



FROM YOUR MINISTER JIMMY READER

Strange and anxious times! Yet God is always with us. Whatever happens each day, we are confident of God's loving presence and the comfort and strength we receive. We are not naïve to think that nothing bad can happen, nor do we assume that whatever happens is God's will. It is not. God desires good for us and will work for our good in the midst of all things, good or bad (Romans 8:28). I invite you to keep this faith strong in your heart and mind during this world crisis.



It seems strange that the whole world, literally, is caught together in this pandemic, yet we are forced to stay away from each other, often isolated in our homes. We experience little comfort from knowing that people around the world are going through what we are. We are still alone, and sometimes lonely. We need human touch, other people in the same space, friends and family. Church family.

As your pastor, I invite each of you to pray for one another – and to use every available means to connect with others during these weeks ahead. Use the church directory (a new one will be available by April 10) for prayer. Read each name aloud. “See” the person in your mind. Wrap “spiritual” arms around that person. And ask God's love and grace for him or her. We may well be surprised by how this increases our connection and our love within the church. When we have prayed, do whatever we can to make a direct connection:

- Pick up your phone and call. Hear each other's voices. If you do video calls, invite the person to join you in seeing one another.
- Send email messages – mail postcards – write personal letters – let people know you are thinking of them.
- Try new ways to make contact. A Zoom account is free, and you can find free videos to show you how to use it, and then you can have video conversations – not just “meetings” – with several people at once from your computer or your phone.

You may already have participated in worship with us through video services posted on Facebook or on our website (<https://www.ucpittsford.org/videos-of-worship>). Our trustees have “met” once using Zoom, and as the weeks of stay-at-home orders continue, we will have other small group meetings in that way to keep the work of our church going. Leta has created videos for children and families and sent them out. And she and I will both be trying out new ways to provide learning and worship resources for the congregation. – I also post regular updates during this crisis on our website (<https://www.ucpittsford.org/coronavirus-updates>) as well as send them out in an email blast. Yet if you have a question, please do not hesitate to call me at 585-315-9241.

Please let me know if you need something. I am calling every family in the church right now to check in with you, but if you realize you need someone to go for food or medication or some other necessity and don't know who to ask, please call me at 585-315-9241 or email me at jimmylreader@gmail.com. A few people in the church have offered to help in this way if I know of a need. In fact, if you are aware of someone else in the community with an unmet need, please let me know.

I want to thank Leta for her work at the church during this time. Due to my own health concerns, I must stay close to home. She is in the office twice a week (Monday and Thursday, 9:00 to noon). She did an excellent job of pulling together resources and information in this Dialogue for everyone to use and is finishing up projects that have been delayed but are important to get done during this “interim” time.

If you look at the church calendar on our website, from mid-March through April, it is almost entirely blank. That seems so strange. I have been a pastor for 50 years and have never experienced anything like this. We will get through it, though. We will “be there” for one another and for people in our community. And God will be with us all.

MUSIC NOTES

"Do you want to write something for the Dialogue?", Leta asked. Well, no, I didn't have anything to say, and I told her that. I usually tell about the anthems we'll sing in the next month and THAT'S not happening! But then, I realized that I do have something to say about the Choir and music in these dull times.

I think all the time about the members of the Choir -- MY people. I think about Audrey Natale, who is missing a significant part of her Senior year in High School. I think about Evan, who is missing the last part of his Senior year at Nazareth. I think about all of you who are worrying about your kids and grand-kids and other family members, hoping that they won't get sick and hoping that they won't lose their jobs. Melanie Burnett and my grandson Colin and granddaughter Manda have all been living in New York City and vicinity. It's scary for them and for all of us. A few of you are concerned about your jobs. I think about Chen, who is quarantined right now because of exposure to Clovid19. I think about several choir members who have ongoing health problems and are very vulnerable to this virus. Some of us are in an age group that makes us more vulnerable! I think about those of us who live alone and are feeling more isolated now. And then, very sadly, my heart goes out to the Kwarta family in the loss of Brian's mother.

