by mail, please send form: ATTN. Easter Dedication, First Presbyterian Church, 21 Church St., Pittsford, NY 14534
Or order online at our website: <https://www.pittsfordpres.org/lilies> (or just click on the Lent button and it will take you there with one more click)

February Worship Attendance



Trustees at Work – Buildings and Grounds

by Bob Dunn

You may not be aware, but our church has a large and complex heating system, with multiple zones and computerized controls. To save energy, areas of the building are kept at low temperatures when not in use. Recently, we had several comments that the sanctuary was uncomfortably cold during Sunday services. The sanctuary is to be 71° from about 6 am until noon on Sunday. I checked, and found that though the setting was 71°, the actual temperature was 67°. Something was not working properly.

I reached out to Dan Fox (who designed the system) and alerted him to the problem. He arranged a visit with Trane (the supplier) to troubleshoot the issue. It turns out that the software had somehow been corrupted. They reinstalled the software, tested the system, and everything is again functioning properly. Last Sunday, the sanctuary was again at a comfortable temperature. FYI, thanks to Dan's relationship with Trane from non-church-related business, the service call was at no charge.

Your Generosity Enables God's Ministry

Did You Know.....in addition to all the other ways you support mission here, 10% of your contributions to the church budget directly support Mission and Outreach. In 2022, this amounts to over \$56,000 helping those in need locally, regionally, and internationally.

Deacon Event

Sunday, April 10 - Cooking Club at 4:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Following the choir's performance of Vivaldi's *Gloria*, we will be preparing a Venetian-themed meal in honor of the composer's hometown. All are welcome. Cost \$7

Needle Nellies

Needle Nellies will meet March 29, from 11 am - 1:30 pm, in Fellowship Hall. Great News— together!!!! Please bring lunch and drink. We'll, share ideas and catch-up. I can hardly wait!! Kay Saxum 385-9807

African Girls Can

Since 2016, the Outreach Committee has been sponsoring two girls (Nancy and Rebecca) in a program called African Girls Can (AGC) founded by Phoebe Aringo. Many of you will remember Phoebe—she attended FPC for two years before returning home to her native Uganda.

African Girls Can sends poor rural Ugandan girls to St. Katherine's boarding school to receive a secondary level education rather than being married off as young teenagers. (The cost is only \$550 per year for each girl and includes tuition, board, uniforms, and school supplies).

Nancy and Rebecca have completed four years at St. Katherine's School in northern Uganda and are now enrolled in Good Samaritan School of Nursing and Midwifery in Lira. We are continuing to fund their education since it not only benefits the lives of the two girls, but will impact everyone in their respective villages when they return as trained nurses and midwives. (Presbyterian Women are currently sponsoring two younger girls, Salome and Sharon, at St. Katherine's school).

The citizens of Uganda were seriously impacted by the COVID pandemic and schools closed for almost two years while they awaited a vaccine. It would have been easy for the girls to lose hope or for their families to "marry them off"—but AGC found innovative ways to address their girls' and families' immediate needs:

- Emergency food and sanitation bundles were delivered regularly to all AGC families.
- Tablets, solar chargers, and internet plans were distributed to all 17 girls. The tablets also functioned as phones with WhatsApp and the girls formed online groups for support and communication.
- AGC paid for community radio programs to teach life skills to the city of Lira, and the girls even took turns speaking on the radio.
- They helped fund access to online classes held by St. Katherine by upgrading the school's internet system.

AGC credits our church's continued funding with a significant role in these efforts. Amazingly, all 17 girls returned to school in January 2022! Funds donated by First Presbyterian helped not only Nancy and Rebecca, but benefitted all the girls in the program, their families, and the entire school community.

Additional details and many photos are available on the organization's website (africangirlscan.org). These two pages are of particular interest:

<https://africangirlscan.org/accomplishments/>

<https://africangirlscan.org/covid-19/>



Rebecca (left), Phoebe (founder of AGC), and Nancy (right)

Youth Events for April

Planning for Youth Sunday

Sundays, 10-11 am in the Youth Room

Come to Sunday School for 6-12 graders in April (with the exception of Easter) to help plan and rehearse for Youth Sunday on April 24.

