



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PITTSFORD

THE GOOD NEWS

APRIL 2023

### Embracing and Sharing Christ's Love

#### CHARTING THE COURSE WITH PASTOR AARON

There is a series of exciting opportunities coming up in April! But first, here's some background.

When I was growing up, I assumed Jesus was a Christian. It never occurred to me that such a notion is ridiculous, let alone impossible. The word "Christian" implies "follower of Christ." Jesus cannot be a follower of... himself. So, if Jesus wasn't a Christian, what was he? Obviously, he was a Jew. In fact, not only was Jesus a Jew, many of his earliest followers were Jews. These earliest followers of Christ continued to practice their religion within Judaism. They continued to worship and pray in the Jewish Temple and Jewish synagogues (Acts 2:46; 3:1; 15:19-21; 21:26). Many Gentiles who came to believe in Jesus were assumed to also be required to convert to Judaism or at least follow most of its teachings, because the Jesus movement was understood to be a Jewish movement. As more and more Gentiles came to believe in Jesus, and especially after Christianity became the official religion of Rome in the fourth century AD, the Jesus movement became distanced from and (eventually) totally separate from Judaism. I sometimes wonder: if the Emperor Constantine hadn't converted from paganism to Christianity in 313 AD, would Jews and Christians still be worshipping together today? Don't misunderstand me. Jews and Christians do not believe the same things and we fundamentally disagree about the nature of God as it relates to the divinity of Jesus. But the Jews we read about in the New Testament also disagreed about those same things and somehow found it possible to worship together. Perhaps we miss some piece of a larger picture today that those who lived in the first century AD could see.

On top of all that, anti-Semitism has been rearing its ugly head in some places around the country, including our own Perinton in the summer of 2020. Perhaps now is the best time to get to know our Jewish neighbors, to rekindle a long-lost kinship and to create new and lasting relationships. That's why I am excited to announce that you are invited to a series of Jewish-Christian learning events between our own congregation and Temple B'rith Kodesh in Brighton. On April 12, at 7 pm in our Fellowship Hall, we will be hosting a scripture study led by Rabbi Peter Stein and me. Then, on April, 14 at 5:30 pm, First Presbyterian Church is invited to tour Temple B'rith Kodesh and join their Shabbat service. Finally, our learning series culminates on April 25, at 6:30 pm, at First Presbyterian Church, where our two congregations will join for a lecture and Q&A led by Dr. Amy-Jill Levine. Dr. Levine (who will be joining us by Zoom) is a world-renowned New Testament scholar who held a distinguished chair position at Vanderbilt University for many years. She also happens to be Jewish. As a historical and biblical expert in the New Testament and what it says about Jesus and as a Jew, Dr. Levine is uniquely qualified to give her lecture, entitled "The Mistakes Jews and Christians often Make about Each Other."

I hope you will consider attending these three events—to grow a community partnership and to learn how we can become more faithful Christians by being good neighbors to our Jewish siblings. ~ *Aaron*

Sunday, April 2	8:30 am	Palm Sunday Service
	10:00 am	Palm Sunday Service *
	3:00 pm	<i>Requiem</i> by Michael Haydn
Thursday, April 6	7:00 pm	Maundy Thursday Service *
Friday, April 7	7:00 pm	Good Friday Service *
Sunday, April 9	7:00 am	Easter Sunrise Service (Port of Pittsford)
	8:30 am	Easter Sunday Service
	10:30 am	Easter Sunday Service *

\* = livestreamed



## Lectionary for April

### April 2 Palm/Passion Sunday

*Liturgy of the Palms*  
Matthew 21:1–11  
Psalm 118:1–2, 19–29

### *Liturgy of the Passion*

Isaiah 50:4–9a  
Psalm 31:9–16  
Philippians 2:5–11  
Matthew 26:14–27:66 or  
Matthew 27:11–54

### April 6 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 7 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 9 Resurrection of the Lord/Easter Day

Acts 10:34–43 or Jeremiah 31:1–6  
Psalm 118:1–2, 14–24  
Colossians 3:1–4 or Acts 10:34–43  
John 20:1–18 or Matthew 28:1–10

### April 16 2nd Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 22–32  
Psalm 16  
1 Peter 1:3–9  
John 20:19–31

### April 23 3rd Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 36–41  
Psalm 116:1–4, 12–19 1  
Peter 1:17–23  
Luke 24:13–35

### April 30 4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:42–47  
Psalm 23  
1 Peter 2:19–25  
John 10:1–10

## Members with April Birthdays

*Hoping your birthday brings you many happy reasons to celebrate!*

If we missed you, please let the office know.

