



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PITTSFORD

THE GOOD NEWS

JULY/AUGUST 2022

### Embracing and Sharing Christ's Love

## CHARTING THE COURSE WITH PASTOR AARON

At the end of last year, data showed that the average workweek for all US employees is 38 hours per week. That average is up from 33 hours back in 2009. The point? The average American is working more than they used to work. If you're in the workforce, this is probably no surprise to you as you may have experienced this phenomenon in your own job. There are probably various explanations for this increase in work hours, such as the need to compensate for inflation and the increased cost of living. However, that's not the only explanation. One recent survey of over 200 high achievers showed that only 18% of them were expected to work more than 50 hours per week, and yet 49% of them reported working 50 hours or more anyway. For some reason, many people can't seem to stop themselves from overworking!

In casual conversations with one another, the question, "How are you?" often elicits the response, "I'm super busy at work," or, "I'm just trying to keep up with everything." Sometimes this is said with a hint of pride, as if busyness is a virtue. Do we really want to make busyness a virtue? Of course, busyness is sometimes necessary to earn enough money to simply make ends meet. But if we can help it, should we really add busyness to our lives? People often assume that we can get ahead in life by simply working harder and putting in more hours. I'm not sure that's true or that it's even good for us. A study conducted by the New Leaf Project Management company found that 50 hours on the job only produce about 37 hours of useful work. Are we working so much because it's making us productive or because it makes us feel virtuous to be "so busy"?

The story of creation in Genesis tells us that one of the first gifts God gave us was rest. Why is that? It seems that people tend to believe that our worth is tied up in our work. We feel we have to "do, do, do" and "work, work, work" or else... what good are we? I believe that God gave us the gift of rest in order to help combat that urge inside us. In his book *Sabbath as Resistance*, Old Testament scholar Walter Brueggemann describes the principle of sabbath in scripture as one of resisting the urge for incessant productivity. Sabbath says, "Instead of working, I will worship God." Sabbath says, "Instead of working, I will prioritize simply being with my family and friends." Sabbath says, "There are more important things in life than work." Sabbath says, "Whatever shortfall may occur to me because of not working, I will trust that God will provide."

Summertime is often a time for rest. Kids are off from school. There is time for family vacations. You might be tempted to take work with you to vacation. You might be tempted to fill up every moment of the summer with some activity in order to "keep busy." I encourage you to stop for a minute and consider your life. Do you need to work on vacation and keep so busy? Consider putting your laptop and your phone away, and focus on simply being with the people around you. We only get one life to live. Will your future self look back on these days and think, "Yes, this was the best use of my time?" I encourage you to use this summer to prioritize your most important relationships, to make time for worship and prayer, and to slow down enough to be grateful for the world around you.

