



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PITTSFORD

THE GOOD NEWS

April 2024

### Embracing and Sharing Christ's Love

#### **CHARTING THE COURSE WITH PASTOR AARON**

The Session has been hard at work on making progress with our Faith Forward strategic objectives. They have been prioritizing objective #4: "Re-align to Our True North: to reduce the amount of organizational inefficiencies while refining structures to support what matters the most." At this point, the Session has invited the Deacons and the Trustees into a conversation about what this organizational re-alignment might look like. As I think about these things, I am reminded of an article I wrote for our *20-Day Faith Forward Devotional* from September. The article is called "Resurrection." I am re-publishing it here for two reasons: 1) it ties in well to the celebration of Easter we recognize on March 31 this year, and 2) it puts the practical implications of an organizational re-alignment into a theological perspective. How does the hope of resurrection help us to accept necessary future changes? Here is the article:

I saw a picture a couple weeks ago of wildflowers blooming in the aftermath of a forest fire. It was beautiful. You probably know that the current best practice in forest management is not to avoid fires at all costs. Doing that for years actually led to massive destruction. Forest fires help aid the natural cycle of plant growth, clear out debris, and make room for new plants. This feels like a metaphor for life sometimes, doesn't it? I imagine we all have experienced, to some extent, that the tighter we hold onto things, the faster they slip away.

If you have been around First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford for a while, you have probably heard me say that if I encountered compelling evidence that the historical Jesus of Nazareth was not crucified and then literally raised from the dead, I would quit my job and my faith. Christianity hinges on a belief in resurrection. The greatest tragedy in Jesus' life, his execution on false charges, also became his greatest triumph. Christianity is a religion of paradoxes, after all. Remember these? "The first shall be last, and the last shall be first." "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth." "For whoever would save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."

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Jesus' death and resurrection not only invite us into eternal life, they also set up one of the greatest paradoxes of our faith: in order to thrive, we must let go. We must let go of the things that we have always known, the things that make us feel secure, the things we most desire. When we do so, we can be surprised by what comes next. After death comes resurrection. Like wildflowers blooming after a forest fire, like Jesus' death opening the door to eternal life, something beautiful comes out of our acceptance of change, our letting go of what we are used to or what we think we need.

**Questions for Reflection:** What's one thing you are holding onto in your heart that, if you simply let go of it, you know would help your faith to grow? How can our church learn to let go of some things in order to embrace a new future?

**Prayer:** God, help us to let go of all the habits, desires, and relationships that are stifling our growth. As a church, help us to let go of any traditions, programs, or ministries that are no longer honoring you, serving our community, and growing our faith. Amen.

~ Aaron

### Lectionary for April

**April 7**  
**2nd Sunday of Easter**  
 Acts 4:32–35  
 Psalm 133  
 1 John 1:1–2:2  
 John 20:19–31

**April 14**  
**3rd Sunday of Easter**  
 Acts 3:12–19  
 Psalm 4  
 1 John 3:1–7  
 Luke 24:36b–48

**April 21**  
**4th Sunday of Easter**  
 Acts 4:5–12  
 Psalm 23  
 1 John 3:16–24  
 John 10:11–18

**April 28**  
**5th Sunday of Easter**  
 Acts 8:26–40  
 Psalms 22:25–31  
 1 John 4:7–21  
 John 15:1–8

### Members with April Birthdays

|                   |                   |                  |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Dylan Bachmann    | Peter Francis     | Sue Ramsdell     |
| David Boise       | Janette Henderson | Barbara Rarrick  |
| Amanda Bradstreet | Marcus Kroll      | Evan Rhodes      |
| Charlie Campbell  | Julia Larson      | Lucien Rouse Sr. |
| George Cooper     | Karen MacKenzie   | Kelly Travis     |
| Sarah Dunlap      | Donald Naylor     | Kevin Voltz      |
| Emma Fantuzzo     | Dylan Parker      |                  |
| Alexis Finkbeiner | Adam Pollock      |                  |
| Jack Fox          | Ted Price         |                  |



*May all of your birthday wishes come true!*  
 If we missed you, please let the office know.