I have songs going in my head all day long. Sometimes it's hymns, sometimes it's show tunes, sometimes it's anthems that we sing, and sometimes it's ridiculous songs that I can't get rid of in my head! Do you have the same experience? It varies from "Sometimes I Feel like a Motherless Child" to "A Spoonful of Sugar Helps the Medicine Go Down" to the Liberty Mutual commercial, to "Pass Through the Waters", and on and on. We all have to keep singing, even though we can't sing all in the same room at the same time. Even in these dull, weird times of isolation and silence, we have to keep singing our song. There's a quote from Maya Angelou that I love: "A bird doesn't sing because it has an answer, it sings because it has a song." We don't have answers now, but we have to keep singing -- in our heads, out loud, whatever works for you, as we keep each other in our hearts and thoughts. We are together, just not in the same room.

I love you all! *Your Fearless Leader, Dot Borden*



FIRST LETTER HYMN GAME

How well do you know your hymns? Following are some popular hymns, but only the first letter of each hymn's recognizable line are here.

Example: JTTWTLIC would be....

Joy To The World, The Lord Is Come!

If you need hints, search the internet for popular hymns. *Good luck!*



JLMTIKFTBTMS: _____

TSMMSGTTHGTAHGTA: _____

AGHSTSTSAWLM: _____

HIALIILIHHCITN: _____

HHHLGAEITMOSSRTT: _____

BAJIMOWAFOGD: _____

BTMVOLOMH: _____

Bonus!

AGLAHTTRK: _____

Stuck? Email ucpittsford@gmail.com for hints or answers!

FOOD CUPBOARDS URGENT NEEDS AT PITTSFORD FOOD CUPBOARD

Dear Fellow Resident, The current food and household supply shortages that we have all begun to experience has hit the Pittsford Food Cupboard hard on two fronts. Their needs have significantly increased while donations dropped to a critical shortage level. This will reduce the program's ability to serve our neighbors in need. **You are the solution in the coming weeks and months.** Please help the Food Cupboard with donations as soon as you can and as often as you can. Here's a partial of immediate needs:

- Protein in a can - (clams, spam, corned beef hash, beef chili, beef stew, sardines, salmon, chicken breast)
- Meals in a Can (spaghetti's, beefaroni, etc)
- Rice (white 1 or 2 lb packages) and grain side dishes
- Hearty Soups (Contain 6 Grams or more of Protein)
- Cereal, Oatmeal, Syrup
- Canned Vegetables (especially Spinach, Kale, Collard Greens)
- Cleaning Supplies (of any Kind)

The Pittsford Food Cupboard supports Pittsford, Mendon, East Rochester, Honeoye Falls, Brighton and two Rochester zip codes. They are located at **3800 Monroe Ave** (just before canal bridge going into the Pittsford Village).

Foods may also be brought to this location.

Donate during the week at UCP!

There is a collection basket throughout the month in the church office for PFC. You may drop these off during office hours at our main entrance. Thank you!

For more information, please check in on the website:

www.pittsfordfoodcupboard.net

Thank you for what you are able to do for your neighbors.



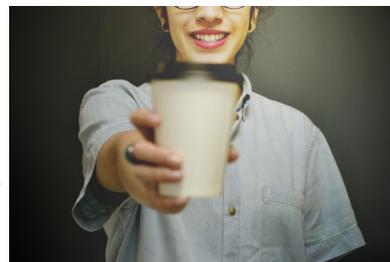
PLEASE NOTE: ROCHESTER COMMUNITY FOOD CUPBOARD

is closed. Please continue to send food donations to Pittsford Community Food Cupboard.

MISSION & MINISTRIES

GIVE COFFEE TO FRONT LINE WORKERS

Nurses and doctors, police and EMT crews need hot coffee and food. As confirmed cases multiply in the greater Rochester NY area, people on the front lines of this fight against COVID-19 need



our help. They work long hours and risk infection every day in their work. We want to do what we can to help. A Rochester area community effort raised over \$10,000 in 48 hours and asked Coffee Connection to provide the coffee. This initiative not only provides food and coffee for Rochester's dedicated frontline workers, it also keeps local organizations and small businesses afloat during this time of economic uncertainty. Community helping community - That's what Coffee Connection is all about!

Your generous donation here will double the impact by giving coffee on the front line and by continuing to save lives and empower women in recovery from addiction - the women of the Coffee Connection who roast and serve the coffee every day. \$11.25 donation provides 80 cups of coffee!

To make a donation, visit

ourcoffeconnection.org/front-line-coffee

CALLING ALL SEWISTS AND CRAFTERS!

