



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PITTSFORD

THE GOOD NEWS

JULY/AUGUST 2023

Embracing and Sharing Christ's Love

### CHARTING THE COURSE WITH PASTOR AARON

Today, we remember David as the greatest king of ancient Israel. There is no doubt that he had character flaws. Nevertheless, he trusted God and, under his reign, Israel was united, strong, and prosperous. His kingship was so admired that he became an archetype of the coming Messiah. However, just because it happened that way, doesn't mean it couldn't have happened another way. If the leaders of Israel had really dropped the ball during the transition from Saul to David, we might not even be talking about David today. He might have been a total failure! That's why, in the life of Israel, one of their most critical moments was the transition from the kingship of Saul to the kingship of David.

In 1 Chronicles 12, we're told about all the people who contributed to the safe transition into David's kingship. In fact, we're told that *all twelve tribes* contributed, which is amazing, since the tribes had not been united under Saul. The transition required everyone's support and contribution, and I want to highlight the important role of one tribe in particular. 1 Chronicles 12:32 mentions the tribe of Issachar: "Of Issachar, those *who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do*, two hundred chiefs, and all their kindred under their command" (emphasis added). The tribe of Issachar had the important job of discerning, envisioning, and advising on the future direction of Israel. King David and all Israel depended on such insight. It's no different for churches today.

We, at FPC, need our own "tribe of Issachar" made up of "two hundred chiefs!" Thankfully, we have them! As part of the Faith Forward initiative, we have assembled a Vision Team, who will be leading our church through the visioning phase of Faith Forward. Beginning in the Fall, the Vision Team will convene at a series of retreats where they will be discerning and updating our church's mission, vision, and values (our "True North") to help the church know with greater clarity who we are becoming. They will also be helping us to create alignment to our True North by crafting a "roadmap" outlining the path to becoming that future church. The Vision Team, like the chiefs of Issachar, will be helping us to understand the times so we will know what to do. Instead of two hundred chiefs, our Vision Team is made up of 25 people, comprised of the Session, the senior staff, and other leaders of the congregation. Following the guidance of our consultants, the Session approved the following Team members:

- **Session Members:** Oliver Ash, Janis Croop, Stacy Leyland, Luis Martinez, Lew Becker, Paul Irving, Bill Rieth, Anne Ferris, Elizabeth Gianakakis, Len Parker, Mark Pedersen, Dianne Brown, Paige Thompson, Jen Lake, Anne Francis, Dawn Magnuson, Bob Mecredy, Judith Van Dorn
- **Senior Staff:** Aaron Neff, Erin Jacobson, Craig Kunkle, Jared Chase
- **Other Church Leaders:** Andrea Wright, Dan Harrison, Rob Rhodes

Please keep the Vision Team in your prayers as they prepare for their work this Fall. I will keep you updated about our progress through Faith Forward as the initiative moves forward.

~ Aaron

## Lectionary for July and August

**July 2**  
**5th Sunday after Pentecost**  
 Genesis 22:1–14  
 Psalm 13  
 Romans 6:12–23  
 Matthew 10:40–42

**July 9**  
**6th Sunday after Pentecost**  
 Genesis 24:34–38, 42–49, 58–67  
 Psalm 45:10–17 or Song of Solomon 2:8–13  
 Romans 7:15–25a  
 Matthew 11:16–19, 25–30

**July 16**  
**7th Sunday after Pentecost**  
 Genesis 25:19–34  
 Psalm 119:105–112  
 Romans 8:1–11  
 Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23

**July 23**  
**8th Sunday after Pentecost**  
 Genesis 28:10–19a  
 Psalm 139:1–12, 23–24  
 Romans 8:12–25  
 Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43

**July 30**  
**9th Sunday after Pentecost**  
 Genesis 29:15–28  
 Psalm 105:1–11, 45b or Psalm 128  
 Romans 8:26–39  
 Matthew 13:31–33, 44–52

