



# The Good News

December 2018

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

## A WEE WORD FROM DR. WEENINK

### Advent and the Advent Wreath

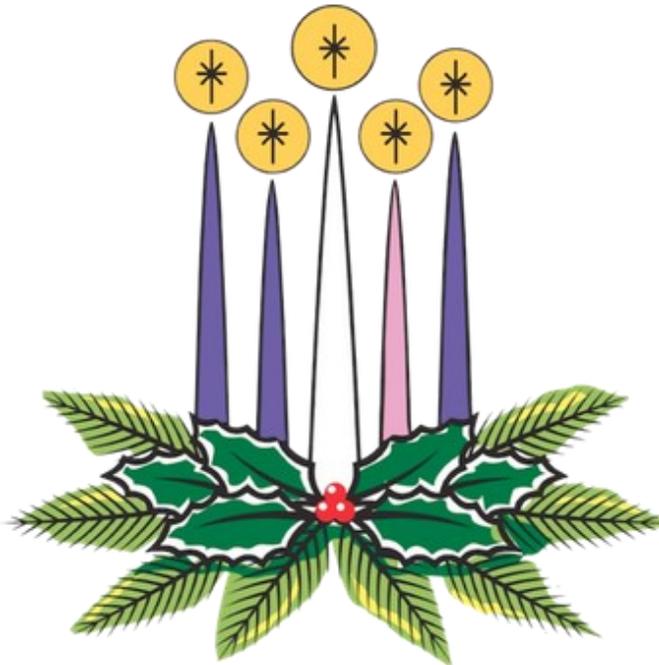
In a few short days we will be entering into that time of year known as Advent. The word “advent” comes from the Latin words, *ad venire* meaning to “come to” and *adventus* meaning an “arrival of” a person of importance, a king or a prince or a warrior leader. In this context, it refers, of course, to Christ’s coming into this world.

In and of itself, Advent is a time situated in those unsuitably odd-fitting days between Thanksgiving and Christmas. They’re typically grey days. The colorful autumn leaves are gone, and crisp winter days aren’t quite upon us. With Advent, the new church year begins and a new note is struck: It is a time of preparation and waiting, because even though, as autumn grinds everything is dying and fall-something brand new is

Truth be told, no act moment when Jesus was not mentioned as a century. With the influence Ambrose, the date for Winter Solstice when, for time stands still, the dark-light begins to increase, between the encroaching days beginning to lengthen that we celebrate the com-world during the dark days shrouds our departures to scends before we complete of the year, when the days are the hungriest for light.

Advent is a time of anticipating, expecting, waiting, hoping. It is a time for attentiveness to signs, signals, cures, and clues of the coming light. It is a time of introspection but also searching, seeking, wondering, wandering, and questing. All this is what we have ordered up for our advent observances at First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford. In fact, the first two sentences of this paragraph identify the worship themes for the four Sundays of Advent.

It may be worth considering the period of “Advent” as one of “Advent-ure”. Referring back to Latin etymology, it is interesting to note that the root words of Advent and adventure are actually not so different. The word “Advent” comes from *Adventus* and “adventure” from *Adventurus*, the latter signifying something that is ‘about to happen’ and also happens to come from the root *advenire*. From this we could conclude



one actually knows the ex- was born; in fact, Christmas celebration until the fourth of a church leader named Christmas was set at the an infinitesimal moment, ness begins to decrease, and we cross the bar be- darkness and witness the again. It is not by accident ing of God's light to the of winter, when night daily endeavors and de- them. It is the darkest time are at their shortest and we

that the period of Advent concerns the arrival of a new adventure, in whatever form this may end up taking.

Advent, in fact, began with an adventure, when Joseph and a very pregnant Mary hopped on a donkey and headed to Bethlehem, only to find the inn full. That was, no doubt, quite an adventure. Surely, the primary reason that this time of year can have such power over us is that the stories we tell, the songs we sing, lift us out of the bland, flat world of fact and deliver us into the realm of imagination, where we find talking angels, miraculous births, and the outlandish promise of peace on earth and good will among all people. Think of it all in terms of an adventure.

