



The Good News

June 2020

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

<https://www.pittsfordpres.org/live>

MUSINGS FROM REV. JIM

Eastertide concludes on May 31 with the celebration of God's gift of the Holy Spirit. We call it Pentecost Sunday because it was on the Jewish festival of Pentecost that the event happened. The story is found in Acts 2 and is a dramatic telling of this mystical and spiritual outpouring of God's spirit upon the apostles with "tongues of fire" on their heads, and a mighty wind blowing in the room without the windows open. This is the conception of the church, the empowering of the apostles for witness. The event kicks off the stories in Acts of the Apostles of all the ups and downs as apostles follow the Lord's instruction and give witness to the Lordship of Jesus from Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth.

But before Pentecost can happen, something else needs to happen. It's this peculiar biblical need to fill up the ranks of the apostles back to 12 after the loss of Judas Iscariot. There was unfinished business that needed taking care of. The sad story of Judas is remembered by Peter, the lead apostle, who finds a text from the Psalms that "another take his position of overseer" (Acts 1:20b). The gang needed to be 12. They can't move ahead until there is 12. The loss of Judas must be addressed, and another added to take his place. This reminds us that some things need attention before you can move on. First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford has concluded this task, and is ready now for the Day of Pentecost.

The apostles needed 12 in their ranks for the witness to be complete. The witness to Jesus was weakened with only 11, the last apostle was needed. There is good application here that we examine the ranks of our witness to be sure we are ready for the outpouring of God's spirit. I am not sure how we do this. Perhaps at least this can be a focus of prayer, as the church moves ahead now into new territory. We can pray, "Lord, fill the ranks, make complete and ready our witness for the coming Day of Pentecost."

There were two candidates for Judas' place among the apostles and they decide who it will be by "casting lots," basically flipping a coin, or letting the Lord decide who it will be. I like this method of choosing. It eliminates contention and offers a decision without winners and losers.

There are more staffing questions that remain for FPC Pittsford, but for now you are ready for the Day of Pentecost. Welcome to Pastor Aaron Neff, FPC Pittsford's new pastor and Head of Staff on Sunday, May 31, the Day of Pentecost.

Grace and peace to you.

~ Jim

Minute for Mission

Good News Jail and Prison Ministry

Like it or not, COVID-19 has made a permanent impression on all of us to a new meaning of the term “shelter in place.” For most, making it a sane process means taking advantage of having family members with us, phones, face time, zoom video communications, cable TV, Netflix and some opportunity to stretch our legs, breath fresh air, and include visits to the store for the food for our tables.

For inmates, shelter in place means none of the above and most of the day spent in an 8’ x 10’ prison cell. It is a routine process for up to a year for those in the county jails.

First Presbyterian Church has long supported the Good News Jail and Prison Ministry program which ministers to the spiritual needs of the local county jail system. A portion of our support is funding allocated 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 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. —AN IMPORTANT NOTE: All books going to the prison must be soft bound.

As spring cleaning and rainy day opportunities free up your time, perhaps you could check your book shelves and basement boxes to see what you might have to offer the program? Once the church reopens, your discoveries can be dropped at the church in the drop off coat room behind the elevator in the main lobby (look for the bin). If you are excited to turn in materials right away, drop them off any time at Jim Weick’s home 5 blocks from the church at 11 E. Jefferson Cir. We will get your donated gifts to the prison.

If you have any questions, please contact Jim at 727-4731. There are other opportunities to change lives at the jails. We can connect volunteer opportunities with your talents to improve lives at many levels. In His name we all serve.

Your Outreach committee



Members with June Birthdays

Caitlin Amborski	Joanne Flentke	Natalie Larson
Ann Athy	Robert Glenning	Shirley Lawrence
Tristan Bachmann	Edwin Hediger	Sharon Peet
Janice Currie	David Hill	Charles Scott
Betsy Enstrom	Janet Jennison	Nancy Sprenkle
Jacob Fantuzzo	Samantha Kearney	Susie Wahl
Gemma Fernaays	Nathaniel Kim	

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

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

Minute for Mission



Drive-Thru Collection of "Care-To-Go" Kits

Collecting Hotel and Personal Size Hygiene Products for Guests of Cameron Community Ministries & St. Joseph's Neighborhood Center

First Presbyterian Church Pittsford, Locust St Parking Lot

Saturday, June 20, 9am-1pm — Rain or Shine!

