



# The Good News

September 2017

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

## FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN-CELL

### Lectionary for September

#### Sept. 3—13th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 3:1–15  
Psalm 105:1–6, 23–26, 45b  
Romans 12:9–21  
Matthew 16:21–28

#### Sept. 10—14th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 12:1–14  
Psalm 149  
Romans 13:8–14  
Matthew 18:15–20

#### Sept. 17—15th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 14:19–31  
Psalm 114 or Exodus 15:1b–11, 20–21  
Romans 14:1–12  
Matthew 18:21–35

#### Sept. 24—16th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 16:2–15  
Psalm 105:1–6, 37–45  
Philippians 1:21–30  
Matthew 20:1–16

Thank you. This is a September edition of *The Good News*, but by the time September rolls around, August 31 will have happened and retirement will have begun. We will have an opportunity to celebrate that a bit on September 10, but I need to remind Matt Wahl, that if he gets out the dunking stool, I will no longer have a towel stashed away in the church office. I will no longer have a change of clothes there, either and the suit and robe that I will probably wear that day will have to make it home and be used later. Just sayin', Matt!

But it seems appropriate to say Thank You for all that this congregation means to me. I understand I have chosen a few un-sing-able hymns, elected to preach from bizarre texts, gone a bit wacky with poetic prayers and liturgy. But, you have given me amazing memories of conversations in the parking lot, coffee shared at Starbucks, times when we grieved over your loss and none of us quite knew what to say. I cherish our mission trips, baptisms, weddings, coffee hour, Bible Studies, and committee work together. Some have found me new puppets and some days this summer I feel sad that I will miss seeing the children of our church most of all. They are so precious, from those newly minted to those preparing to be confirmed, to those who have texted from college.

On the Sunday after our tragic fire we gathered for worship in the auditorium of Mendon High School and there we sang, "I am the Church, You are the Church, We are the Church Together." It became clear to us that the church is not a building. It is a people.

I have spent some time this summer wondering what the Bible says about retirement. Well it says relatively little! But the Bible has a great deal to say about the concept of call. We pastors have somewhat connected "the call" with an occupation and a location. In my case the places have been Bessemer, Downingtown, Canton, and Pittsford. But scripture says, "remain in the calling wherein you were

called." (NLT, 1 Corinthians 7:20) The main idea here is the guidance to serve Christ wherever we are. I am beginning to unhook my call from location. It further helps me to see that a calling doesn't come from an employer, be it the PCUSA or First Presbyterian Church. My calling is from God and so is yours. This helps me disconnect my call from an occupation.



Without getting into a long theological discussion about why to retire, I've chosen to look at passages about Old Testament Levites (understood here to include Levitical priests and other tribes of Israel) as a guide to understanding ministry retirement. They represent a broad ministry group in Scripture with whom someone in Christian ministry can identify. Also, the New Testament is pretty much silent when it comes to the subject. The majority of New Testament ministry personages with whom one could identify encountered forced retirement through martyrdom, exile, or imprisonment. Frankly Martha and our grandchildren would prefer that martyrdom, exile, or imprisonment not be my new call.

Who would ever suspect that we could find something meaningful in the Old Testament Book of Numbers? Is that not the book that is filled with all the begats, that although they are dull to read, were more exciting to do? Out of this ancient text comes Numbers 8:25, "...but at the age of fifty, they [the Levites – who were the pastors and priests] must retire from their regular service and work no longer" (NIV). Although the starting and retirement ages for priests varied in the Old Testament, it appears that age was a significant criterion (mentioned seven times in Numbers 4 alone). There is a considerable range of viewpoints about the exact meaning of these age-related rules. However, most agree on a basic point—at a certain age, the Levites were required to stop doing some aspects of their duties and retire.

Having established retirement for Levites at age 50, Moses qualified this by adding: "They may assist their brothers in performing their duties at the Tent of Meeting, אֹהֶל in Hebrew (transliterated it is the word, "OHel" and pronounced pretty much like it looks). They themselves must not do the work" (Num. 8:26, NIV). The reason why the Lord gave Moses this mandate is understandable. Traipsing through the burning desert, setting up and taking down a huge tent, carrying all the tabernacle articles on their backs, butchering thousands of animals, chopping piles of wood for holy fire, and so on was physically demanding work. Not that anything magical happens when we turn 50 years old, but our physical condition and energy level tell us something significant about the time to retire. Could it be that God our Creator knows something about how long we are able to keep working as we did when we were younger?

