



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PITTSFORD

THE GOOD NEWS

FEBRUARY 2024

Embracing and Sharing Christ's Love

CHARTING THE COURSE WITH PASTOR AARON

Mark your calendars for February 11. That is the date for the congregational debrief, summarizing the work that will have been done in the Faith Forward initiative.

Throughout our Faith Forward initiative, our Vision Team has discerned what our core values are. You have been hearing lots about our core values recently, since it is the topic of our current sermon series. Core values describe *who we are*, and, ultimately, they influence the things we do. What we do flows out of who we are. Discerning our core values has been illuminating and exciting. However, I'm sure most of you are anxious to know what the Vision Team will say about that latter component - what we do. We might call this our "vision" and "mission." The vision and mission is primarily what is seen by people. They are what we build programs and schedule meetings around.

As I'm writing this, the Vision Team has yet to convene at its third and final retreat. At that retreat on January 27-28, the Vision Team will begin formulating a strategic plan to implement a new vision and mission for our church. Our consultants have an acronym to describe this strategic plan: SCORE. Here is what it stands for:

Spiritual support (our primary model for mentoring and discipling our people)

Communicate our message (clarifying key elements of our public identity and brand)

Outreach focus (our signature outreach ministry in the local community)

Re-design structures (evaluating and aligning governance, stewardship, staffing, and facilities to our True North)

Engage our people (our primary method of fostering community, providing care, and empowering people in ministry)

After the third retreat, the Vision Team will be able to report to the congregation on our SCORE. Specifically, our consultant Kevin will be here to help the Vision Team do just that at the congregational debrief on February 11.

If you care about the future of our church and want to engage with the Vision Team about their work, then please come to this important meeting. It will happen in our Fellowship Hall after worship that Sunday - around 11:30 am. I am excited and hopeful about the future of our church and its ministry. I hope you are, too.

~ Aaron

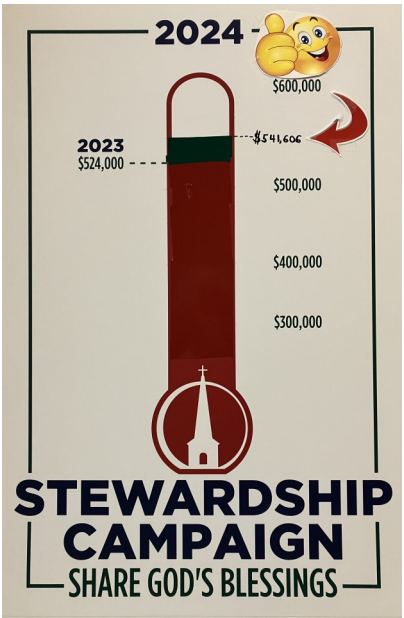
February 4, 2024

Youth Sunday

"INSPIRE" Intergenerational WORSHIP

Lectionary for February

<p>February 4 5th Sunday after Epiphany Isaiah 40:21–31 Psalm 147:1–11, 20c 1 Corinthians 9:16–23 Mark 1:29–39</p>	<p>February 11 Transfiguration of the Lord 2 Kings 2:1–12 Psalm 50:1–6 2 Corinthians 4:3–6 Mark 9:2–9</p>	<p>February 14 Ash Wednesday Joel 2:1–2, 12–17 or Isa. 58:1–12 Psalm 51:1–17 2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10 Matt. 6:1–6, 16–21</p>	<p>February 18 1st Sunday in Lent Genesis 9:8–17 Psalm 25:1–10 1 Peter 3:18–22 Mark 1:9–15</p>	<p>February 25 2nd Sunday in Lent Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16 Psalm 22:23–31 Romans 4:13–25 Mark 8:31–38</p>
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Thank you!

It is with joy and gratitude that we announce as of January 19, 2024 we have 175 pledges for a total of \$541,606 which has exceeded our 2023 pledges by approximately \$17,000. Thanks to the generosity of our members and friends, this will be the third year in a row that we have exceeded the previous year's total pledge amount. We are so grateful that you have decided to **Share God's Blessings** with our church and those we serve.

