



The Good News

February 2021

First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford
Embracing and Sharing Christ's Love

CHARTING THE COURSE WITH PASTOR AARON

It's really hard to believe that Lent begins this month. I would describe the mood of the Lenten season as usually somber. It starts off with Ash Wednesday when we are reminded of human mortality. "You are dust, and to dust you will return," we are told. Then, throughout Lent, we fast and pray in order to help reinforce habits of self-denial, and we make intentional efforts to be self-reflective and repentant. Then, during Holy Week, we take a close look at the final moments of Jesus' life, and we mourn that our sin is what brought suffering upon him. In a year without a pandemic, Lent is intentionally disruptive to our routines. One of its purposes is to help bring awareness to our brokenness so that we might be humble and course correct when necessary. However, that assumes our lives tend to become overly-ritualized and need to occasionally be reinvigorated. The past year has been anything but ordinary, and things have changed so much and so frequently that there has been little time to settle in to any rituals of normalcy. In this kind of world, what might the purpose of Lent become?

I left out an important element of Lent when I described it above. Not only is Lent a time of confession of sin and of repentance, it is also a time to become acutely aware that Easter is coming and Jesus saves us. In other words, not only is Lent a time to focus on what God is calling us away from but also to focus on what God is calling us to become instead. This Lent, maybe you do need to be reminded of your brokenness. Chances are you are very well aware of that this year. I hope this Lent will, instead, remind you that God is calling us to a better life, to a fuller life, to a joyful life. Nothing, not even a global pandemic, will put our discipleship on hold. During worship and in my preaching, I hope to be able to encourage you and help you to live into your calling to be a follower of Christ. I'm looking forward to it, and I hope you are, too.

~ Aaron

Lectionary for February

February 7 5th Sunday after Epiphany Isaiah 40:21–31 Psalm 147:1–11, 20c 1 Corinthians 9:16–23 Mark 1:29–39	February 14 Transfiguration of the Lord 2 Kings 2:1–12 Psalm 50:1–6 2 Corinthians 4:3–6 Mark 9:2–9	February 17 Ash Wednesday Joel 2:1–2, 12–17 or Isa. 58:1–12 Psalm 51:1–17 2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10 Matt. 6:1–6, 16–21	February 21 1st Sunday in Lent Genesis 9:8–17 Psalm 25:1–10 1 Peter 3:18–22 Mark 1:9–15	February 28 2nd Sunday in Lent Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16 Psalm 22:23–31 Romans 4:13–25 Mark 8:31–38
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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PITTSFORD

Our prayers are with you

"Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord."
James 5:14

A Note of Thanks

I'd like to share my gracious thanks to the staff and congregation for the outpouring of comfort and support following the recent death of my son Michael. My mother and I have felt the true compassion of our family in Christ. "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds."

Psalm 147:3

With heartfelt thanks,
Dede Holmes and Pat Miller

Pastoral Care and Prayer Requests

As we continue to navigate what it means to "be the church" while physically distancing, please know that your pastors are always here for you. If you have a prayer request or concern that you want to share widely, or only confidentially with the pastors, please let us know.

If you are looking for ways to reach out, you can always call or text my church cell phone number (585.204.2012). You can also email me at erin.jacobson@pittsfordpres.org. The "Contact" section of the church website also offers a form to connect with me and Pastor Neff via the same message. Please indicate in these messages if the prayer request is confidential, or can be shared widely.

There is a phenomenon that sometimes happens in churches where no one reaches out to the pastors to let them know about prayer requests and concerns because church members assume that their pastors are already aware of the concern. While there have been many instances when Pastor Neff and I were already aware of concerns shared with us, we would ALWAYS rather hear these concerns multiple times as opposed to not hearing them at all.