Along with mandatory retirement, Mosaic guidelines made no allotment of land for the Levites. During those days, it was understood that offerings of various sorts would sustain the Levites and provide their livelihood until they died. (It was sort of an early pension program).

I'm tempted to say to myself, *"I'm not a Levite. This doesn't apply to me."* Perhaps, in a strict sense, this is true. However, as I near retirement, these biblical examples help me realize what a significant transition is taking place. This transition calls for openness to new ideas and flexibility at a time in my life when everything in me wants continuity and stability. Most likely, transition into retirement for those Levites turning 55 was no different from what you or I will experience. Could it be that they trusted the Lord who called them and whom they worshiped to help them find a way to adjust to change and engage in meaningful ministry? That is what I will purpose to do.

It may be that ministry will mean more significant time with children and grandchildren. I have always envied those who get to sit with their children or grandchildren in worship. It may mean preaching somewhere else to give a solo pastor in a small rural church a break. It may mean ministry of more writing or helping Martha with her lists. It may mean some time to worship God in nature or connect with others who, like me, will need a friend. But most of all, it will be the continuation of a call, encouraged by hope, sustained by memories, lifted by prayer, and challenged by Almighty God. Thank you, Lord and Thank You all of you wonderful First Presbyterian People!

Bruce



## Summer is almost over!

Please be advised that we will go back to two services on Sundays, at 8:30 and 10:00 am starting September 10. Office hours will be 8:30 am–4:30 pm again, Mondays through Fridays, and Jackie's hours will be Tuesdays through Thursdays, 8:30 am–3:30 pm.

## Annual Church Picnic

Sunday, September 10, after the 10am service - Church Picnic and Pastor Boak's Retirement Party. This will be a family celebration with ponies, a magician, and so much more! We will be serving Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Salads, Chips, Watermelon and Ice Cream. Bring a friend for this fun, free meal.

## Mission News

Are you looking for adventure? Do you want to get off your couch, meet new people, and lend a helping hand?

The Mission Commission is offering three possible Mission Trips:

- a) a trip "down South" in **October 2017** for disaster relief, led by Dan Traina
- b) our biannual trip to the InStep Orphanage in Kenya in **July 2018** led by Ron Pollock
- c) a supplemental trip to Kenya in **February 2018** led by Dan Traina and Dan Harrison (there's plenty of work to be done, hundreds of children to be loved, and the airfares are lower at that time of year!)

These trips will only happen if you volunteer - we need a minimum of 5 people to make a trip worth organizing. Check your calendars, pick your month, and contact Dan Traina or Ron Pollock if you're interested. Specific dates/weeks will be influenced by the interested participants.

## RAIHN has a new Day Center! You can help!!

RAIHN is moving to a new Day Center. It is located at 142 Webster Ave, Rochester 14609. Volunteers have been painting, cleaning, spackling, sanding, and building to get the new center ready. (Thanks to Dan Traina, Laura Bachman and family, Bill Smith, Jeff Steele from our own congregation for their help.) AND we are "adopting" a room! We will "furnish" (i.e. raise money and purchase some of the accessories) one of the rooms where a family can store their belongings and have a place to relax at the day center. We are asking groups in our church (Women's Association and Outreach, for example) to donate. But we are accepting donations from individuals also. You may leave check made out to First Presbyterian Church - tax deductible - in the office, with "RAIHN adopt a room" in the check memo. The money will be placed in the RAIHN fund and passed along to RAIHN. Any question? contact Barbara Smith, [barbarabsmith13@gmail.com](mailto:barbarabsmith13@gmail.com), or after church in Fellowship Hall.



Our next rotation is September 10 - 17, when families will be staying at our congregation. Please mark the dates on your calendar and watch for an email to volunteer. Volunteers from Pittsford Pres, St Paul's Lutheran, and Christ Episcopal work together. More volunteers are always needed! You can help cook a meal, host from 7-9pm, stay overnight. Contact Barb Smith to have your name added to the email list.

