



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PITTSFORD

THE GOOD NEWS

NOVEMBER 2021

### Embracing and Sharing Christ's Love

#### CHARTING THE COURSE WITH PASTOR AARON

October 31, 2021 marks the 504th anniversary of the beginning of the Protestant Reformation. Martin Luther was not looking to form an independent Christian tradition by nailing the 95 theses on the door of Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany; he was simply interested in having a public discussion on the veracity of certain theological topics. There were lots of women and men across Europe who were involved in the events that transpired, which we collectively call the Reformation. Not all those people agreed about everything, but, looking back, historians and theologians have summarized the major beliefs that they *did* share with five Latin phrases. Let's spend some time reflecting on this part of our Reformed history.

**Sola Gratia/Grace Alone.** People cannot be good enough on their own to earn salvation. People receive salvation only because God gives it as a gift of grace, made perfect in Jesus Christ.

**Sola Fide/Faith Alone.** God's saving grace and love doesn't make sense to us. How can it be true that God would save us, undeserving as we are? We must have faith that it is true. We must have faith that God is as good as the Gospel says God is.

**Solo Scriptura/Scripture Alone.** The Bible reveals to us what God is like. While God gifts certain people with the ability to help interpret the scriptures (that's one of my jobs as a pastor), God is also able to speak directly to us through them. That means you don't "need" a religious authority to tell you what a scripture means. Wrestle with the passage long enough, and God's grace will be revealed.

**Solo Christo/Christ Alone.** We don't need any mediator between us and God except Christ alone. You don't need a priest or a minister to convince God that you are worth saving and loving. Christ has already done the necessary work for your salvation, and the work of Christ is sufficient.

**Soli Deo Gloria/For the Glory of God Alone.** Jesus has built a bridge between us and God where sin had created an impassible separation. As a result, we should live our lives in gratitude and for the glory of God alone.

Be encouraged, my friends! Believe that God's love is beyond our comprehension! As we enter November—the month of Thanksgiving—let us live with gratitude, knowing that God's grace is sufficient! Hallelujah! Amen!

~ Aaron

## Members with November Birthdays

Diana Adams	David Francis	Nicholas Polizzi
Rita Alger	Diane Graziano	Brook Price
Gene Athy	Marilyn Hediger	Jamie Rhinehart
Patricia Aydelotte	Lori Hill	Colleen Robinson
Jena Boise	Bo Keller	Mary Rootes
Dianne Brown	Ruth Keller	Bert Sabia
Jan Buhlmann	Steve Kleindienst	Allen Schacht
John Canham	Olivia Marsh	Joanne Stiles
Virginia Cooper	Katelyn McElveney	Emma Walbaum
Kyle Cunningham	Dee Pedersen	David Woehr
Ray Feasey	Ross Pedersen	Laura Zimmer



*Wishing you a birthday  
full of love and gratitude!*



### Premeditated Generosity!

If that were a crime we should pray to be convicted; pray to be found to have formed a firm intent for pay-back; indeed, pray it is discovered that, with kindness aforethought, we conspired with others to reflect and magnify the glory of God here among us at FPC through the spiritual exercise of giving.

There is coming an opportunity to submit convincing evidence in furtherance of our conviction: a pledge card. It is a statement that we have “preprayed” about it all and are committed to joining with others here at FPCP in giving back a portion of that graciously entrusted to us, all for the greater glory of God. It is an act of worship. It is part of a new beginning. Let’s do it together!

The Generosity Team

### Prayer Breakfast

First Presbyterian’s Outreach committee is pleased to extend the invitation to the Good News Jail & Prison Ministry’s Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, November 6, 2021. This year’s fundraiser for the Ministry will allow attendees to “meet and pray over outstanding law enforcement community.” Past years’ programs have been very inspirational to attend. This year, attendees will surely enjoy the program as well as the breakfast in God’s fellowship. The program begins at 8:30 am at Faith Bible Church, 1095 E. Henrietta Rd., Rochester. To place your reservations, please call our church office at 586-5688 by November 2 to support this Outreach program. Freewill donations for the morning program and breakfast will be appreciated. Hundreds of law enforcement officers are expected to be in attendance. WHY NOT YOU?