Dylan Bachmann  
David Boise  
Amanda Bradstreet  
Claire Brown  
Charlie Campbell  
Harry Cole  
George Cooper  
Sarah Dunlap  
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

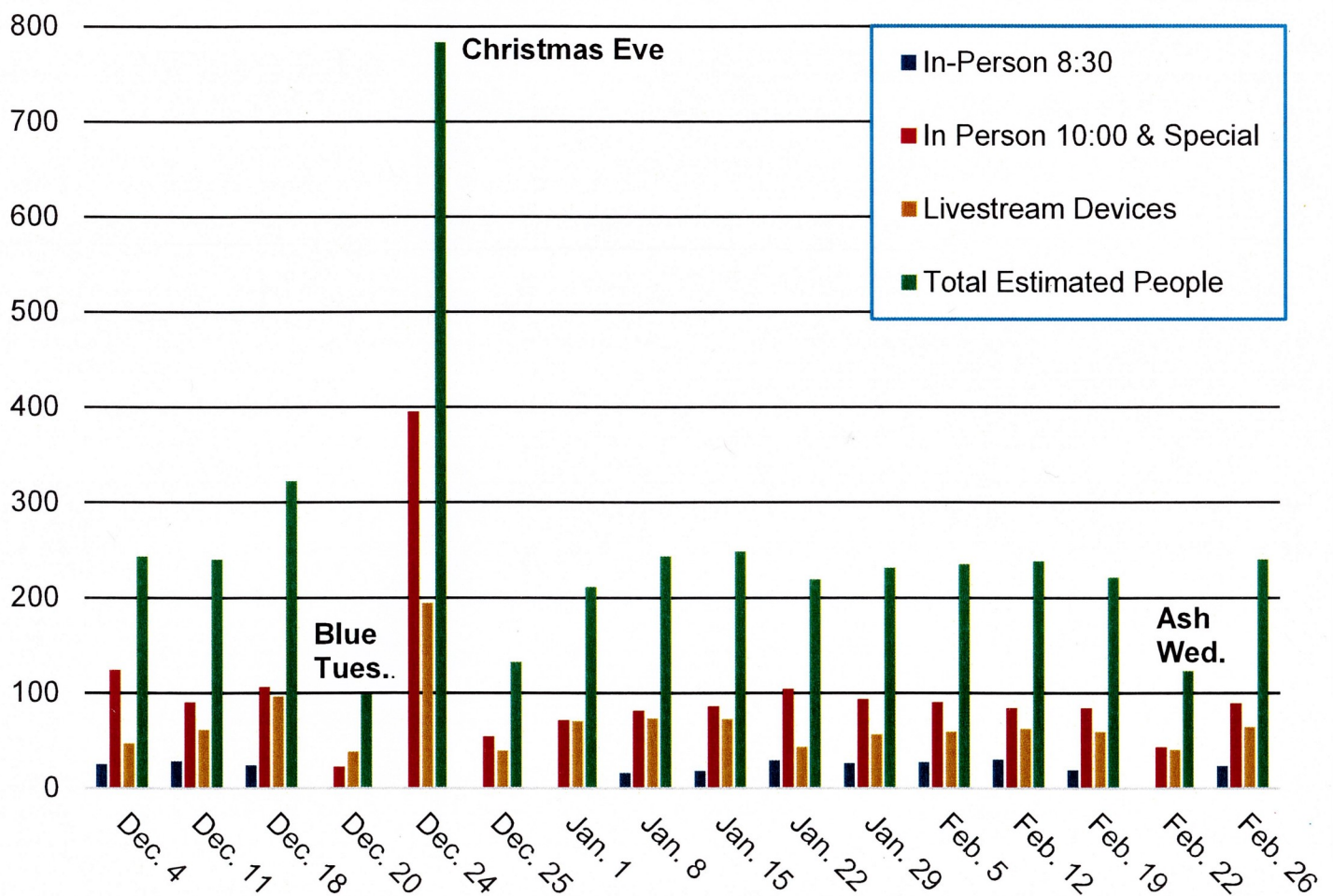
# Requiem in c minor

by Johann  
Michael Haydn

First Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir  
Jared Chase, conductor  
Sunday, April 2nd 3:00 pm

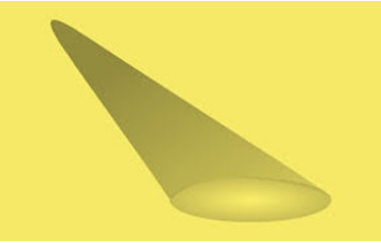


## Dec. - Feb. Worship Attendance



# SPOTLIGHT on

## LANDSCAPING COMMITTEE



### ***What is the “Landscaping Committee”?***

The Landscaping Committee is responsible for maintaining church grounds including the Memorial Garden and 19 Church Street. It reports to and is funded through the Trustee’s Building and Grounds Committee.

