



The Good News

May 2017

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

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN-CELL

Lectionary for May

May 7—4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:42-47
Psalm 23
1 Peter 2:19-25
John 10:1-10

May 14—5th Sunday of Easter

Acts 7:55-60
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
1 Peter 2:2-10
John 14:1-14

May 21—6th Sunday of Easter

Acts 17:22-31
Psalm 66:8-20
1 Peter 3:13-22
John 14:15-21

May 25—Ascension of the Lord

Acts 1:1-11
Psalm 47 or Psalm 93
Ephesians 1:15-23
Luke 24:44-53

May 28—7th Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:6-14
Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35
1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11
John 17:1-11

May is "review for packing month." Yes, the summer is out ahead of us, but May is a time to assess wardrobes, begin to make arrangements for summer vacations, get in better shape if we plan to hike the Adirondacks or venture onto a beach in our swimwear. Sure, the month of May has Mothers' Day, college commencements, and Memorial Day, but this year Pentecost is in June and May is more of a time to get things "ready."

Dennis Miller says that May is a time to make vacation flight plans and he adds, "My fear of flying starts as soon as I buckle myself in and then the guy up front mumbles a few unintelligible words, then before I know it I'm thrust into the back of my seat by acceleration that seems way too fast and the rest of the trip is an endless nightmare of turbulence, of near misses. And then the cabbie drops me off at the airport. "

Travel Plan



I offer these insights: ❶ If you are seated on a plane next to a crying baby, it is not permissible to request a different seat if the baby is yours. ❷ If you phone the café to make reservations for 7pm, do not be surprised if the hostess says, "I'm sorry, all we have is 6:45 – but you may have to wait 15 minutes or so for your table." ❸ If you are trying to decide about a summer trip to Salt Lake City or Denver, you might want to choose Salt Lake. As is common, the Airfare to Denver hovers around \$300 and you will find a special summer rate for \$99 to Salt Lake that includes a stopover in Denver.

I tend to see May as a summer travel plan month, but the church is homing on it as a "Post-Easter" month. This year we'll be into our "Partial Truth" series, but most of the church will spend the weeks looking at the resurrection appearances of Jesus as a count-down to Pentecost. This became someone apparent when last night (Yes, I did write this in April), I watched the *Finding Jesus: Faith, Fact, or Forgery* series on CNN. It was about the Apostle Thomas, who has an amazing resurrection encounter with Jesus in John 14. Instead of resurrection appearances we'll be looking at things like:

- ✚ God won't give you more than you can handle
- ✚ God said it, I believe it, and that settles it
- ✚ Everything happens for a reason
- ✚ God helps those who help themselves
- ✚ Love the sinner, hate the sin
- ✚ Cleanliness is next to godliness

They are phrases that are not found in scripture, but have some connection to the Bible – pious platitudes that are half-true.

But what about our travel plans? Think about your past travel? Ever been stuck between two 300-pound linebackers who chugged Jack Daniel's mini-bottles, lined them up on their tray tables and then played with them as though they were toy action figures. Maybe your story involves someone who hurled their breakfast on you, or a delay in the weather, or a return flight that was delayed, and delayed, and delayed (our story of returning to the US from our Kenya Mission trip last summer).

Have you noticed how magazines and websites have shifted the pitch of their stories away from "How to make travel fun" to "How to mitigate the unpleasantness"?

Now we hear about surviving TSA pat-downs, long lines (sort of cattle-chutes for human beings at security) and tweets like "#ihatethewait." Do your homework. On-time performance peaks just after sunrise. Boarding passes are now on smartphones. Is yours charged? Boarding is based on the price you paid for your seat. If you bought yours through "Cheapo-ticketo" you will board last.

Yes, Christian churches will look at resurrection appearances in May, but the church might not realize that those Bible passages will include travel plans, too. The church will read passages like John 14 where Jesus says, "Let not your heart be troubled" (KJV). Jesus is saying, "Look, fellas, I'm going away. Here's what you need to know—because someday you will be taking this trip, too." Then he talks about their trip. Jesus is sort of like the tour leader who has arranged everything, and is going on ahead to ensure that reservations are up to snuff before arrival. I think that in John 14, Jesus covers things like a good travel company:

- oThe destination (Where are we going?)
- oThe travel agent (Who is making arrangements?)
- oThe accommodations (What are the rooms like?)
- oDirections (How do we get there?)
- oThe welcome party (Who's going to meet us when we get there?)

If we were to think about this *seriatim* and consider the destination we'd be thinking how Jesus told us and scripture something about this and he explained it *seriatim*.