I want to suggest that Christmas cannot come to you if you have lost your capacity for wonder, imagination, and adventure. Because, Advent means contemplating a future that is different from the present. This is what the Prophets did. This is exactly what God did. If we live out a higher, better vision, much different than that of the present, then we will allow the babe born in Bethlehem to be incarnate in our hearts, our lives, our very beings.

Yes, we will do all those things old and new appropriate to our observances of Advent. But, is it our plan to turn Advent into an Adventure—or a series of small adventures?

Each week, during our worship service there will be clues and revelations related to our congregational advent-ure. If you haven't seen it yet, you may want to go take a peek at what's in store awaiting everyone in the Fellowship Hall. There is a treasure chest in Fellowship Hall. There are three locks on the chest that keep the gift locked tight. Only you as a congregation can help us unlock the mysteries that it holds. Each week of Advent, the congregation will get a clue during service that helps lead to another clue! Each week is different, but there may even be more than just one or two hints! We can't make it too easy on everyone! You may even have to ask your fellow members and neighbors, young and old, to get all the help you'll need. Teamwork is the key. There is a website, [advent.pittsfordpres.org](http://advent.pittsfordpres.org), for you to view hint discussions or watch our Facebook page.

Awakened to the ways the eternal one touches every dimension of our time-bound existence; searching out meanings that go deeper than the skin; liberated from the bondage of world appetites and appearances, in benevolence, in generosity, in the true spirit of holiday cheer – Let's translate the noun Advent into the verb advent-ure together.

Yours in faith, *Jeffrey*



## ❄️ 2018 Advent and Christmastide ❄️

(unless otherwise noted, Sunday services will be at 8:30 and 10 am)

<b>Sunday, December 2</b>	<b>1st Advent</b>	11:30 am Advent Brunch
<b>Sunday, December 9</b>	<b>2nd Advent</b>	10:00 am Children's Choir 3:00 pm Christmas Cantata & <i>Messiah</i> Sing-Along followed by Potluck Appetizer & Dessert Meal
<b>Sunday, December 16</b>	<b>3rd Advent</b>	4:00 pm Christmas Youth Party
<b>Sunday, December 23</b>	<b>4th Advent</b>	10:00 am Handbells, Ad-venture Solution
<b>Monday, December 24</b>	<b>Christmas Eve</b>	4:30 pm Children's Pageant 8:00 pm (soloists) & 10:30 pm (choir, strings) Candlelight Service
<b>Tuesday, December 25</b>	<b>Christmas Day</b>	worship with your loved ones
<b>Sunday, December 30</b>		10:00 am Service (no 8:30 am service)

## **Planned Gifts meet your Stewardship Goals and the Congregation's Financial Needs**

Planned gifts can be beneficial for a variety of reasons—protecting assets, minimizing estate taxes, ensuring financial stability for a loved one, and providing for a favorite charity. Trusts are exceptional planning tools that can be used to attain many financial goals. A trust blends all of the benefits of professional investment management with the personal attention of a trusted advisor. By including a trust as part of your financial plan, you could ensure tax savings, asset protection, financial security, preservation of important relationships and a charitable legacy.

A charitable remainder or lead trust can serve you, your family, and your stewardship commitment, as well as benefit you, First Presbyterian Church, and other charities you choose. The church has been the recipient of numerous planned gifts from forward thinking, faithful stewards who have now entered into the larger life. Such charitable support can begin immediately or can follow a period when the trust provides for you, or you and your family. A properly structured charitable remainder or lead trust may also provide you with income tax and estate tax benefits.

To find out more about charitable trusts and how they may serve you, feel free to contact the church office. We can provide resource people to assist you.



### **Year-End Gratitude**

The congregation stands commended for faithful and steady financial support throughout 2018. This level of steady stewardship has enabled the church to remain faithful to the many commitments it has made. Thank you.

We are grateful for the financial support from the congregation, and know that many folks plan to make contributions at year end. Fulfilling your 2018 Stewardship commitment, to the best of your ability, is particularly important this year. As we come to the conclusion of 2018, persons who desire to make extra commitment gifts are so encouraged. Year-end gifts can be in forms other than cash. Members and friends can donate stocks, bonds, or other securities to the church. The gifts are then converted to the church's ministry for program, mission, or the Endowment Fund.

