



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PITTSFORD

THE GOOD NEWS

March 2024

### Embracing and Sharing Christ's Love

## CHARTING THE COURSE WITH PASTOR AARON

In my annual report article, I reminded the members of our congregation of the four strategic objectives that came out of our Faith Forward initiative, which are:

- **Everyday Faith** - to reimagine discipleship to become highly personal, relational, and biblical.
- **Groups and Gatherings** - to provide safe places, times, and gatherings for people to connect on the journey.
- **Pittsford Connects** - to reimagine our campus to become a safe place that meets our neighbors' "first" needs (physical, social, and emotional).
- **Re-align to our True North** - to reduce the amount of organizational bloat while refining structures to support what matters the most.

So what do these objectives mean for us? Right now, these objectives are just hopes and aspirations. In other words, it is business as usual until changes are actually implemented to move us toward achieving these objectives. Who will be implementing any changes and when will they happen? The Session is the council responsible for leading the congregation, and they have only just begun to discuss which of the four objectives to focus on first and what actions to take to move the objective forward. I assure you that the Session will continue to keep you informed along the way.

With Easter right around the corner, I cannot help but think about our story in connection to the Resurrection story. Indeed, we are people of the Resurrection. As Christians, each day is about surrendering to God parts of our lives that need to die and allowing the Holy Spirit to make us like Christ. Our church, as a collection of all of us individually, is on the same journey. Resurrection can be disorienting and even frightening. Not only does a death precede it, but, as the story of Christ's own resurrection tells us, the act of resurrection can be scary. When Jesus rose from the dead, there was an earthquake, bright lights, and loud noises! It's no wonder the angel said to the disciples who were at the empty tomb, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said" (Matthew 28:5-6). As we continue on this Faith Forward journey together, there may be times when we feel a little confused and afraid. May we remember to keep seeking the risen Christ and discover that, as the angel told the disciples, there is no reason to be afraid.

~ Aaron

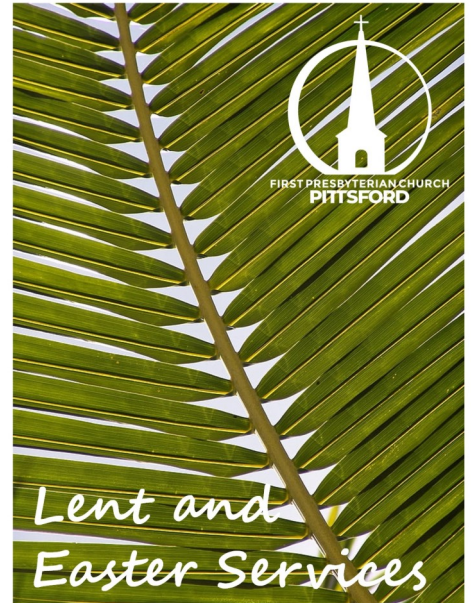


# Lent and Easter Services

Wednesday, Feb. 14	7:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Service *
Sunday, March 24	8:30 am	Palm Sunday Service
	10:00 am	Palm Sunday Service * with Choral Cantata
Thursday, March 28	7:00 pm	Maundy Thursday Service *
Friday, March 29	7:00 pm	Good Friday Service *
Sunday, March 31	7:00 am	Easter Sunrise Service (Port of Pittsford)
	8:30 am	Easter Sunday Service
	10:30 am	Easter Sunday Service *

\* = livestreamed

First Presbyterian Church Pittsford—21 Church Street—pittsfordpres.org



## Lectionary for March

### March 3 3rd Sunday in Lent

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

### March 10 4th Sunday in Lent

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

### March 17 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 24 Palm/Passion Sunday

*Liturgy of the Palms*     *Liturgy of the Passion*  
Mark 11:1–11 or John     Isaiah 50:4–9a  
12:12–16     Psalm 31:9–16  
Psalm 118:1–2, 19–29     Philippians 2:5–11  
Mark 14:1–15:47 or Mark  
15:1–39 (40–47)