~ Aaron

## Lectionary for July and August

**July 3**

**4th Sunday after Pentecost**

2 Kings 5:1–14  
Psalm 30  
Galatians 6:[1–6] 7–16  
Luke 10:1–11, 16–20

**July 10**

**5th Sunday after Pentecost**

Amos 7:7–17  
Psalm 82  
Colossians 1:1–14  
Luke 10:25–37

**July 17**

**6th Sunday after Pentecost**

Amos 8:1–12  
Psalm 52  
Colossians 1:15–28  
Luke 10:38–42

**July 24**

**7th Sunday after Pentecost**

Hosea 1:2–10  
Psalm 85  
Colossians 2:6–15 [16–19]  
Luke 11:1–13

**July 31**

**8th Sunday after Pentecost**

Hosea 11:1–11  
Psalm 107:1–9, 43  
Colossians 3:1–11  
Luke 12:13–21

**August 7**

**9th Sunday after Pentecost**

Isaiah 1:1, 10–20  
Psalm 50:1–8, 22–23  
Hebrews 11:1–3, 8–16  
Luke 12:32–40

**August 14**

**10th Sunday after Pentecost**

Isaiah 5:1–7  
Psalm 80:1–2, 8–19  
Hebrews 11:29–12:2  
Luke 12:49–56

**August 21**

**11th Sunday after Pentecost**

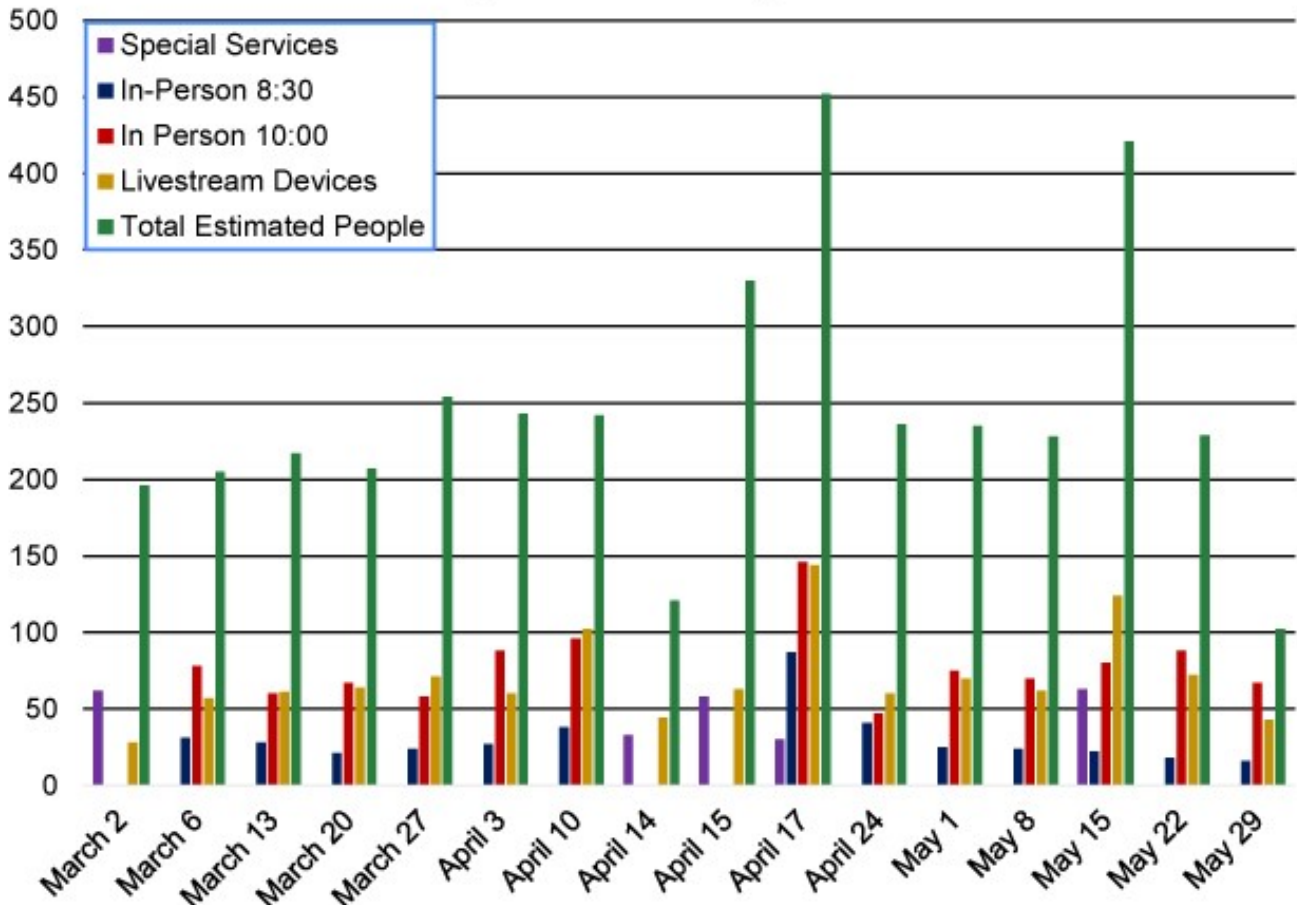
Jeremiah 1:4–10  
Psalm 71:1–6  
Hebrews 12:18–29  
Luke 13:10–17

**August 28**

**12th Sunday after Pentecost**

Jeremiah 2:4–13  
Psalm 81:1, 10–16  
Hebrews 13:1–8, 15–16  
Luke 14:1, 7–14

## March - May Worship Attendance



## Good News Jail and Prison Ministry

First Presbyterian Church has long supported the Good News Jail and Prison Ministry program administering to the local county jail systems. A portion of our support comes from Outreach's annual budget. That funding supports the locally based Chaplains. Like all the agencies we support, our annual pledging commitments are important to this program.

There are other ways that that you can personally support the efforts of the Chaplains as they work to improve the lives of the inmates for their time after incarceration.

Inspirational reading materials that you may have at home collecting dust could be of great value to the program. The materials may include Bibles, prayer books, magazines (like the *Upper Room*), periodicals, or books with inspiring stories that turned people's lives around. Stories that provide hope to a flock that has gone astray. *All books going to the prison must be soft bound.*

Perhaps you could check your book shelves and basement boxes to see what you might have to offer? Your discoveries can be left in the marked bin in the coat room off the main lobby.

There are other opportunities to change lives at the jails. We can connect volunteer opportunities with your talents!

In His name we all serve.

Your Outreach Committee

### Members with July and August Birthdays

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



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

**If we missed you, please let the office know.**



### **Amazon Smile**

If you purchase through Amazon and set up an Amazon Smile account then ½% of your purchase value will be contributed to the church by designating First Presbyterian Church

of Pittsford as your charity. There is no cost to you or expense to the church. Simply go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and designate FPC as your charity. You can even use your existing Amazon account. This is yet another way you can **Make a Difference** furthering our ministry and mission.

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### **Needle Nellies**

Needle Nellies will meet on Tuesday, June 28, 11 am–1:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Bring your lunch, drink, and smile. For more information contact Kay Saxum 585.385.9807

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### **The Penny Pincher Sale is Happening!**

Save the date, donations, and your time for the next Penny Pincher Sale! Presbyterian Women will gather for the sale October 3-7. Please come and be a part of the fun! All proceeds are for mission for women and children.

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### **Anthony Circle**

Anthony Circle will not meet until Wednesday, September 7, at 10 am in Fishers at the Fire Department for a walk.