Your Generosity Committee

Members with February Birthdays

- | | | |
|----------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Amy Adams | Elizabeth Gianakakis | Pat Miller |
| Aidan Bachmann | Dan Harrison | Amy Oldfield |
| Sylvia Booth | David T. Hartney | Chris Oldfield |
| Diana Douglas | Martha Henry | Erin Reeve |
| Anne Ferris | Stephen Hill | Kelsey Swetman |
| Matt Ferris | James Kearney | Marlys Whitcomb |
| Kim Finkbeiner | Liz Mehalso | |

May all of your birthday wishes come true!

If we missed you, please let the office know.





Presbyterian Women

All women in the church are invited to the Presbyterian Women's Board meeting, which will be held on Wednesday, February 21, at 10 am in room 204. We will be discussing and planning this year's financial support to organizations that support women and children. Our sponsorship is provided with funds we received from both the Second Mile Giving campaign and our fall Penny Pincher Sale. If you are interested in learning more about Presbyterian Women and the committees and circles that our church community engages in, please attend this meeting.

OPTIMISTS



The OPTIMISTS will meet on February 9 at 1:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. Lunch will be provided and the discussion topic will be Sweetheart stories!

Put the date on your calendar and then watch for reminders closer to the time. Friends welcome!



News from the Nursery School

February proves to be a short but busy month. We are looking forward to celebrating Valentine's Day, our teachers are currently preparing or finishing up parent/teacher conferences, and the preschool will be closed the week of Presidents' Day. We are excited to share that our open enrollment for the 2024-25 school year is underway and doing quite well, three out of five of our programs are full. Thank you for your continued support!

Kathy Woodruff, Director Pittsford Nursery School

Needle Nellies

Needle Nellies will meet on Tuesday, January 30, and February 27, from 11 am to 1:30 pm. We'll meet upstairs in room 204. Bring your lunch and drink, please!

Anthony Circle

Anthony Circle will be meeting on Tuesday, February 13, at 10 am in room 204 to put together personal care bags for the thirteen residents at Pembroke Group Home (a home for residents with chronic mental illness), where Maria Smith volunteers. Please consider purchasing a full-size tube of toothpaste, a full-size body wash and a tooth brush for the care bags. Any questions, please contact Louise Thompson at lathompson213@gmail.com or Maria Smith at tbgsmith@frontiernet.net.

The Memorial Garden Committee needs you!

Green thumbs are not necessary. We are now more of a steering committee, giving oversight and formulating solutions for this precious piece of land—our own "Secret Garden." We meet occasionally in the spring and fall, do some light gardening (the Landscape Committee under Buildings and Grounds do most of the work), and manage the direction of this sacred space. Did your interest get piqued? Call Deb Matrachisia 585-752-5584 for questions or more information.

Deacon Event

Sunday, February 4, at 5 pm - Cooking Club - Football tailgating theme. We will be making three types of chicken wings (including boneless in the air fryer - healthy), Loaded Nachos, Crudit  Veggie Plate with dips, and sweet potato fries. Cost is \$8.00. Contact Dan Traina for more information or to sign up at dtraina@rochester.rr.com.

New Officers' Biographies

Linda Ashworth – Deacon, Class of 2026

A teacher by training, Linda likes to read, bake, and do yoga in her down time. She and her husband Andy joined First Presbyterian 23 years ago.

David Bruins – Deacon, Class of 2026

David and his wife, Barbara, joined FPC in 1971! A retired engineer, David now likes to garden, travel, explore, work on home projects, and have family fun. He loves the church's music program and is also interested in short-term projects and activities.

Kim Finkbeiner – Deacon, Class of 2026

Nevan Fisher – Elder, Class of 2026

A member of FPC for 16 years, Nevan is a professor of Chinese history at Nazareth University, but for the past nine years he has served as the institution's chief international officer. Nevan's leisure interest include international travel, gardening, hiking, reading, and spending time with extended family. He says, "I am excited for our church to continue growth as an intergenerational church that appeals to both young and old, and which pulls from a wide cross section of society."

