



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PITTSFORD

THE GOOD NEWS

FEBRUARY 2022

Embracing and Sharing Christ's Love

CHARTING THE COURSE WITH PASTOR AARON

Over the last 18 months, a number of industries have seen high rates of voluntary departures and resignations of employees. I've heard it called the Great Resignation or the Turnover Tsunami. We can all probably think of people we know that this has affected. I think of, in particular, those working in healthcare. This phenomenon is also significantly affecting church workers. The Barna Group, a research firm that studies church trends, found that, in 2021, 51% of pastors from mainline Protestant churches were "seriously considering" leaving full-time ministry. Commenting on that research, David Kinnaman, President of Barna Group, said that initial warning signs of burnout among pastors began in 2017 and that the COVID pandemic has intensely increased the number of pastors experiencing burnout, driving many of them to want to leave ministry.

Wow! What a sobering way to begin my newsletter article! I bring this up for two reasons. First, it's true. I personally know some pastors who have left church ministry in the last year, simply because they needed to care for themselves by getting out of an incredibly divisive and difficult situation. Second, given this phenomenon taking place throughout the Church, we are in such a blessed position for you to have the opportunity to call Rev. Erin Jacobson as your next permanent Associate Pastor at the congregational meeting on February 27.

At a time when many pastors are simply too overwhelmed to continue, you have the opportunity to welcome the leadership of an outstanding pastor. Erin has been an invaluable asset for this congregation over the past 17 months she has been with us. Many of you are rightfully excited about the vision of our church and about the progress we're making. I know I certainly am! Erin has been a huge part of that progress through her leadership, her pastoral care, her preaching, and her work with our youth. She is someone whose pastoral instincts and wisdom I trust. Every Minister, Ruling Elder, and Deacon is asked at their installations if they will serve the Church with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love. I can't think of many people who display all four characteristics as well as Erin.

There will be an opportunity for you to ask Erin questions about herself and her ministry at a town hall meeting on Saturday, February 26, from 3:00-4:00pm. The town hall meeting will be in-person and livestreamed. If you can't make it in-person, please submit questions you'd like Erin to answer to connect@pittsfordpres.org. Please submit your questions by February 23. Then I hope all members will attend the congregational meeting on Sunday, February 27, following the 10:00 am worship service at which, among our other business, you will vote on a recommendation to call her as your permanent Associate Pastor. Given the current situation facing many pastors today, I think it is incredibly important that Erin feels our support, prayers, and love. Let's be grateful that God has brought us this wonderful opportunity with this gifted pastor for such a time as this.

~ Aaron

From Pastor Erin: “I HATE Wearing Masks”

I hate wearing masks. A lot. Here are some of the reasons:

- They are HOT and I hate being HOT
- My complexion looks awful after wearing them
- They are HOT
- I use people’s facial expressions to help me understand how they are feeling and what they need when making pastoral care visits. Masks keep me from seeing their facial expressions fully.
- They are HOT
- They make it hard for people to understand what I am saying
- They are HOT
- Through an entire year of pool physical therapy for my leg I was required to wear one in the therapy pool at Thompson Health in Canandaigua. In spite of the inconvenience, my leg is healed and I am just fine!

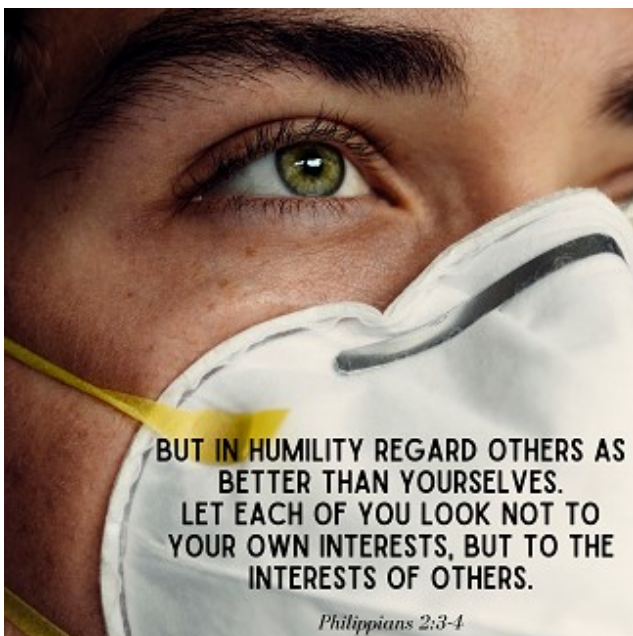
BUT this is why I wear a mask right now, whenever I am outside my home:

- Because it protects me from getting a novel virus that we still do not know the impact of over time.
- Because I could be contagious at any point and not even know it, and it protects OTHERS from unknowingly getting sick because of me.