If you plan to make a year-end contribution using the sale of stock, please plan to have it completed by December 1, so it will appear on your 2018 statement. Contact Maria in advance to ensure correct identification of incoming contributions.

Those subject to the IRS Required Minimum Distribution from their retirement accounts may authorize a direct distribution to the church and exclude the distribution from taxable income. Although you do not get a charitable deduction, there may be other tax advantages by lowering taxable income. Consult your tax advisor to see if this form of giving is beneficial to you.

While there are tax advantages to year-end giving, the practice of Christian stewardship is based in our understanding of God as the giver of all good things and our responsibility to use those gifts in ways that demonstrate our gratitude and faithfulness to the cause of Jesus Christ.

Note: our online giving service is available to make any contribution or gift; credit card donations are subject to a 3% charge to the church. Should you have any question on your giving record, please contact Maria at the church office (586-5688).

# Lectionary for December

## December 2

### 1st Sunday of Advent

Jeremiah 33:14–16  
Psalm 25:1–10 1 Thes-  
salonians 3:9–13  
Luke 21:25–36

## December 9

### 2nd Sunday of Advent

Malachi 3:1–4  
Luke 1:68–79  
Philippians 1:3–11 Luke  
3:1–6

## December 16

### 3rd Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14–20  
Isaiah 12:2–6  
Philippians 4:4–7  
Luke 3:7–18

## December 23

### 4th Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:2–5a  
Luke 1:46–55 or Psalm  
80:1–7  
Hebrews 10:5–10  
Luke 1:39–45 (46–55)

## December 24

### Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2–7  
Psalm 96:1–13  
Titus 2:11–14  
Luke 2:1–14 (15–20)

## December 25

### Nativity of the Lord/Christmas

*Christmas Dawn*  
Isaiah 62:6–12  
Psalm 97:1–12  
Titus 3:4–7  
Luke 2:(1–7) 8–20

*Christmas Day*  
Isaiah 52:7–10  
Psalm 98:1–9  
Hebrews 1:1–4 (5–12)  
John 1:1–14

## December 30

### 1st Sunday after Christmas Day

1 Samuel 2:18–20, 26  
Psalm 148  
Colossians 3:12–17  
Luke 2:41–52



## Optimists

### December 14, 2018—Christmas Carols

Fellowship with punch is at 5:30pm, with dinner at 6pm. Dinner is three cheese pasta bake and meatballs marinara, garden salad, garlic bread and mocha raspberry cake trifle. Our vocal quartet, **20th Century Vox**, starring Rebecca Kolstad, Dede Holmes, Bruce Boak, and John Messenger, will perform at dinner, as well as leading Christmas Carols. It promises to be a fun evening! Sign up on December 2 and 9 after each service. Plan to wear your “Ugly Christmas” sweater!

### PDA Hurricane Florence Disaster Relief Trip

We will depart December 26, 2018 and return January 3, 2019. Staying in a Baptist church near Myrtle Beach/Conway, South Carolina. We will be doing reconstruction of houses damaged by flooding. We will drive down in vans and the Travel Cost of trip is \$150 (or you can meet us down there at your own cost). The room and board and materials will be covered by fundraising. For more information see Ron Pollock.

## Second Sunday Concert Series of Pittsford Presbyterian Church

This new concert series features a variety of performances from area musicians on the Second Sunday of the month in November, December, February, March, April, May, and June. Upcoming performances include:

### Sunday, December 9, 3pm

#### Christmas Cantata and Messiah Sing Along

Join the choir and soloist of Pittsford Presbyterian for a Cantata titled "What Sweeter Music" by John Leavitt followed by the popular Messiah Sing Along!

#### Christmas Cantata Pot Luck Appetizer and Desert Meal - On Sunday December 9 at 4:30pm following the Cantata, join us in Fellowship Hall for a pot luck meal consisting of Appetizers and Desserts. Bring your favorite dish to share with our guests following the musical.

### Mission Trip to Mexico

Winter mission trip – a ministry among the Maya – January 25 – February 3, 2019. If you are interested, speak to Dr. Weenink.