Containers will be in FPC Locust St parking lot for driver or passenger to remain in vehicle and deposit items directly into container. On-site volunteers will follow safety precautions.

Most Needed Items:

Sets of (used but good condition) stainless steel silverware

Extra large pot ladles, spoons, spatulas, etc.

Kitchen knives

Boxes of Zip Plastic Bags – ONE QT SIZE

Hotel or Travel Size Hygiene Items (Suggested):

Toothbrush, Toothpaste, Shampoo/conditioner, Soap, Sanitizer, Lotion, Deodorant, Tissues

Nail clippers/Emory boards

Disposable Razors/ Shaving Cream

Hair Grooming



Design Your Own "Care-to-Go" Notes to be inserted in Kits! (Kits will be assembled at a later date.)

THANK YOU! from the Outreach Team of First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford and Christ Episcopal Church of Pittsford – for more information on donations: reachout@pittsfordpres.org

Lectionary for June

June 7

Trinity Sunday

Genesis 1:1–2:4a

Psalms 8

2 Corinthians

13:11–13

Matthew 28:16–20

June 14

2nd Sunday after

Pentecost

Genesis 18:1–15 (21:1–7)

Psalms 116:1–2, 12–19

Romans 5:1–8

Matthew 9:35–10:8 (9–23)

June 21

3rd Sunday after

Pentecost

Genesis 21:8–21

Psalms 86:1–10, 16–17

Romans 6:1b–11

Matthew 10:24–39

June 28

4th Sunday after

Pentecost

Genesis 22:1–14

Psalms 13

Romans 6:12–23

Matthew 10:40–42

Vital Congregations Initiative

During Lent the Vital Congregations Initiative team met with small groups to better understand the VCI. Brief overviews of each of the seven marks of a vital congregation have been shared during Sunday services and will now appear in newsletters, bulletins, and emails over the course of the next few weeks so that all of us in our faith community become more familiar with this transformational initiative.

Vital Congregations Mark 1: Lifelong Discipleship

Dan Harrison

Paul tells us in Acts 2 that the early Christians devoted themselves to the learning's of the Apostles. To wake up and come alive in our faith we too need to become lifelong learners. Knowledge is power, and making a personal investment in learning about all the accumulated wisdom our fore-parents recorded for us in scripture will help transform us into powerful disciples of our faith. Disciples who walk the walk and talk the talk, utilizing our knowledge to help us better love and care for our neighbors, to strive for justice in our world, and be shining examples of what Christianity is all about.

On a personal level, I did not really start to grow in my faith until I began to teach confirmation at age 35. This caused me to LEARN the lessons ahead of my students in a just-in-time fashion! I'm sure many of you can relate. That led to reading a bit of the Bible daily and then attending a weekly Bible study. That led to a calling in mission, which has brought to me enormous personal satisfaction and happiness. Becoming an active participant in my faith and a lifelong learner has helped me to grow and evolve as an individual with an attitude of gratitude.

Our Vital Congregations initiative strives to help transform our Church into a relevant contemporary community of believers with an outward looking mission. A mission that leverages our collective strengths and provides tangible examples to our community of the good works we can accomplish together. By following our outward actions, and not our words, we hope to inspire others to join in our causes and, ultimately, to also grow into Christian Disciples.

Give

“Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.” (Luke 6:38)

How vividly Luke tells us how God will be pleased with our generosity and multiply our gifts to overflowing! Even in these difficult times we can see our many blessings. We may have to “shelter in place,” which we complain about, but at least we have warm, comfortable, and safe homes to shelter in.

Our congregation has always been generous, and we are thankful that so many have kept up their giving and pledge commitments even while the building is closed and we cannot meet in the sanctuary for worship. Despite the shutdown, our costs continue and outreach needs are even greater than before. Remember that payments can be made online through our website: pittsfordpres.org.

As you know, we use money from our endowment and restricted funds to support church programs. These are a great blessing for us and important resources that have been lovingly provided through the generosity of Pittsford Presbyterians who have gone before us. Please remember this when considering your giving plans and think about leaving a legacy for the church.