Tom Gartland – Deacon, Class of 2024

Tom joined First Presbyterian in 2000. He is a retired administrator from a New York State agency and loves to spend time with his extended family, travel, boating on Keuka Lake and the Erie Canal, as well as puttering around the family's house and cottage. He hopes that the church's community engagement will grow in the future.

Kate Gerew – Trustee, Class of 2026

Kate joined FPC 11 years ago. A Certified Financial Planner, she feels she has been very fortunate to be able to take a career break to focus on her family. Kate loves to travel, cook, spending winters skiing and playing paddle and summer at their cottage. "I'm inspired by my many wonderful friends committed to our church," she says.

Kelly Mattingly – Deacon, Class of 2024

A mother of two, Kelly enjoys cooking, reading, writing, walking, and yoga. She sees a growth opportunity for FPC in getting more young people involved.

Len Parker – Deacon, Class of 2024

Len joined the church in 2011, and since he lives in the neighborhood, he thinks of it as part of his community. He works with strategy and technology, but also house building and outdoor projects. Len enjoys photography and the great outdoors.

Jessica Pedersen – Elder, Class of 2026

Jessica has attended FPC since 2016 and eventually joined us officially in 2020. Her husband Todd and parents-in-law Jane and Mark Pedersen all are members of our church. Jessica received a PhD from the UofR School of Medicine and Dentistry but is currently staying at home with their almost-two-year-old son Samuel. She likes to horseback ride, cook, do crafts, and "dabble" in interior design/3D modeling. Jessica is "looking forward to growing with God along with my brothers and sisters in Christ who also serve our church and excited to explore ways to share our faith with the community and reach young families to bring them into the church."

Linda Ranslow – Deacon, Class of 2026

After working for Xerox for 29 years, Linda has shared her skills as a volunteer with SCORE which helps small businesses for the past 15 years. She has been a member at FPC for almost 30 years. The outdoors is where she finds the fun: hiking, snow shoeing, biking, “and any back road adventures.” Linda loves the people at FPC and sees opportunities for positive change.

Allan Reeve – Trustee, Class of 2025

Allan Reeve joined FPC thirty years ago. He is an attorney who loves music and sings in our choir. “I am happy to see young families and the church's outreach activities locally and beyond,” he says.

Carrie Shone – Deacon, Class of 2026

Carrie has been attending First Presbyterian since she was six years old. As an adult, she values that here newer and older members work alongside each other “to better the world.” Carrie is a Speech Language Pathologist.

Kelly Travis – Deacon, Class of 2026

Steve Van Arsdale – Elder, Class of 2026

Steve just retired from being a lawyer for Wegmans at the end of 2023. He likes to play golf and work on the family's farmette in Perinton.

Richard Young – Trustee, Class of 2026

A member of FPC for over ten years, Rick retired from being a Vice President/Trust Officer at Chase Bank. He plays golf and collects antiques, and hopes that First Presbyterian will expand opportunities to help others.



Valentine's Luncheon for Widows

The Valentine's Luncheon for Widows, 8th Edition, will be held Saturday, February 10, from 12:00-2:00 pm. Share in our luncheon of quiche, soup, and salad. Share some hugs and humor. And feel free to share this invite with a widowed friend. RSVP to Deb at 585-752-5584 or debmat9267@gmail.com; or the church office at 585-586-5688 by February 7. Please bless Green Angels with a donation from their list of needs:

- Diapers (all sizes)
- Toothbrushes or toothpaste
- Feminine Products
- Deodorant
- Packaged hair brushes
- Socks all sizes
- Underwear in the package all sizes
- School supplies & backpacks
- Sunscreen
- Laundry detergent
- Cleaning products



CAMP WHITMAN



on seneca Lake

Registration is open for Camp Whitman on Seneca Lake's 2024 Summer Season!