### March 28 Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1–4 (5–10) 11–  
14  
Psalm 116:1–2, 12–19  
1 Corinthians 11:23–26  
John 13:1–17, 31b–35

### March 29 Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13–53:12  
Psalm 22:1–31  
Hebrews 10:16–25 or He-  
brews 4:14–16, 5:7–9  
John 18:1–19:42

### March 31 Resurrection of the Lord/Easter

Acts 10:34–43 or Isaiah 25:6–9  
Psalm 118:1–2, 14–24  
1 Corinthians 15:1–11 or Acts 10:34–43  
John 20:1–18 or Mark 16:1–8



## Members with March Birthdays

Carin Ash  
Andrew Ashworth  
Walter Aydelotte  
Alexis Babcock  
Trudy Bartleson  
Brian Belcher  
Barbara Bruins  
David Bruins  
Faye Casey  
Joseph Fantuzzo  
Mary Kay Fantuzzo  
Sofia Fantuzzo

Stacy Ferris  
Hanna Fox  
Kimberly Gibson  
Helen Harper  
Jim Hotaling  
Lisa Hughes  
Ed Johnson  
Cecilia Jones  
Jennifer Longwell  
Donna MacKenzie  
Bob Mecredy  
Bud Miller

Hunter Nead  
Matthew Nead  
Adam Pedersen  
Doug Peters  
Allison Robinson  
Jackie Roblin  
Sandra Testa  
Philip Tinder III  
Clara Travis  
Evelyn Van Arsdale  
Emily Wilborn  
Melissa Wood

*May all of your birthday wishes come true!*

If we missed you, please let the office know.

## Deacon Fellowship Event - Cooking Club

Sunday, March 17, at 5 pm in Fellowship Hall. Celebrate St. Patrick's Day by preparing and enjoying Irish-themed meals. We will be making a traditional Irish breakfast, American corned beef and cabbage, Irish stew, soda bread, and an apple tart. Cost is \$8.00. Contact Dan Traina at [dtraina@rochester.rr.com](mailto:dtraina@rochester.rr.com) to sign up. Afterwards, our small group will be meeting and you are welcome to stay.

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## News from the Nursery School

March brings longer days, spring, and continued fun! We have a visit from The Story Lady, Marabeth Nally, planned and our special events committee is hosting our annual Family Movie Night in Fellowship Hall on Friday, March 1. Who doesn't love pjs, a good movie, and some popcorn? This month, we will also finish our parent teacher conferences with our 3s families, enjoy literacy month, St. Patrick's Day, and a spring egg hunt. Thank you for your continued support!

Kathy Woodruff, Director Pittsford Nursery School

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## Volunteers Needed

The Memorial Garden Committee is looking for new members to join us this spring! We will have a meeting at the end of March (to be scheduled). If you have any questions or need any information in the meantime, please contact Debbie Gaudion at [debbieanne0204@gmail.com](mailto:debbieanne0204@gmail.com).

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## Faith and Grief - Save the Dates!

Our next session of Faith and Grief Workshops will begin Monday, April 29, at 6 pm and Friday, May 3, at 12 pm. For more information, please contact Debbie Matrachisia at [debmat9267@gmail.com](mailto:debmat9267@gmail.com) or 585-752-5584.

## Did you Know?

Required distributions from a taxable retirement account made payable to the church are excluded from your taxable income. See your tax advisor about the Qualified Charitable Distribution benefit to you and to the church.

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## Save the Date for Our Picnic

Please save the date for our First Pres Spring Picnic in the Park, Mendon Ponds Park that is. It's on Saturday, June 8, starting at 3 pm at the Hopkins Point Lodge. This fellowship event is for our whole church family and friends and is being hosted by your Deacons. There will be lawn and board games in the afternoon. The potluck dinner will start at 6 pm. We will offer music after dinner and conclude with a marshmallow roast around 8 pm. Please bring a dish to pass and your beverages of choice. We also recommend that you bring lawn chairs for the evening festivities. Please feel free to join us for the entire event or just a segment.

