



# *The Good News*

March 2021

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

## CHARTING THE COURSE WITH PASTOR AARON

I never observed Lent when I was growing up. I wasn't really even aware of Lent growing up. Being from Pennsylvania, the closest Lent ever got to my life was on "Fastnacht Day," which is a Pennsylvania Dutch tradition of using up all the butter or lard in your house in preparation of Lenten fasting. I never really understood the Lenten fasting part; I just knew that, once a year, special doughnuts appeared in grocery stores. I honestly don't know why Lent was off my radar. I was raised in the United Methodist Church, which does observe the liturgical calendar including Lent, but, for some reason, my particular congregation never observed it. I think that may be part of the reason why Lent is such a special time of the liturgical year for me now. When I finally discovered Lent, it felt like I had found a missing part of my faith that I never knew I needed.

I will never forget the first time I observed Ash Wednesday. I was 22 years old and in my final year of college. Three friends and I (just a bunch of low-church Pentecostal kids who were hungry for some liturgy) attended an evening service at Washington Memorial Chapel in Valley Forge, PA. The Chapel is an active Episcopal church housed in a historic building constructed in a beautiful Gothic style. At that point in my life, I was used to worship styles that had no apparent liturgical structure. The whole experience of receiving ashes, taking Communion, and being reminded to observe a holy Lent felt deeply meaningful. I remember specially how struck I was by the refrain, "You are dust, and to dust you will return." The feeling of that moment still lingers today.

What is a human being? Humans are made up of various organ systems, which, if we were to look at more closely, are made up of various cells, which are made up of various chemical compounds. At the molecular level, humans are primarily made up of oxygen, carbon, hydrogen, and nitrogen, which, as it turns out, is exactly what you can find in a common soil sample. "You are dust, and to dust you will return." That refrain really takes on a new meaning if you think about it that way. Are we really just dirt organized in a different, more complex way? What separates us from the dirt? I'm sure there is a scientific answer to that question, but, speaking theologically, it is the very breath of God (Gen. 2:7). You and I are animated and alive, because the very being of God flows through us. This reality is what I have come to love so dearly about Lent. Apart from God, we are just dirt, which is a reason to give thanks that God remains with us wherever we are. In life, God gives us meaning and purpose. Even in death, while a part of us remains and changes into dirt, another part of us continues to live on in connection to the very source of breath that has animated us from the beginning. You are dust, and to dust you will return... but not forever. We contemplate the reality of life and death during Lent and look forward to the hope of Easter, when, in our own future resurrection from the dead, the part of us that goes down to the dust will be made new again.

Continue to observe a holy Lent, and give thanks that God's life flows through you today.

*~ Aaron*

## Lectionary for March

### March 7

#### 3rd Sunday in Lent

Exodus 20:1–17  
Psalm 19  
1 Corinthians 1:18–25  
John 2:13–22

### March 14

#### 4th Sunday in Lent

Numbers 21:4–9  
Psalm 107:1–3, 17–22  
Ephesians 2:1–10  
John 3:14–21

### March 21

#### 5th Sunday in Lent

Jeremiah 31:31–34  
Psalm 51:1–12 or  
Psalm 119:9–16  
Hebrews 5:5–10  
John 12:20–33

### March 28

#### Palm Sunday

*Liturgy of the Palms*  
Mark 11:1–11 or John  
12:12–16  
Psalm 118:1–2, 19–29

#### *Liturgy of the Passion*

Isaiah 50:4–9a  
Psalm 31:9–16  
Philippians 2:5–11  
Mark 14:1–15:47 or  
15:1–39 (40–47)

### “Live at Lunchtime”

Did you know that I record a livestream every Thursday at 12:00 pm? I spend the time talking about theology, leading a time of prayer, or speaking with Pastor Jacobson or my friend Fr. Dan Serbicki. I try to make it interactive, so that people watching the livestream can ask questions for me to answer. The video goes straight to our church’s Facebook page ([facebook.com/pittsfordpres](https://facebook.com/pittsfordpres)). Each video usually lasts about 20 minutes, but they stay on Facebook even after I’m done streaming. I hope you’ll join me sometime soon!

Pastor Aaron

### Thanks to All

We would like to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers at the loss of our beloved daughter, Rebecca. She was a sweet caring person and will always be in our hearts.

Peggy and George Foster

## 2021 Lenten Schedule

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](http://www.pittsfordpres.org/live).