With the shortage of protective masks facing the entire world, fabric masks are a CDC crisis response last resort option. www.WeNeedMasks.org connects healthcare

organizations who need fabric masks with sewists who are willing to sew masks. The goal is to provide a resource to the medical community without adding to their burden, as well as answer the

desire from sewists willing to use their skills. In a time of fear and uncertainty, the desire to help is the thread of hope that holds us together. Fabric masks are not considered PPE and their capability to protect against COVID-19 is unknown.

These masks are intended for healthcare professionals who are versed in their potential use for their needs.

For instructions, go to

www.weneedmasks.org/sew-a-mask/



FAMILIES OF FAITH



Lent Reading Plan United Church of Pittsford 2020

The reading plan is graciously made available by the Central Presbyterian Church of Baltimore.

This Lent reading plan walks through each of the four Gospels during the Lent season. What better way to prepare for Easter than to read the complete story of Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection?

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			FEBRUARY 26	27	28	29
			Matthew 1-3 Ash Wednesday	Matthew 4-6	Matthew 7-9	Matthew 10-12
MARCH 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Take a Break	Matthew 13-14	Matthew 15-16	Matthew 17-18	Matthew 19-20	Matthew 21-22	Matthew 23-24
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Take a Break	Matthew 25-26	Matthew 27-28	Mark 1-3	Mark 4-6	Mark 7-9	Mark 10-12
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Take a Break	Mark 13-14	Mark 15-16	Luke 1-3	Luke 4-6	Luke 7-9	Luke 10-12
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Take a Break	Luke 13-14	Luke 15-16	Luke 17-18	Luke 19-20	Luke 21-22	Luke 23-24
29	30	31	APRIL 1	2	3	4
Take a Break	John 1-2	John 3-4	John 5-6	John 7-8	John 9-10	John 11-12
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Take a Break Palm Sunday	John 13-14	John 15-16	John 17-18	John 19-20 Maundy Thursday	John 21 Good Friday	1 Corinthians 15
12						
Easter Sunday						

FELLOWSHIP AND FRIENDS

INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES' YOUNG ADULT MISSIONARIES

"If you haven't heard the good news (other than the fact that we're getting married soon), Anthony and I were awarded a grant by International Ministries to spend six weeks on short term mission to Hungary! If you would like to support us, please go to www.bonfire.com/love-hungary/ to buy a cool t-shirt that we designed! If you are trying to clean out your closet, you may donate to our campaign as well. Thank you all for your love, support, and prayers as we share Christ in another country!"

To read more about the mission, please visit www.internationalministries.org/trailblazers/



RED WINGS BASEBALL OUTING

Calling all baseball fans!

It's OUR season again so save the date for our annual UCP baseball game: Friday, June 12th at 7:05 pm. The Wings take on the Gwinnett Stripers with a special appearance by Sasquatch and fireworks to end the night. Stay tuned for more details as we get closer to game time.



BEWARE OF SCAMMERS

There is a phishing scam making the rounds in which people receive an email or a text message appearing as if it is from

their church pastor asking them to make a contribution to the church by buying gift cards. One victim in Florida netted \$10,500 for the scammers.

As a reminder, the pastor will never ask you for money. If you are unsure about a correspondence, please call us at the office to verify proper communication. **Church phone number:**

585-586-6870

FOR ALL MEMBERS OVER 65 AND ON MEDICARE

Medicare has temporarily expanded its coverage of telehealth services to respond to COVID-19. Medicare beneficiaries can temporarily use telehealth services for

common office visits, mental health counseling and preventive health screenings. This will help ensure

Medicare beneficiaries are able to visit with their doctor from their home, without having to go to a doctor's office or hospital, which puts themselves and others at risk. If you have an existing

healthcare appointment, or think you need to see your doctor, please call them first to see if your appointment can be conducted over a smartphone with video capability or any device using video technology, like a tablet or a laptop. For some appointments, a simple check-in over the phone without video capabilities may suffice. **IM-**

PORTANT: If you think you have been exposed to COVID-19 and develop a fever and symptoms, such as a cough or difficulty breathing, call your healthcare provider immediately.

