



The Good News

May 2018

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

A WEE WORD FROM DR. WEENINK

Cows and Cats and Questionnaires ... Oh My!

As we continue to make our strides down the yellow brick road, we find ourselves at the culmination of data gathering and information seeking. We are well beyond the “Lions and Tigers and Bears – Oh My!” phase. Thank you to all who have taken time to participate in the Appreciative Inquiry interviews. Your qualitative input has been most valuable. Now we switch to the other end of the pendulum and dig into some quantitative gleanings. This can only be done with your help.

By now you should have received a mailing inviting you to complete something called the Church Assessment Tool (CAT). The CAT is administered through Holy Cow Consulting who has refined and perfected organizational study for churches, business and civic entities. They are a highly respected and experienced company. The CAT is an on-line instrument that will help gauge the strength, vitality, and trends in our church. That is why it is so vitally important that you take time to complete it. The combined results will provide key indicators of our congregational health along with areas of challenge and potential growth. The information gathered will be valuable for completing the Mission Study Process. The Mission Study Process is an essential step toward the election of a Pastor Nominating Committee and moving on to the search process for your next Pastor-head of staff.

On Monday, April 16, all church members received an email with a unique link to the CAT. Between April 16 – May 6 you are being asked to go online by clicking on the link provided and complete the survey instrument. This is a time-sensitive link. The opportunity for you to participate expires on May 6.

If you did not receive such an email message, please contact the church office in order for that contact to be corrected. If you do not have an e-mail address, don't worry. Provisions can be made to give you access to a computer to complete the CAT. If you need a paper copy, please call or come to the office, and we will provide one for you. Your completed paper copy will be inputted via the on-line link. Please call the church office and request any assistance you may require. We will help make all the necessary arrangements.

All answers are strictly anonymous. There is no way of matching any assessment to a particular person, so please feel free to candidly share your perceptions, opinions, and experiences. Our future together is dependent on your participation and honest answers.

Here are some requests:

1. Please do not discuss the survey or your answers with others as this may influence their answers.
2. Please make sure you answer every question. If you skip any of the questions, the collection of information will cease at the last point you answered a question.

3. Please participate. It is vitally important that you make your opinion known.

4. If there is only one email address for all members of your household, it may be tempting to have one person take the survey on behalf of the family. However, please be sure your spouse and all young confirmed adults living in your home have an opportunity to complete the survey. Individual input is key to our gaining insight into overall perceptions and experiences.

Please do not have a kitten or a cow over this additional request for your input and time. It is valued. It is treasured. It is essential. It is needed.

Our goal, God willing, and based on your level of participation is to draw the entire Mission Study Process to completion by mid-June. We are counting on you to help.

On that yellow-brick-road alongside you!

Yours in faith,

~Jeffrey

Deacon Events

- Game Night - Saturday, May 26, at 7pm in Fellowship Hall - Join us for a night of board games and Euchre tournament. All are welcome.
- Cooking Club - Sunday, May 27, at 5pm in Fellowship Hall - Afghanistan-themed meal will be prepared by U.S. military interpreters who have resettled in our area. We support these families by helping to purchase a vehicle through outreach committee grants. Cost is \$7
- Red Wings Baseball Game - Wednesday, June 6, at 7pm vs. Indianapolis Indians. Tickets are \$10 - Purchase in Fellowship Hall or call Debbie Matrachisia at 752-5584
- Dads and Grads Strawberry Social - Sunday, June 17, after both services - Join us for Pittsford Farms Dairy Ice Cream and fresh strawberries as we celebrate graduating seniors and all our wonderful fathers!!!

Estate Planning — An Abiding Witness

The church has been the beneficiary of planned gifts from the Estates of members and friends. Remarkably, there have been faithful members who have either had no Will and Testament, or may not have been aware of how to include the church in their estate plans. Think of it this way:

The life we live is the legacy we leave. But what do we have to say in our farewell address? Your Last Will and Testament may be the last thing you write that anyone will read. Is it enough to say who gets what or is it an opportunity to pass on your values to your heirs? Eloquent Wills of old often contained personal statements that revealed as much about the departed's beliefs as they did about their estates. Today's Wills tend to be boilerplate statements bequeathing all one's earthly possessions to their children equally or grandchildren by right of representation. But where is the lesson? Should we so robotically hand off all the material possessions we worked so hard for with no lesson attached, or are we missing out on our last best opportunity to teach our children our values? A Last Will and Testament or Trust that leaves some portion of your estate—even a small portion—to your Church, a charity or favored cause tells your family in very certain and final terms what you value, and just may leave such a lasting impression that as your loved ones share your estate they too may learn to share your values. What a great legacy to leave.