I **know** that wearing masks is not pleasant (I challenge you to wear one in a pool while exercising, friends!). I **know** that wearing masks makes it harder to hear one another. I **know** that they are uncomfortable. I **know** that it is an inconvenience. I **know** that masks make all of us hot and sweaty. I **know** that almost two years into the pandemic we are all so very tired. I **know** that we all just want to be DONE with the pandemic and move on.

However, I also know that we are called to imitate Christ. My prayer as we enter the month of February is that we all try a little harder to imitate Christ.

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,



*who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.*

*Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.”*

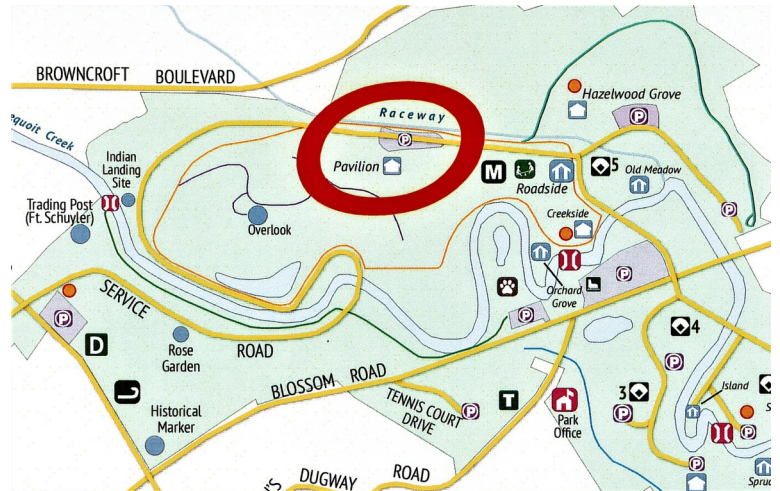
Philippians 2:3-11

Presbytery of Genesee Valley Family Fun Day at Pavilion Lodge in Ellison Park

Saturday, February 12, 11 am – 3 pm

Free! Open to all ages! Registration required by Thursday, February 10!

- Outdoor Winter Activities – sledding, skiing, skating, hiking, snow play – bring your own equipment
- Hot cocoa and hot soup will be provided if registered by February 10
- Warm fire in the Lodge
- Brief moment of worship at noon



Church activities are obviously more complicated these days due to COVID. At this event everyone must mask inside the lodge, and keep distance, too. And, of course, we cannot predict the weather!

****ONLINE REGISTRATION DEADLINE THURSDAY, February 10****

REGISTER HERE: <https://pbygenval.org/calendar/2022-family-winter-fun-day/>

Contact Rev. Jim Renfrew if you have any questions at: jim.renfrew@gmail.com or 585-813-2934.



New Officers' Biographies

Lew Becker - Elder, Class of 2024

A member of First Presbyterian for four years now, Lew is especially drawn to mission work outside of Pittsford. With Environmental, Engineering, and Business degrees, he was a project developer for large U.S. and international public/private partnership construction projects. Lew likes to hike, kayak, hunt, fish, and travel. He says, "What most excites me about FPC's growth opportunities is all of us reaching outside of our current comfort zone and way of doing church to share God's mercy and grace."

Barbara Bruins – Trustee, Class of 2023

Barbara joined First Presbyterian on December 20, 1971 – 50 years ago! She feels drawn to our worship service and fellowship, particularly Eve Circle and Presbyterian Women. Barbara sees opportunities for growth in expanding outreach and mission. In her spare time, she gardens, plays golf, and rides her bike.