Please check our website and other communications regarding COVID-19-related program changes.

## Members with March Birthdays

Carin Ash  
Andrew Ashworth  
Walter Aydelotte  
Alexis Babcock  
Trudy Bartleson  
Libbie Botting  
Barbara Bruins  
David Bruins  
Faye Casey  
Susan Feasey

Stacy Ferris  
Hanna Fox  
Cecilia Frey  
Kimberly Gibson  
Lisa Hughes  
Ed Johnson  
Jennifer Longwell  
Donna MacKenzie  
Bob Mecredy  
Bud Miller

Adam Pedersen  
Doug Peters  
Allison Robinson  
Jackie Roblin  
Virginia Skuse  
Sandra Testa  
Philip Tinder III  
Clara Travis  
Evelyn Van Arsdale  
Emily Wilborn



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

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

Many church members have reached out in frustration about scheduling COVID-19 vaccination appointments for themselves and loved ones, and some of our members have shared tips and tricks to scheduling vaccine appointments. Below are some of the options for making appointments:

**1. The website below is the “Am I Eligible” site for New York State.**

- Pastor Erin skipped the *optional* information when creating appointments for her parents, and found that helpful (*the sooner you get through the process the more appointments you will likely have available*).
- This site also works MUCH better on a desktop computer or laptop.

**New York | Covid-19 Vaccine**

**2. This website lists all the available vaccination sites in the Finger Lakes region: Finger Lakes Region Vaccine Hub - Getting Your Vaccine**

**3. You can also call the state hotline to check on availability due to cancellations: 833-697-4829**

- Shots are given at Dome Arena in Henrietta.
- Have your insurance card ready when you call.
- The person seeking the appointment, or their caregiver (if they are unable to call on their own), should be the one to call.

**4. Check with local pharmacies:**

**Wegmans Wegmans Covid Vaccine Registration**

Locations include: Eastway, Pittsford, Chili-Paul, Mt. Read, East Avenue. For updates, call 1-800-207-6099, Monday – Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Line is active only when appointments are available. The website also works better on a laptop or desktop computer.

**Walgreens: Schedule your COVID Vaccine with Walgreens**

**CVS:** go to Schedule your COVID Vaccine with CVS and create an account **or call 800-746-7287**

**RiteAid** (some senior centers are facilitating making appointments through RiteAid, but you cannot make an appointment by calling the store)

**TOPS Pharmacies** (Locations include: Gates, Hamlin, Irondequoit, and Rochester). For updates visit Tops Markets COVID Vaccine Information or call 1-800-522-2522.

Several people have had some success at **outlying pharmacies** like Lyons, Wayland, and Dansville. As the supply becomes more plentiful, these vaccines will be easier to get. These appointments may require some luck as they fill up fast so be persistent. **Especially with the state hotline, call regularly and at different times.** The state is notified on Saturdays of their allotment for the next week or so.

If you do end up getting an appointment due to a cancellation, **the county is pleading that you cancel your original appointment, so someone else can take it.** If you do talk to a church member (or you are a church member) who is in need of a **RIDE to their vaccination**, please let Pastor Jacobson know. We have several church members who would be willing to help in this way.

A friendly reminder that **even once you are vaccinated, that it is important to continue wearing a mask in public, and social distancing when possible.** Neither vaccine is at its peak effectiveness until two weeks after the SECOND dose, and those who have been vaccinated may still shed virus to those who have not been vaccinated (possibly infecting them).

**Why You Should Still Wear A Mask And Avoid Crowds After Getting The COVID-19 Vaccine**  
**Can You Spread COVID-19 After Getting the Vaccine? Experts Say the Answer Isn't Simple**

If you have a family member in another state, and are trying to assist them with their vaccine scheduling, the links below are helpful for nationwide information: **NBC News “Plan Your Vaccine”**

**How Do I Get A COVID-19 Vaccine Appointment? : Shots - Health News**



View the *Good News* on our website for active links.

## Connecting through Live Streaming

Despite the COVID situation, we have been able to worship together on Sunday mornings through live-streaming of our service. An average of 294 households have been tuning in to our services through live streaming. (This is better than our previous attendance!) Our fellow congregants reach the service through our website or directly through YouTube on their smart TVs or computers. More people are connecting later during the week both through YouTube and through a posting on our Facebook page, thanks to the efforts of Pastor Erin.