Now is a good time to review your estate plans and remember the church in them. There are a number of advisors from the financial and legal community who are most willing to assist you in this regard, especially as you seek to remember your church.

Per Capita Giving

Quarterly Contribution Statements are in the mail and include a request to support our annual Per Capita costs. Our goal is to raise \$7,000 in support of Per Capita, with any excess dollars directed to the Outreach committee to broaden our mission efforts. What follows is a brief tutorial on Per Capita.

What is Per Capita? Just as a train cannot move without an engine, our governing bodies (Presbytery, Synod, General Assembly) require a power source to enable them to provide services which support our mutual mission as the Body of Christ.

In theory, per capita covers the ecclesiastical expenses of the denomination—judicial, legislative, and related functions of the Church. This means 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 custom of identifying funds for administrative costs has been one way governing bodies monitors such expenditures and is honest with God's people about them.

What does the *Book of Order* say about Per Capita? "Each governing body above 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." (G-9.0404 d.)

Is Per Capita payment a requirement of Churches or of individuals? Different denominations have different ways of collecting revenue. Some receive a "head tax" of as much as \$50 per member. Others receive a certain percentage of a congregation's receipts (up to 25%). Ours is \$31.26.

In the Presbyterian Church (USA), per capita is not a tax or an assessment that imposes financial obligation. Rather, it is a religious and moral commitment made by individuals and particular churches. 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 churches encourage each member to contribute per capita beyond regular giving. The Presbytery receives all per capita contributions. It retains Presbytery per capita for its own needs, and sends General Assembly per capita to these respective governing bodies.

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).

Why is there a difference between Presbyteries? The formula for determining per capita varies from Presbytery to Presbytery. For instance, in Geneva Presbytery all programmatic staff salaries are included in per capita. Meanwhile in the Presbytery of 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, as are committee expenses. Your presbytery tries to be very prudent about expenses charged to per capita.

Lectionary for May

May 6 6th Sunday of Easter Acts 10:44–48 Psalm 98 1 John 5:1–6 John 15:9–17	May 10 Ascension of the Lord Acts 1:1–11 Psalm 47 or 93 Ephesians 1:15–23 Luke 24:44–53	May 13 7th Sunday of Easter Acts 1:15–17, 21–26 Psalm 1 1 John 5:9–13 John 17:6–19	May 20 Pentecost Acts 2:1–21 or Ezekiel 37:1–14 Psalm 104:24–34, 35b Romans 8:22–27 or Acts 2:1–21 John 15:26–27; 16:4b–15	May 27 Trinity Sunday Isaiah 6:1–8 Psalm 29 Romans 8:12–17 John 3:1–17
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Camp Whitman



As we enjoy the inevitable melting of the winter snows, Camp Whitman is heating up plans for the 2018 camping season at their beautiful Seneca Lake facility. Their traditional camping experience is for school-age youth between 6 and 17 with another camp program for teens and adults from 12 to 65 with developmental disabilities.

This Presbyterian-owned and operated camp has started the online registration for 2018 with discount rates for early registrations. At the camp's website, www.campwhitman.org, you can learn of the lifelong memories available to establish by participants. Camping schedules and rates are also available through the website including scholarship programs.

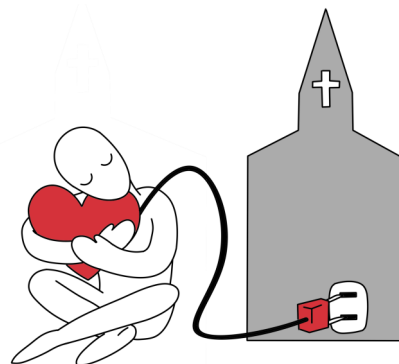
The best way to learn about the camp first hand is to attend the "Family Fun Day" on Saturday, May 12. The day's worth of camping experiences is planned for the whole family when you'll be sure to catch the camping fever. The 'Events' tab on the website gives plenty of information. You'll also find a "Volunteer Work Day" scheduled for Saturday, April 28, when hearty hands and spirited enthusiasts gather in fellowship to ready the camp for the warm days ahead.

Please contact the camp directly or our church office to learn more about building lifelong memories during the summer of 2018.