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## Needle Nellies

Needle Nellies meet Tuesday, March 26, from 11 am-1:30 pm. Can't wait to see y'all!

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## Easter Lily Dedications

As in years past, we will offer the opportunity to honor, remember, or thank someone you love with a dedication and donation toward the purchase of Easter Lilies for First Presbyterian. A booklet of the dedications will become available just before Easter. For a donation of \$10 each, dedication forms can be filled out after both church services on March 10, 17, and 24. Dedications and donations may also be made online. Donations beyond the purchase price of the lilies will go toward Presbyterian Women's mission projects. The lilies themselves will be available to take home following the 10:30 am service on Easter, March 31 on a first come basis.



## A Legacy of Love

We love our church! We also realize that we would not be blessed with what the church has today without those who came before us and gave the church their generous financial gifts. Those gifts came for all of us to enjoy in the form of donations not only while they were attending church, but in legacy ways after they died.

We feel that our church and all those who assist in providing services and programs for so many are extremely important, now and in the future. As you learn more about supporting our endowment fund, rest assured that our church's mission and vision will thrive for years to come. The Legacy Committee of the Generosity Team will be sharing ideas with you in the upcoming weeks and months. Contributing to the endowment fund is a way to be a sound financial steward of God's gifts, because in so doing, you give a portion of what you have back to God.

In God's love, The Legacy Committee

David Ferris, Chair, Heze Simmons, Jeff Tyler, Susie Wahl, Betsy Wilson

Visit Legacy Giving on our Church's Website: <https://www.pittsfordpres.org/legacy-giving>



## Help Save our Workforce Development Programs!



**Cameron Community has not received its awarded ARPA money for the past four months due to the mismanagement of funds by Community Resource Collaborative, the independent fiduciary for the grant. Our Cameron Cuts Barber Apprenticeship Program is just one of the Workforce Development programs at risk of closing!**

*"This program means the world to me and the simple fact that I can learn a life skill and give back to the community at the same time is something special and very beneficial. I will become a barber and own a shop some day because of this program. Cameron is amazing with the helping in food, clothing and the workers. I have nothing but love and nice things to say about this organization. This place is a vital entity to the community and without this place the quality of life here would struggle and not be as good as it is now. I'm grateful to be a part of it and to have the chance to learn and give back someday. Thank You!"*

—D.S. (Cameron Apprentice)

**Please make a donation today through PayPal on our website!**

If you prefer to donate by check, please make it payable to First Presbyterian Church Pittsford and write "Cameron Workforce Development" in the memo line. Thank you.

## In-Step Children's Home — Trip Report January 2024



A team of 13 volunteers went to the In-Step Children's Home in Kitale, Kenya, from January 5–21, 2024. Our church and Outreach Committee sponsored and led the trip. We had an eight-person dental team led by Dr. Cindy & Gary Groves (Booneville) and Dr. Cathy Harrison (Fairport). We also had three dental assistants, Laura & Noelle Woodruff (United Methodist Church of Livonia) and Sue Wester (Livonia Community Church). Our own Ginny Vorhis was the lab tech responsible for sterilizing equipment and Kathy Van Buskirk (Conesus UCC) was our office manager. We had

never taken three dentists before but now that we have a portable low-speed hand-held dental unit, we are able to accomplish more dentistry. For the first time, all 186 children aged five and up got dental exams, full teeth cleanings, and fluoride treatments. We also performed over 60 dental procedures (fillings, extractions, etc.). We even had time to do procedures on the staff that work at In-Step.

The remainder of the team were teachers, coaches, and photographer. Dan Harrison taught classes on how to make miniature race cars using popsicle sticks, batteries, rubber bands, tires, electric motors and glue stick guns. The children learned to solder, design, decorate, and build their own cars. Then we had a race at the end of our stay where prizes were awarded. A great event to see which children have a spark for engineering. Dean & Tammie Myslecevek (Spencerport Wesleyan) are recently retired teachers from Gates Chili HS and Roberts College. They taught numerous classes in science, math, and environmental studies. They also taught the teachers how to be more effective instructors, especially at the high school level. Flinn Hackett (St. Louis Catholic) was our photographer. He took school portraits of all 200+ children. We were able to print two copies of each photo and use the first to create medical/dental files. The second copy went to the social workers for their files (the existing pictures were five years old). He also took many "action" photos that Rehema for Kids (The US Funding arm) will use for marketing and sponsoring a child campaigns. I had the pleasure of teaching soccer and netball clinics.