Josh Burke was hired part-time in September to assist with the technical parts of the livestreaming program. The Livestreaming task force is happy to announce that he has been added as a permanent part of our staff. He brings a lot of experience in the technical aspects of electronic communication and has enhanced our experience through new visuals and banners. We are blessed to have him pick up the reins that were so capably handled by Craig Kunkle and Tyler Logan during the first few months of the COVID lockdown.

New lighting is currently being installed to improve picture quality when the sun shines into the sanctuary. There are also new cameras, providing a different vantage of activities in the front of the sanctuary. The pastors will have new microphones replacing our over 20-year-old models, which are no longer supported. The sanctuary microphones have been “tuned” with some being moved and others added to further complement our verbal and musical presentations. The new sound booth is completed and seamlessly blends in with our historic décor. All in all, a lot of improvements have been added to enhance our current experience and which will continue to benefit the entire congregation after we return to in-person worship.

Thanks to the Livestreaming Taskforce: Jared Chase, Josh Burke, Bob Klie, David Irwin, Craig Kunkle, Tyler Logan, and Harold McAulliffe, with support from Pastors Aaron and Erin, our treasurer Rob Rhodes, and Anne Francis from the Strategic Communications Committee. Additional thanks to those persons who constructed the Sound Booth, led by Bob Collins with assistance from Randy Hunter.

Join us each week for our worship service through our website [www.pittsfordpres.org](http://www.pittsfordpres.org) by clicking on “Watch live” or connect directly on YouTube through your Smart TV at [pittsfordpres.org](http://pittsfordpres.org). If you experience any difficulties connecting, don’t panic. You just need to take a deep breath and try again (reboot). If you need additional assistance with enjoying the livestreamed service, check out “How to Connect” on the website or send an email to [connect@pittsfordpres.org](mailto:connect@pittsfordpres.org).

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## Outreach = Love + Fun

Join our at-home cooking team of volunteers in providing delicious nourishment to guests of the Cameron Community Ministries “Warm Meals To-Go” program in downtown Rochester. We provide the entree theme (pasta, chicken casserole, chili, etc), recyclable pans or bags, and pick up your prepared food from your home. You buy the ingredients and create your dish. Participate once per month, once per year, or anything in between.

For dates and details: [cindyleebecker74@gmail.com](mailto:cindyleebecker74@gmail.com) call/text 585-703-4878

“Serving Up Love and Smiles!”





### News from the Nursery School

The month of March brings Spring, but winter seems to have just arrived! The teachers have put wish lists on their class Facebook pages, we have very generous parents! The teachers will have parent teacher phone conferences with the parents of their 3's. With St. Patrick's Day we can study colors, rainbows and the spectrum. March is National Literacy Month; we will focus even more so on the literature in our classrooms. We will focus on specific authors and artists. We will have an Egg Hunt in each of our classrooms, with this we will also discuss the beginnings of Spring. At the end of the month, we will begin our Spring Break. All our activities involve skills the children need to learn, at the same time they are loving the time they are here! ☺ Thank you for your continued support!

Teresa Zatyko, Director Pittsford Nursery School

### Deacon Events

- Game Night - Friday, March 12, at 7pm - Join us on Game Board Arena.com to play family friendly games. You must set up an account and email [dtraina@rochester.rr.com](mailto:dtraina@rochester.rr.com) to get an invitation to join our group.
- Hiking - Saturday, March 13, at 10am - Meet at church Locust St. parking lot - Moderate 2 mile hike. Location will depend on the weather.
- Cooking Club - Sunday, March 14, at 6:00pm - Pi Day will be celebrated with homemade Pizza Pies. Join us for a zoom fellowship event. We prepare our individual pizzas, top them with your favorite ingredients, and then enjoy dining "together". Email [dtraina@rochester.rr.com](mailto:dtraina@rochester.rr.com) to get recipes or call Dan at 208-6839 for more information.

### Anthony Circle

During March we will be assembling, wrapping, and delivering Easter gifts to FPC 's ARC and Heritage House friends. All help will be greatly appreciated. Colleen S. has shopped, Janette H. and Judy M. have offered help.



### Easter Lilies

When purchasing a lily you have the opportunity to honor or remember friends and family. The lilies will be displayed on Easter Sunday and a listing of all those honored and remembered will be available at the service or by mail per request. Any extra money collected will be donated to support the Presbyterian Women's mission outreach.

✂ .....

EASTER LILIES- for Presbyterian Women's Mission Outreach Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Cash

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In loving memory of \_\_\_\_\_

With thanks to \_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_ Purchased by \_\_\_\_\_



\$8.00 each

Checks should be made payable to First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford.