### ***Who serves on the Landscaping Committee?***

Debbie Gaudion organizes the committee. Anne and Gary Smith are our “expert gardeners” giving advice starting in April and throughout the season. The care of the church grounds is undertaken by the “Landscape Crew” of about 20 interested church members. Participation is on an individual basis with some members helping monthly, others a couple times a season, and some one time only. There are plenty of opportunities for additional help.

### ***How often does the “Landscape Crew” meet?***

The crew meets once a month, usually mid-month, for one and a half to two hours maximum from May through October. There is always a scheduled rain date.

### ***What does the “Landscape Crew” do?***

From the street, the first impression of our church must be a welcoming physical appearance. It tells the community we care. Routine lawn care is assigned to our Custodian and the Landscape Crew tends the gardens, trees, and overall landscaping. This includes planning and mulching the gardens, weeding, caring for plantings, watering, and tree maintenance. The Crew provides an opportunity for members of FPC to develop friendships and to provide service to FPC. Digging in the dirt and communing with nature are another way to serve God’s work at First Presbyterian.

### ***What is the yearly timeline?***

April – assess the property for broken tree limbs, evaluate plantings, draw up plans

May – winter cleanup, first weeding, planting, pruning, watering, and mulching

May through October – routine garden care including weeding, watering, replanting, improving

October – raking, preparing the flower beds for the winter

### ***How can I become involved in the Landscaping Committee?***

Additional volunteers are needed throughout the year, *especially for the Memorial Garden*. Look for opportunities in our church communications: *The Good News*, the bulletin, and weekly emailed news updates. Contact the church office or connect@pittsfordpres.org.

- Anyone is welcome to help any time or multiple times.
- Bring your own garden tools.
- Snacks and drinks are provided.



## Picnic in the Park – Save the Date!

Please join us for our First Pres Spring Picnic in Mendon Ponds Park on Saturday, June 3, starting at 3 pm. This fellowship event for our whole church family is hosted by your Deacons. There will be games in the afternoon and potluck dinner at 6 pm. Bob Dunn will offer music afterwards. We will conclude with a marshmallow roast around 8 pm. Please bring lawn chairs, a dish to pass, and beverages of your choice. The picnic will be in the Devil's Bathtub shelter, with ample parking available. Join us for the entire event or just a segment. If you plan to join us for dinner, please RSVP to Dan Harrison or Britta and let us know if you are bringing an appetizer, main course, or dessert. Hope to see you all there!

## Landscape Helpers Needed

Hopefully, Spring is “just around the corner” and that means we will need volunteers to take care of the church grounds this season. If you are interested in helping out, whether it be a little or a lot, please contact me at your convenience.



## News from the Nursery School

This particular month of April we will not be here the first week—it is Spring Recess! Once we return, however, we will bounce into the growing season, i.e., how seeds become plants, baby farm animals, nature coming back to life. We will have caterpillars in the classrooms which we will watch grow into butterflies! We love learning about the changes in the weather, how it affects our environment and animals who live outside. Our 4's and YK will be visiting a farm! All parents who are registered for next year will receive needed paperwork for the upcoming school year. We are so grateful to be here, thank you for all your support!

Teresa Zatyko, Director Pittsford Nursery School

Debbie Gaudion – 585.749.3878  
debbieanne0204@gmail.com

## Easter Lily Dedications

As in years past, we offer the opportunity to honor, remember, or thank someone you love with a dedication and donation toward the purchase of Easter Lilies for First Presbyterian. A booklet of the dedications will become available just before Easter. Donations beyond the purchase price of the lilies will go toward Presbyterian Women's mission projects. The lilies themselves will be available to take home following the 10:30 am service on Easter, April 9 on a first come basis.

✂ .....

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**



\$10.00 each

Lilies will be sold March 19, 26 and April 2 after both church services. If ordering by mail, please send form by April 3: 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)

## Our 2023 Confirmands, part two

Name: **Matthew Nead**  
Family here at  
FPC: **Karen and Michael Nead**  
Grade: **8th**  
Favorite Class: **Math**  
Favorite Movie: **E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial**  
If I could visit any place in the world it would be: **Netherlands or Spain**  
My hobbies: **running, reading**  
My Nickname: **Matt (optional)**  
My most prized possession: **my phone**  
Three words that describe me: **sarcastic, hardworking, lively**  
People (outside of parents) I most admire: **my brother, grandma, and sister**  
My favorite Bible story: **Noah and the ark**  
If I had one million dollars I would: **put ¼ into a savings account, give ¼ to charity, keep ½ for myself**  
If I were to pick one characteristic of Jesus I most like it would be: **unselfishness**  
One question I want to ask Jesus someday: **If I did everything wrong, then asked for forgiveness, would you forgive me?**  
How can we pray for you? **by being kind to me and helping me along in my life**