- ✦The Destination (My Father's House)
- ✦The travel agent (Jesus)
- ✦The Accommodations (Jesus is preparing a room for you)
- ✦Directions (Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life)
- ✦Welcome Party (Saint Peter? -well this one we don't know – except that Jesus and The Father will be there)

At the fancy places—the five-star hotels—we get a basket of fruit, perhaps a handwritten note from the GM, a mint on the pillow, turn-down service, an iron and ironing board, coffee maker, free Wi-Fi, a desk, comfortable upholstered chairs, king-size bed, subdued lighting, heated toilet seats, and scented oils. But, if you're stopping at the No-Tell Motel somewhere along after an exit from Interstate 40, the rooms might not be quite as prepared. You may need a six-pack of Bounty paper towels and a couple spray bottles of Lysol.

Our eternal accommodations will be "prepared" by the best. That little pulsating blue dot on your metaphorical GPS screen of life? It's a pulsating cross. This is our guidance and reference point: the cross of Christ.

- ✦Because of the cross, we will someday have a crown.
- ✦Because of the cross, we will someday enter the kingdom.
- ✦Because of the cross, we can know Christ, whom to know aright is life eternal.

So, no need for troubled hearts. No need to worry about travel plans.

It's covered.

Bruce

The Trustees, Faculty and Graduating Class
of
COLGATE ROCHESTER CROZER
DIVINITY SCHOOL

announce

THE COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

Saturday morning, the thirteenth of May

Two thousand and seventeen

at ten o'clock

Asbury First United Methodist Church

1050 East Avenue

Rochester, New York



Commencement Speaker

The Reverend John F. Floberg

Rector of the Standing Rock Episcopal Congregation of

St. James', St. Luke's and Church of the Cross

Giving Alternatives

Stock: If you choose to contribute stock as an offering or pledge payment, please advise our Financial Administrator in advance, as brokerage firms do not identify the donor to us.

Online Giving: Over 50 families have chosen to make contributions, Special Offerings, and other gifts via our online giving program. They enjoy the convenience and flexibility of donating from checking or savings; or with credit card (3% fee to the church). Click on the "Giving" link on our website or contact the church office for more information.

Cameron Update

In early May, we will make our first delivery of spring/summer clothing to Cameron's Clothing House. They would love to have your clean clothing items that are in good condition. As always, socks and underwear are much appreciated - used or new, any size or type for any age or gender. Hygiene items are always needed also. Bins are in the Lobby Room. Please have your donations in manageable bags or boxes. Thanks, Liz, 223-3052, for questions

I remain grateful to God and God's children in this faith community for the opportunity to have earned my Doctorate of Ministry. You are invited to the celebration! Blessings, Carrie

Deacon Events

- Cooking Club - Sunday, April 23 at 5pm in Fellowship Hall - Cost \$7 - Jamaican Themed meals will be prepared.
- HAMILTON - Do you want to see the Broadway Musical? Sorry. Tickets are too expensive, but we have the next best thing!
Saturday, April 29 at 7pm - Rochester School of the Arts will perform "In The Heights". Lin Manual Miranda's first musical tells the story of a Bodega (grocery store) in the Washington Heights neighborhood he grew up in. Groundbreaking Hip Hop, Rap and traditional songs. Cost is \$10. Please call Dan Traina at 208-6839 for tickets.
- Garden Club- Monday, May 15 at 10am - Trip to Lilac Festival - meet at church to car pool together
- Golf Outing - either Monday, June 5 or June 12 at 5pm - See Ed Oliver to sign up
- Baseball Game - Thursday, June 8 at 7pm- Cost \$10 - Tickets on sale at fellowship hall after service.
- Dad's and Grads Strawberry Social - Sunday June 18 after both Services

Tea for One, Together: Luncheon for Widows
SAVE THE DATE!

Invitations will be mailed out mid-May

June 3, 2017, 1:00-3:00 pm

Contact Debbie Matrachisia for more information at
[585-752-5584](tel:585-752-5584) or debmatt@rochester.rr.com



Upcoming Youth Events - The Youth have had a strong year so far! Lets keep it going!

April 14-15: Confirmation Lock In 8:30pm-9:00am

April 17-21: Flower City Work Camp

April 26, May 3, 10, 17, and 31: Wonderful Wednesdays 5:00-7:00pm

April 30, May 7, and 28: SOSO 7:00pm-8:30pm

May 6-7: RAIHN Car City (see below)

May 27: Laser Tag 2:00pm-6:00pm

JASY is getting closer and closer!! We're busy gathering supplies and double checking all the details! July can't get here soon enough!