Tech for Churches — June 1 and 2, 2018

This free conference at First Presbyterian is meant to help churches work together to learn and navigate the technological and social media driven world. Topics include: Social Media What's new and best practices; Streaming the service; Selecting a ChMS; E-Newsletters ; Taking the mystery out of Wi-Fi; G Suite; Websites & new google sites; Online payment software

Registration at: <http://craigkunkle.net>





News from the Nursery School

Once again we are preparing to say goodbye. 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. For some it is good bye until September, for others it could be good bye until we meet again. In the month of May the children will visit Lollypop Farm, Springdale Farm, the Pittsford Dairy and take a ride on a school bus! 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 will have a trike-a-thon, accepting donations to the Golisano Children's Hospital. We invite you to participate in all the children's celebrations. Thank you so much for all your support and encouragement!

Teresa Zatyko, Director, Pittsford Nursery School

Naomi Circle

Please bring lunch and mug to Naomi Circle's meeting Monday, May 21, 12:30 pm, second floor in room 200. After lunch and short meeting, our own David Klein will present a program about The Nature Conservancy and particularly about what conservation challenges Lake Ontario faces today.

Non-members are always welcome.

WEB Club

The Wednesday Book Club will meet on May 9 from 2-4 pm in the church library. All are invited to attend whether you have read the book or not. Please contact Nancy Sprenkle at 381-8990 for further information.

May 9 - *The Gilded Age* by Mark Twain

June 13 - *Luther and Katharina: A Novel of Love and Reformation* by Jody Hedlund

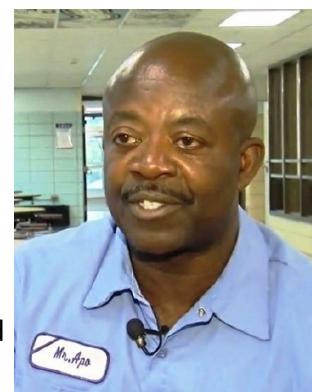
Eve Circle

Eve Circle will meet Monday, April 23, at 12:30pm in room 200 to discuss chapters 9 and 10 of *Rising Strong*. We will determine the date for the May meeting because of Memorial Day.

Optimists

May 11 at 5:30pm: Josh Apo, Barker Middle School—Pittsford the Hard Way

A life illustrating many aphorisms: "God wants to help me, but I have to help him help me." At 10 am in 1980, the flimsy 12-by-12-foot raft carrying Josh Apo and 61 other Haitians crossed paths with a U.S. Coast Guard patrol ship that brought them aboard, fed them soup, hosed them off — their first "shower" in more than two weeks — and put them on a bus to Key West.



In an evocative dream Josh had as a boy he went to the well for water but instead pulled up buckets of money. "That told me my life was going to be something special," Josh says in the book, *Gold from the Well*, written by Julie Daugherty. "God made my life special." Like so many immigrants and refugees, Josh gets much of his motivation from supporting his family back in Haiti. He pays school tuition for several nieces and nephews there and helps pay his mother's expenses; he also has a wife and four children of his own in Rochester. "I went through a lot of good things and bad things — mostly bad things," he said. "But I have faith in God, and I always say 'thank you' to God, and he has blessed me many times." Now 56, Josh Apo has been working for his blessings in Rochester for more than 30 years.

Tickets are \$13 and available in Fellowship Hall on two Sundays before the event, starting April 29. Please plan ahead as we must give an accurate count to our caterer (Hawaiian Roast Pork Loin). Bring your own table service and donate a paper product for the Pittsford Food Cupboard. All are welcome.

No One Left Behind

The Outreach Committee is excited to announce a new relationship with **No One Left Behind, NOLB**, and their Wheels-to-Work campaign. This is a local refugee organization's campaign, designed to get people to their first jobs in the Rochester region. NOLB's Rochester chapter, which is the model chapter for resettlement of Afghan and Iraqi families who supported the military, is one of 10 chapters throughout the U.S., serving over 3,000 individuals nation-wide. Since 2014, the Rochester chapter has assisted locally in resettling 251 individuals comprising 43 families. These Afghan and Iraqi families supported troops shoulder-to-shoulder, were targeted by the Taliban and ISIL for death, and permitted by the government to resettle in the U.S. after years of faithful and honorable service to the U.S. The families arrive in Rochester homeless, and with one suitcase that must weigh under 50 pounds. They are permitted 180 days of DSS and SNAP benefits. The backbone of the NOLB is the faith-based community, which includes local churches, synagogues, and the Islamic Center. The Wheels-to-Work campaign is offered by the Mendon-based chapter of No One Left Behind, a 501 (c)(3) organization.