## Lectionary for November

<b>November 1</b> <b>All Saints’ Day</b> Isaiah 25:6–9 Psalm 24:1–10 Revelation 21:1–6a John 11:32–44	<b>November 7</b> <b>24th Sunday after Pentecost</b> Ruth 3:1–5, 4:13–17 Psalm 127 Hebrews 9:24–28 Mark 12:38–44	<b>November 14</b> <b>25th Sunday after Pentecost</b> 1 Samuel 1:4–20 1 Samuel 2:1–10 Hebrews 10:11–14 (15–18) 19–25 Mark 13:1–8	<b>November 21</b> <b>Christ the King</b> 2 Samuel 23:1–7 Psalm 132:1–12 (13–18) Revelation 1:4b–8 John 18:33–37	<b>November 28</b> <b>1st Sunday of Advent</b> Jeremiah 33:14–16 Psalm 25:1–10 1 Thessalonians 3:9–13 Luke 21:25–36
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# Welcome To Our New Members!



## **Chelsea and Kyle Cunningham**

Chelsea and Kyle, and their three children, recently moved to Pittsford. Family time is high on the priority list for them and often includes spending time at Mendon Ponds or the Outer Banks.



## **Brook and Ted Price**

Brook and Ted are happy to rejoin First Presbyterian. They have two kids, Jackson (13) and Margot (12), and all enjoy playing tennis, golf, biking, hiking, and spending time in the Adirondacks. Brook is a stay-at-home-mom and Ted is a lawyer for SpaceX.

-home-mom and Ted is a lawyer for SpaceX.



## **Janet Kearns**

"Since moving to Pittsford, First Presbyterian has been my church home. I have enjoyed teaching Sunday School and Senior High Forum. I am a widow with three married daughters and

eight grandchildren. I am excited to become an official member of this



## **Lucien M. Rouse Sr.**

A retired CPA, Lucien was born in Kentucky and lived in Tulsa, OK. His son Lucien's family are also members of this church.



## **Judy Miller**

Previously a member of another Presbyterian church, Judy found out about First Presbyterian Pittsford through the internet. She has two adult children, both teachers. Judy enjoys gardening and playing golf, even keeping score for her league.

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## **Join Us for Putt Putt and Pizza!**

Save the date! November 10 from 6:00-8:00 pm for Putt Putt & Pizza! This family-friendly event is open to everyone—singles, couples, families! Sign up for a tee time, assemble your pizza, and while it bakes, complete the 9-hole golf course in the coziness of your church. Easy putt putt pizza peasy! For tee time sign up in Fellowship Hall or contact Debbie Matrachisia by phone or text 585-752-5584 or email [debmat9267@gmail.com](mailto:debmat9267@gmail.com). Include your name and how many golfers are in your party. See you on the Course....I mean at Church!

## **Deacon Events**

- **Game Night** – Friday, November 5, at 7pm in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome. Bring your own games or learn a new one.
- **Cooking Club** – Sunday, November 7, at 5:00pm in the church kitchen - Spanish Paella meal. We will be making a Valencia-inspired seafood Paella and a Madrid version (no seafood) of this classic Spanish dish. Cost is \$7. Sign up in Fellowship Hall or email [dtraina@rochester.rr.com](mailto:dtraina@rochester.rr.com)

## Year End Giving

We are most grateful for membership support of our operating budget. Please consider making your planned contributions in the coming weeks. In addition to your faithful support of the church, there are some important federal income tax considerations (as of this writing):

- Even if you take the Standard Deduction on your Federal return, you can still deduct up to \$300 of CASH CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS from your income. The deduction is increased to \$600 for married filers in 2021.
- Avoid CAPITAL GAINS TAX by directly contributing appreciated stock from a non-retirement investment account. (Please contact Maria in the church office on the process and to ensure she identifies your contribution; brokers are not always clear).
- REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTION: If you qualify for and direct a portion of your RMD to a charitable organization (Qualified Charitable Distribution-QCD) that amount is NOT taxable. However, it cannot also be included as a charitable deduction.

As always, consult your tax advisor on tax savings strategies.

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## Optimists' Coming Attraction

On November 12, 1:00 p.m., in Fellowship Hall, Dr. Nevan Fisher, our church member, will speak on China. Dr. Fisher holds several positions at Nazareth College, including Assoc. Professor of History. All church people are invited. Bring your own lunch and your own table service. If you plan to attend, please notify the church office so as to have adequate tables and chairs set up.

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## Penny Pincher Sale

Big Success! The PW Penny Pincher Sale raised \$5,545.82 which is \$1,590 more than the last sale we had in 2019! The money will be used to meet our outreach obligations. PW would like to thank anyone who contributed to the success of the sale by donating items, purchasing items and/or by working at the sale. Thank You!