Naomi Circle

HAPPY SPRING! We will meet May 15 upstairs in room 200 at 12:30 pm. Bring your lunch and mug and the hostesses will supply dessert and drinks. Karin Cole, a licensed massage therapist, Reiki practitioner, and Lymphedema Therapist, will speak about the benefits of massage and other integrative medicines (2:00 pm). Non-members are ALWAYS welcome.

Evening Circle, which meets on the 4th Monday of the month, will meet on April 24 at 7pm in Room 200 to discuss Chapters 5 and 6 of our book, *The Rebirthing of God*, and on May 22 to discuss Chapters 7 and 8.

Optimists – Friday, May 12, 5:30 pm

“My Life in Key” – Hannah Seppala and her harp. A Penfield youth, Hannah, was confirmed Christian here with us in 2014. She will graduate from Penfield HS in 2017. Her passions are Robotics, engineering, and harp. The harp we know so well from worship was hand made by her loving Dad. She will share her life story and dreams for her future in engineering (the real job).

Dinner will be meat loaf. Tickets are \$13 and available in Fellowship Hall on Sundays before the event. Please plan ahead as we must give an accurate count to our caterer. Bring your own table service and donate a paper product for the Pittsford Food Cupboard.



RAIHN's 5th Annual Car City!

**Saturday, May 6th, 5pm @
Asbury First United
Methodist Church**

\$30 adult, \$15 youth (ages 12-18)

Car City gives the community an opportunity to learn about family homelessness in a meaningful, hands-on way by sleeping overnight in their cars.

Similar to the idea of a walk-a-thon, participants in Car City raise a registration fee plus pledges to benefit RAIHN.

The event includes Dinner, RAIHN graduate panel, photo-journalist Michele Ashlee, car decorating contest, photo booth, CAR-aoke, sundae bar, bedtime yoga, and more!

You don't need to sleep overnight to participate – attend the event from 5 to 11, be a virtual participant to raise funds, or join/participate/donate for a youth group team! This is a perfect way to learn about and support this event as well as have a fun time!

If interested in participating, please contact Tyler at the church or email. tyler@pittsfordpres.org

Penny Pincher Sale 2017 – YES, there will be a sale this year! Mark October 2 – 6 on your calendar. Drop-off days will be Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, and the sale is on Thursday and Friday. We will provide more information later in the spring. Start setting aside your clean usable items. We would love to have your full-sized Wegman's/Trader Joe's brown bags for our bag sale on Friday. There will be a box to receive them in the Lobby Room by May 1. THE TRADITION CONTINUES!

Vacation Bible School

August 21-25

Experiencing
God's love
through our

PETS



Our relationship to our pets can give us great insight on the meaning of love, care, and hope. This year we will be looking at our relationship with our pets to think about God.

Everyone is invited to join us this year for Vacation Bible School. Children who are able to use the bathroom independently through adults are encouraged to register. Please invite your neighbors!

Vacation Bible School this year will be held the last week of August 21-25 from 8:45 am-12:00 pm. We will be inside and outside and learning about God.

Registration forms are online www.pittsfordpres.org/vbs or by calling the office at 585-586-5688

Wednesday Book Club

Meeting from 2 pm until 4 pm in the Church Library. Call Nancy Sprenkle (381-8990) if you plan to attend.

May 10th "Mr. Pip" by Lloyd Jones: In a novel that is at once intense, beautiful and fable-like, Lloyd Jones weaves a transcendent story that celebrates the resilience of the human spirit and the power of narrative to transform our lives. On a copper-rich tropical island shattered by war, where the teachers have fled with most everyone else, only one white man chooses to stay behind: the eccentric Mr. Watts, object of much curiosity and scorn, who sweeps out the ruined schoolhouse and begins to read to the children each day from Charles Dickens's classic *Great Expectations*.

UPCOMING ON June 14: *Girls of Atomic City: The Untold Story of the Women who Helped Win World War II* by Denise Kiernan



News from the Nursery School

I have never liked good byes, I would rather say, "See you soon!" Well, it is that time of year. May is the last

month of the school year for our 2's, 3's and 4's. Our Young Kindergarten children end in June. In the month of May the children will visit the Firehouse, Lollypop Farm, go to the Pittsford Dairy, take a PCSD bus ride and visit Tinker Nature Center. All the classes will have year-end celebrations. We will also have an end of the year picnic. We continue to offer our very popular summer camp for all children. We invite you to visit and view all the children's accomplishments. Thank you so much for all your support and encouragement! Teresa Zatyko