YOUTH SUNDAY

April 24

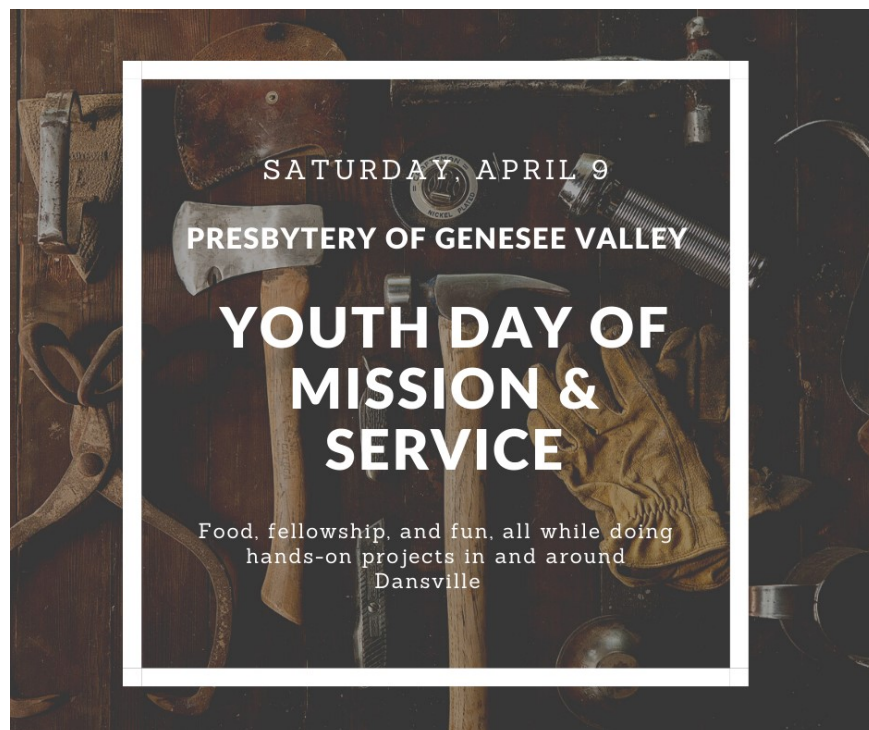
REGIONAL YOUTH EVENT

July 24-27

Local Presbyterian Youth Event (instead of Triennium)

July 24-27 at YMCA Watson Homestead

Several local Presbyteries have committed to providing a regional youth event from July 24-27, in place of Presbyterian Youth Triennium. This event will be held at Watson Homestead and open to all youth in grades 6-12. Please contact Pastor Jacobson if you are interested in attending.



Presbytery of Genesee Valley Youth Day of Mission & Service

Saturday, April 9

There will be food, fellowship, and fun, all while doing hands-on projects in and around Dansville, N.Y. Please contact Pastor Jacobson to sign up.

He has risen so
that not even
death can keep
us from love



Christian
Education

Children Will Lead Worship on May 22

The Children's Choir and the Sunday School program will be working together to lead worship on May 22. April through May, as part of Sunday School, children will be able to be a part of the youth choir and learn music, create a sermon video, or practice a reading in preparation for the service. This will be a hands-on chance for kids to learn about worship and choose how to use their talents. No matter how you child would like to participate, there is a place for them.

If you are not able to come Sunday mornings but would still like to participate, we will be sending out requests for videos to support the sermon theme. These videos can then be sent in to become part of the worship service.



We are looking for kids to:

- read short or long scripture passages/prayers
- help take the offering (parents can help if needed)
- light the candles before worship
- sing in the Children's Choir
- act out a Bible passage for video presentation during worship
- record answers to questions during Sunday School to be used in the sermon

Vivaldi Gloria

First Presbyterian Church
Chancel Choir
Jared Chase, conductor
Sunday, April 10th 3:00 pm
Free will offering

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PITTSFORD

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

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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

*I wish more people
would act like kids and
frequently ask, "Why?"*

Rev. Aaron Neff

<p>The Rev. Aaron Neff <i>Pastor and Head of Staff</i> 585.643.1240 aaron.neff@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>The Rev. Erin Jacobson <i>Temp. Supply Assoc. Pastor</i> 585.204.2012 erin.jacobson@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>Craig Kunkle <i>Director of Christian Education</i> Ext. 30 craig.kunkle@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>Britta Konau <i>Office & Communications Coord.</i> Ext. 21 britta.konau@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>Maria DiGiambattista <i>Financial Administrator</i> Ext. 23 treasurer@pittsfordpres.org</p>	<p>Leslie Harvey <i>Custodian</i> 585.364.2430 lharvey@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>Dr. Jared Chase <i>Director of Music</i> musicdirector@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>Dr. Bruce Frank <i>Associate Director of Music and Organist</i> bfrank345@gmail.com</p> <p>Dede Holmes <i>Director of Youth Choirs</i> dedeholmes1954@gmail.com</p> <p>Joshua Burke <i>Livestreaming Technician</i> josh@pittsfordpres.org</p>	<p>First Presbyterian Church 21 Church Street, Pittsford, NY 14534 Phone 585.586.5688, Fax 585.586.8090 connect@pittsfordpres.org www.pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>Worship Services: 8:30 and 10:00 am in-person 10:00 am also livestreamed Communion is offered on the first Sunday of each month.</p> <p> </p>
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