**August 6**  
**10th Sunday after Pentecost**  
 Genesis 32:22–31  
 Psalm 17:1–7, 15  
 Romans 9:1–5  
 Matthew 14:13–21

**August 13**  
**11th Sunday after Pentecost**  
 Genesis 37:1–4, 12–28  
 Psalm 105:1–6, 16–22, 45b  
 Romans 10:5–15  
 Matthew 14:22–33

**August 20**  
**12th Sunday after Pentecost**  
 Genesis 45:1–15  
 Psalm 133  
 Romans 11:1–2a, 29–32  
 Matthew 15:[10–20] 21–28

**August 27**  
**13th Sunday after Pentecost**  
 Exodus 1:8–2:10  
 Psalm 124  
 Romans 12:1–8  
 Matthew 16:13–20

### Members with July and August Birthdays

Brady Adams	Lydia Diekmann	Beverly Henning	Sara Loveys	Kevin Steele
Wendy Amborski	Caleb Drake	Caroline Hill	Will Marsh	Andrew Stern
Oliver Ash	Ellie Dreywood	Daniel Holmes	Debbie Matrachisia	Rachel Taylor
Madeline Ashworth	Kathy Dunn	Abigail Howard	Daniel Mecredy	David Testa
Robert Avery	Arthur Falter	Addie Ivey	Gail Miller	Evan Michael Tome
Cindy Barben	David Ferris	Sophie Johnson	Judy Miller	Gabriel Traina
Cindy Becker	Sylvia Fix	Gerry Johnston	Emily Oldfield	Ginny Vorhis
Amy Carleton	Anne Francis	Janet Kearns	Owen Oldfield	Lindsay Wahl
Brandon Cooper	Charlie Francis	Geraldine Kelly	Sadie Oldfield	Piper Wilson
Lynn Cos	Jack Gerew	Linden Kilmer	Sonja Poe	Donald Zimmer
Dick Crawford	Kate Gerew	Bob Klie	Marissa Polizzi	Mary Ann Zipfel
Martha Crawford	Lauren Gerew	Alexa Knapp	Maria Smith	
Matthew Crowley	Meredith Glenning	Judith Labombarda	Tim Smith	

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

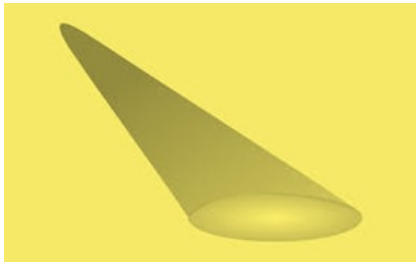
If we missed you, please let the office know.

### Tax Exempt Purchases

Before making reimbursable purchases for the church, please request a copy of the church's Tax-Exempt Certificate from Britta or Maria. Please alert the cashier your purchase should be tax exempt and provide them with our Tax-Exempt Certificate.

If you plan purchases from Wegmans or BJ's, please request their "shopper's card" in advance from Maria or Britta, as this will eliminate the sales tax. Tops requires our Tax-Exempt Certificate.

To request reimbursement, please complete the Request for Check Form (available in the church office) and attach your receipt. Please leave it in Maria's mailbox or in the Red Folder on her desk.



# SPOTLIGHT on

## REHEMA FOR KIDS

### Building the Founders' Home

#### ***What are "In Step Children's Home" and "Rehema for Kids"?***

The In Step Children's Home is located in Kitale, Kenya, and is a faith-based home to 209 abandoned, abused, and orphaned children. Rehema for Kids is the parent organization located in Washington state. Daniel Traina from our church is on the Board of Directors.

#### ***How has First Pres supported the Children's Home?***

Our church has organized many mission trips to Kenya where we sponsored volunteer dental teams, built clinics, dormitories, and sidewalks. Our missionary participants have taught classes, helped children conduct science experiments, conducted soccer drills, and held many babies. Our financial donations have been used for a new dining hall and, most recently, to build a needed girls' dormitory.