## News from the Nursery School

April is going to be a quick but busy month! We are looking forward to our spring break and the solar eclipse. We are providing our students with solar eclipse glasses to view this historic event. April also brings our last round of parent/teacher conferences, new afternoon enrichment classes, field trips, and our annual spring plant fundraiser. Thank you for your continued support!

Kathy Woodruff, Director Pittsford Nursery School

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## Deacon Events

**Wednesday, April 3, at 6:30 pm - Eastman School of Music Philharmonia Concert.** Come hear a graduate student concert featuring Beethoven's First Symphony and take a back stage tour of the 100-year-old Eastman Theater with the House Manager. Meet at the church to carpool for this free event. Must sign up with Dan Traina at [Dtraina@rochester.rr.com](mailto:Dtraina@rochester.rr.com)

**Friday, April 5, at 7 pm - Game Night in Fellowship Hall.** Join us for board games such as Catan, Ticket to Ride and Splendor. Bring your own games to share. All are welcome.

**Saturday, April 6, at 5 pm - Cooking Club - Spring into Healthy Eating with a Vegetarian Themed meal.** We will be preparing a gigantic salad bar, couscous medley in a tagine pot, portobello mushroom steaks and Ratatouille. Cost is \$8.00. Sign up in Fellowship Hall or contact [Dtraina@rochester.rr.com](mailto:Dtraina@rochester.rr.com)

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## Needle Nellies

The Needle Nellies will meet on Tuesday, April 30, from 11 am-1:30 pm in room 204. Please bring your lunch and a smile!

## OPTIMISTS

The OPTIMISTS will meet on Friday, April 12, at 1 pm in Fellowship Hall. The discussion topic will be our ancestors. Plan to tell a story about your ancestors—maybe when or where did ancestors arrive from another country? Or favorite memory of contact with an older relative? Lunch will be provided and all are invited to attend! Please rsvp by April 10 to the church office.

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## Anthony Circle

On Tuesday, April 16, at 11 am, Linda Badger Becker will be our docent at the Susan B. Anthony House. Cost is \$15 for seniors. RSVP is required by April 8 to Linda, [lbadgerbecker@gmail.com](mailto:lbadgerbecker@gmail.com). Coffee or lunch to follow at 1872 Cafe where S.B.A. voted in November of 1872. We will car pool at 10:30 am from Pittsford Plaza, Citizens Bank lot.

This event is open to everyone at FPC.

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## Calling all Landscapers!

Spring clean-up of the church grounds is scheduled for Wednesday, April 24, from 9 to 11:30 am with a rain date of Thursday, April 25.

Looking forward to another season with you all!

Debbie Gaudion  
585-749-3878

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## Memorial Garden Committee

A meeting of the Memorial Garden Committee will be held on Tuesday, April 30, at 7 pm in the church library.

Debbie Gaudion  
585-749-3878



## Habitat for Humanity

Our Habitat for Humanity house build is scheduled to be dedicated in May, the exact date TBD. There is still time to volunteer and get to know others in our greater Rochester area faith groups! We anticipate starting our next house this summer. Teens 16 and 17 can participate with an adult accompanying them. It is a great learning experience for everyone! Contact Dianne Brown for more information ([dibrown@rochester.rr.com](mailto:dibrown@rochester.rr.com))





You are invited to the

  
**Faith & Grief<sup>SM</sup>**  
**Workshop**

Choose Your Workshop

**Mondays, April 29th - June 10th**  
**at 6 pm ET**

**Fridays, May 3rd - June 14th**  
**at Noon ET**

Explore the nature of grief, share your story  
and explore spiritual practices designed to  
provide comfort as you grieve.