# TRUSTING GOD WITH CHANGE



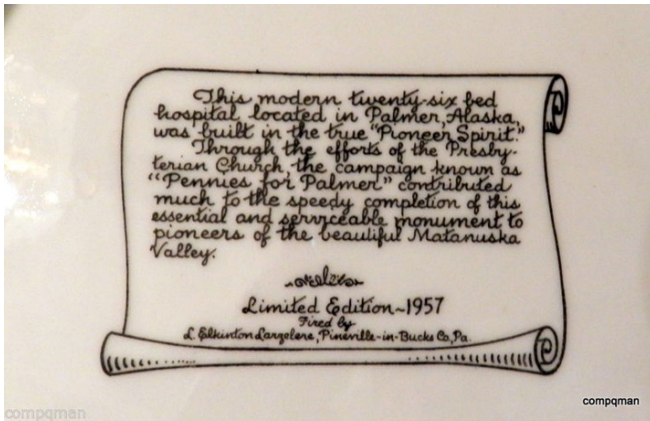
Last month our Generosity Team announced our Fall Theme, **Trusting God with Change**. It will be our Stewardship Emphasis this autumn as we ask ourselves what it means to trust God in order that we might Lead Generously, even in the midst of change.

Although Every One Counts, we know that even simple change can make a difference as it did during the Pennies for Palmer campaign. Presbyterian Children in Sunday Schools across the United States, but especially in Pennsylvania, collected enough change to build a hospital in Palmer, Alaska.

On May 6, 1935 Rev. Bert Bingle arrived in Palmer, AK, a part of the plan by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt to relocate stricken farmers from Minnesota during the dust bowl to Alaska. These “colonists” first began by starting a congregation. By the following Sunday, the 1<sup>st</sup> service was held with 35 people present in the Matanuska Valley. Then, on April 11, 1937 “The Church of a Thousand Trees” was dedicated by the Presbytery of Yukon and the congregation began its ministry. Native Americans, miners, trappers and farmers were the colonists of this church. The original church burned to the ground in 1946 but the congregation rebuilt and in doing so the idea of a hospital for this vast region of the Yukon was envisioned. The hospital, known as the Mat-Su Regional Medical Center (MSRMC). In 1947 the hospital changed its name to Valley Hospital under the oversight of The Valley Hospital Association (VHA).



*Valley Presbyterian Hospital Plate*



Because of increasing need, it became clear that the VHA needed to be expanded, not only with services and staff, but with a new building. But, the people of Palmer, AK and the Palmer Presbyterian Church had no idea how they could raise a vast sum for this outpost. But, the Presbyterian Women's Association (PW) in the Palmer church made contact with other

PW groups in Minnesota, Pennsylvania and Ohio and the "Pennies for Palmer" project was born.

Local Presbyterian Women groups asked children to bring pennies to their Sunday School on their birthday and within a year, this "change" was sufficient a sum to build a new hospital in Palmer.



*First Palmer Presbyterian Hospital*



*Palmer Presbyterian at Worship in 2017*

**If Pennies could make such a difference in Palmer, just think what can happen if we were to trust God with our change! Not only might our ministry and mission grow, but we might find that our hearts and minds might be changed, too.**

**TRUSTING GOD WITH CHANGE**

## Upcoming Youth Events—

The School year is starting soon!! Make sure you know about these upcoming events!

August 21-25—VBS: Come by and be involved! 8:30 am-noon

August 30—Final Summer Shindig @ Applebee's from 5-7 pm

September 3—Youth Semester Kickoff 3-7 pm @ The Wahl's House

September 10 & 24—SOSO 7-8:30 pm @ Church

September 13, 20 & 27—LOGOS 4-7 pm @ Church

September 30—Youth Mini Golf 3-6 pm @ Parkside Pines

*As for me and my house, we will*  
**SERVE *the* LORD.**  
Joshua 24:15

**Remember!** Please let Tyler know of all upcoming events our youth are in. Be it different sports games, musicals, dramas, or any kind of performances! We would love to come and support our youth by coming, or even getting a group together to come and support them!



The start of a brand new school year is almost upon us! We have so many different events coming up and we would love to see you all at them!

Our goal this year is to make sure as many of our youth are happy and getting all the different variety of offerings that we can give them. Here's what we're determined to do:

Two SOSO's a month!

At least one mission event per month!

Monthly Confirmation Offerings!