## News from the Nursery School

This time of year is what I like to call the Giving Time of Year. This is what we are teaching our children in our classrooms. It reminds us of what is most important—love for each other. Downstairs in the preschool the children are very busy in the classrooms, preparing handmade gifts for those they love. Beginning December 16, if you are a First Presbyterian Church member and you have a child preparing for preschool, you have first preference from then until December 31 to register your child for the upcoming school year. Please come see me in my office in the preschool for a registration packet, they will be available starting December 1. You can also find one on our website. We wish all of you a wonderful holiday season and many blessings in the coming year. Thank you for all your support and as always, please come visit any time!

Teresa Zatyko, Director, Pittsford Nursery School

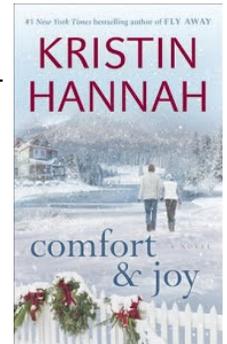


## Eve Circle

Eve Circle will meet Monday, November 26, at 12:30 pm upstairs in room 200 to discuss *The Reason for God*, chapters 3 + 4. We will also decide where and when to have our December gathering.

## WEB Club

All are welcome to join us at any time. We generally meet the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 2pm in the library. Below is a list of dates we will be meeting and the books selected. Come join us!



December 12: *Comfort & Joy* by Kristin Hannah  
January 9: *Gold from the Well* by Josh Apo  
February 13: *Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate  
March 13: *Crazy Rich Asians* by Kevin Kwan  
April 10: *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng  
May 8: *The Alice Network* by Kate Quinn  
June 12: TBD



## Photo Directory

We have a wonderful new database system that allows us to include photographs and print our own photo directories. These directories can be printed by us more regularly with updates. We can also do multiple formats; for example, each member can have a version with contact information while we can print public copies with only photos and names beneath that will go into the pews.

Many of you have already had your pictures taken at church – thank you for that! For those who have not, or are unable to make it to church on a regular basis, please email us a photo of you by Sunday, December 2. If you are a family, please include everyone in one shot. Here are some specifications for the images:

- they must be in landscape format, so the camera should be oriented horizontally
- they need to be of the highest resolution your camera has available
- they should have a neutral, monochrome background

If you could stick to these guidelines, please email your image to [connect@pittsfordpres.org](mailto:connect@pittsfordpres.org). We want this photo directory to be as complete as possible so that we may all know the faces that go with the names! THANK YOU!

## Welcome to Our New Members



Tutu and Clemence Kun joined us in June as they had their daughter Nyaria baptized. Tutu works at Wegmans and came to us through a God-orchestrated chance meeting with Beverly Reeve years ago while she was shopping.



The Mattingly family recently moved from Richmond, Virginia when Thomas joined the University of Rochester neurosurgery faculty group at Strong Memorial Hospital. Thomas and Kelly have two elementary school aged boys, Ian and Austin, who have already become a part of both LOGOS and Sunday school. The boys are avid swimmers and readers. The whole family enjoys wandering trails in the woods, playing music, and cooking. They also have three furry cat family members.



Jared and Diana Chase became members as Jackson was baptized in July. They are both professional musicians who generously share their talents in the community. Jared teaches at Nazareth College and Diana teaches music at Canandaigua Academy. Besides music, the family enjoys cooking, traveling, and spending time with friends and family.



Linda Cohen joined us this October but it feels as if she has been a member here for years. She and her son Daniel have enthusiastically participated in LOGOS for more than five years. Linda brings her terrific caregiving skills to our congregation and Daniel is a sixth grader at Calkins Road Middle School. They enjoy spending time with family and friends. Daniel also enjoys boy scouts, playing baseball, and snowboarding.

Ann Parker was raised in Glens Falls, New York. She has two adult children and four grandchildren. She worked and retired from Talbots, after 25 years of service. She is presently working in the kitchen-cafeteria at the Barker Road Middle School. She has published a cookbook. She takes computer classes at the Apple store weekly, as well as knitting classes. Maintaining her home in Pittsford is her real joy. The abundance of friends that she has brings her such pleasure and comfort. She is excited to be a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford.



Eric Kesler and Korinne Smith joined us in July when their youngest son, Sawyer, was baptized. He joins his older brother Samson in bringing mirth to our sanctuary. Both Eric and Korinne are professional musicians and have graced our choir loft and chancel with their prodigious gifts.