MONROE COUNTY COVID19 HOTLINE:
(585) 753-5555



S P R I N G

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

4/1	Michele Hanson
4/4	Bethany Kwarta
4/13	Charlie Page
4/13	Eric Strauf
4/16	Brian Page
4/21	Sharon Toles
4/21	Jeanne Carley

FAMILIES OF FAITH

7 Creative Methods for Teaching Scripture to Children

by Jen Stults

We all know scripture memorization is important. If only it were also easy! If memorizing Bible verses proves difficult for adults, then imagine **how much more difficult it can be for our young children to learn scripture**. Sometimes that's a real struggle for me because what works for adults doesn't always work for kids, and even more, what works for one child may not work for another. So, **for anyone who desires to teach kids bible verses but isn't sure where to begin**, here are my favorite methods for teaching scripture to children:

1. Check it – Be sure the verse is short enough.

If the verse you have chosen is lengthy even in a children's bible version, condense it further. For example, if "Be kind and compassionate to each other" is too much, shorten it to "Be kind to others" or for very young children: "Be kind." Equally important, be sure that that your children or students understand the words in the verse. When teaching scripture to children, be sure to consider the age of your pupils!

2. Act it – create motions to go along with the verse.

If you happen to know sign language, the easiest gestures would be actual signs, especially for words or phrases that will be repeated often, like God, Jesus, or Bible. Sometimes my children are able to help me think of appropriate gestures, too. It's important to include their input when teaching scripture to children.

3. Play with it! We usually repeat our memory verse a few times together before we get a little silly with it. Once we can mostly say it together, I usually ask the children to stand up and push in their chairs so we can be more active. We might crouch down and say the verse very, very quietly (gestures included) and then hop up and say it as loud as we can. Sometimes we march around our table and say it, or we chant it to a rhythm, or we sing it, or clap it out, or use silly voices, and so on. Songs in particular work very well at this age. Creativity is key when teaching scripture to children!

4. Repeat it – give each child to a chance to say it alone. Once we have played around with the memory verse a little bit, most children will have at least part of the verse, if not the whole, in their minds. At this point, I usually test my children a little while still trying to keep it fun. Be sure to support those who need it so they don't become embarrassed. *And we always, always celebrate, even if we are only partially successful at saying the verse!*

5. Draw it! Some students prefer putting crayon to paper over reciting verses aloud. Since my preschool children cannot read yet, I might ask them to draw a picture of their verse.

6. Forget about references...for now. Not that we shouldn't attempt to teach the reference at all – I still do. However, I just don't stress about it anymore when teaching scripture to kids. *At a young age, remembering a reference that doesn't hold much meaning (for them) and is difficult to even pronounce can be really challenging and frustrating, especially for kids who might not be familiar with the books of the Bible.* Thus, in my humble opinion, the priority should be the conceptual learning taking place: truths about God making us, God loving us, loving others, etc. I still teach the references, but I don't emphasize them as much as the body of the verse itself. As long as a child remembers the main idea of the verse, I count it a win!

7. Remember variety. Different methods work with different children, so use a variety when possible.

Our preschool daughter loves to say her verses carefully along with hand gestures as if she is performing on stage. On the other hand, her twin brother resists the hand gestures, but he love, love, LOVES anything repeated in a weird or sing-song voice. Of course, sometimes at home, the kids are so crazy and energetic that we fail to accomplish much in the way of teaching scripture to children. And we don't *always* make time for memory verses either, but when we do, I want to make sure that it's time well-spent.

Read the full article at

www.beingconfidentofthis.com/christianity/7-creative-ways-to-teach-scripture-to-kids/



WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP



Saturday, March 7
6:00-8:00 p.m.

Contemporary Christian Music Night

Doctor's Orders - Dave & Patty Wyble
Serendipity - David & Tracy Eckstrand





OUR UNITED CHURCH CONNECTION

AMERICAN BAPTIST LEADERS ISSUE CALL TO PRAYER

VALLEY FORGE, PA – AMERICAN BAPTIST NEWS
The members of the National Executive Council and the members of the Regional Executive Ministers Council issued a Call to Prayer on Friday, March 20, 2020
The Call to Prayer is included below:

During this time of concern and uncertainty, the members of the National Executive Council and the members of the Regional Executive Ministers Council are calling American Baptists to a time of prayer for 21 days beginning on March 21, 2020 and ending on April 11, 2020. During this time we are asking for American Baptists to pray for the recovery and healing of persons effected by COVID-19.

We also invite you to share resources, prayers, litanies, poems, etc., by sending them to ABCUSA Director of Communication, Bridget Lipin at Bridget.Lipin@abc-usa.org.

Contributions will be posted at www.abc-usa.org/21daysofprayer.