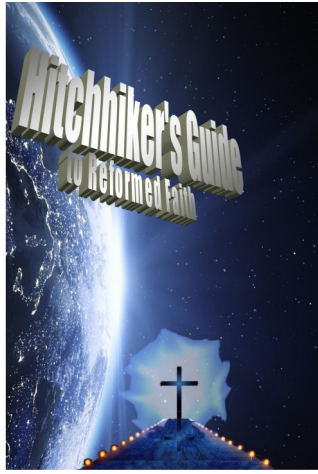
At least one big off site fun event per month! Everything from mini golf to laser tag to cookouts at the park!

And there's so much more! LOGOS every Wednesday, fundraisers for our mission trips, random mystery events and offerings for all of our Church officers!

This is going to be a great year and we cannot wait to share it all with you!

## A Hitchhiker's Guide to Reformed Faith - Adults

This new class will cover the main tenets of the Reformed faith. No matter how confident you currently are in your understanding of our faith, you will learn something new. This class will follow the class plan of the confirmation class. If you have a desire to learn more about your Presbyterian faith and what we believe, this is the class for you. This class will meet on the first Sunday of the month, October 2017 through June 2018, at 11:45 am in room 201. Childcare will be provided upon request.



# Christian Education

### Upcoming Events

Men's Prayer Breakfast	9/3 7:00 am
Optimists	9/8
Anthony Circle	9/14
Naomi Circle	9/18
Eve Circle	9/25
Not so Basic Bible	Mondays
Prayer Support	Mondays
Lectionary Study	Weds.
Men's Ecumenical	Thursdays
Adult Study	Sundays 9:45 am

### LOGOS

#### Registration open!

LOGOS will start up again this year on September 10. Everyone is so excited to get started meeting old friends and new friends. This year the theme is "Out and About with God". Please join us in making this year another amazing LOGOS experience. To register or learn more <http://www.pittsfordpres.org/registrations>

### 3rd Grade Bibles

Bibles will be given to 3rd graders on September 10 during the 10 am worship. If you know of a third-grader who would like a Bible, please contact the church office 585-586-5688.

This year you can choose the traditional full Bible which we normally give or a graphic novel version on display in Fellowship hall.

### Next Small Group Session Starting week of October 10

First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford is offering a way for people to connect with others this October. There are seven small groups with approximately ten people each. These groups will be facilitated, meet at varied times during the week to allow for schedule constraints, and some will meet in homes rather than at the church. This is an excellent opportunity to meet people in a small, informal setting which can afford more discussion and new connections.

This year we will be looking at the PC(USA)'s newest confession in the Book of Confessions: The Belhar Confession. This is a statement of faith which comes out of South Africa during the apartheid.

If you are seeking a chance for fellowship, to meet new people, or just enjoy lively discussion, please consider being part of a small group this September. More details and signup sheets are available in the Fellowship Hall.

### First Families in Fellowship

Families with young children

Returning in September a new fellowship group will be forming for families with young children at the church or out on the town. Children get to play and adults get to know one another. If you would like to participate let Craig know in the office 585-586-5688; [craig.kunkle@pittsfordpres.org](mailto:craig.kunkle@pittsfordpres.org)

### *If Was NOT 'The Dark Ages'!!: Medieval Christianity from the Fall of Rome to the Dawn of the Reformation*

Once again Rev. Rod Frohman will be teaching a series on Sundays starting at 11:45 this fall. This lecture series will concentrate on the church from 325 AD to 1414 AD. Put these dates in your calendar: **October 15; October 22; October 29; November 12; November 19; December 10**



## Update from In Step in Kenya

Life is busy as usual at the Home!

The waste treatment system that has been the focus of Adam's energy for so long is in use and only in need of final adjustments. One of the major needs for the system, the dairy barn, and the Home has been more electric power. Adam has been working hard with Kenya power to meet this need. After almost a year of effort a new transformer has been delivered and set—now only a new meter is needed.



Construction of the Stepping Stones Center

An African friend once said in America you have the clock, in Africa we have time. This is true in most every case. No one is on a schedule to get things done, which can be frustrating to those who want and need things done.

Another project that Adam has been working on is the Stepping Stones Center. This is a center for special needs children. This is a major construction project to house, educate, and care for special needs children who in Kenya would be ignored and usually left to die of starvation. The center will have an area for education and care as well as a living area for the children. Also, a small apartment will be attached for Beth Ann, the missionary in charge of the program. The new center will be a blessing for these children.