Name: **Hunter Nead**  
Family here at FPC: **Karen and Michael Nead**  
Grade: **8th**  
Favorite Class: **Math**  
Favorite Movie: **Harry Potter**  
If I could visit any place in the world it would be: **London, England**  
My hobbies: **percussion, piano, running**  
Three words that describe me: **musical, kind, talkative**  
My dream profession is: **something in the music department**  
People (outside of parents) I most admire: **people who are faster than me; sister, brother, and grandma**  
My favorite Bible story: **Noah and the ark**  
If I had one million dollars I would: **save some in a safe, give some to charity**  
If I were to pick one characteristic of Jesus I most like it would be: **forgiveness**  
One question I want to ask Jesus someday: **I would ask him about his childhood.**  
How can we pray for you? **by encouraging me to push myself harder – I'm exercising every day**



## YOUTH CAMPING @ CAMP WHITMAN on SENECA LAKE!

**May 12-14, 2023**

We have reserved four cabins at Camp Whitman on Seneca Lake in Dresden, N.Y. We will leave after school on Friday and return on Sunday morning. The cabins have beds, mattresses, heat, electricity, and indoor plumbing! Saturday morning there will also be the opportunity for mission/service hours as we help clean up around camp for their 2023 season. Join us for campfires, s'mores, hiking, time by the lake, a lot of fun together! Friends are welcome to join us! Please RSVP to Pastor Erin at 585-204-2012.



# Christian Education

First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford is thrilled to be partnering with our Jewish neighbors at Temple B'rith Kodesh in Brighton to host a lecture by Dr. Amy-Jill Levine: **The mistakes Jews and Christians often make about each other** on April 25 at 6:30 pm followed by a question and answer period. The event will be held at First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford where Professor Levine will be joining us by Zoom from Nashville.

Before Dr. Levine's lecture we have two opportunities to get to know our B'rith Kodesh friends better:

**Jewish – Christian Scripture Study at First Presbyterian Church Pittsford on April 12 at 7:00 pm**

**Shabbat Worship Service at Temple B'rith Kodesh on April 14 at 5:30 pm**  
(call the church office if you would like to ride with someone)



## Sunday Morning Bible Study

Starting April 23 at 8:15 am, Craig will be teaching the book of James. This class will run for one hour. James places the spotlight on the necessity for believers to act in accordance with our faith. It is a compilation of Jesus' teachings in the Sermon on the Mount coupled with wise sayings from the book of Proverbs. We will be studying the Book of James and exploring our response to being a Christ follower. We will also explore who James was and his importance to the early church.

### Adult Education Opportunities

Sunday Morning Bible Study  
8:15 am hybrid

Monday Night Bible Study  
7 pm Zoom

Tuesday Highlands Bible Study  
12:50 pm Highlands Music Room

Wednesday Bible Study  
7:15 pm hybrid

Thursday Women's Bible  
Noon FPCP Library

On **Palm Sunday** all children are invited to grab a palm and process around the sanctuary several times during the first hymn. We will meet and prepare in the entryway.

On **Easter Sunday** families will worship together for the whole service. Come and celebrate the Resurrected Christ.

## Children will Lead Worship on May 21

The Children's youth choir and the Sunday School program will be working together to lead worship on May 21. Sunday mornings from the end of April through May, children can be a part of the youth choir and learn music, create a sermon video, or practice a reading in preparation for the service. Maybe another puppet show? This will be a hands-on chance for kids to choose how to use their talents and learn about worship. No matter how your child would like to participate, there is a place for them. If you are not able to make Sunday morning but would still like to participate, please let Craig know.

## Coming up in Sunday School:

### April 9

Easter  
Worship as a family



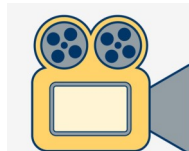
### April 16

Matthew 28:16–20  
You are the Messiah  
Memory Bracelets  
Computers



### April 23

Matthew 8:5–10, 13  
Only Say the Word  
First Aid  
Video on Faith



### April 30

Matthew 8:5–10, 13  
Jesus Walks on Water  
Sensory Walk  
Start Worship Preparation





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

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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

*Let us learn to be good  
neighbors to our Jewish  
siblings. Pastor Aaron*

<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>Associate 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 &amp; 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><b>First Presbyterian Church</b> 21 Church Street, Pittsford, NY 14534 Phone 585.586.5688, Fax 585.586.8090 connect@pittsfordpres.org www.pittsfordpres.org</p> <p><b>Worship Service:</b> <b>8:30 am in-person</b> <b>10 am in-person and livestreamed</b></p> <p>Communion is offered on the first Sunday of each month.</p> <p> </p>
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