Joy Irwin – Deacon, Class of 2024

A member of FPC for 25 years, Joy appreciates the community and the gifts our members bring to the church. Our music program is very important to her too. Formerly an associate executive director of YMCA, Joy likes to play bridge, mahjong, and pickleball. She also plays the viola at New Horizons, part of the Eastman Community Music School. Joy's husband David and son Will and his family are also deeply involved with First Presbyterian.

Vicki Klie – Deacon, Class of 2024

Vicki joined the church two years ago. Her now husband Bob had introduced her to the church and his friends here, and now she enjoys sharing our faith. A retired nurse, she likes to cook, read, play pickleball and other games, and is learning how to knit. Vicki is excited to watch young families grow in God's love at FPC and appreciates the church's many volunteer opportunities and inclusiveness.

Dawn Magnuson – Elder, Class of 2024

A member of FPC for eleven years, Dawn says when she enters the church "all my woes and worries fade away." A successful retail manager, her long-time interests have always been gardening and cooking, often combining the two. She also likes to sing. Dawn is happy that we now have a young pastor and family, hoping that this will bring the next generation of the church.

Luis Martinez – Elder, Class of 2024

Luis thinks our music program is fantastic and that we have wonderful pastors. "We have Jesus in the house," he says, "and need to get the word out." His other passions are sports car racing and writing about racing, business, and current events. Luis is mostly retired but still consults in human resources.

Sharon Martinez – Trustee, Class of 2024

Sharon is excited about the future-focus of Rev. Aaron and the church's focus on Jesus. She believes that this is one of FPC's great opportunities—to spread the Bible and good news. Sharon has been managing hospital and healthcare departments at the director level. She likes art, reading, tennis, and interior design.

Nick Polizzi – Trustee, Class of 2024

Nick was baptized and confirmed at First Presbyterian. He works in insurance and loves reading, going to the gym, and sports in general. He's inspired by the "exciting ventures" the church has planned for our future.

Brook Price – Deacon Elect, Class of 2024

As a stay-at-home mom, Brook really likes cooking and spending time with her family which includes Jackson and Margot, as well as her husband Ted. She is also into running, hiking, and tennis. Brook looks forward to "reaching out to others and bringing them into our church family."

New Officers' Biographies cont'd

Ted Price – Trustee, Class of 2022

A lawyer at SpaceX, in his spare time Ted enjoys tennis, golf, biking and hiking, among other activities. He believes that our great pastors and the church's location make it "a tremendous vehicle for Christian witness in Pittsford."

Dick Ryther – Deacon Elect, Class of 2023

Dick and his wife Norma have been members of this church for more than 25 years. He was the associate vice president of student services at MCC and now enjoys gardening, reading, and following sports on tv. Dick is looking forward to the church bringing in younger members.

Heze Simmons – Trustee, Class of 2024

Heze will bring his experience as a senior finance executive to his new role as Trustee. He appreciates the church's leadership, especially the preaching and Bible knowledge and sees plenty of growth opportunities at FPC, among them our use of No. 19 as a home for refugees, and the recent baptisms and new members joining the church. "We should find ways to get them involved and hopefully they will invite friends." Heze enjoys reading, traveling, golfing, and watching sports and movies.

Jeff Steele – Trustee, Class of 2024

In his own words, Jeff has been a member of FPC "forever." Actually, 1987. He has a background in mechanical engineering and enjoys photography, woodworking, and investing. What he appreciates about his fellow congregants is their commitment to outreach and openness to others' opinions.

Clara Travis – Deacon, Class of 2024

Clara has been a Deacon at other Presbyterian churches and attended FPC for two years before joining us. Her son Van and his whole family are all members too. Clara worked at Cornell University coordinating large classes and, once retired, owned a quilt shop. An avid quilter herself, she is also a reader and knitter in a weekly charity knitting group. Clara looks forward to "creating a 'new' future in a post-COVID world."

