



The Good News

January 2021

First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford
Embracing and Sharing Christ's Love

CHARTING THE COURSE WITH PASTOR AARON

The Tonight Show did a segment a few years ago about failed New Year's resolutions just weeks after people made their resolutions. They tracked down the hashtag #ResolutionFails and found some humorous ones. One person wrote: "My resolution on January 1st was to lose 15 pounds. As of today, I only have 20 more to go." Another person wrote: "My resolution was to read more. So... I turned the subtitles on on my TV."

It's a yearly tradition for many people to set New Year's resolutions. The new year feels like a natural opportunity to re-set, and making a resolution is a way to try to take action in that direction. New Year's resolutions often end in failure. In fact, the *Journal of Clinical Psychology* reported that only 46% of people who made resolutions succeeded. However, the same journal also reported that people who make resolutions are 10% more likely to change their behavior than those who don't. To me, this means that it's better to set goals and fail than to never set goals to try to avoid failure.

Every year, two resolutions top the list of the most common ones: exercise more and lose weight. As we look ahead to 2021, our New Year's resolutions will likely be different. Not that prioritizing our physical health isn't important, but we have been through a lot in 2020 that has put life into perspective. In a recent national survey, 68% of respondents said they will be moving away from setting "traditional" resolutions. The pandemic has significantly affected our economy, our social lives, and our ability to go places, so it makes sense that the top resolutions for next year noted from respondents have to do with financial planning, spending time with loved ones, and traveling.

With COVID-19 vaccines being administered throughout the country, including right here in Monroe County, there is reason to be optimistic. Let's look ahead to 2021 with hopeful expectation, having learned some valuable lessons this year. Let's not take for granted the things we've missed the most, like fellowship and singing together. Let's not neglect the key assets we've picked up along the way, like our ability to live-stream and to expand our ministries online. Let's continue to believe that God has good things in store for us, for Pittsford, for Rochester, and beyond. While we trust in the Lord, let's not be afraid to try and fail, rather than regret never having tried at all.

~ Aaron

Youth Group News

Confirmation

The confirmands and Pastor Jacobson will meet on Zoom the following Sundays in January:

January 10, 24, and 31.

The confirmands are spending the time between December 13 and January 10 reading the first three chapters of the gospel of Luke. Please keep Sofia Fantuzzo and Aaron Sheu in your prayers as they continue on this journey of faith.

January Youth Group Meetings

Youth Group will meet via Zoom on the following Sundays in January:

January 10, 17, 24, 31

Join us at 7pm on Sunday evenings for a different theme, games, and prayer. Contact Pastor Jacobson if you have any questions at erin.jacobson@pittsfordpres.org

Association of Presbyterian Christian Educators Conference

This year is a great year to attend APCE. The conference is virtual allowing you to attend the conference from the comfort of your own home. APCE invites all involved in educational ministry to embark on a 3-day "Anything But Ordinary Time" virtual adventure like never before! While 2020 may feel like anything but ordinary, we know God is "making all things new."

With national speakers and leadership in worship this conference will help inspire you. The workshops will help to train each of us in how to help the church move to the future.

Registration is only \$100. For more information: <https://apcenet.org>

Minute for Mission: RAIHN Update

Although we have not had guests from RAIHN stay at church since the beginning of COVID, the program continues to provide services to homeless families. After churches closed their buildings, hotels were utilized for shelter. Congregations were asked to provide meals mostly in the form of gift cards. That model has continued and First Pres and support congregations, St Paul's Lutheran and Christ Episcopal, just completed their last donation week in November. Pittsford Pres also participated in RAIHN's Adopt-a-Family and provided gifts for Christmas. Thanks, volunteers! So what is going on and what will happen next? RAIHN has continued to provide food and supplies, as well as referrals for services needed and assistance in online, remote learning for 23 families in their Aftercare and Stabilization program. RAIHN's Prevention, Diversion & Rehousing Program has received calls from over 790 families requesting assistance with rental arrears or a security deposit. Of these, RAIHN has been able to help 85 families, including 179 children, thus far in 2020, with funding to prevent an eviction or regain housing. Over the course of the next six months, RAIHN (Rochester Area Interfaith Hospitality Network) will be transitioning its name to Family Promise of Greater Rochester, reflecting continued affiliation with this national organization. Please be assured that while the name will change, the mission remains the same: to provide services to the most vulnerable families in the community, while recognizing the promise each family has to realize their potential. Although our church's role in this program is changing, there will be continued need for volunteers as well as monetary donations. Watch for further information as the program continues to transition.