Luis and Sharon Martinez are both innovative entrepreneurs dedicated to inspiring others to use all the gifts God has given us as well as proud parents of adult children who continue to spread the gospel around the globe. Sharon currently serves as the University of Rochester's Chief Web Strategist while Luis helms Human Capital Strategy Partners, a firm that assists growing companies and not-for-profit organizations with leadership development to help them reach the next level in profitable growth.



Wendi Plenge is the mom of 32-year-old daughter Sharsten (pronounced like CHER-sten) who lives and works in California where Wendi lived for 35 years. Born in Rochester and a graduate of Allendale Columbia School, Wendi returned to Rochester in September 2017 and continues to work as an Interior Designer and active member of Pittsford Rotary Club. She is often in the company of her beloved rescue terrier, Edward.



Kitchen supervisor, Rebecca Likens, is freed up from meal prep to use her signing skills to connect with a local resident.



Cameron encourages adults with disabilities to develop useful work skills in their kitchen. Here, Anne and Charlie Francis, Janette Henderson and Cindy Becker take a minute from the serving line with Chris. He's always ready for photo time!



## Cameron Community Ministries

With colder weather upon us, a carful of coats, pullovers and sweaters was delivered to the Cameron Clothing House. Our youth, Christian Ed, and other supporters are to be commended for rallying to the call for helping the Cameron area residents. Winter clothing and boots in good condition can still be placed in the Cameron bins in the collection area. And don't forget, you still have the opportunity to meet and serve the community this year by helping with the noon meal on December 17. The Cameron kitchen is located at 48 Cameron St. and rides are available. You may be surprised by the joy a few hours of light work brings! Contact Cindy Becker, 585-703-4878 or [cindyleebecker74@gmail.com](mailto:cindyleebecker74@gmail.com)





### Cub Scouts Rake Church Yard

On Saturday, November 10, Cub Scouts from Pack 171, sponsored by FPC, once again raked leaves from in front of our church. We appreciate Scouts' effort on what has become an annual occasion.



BEFORE



AFTER



**Winter Youth Schedule—Winter is Coming... The first snow has fallen, so make sure to bundle up and join us at all our warm and wonderful youth events!**

December 2:	Confirmation!	11:30am-1pm @ Church
December 2:	SOSO/Sunday Night Youth	7-8:30pm @ Church
November 28 + December 5:	LOGOS!	4-7pm @ Church
December 16:	JASY Team Meeting	11:30am-12:15pm @ Church
December 16:	Youth Christmas Party/Caroling	4-7pm @ Carrie's House
December 22:	Youth Overnight LockIn	8pm-8am @ Church



Tyler is once again looking for each of our youth's sports/performance schedules! If your 7-12th grade youth has stuff going on we want to know about it! We love to come and support at all sorts of events, and we'll even try to round up a group of youth to support you even more!

**TRIENNium**— Coming up in 2019, from July 13–21, join us for the Presbyterian Youth Triennium in Purdue, Indiana. This week-long conference brings together 9,000 Presbyterian youth from across the country to bond, worship, learn, and grow together with God! There is more info coming soon, but if you're interested, make sure to talk to Tyler and let him know!

Also don't forget to watch for our annual mission of Flower City Work Camp! Student Applications will open up on November 1, and will be due back to Tyler no later than December 15, so make sure to check your schedules now! We will also be looking for a few adult volunteers, so any adults interested in being a part of this week let Tyler know!

The youth Christmas overnight LockIn is coming up once again!

Happening this year on Saturday night, December 22, we will have a fun filled, sleep optional night where we then go into service the next morning in our pajamas!

Make sure to join us for our awesome Christmas evening as we bake food and enjoy each other's wonderful company!



## Advent-ure

An Advent gift has already arrived in Fellowship Hall. But no one can open it without your help.

This Advent –ure needs everyone's help to unlock the 3 locks that keep this gift shut tight. Each week hints will be revealed in worship to unlock one lock. It is up to everyone of all ages to work together to unlock the gift in time. This task will not be easy alone. To sign up or view hint discussions go to <http://advent.pittsfordpres.org> or watch our Facebook page.