Two Studies by the Urban Institute and by the Brookings Institute proved the effect one car can have for a family on DSS:

- lift that family out of a poverty situation
- lead to long-term stability in better housing and job opportunities
- one vehicle allows for family participation in school activities, enriching the lives of their children
- Many employers do not consider the RTS bus system "reliable transportation" when looking to hire employees, and will not hire a person if they don't have a vehicle. The average bus commute in Rochester is 90 minutes – IF there is a bus available
- Job opportunities are available with immediate employment, but are outside of the city's transportation system.



Ways in which church members can help these refugee families:

Join us Sunday, May 27, at 5:00 pm Our Church Cooking Club will be offering Afghan food prepared with some of these refugee families the Sunday before Memorial Day. Look in the bulletin for further details!

Please Donate items! In addition to donated cars, NOLB is in need of:

- good mattresses and furniture that can fit into small apartments
- basic cooking items such as large pots and pans, baking sheets, cutting boards, can openers, cooking utensils, large bake ware dishes, serving platters
- used towels and washcloths in good shape

Think of what you would need in your new apartment if you arrived with nothing!

Please contact Ellen Smith if you want to help: No One Left Behind – Rochester, NY Chapter, 888 Pittsford Mendon Center Rd., Pittsford, NY 14534; Phone 585-721-3211; Email- ellen@nooneleft.org



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Many voices in many languages find a common refrain: THANK YOU! Receipts to date total nearly \$7,000. Once again our congregation has demonstrated a great outpouring of generosity in response to world and local needs. Countless people of many colors and nationalities, with vital needs, pause and rejoice in the new hope that has been provided for them through your sacrificial sharing and the sharing of others throughout the country. Thank you - ***Sharing Brings Joy!***

Appreciative Inquiry Wrap-Up – April 29

DREAM & DESIGN

A hearty word of gratitude goes out to all who have participated in the Appreciative Inquiry initiative. The conversations have been generative, hopeful, and helpful. The recorded notes from the conversations have been compiled and categorized into key ministry areas such as:

Worship, Member Care, Education/Nurture,
Mission, Fellowship, Facility

Key words have been counted and categorized accordingly. Visuals have been created to illustrate the weight and frequency of key words and phrases. That completes the Define and Discovery phase of the Appreciative Inquiry process. To wrap it up, we will engage in a one-time gathering on April 29 in the Chapel at 11:30 am following worship. This is the Dream and Design phase. Members will be invited to concentrate on how to improve, expand, enhance, and enrich the ministry areas identified above, based on the strengths already defined and discovered. Participants need only plan to concentrate on one of the ministry areas noted in the time we will spend on April 29. Food and beverages will be provided.

The Appreciative Inquiry effort has been an exercise of *qualitative information* gathering. It should not be confused with the Holy Cow – CAT Assessment which carries equal importance. The CAT will provide *quantitative information* which is equally important. All members are asked to assist with BOTH – not one or the other. Each is equally important.

August 6-17 2018



**Contact
Information:**

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Mission trip to Nampula, Mozambique



Evanjáfrica is a Christian ministry operating in Mozambique, designed to fight spiritual and physical poverty. It was started and is run by local Mozambican Christians and is supported by a U.S. board, families, friends, and churches. Through orphan care, evangelism, education, and community development, they aspire to raise a new generation of godly leaders who will change their nation through the power of the gospel and the ability to empower future generations for change. Over the past 16 years, their kids have been attending local public schools that are over-crowded, under-funded, and severely lacking in resources. Evanjáfrica has supplemented their education by hiring teachers who have tutored the kids outside school hours. Because of the effectiveness of the after-school program they are now in the process of turning this program into a formal school. They plan to open the school in January of 2019, serve 150 kids from the orphanage and the community, starting with preschool through grade four. This summer's mission team will be helping to build the school building so that it will be ready to open next year.



Supporting and Sponsoring Groups

SERVE <http://www.serve-intl.org/>

Evanjáfrica <http://www.evanjafrica.org/>

First Presbyterian Church Pittsford, NY
<https://www.pittsfordpres.org/>

Providence Presbyterian Church Charlotte, NC
<http://ppc1767.org/>



Kenya Outreach Opportunity

The In Step Children's orphanage in Kitale, Kenya, needs your support. The older 100 children currently eat their meals outside on the ground (or in the mud during rainy season). We are going to build a cover hard top dining pavilion, with picnic benches and tables. The new director of Rehema In-Step, Brooke Fleming, will be in the area for a dinner, meet and greet, and informal talks. You can learn all about the orphanage and Brooke on Monday, April 30, at 5:30pm at a dinner party hosted by Dan Traina at 45 S. Main St, Pittsford. This will be followed at 7pm with a meet and greet information session at the same address. Brooke will also be around on Tuesday, May 1, for a tour of our area and to present to our Outreach committee meeting. Call Dan Traina at 208-6839 to sign up.

below: the milking parlor your participation made possible



Upcoming Youth Events—Hey Look it's Spring! Don't mind the ice!

