



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PITTSFORD

THE GOOD NEWS

MARCH 2022

Embracing and Sharing Christ's Love

CHARTING THE COURSE WITH PASTOR AARON

The month of March also begins the season of Lent for us this year. We'll begin Lent with our Ash Wednesday service on March 2, and then every Sunday in Lent will have a specific Lenten theme. This year, the theme of Sunday worship will coincide with the book that the Pop-Up Fellowship groups will be using during Lent. The book is called *Lent in Plain Sight* by Jill J. Duffield. I encourage everyone to come to worship to reflect on the topic, to attend the workshops every Sunday after worship delving deeper into the topic, or to join a Pop-Up Fellowship group to discuss the topic with your friends. I won't get into the details of the book study right now, but I do want to reflect on the idea of seeing God's grace in the ordinary.

One of the most meaningful ways for me to spend time in theological reflection is through observing the ordinary world. Over the last two years, I've written down some of these observations and shared them with you in Mid-Week Meet-Ups or Sunday sermons. Sometimes they are about tomato seeds my family planted, and other times they are about my experience of the passage of time. Either way, the theological lesson is generated by a simple observation of the world. I call it "observational theology."

As much as I may have given a name to this type of theological inquiry, I definitely didn't invent it! In fact, on the contrary, I think Christian theology is rooted in observational theology. This is a primary mode of the teachings of Jesus, except he didn't call it "observational theology." He called it "telling a parable!" Think about the content of the parables of Jesus. What are they about? They are about sewing projects, farmers, weeds, seeds, leaven, oil lamps, fishing nets, sheep, day laborers, daily wages, lost coins, wedding banquets, and more. The content of his parables was about everyday things in life. It's amazing how much meaning Jesus was able to make simply out of observing the world around him. Jesus was able to communicate timeless and deep truths by talking about mustard seeds and weeds. That's amazing!

This Lent, you are invited to see what timeless and deep truths may be hiding all around you. Whether in worship, after worship, or during the week, we are going on a journey this year of seeing God in the ordinary. I hope you'll go with us!

~Aaron

Lent Services

Wednesday, March 2	7:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Service *
Sunday, April 10	8:30 am	Palm Sunday Service
	10:00 am	Palm Sunday Service *
Thursday, April 14	7:00 pm	Maundy Thursday Service *
Friday, April 15	7:00 pm	Good Friday Service *
Sunday, April 17	7:00 am	Easter Sunrise Service (Port of Pittsford, at the Canal behind Library)
	8:30 am	Easter Sunday Service
	10:30 am	Easter Sunday Service *

all services are in person

* = also livestreamed

Lectionary for March

March 2	March 6	March 13	March 20	March 27
Ash Wednesday	1st Sunday in Lent	2nd Sunday in Lent	3rd Sunday in Lent	4th Sunday in Lent
Joel 2:1–2, 12–17 or Isaiah 58:1–12 Psalm 51:1–17 2 Corinthians 5:20b– 6:10 Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21	Deuteronomy 26:1–11 Psalm 91:1–2, 9–16 Romans 10:8b–13 Luke 4:1–13	Genesis 15:1–12, 17– 18 Psalm 27 Philippians 3:17–4:1 Luke 13:31–35 or Luke 9:28–36	Isaiah 55:1–9 Psalm 63:1–8 1 Corinthians 10:1–13 Luke 13:1–9	Joshua 5:9–12 Psalm 32 2 Corinthians 5:16– 21 Luke 15:1–3, 11b–32

Members with March Birthdays

Carin Ash	Sofia Fantuzzo	Adam Pedersen
Andrew Ashworth	Susan Feasey	Doug Peters
Walter Aydelotte	Stacy Ferris	Allison Robinson
Alexis Babcock	Hanna Fox	Jackie Roblin
Trudy Bartleson	Kimberly Gibson	Virginia Skuse
Brian Belcher	Lisa Hughes	Sandra Testa
Libbie Botting	Ed Johnson	Philip Tinder III
Barbara Bruins	Cecilia Jones	Clara Travis
David Bruins	Jennifer Longwell	Evelyn Van Arsdale
Faye Casey	Donna MacKenzie	Emily Wilborn
Joseph Fantuzzo	Bob Mecredy	
Mary Kay Fantuzzo	Bud Miller	

If we missed you, please let the office know.



