



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PITTSFORD

THE GOOD NEWS

NOVEMBER 2023

Embracing and Sharing Christ's Love

CHARTING THE COURSE WITH PASTOR AARON

The Faith Forward Vision Team just finished its second Vision Retreat this past weekend. In the coming weeks, you can expect to hear more about more of the discussions that happened at the retreat, but I wanted to give you a high-level summary. Leading up to the retreat, I had told you that the Vision Team would be deciding about our church's core values. That happened. Since core values are really a description of our church's deeply held principles from a grassroots level (our "essence"), the stories you shared with the Vision Team over the last few weeks were invaluable in helping us to discern those values. Here's some of what you shared.

Many people told stories of volunteering with LOGOS as adults and having such a great time doing it; remembering when they were kids in the church and how loving adults took an interest in mentoring and investing in them; and forming very close relationships with other people after getting involved in the church. Many people told stories of feeling inspired and spiritually awakened because of our worship services; helping to lead worship by contributing a musical gift to a worship service; and the legacy of musical excellence and great preaching at the church. Many people told stories of following the leading of the Holy Spirit to help show the transforming love of Christ to people in the church and those in need outside the church and across the globe. Many people told stories of the determination displayed by the church after the fire of 2004; the cooperation demonstrated by the church to make difficult decisions while the church was rebuilt, including purchasing a new pipe organ; and the resiliency of the congregation to weather a pastoral transition under the stress of COVID. And, finally, so many of you told amazing stories of fellow church members rallying around people in need; pastoral support during times of crisis; and tangible reminders to each other that each of us belongs here at the church.

It is because of these stories and many more just like them, that the Vision Team agreed that the following statements summarize our core values at FPCP.

As a Christ-centered Community, our devotion calls each of us to...

Connect: We create and sustain life-giving relationships, across all generations.

Inspire: We worship God in ways that stir our souls, sharpen our minds, and speak to our hearts.

Follow: We experience transformation through the Holy Spirit, and help others do the same.

Unify: We join together across our differences, to make a difference.

Love: We show grace and compassion to others, with no strings attached!

These core values will become important as we eventually decide about the church's strategic objectives moving forward. Looking at our five values, I have to admit – I'm pretty excited to be part of this church!

~Aaron

Bible Studies at First Presbyterian

FPC Bible study groups are all open to anyone: member, friend, or unchurched. Most have NO homework, occasionally participants are asked to read a few verses from the Bible or a chapter from a book. Questions are welcomed; leaders don't call on individuals to speak. Everyone is welcome, both scholars and novices. There are Bible studies in person, hybrid, and via zoom only. This is a great way to build your FPC faith community.

Your Christian Education Committee

Centering Prayer

Have you been excited about centering prayer? Now you can try this age-old technique whenever you have prayer time. Look for video instructions on centering prayer produced by the church available on YouTube and the church website. Contact the instructor Claudia Williams with any questions and let us know how you liked it.

Lectionary for November

November 1

All Saints' Day

Revelation 7:9–17
Psalm 34:1–10, 22 1
John 3:1–3
Matthew 5:1–12

November 5

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Joshua 3:7–17
Psalm 107:1–7, 33–37
1 Thessalonians 2:9–13
Matthew 23:1–12

November 12

24th Sunday after Pentecost

Joshua 24:1–3a, 14–25
Psalm 78:1–7
1 Thessalonians 4:13–18
Matthew 25:1–13

November 19

25th Sunday after Pentecost

Judges 4:1–7
Psalm 123
1 Thessalonians 5:1–11
Matthew 25:14–30

November 26

Christ the King

Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24
Psalm 100 or Psalm 95:1–7a
Ephesians 1:15–23
Matthew 25:31–46

Members with November Birthdays



Diana Adams
Rita Alger
David Arnall
Gene Athy
Patricia Aydelotte
Kathy Blackmon
Jena Boise
Dianne Brown
Jan Buhlmann
John Canham
Myra Carrier
Virginia Cooper
Kyle Cunningham
Addie Finkbeiner
David Francis
Will Gianakakis
Diane Graziano
Marilyn Hediger
Lori Hill
Bo Keller

Ruth Keller
Steve Kleindienst
Sally Lyddon
Olivia Marsh
Sharon Martinez
Katelyn McElveney
Dee Pedersen
Ross Pedersen
Nicholas Polizzi
Brook Price
Jackson Price
Linda Ranslow
Jamie Rhinehart
Colleen Robinson
Allen Schacht
Joanne Stiles
Dan Traina
Emma Walbaum
David Woehr

Hoping your birthday brings you many happy reasons to celebrate!

If we missed you, please let the office know.



Share God's Blessings

Pledge cards have been mailed and will arrive soon. Your pledge is an opportunity to gratefully acknowledge the blessings God has bestowed upon you and to join with others in glorifying God and confessing to the gospel of Christ. As a congregation, we have this opportunity by committing ourselves to go forward together, sharing God's blessings by giving our time, talents, and treasures in furtherance of our Christian mission. Giving is a spiritual exercise. Joyful generosity is an essential aspect of the Christian experience.

Please thoughtfully offer your thanksgiving to God for all the blessings that have been bestowed upon you by generously and cheerfully sharing those blessings to further First Presbyterian's ministry and celebrate the glory of God. We look forward with enthusiasm to worshipping with all of you at First Presbyterian Church on November 12, Consecration Sunday. Bring your pledge card and "Share God's Blessings" as you deposit it in the wooden church in the front of the sanctuary. If by November 12, you have already turned in your pledge card or pledged online but still wish to show your support, alternative cards will be provided at the service.