Thank you for your help in caring for one another,
Pastor Erin Jacobson

Lenten Devotionals Available

This Lenten season we have available electronic and paper devotionals from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. The devotionals can be printed by request, but you can sign up for a daily email of that day's devotion at <https://www.pts.edu/email>. At the bottom choose "Devotionals (Advent & Lent)". They are daily devotionals with both scripture and reflection included. A pdf version with all the days at once can be found at

<https://www.pts.edu/UserFiles/File/PDFs/Lent%20Devotional%202021/Lent%20Devotional%202021%20-%20Print.pdf>

2021 Lenten Schedule

First Presbyterian Church



Wednesday	February 17	7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service *
Sunday	March 28	10:00 am Palm Sunday Service *
Thursday	April 1	7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service *
Friday	April 2	7:00 pm Good Friday Service *
Sunday	April 4	7:00 am Easter Sunrise Service (pre-recorded video)
Sunday	April 4	8:30 am Easter Sunday Service (in-person, if possible, given COVID-19 infection rates)
		10:30 am Easter Sunday Service *

* = livestreamed

All livestreamed services and pre-recorded videos can be accessed at www.pittsfordpres.org/live. Please check our website and other communications regarding COVID-19-related program changes.

Livestreaming is a huge success!

During this COVID-19 pandemic many people are turning to livestreaming to stay connected with the Church. The number of views of the 'Watch Services' page on the website took a dramatic jump in March and has averaged 304 visits per week ever since. And, each visit is likely viewed by more than one person.

On Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, alone, there were 550 views.

Don't be left out! You can watch via a desktop/laptop computer, smart TV, tablet or smartphone. And, if you are using a smartphone or tablet you can 'mirror' the video to your TV. Go to Google for more information as mirroring is specific to your models of smartphone/tablet and TV. If you are having technical difficulties, please consult the Watch Services page.

2021 Stewardship Campaign: Final Report

We have received 193 pledges totaling \$484,000 toward the 2021 campaign. This compares to 196 pledges totaling \$499,000 for the 2020 campaign. The membership response this year is most gratifying given the impact COVID has had on in-person worship as well as personal finances.

The positive response also signals a renewed sense of optimism in our congregation. During pastoral transition we experienced average annual stewardship reductions of \$30,000. With their enthusiastic leadership and devotion to pastoral care Pastors Aaron and Erin have helped strengthen our faith and commitment to our church's mission and ministry.

The Generosity Team



AISHA BROOKS-LYTTLE



BRUCE REYES-CHOW



PAUL ROBERTS

Christian Education



WARREN CHALKLEN



AMY KIM KYREMES-PARKS



KEATAN KING

**Association of Presbyterian
Christian Educators Confer-
ence (APCE)
February 4-6, 2021**

This year is a great year to attend APCE. The conference is virtual, allowing you to attend from the comfort of your own home. APCE

invites all involved in educational ministry to embark on a 3-day “Anything But Ordinary Time” virtual adventure like never before! While 2020 may have felt like anything but ordinary, we know God is “making all things new.” With national speakers and leadership in worship this conference will help inspire you. The workshops will help to train each of us in how to help the church move to the future. Registration is only \$100. For more information: <https://apcenet.org>

Children’s Books Available at Church

In October, the Christian Education Committee decided to honor previous long-life Christian Education volunteers Betty Willert and Ken Anderson with a dedication of children’s books for the library. Nine books were purchased for you and your family to read together at home. To arrange pickup please call the church office.

New Books: *The Story of AND*; *God's Big Plan*; *For Beautiful Black Boys Who Believe in a Better World*; *A Very Big Problem*; *Brian the Brave*; *Babbit and Joan, a Rabbit and a Phone*; *Binkle's Time to Fly*; *Arthur and the Forgetful Elephant*; and *Dedication Promises*.



4-Year-Old Bibles

On February 7, the church will be presenting Bibles to four-year-olds during the live-streamed worship service. If you have or know of a four-year-old who would like a children’s Bible, please let us know how your child’s name should appear on the book plate. I have been told by many parents and grandparents that children love to read this book every night before bed.

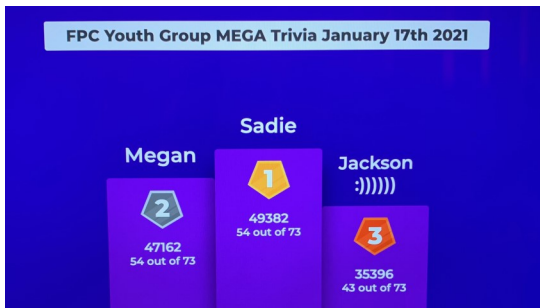


FPC YOUTH GROUP NEWS

February Youth Group Meetings

Youth Group will meet via Zoom on Sundays, February 7, 21, and 28.