The Generosity Team

Faye Casey, Charlie Francis, Paul Irving, Steve Mizelle, Bill Rieth, Rob Rhodes

Needle Nellies

The Needle Nellies will meet on June 30 at 11:00 am via Zoom. Contact Janette to join.



A Salute to Dianne!

First Presbyterian Outreach Committee salutes fellow committee member Dianne Brown for her continued support of the church's Habitat for Humanity mission work.

As Dianne soon approaches a-quarter-century commitment to the Habitat Outreach program, her dedication to all the details and devotion to the cause is an inspiration to all who have had the privilege to work with her.

In addition to coordinating our building work and fundraising efforts with the annual pie sales, Dianne has been on Habitats Board of Directors for ten years and currently serves on the "Family Partnership Council."

Thank you Dianne for all do for this important mission of God. The Outreach Committee and First Pres membership.



Dianne is about ALL the details in her commitment to Habitat!

News from the Nursery School

I am so happy for modern technology! Due to it we are all keeping close as much as possible. All our teachers have set up virtual classrooms to meet with classes daily, reading stories and having virtual classrooms. They have given the children daily routines to follow, many craft, language and projects. I am so grateful for our teachers' continued diligence in teaching and loving their students. Children are our future, they continue to learn what they need to learn and then some. We do not know what the future brings. Until that time we remain positive, strong, and resilient. Thank you so much for your continued support for all you do for PCNS.

Teresa Zatyko, Director PCNS



We Need Your Help to Help!

The Deacons, Visiting Team, and Prayer Group have been busy this month praying for folks, calling members, delivering care bags, and sending Wegmans gift cards.

WE NEED YOUR HELP, HOWEVER! Please let Carol Anne know of anyone whose day might be brightened with a call, a care bag, a Wegmans card, or placement on the prayer list. She will direct the request to the appropriate folks. Thanks!!!!
cas@pittsfordpres.org.

Youth Happenings

Hello Everyone! We here at the church know that these past few months have been hard on everyone, but especially on our youth and their families. Schedules have been completely tossed out the window, school years have been left to a minimal amount and probably feel unfinished. We would like you all to know how strong we think you all are! You have all been putting up with so much and so many new requirements these last few months that it warms our hearts to still see your smiling faces at any virtual opportunity we can! Hopefully in the coming months, the virus will have calmed down and we can start to see a little bit of our old normality again. If life has calmed down again by mid-late summer and we are allowed to start meeting again, we will have all sorts of outdoor and church events planned! We'll hopefully even have some sort of cookout/camp night here at the church! We hope to hear from you all soon!

We are excited to celebrate our graduating seniors coming up soon! Join us during our livestream service on Father's Day, June 21, where we will be celebrating them together. Below is our list of Seniors graduating this year:

Evelyn Van Arsdale

Aidan Bachmann

Anne Glenning

Calypso Kunkle

Max Murray

Tony Seacat

Emma Walbaum





Despite everything that has been going on lately, we are still planning on our normal JASY trip next July 2021! If anything changes, we will of course notify you ASAP, but until that point, everything goes ahead as per the usual. If you're interested in attending, let us know! Spots will fill up fast and we'd love to have you with us. Reach out to Tyler if you're thinking about going or if you just have any questions.

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of Pittsford
21 Church Street
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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

“Lord, fill the ranks, make complete and ready our witness for the coming Day of Pentecost.”

<p>The Rev. Aaron Neff <i>Pastor and Head of Staff</i> Ext. 25 aaron.neff@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>The Rev. Jim Widboom <i>Temporary Supply Pastor</i> Ext. 25; Thursday, Friday, Sunday JCW@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>The Rev. Carol Anne Strawbridge <i>Temporary Supply Pastor</i> Ext. 41; Monday CAS@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>The Rev. Steve Michie <i>Temporary Supply Pastor</i> Ext. 42; Wednesday, Thursday smichie.sm65@gmail.com</p> <p>Craig Kunkle <i>Director of Christian Education</i> Ext. 30 craig.kunkle@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>Tyler Logan <i>Director of Youth Ministry</i> Ext. 31; tyler@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>Dr. Mary Carlson <i>Director of Hand Bell Choir</i> mcarlson74@gmail.com</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.</p> <p>https://www.pittsfordpres.org/live</p> <p></p> <p></p>
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