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

“I Can Hear!” - Better Sound in Sanctuary

New speakers have been installed in the sanctuary to improve the sound during service. This will allow the volume and clarity of the service to be dramatically improved.

This installation follows an over-two-year effort by the Livestreaming Taskforce to improve both our livestreaming experience as well as our in-person sound. Speakers have been relocated to allow more opportunity for louder and clearer sounds. Improvement in the placement of cameras allows those in the sanctuary and those joining us through livestreaming to see our organ, choir, and soloists, as well as those officiating at the service.

Thanks to Bob Klie, Dave Irwin, Harold McAulliffe, Jared Chase, Rob Rhodes, Anne Francis, and Josh Burke for all their work to ensure that we all have a wonderful experience in our sanctuary, both in person and virtually.



News from the Nursery School

Happy March to one and all! Hopefully Spring will tease us with some visits! During this month we will once again offer optional afternoon enrichment, Curious Minds learning about artists and Friends meeting up on Fridays. With St. Patrick's Day on the 17th, we will study colors, rainbows, and the spectrum. March is National Literacy Month; we will focus even more so on the literature in our classrooms. We are also preparing for June when we will offer summer camp, yes, one day all that snow will be gone! All our activities involve skills the children need to learn, at the same time they are loving the time they are here! Thank you for your continued support!

Teresa Zatyko, Director Pittsford Nursery School

Easter Lilies

When purchasing a lily you have the opportunity to honor or remember friends and family. The lilies will be displayed on Easter Sunday and a listing of all those honored and remembered will be available at the service or by mail per request. Any extra money collected will be donated to support the Presbyterian Women's mission outreach.

✂
EASTER LILIES- for Presbyterian Women's Mission Outreach Check # _____ Cash

In honor of _____

In loving memory of _____

With thanks to _____

Given by _____ Purchased by _____

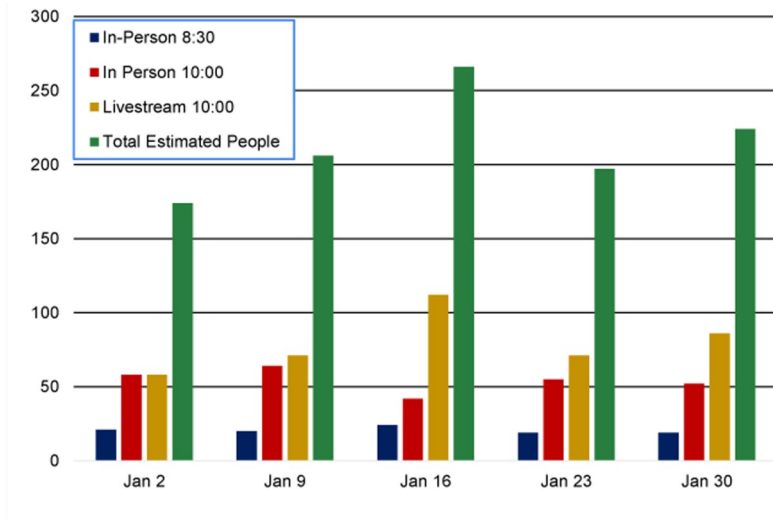
Checks should be made payable to **First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford.**



\$8.00 each

Lilies will be sold Sundays, March 27-April 10 in church. If ordering by mail, please send form: ATTN. Easter Dedication, First Presbyterian Church, 21 Church St., Pittsford, NY 14534

Or order online at our website: <https://www.pittsfordpres.org/lilies> (or just click on the Lent button and it will take you there with one more click)



Strong January Worship Attendance

In January, we experienced strong worship attendance despite the cold and Omicron surge. Between 60 and 112 devices connected to our livestream service, surpassing the total in-person attendance the majority of weeks. The actual number of worshippers is probably higher since in many households there are several people viewing our service. Attendance for this January is better than during January 2020 which was pre-COVID and when we were not livestreaming.

Live streaming has also added several other benefits to the vitality of our congregation. Three families found us online and joined our church. Our members who travel or move south for the winter are able to continue to worship with their church family. Our members who, because of illness or other circumstances, cannot attend in person have a way to stay connected to us all.