Nadine Wahl – Elder, Class of 2024

Nadine has been a member of FPC for more than 35 years, serving in various capacities. Her daughters Alison (who has been singing at FPC since she was five) and Lindsay were baptized and raised in the church. Nadine was PR director of the American Red Cross before having children and freelanced thereafter. After losing her husband Gary to cancer in 2018, she stepped back but is looking forward to serving FPC again. "I love the people and their faith. We are truly blessed with our choice of spiritual leaders—now we must follow."



Mark your calendars!

There will be a **town hall meeting** (in-person and live-streamed) on Saturday, February 26, from 3-4 pm. At the meeting, you will have the opportunity to ask **Pastor Erin Jacobson** questions about herself and her ministry. Please submit your questions by February 23 to

connect@pittsfordpres.org

Members of the congregation will vote to approve her call as permanent **Associate Pastor** during the **congregational meeting** following the 10 am worship service on Sunday, February 27.



Members with February Birthdays

Amy Adams
Aidan Bachmann
Diana Douglas
Anne Ferris
Matt Ferris
Kim Finkbeiner
Elizabeth Gianakakis

Dan Harrison
Martha Henry
Stephen Hill
James Kearney
Liz Mehalso
Pat Miller
Amy Oldfield

Chris Oldfield
Erin Reeve
Kelsey Swetman
Theodore Wallace
Marlys Whitcomb
Chris Zimmer

Wishing you a birthday that is full of laughter, love, and special memories!
If we missed you, please let the office know.

The Choral Extravaganza is Back!

On February 13, at 3 pm, choirs from the University of Rochester and Nazareth College will delight us with their voices.

Annual Valentine's Day Luncheon

Please note that this year's Valentine's Day Luncheon for Widows has been postponed until March 12. Invitations will be mailed and the gathering will also be announced in bulletins and emails.

Anthony Circle

The spring schedule for Anthony Circle will be as follows—note new meeting day: the second Wednesday! (all meetings will take place at 10 am in the library)

February 9: Dede Holmes will do a walk through the hymnal focusing on love songs.

March 9: An Irish theme.

April 13: Program TBA

May 11: Claudia will share from classes she took while in Florida.

OPTIMISTS

OPTIMISTS will meet on Friday, February 11, at 1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. It's bring your own lunch. Socializing on the agenda! Program to be announced—please watch for church notices.

Decaf coffee, hot water for tea, beverage accompaniments, and cookies provided. New members and friends welcome. Contact the church office connect@pittsfordpres.org or 585.586.5688 to have an OPTIMIST greet you.

Stewardship Campaign Final Report

It is with joy and gratitude that we announce 177 families have pledged a total of \$501,000 to support our church in 2022. This is not only a significant \$14,000 increase over 2021 but represents the largest campaign total in three years! The response from those able to pledge as well as those who make unpledged contributions clearly reflects a sense of excitement and enthusiasm for the direction of our mission and ministry. Thanks be to God!

Your Generosity Committee



News from the Nursery School

As always, February is a short month, but action packed! In the classrooms we discuss all those people in our community who help us in so many ways; two of these types of people will visit us, the dentist and the postal carrier. The 3's parents will have conferences with their child's teachers. The children will be making Valentine's cards for their parents which will then be mailed to them. Of course, we will celebrate Valentines' Day with cards and special games. We will also have a week off for President's week. We continue to register children for next school year and have started another session of our afternoon enrichment, Lil Athletes. Our year is now more than half over. Thank you for your continued support!

Teresa Zatyko, Director Pittsford Nursery School

What's Trending with the Trustees?

In early January, members of the Trustee Building & Grounds Committee (plus others) undertook a major effort to renovate the house at 19 Church Street. They expended considerable energy to clean, repair, paint, carpet, install appliances, etc., and in the space of a week the house became a home for nine members of a family from Afghanistan (see article above). Another important recent project of B&G was the construction and finishing of the A/V Booth in the Sanctuary.

These contributions by committee members represent major savings to FPC—we pay for materials, but labor is donated (free). The number of B&G committee members are limited and there are many tasks to be undertaken. Can you wield a hammer? Use a paint brush or roller? Connect and/or repair appliances? Are you a general handyman/woman? You don't have to be a Trustee (or other Officer) to volunteer and your help would be much appreciated. Send an email to connect@pittsfordpres.org or let Bob Collins or Bob Dunn (co-chairs) know you'd like to help. We'd be more than happy to add your name to a list of volunteers to whom we can reach out when needed.