Christian Education

Upcoming Events

Men's Prayer Breakfast	5/7 7:00 am
Optimists	5/12 4:30 pm
Anthony Circle	5/11 10:00 am
Naomi Circle	5/15 12:30 am
Evening Circle	5/22 7 pm
Not so Basic Bible study	Mondays 7:30 pm
Prayer Support Group	Mondays 11:00 am
Lectionary Study	Weds. 7:15 pm
Men's Ecumenical Group	Thursdays 7:15 am
Adult Study	Sundays

Coming up for Kids

April 23: Mother's Day Choir	11:10-11:30 am
April 26: Mother's Day Choir	4:00-4:45 pm
April 30: Mother's Day Choir	11:10-11:30 am
May 3: Mother's Day Choir	4:00-4:45 pm
May 7: Mother's Day Choir	11:10-11:30 am
May 10: Mother's Day Choir	4:00-4:45 pm
May 14: Mother's Day Choir sings in church	
May 17: Musical practice starts	Wednesdays 4-5 pm
June 11: Musical performed	

Meet Our New Members

Doug Lillie came to FPC through his fiancé Kim Knapp. He is a lifelong resident of Monroe County and is currently employed by Diamond Packaging where he works as an electronics graphic artist. Doug and Kim will be celebrating their wedding in August.

Erik and Becky Abell recently moved to Mendon with their daughter, Ryleigh (8) and son, Logan (2). They work at Golisano Children's Hospital. Their son, Logan, was baptized in the church last summer and during this process, Becky & Erik were touched by the support of the congregation and decided to join the church.

Jim and Elizabeth Bishop are long-time residents of the City of Rochester. They are joining because they have received great support from Bruce and Carrie. Their daughter and son in law, Caroline and Stephen Hill, are active members of the church. Jim is retired and Elizabeth works in sales and marketing for Domtar, a paper mill. Jim is an avid sports enthusiast and loves the beach. Elizabeth is active with family and gardening. Both are trying to stay committed to frequent trips to the gym! They enjoy the weekly programs and look forward to participating in church activities.

Jorge and Josh Cordova The Cordovas moved to Brighton NY in support of Jorge's wife opening a Brazilian church in the Rochester area. Josh is in the tenth grade at Brighton High School and Jorge builds and remodels homes. Since Josh was young, the Cordovas have attended Presbyterian Churches in Lowell, MA, Coral Springs, FL, and now in Pittsford, NY.

John and Sharon Canham are delighted to join First Presbyterian Church with their son, John, currently an eighth grader at Barker Road Middle School, and a member of the confirmation class. They look forward to becoming more active within the church and growing with their new church family.

Kim Herman Tracy and Kim Herman came to Pittsford in November, just a few months ago from Moorestown NJ for a job relocation. They found the church through Teresa Zatyko in the Pittsford Nursery School. They were so pleased with the program and the compassionate people, that they started attending the church. The Hermans are looking forward to being part of this church family and establishing friendships. Moreover,

2017 POST-LOGOS Children's Music Opportunities

May 14 - Mother's Day Choir- This is a short term commitment for our K-6th graders with rehearsals either on Sundays or Wednesdays. You can mix it up as your schedule permits as long as you can commit to at least 3 rehearsals. The Sunday rehearsals will take place from approximately 11:10-11:30 am on the following dates; 4.23, 4.30 & 5.7 or Wednesdays from 4pm-4:430pm on 4.26, 5.3, 5.10. This is a good time to give choir a try!

June 11- Children's Service- We will have a special musical offering this day involving a narrated biblical story illustrated with bell accompaniment. We presented the story of the feeding of the 5000 last June and it was tons of fun. Rehearsals would be on Wednesday afternoons from 4-5pm starting May 17th. Some chime or bell experience necessary. Stay tuned for more info! Please email me (dmh91654@frontiernet.net) or let me know if you are interested. Dede Holmes



GREATER CHURCH FUNDING PLAN

Ecclesiastical Governing Bodies

The Presbyterian Church (USA)



In anticipation of questions about apportionment payments made by **The First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford** to higher councils in the life of our church, we offer this information to you.

WHAT IS *PER CAPITA* APPORTIONMENT OR ASSESSMENT?

Just as cars need fuel to power the engine, church councils (Presbytery, Synod, General Assembly) require fuel to provide services that support our mutual mission as the Body of Christ. In theory, *per capita* covers the ecclesiastical expenses of the Presbyterian Church (USA). These are the organizational costs of administering the church's government as opposed to "mission" expenditures. In practice, it is hard to draw a precise distinction between administration and mission. The procedure of identifying funds for administrative costs has been one way councils monitor expenditures. It holds councils accountable.