# Christian Education

## Upcoming Events

Men's Prayer Breakfast	12/2 7:00 am
Optimists	12/14 5:30 pm
Anthony Circle	12/13 10:00 am
Naomi Circle	12/17 12:30 pm
Eve Circle	TBD
Needle Nellies	no December
Not so Basic Bible study	Mondays 7:30 pm
Prayer Support Group	Mondays 11:00 am
Bible Study	Weds. 7:15 pm
Men's Ecumenical Group	Thursdays 7:15 am
Adult Study	Sundays 9:45 am

## A Hitchhiker's Guide to Reformed Faith

We will not meet in December. On January 6, 11:45 we will meet to talk about the meaning and purpose of prayer.



## Adult Daily Advent Devotionals

An adult advent devotional book is available on the table in the Narthex. This book is made up of devotions written by teachers and students from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. There is also an Advent Devotional App, Ebook and other ways to get the devotionals outlined in the book.

## Christmas Pageant Participants needed

This year we will be presenting the children's Christmas pageant on Christmas Eve at the 4:30pm service. To prepare children, we will be practicing on Sunday mornings in December. We are asking children who want to participate to attend at least one practice during Sunday School. Participants need to arrive at 3:45pm on Christmas Eve for the 4:30pm service. Costumes provided.

## Heifer Shares as Christmas Gifts

Need a Christmas gift for someone who has it all? Does your gift recipient value ending hunger and caring for the Earth? Then buying a share of an animal in their name is the perfect gift! Shares of any amount may be purchased in Fellowship Hall after each service, from November 18 through December 16. You will receive a card designed by the children of First Presbyterian for you to give, recognizing the donation made in their honor.



## Advent Brunch

This year the Advent brunch will be held December 2 right after the second worship service. There will be delicious treats, craft activities for kids and adults, and many laughs with your First Presbyterian Family.



## Upcoming LOGOS events:

Nov. 28	Ugly Sweater Party
Dec. 5	Christmas Caroling
Dec. 12	Choir Only
Dec. 19	Choir Only
Jan. 2	Buddy Night
Jan. 9	Guessing Jar
Jan 16	Pay It Forward

## Children's Advent Calendars

Again this year we are happy to have available Children's Advent Calendars. These calendars lead children through all 24 days of the Advent season. One calendar will be made for each family with children. Others can reserve a copy by contacting Craig in the office. They will start to be available the Sunday before Thanksgiving and during the Advent Brunch.

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

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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

*Advent is a time of anticipating, expecting, waiting, hoping. It is a time for attentiveness to signs, signals, cures, and clues of the coming light.*

<p>The Rev. Dr. Jeffrey D. Weenink  Interim Pastor  Ext. 25  jeffrey.weenink@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>The Rev. Dr. Carrie Mitchell  Associate Pastor  Ext. 32  carrie.mitchell@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>Craig Kunkle  Director of Christian Education  Ext. 30  craig.kunkle@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>Tyler Logan  Director of Youth Ministry  Ext. 31  tyler@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>Britta Konau  Office &amp; Communications Coord.  Ext. 21  britta.konau@pittsfordpres.org</p>	<p>Maria DiGiambattista  Financial Administrator  Ext. 23  treasurer@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>John O'Flaherty  Custodian  Ext. 33</p> <p>Bill Mullins  Assist. Custodian</p> <p>Dr. Jared Chase  Director of Music  musicdirector@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>Dr. Bruce Frank  Associate Director of Music and Organist  bfrank345@gmail.com</p> <p>Dede Holmes  Director of Youth Choirs  dmh91654@frontiernet.net</p> <p>Dr. Mary Carlson  Director of Hand Bell Choir  mcarlson74@gmail.com</p>	<p><b>First Presbyterian Church</b>  21 Church Street, Pittsford, NY 14534  Phone 585 586-5688, Fax 585 586-8090  E-mail connect@pittsfordpres.org  Web page www.pittsfordpres.org</p> <p><b>Worship With Us</b>  Please join us for Sunday morning worship.</p> <p><b>Worship Services: 8:30 &amp; 10:00 am</b>  Communion is offered on the first Sunday of each month.</p>
		