



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PITTSFORD

THE GOOD NEWS

OCTOBER 2021

### Embracing and Sharing Christ's Love

#### **CHARTING THE COURSE WITH PASTOR AARON**

The famously sagacious Yogi Berra once said, "You've got to be very careful if you don't know where you're going, 'cause you might not get there." Yogi Berra isn't a common source of inspiration for me, but I like the point he makes here, which is, put a little more eloquently by a pastor named Andy Stanley: "Everybody ends up somewhere in life. A few people end up somewhere on purpose." What Berra and Stanley are talking about is having a vision. There is another famous quote, this one attributed to Lao Tzu, that teaches that a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. I would move a bit backwards from that and say that first step is deciding where you are trying to go. Charting the course, as it were. We can't arrive somewhere if we are moving without a unified vision. This past weekend, the Session, Deacons, and Trustees of the church met together all day on a leadership retreat to work on building a cohesive vision for our church. The staff have been meeting together working on the same thing.

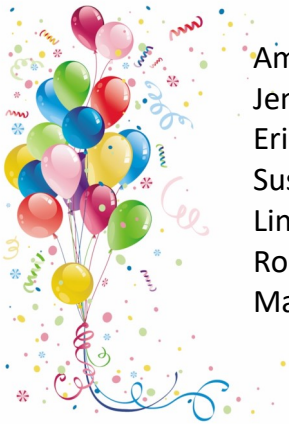
Every person in a church inevitably has their own idea of what the church should be. We all are coming into our church family with outside experiences, preferences, ideas, and hopes. Some of those ideas have to do with our preferences for the practical minutiae of church life: what should be served at coffee hour, the timing and location of church programming, the color of the carpets, which songs to sing, etc. Other ideas have to do with the big picture: whether our primary purpose is to serve those inside our walls or those outside it, whether we should be explicitly evangelizing or focusing on being a welcoming place for those who already are seeking a new spiritual path, whether to work on practical social issues or focus solely on the spiritual realm. There are good and valid reasons for people to have any number of personal opinions on any of these issues, whether they are the big issues or the small issues. Many churches get caught up in discussing these questions one at a time, without addressing the even bigger questions behind them: Who are we? Why are we here? If we answer these biggest, vision-centric questions first, our thoughts about the next tier of "big" questions can become more clear, and even our answers to the "small" questions can come into focus and begin to work towards the fulfillment of our vision.

You should feel confident in our church leaders, who responded to the task set before them with alacrity, wisdom, imagination, and care. They are zeroing in on the vision for the future and setting goals for us to achieve in order to move us in the direction of that future. 1 Chronicles describes the kind of people from Israel who served David, and it tells us that "the tribe of Issachar had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do..." The chiefs referenced here were knowledgeable and culturally attuned to what was happening within and outside of Israel to the extent that they could suggest to Israel's leadership what actions to take that would further God's purpose for Israel in the world. They were filled with practical knowledge and experience, they were committed to the vision God had for Israel, and they had the wisdom

to put their knowledge to the service of the vision. In fact, it could be said that wisdom is the intersection of vision and knowledge, the ability to use one's particular knowledge and skills to further a well-considered vision. This verse came to my mind this weekend as I was working with the leaders of First Presbyterian. I am privileged to be working with the wise individuals who make up our Session, Deacons, and Trustees. I look forward to stepping out towards the vision God has for us alongside them and alongside every one of you.

~ Aaron

## Members with October Birthdays



Amanda Adams	Rachel Gartland	Marjorie MacKenzie	Lucien Rouse
Jenna Adams	Anne Glenning	Dorothy Meusburger	Katelyn Stern
Erin Amborski	Annelise Henry	Dorothy Naylor	Brenna Swetman
Susan Bloch	Emma Hilger	Megan Nead	Pem Tyler
Linda Converse	Sophie Hilger	Susan Patterson	Marjorie Wallace
Roberta Faloon	Margaret Kilmer	James Purpura III	June Wilson
Madeline Frank	Vicki Klie	Beverly Reeve	Powell Wright