Lilies will be sold until March 28. Please mail the form: ATTN. Easter Dedication, First Presbyterian Church, 21 Church St., Pittsford, NY 14534



First Presbyterian Church Pittsford

# Youth Group

March 21st and 28th

7:00pm\*

\*on Zoom or Zoom & In-Person depending on local COVID rates



Zoom link and updates will be emailed to YouthGroup@pittsfordpres.org

Not on the email group list?

Email Pastor Erin at

erin.jacobson@pittsfordpres.org

or text 585.204.2012



**EVEN APART, WE CAN STILL FIND WAYS TO BE TOGETHER**

## Prison Ministry

Thank you to those who have donated books and periodicals over the fall and winter months for the Good News Jail and Prison Ministry program. More than ever, this is an important time for this effort by our members.

We continue this year-round collection of reading materials that you may have at home collecting dust. 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 could be the turning point in an inmate's life. ---AN IMPORTANT NOTE--  
- All books going to the prison must be soft bound.

As winter's grip continues into spring's inevitable arrival, 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 coat room behind the elevator in the main lobby (look for the bin). You can also schedule a drop by calling the office. We will get your donated gifts to the prison.

## Camp Whitman

Look out your window then close your eyes. Picture that same view now with the thoughts of summer. Better, huh? With this thought in mind, Camp Whitman has announced their 2021 programs to allow you to plan your upcoming summer.

With adjustments to accommodate COVID precautions, the camp is going forward with planning summer 2021. There will be four weeks of summer camping with the following themes:

Session 1 (July 4-9): Amazing Creation

Session 2 (July 11-16): All Things Great and Small

Session 3 (July 18-23): Food Glorious Food

Session 4 (July 25-30): Light in the Darkness

Family programs return again this summer with opportunities throughout Memorial Day to late June and again from August to early October. Families can rent a cabin and enjoy all the amenities of the campground.

Camp Whitman also offers memberships at varying levels that include events at the camp while supporting its long term plans.

To learn more about the Camp's programs be sure to visit their web site at [www.campwhitman.org](http://www.campwhitman.org). You may want to hurry for best selections. Registrations have just started.

Camp Whitman is one of the agencies supported, in part, by First Pres Outreach as a result of pledging by the members of our church. Thank you!

The church office can assist you if you should have any further questions.

If you have any questions, please call the office for assistance. There are other opportunities to change lives at the jails once COVID restrictions are lifted. We can connect volunteer opportunities with your talents to improve lives at many levels.

In His name we all serve.

Your Outreach Committee



# Christian Education

This year's Sunday school has been conducted differently. Starting last March, children Pre-K to 5th grade have received videos for their Sunday school lessons. These videos have been emailed out on a weekly basis. In each email there's two videos, one for the younger group and one for the older group. Each video contains scripture, a story from Whirl curriculum (highlighting modern-day retelling of scripture), some age-appropriate theological discussion, sometimes a craft suggestion, and usually music the kids can sing along with. The email also contains the Sunday morning bulletin, and a coloring page which follows the theme of the Sunday School lesson.

During advent this age group of families received packets containing four weeks of packaged crafts. During the Sunday School videos the Wright family and Sue Oliver showed how to put the crafts together.

This Lent, families received a weekly devotional packet containing a couple of smaller activities for the youngest age group.

## Holy Week and Easter

For Holy Week and Easter this year, young families can expect to receive a dozen plastic eggs. Each egg contains something different, to be opened one-a-day, the week before Easter and then several on Easter. Each day you can do a mini egg hunt, then after it is found and opened you can display it to use as a devotional. Or play a daily game where everyone takes a turn to hide that day's egg.



## Lenten Devotionals Available



This Lenten season we have available electronic and paper devotions from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. The devotions 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 devotions with both scripture and reflection included. A pdf version with all the days at once can be found at [https://www.pts.edu/devotional\\_1](https://www.pts.edu/devotional_1)

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

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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

*Apart from God, we are just  
dirt, which is a reason to  
give thanks that God re-  
mains with us wherever we  
are.*

<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 &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>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>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>Worship Service:</b> <b>10:00 am live-streamed</b> Online Communion is offered on the first Sunday of each month. <b><a href="https://www.pittsfordpres.org/live">https://www.pittsfordpres.org/live</a></b></p> <p></p> <p></p>
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