Wonderful Wednesdays—April 25, May 2, 9 + 16 from 5-7pm at Church

Fundraiser—Cookie Sale!!—April 29 @ Church

SOSO—April 29, May 13 + 20 from 7pm-8:30pm @ Church

American Red Cross Mission Event—May 5t@ Church/Downtown

Youth Movie Trip—May 19 @ Regal Eastview Mall

Pittsburgh Mission Trip—July 21-27 @ Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

Interested in a summer mission trip with the youth? Look no further!! This summer the youth will be headed towards Pittsburgh, PA to participate in a mission week put on by the PCUSA Pittsburgh Theological Seminary there! We will be staying with them and helping with local Farms and Housing projects through the organizations, Garfield Farm and Openhand Ministries. The dates for the trip (including travel) are July 21-27!! Make sure to let Tyler know you are interested!



Did you know that 7 people die every day in a fire? Neither did we! Join the youth on May 5 around Rochester as we take part in this great mission event! Join us for this event, named *Sound the Alarm*, as we work towards helping those homes without smoke alarms gain one. We'll have a great time meeting others and helping them!



**American
Red Cross**

Also remember that the youth will be going to see **Avengers: Infinity War** as the next movie in our line of Movie Trips! Make sure to join us for this great adventure and maybe even some fun discussions over ice cream afterwards!

Tyler is now looking for new adults, young or old, who are interested in taking part in youth activities! We would love to have some new helpers with different experiences and memories to share with us! You are not needed at every event; we would just love to see you every once in a while, whether it is for a mission trip, or just a regular couple of our events here at church! Let Tyler know you're interested!



Start planning your schedules way ahead of time!! Youth and families, make sure to keep in mind these two upcoming trips all the way in Summer of 2019!! There will be much more info coming about both of these very soon. We'd love to have you involved, in one or both!

JASY 2019—July 5-12

Triennium 2019—July 14-21



Christian Education

A Hitchhiker's Guide to Reformed Faith

Last month we talked about the Covenant and what it teaches about our relationship with God. This month we will explore Sin and Redemption in Scripture and the Book of Confessions. If you have a desire to learn more about your Presbyterian faith and what we believe, this is the class for you.

The next date we will meet is May 6, 11:45 am in room 200. Childcare will be provided upon request.

Vacation Bible School

July 16-20 ♦ 8:45 am-11:30 am

Vacation Bible School slides back to the third week in July. After polling parents, Christian Education decided on the July dates. You do not need to be a member to attend. There is no cost.

If you would like to volunteer, please let a CE member or the office know.

Children will Lead Worship on May 6

The Children's youth choir and the Sunday school program will be working together to lead worship on May 6. No matter how your child would like to participate—there is a place for them.

If you are not able to make Sunday morning but would still like to participate, we will be sending out requests for videos to be made outside the church to support the Sermon theme. These videos can then be sent in to become part of the worship service.

First Watercolor Collaboration

Cindy Barben and Craig Kunkle invite ALL to sign up for the First Watercolor Collaboration. The next date is Thursday, May 17, at 6:30 pm in room 201 upstairs. Painters of all ability levels welcome. We will collaborate on technique and form. Some brushes, paint, and paper provided or bring your own. Bring something to work on yourself or paint the easy picture provided with guidance.

Upcoming Events

Men's Prayer Breakfast	5/6 7:00 am
Optimists	5/11 5:30 pm
Anthony Circle	6/5 RAIHN
Naomi Circle	5/21 12:30 pm
Eve Circle	4/23 12:30 pm
Not so Basic Bible Study	Mondays 7:30 pm
Prayer Support Group	Mondays 11:00 am
Bible Study	Weds. 7:15 pm
Men's Ecumenical Group	Thursdays 7:15 am
Adult Study	Sundays 9:45 am



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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

*May the God of justice speed us
on our way, bringing light and
hope to every land and race.*

Song of Hope, No. 765

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Worship With Us

Please join us for Sunday morning
worship.

Worship Services: 8:30 & 10:00 am

Communion is offered on the
first Sunday of each month.