Join us at 7pm on Sunday evenings for a different theme, games, and prayer. Contact Pastor Jacobson if you have any questions at erin.jacobson@pittsfordpres.org



The Youth Group met on January 17 for a "Mega Trivia" event on Zoom.

The winners were -
1st place - Sadie Oldfield
2nd place - Megan Nead
3rd place - Jackson Price
Congratulations!

Confirmation

The confirmands and Pastor Jacobson will meet on Zoom Sundays, February 7 and 28. In late January the confirmands welcomed their mentors for their first joint meeting. Many thanks to David Irwin for serving as Aaron's mentor, and Elena Travis who is serving as Sofia's mentor. Please keep Sofia Fantuzzo and Aaron Sheu in your prayers as they continue on this journey of faith.

Members with February Birthdays

- | | | |
|----------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Amy Adams | Dan Harrison | Chris Oldfield |
| Aidan Bachmann | Martha Henry | Erin Reeve |
| Diana Douglas | Stephen Hill | Kelsey Swetman |
| Anne Ferris | James Kearney | Theodore Wallace |
| Matt Ferris | Liz Mehalso | Marlys Whitcomb |
| Kim Finkbeiner | Pat Miller | Chris Zimmer |
| Elizabeth Gianakakis | Amy Oldfield | |



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

(if we missed you—please let the office know)

New Officers' Biographies

Dianne Brown – Elder, Class of 2023

A member of our church for 54 years, Dianne has previously been a Deacon and Elder and served on various committees, including the Outreach Committee. She has participated in numerous mission trips to help rebuild after natural disasters. Throughout her 25-year involvement with Flower City Habitat, Dianne has helped raise funds and build seven homes in inner city Rochester. For several years now, she has organized the annual Thanksgiving Pie Sale to benefit Habitat.

Dan Harrison – Deacon, Class of 2023

Together with his wife Janette Henderson, Dan has been a member of FPC for 30 years. A Chemist by training, he likes to backpack, cross country ski, run, bike, garden, as well as mission work. And it is that mission work and community outreach which Dan finds especially exiting at FPC.

Dede Holmes – Trustee, Class of 2023

Dede basically grew up in our church and still attends with her mother, Pat. She has also directed the children's choir since 1984. Dede's other interests, beside music, are art, gardening, and history. She retired from PCSD after 21 years as a paraprofessional. "Having such capable new pastors is inspiring and comforting as we continue to explore ways to worship and connect during this pandemic," she says.

Judy Johnson – Deacon, Class of 2023

Judy and her husband Ed have been members of FPC for 45 years. A retired first grade teacher, she now enjoys many different activities, among them gardening, knitting, sewing, attending concerts and plays, and volunteering for film festivals.

Jennifer Lake – Elder, Class of 2023

Jen is the President & CEO of Goodwill of the Finger Lakes. She attends FPC together with husband Matt and their 11-year-old daughter Maddie. For leisure, Jen enjoys scrapbooking, cooking, baking, traveling, and exploring the outdoors. She says, "Our community will be challenged even as the health pandemic is managed; the economic and behavioral health impacts will be with us for years. I believe this will be an opportunity for our congregation to collaborate with others to help."

Stacy Leyland – Elder, Class of 2023

Stacy teaches first grade in Rush-Henrietta and has been a member of FPC for more than 20 years. In her leisure time, she enjoys reading, rowing, nature walks, and card and board games. In fact, Stacy and her husband John hold year-long Yahtzee tournaments against each other.

Holly Miller – Deacon, Class of 2021

Holly started attending First Presbyterian after moving to Rochester in 2009. Her grandchildren, daughter, and son-in-law attend as well. Since retiring as an RN last year, Holly is "excited to become more active in the success and expansion [of FPC] as it happens." One of her favorite things to do is being a re-enactor in the French and Indian War and the war of 1812.

Megan Nead – Youth Deacon, Class of 2022

Megan was confirmed at First Presbyterian in May 2019. She is a 10th grade student at Mendon High School, enjoys baking, reading, biking, walking, and hanging out with her family. Megan is pleased about the church's ability to help others who are less fortunate.

Len Parker – Elder, Class of 2023

Len lives close to the church and appreciates its feeling of community. His vocations have encompassed strategy and technology, as well as house building and outdoor projects. Len is particularly interested in attracting younger members and entire families to our church.