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## Yoga

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



## News from the Nursery School

As educators we give a sigh of contentment when we enter the month of November. We know we have made much progress with the children and routines have been established. Children are looking forward to going to school where they know they are loved and will have fun 😊 Here at the preschool the children are learning about squirrels, primary colors, recognizing their names, and counting how many days they have been in school. They are also enjoying our paint easels, sensory tables and fine motor games. Our families got to know each other better at our Fall gathering, our mum fundraiser was a HUGE success; we have set up farmers' markets in the classrooms and we are working on our Square One Art Projects. We had a professional photographer here to take photos of our beautiful faces. We welcomed a visit from several firefighters who taught us how to stay safe, and we had a wonderful visit to Chase Pumpkin Farm. We celebrated Halloween in our own special way as we will Thanksgiving. We have so much to be thankful for, our wonderful, loving families, our awesome staff, our very supportive church. I wish all of you a wonderful Thanksgiving! May we all give thanks for each other.

Teresa Zatyko, Director Pittsford Nursery School

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## Rehema News

Estha Trouw Madeira, the new executive director for Rehema (the U.S. funding arm for In-Step children's home in Kenya) will be in Rochester from November 10-14. She is speaking at our church on Sunday, November 14, but has time available to meet with any donors, past volunteers, and interested congregants. If you would like to learn more about the work being done in Kenya in a personal or small group setting, contact Dan Traina at 585-208-6839 or [dtraina@rochester.rr.com](mailto:dtraina@rochester.rr.com) to sign up for a time to meet Estha.

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## Eve Circle

Eve Circle will meet Monday, November 22, at 12:30 pm in room 200 to discuss Lesson 7 from *God's Promise, I Am With You*.



## Pies! New Bakery! New Flavors!

Time for our Annual "HIP" Pie Sale to support our 2023 Habitat for Humanity House Build! We are delighted to bring to you a new bakery, Special Touch Bakery, which is a non-profit supporting Holy Childhood. The pie flavors this year are Apple Crumb, Rumbleberry (Raspberry, Blackberry, Blueberry), Pumpkin, Pecan, and Chocolate Cream. All pies are \$18.00 each. All pies will arrive frozen. The Apple Crumb and Rumbleberry will be unbaked with instructions for baking. The Pumpkin, Pecan and Chocolate Cream will be ready to thaw and serve.



Orders may be placed with Britta in the church office during the week or with Dianne Brown on Sunday mornings in Fellowship Hall Oct. 24, 31 and Nov. 5. All orders must be pre-paid and received by either Britta or Dianne no later than Monday, Nov. 8. No late orders can be accepted. Please make any checks out to "First Presbyterian Church" and note "Pies".

Pies are due to be delivered to the church at noon on Tuesday, Nov. 23. We will then need to sort them for each group in our HIP Coalition. The pies should be ready for pickup at the Locust St. entrance at about 12:45 until 2 pm. The short pickup time is due to the fact that the pies are frozen. Please bear with us if there is a delay. We are so pleased that we will be supporting a non-profit (Special Touch Bakery) which supports a non-profit (Holy Childhood). And in return we (HIP Coalition) are a non-profit raising money for a non-profit (Habitat for Humanity)! What a great WIN WIN endeavor! Thank you for your support and HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

P.S. "HIP" stands for Habitat Interfaith Partnership and the members of this coalition are as follows: First Presbyterian Church, St. Louis Catholic Church, The United Church of Pittsford, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Pittsford Rotary Club, Temple Sinai, and the Islamic Center. We all work together to raise money and to help build a house with Flower City Habitat for Humanity approximately every 3 years.

### PIE SALE ORDER FORM (Please print clearly!)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Ph: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

PIE VARIETY	QUANTITY	PRICE	TOTAL PAID
APPLE CRUMB	_____	\$18.00	\$ _____
RUMBLEBERRY (Raspberry, Blackberry, Blueberry)	_____	\$18.00	\$ _____
PECAN	_____	\$18.00	\$ _____
PUMPKIN	_____	\$18.00	\$ _____
CHOCOLATE CREAM	_____	\$18.00	\$ _____
		DONATIONS:	\$ _____
		GRAND TOTAL:	\$ _____

Please make checks out to: **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**, note "PIES"

**PLEASE NOTE!** All pies come frozen! Apple Crumb and Rumbleberry will be unbaked with instructions for baking. Pecan, Pumpkin and Chocolate will be frozen and ready to thaw and serve.