October 2-7 - all hands on deck for the Penny Pincher Sale!

November 19-20 – Prep for the Advent brunch

December - Christmas party

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### **Eve Circle**

Eve Circle will meet for lunch on Monday, June 27, at 12:30 pm, at the home of Margaret Mecredy. Please bring an appetizer, salad, or dessert to share.

### **OPTIMISTS**

At our June meeting, we enjoyed a delicious Picnic Lunch put on by OPTIMISTS' Vice-Chairperson Barbara Smith. We all thank you so very, very much, Barbara. Traditionally, a picnic has been OPTIMISTS' June Program.

OPTIMISTS are taking their traditional July and August summer vacation. Next OPTIMISTS Meeting is Friday, September 9, at 1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Bring your bag lunch. Beverages provided.

We look forward to October 14, when we host a Canandaigua DAR presentation by Christine Antalek, Chapter Registrar and Genealogist. During the summer hiatus, write down all you know about your birth family's history, starting with your parents and working backwards. You'll be surprised at your present knowledge. Filling in the blanks comes later.

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### **Landscaping Volunteers**

A reminder to all those interested in helping out with the landscaping on the church grounds:

We will be weeding and trimming on Wednesday, July 13, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. (The rain date is the following day, July 14, same time.)

We will be weeding and trimming on Wednesday, August 24, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. (The rain date is the following day, August 25, same time.)

NOTE: These August dates are different from the original dates published in the spring newsletter.

Please bring your own gardening equipment. Snacks and water will be available. If you would like, call or text me to confirm the date in the event the weather looks a bit sketchy!

Hope to see you there,  
Debbie Gaudion 749-3878



## Cameron Community Ministries

Cameron Cooks Janette Henderson, Jackie Roblin and Angela Chihoski were greeted by Cameron's new Volunteer Manager, Robin Warren, and Executive Director, Olivia Kassoum-Abadou. Call or text Outreach member Cindy Becker at 585-703-4878 to join in the fun positivity of this mission. Just 90 minutes of your time can have a timeless impact.



## Are you grieving a loved one or know someone who is?

Come find connection and comfort as we host a 6-week bereavement program at First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford this fall.

We have partnered with Faith & Grief Ministries to offer their workshop with an evening and afternoon option:

- **Monday nights starting September 19 at 6:00 pm**
- **Thursday afternoons starting September 22 at 1:30 pm**

This is a safe place for those who are grieving. Participants will explore sacred stories related to grief, share their stories in small groups, and be introduced to spiritual practices designed to promote comfort and healing.

To learn more contact Deb Matrachisia at [debmat9267@gmail.com](mailto:debmat9267@gmail.com) or 585.752.5584



## What Our Graduates are Planning

### Lilly Fantuzzo

During high school Lilly has been a member of National Honor Society, served as Captain of her Field Hockey team, and worked as a lifeguard at Monroe Country Club and as a team member at the Perinton Wegmans. She will be attending Virginia Tech to study Engineering.



### Karen Travis

Karen Travis received her Doctor of Education in Organizational Change and Leadership in May from the University of Southern California. Karen is the daughter of Clara Travis.

### Henry Walbaum

Henry Walbaum is attending the University of Dayton, Ohio, where he is in business school.



### Piper Wilson

Piper Wilson (Pittsford Mendon) will be attending Bowdoin College in Brunswick, ME in the Fall to study Neuroscience and English Literature. Piper is currently Editor of the Mendon School Newspaper, *The Runestone*, and is also an active member of the Jazz Band, Pit Band, and Math Team. Piper was also a member of the Pittsford Varsity Gymnastics Team that won the Section V Championships. She is a youth leader at FPC and has been a competitive dancer and avid piano player. During her free time, she is a Lifeguard for the Pittsford School System and at Perinton Rec Center where she also teaches youth swim lessons. Her parents, Betsy and Keith Wilson, will miss her dearly but look forward to the next chapter at Bowdoin.



# Christian Education

## 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. The year had twists and turns, variable attendance, mask requirements, distancing rules, food restrictions, changing classroom plans and throughout all this teachers rose to the challenge.

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.

Brady Adams  
Oliver Ash  
Viktoria Berlik  
Janis Croop  
Bonnie Dunn  
Mary Kay Fantuzzo  
Sofia Fantuzzo  
Dan Harrison  
Vicki Klie  
Debbie Matrachisia  
Adam Pedersen  
Melissa Schmitt  
Sandy Seacat  
Sandy Shear  
Betsy Wilson  
Andrea Wright  
Carolyn Yaekel



## Young Families in Fellowship

Each month this summer the church kids and their families will be out at area parks eating grilled cheese sandwiches and playing on the playground. We would love for you and your family to join us. The first gathering will be on Wednesday, June 29, at the Allen Creek School playground. Future dates are July 13 at Jefferson Road School and August 10 at the Spiegel Center, always 5:30 to 7:30 pm.

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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

*I encourage you to use  
this summer to prioritize  
... and to slow down.*

*Rev. 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> (until September 4) Communion is offered on the first Sunday of each month.</p> <p> </p>
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