#### ***Who are Carla and Jeff Picicci?***

"Mama" Carla and "Baba" Jeff left their lives in Pasco, Washington, in 2003 for mission work with Kenyan water projects. In 2006, a local pastor came to them with a message which came to him in a dream that their work is not done in Kenya. Shortly after that, Carla and Jeff were blessed with an abandoned baby which they named Rehema, followed that same week by two more infants. The pair realized the Lord called them to open a children's home.

Since the first baby arrived, Rehema for Kids has rescued and raised hundreds of children at the In Step Children's Home. They are provided a loving home, quality education, nutritious meals, medical intervention, trauma counseling, and Biblical discipling that gives children the hope of Jesus and a chance to break the cycle of poverty. They are the only children's home in the region that funds each child's high school education, college, or trade school and as a result, several graduates are now working in the community and contributing to the betterment of society. They are working in childcare, construction, information technology, and one is currently enrolled in culinary school.

#### ***What facilities are on the In Step Home campus?***

The village consists of several children's dormitories, primary and junior high school, medical clinic, dairy, and greenhouses. The farm and dairy provide for most of their needs. A special needs center, Stepping Stones, cares for a dozen or more highly disabled infants and children. Mama Carla and Baba Jeff live in a 200 sq ft. room adjacent to the nursery and administrative offices.

#### ***Building the Founders' Home***

Carla and Jeff have consistently declined to have a home built for their use. They felt strongly that resources should be used for the children, building dorms, schools, and security fencing. The time has come for the Piciccis to have space for themselves and for future administrators when the couple retires. The Founders' Home has been partially funded.

#### ***How can I help?***

Dan Harrison is heading the drive to raise \$20,000 to finish the construction. Donations or RMD from your IRA can be directed to First Presbyterian Church Pittsford marked "Rehema for Kids Founders' Home."

## Habitat for Humanity House Build Update! Come Build With Us!

GRIB (Greater Rochester Interfaith Builders, the combined church coalition of which HIP is now a part) and Greater Rochester Habitat for Humanity are scheduled to break ground at 108 Ackerman Street on July 8.

Habitat will begin to schedule volunteer days in early July once the foundation work has been completed. As in the past, coalition members will be able to sign up for volunteer days online once the schedule has been established. As soon as final dates for the excavation and volunteer start-up are confirmed, we will share that information with you and a password will be given to sign on.

Please follow the Friday email news for further information and/or text Dianne Brown at 585-490-0015 to let her know you are planning to volunteer or have questions. No prior experience is needed and all tools and equipment will be provided.

We need a real effort on the part of our congregation to help out and welcome all ages (ages 16-18 must be accompanied by an adult). If you are recently retired and looking for volunteer work please consider joining us! However, beware! It can be Addictive!

## Attention Landscape Workers for the Church Grounds!

We will move to evening hours in July and August. Our dates are:

Wednesday, July 12, 7 to 8:30 pm  
(Rain date on the 13th, same time)

Wednesday, August 16, 7 to 8:30 pm (Rain date on the 17th, same time)

Please come and help out if you can! Snacks and drinks provided as always.

Debbie Gaudion 585-749-3878

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## Anthony Circle

We had a great day at Jean's cottage. In the fall we will meet on a NEW day—second Tuesday of the month: September 12 at 10am. We will clean the kitchen and go for lunch.

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## Needle Nellies

Needle Nellies is not taking a summer break! We will meet Tuesdays, July 25 and August 29, 11 am – 1:30 pm in room 204. Bring your lunch and drink, we will provide the conversation.

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## OPTIMISTS

OPTIMISTS will resume in September after a July/August vacation. Looking forward to seeing you then!

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## Kudos to the Scouts

Recently two Pittsford Scouts performed Eagle Projects for the benefit of FPC. Matthew Tallarico, of Troop 341 (sponsored by FPC), built benches for the Pittsford Nursery School. And, Jackson Price, an FPC and Troop 167 member, installed a gravel patio at the front of our church. The church appreciates the contributions of both young men and their fellow Scouts.