The highlight of our day is spending time with the children during their devotions. Each morning and evening they sing songs, recite Bible verses, and give testimonials. Jeff and Carla Piccici, the founders, are raising a great group of children to be the next generation of moral, ethical leaders in Kenya. The next few building projects include completing a three-bay workshop to have students that are not ready for high school or university to attend trade school in auto repair, welding, and carpentry.

Dan Traina

# MESSY GAME NIGHT FOR YOUTH

## SUNDAY, MARCH 10 6PM-8PM

Parking 🚗 & entrance 🚪 on Locust St.

Pizza 🍕, drinks 🥤 & snacks provided ✅

Please wear clothes 👕 that can get silly string, shaving cream, paint, etc. on them!

Please bring a towel and/or change of clothes.

There is no fee to attend; please RSVP by March 9 to Rev. Erin Schubmehl Jacobson  
[erin.jacobson@pittsfordpres.org](mailto:erin.jacobson@pittsfordpres.org)  
 or 585-204-2012




# TEACH & TEA

Members of the Youth Group will answer your tech / phone / internet questions with two opportunities to attend!

Join us at CLOVERWOOD on March 16th at 3pm  
 OR at FPC on March 24th at 11:30am

Contact Pastor Jacobson with questions or to RSVP for either option




You are invited to the

## Faith & Grief<sup>SM</sup> Workshop

Choose Your Workshop

Mondays, April 29th - June 10th  
at 6 pm ET


Fridays, May 3rd - June 14th  
at Noon ET

Explore the nature of grief, share your story and explore spiritual practices designed to provide comfort as you grieve.


RSVP  
[faithandgrief.org/events/pittsfordmondays/](http://faithandgrief.org/events/pittsfordmondays/)  
[faithandgrief.org/events/pittsfordfridays/](http://faithandgrief.org/events/pittsfordfridays/)  
 or call at 469-616-1795




Mondays at 6 PM  
Starting April 29th



Fridays at Noon ET  
Starting May 3rd





# Christian Education

## March 31—Easter Sunday

On Easter Sunday, March 31, families worship together in the service. There will be no Sunday School.

### Men in Shorts



On Sunday, March 3, men from the morning prayer group will be wearing shorts and their “I love my church” T-shirts. We invite any other members to join us. We do this every year because “our church is so warm we can wear shorts in the winter.” Help us celebrate the warm personalities around us.

This tradition was started by the “Men’s Prayer Group” which meets on the first Sunday of the month in Mendon Ponds Park, even in the cold.

### “Around the Table” Discussion Cards

This Spring, these “Around the Table” discussion starters are available to our families. When you come on Sunday, be sure to pick one up or stop by the office during the week. If you need one mailed to you please call the office and let us know.

The cards have faithful conversation starters available for families to use when all together. They help families to talk theologically and reflect on the Christian Lifestyle.



### Adult Education Opportunities

Monday Night Bible Study  
7 pm Zoom

Tuesday Highlands Bible Study  
12:50 pm Highlands Activity Room

Wednesday Bible Study  
7:15 pm hybrid

Thursday Women’s Bible Study  
noon library

## Sunday School Schedule



March 3

Theme: The Lord’s Supper

Activity: Memory Game, Computers—Walk to Emmaus



March 10

Jesus Washes the Disciples’ Feet

Games, Hopscotch



March 17

Peter’s Denial

Church Posters



March 24

Palm Sunday/ Easter

VeggieTales Movie: T’was the Night before Easter


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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

*... there is no reason to be afraid.*

*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>Worship Service:</b></p> <p><b>8:30 am in-person</b> <b>10:00 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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