<https://www.campwhitman.org/dates-rates>

Pathfinder Camps (Adults with Disabilities)

For more than 40 years Camp Whitman has been providing overnight camp or "vacation" weeks for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

1 Week overnight camp sessions for youth and adults 18 to 55 years old, with a 3:1 (camper to counselor) supervision ratio.

Trailblazers Camps (ages 6-16)

"Trailblazers" are school-aged campers and each age group is represented by a different unit:

Pioneers (ages 6-8 or grades 1-3)

Adventurers (ages 8-10 or grades 3-5)

Explorers (ages 11-13 or grades 6-8)

Voyagers (ages 14-16 or grades 9-11)

Counselor in Training (ages 16-17)

The CIT program is a two-week training to prepare the next generation of camp leaders. Accepted participants will learn and practice the skills needed to work at camp with both traditional school-aged campers and adult campers with developmental disabilities.

Camp Whitman on Seneca Lake is a ministry of the Presbyteries of Geneva and Genesee Valley. Scholarships are available if financial support is needed. If you have questions about Camp Whitman, please reach out to Pastor Jacobson.

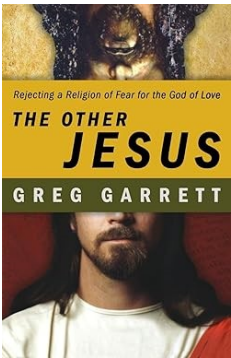


Christian Education

Adult Education Opportunities
Monday Night Bible Study 7 pm Zoom
Tuesday Highlands Bible Study 12:50 pm Highlands Music Room
Wednesday Bible Study 7:15 pm hybrid
Thursday Women's Bible Study noon library

Lent Pop-Up Fellowship Small Groups

A church is more than what happens on Sunday mornings. A church is a community of faith, a community unified by its commitment to love God and our neighbors, a community that is held together by its relationships to one another with Jesus as our example. Praying to the triune God with other people is a transformational experience. But if we keep to ourselves, we miss that incredible opportunity.



The church occasionally forms temporary small groups aimed at members and friends of FPC, especially those who may not yet have encountered the power that church groups hold. We are calling these “pop-up fellowship” opportunities. These groups last 6-7 weeks and are designed to help form new relationships and help people learn to think spiritually, whether they are just beginning a spiritual journey or looking to build on an existing one.

This Lent, pop-up fellowships will be held for six weeks and will be reading the book *The Other Jesus: Rejecting a Religion of Fear for the God of Love* by Greg Garrett. In the book Mr. Garret evaluates the core of Christian faith and helps us reflect on how we should be doing it better. The book and discussion around it, however is secondary to sitting and fellowshiping together as the people of God.

Groups and signup opportunities will be offered in Fellowship Hall leading up to Feb 11. Books are available in Fellowship Hall and the church office.

Sunday School Schedule



February 4

Theme: Intergenerational Worship

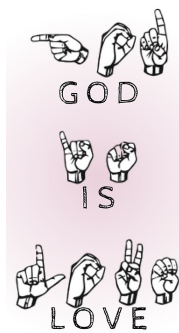
Activity: Kids will stay in sanctuary



February 11

Jesus Loves Children

Drama



February 18

The Great Commandment

Sign Language Scripture



February 25

The Anointing of Jesus

Cooking

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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED



<p>The Rev. Aaron Neff <i>Pastor and Head of Staff</i> 585.643.1240 aaron.neff@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>The Rev. Erin Jacobson <i>Associate Pastor</i> 585.204.2012 erin.jacobson@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>Craig Kunkle <i>Director of Christian Education</i> Ext. 30 craig.kunkle@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>Britta Konau <i>Office & 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 Service:</p> <p>8:30 am in-person 10:00 am in-person and livestreamed</p> <p>Communion is offered on the first Sunday of each month.</p> <div data-bbox="1008 1575 1524 1999"></div>
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