Presbytery of Genesee Valley

# Summer Gathering at Hurd Orchards

17260 West Ridge Rd | Holley, NY 14470

Date: 7/15/23 | Time: 11 a.m.- 1 p.m.

*For all in the Presbytery of Genesee Valley.*

\$5 per person

***The day includes:***

- A quart basket for each registrant to pick some fresh blueberries—the blueberry patch is a very short drive from the orchard shop
- A slice of pie (blueberry or cherry) and beverage in the barn
- A time of worship focused on natural bounty—at 12:30 p.m.
- A casual time of fellowship—the heart of our relationships
- The Orchard Shop featuring fruits, flowers, cookies, pies, gifts, etc.

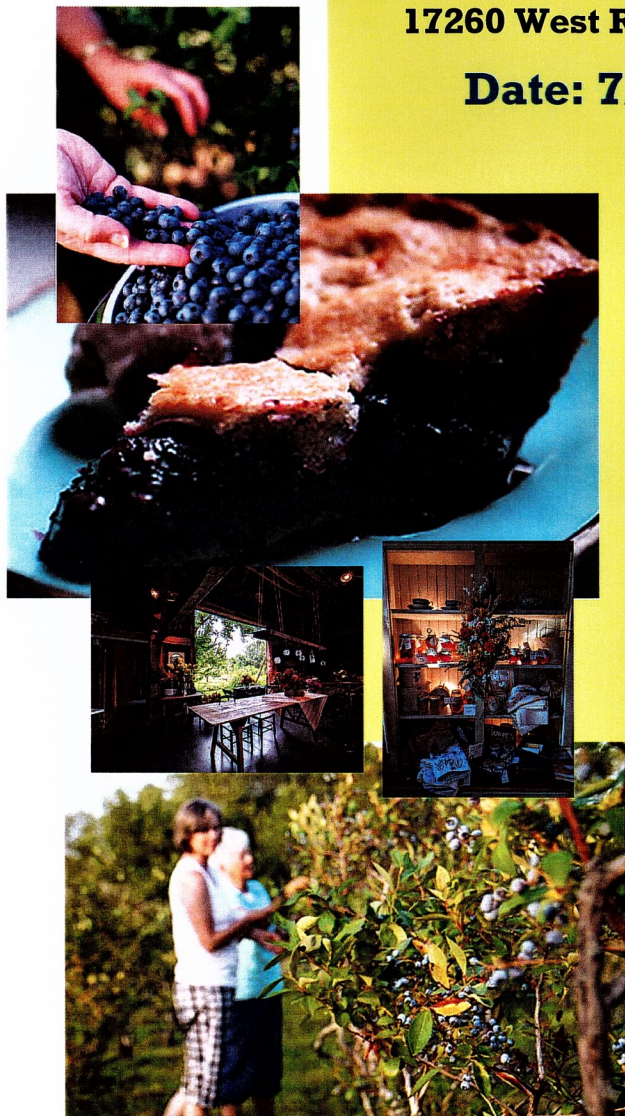
NOTE: Extra quarts of blueberries can be picked for the posted price—go out picking for more after the event concludes; there may even be some cherries and raspberries still available.

**[REGISTER HERE](#)**

**Contact: Jim Renfrew**  
**[jim.renfrew@gmail.com](mailto:jim.renfrew@gmail.com)**

[Hurd Orchards](#) hosts are Amy & Sue Machamer, members at the Holley Presbyterian Church.

This event is made possible by the efforts of the Relationships Working Group.





## What Our Graduates are Planning

**Erika Allison**, niece of Ginny Vorhis, is graduating from Pittsford Mendon High School. She will be attending Honors Carolina at UNC Chapel Hill with a major in Biomedical Engineering.