Our goal is to harness the power of prayer during this global pandemic as well as deepen our individual and common spiritual lives as American Baptists. Our collected prayers and witness will remind our communities and neighbors that our faith will sustain us and give us hope.

As we always ask, please be respectful of one another as you share information.

Grace and Peace,

Members of the National Executive Council and the Regional Executive Ministers Council

Source:

www.abc-usa.org/2020/03/american-baptist-leaders-issue-call-to-prayer/



SMALL CHURCHES UNDAUNTED BY VIRUS CHALLENGES

SAM HODGES, UM News

If all goes well, the Rev. Rick Metheny will make his internet-preaching debut this Sunday. The four small West Virginia churches he leads are closing due to the coronavirus threat, so

he's found a tech-savvy friend to help him tape a message to post to YouTube.

Metheny's a little worried about how he'll come across.

"I'm not a televangelist. I'm not that," he said with a laugh.

But Metheny is going forward, knowing his people need to hear the word, however he can get it to them. "It's challenging times," he said.

Small United Methodist churches and their pastors are scrambling along with everyone else because of coronavirus, and they seem to be measuring up, despite having limited resources.

"Everybody at this stage is just thinking, 'What is the best approach to being in ministry with folks we can't see face to face?'" said the Rev. Vic Casad, superintendent of the largely rural East District of the North Texas Conference.

Just about half of the UM churches in the U.S. had under 100 members in 2017, according to the denomination's finance agency. Casad said that of the 83 churches he supervises, only a handful had done livestreaming or other online worship before the coronavirus threat began to close church doors.

Among those who took the plunge on Sunday, March 15, was the Rev. Deana Lowe, pastor of Westview United Methodist Church in Greenville, Texas, where average worship attendance is 30.

She created a Facebook group and invited church members to join. They invited others. Lowe used Facebook Live to deliver her message, accompanied by a church couple who play the violin. Lowe had no tripod or special microphone. She put her tablet computer on a music stand and hoped for the best. To her surprise she got 54 "views" and positive feedback.

"We're going to keep going (with livestream) after we return to whatever normal is going to be," said Lowe, who plans to use Skype to keep her church's two-member confirmation class going.

Read more at

tinyurl.com/umc-covid19-smallchurch



April 2020



WITH THE
UNITED CHURCH
of PITTSFORD

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



PLANNING AHEAD?
LOOKING FOR UPDATES?
Check out our
calendar
online!

SUNDAYS:

10:00am

Online Video Worship Service

11:30am

Lenten Learning Video

LOOK OUT FOR:

The Sunday School Show
uploaded weekly

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Be on the lookout for communications from your board chair about meeting alternatives, postponements, or cancellations.

Wednesday April 8

7:00 Board of Christian Education

Monday April 13

7:00 Trustees Meeting

Tuesday April 14

10:00 Deacons Meeting

Monday April 20

7:00 Church Council

SPECIAL DAYS AND HOLIDAYS:



April 1
April Fool's Day



Thursday April 9
Maundy Thursday



April 10
Good Friday



April 12
Easter Sunday



April 15
Taxes NOT Due:
Tax Day MOVED to July 15!



Monday April 20
Dialogue Deadline



April 28
Primaries MOVED
to June 23!

Please look for further communications about changes to our calendar of events. Thank you for your understanding and patience.

— NAMES AND NUMBERS YOU SHOULD KNOW —

Office Phone Number:	586-6870
Rev. Dr. Jimmy Reader, Minister	315-9241
Leta Williams, Minister of Education	315-360-6908
Dot Borden, Choir Director	624-2284
Chen Liang, Organist and Pianist	
Don Reeve, Chair, Trustees	704-3748
Jennifer Cranch, Chair, Deacons	749-4758



COLLECTION CONTAINERS

We have the following containers in the office:

Used eye wear & HEARING AIDS
(including batteries, etc.):

These go to Lions Clubs International.

Box Top\$ for Education

These go to Pittsford and Brighton School District.

Labels for Education

Discontinued by Campbells Co (2018).

Can pull tabs

(from canned fruits, vegetables, soups, meats, sauces, and beverages):

These go to St. Joseph's Catholic School in Penfield for Schriener project funding.



UNITED CHURCH
of PITTSFORD

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We're on the Web!

www.ucpittsford.org

Email us at: ucpittsford@gmail.com

"Like" us on Facebook at United Church of Pittsford.

If you would like a hard copy of the Dialogue mailed to you, please contact us.