**RSVP**

[faithandgrief.org/events/pittsfordmondays/](http://faithandgrief.org/events/pittsfordmondays/)

[faithandgrief.org/events/pittsfordfridays/](http://faithandgrief.org/events/pittsfordfridays/)

or call at 469-616-1795



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**PITTSFORD**

**Mondays at 6 PM**  
**Starting April 29th**



**Fridays at Noon ET**  
**Starting May 3rd**



# Messy Game Night a Big Success!

On Sunday, March 10, our youth group hosted youth from Gates Presbyterian Church, Bethany Presbyterian Church, and Lake Avenue Baptist Church in our Fellowship Hall for Messy Game Night! 30 youth and five adults gathered for a pizza dinner, followed by spraying silly string at each other, shaving balloons while trying not to break them, and hitting one another in the face with pies (after answering some Bible Trivia questions!). Thanks to all who attended, and to Adam Pedersen for volunteering to help out. We want to extend a special thanks to Leslie and Antonio for scrubbing the linoleum floor for us after the event.





# Christian Education

## Children will Lead Worship on May 5

The Children’s choir and the Sunday school program will be working together to lead worship on May 5. Sunday mornings during April, children will be able to be a part of the youth choir and learn music, create a children’s sermon puppet show, or practice a reading in preparation for the service. 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 it to the May 5 children’s service but would still like to participate, let Craig know.

| Adult Education Opportunities                                     |
|---|
| Monday Night Bible Study<br>7 pm Zoom                             |
| Tuesday Highlands Bible Study<br>12:50 pm Highlands Activity Room |
| Wednesday Bible Study<br>7:15 pm hybrid                           |
| Thursday Women’s Bible Study<br>noon library                      |

## Sunday School Schedule



April 7

Theme: The Risen Jesus

Activity: Music for Pre-K to K and learning Rhythm Music for 1-2



April 14

Our Call to serve God’s People

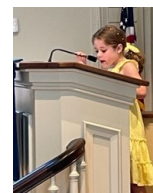
Painting Motivational Rocks



April 21

The Sabbath

Sabbath Sundaes: Make your own sundae



April 28

Children's worship practice

Practice readings and Puppet show


First Presbyterian Church  
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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

*How can our church learn to  
let go of some things in order  
to embrace a new future?*

*Pastor Aaron*

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| <p>The Rev. Aaron Neff<br/><i>Pastor and Head of Staff</i><br/>585.643.1240<br/>aaron.neff@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>The Rev. Erin Jacobson<br/><i>Associate Pastor</i><br/>585.204.2012<br/>erin.jacobson@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>Craig Kunkle<br/><i>Director of Christian Education</i><br/>Ext. 30<br/>craig.kunkle@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>Britta Konau<br/><i>Office &amp; Communications Coord.</i><br/>Ext. 21<br/>britta.konau@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>Maria DiGiambattista<br/><i>Financial Administrator</i><br/>Ext. 23<br/>treasurer@pittsfordpres.org</p> | <p>Leslie Harvey<br/><i>Custodian</i><br/>585.364.2430<br/>lharvey@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>Dr. Jared Chase<br/><i>Director of Music</i><br/>musicdirector@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>Dr. Bruce Frank<br/><i>Associate Director of Music and Organist</i><br/>bfrank345@gmail.com</p> <p>Dede Holmes<br/><i>Director of Youth Choirs</i><br/>dedeholmes1954@gmail.com</p> <p>Joshua Burke<br/><i>Livestreaming Technician</i><br/>josh@pittsfordpres.org</p> | <p><b>First Presbyterian Church</b><br/>21 Church Street, Pittsford, NY 14534<br/>Phone 585.586.5688, Fax 585.586.8090<br/>connect@pittsfordpres.org<br/>www.pittsfordpres.org</p> <p><b>Worship Service:</b></p> <p><b>8:30 am in-person</b><br/><b>10:00 am in-person and livestreamed</b></p> <p>Communion is offered on the first Sunday of each month.</p> <div data-bbox="1015 1577 1533 1990">A blue Facebook 'f' icon is positioned to the left of a red circular logo. The logo features a white silhouette of a church steeple with a cross on top, centered within the circle.</div> |
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