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

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

## October Optimists Meeting

Please join us on Friday, October 8, at 1:00 pm in Fellowship Hall for a special Optimists Meeting. Bring your own lunch and your own tableware. There may be the possibility of ordering your own personal box lunch, but final arrangements for that are not complete. Our travels have sure been curtailed the last 18 months but come and share a beautiful 35 minute film telling the story of Boldt Castle and the Thousand Islands. It starts in the Gilded Age when George C. Boldt, proprietor of the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City, set out to build a Rhineland castle in the Thousand Islands for his wife Louise. Tragedy struck when Louise Boldt died a month before the castle was to be given to her on Valentines Day. For over 70 years, the castle laid dormant at the mercy of the elements until the Thousand Islands Bridge Authority took it over in 1977. Through their hard work and dedication they committed to a long-term rehabilitation program to restore Boldt Castle to what it has become today—the premier attraction in the 1000 Islands—an icon for the entire region. It has been elegantly restored to the original beauty, including some of the original furnishings. Come spend your lunch time with church friends admiring this spectacular restored castle. It may just make you put it on your travel list for next summer.

## Lectionary for October

<b>October 3</b> <b>19th Sunday after Pentecost</b>	<b>October 10</b> <b>20th Sunday after Pentecost</b>	<b>October 17</b> <b>21st Sunday after Pentecost</b>	<b>October 24</b> <b>22nd Sunday after Pentecost</b>	<b>October 31</b> <b>23rd Sunday after Pentecost</b>
Job 1:1; 2:1–10	Job 23:1–9; 16–17	Job 38:1–7 (34–41)	Job 42:1–6, 10–17	Ruth 1:1–18
Psalms 26	Psalms 22:1–15	Psalms 104:1–9, 24, 35c	Psalms 34:1–8 (19–22)	Psalms 146
Hebrews 1:1–4; 2:5–12	Hebrews 4:12–16	Hebrews 5:1–10	Hebrews 7:23–28	Hebrews 9:11–14
Mark 10:2–16	Mark 10:17–31	Mark 10:35–45	Mark 10:46–52	Mark 12:28–34



## What is the Narrative Budget?

Our church's mission statement sets out discrete objectives: "Spread the good news of Jesus through worship, fellowship, education, prayer, and especially mission."

The traditional budget groups expenses into categories such as salaries, utilities, and insurance. In contrast, the narrative budget demonstrates how your contributions fulfill our church's mission in four broad areas.

For 2021, our narrative budget is: Mission (\$198,000, 29%); Worship (\$170,000, 25%); Education (\$153,000, 23%); and Fellowship (\$156,000, 23%). You will note that our mission statement ends with "*and especially mission.*" Thus, the biggest percentage is there.

What do our four narrative categories include?

**Mission** includes our outreach to over 20 local organizations, in addition to our Kenya mission, disaster relief missions, JASY in Jamaica, and our Taiwan missionaries. Due to COVID, we had no mission trips in the past two years, but for 2022 we are planning on: the seventh trip to In-Step Children's Home in Kenya, Africa (with a dental team); our ninth trip to JASY; and a trip to an area damaged by a recent hurricane (location TBD).

**Worship** comprises our leadership for services, our music (including guest musicians and concerts), and special services, such as weddings, funerals, and youth services. We are celebrating the reintroduction of in-person worship and a return of the choir.

**Education** embraces Sunday school, LOGOS, Bible study, adult enrichment and small groups.

Finally, **Fellowship** incorporates youth activities, deacon events, pastoral visits, fellowship hour after services, meeting and greeting visitors, and member assistance and prayer support. For example, the deacons continue to sponsor monthly fellowship activities including Game Night, Kayaking, Hiking, and Cooking Club. They also plan and run annual events such as the All Church Picnic (September 12 this year), Dads & Grads strawberry social on Father's Day, hockey and baseball games.

Perhaps you're curious about the method we used to allocate the traditional budget category expenses to the four broad church mission areas? We accomplished this through interviews with church staff to determine what portion of their day was spent on those four mission areas. We then analyzed the building usage in relation to those same areas and allocated those expenses.

In addition to the budget, our members also generously contribute to our mission areas through fundraisers, special offerings, paying personal expenses on mission and disaster relief trips, and from the generosity of former members who left endowments to the church in their wills. However, money alone doesn't make our church run. We are fortunate to have over 175 volunteer members of boards, committees, and organizational positions.