Because of the development of the new Stepping Stones Center, Adams shop, which is in half of the existing building will have to be moved. A team led by Ron Pollock is planning a trip in July of 2018 to help construct a new shop. Anyone with interest in joining that team should contact Ron (455-0000) or call the church office. Also, anyone interested in donating funds to offset the cost of the trip and construction can send a check to the church office with 'Pollock Mission' in the memo line.



The Stepping Stones Group

The dairy, which was the First Presbyterian Church project in 2015, built with funds from a grant given by the Indian Foundation of Western New York, is performing well. It is now providing all the dairy needs of the home and is able to sell some milk each day to a co-op nearby, which more than offsets the operating cost. Adam still believes that with an expanded herd

the sale of dairy products could help meet the day-to-day operating cost of the home.

Prayers are always needed for the home, the children, and the missionaries. Special prayers are needed now because of the elections being held there. There is much tribal jealousy there and as a result much violence and many killings at election time. This is always a time in which many children lose their families and are sent to the home.

Adam enjoyed his time off and visit with many of you here at the church, and is very thankful for your continued support. Without it God's work would never get done.

## **Optimists – Friday, September 8, 5:30 pm**

### **Kitty Van Bortel - My Life, My Faith**

Why do we dither over car purchases and home purchases and nothing else? There is something about us that raises a haggling spirit in our primitive natures. We never do this at Danny's grocery store. A graduate of Wells College (interesting roots) with drive, "I rented a house, lived upstairs and sold used cars ... in the front yard.... I gave up everything to make my business work. I had a relentless drive to prove that a woman could get to the top in this business." "My life's work is to help people with their... needs. I'm very sensitive to the stress of car ownership and work relentlessly to teach ...empathy." Come meet another dynamic woman share her story.

Tickets are \$13 and available in Fellowship Hall on two Sundays before the event, starting August 27. Please plan ahead as we must give an accurate count to our caterer (Pesto Roasted Chicken Breast Strip, Pasta Alfredo). Bring your own table service and donate a paper product for the Pittsford Food Cupboard. All are welcome.

## **Deacon Events**

- ◇ Saturday, September 23 - Game Night at 7pm in Fellowship Hall. Play Euchre and Board Games. All are welcome.
- ◇ Sunday, September 24 - Cooking Club at 5pm in Fellowship Hall. Help prepare a Buffalo Bills themed meal. Cost \$7. We will be learning to make Chicken Wings, Roast Beef of Weck, and other Western New York Favorites.
- ◇ Wednesday, September 27 - Concert at Kodak Hall -Eastman School of Music Student Philharmonia - Meet at church at 7:15pm  
Contact Dan Traina for info or sign up in Fellowship Hall after church.

## **Naomi Circle**

Summer flies by quickly! Once again it's time to reunite with circle members for fellowship, lunch, business, and programs. Bring lunch and mug on Monday, September 18, 12:30 pm, in room 200 upstairs.

Perhaps you have heard of SAMARITAN'S PURSE, an international, Christian, humanitarian aid organization. We'll be watching a video about one of their programs called OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD where shoeboxes filled with goodies are sent to children all over the world. We will consider participating in this program.

Non-members are always welcome!

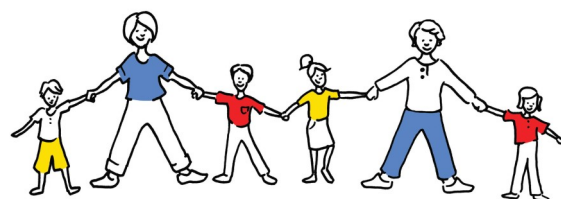


## **God's Handy Hands**

We help people across the country and around the world wherever God leads us. We would be happy to help you. Need help with home repairs or things around the house? God's handy hands can help, just call Ron Pollock (585-455-0000) or the Church office to get on the list to be helped! **There is no charge for our help—it is from our hearts to you.**

## News from the Nursery School

Keep it a secret, but I LOVE this time of year! I don't just mean Fall either ☺ What an exciting time. We are preparing and planning for another memorable school year. I very much look forward to getting to know our new families and catching up with returning families. We welcome a new teacher to our staff,



Deb Lomenzo! September will see meet and greets, sales of t-shirts and a family "get to know you better" event. Please keep in mind our children will continue to be dropped off and picked up in the parking lot during the Penny Pincher Sale. Our parents will be asked to be patient during this busy event. As always, please come visit our classrooms, view the children's art work, you will find it hard not to smile when you see their faces. Thank you for your continued support!