WHAT DOES THE BOOK OF ORDER SAY ABOUT *PER CAPITA*?

Each governing body beyond the session shall prepare a budget annually for its operating expenses, including administrative personnel, and may fund it with a *per capita* apportionment among the particular churches within its bounds. The presbyteries shall be responsible for raising their own *per capita* funds and for timely transmission of *per capita* funds to their respective synods and to General Assembly. The presbyteries may direct per capita apportionments to the sessions of the churches within their bounds. (*The Book of Order*, G-3.0106)

IS *PER CAPITA* ASSESSMENT A REQUIREMENT OF CHURCHES OR INDIVIDUALS?

Different denominations have different ways to fund their work and mission. Some receive a "head tax" of as much as \$100.00+ per member. Others receive a certain percentage of a congregation's receipts (up to 25%). In the Presbyterian Church (USA), per capita is not a tax or an assessment that imposes a financial obligation. Rather, it is a religious and moral commitment that individuals and churches are invited to make. It establishes a minimum level of financial participation in the vital work of our connectional church as the Body of Christ. Many churches include per capita for each member in their operating budget. Some congregations encourage each member to contribute per capita beyond regular giving. All per capita contributions are received by the Presbytery. It retains Presbytery per capita for its own needs, and sends Synod and General Assembly per capita to these respective councils. The Presbytery of Genesee Valley affirms the interdependent nature of our church by paying the full per capita apportionment to Synod and General Assembly regardless of income from the churches. (by action of Presbytery, December 16, 1992)

WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES IF A CHURCH DOES NOT CONTRIBUTE?

Some congregations are not able to contribute the full amount requested because of financial hardship. Other churches choose not to contribute to protest council decisions. When particular congregations do not contribute, a greater burden of responsibility is placed on sister churches in the Presbytery. This means that the Presbytery must rely on mission giving or extra commitment offerings to make up the difference or borrow funds to meet this requirement. Ultimately doing so results in less money being available for mission.

HOW DOES OUR PRESBYTERY (Genesee Valley Presbytery) COMPARE TO NEIGHBORING PRESBYTERIES?

Our \$30.65 is the 2nd lowest Per-Capita of all the Presbyteries in our Synod (The Synod of the North East). There are 22 Presbyteries in the Synod of the North East. One of the highest exceeds \$75.00 per member.

WHY IS THERE SUCH A DIFFERENCE?

The formula for determining *per capita* varies from Presbytery to Presbytery. In Geneva Presbytery all programmatic staff salaries are included in *per capita*. In Western New York, all committee expenses for postage and copying are included as well as staff salaries. In Genesee Valley, the only staff position that is fully funded by *per capita* is the Stated Clerk. All other staff positions are funded all or in part by mission dollars.

WHY ARE *PER CAPITA* FUNDS REQUESTED EARLY RATHER THAN LATE IN THE YEAR?

Per capita for Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly is always requested from the churches in the 1st quarter of the year. Membership statistics for the beginning of the budget year on which the per capita is based are not usually available until March of that particular year. General Assembly and Synod per capita figures are not available until the summer. It is suggested that churches consider placing funds in escrow during the year in order to be prepared to fulfill their per capita responsibility in full at the beginning of the following calendar year.

*For more information about these things, please contact
Presbytery Leader, Amy Williams Fowler, at the Presbytery of Genesee Valley. 242-0080*

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

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	<p>The Rev. Carrie Mitchell Associate Pastor Ext. #32 carrie.mitchell@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>Craig Kunkle Director of Christian Education Ext. #30 craig.kunkle@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>Britta Konau Office & Communications Coord. Ext. #21 britta.konau@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>Dr. Bruce Frank Organist bfrank345@gmail.com</p> <p>Dr. Mary Carlson Director of Hand Bell Choir mcarlson74@gmail.com</p> <p>Bill Mullins Assist. Custodian</p>	<p>The Rev. Bruce G. Book Senior Pastor Ext. #25 bgb@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>Tyler Logan Director of Youth Ministry Ext. #31 tyler@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>Financial Administrator Ext. #23 treasurer@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>Dr. James Douthit Director of Music jdouthit@rochester.rr.com</p> <p>Dede Holmes Director of Youth Choirs dmh91654@frontier.net</p> <p>John O'Flaherty Custodian Ext. #33</p>
<p>First Presbyterian Church 21 Church Street, Pittsford, NY 14534 Phone 585 586-5688, Fax # 586-8090 E-mail connect@pittsfordpres.org Web page www.pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>Worship With Us Please join us for Sunday morning worship. Worship Services: 8:30 & 10:00AM Communion is offered on the first Sunday of each month.</p>		