Jesus' words about treasure are appropriate reminders during this stewardship season: "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matthew 6:19–21 (NRSV).

We hope the narrative budget can help you to better understand how your support affects our church's mission and that you will consider filling in a New Beginnings pledge card with a generous gift for consecration on Sunday, November 14, 2021.

The Generosity Team

## Contribution Convenience

For your convenience, church contributions may be made online (<https://www.pittsfordpres.org/giving>) selecting "Give Online Now". The same access is available by downloading the "Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement" App and selecting First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford. By setting up an account you will have access to your giving history and can arrange regular contributions to assist in fulfilling your giving plan. Contributions may be made from a bank account or credit card with an option to increase your contribution to cover our service fees. Many members have found online giving particularly helpful during COVID restricted in-person worship.

A third way is through your bank's "Bill Pay" option. The church receives a check and there are no fees. Questions about contribution choices—please contact Maria in the church office at 586-5688.

## Confirmation 2021-2022

Any teenager in 8th grade and up is eligible to participate in the Confirmation program at First Presbyterian Church. Pastor Erin is looking forward to leading the Confirmation program again this year, starting on Sunday, October 3, at 11:30 am.

Confirmation is the process by which youth publicly profess their faith before the congregation and become individual members of FPC. Presbyterians practice infant baptism as a reflection of God's freely given grace—humans are loved by God and forgiven through Jesus Christ before we can even understand this grace. As young people mature, they can publicly claim their Christian faith and affirm promises made on their behalf in baptism through a time of study and spiritual growth called *Confirmation*. Each faith journey is different—youth don't need to have been baptized as an infant or raised in a Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregation to participate.

We will meet on the first Sunday of each month at 11:30 am in-person\* in the Confirmation Room on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor (10/3, 11/7, 12/5, 2/6, 3/6, 4/3, 5/1). Confirmation will take place during the 10 am Worship Service on Pentecost Sunday, June 5, 2022. If your youth plans on participating in the Confirmation program, please let Pastor Erin know by Saturday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

*\*If your family is uncomfortable meeting in-person we will provide a Zoom link to the live sessions.*



## HIP Pie Sale - Plan Ahead!

This year we are ordering the pies from Special Touch Bakery, a non-profit organization whose primary mission is to provide training and employment in the community to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Proceeds from Special Touch Bakery benefit Holy Childhood, a non-profit, non-denominational agency. So this is a Win-Win situation with a non-profit benefiting both Holy Childhood and Flower City Habitat to raise money for the HIP Coalition to build another Habitat house in 2023!

All pies are 10" and we are selling them for \$18 each. NEW Flavors!!!! As well as the traditional Apple Crumb Pie and Pumpkin Pie, we will be selling Pecan, Chocolate Cream, and Rumbleberry (Raspberry, Blackberry, Blueberry)!!

All pies will arrive frozen. The Apple Crumb and Rumbleberry pies will be frozen but unbaked with instructions for baking. The Pumpkin, Chocolate Cream, and Pecan will be ready to thaw and eat, already baked.

All orders must be placed and paid for no later than Sunday, November 7. Pies will be delivered to the church at noon on Tuesday, Nov. 23 with pickup beginning at 12:45 and ending at 1:45 pm. Please bring a cooler to transport your pies if it is a warm day! Order forms will be made available at a later point.

## Senior High Youth — Save the dates!

**JASY** – July 8-17, 2022

Jamaican Advantage through Sports for Youth

**Triennium** – July 24-27, 2022

Presbyterian Church (USA) Youth Conference Convention Center and hotels in Indianapolis, IN (All trips are dependent on COVID infection rates at the destination, Christian Education Committee, and Session approval)

## Penny Pincher Sale Reminder

This year the Presbyterian Women's Penny Pincher Sale is the week of **October 11-15**.