### Knitting Group

Our first fall get-together will be held Tuesday, September 26, from 11:00 am to 1:30 pm—or whenever. Bring a sandwich and we'll provide coffee and tea. Note new location: Fellowship Hall. Call Kay Saxum (385.9807) with any questions.

## WEB Club

Summer has arrived and here is a chance to get a head start on our Wednesday Book Club selections for the Fall.

September 13: ***Life in a Jar: The Irena Sendler Project* by Jack Mayer**, non-fiction

During World War II, Irena Sendler, a Polish Catholic social worker, organized a rescue network of fellow social workers to save 2,500 Jewish children from certain death in the Warsaw ghetto. Incredibly, after the war her heroism, like that of many others, was suppressed by communist Poland and remained virtually unknown for 60 years. Unknown, that is, until three high school girls from an economically depressed, rural school district in southeast Kansas stumbled upon a tantalizing reference to Sendler's rescues, which they fashioned into a history project, a play they called *Life in a Jar*.



Others on our Fall calendar are:

October 11: *The Underground Railroad* by Colton Whitehead

November 8: *The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry* by Gabrielle Zevin

December 13: *The Bird's Christmas Carol* by Kate Douglas Wiggin

We meet on the second Wednesday of each month from 2-4 pm in the church library. All are welcome - whether you have read the book or not. For further information contact Nancy Sprenkle [nancy.sprenkle@gmail.com](mailto:nancy.sprenkle@gmail.com)

## Penny Pincher Update

**Are you getting your donations together? Seven weeks to go! Keep this list handy.**

DROP-OFF DATES: (Please don't leave items outside.)  
Monday, October 2, 9:30 – 5:00; Tuesday, Oct. 3, 9:30 – 5:00; Wednesday, Oct. 4, 9:30 – 3:00



SALE DATES: Thursday, October 5, 10 – 5; Friday, Oct. 6, ½ Price 10 – Noon, \$2 Bag Sale Noon – 1:30

Items Needed: Small appliances, antiques, collectibles, books, CDs, DVDs, sports equipment, holiday items, dishes, glassware, furniture, jewelry, household, kitchen and craft items, stationery/office items, toys, games and puzzles, tools and garden equipment, linens and electronics. Please be sure that all electrical items are in working order and that all computers are complete – flat screens only. All donations should be clean and usable. Please mark sizes on sheets, tablecloths, etc. with a tag or tape. This really helps.

We do not accept: Large exercise equipment, skis, boots, poles, grills or clothing.

Brown paper grocery bags (Wegmans, Trader Joe's) may be placed in the container in the Lobby Room at any time. We need lots of these! Plastic bags and handled shopping bags may be brought in with your donations.

Sign-up for sale volunteers, women and men, will begin Sunday, September 3, in Fellowship Hall after each service. The sale is a great way to meet people who attend “the other service.”

HELP - If you have extra space in a garage, etc. where you could store items for people who are moving long before the sale, please let me know.

If you have a large or unusual item, please ask before you donate. Please call Liz with any questions.

## Come explore your musical heartbeat through our Children's music program!

The First Pres Children's Choirs begin on September 13 with the onset of the LOGOS program. The choirs include:

**Wee Kirksingers- K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade vocal choir**

**Celebrate Choir-3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade vocal choir**

**Beginning Chimes- 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> grade hand chime choir**

**Junior Kirkringers- 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade hand bell choir**

***“Music is Life, that's why our hearts have beats.” Cecily Morgan***

The various choirs meet within the LOGOS program which is held on Wednesday afternoons from 4-7pm. This year's theme is *Out and About With God* and our children will be learning a beautiful version of *Amazing Grace* with new lyrics written by our favorite Jamaican nun, Sister Mary Andrew. Looking ahead, our first date for K-6<sup>th</sup> to share in worship will be October 29<sup>th</sup> so mark your calendars now.

I hope to see some new faces as well as familiar ones in the choirs this fall. Please don't hesitate to give it a try even if you can't commit for the entire Logos program.

Feel free to contact me with any questions. Dede Holmes [dmh91654@frontiernet.net](mailto:dmh91654@frontiernet.net)

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## Return Service Requested



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Bill Mullins  
*Assist. Custodian*

### First Presbyterian Church

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Web page [www.pittsfordpres.org](http://www.pittsfordpres.org)

### 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.