**Dylan Bachmann** is going to Oberlin Conservatory in Oberlin, Ohio, to study cello performance.



**Grace Chihoski** will be attending the University of Washington in Seattle, WA. She will be studying international relations/global studies as part of their honors program.

**Jacob Fantuzzo** graduated May 5 from Penn State with a BS in Civil Engineering.

**Gordon Henry Fagan** graduated from Pittsford Sutherland High School and will be attending the University of Vermont in the fall.



**Alexis Finkbeiner** will be graduating with a degree in general science and a business certificate from Penn State University. She plans to follow a career in medical sales.



**Allie Finkbeiner** is graduating from Sutherland High School and planning on attending Penn State University studying business.

**Annelise Henry** will be attending Miami University in Ohio in the fall and studying accounting.

**Grady McElveney** is going to USF in Tampa, Florida to study finance.

**Rachel Mitchell** is going to Ramapo College of New Jersey and has been admitted to the competitive ENHANCE autism support program. Her major is biology on the premedical track. She wants to become an orthopedic surgeon.



**Megan Nead** is heading to Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester, MA, to major in mechanical engineering.

**Ashley Stern** will be attending Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva.



**Elena Travis** received a Bachelor's degree from St. John Fisher University in Marketing.

**Zach Travis** received a Bachelor's degree from Rochester Institute of Technology in Packaging Science.



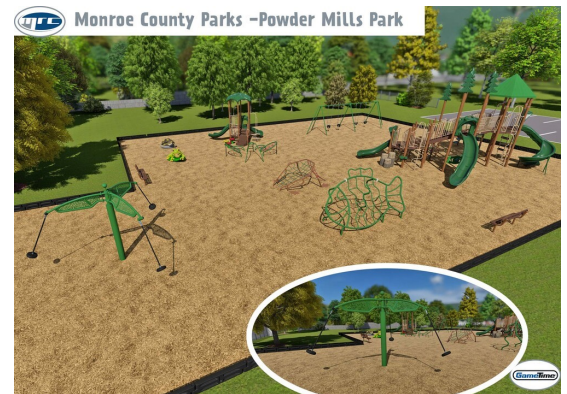
Church Picnic on June 3, 2023

# Christian Education

## Young Families in Fellowship

This summer, Christian Education has planned events out and about town for young families to meet and socialize. All these events will take place at playgrounds so kids can play and will offer simple dinners and good fellowship. These events are designed to be drop-ins when you get done with work and to free you up from having to cook dinner. We would love for you and your family to join us.

Monroe County Parks - Powder Mills Park



All events are on Wednesdays, 5:30-7:30 pm:

- July 5—Jefferson Road School playground
- July 26—Allen Creek School playground
- August 16—Powder Mills Park playground
- August 30—Thornell Road School playground

## Sunday School in the Summer

Sunday School Has moved into the summer schedule. This means it will be a one-room class for grades K-4. After leaving worship, kids will read the Bible together, talk about the story, watch a "Whirl" video and participate in an activity. The Whirl video is provided by the curriculum to offer an entry point in understanding the Bible passage at an age-appropriate level but with concrete application. Kids will be in room 5 and outside on the front lawn. They can be picked up in Fellowship hall. Grades 5-12 are in worship until September 10 when we resume regular Sunday School.

## Thank You to All Teachers!

The Christian Education Committee would like to thank all the teachers who helped make this last year of sharing Christ's love with our church's children possible. Numbers grew substantially throughout the school year and some grades had to flex as things changed. We thank teachers for being flexible during this time.

The mission of CE at First Presbyterian is first and foremost creating an environment where students feel at home, can build strong Christian relationships, and learn about God's call to people to support justice, love, forgiveness, and compassion. We thank this year's teachers for being excellent examples to our students of these Fruits of the Spirit.

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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

*Welcome our "tribe of  
Issachar"!  
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>Summer Worship Service:</b> <b>9:30 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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