FPC in Mission JASY Mission Update

The JASY (Jamaican Advantage through Sports for Youth) Board of Directors has reviewed the current global pandemic situation, how it is impacting Jamaica, and plans for 2022 JASY Camp. The JASY Board has decided that it would be best for the volunteers and campers to defer the next JASY Camp to 2023. Key factors contributing to this decision include quarantine requirements upon arrival of 8 to 14 days, low Jamaican vaccination rate, limitations on size (10 max) of public gatherings, JASY camp facility (Utech) limitations, and potential challenges of contracting COVID on the island.



We are hopeful of returning to Jamaica in the future, reconnecting with old friends, and making new ones by enjoying together all that makes JASY Camp so very special. We hope to start early engagement and team building for the 2023 trip in April 2022.

While it does not replace yet another year of in-person connections, the JASY community sponsored a Christmas Party for the Riverton Preschool, with Clive Mulholland (JASY volunteer) as Santa; as well as funded Holiday Food/Care Baskets for families served by the Riverton Community Centre.

Lectionary for February

February 6

5th Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 6:1–8 (9–13)

Psalms 138

1 Corinthians 15:1–11

Luke 5:1–11

February 13

6th Sunday after Epiphany

Jeremiah 17:5–10

Psalms 1

1 Corinthians 15:12–20

Luke 6:17–26

February 20

7th Sunday after Epiphany

Genesis 45:3–11, 15

Psalms 37:1–11, 39–40

1 Corinthians 15:35–38, 42–50

Luke 6:27–38

February 27

Transfiguration of the Lord

Exodus 34:29–35

Psalms 99

2 Corinthians 3:12–4:2

Luke 9:28–36 [37–43]

FPC in Mission Cameron Community Ministries



Hello, Cameron Supporters!

Thank you for taking part in our 2021 mission work with Cameron.

Some fun facts for you:

- 1) You provided **over 1300 meals** this year! By using our at-home cooks early on and returning to the kitchen in September, hot, nourishing take-home meals delighted our Cameron guests and the staff. The successful weekend backpack program continues to provide Cameron kids with food for weekends.
- 2) Our August drive-thru donations yielded a **truckload of school supplies and backpacks** to prep Cameron kids for school.
- 3) Other: **150+ volunteer hours, 60 presents and 100 Christmas cookie packets made by confirmants, 100+ hand-knit hats, mittens and scarves, 5 carloads of apparel, kitchen tools, cash/on-line donations**

Your hands and hearts are the engines for this work. Love is the fuel.

Let's prepare for our 2022 journey with Cameron. I'd appreciate your thoughts and ideas before my January 10 meeting with Cameron leaders. Thank you very much!

Cindy Becker/Outreach



FPC in Mission

Our New Neighbors



Mission in partnership is a transformational adventure...a risk.... There is no way to guarantee what will happen along the way to God's future.
Sherron George

We, the congregation of First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford, are off on a transformational adventure. The Zamani family moved into our home on Church Street, on January 7 with a one-year lease. The family came from Kabul, Afghanistan, via a refugee camp at Fort Dix, NJ under the auspices of Keeping Our Promise (KOP) with special immigrant visas. They are working with Catholic Family Center (CFC), the lead agency in Rochester for refugees, to establish all the aspects of their residency in Rochester and the USA.

KOP helps to establish a Caring Circle of volunteers for each family and the Zamani's circle includes members of FPC as well as other community members. Thus far, the circle has reached out to the Pittsford Community Library, the Islamic Center of Rochester (one of our Habitat partners), the Center for Refugee Health, Saint's Place, and to the Pittsford Food Cupboard, run by our own Dan Traina.

The first step for the family will be to learn enough English to be able to work here and for the children to go to school in Pittsford. The adults will partner with the Rochester City School District's Office of Adult and Career Education Services (OACES). The Caring Circle will help/teach the family to maneuver the public RTS bus system to get to and from OACES.