**Table Set-Up:** Sunday, Oct. 10 after church

### Drop-off Dates:

Monday, Oct. 11, 9:30 am to 4 pm

Tuesday, Oct. 12, 9:30 am to 4 pm

Wednesday, Oct. 13, 9:30 am-noon

**PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE ANYTHING OUTSIDE!**

### Sale Dates:

Thursday, Oct. 14 , 9 am-5 pm

Friday, Oct. 15, ½ Price Sale, 9 am-noon

\$2 Bag Sale, 12:15-1:30 pm

**Load Van & Clean Up:** Friday, Oct. 15, 1:30-4 pm

As you clean out, reorganize, or downsize in the next few weeks, please keep us in mind for donations. Our Wish List includes: small working appliances, antiques, collectibles, books, CDs, DVDs, sports equipment, holiday items, dishes, glassware, furniture, jewelry, kitchen and household items, craft supplies, stationery/office items, toys, games and puzzles, tools and garden equipment, electronics and linens. **ALL DONATIONS MUST BE CLEAN AND USABLE.** Please mark sizes on sheets and tablecloths with a piece of tape—this really helps. Be sure that all small electrical items are in working order.

We do **NOT** accept: clothing, large exercise equipment, grills, large appliances, skis, boots and poles. This year we are **NOT** accepting electronics like TVs, computers, stereos. If you have a large or unusual item you wish to donate, please ask first.

We are also in need of brown paper grocery bags (Wegmans, Trader Joe's). Please ask for "paper" at the check-out for the next few weeks and place the paper bags in the box in the Lobby Room any time. Clean plastic bags and shopping bags for use at the sale may be donated with your sale items in October.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!**

Sign-up in Fellowship Hall

## Yoga Twice a Week!

Drop-in yoga class is now available in Fellowship Hall on both Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10-11:00 am. Please join us with your mat and \$10.



## News from the Nursery School

Hello Autumn!! Cooler nights, watching the leaves turn different colors, shorter days—all changes we are observing at the preschool. The children are so excited and happy to be back with their friends. We are very excited to be back at our preschool! This month we are learning about Fall, pumpkins, and of course Halloween ☺ We are planning a trip to Chase Pumpkin Farm, having our photos professionally taken, and practicing our safety drills. At the end of the month is the most anticipated Halloween Parade! Please take a moment to watch us on our parade route, Locust Street to Main Street then down Church Street to the church office. We will have three parades, to accommodate all, Oct. 27, 28 and 29 all at 10 am. Thank you very much for your continued support!

Teresa Zatyko, Director Pittsford Nursery School

---

## Eve Circle

Eve Circle will meet on Monday, September 27, at 12:30 pm in room 200 to discuss Lesson 5 of *God's Promise: I Am with You*.

---

## Needle Nellies

We will meet Tuesday, September 28, from 11 am-1:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Please bring your lunch, drink, new ideas and joy!! Kay Saxum 385-9807

---

## Cameron Community Ministries

Cameron Community Ministries appreciates your show of love and support through your donations of food, school supplies, backpack weekend program, hand-knit winter wear and money. This fall we are excited to once again cook a hot lunch each month in the Cameron kitchen. While there, a team of four preps a pre-selected recipe for that day as well as extra pans for another day. This is a mission that is open to many, from donating select food or clothing items (or money to purchase) to being on site cooking or helping with events or mentoring. Curious? Chat with Cindy Becker @ 585-703-4878.

## Back To Basics Bible Study

Lucien Rouse will be teaching the book of Luke on Monday nights at 7:15 pm via Zoom. He will be going through the book by chapter exploring this third Gospel. Come join the discussion of the best grammatically written Greek texts.

Please join him on Zoom to see old friends and new, as well as learn more about the amazing gospel of Luke. If you would like to participate please contact the church office or Lucien directly.

## Fall Youth Retreat at Camp Whitman

Please save Saturday, October 9, in your calendars for a fall youth retreat at Camp Whitman. All youth in grades 6-12 are welcome! Rev. Erin Jacobson and adults from our congregation will accompany our youth for a day of worship, fellowship, and fun!

The official agenda for the day is not yet set, but it will run from 10 am to approximately 7 pm and will include service work, games, workshops on faith, eating pizza, getting dirty, running around, and an informal worship service around the campfire. Please contact Erin if you have any questions - [erin.jacobson@pittsfordpres.org](mailto:erin.jacobson@pittsfordpres.org) or 585.204.2012.