The Generosity Committee

Lew Becker (chair), Andy Ashworth, William Blackmon, Faye Casey, Paul Irving, Pastor Aaron Neff, Rob Rhodes, Bill Rieth,

Did you Know?

Required distributions from a taxable retirement account made payable to the church are excluded from taxable income. See your tax advisor about the Qualified Charitable Distribution benefit to you and to the church.

Daily Devotion

Would your day go better if you started it with God and your FPC family? Sign up through the church office and get a Daily Devotion in your email.

Anthony Circle

Our biggest event—Advent Preparation brunch—will be on November 19! November 17 is shopping, November 18 at 9:00am cooking, November 19 reheating and serving. All hands on deck! Email to follow with sign up.



News from the Nursery School

Can you believe it's November? The first two months of the school year flew by! The school had a record number of sales for our Fall plant fundraiser as well as a good turnout at our Fall Festival. A huge thank you to our families, Special Events, and Fundraising committees. November is a shorter month but we are still busy; learning about animals, the five senses, and Thanksgiving. We have so much to be thankful for and I wish all of you a very Happy Thanksgiving!

Kathy Woodruff, Director Pittsford Nursery School

Penny Pincher Sale

The Penny Pincher Sale made over \$7,775.00. Presbyterian Women want to thank the many women and men of our congregation who contributed to this success!

All Saints' Day

...will be observed in worship on Sunday, November 5th in person at 8:30am & 10:00am, & live-streamed at 10:00am

5th

Nov.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PITTSFORD

Habitat Interfaith
Partnership (H.I.P.)

Pie Sale



Pies are only \$20!

FLAVORS

Apple Crumb

Pecan

Pumpkin

Strawberry Rhubarb

Rumbleberry

(raspberry, blackberry, blueberry)

Orders must be received by Nov. 5th



Pickup
November 20th
12:15pm-2:15pm
Church Foyer

Pies baked by Special Touch Bakery, a non-profit affiliated with Holy Childhood

Daylight saving
time ends Nov.

5th - don't
forget to "fall
back" an hour!



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PITTSFORD



Youth Group Fellowship



Join us on November 12th from 6pm-8pm for Youth Group Fellowship and dinner!

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." - 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

happy thanksgiving



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PITTSFORD



THE CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION
COMMITTEE INVITES
YOU TO THE

Advent Preparation Brunch

19 NOVEMBER 2023

JOIN US IN THE
FELLOWSHIP HALL
IMMEDIATELY
FOLLOWING WORSHIP

Needle Nellies

The Needle Nellies will gather in room 204 on Tuesday, November 28, at 11 am. Join the fun!

OPTIMISTS

OPTIMISTS is a group of adults who meet monthly for a lunch meal and conversation. The next meeting will be on November 10 at 1 pm in Fellowship Hall. There will be a soup and sandwich lunch (\$5 per person) and the topic for November will be Family Blessings. So put it on your calendar and bring a friend! Hope to see you there.

Thank You to All Landscapers

For all those wonderful people who helped take care of the church grounds this past season, I thank you from my heart and with my blessings.

I look forward to working with you again next spring.

Debbie Gaudion

LOGOS Needs Cooks

LOGOS, the church's mid-week intergenerational program, is looking for kitchen helpers on Wednesdays from 4:30-6:30 pm. Come join the fun! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Cynthia VanHoute-Purpura or Susie Wahl. Hope to see you Wednesday!

Presbyterian Women Meeting

PW will meet on Wednesday, November 15, at 10 am, in room 204. All women members of the church are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Deacon Events

Cooking Club – Sunday, November 12, at 5 pm in Fellowship Hall. We will be cooking a gourmet meal of Dan Traina's favorite dishes. Wiener Schnitzel, Potatoes Au Gratin, butternut squash soup, Cobb Salad, and a chocolate birthday cake. Cost is \$8. Sign up at dtraina@rochester.rr.com or call 585-208-6839



Christian Education

Sunday, November 19 Intergenerational Sunday Service Children's Choir Advent Preparation Brunch

November 19 will be our next **Intergenerational Sunday Service**. On Intergenerational Sunday, the children of the church will be staying in the sanctuary for the entire 10 am worship service. The service will follow a traditional liturgy, but will also be more interactive and more accessible for our younger worshipers. There will be prayer stations in the sanctuary that worshipers will be invited to visit and pick up something to color or create while back in their pew seats. After the sermon, when we take the offering, worshipers will be encouraged to come to the front of the sanctuary to bring whatever they have created during the service and present it as an offering to God.

During the Intergenerational Sunday Service the **Children's Choir** will sing *Many and Great, O God, Are Thy Works* and your child is invited to sing along. We recorded a music video for your family to practice along with. Kids will gather 15 minutes before the service, practice the song once, and then sit together at the beginning of the service. All kids are welcome to practice and participate. Look in the Sunday School email for the practice link.

The **Advent Preparation Brunch** will be held in Fellowship Hall after the second service. You are invited to join your church family and friends for a meal and create a decorated wooden candlestick.

Adult Education Opportunities
Sunday Morning Bible Study 8:15 am library
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

Sunday School Schedule



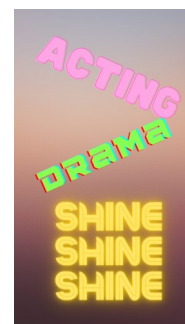
Nov 5



Nov 12



Nov 19



Nov 26

Theme: Abigail Makes Peace

A Girl Shares Her Faith

Intergenerational Service



Work for Peace and Justice

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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

*Connect. Inspire. Follow.
Unify. Love.*

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