The Zamanis risked their very lives to come to the USA and to be in partnership with all of us here. The local partners on this adventure are an alphabet soup of organizations. They are also individuals, and we will continue to expand the opportunities to be in partnership as we are able. If you would like more information or would like to be a part of this "transformational adventure," please contact Lee Fox (lee.freeman.fox@gmail.com or 261-7092).



When did we See you?

Matthew 25: 31-46

PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH TRIENNIUM 2022

July 24-27 • Indianapolis, IN

Presbyterian Youth Triennium registration opens on February 2! Please contact Rev. Erin if you're interested in attending or hearing more about the conference.

PRESBYTERY OF GENESEE VALLEY

winter youth retreat

LAGOM LANDING & DANSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NEW DATE! *Saturday, February 19*

11 am-6 pm

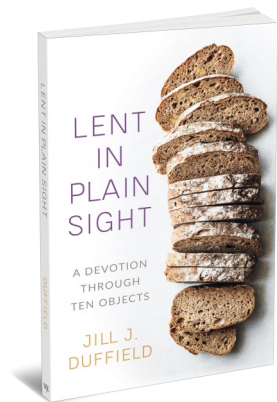
There is still time to register for the Winter Youth Retreat at Lagom Landing and Dansville Presbyterian Church! Please let Rev. Erin know if you are interested in attending.



Vacation Bible School July 18-23

At Knights of North Castle VBS, your students will enjoy an interactive, energizing, Bible-based good time as they go on a quest in search of the King's Armor. They will become Knights and discover how to serve God and God's mission for their lives.

The Christian Education Committee will be asking all parents to help the committee to decide whether to hold Vacation Bible School from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm or 8:30 am to 5:00 pm that week. You will be receiving an email with a survey to that effect. You can also help by calling the church office and letting us know your preference.



Lent in Plain Sight

God is often at work through the ordinary: ordinary people, ordinary objects, ordinary grace. Through the ordinary, God communicates epiphanies, salvation, revelation, and reconciliation. It is through the mundane that we hear God's quiet voice. The book, *Lent in Plain Sight*, draws readers' attention to ten ordinary objects that Jesus would have encountered on his way to Jerusalem.

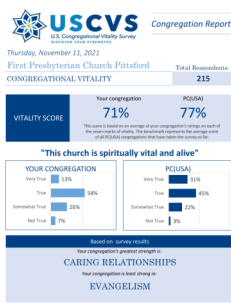
This year our church will use the season of Lent to facilitate conversation and connection to each other and to the meaning of this time in the church year.

The goal of this All Church Devotional will be to focus on spiritual lessons and

recognize how the seemingly ordinary can reveal the extraordinary presence of God in our lives.

Starting February 27 through the end of Lent (April 17), every Sunday at 11:30 am, Pastor Neff, Pastor Jacobson, and Craig Kunkle will kick off each week with a group learning session in Fellowship Hall. Or you can get the same content in online Fellowships happening on Zoom throughout each week. To cap off each week, the sermon will bring us together on each topic. Be sure to get the book and participate.

Lent in Plain Sight books will be on sale for \$10 in Fellowship Hall throughout February.



Walk Through The Congregational Vitality Survey Results

On February 20, after the second church service, The Vital Congregations Team and Pastor Neff will host an event to unpack and discuss the results of the survey the congregation filled out in October of last year. They need your help with understanding what the results represent for First Presbyterian. This event will last approximately two hours from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm.

First Presbyterian Church
of Pittsford
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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

Many of you are right-fully excited about the vision of our church and about the progress we're making.

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>The Rev. Aaron Neff <i>Pastor and Head of Staff</i> Ext. 25 aaron.neff@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>The Rev. Erin Jacobson <i>Temp. Supply Assoc. Pastor</i> Ext. 24 erin.jacobson@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>Craig Kunkle <i>Director of Christian Education</i> Ext. 30 craig.kunkle@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>Britta Konau <i>Office & 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>First Presbyterian Church 21 Church Street, Pittsford, NY 14534 Phone 585.586.5688, Fax 585.586.8090 connect@pittsfordpres.org www.pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>Worship Services: 8:30 and 10:00 am in-person 10:00 am also livestreamed Communion is offered on the first Sunday of each month.</p> <p> </p> |
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