All orders must be paid for and received by either Britta in the church office during the week or by Dianne Brown in the Fellowship Hall after church services.  
 Deadline for orders is November 8. No late orders can be accepted!

Pick-up will be on Tuesday, November 23 from 12:45PM to 2:00PM! This is a short time period due to Pies being frozen.





## Fall Youth Retreat at Camp Whitman Was a Huge Success!



Our youth at the Presbytery-wide Youth Retreat at Camp Whitman on Seneca Lake on Saturday, October 9.



### Sunday Evening Youth Group Schedule

2021-2022 School Year ~ 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays  
6:30 pm drop-off @ Locust Street door  
8:00 pm pick-up @ Locust Street door

- November 7 – *Here I am Lord, Now What?*
- November 21 – *Why do we thank God?*
- December 5 – *Christmas Party!*
- December 19 – *Preparing Our Hearts for Christ*
- January 2 – *(no Youth Group today)*

Sunday evening Youth Group Fellowship is for youth in grades 6-12. If you have any questions, please reach out to Rev. Erin Jacobson at [erin.jacobson@pittsfordpres.org](mailto:erin.jacobson@pittsfordpres.org), call or text at 585.204.2012

### Youth News Listserv

Attention youth in grades 6-12 (and their families!) are you on the Youth List Serv? Pastor Erin uses the list serv to send reminders about Christian Education, Youth Fellowship, Mission Opportunities, and other activities.

If you or your family members would like to be added to the list (or just have Pastor Erin check to make sure you are on it!) please reach out to Rev. Erin Jacobson at [erin.jacobson@pittsfordpres.org](mailto:erin.jacobson@pittsfordpres.org), call or text at 585.204.2012



# Christian Education

## Advent Brunch



This year the Advent brunch will be held November 21, right after the second worship service and the congregational meeting. There will be delicious treats, craft activities for kids and adults, and many laughs with your First Presbyterian Family.

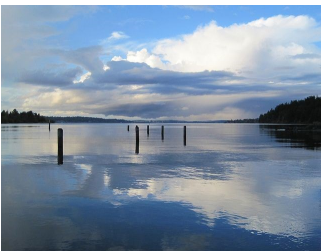
## Children's Advent Calendars

We are happy to make available Children's Advent Calendars. These calendars lead children through all 24 days of the Advent season. On the back are puzzles and riddles based on each day. The church will have one calendar available for each family starting on November 21. Others can reserve a copy by contacting Craig in the office.



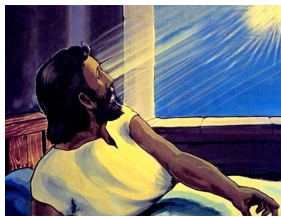
## Sunday School in November:

November 7  
God Speaks in Stillness



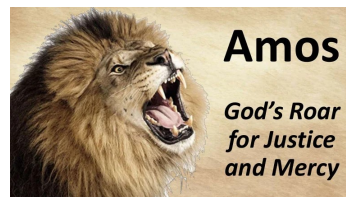
Goal: To practice attentiveness to God.

November 14  
God Calls Jeremiah



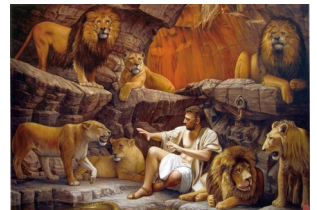
Goal: To wonder how God might be calling us.

November 21  
God Calls for Justice



Goal: To explore simple and positive ways to challenge unfairness.

November 28  
God Hears Daniel's Prayer



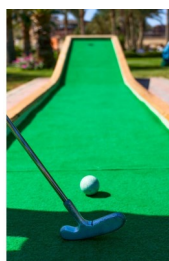
Goal: To know that trust in God is an important element of growing in faith.

## LOGOS in November:

Pile on the Praise  
November 3



Service appreciation  
Putt-Putt and Pizza  
November 10



Overflowing Abundance  
November 17



No LOGOS  
November 24





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Pittsford, New York 14534  
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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

*Be encouraged, my  
friends! Believe that  
God's love is beyond our  
comprehension!*

<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 &amp; 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><b>First Presbyterian Church</b> 21 Church Street, Pittsford, NY 14534 Phone 585.586.5688, Fax 585.586.8090 connect@pittsfordpres.org www.pittsfordpres.org</p> <p><b>Worship Services:</b> <b>8:30 and 10:00 am in-person</b> <b>10:00 am also livestreamed</b> Communion is offered on the first Sunday of each month.</p> <p> </p>
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