Live streaming has brought a wonderful new way to connect us all to worship and our church family. Looking forward, it will provide yet another way for us to reach out and touch our members and our community.

Did you know?... **facebook**

In the last **two months** more than **7,000 people** have seen our posts on Facebook, and **more than 1,200 people** have engaged with one of our posts. Liking, commenting, or sharing counts as engagement. Liking and following our Facebook page, and sharing posts that are meaningful to you can not only increase our engagement, but also saves us money in online advertising!

Anthony Circle

Anthony Circle will meet on March 9, at 10 am in the library. Dede will present a program on Ireland and it's culture. We'll continue to discuss *Rediscovering Jesus*, chapters 7-9.

Yoga Twice a Week!

Drop-in yoga class continues in the Chapel on both Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10-11 am. Please join us with your mat and \$10.

Deacon Fellowship Events

Widows' Luncheon—Saturday, March 12, at noon in Fellowship Hall. Lunch is served with quiche, soup, salad and desserts.

Game Night—Saturday, March 12, at 7 pm in Fellowship Hall

Cooking Club—Sunday, March 13, at 5 pm. Kenyan-themed meal featuring ugali, sukuma wiki, chapatti, and goat stew. Help us prepare African dishes and learn about our recent mission trip to In-Step children's home. Cost \$7

Eve Circle

Eve Circle will meet Monday, February 28, at 12:30 pm in Room 200 to discuss Lesson 9 from *God's Promise I Am With You*.

Our next Bible Study resource, Horizon's *What My Grandmother Taught Me* has arrived and is available for \$11.

Our 2022 Confirmands, part one

We are blessed to have nine youth in our Confirmation program this year. Over the next four newsletters, you will have a chance to learn more about some of them each month. This month we are introducing Jackson Price and Kaylee Maas. If you would like to know more about our Confirmation program, please reach out to Rev. Jacobson.

Name: **Jackson Price**

Parents: **Ted and Brook Price**

Grade: **8**

Favorite Class: **English**

Favorite Movie: ***The Giver***

If I could visit any place in the world it would be: **England**

My hobbies: **tennis, Minecraft, YouTube, clarinet, scouts, cooking**

My most prized possession: **my computer**

Three words that describe me: **kind, funny, supportive**

My dream profession is: **best-selling author**

People (outside of parents) I most admire: **Gordon Ramsay, Tom Hanks, Jennifer Lynn Barnes**

My favorite Bible story or book of the Bible: **Proverbs**

If I had one million dollars I would: **buy a mansion, start a charity**

If I were to pick one characteristic of Jesus' I most like it would be: **forgiving**

One question I want to ask Jesus someday: **Was I a good person?**

Words that describe the day I was baptized: **great**

Where I was baptized: **First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford**

How can we pray for you? **Pray that I continue to worship Christ and am successful in life.**



Name: **Kaylee Maas**

Parents: **Scott and Kelly Maas**

Grandmother: **Holly Miller**

Grade: **8**

Favorite Class: **Social Studies**

Favorite Movie: ***Miracle* (2004)**

If I could visit any place in the world it would be: **any tropical island**

My hobbies: **swimming, baking**

Three words that describe me: **athletic, smart, kind**

My dream profession is: **Olympic Swimmer, a career in criminal justice**

People (outside of parents) I most admire: **Katie Ledecky, Missy Franklin**

My favorite Bible story: **Genesis 1:1-5**

If I had one million dollars I would: **go on vacation and save up for college**

If I were to pick one characteristic of Jesus' I most like it would be: **hospitality**

One question I want to ask Jesus someday: **Why were you so nice to people who were mean?**

Words that describe the day I was baptized: **joyous, celebratory**

Where I was baptized: **First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford**

How can we pray for you? **for patience with adversaries, my brother, and myself**

Dear Youth and Families,

We found out last week that **Presbyterian Youth Triennium** has been cancelled because of increasing concerns about COVID-19 mitigation at the event. On the heels of that news, we received the letter below from the Registrars of the four surrounding Presbyteries. Please contact Pastor Jacobson if you have questions.

~Erin

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We are heartbroken to share the news that Presbyterian Youth Triennium 2022 has been cancelled.