Lectionary for January

January 3 2nd Sunday of Christmas

Jeremiah 31:7-14
Psalm 147:12-20
Ephesians 1:3-14
John 1:(1-9) 10-18

January 6 Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72:1-7,
10-14
Ephesians 3:1-12
Matthew 2:1-12

January 10 Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 29
Acts 10:34-43
Matthew 3:13-17

January 17 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 40:1-11
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
John 1:29-42

January 26 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 9:1-4
Psalm 27:1, 4-9
1 Corinthians
1:10-18
Matthew 4:12-23

January 31 4th Sunday after Epiphany

Deuteronomy
18:15-20
Psalm 111
1 Corinthians 8:1-
13
Mark 1:21-28

Deacon Events

▪ Buffalo Bills Fellowship Celebration - Sunday, January 3, 2021 at 4:00pm - Join us on a Zoom call after the Bills vs. Dolphins game to celebrate the end of the regular season for the Buffalo Bills.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88994164543?pwd=WVpFdDBLZVpPaElpOVFGdzB1dVBJUT09>

Meeting ID: 889 9416 4543

Passcode: 702032

▪ Game Night - Friday, January 22, at 7:00pm - Join a group game on the Game Board Arena platform. E-mail dtraina@rochester.rr.com for more information and to set up your on-line account

▪ Snow Shoe/Hiking - Saturday, January 23, at 10am - Meet at church and we'll decide where to go depending on the weather. If there is good snow, we will be snow shoeing at Mendon Ponds. Alternative will be a hike.

▪ Cooking Club - Sunday, January 24, at 6pm - Join us to prepare a meal together and then enjoy the company and fellowship of our cooks as we dine "together." The theme will be Southern Cooking. E-mail dtraina@rochester.rr.com to get the menu.

Eve Circle

Eve Circle will meet on Zoom Monday, December 28, at 12:30 pm. The electronic link will be sent. Questions, call Margaret Mecredy, 381-6430.



News from the Nursery School

2021. I know we all have hopes and wishes for this coming year. Let's work on them together. Life is a gift in every sense. Here at the preschool we are returning to our normal schedule. We will be building our annual ice sculpture next to the parking lot. The 2's and 4's will have parent conferences via phone. We will not be having our annual Open House, but we are advertising our school in every other way possible 😊 Word of mouth has always been the best way to spread good news! Please do so with your friends and neighbors, thank you. Thank you for your continued support! And a very Happy New Year to you all!!

Teresa Zatyko, Director Pittsford Nursery School

Needle Nellies

Needle Nellies will join together for a Zoom meeting on Tuesday, December 29, at 11 a.m. Can't wait to see everyone!! Kay Saxum

Members with January Birthdays

Jim Bishop
Lauren Blowers
Peggy Burton
Josh Cordova
Austen Fagan
Lilly Fantuzzo
Ashley Finkbeiner
Adina Flynn
Taylor Frank
Ann Kay Hotaling
Matthew Kilmer

Jane Landsman
Karen Maher
Noel Nichols
Nina Oakley
Allison Ranslow
Madison Ranslow
Colleen Rouse
Lucien Rouse
Mary Elizabeth Scheu
Barbara Smith
Jan Smith

Mabel Stehler
Ashley Stern
Joan Thomas Miller
Elena Travis
Zachary Travis
Elisabeth Tyler
BJ Vesling
Henry Walbaum
Barbara Welsh
Garrett Wilson



Wishing you a birthday that is full of laughter, love, and special moments!



(if we missed you—please let the office know)

First Presbyterian Church
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www.pittsfordpres.org

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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

*Let's look ahead to 2021 with
hopeful expectation, having
learned some valuable lessons
this year.*

<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>Tim Carder <i>Custodian</i> Ext. 33; tim@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> dmh91654@frontiernet.net</p> <p>Joshua Burke <i>AV 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: 10:00 am live-streamed Online Communion is offered on the first Sunday of each month. https://www.pittsfordpres.org/live</p> <p></p> <p></p>
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