Barbara Peters – Deacon, Class of 2023

A member of our church for 38 years, Barbara retired from Brighton High School after teaching mathematics there for 30 years (before then she taught in Virginia, Florida, and Hawaii). With husband Doug, she enjoys spending summers at their Honeoye Lake cottage. Barbara is happy to see our membership grow, especially with young families.

Jan Smith – Deacon, Class of 2023

Jan joined our church two years ago and is "thrilled to be part of a large, enthusiastic, and friendly congregation." She spent 50 rewarding years teaching and was involved with the Brighton Theatre Group

New Officers' Biographies, cont'd.

and Pittsford Musicals. She loves to read, knit, and play piano, as well as spending quality time with her friends and her 13-year-old Westie.

Judith Van Dorn – Elder, Class of 2022

A retired physical therapist, Judith keeps very busy reading, knitting, playing bridge, and swimming, sometimes four times a week. However, she is also involved with several organizations and serves on one board. Judith thinks Pastors Aaron and Erin “a super team” and was very pleased to see so many members of the congregation taking on more responsibilities when we were without a permanent pastor.

Jeffrey Wright – Trustee, Class of 2023

Jeff is a retired attorney specializing in real estate finance and development. He and his wife Betty Wells have been members of FPC for about 30 years. Jeff's interests are travel, choral music, piano, and hiking.

Sue Hemphill - Deacon, Class of 2023

Bo Keller - Elder, Class of 2023

David Klein - Trustee, Class of 2023

Claire Van Arsdale - Deacon, Class of 2021

Cameron Community Ministries

Our Cameron Work Team is expanding but we can use your help with the temporary replacement of Cameron's dining-in program! Their newly formed Warm Meals To-Go program allows us the safety of buying and prepping food in our homes and having a convenient pickup provided a day or two before the meal date while ensuring 150-200 Cameron guests are fed. Our team is responsible for delivering pans of an easy entrée and side dish (such as pasta and salad) every second Thursday of the month which Cameron staff divide into to-go meals. We set the menu but you have culinary license to add your personal touch and decide the quantity you will make. Disposable deep dish pans or jumbo bags can be provided or skip the cooking and donate produce or money to purchase ingredients. Like food, MISSION is good for the soul! Contact: cindyleebecker74@gmail.com



News from the Nursery School

February is community helper month: we will be discussing all those people in our community who help us in so many ways; the doctor, the dentist, the postal carrier, just to name a few. The children will be making Valentine's cards for their parents which will then be mailed to them. Of course, we will celebrate Valentines' Day with cards and special games. We will also have a week off for President's week. We hope it snows so we can make a snowman in the playground 😊 Our year is now more than half over. Thank you for your continued support!

Teresa Zatyko, Director Pittsford Nursery School

Eve Circle

Eve Circle will meet by Zoom on Monday, February 22, at 12:30 pm for conversation and to study Lesson 9 from *Love Carved in Stone*. The Zoom link will be distributed later. Call Margaret Mecredy with questions at 381-6430.

Second Stimulus Contribution



With the recent enactment of a second Economic Impact Payment, some individuals may see this as a windfall and consider ways to help others during these challenging times. You might consider increasing your 2021 pledge or making a contribution to any of our Mission activities or Special Offerings. Should you make an additional contribution, please indicate the purpose on the check memo line. If you make an online contribution or wish to increase your 2021 pledge commitment, please contact Maria in the church office (maria@pittsfordpres.org) so she can accurately record your intent. Thank you for your continued support of our church's mission and ministry.

First Presbyterian Church
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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

Not only is Lent a time of confession of sin and of repentance, it is also a time to become acutely aware that Easter is coming and Jesus saves us.

<p>The Rev. Aaron Neff <i>Pastor and Head of Staff</i> Ext. 25 aaron.neff@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>The Rev. Erin Jacobson <i>Temp. Supply Assoc. Pastor</i> Ext. 24 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>Tim Carder <i>Custodian</i> Ext. 33; tim@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> dmh91654@frontiernet.net</p> <p>Joshua Burke <i>AV 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 Service: 10:00 am live-streamed Online Communion is offered on the first Sunday of each month. https://www.pittsfordpres.org/live</p> <p></p> <p></p>
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