## Young Families in Fellowship

Young Families will be meeting on Friday, October 22, starting at 5:30 pm at the Great Embankment Park in Pittsford. We have it on good authority that they have a new and exciting playground. We will gather at the playground. Come meet other faithful families, let the kids play together — and let us make dinner for you! Come late, leave early, but we hope you can come play.

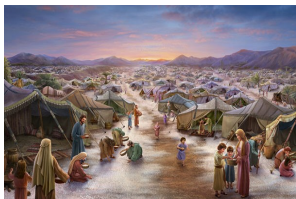
## Sunday School in October:

October 3  
God Saves the People



Goal: To trust that God works for people who struggle for freedom and justice.

October 10  
God Provides Food and Water



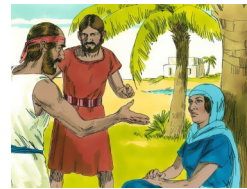
Goal: To experience the grace and faithfulness of God.

October 17  
God Proclaims Jubilee



Goal: To celebrate God's call to all of creation for rest, renewal, and restoration.

October 24  
God Chooses Deborah



Goal: To affirm the leadership of women in God's plan.

October 31  
God Sends Elijah



Goal: To recognize God's provision through acts of kindness.

## LOGOS in October:

Nothing Like a Friend



Buddy Night  
October 6

Hot Tub Night  
Off Site



October 13

Color the Rainbow



October 20

Pumpkin Center Pieces



October 27

The Bible talks often about neighbors. Both in the Old and New Testament, even from Jesus we hear the theological concept of neighbor discussed. But we currently live in a society where many of us don't know our physical neighbors, not to mention those who live farther down the street.

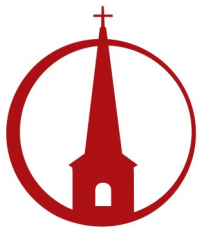
You are invited to join with the whole church community as we try to understand who our neighbors are, and how they fit into the church's story. Starting the first week of October several small groups will start to meet for seven weeks. These groups will discuss who our neighbors are both physically and spiritually. This guided study will help us with our struggle to connect to those around us.

**JESUS WAS  
IN A SMALL GROUP.  
I'M JUST SAYIN'...**

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Acts 2:42

Then, each Sunday the sermon will focus on what each group has studied during the week. Although you do not need to have been in a group to understand the sermon, we hope that your experience will have been enriched by your exploration.

Until the first week of October, where and when the groups will be meeting will be posted in Fellowship Hall and summarized in the bulletin. I hope you will choose to join one of these groups by signing up in Fellowship Hall or calling the church office.



Leader: Sunday Morning Bible Study  
Where: by Zoom  
When: Sundays at 8:30 am  
First Meeting: October 3



Leader: Barbara Smith  
Where: Music Room at The Highlands  
When: Mondays at 1 pm  
First Meeting: October 4  
The Highlands requests that all are masked



Leader: Lucien Rouse  
Where: by Zoom  
When: Mondays at 7:15 pm  
First Meeting: October 4



Leader: Bo Keller  
Where: Church Library  
When: Tuesdays at 11:30 am  
First Meeting: October 5



Leader: Claudia Williams  
Where: by Zoom  
When: Tuesdays at 7 pm  
First Meeting: October 5



Leader: Pastor Erin Jacobson  
Where: Church Library  
When: Thursdays at noon  
bring your lunch  
First Meeting: October 7



Leaders: Heze and AnneMarie Simmons  
Where: by Zoom  
When: Thursdays at 7:00 pm  
First meeting: October 7



Leaders: Janette Henderson and Dan Harrison  
Where: their home 310 Mendon Center Rd  
When: Fridays at 6:00 pm  
First meeting: October 15  
a simple pasta dinner will be served (others taking turns to bring salad and/or dessert)  
The hosts require everyone to be fully vaccinated

First Presbyterian Church  
of Pittsford  
21 Church Street  
Pittsford, New York 14534  
www.pittsfordpres.org

Non-Profit Org.  
PRST STD  
US Postage  
PAID  
Pittsford, NY  
Permit No. 6

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

*“I look forward to stepping out towards the vision God has for us alongside the church officers and alongside every one of you. “* Pastor Aaron

<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  Financial Administrator  Ext. 23  treasurer@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> <div data-bbox="1015 1575 1518 1984">  </div>
--	--	---