While we registrars are also let down, we have quickly steered our energy in a new direction. We are committed to providing a regional youth event from July 24-27, not only for high schoolers, but for middle schoolers as well!

Naturally, we do not have any details yet, and invite and encourage anyone interested to join our planning team as we pray, plan, and let God's Spirit breathe something new into this space. ***Please keep July 24-27 circled on your calendars and encourage all youth to attend an exciting experience right here in our area!***

Another issue that has come to light is the concern over high schoolers who will "miss" their opportunity to attend Triennium due to their age and grade level. The Triennium program developers have stated that they are prioritizing the introduction of a Young Adult track for 2025, so that current sophomores and juniors would be able to attend in 2025 as young adult participants.

As other questions and concerns arise, please reach out to us for guidance and clarification. And again, we hope you and your youth will join us July 24-27 to share in fellowship, faith development, and fun!

With peace and hope,

Rev. Michelle Allen, Pastor, East Avon Presbyterian Church

Rev. Karen Chamis, Resource Presbyter for the Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse

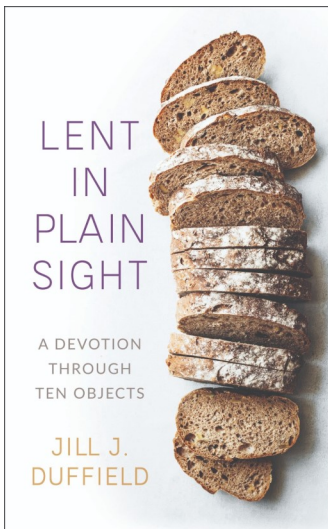
Cimberly McFarlane, Sunday School Director, Western Presbyterian Church (Palmyra)

Monica Barner, Director of Youth and Children's Ministries, Youngstown Presbyterian Church



Handbell Choir Update!

We've had a couple of friends offer to join our ranks for the next few rehearsals. Thank you! We hope to play next in service on March 27 and will be rehearsing on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-7:15 pm resuming on March 9. If you've ever toyed with the idea of joining a bell choir or just want to give it a try, let me know. There is always room for more and we would welcome you warmly. Contact Dede Holmes if this opportunity interests you. dedeholmes1954@gmail.com



Lent in Plain Sight

We're about to enter the transformative time of Lent. Since this season, like Christmas, comes up every year, we sometimes in the church forget its importance. But I do believe Lent is an opportunity to contemplate the noisy culture we hear around us. Unlike Advent, which is a time where we concentrate on what it is like to have God With Us in our presence, Lent is just the opposite. Lent is the season where we consider what it would be like without the promises of Jesus.

What does it mean to be a human with a limited life with no hope of Life Beyond? What does it mean to consider all those painful memories of when we knew we did wrong and all those mistakes that we don't know we made? What does it mean to have to look at the list of ways we did not seek justice and mercy and peace and those days we didn't forgive because it was just too painful?

Lent is a time for reflecting on the reality of humanity, who we are, and all that we do wrong without the hopes that Jesus brings. To consider who we are without the gift of Grace.

I'm hoping we can all join together in the daily readings of *Lent in Plain Sight* so that we together can consider this world that we live in from a position of faith. For me it would be scary to do this on my own, but together as a community of faith we can look at ourselves in the mirror with honesty and look again at our call from God to be God's people in the world.

I hope you will join us this Lenten season if you have not already chosen to do so. There are many levels of participation available.

~ Craig

Children's Activity Bags

Families with children in 5th grade and younger have gotten, or are in the process of getting activity bags that follow along with *Lent in Plain Sight*. These bags include devotional activities to be used each week. Activities draw from the themes of ashes, bread, Cross, shoes, and money. If you have a family that might like a bag, please check to see if they'll be receiving one or ask for one from the church office.

No VBS this Summer

The Christian Education Committee has decided not to have Vacation Bible School this year. They based this decision on the results of a survey sent to parents two weeks ago. Instead, during the summer we will have monthly Family Fellowships at area parks. These were well attended last year and there is excitement about continuing them. If you have a favorite playground that you think families would like to try, please contact Craig.

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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

This Lent, you are invited to see what timeless and deep truths may be hiding all around you.

<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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