FROM YOUR MINISTER JIMMY READER

Thank you for the generous Christmas gift and all the support you have given us over this past year. We are so very grateful, and grateful to be a part of our loving community. We are excited to be a part of this continuing journey, praying that God will lead us and strengthen us as we move forward in this challenging world! We love you! – Jimmy and Joy

What a great church! - Last Sunday the congregation approved a proposal from the Council to begin a process of simplifying the way we are structured for church leadership and oversight of our ministry. The Council will quickly appoint a team to develop a more detailed recommendation for the church to consider, perhaps on April 26. The core idea is to have one board elected by the church to oversee our work as a church and many teams of people approved by Council to carry it out. Meanwhile, we elected new board members and officers to serve within the current structure until a new structure is approved.

Our goal to strengthen and transform our congregation will, I believe, be enhanced by these decisions. While perhaps 10 elected Council members will meet monthly to share the important responsibilities of oversight and decision-making, everyone else can give their time and energies to our church’s ministry on small teams, focused on just one task or project. – This is a major change for any church, and I appreciate the gracious and open spirit of everyone in coming to this first decision to proceed.

Being a Christian is about a Way of Life, not so much what we believe but how we live and love together. Many of you may already accept that statement, but it represents a fundamental transformation of the Church and how we think about God and ourselves and the Church’s work in the world. Based on Brian MacLaren’s book, The Great Spiritual Migration, this is the 4th of eight sessions this year to help us consider how the Church is changing in a changing world. On Sunday, February 2 (after church), we will consider questions like these: (1) Is God violent? (2) How has racism affected the Church? (3) How do we know what God is like? (4) How does God set people free? … Please plan to join us!

Looking Ahead .... We will do more community nights this year, with programs and events of interest to the wider community. Last year we offered community nights about addiction and about an interfaith look at the holidays. This year our first Community Night on Sunday, April 19 will be a 3-hour event led by Kit Miller from the M.K. Gandhi Center in Rochester. She will help us look at racism and inclusion and how to live well together in community in Pittsford. SAVE THE DATE!

Coming up in a month .... An evening of Contemporary Christian Music is planned for Saturday, March 7 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Dave and Patty Wyble (who provided music for our outdoor service last August) and good friends David and Tracey Eckstrand (Serendipity group) will lead us in a time of singing praise music and other contemporary Christian songs, as well as performing some of their own music. – Please save the date!
FROM YOUR MINISTER (continued)

Meanwhile .... As your pastor, I would like to form two teams of people to work with me in these two areas of ministry:

A **worship and arts team** – We would begin planning for different elements of worship, including dance, drama, visual arts, and sensory experiences in worship – and different styles and ways of doing music in our worship services.

An **older adults health team** – How might we help aging adults in our community live out their years in healthy ways? Our work would focus at first on searching out options for how our church might provide services not offered now.

If either of these teams interest you, please call me (315-9241) or email me ([jimmylreader@gmail.com](mailto:jimmylreader@gmail.com)) and let me know of your interest.

MUSIC NOTES

**CHOIR NEWS**

We've had several choir members out with injuries or illness so far this year and we've missed all of them. We hope that Bob, Di, Marilyn, Kim, and Audrey will be better by the time the Choir sings again! Joy was out for the month of December but we were happy to have her back in January. On February 9, the Choir will sing "Let Us Be Your Light" and on February 16 the anthem will be "Pass Through the Waters". As always, we would be delighted to have new people join us in the Choir. Just show up at 9 AM on the Sundays that we sing.

Soloists are needed each month to support worship on the weeks that the Choir doesn't sing. Right now, we have openings on February 2 and 23. Please contact Audrey Natale or me if you are able to help.

**Fearless Leader Dot Borden**
A GOD OF LOVE AND LIBERATION

On Sunday, February 2, our 4th Way of Life group will meet to consider questions like these:

1. Is God violent?
2. How has racism affected the Church?
3. How do we know what God is like?
4. How does God set people free?

Brian McLaren’s book, The Great Spiritual Migration, is our guide to answering these questions. Please join us after church in the lounge. We will begin by 11:30.

SUNDAY NIGHT LIVE!

6:30pm on Facebook

The bible is made up of 66 books. How are we supposed to know which ones to take literally, which ones to read as a story, and which ones to simply reflect on? We are looking at biblical genres through our live video releases each Sunday night. You don’t have to have a Facebook account to watch these; simply go to www.facebook.com/ucpittsford to join! For further information, email ucpittsford@gmail.com

- February 2: No video – Super Bowl!
- February 9: Prophets Foretold It
- February 16: The Good News
- February 23: Snail Mail
- March 1: The End of the Beginning

MISSION & MINISTRIES

FROM THE COFFEE CONNECTION

Dear Partners of the Coffee Connection,

You have been supporting women in recovery from addiction, trauma, and incarceration for many years. Countless women have been stabilized. Many have "graduated" into new careers and some have "graduated" into being top leaders at the Coffee Connection to carry our mission forward! You have been so much a part of that! Women’s relationships with each other, with significant others, with children, and their larger family circles, have changed with your support. We have the most stable staff ever and we're building a strong foundation for the future. Thank you for drinking our coffee and making such a great ripple affect, beginning with our women and into our community. We are so grateful!!

FOOD CUPBOARDS

Serving our community and our city!

ROCHESTER COMMUNITY FOOD CUPBOARD

February 2: low-salt canned vegetables
February 9: tuna
February 16: pasta

PITTSFORD FOOD CUPBOARD

Worship Services Collection
Sundays:
February 23
Contact: Marilyn Krager
Items appreciated: hot cocoa packets, hearty soups, peanut butter, tuna, pasta, rice, spaghetti sauce, hot/cold cereals

Donate during the week!

There is a collection basket throughout the month in the church office for PFC.

Thank you!

Marilyn Krager
1. **The Bible was written in three languages.** Those languages are Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek.

2. **The Bible is about 611,000 words long.** In those original languages, the word count is about 611,000.

3. **The longest book of the Bible is Jeremiah.** This prophet had a lot to say!

4. **The shortest book of the Bible is 3 John.** You can read this book in about one minute.

5. **The Bible was written by more than 40 traditional authors.** The books of the Bible are traditionally attributed to heroes of the Jewish and Christian faiths.

6. **The Bible was written by people from diverse occupational backgrounds.** Parts of the Bible were written by kings, farmers, fishermen, a tentmaker, homeless prophets, a doctor, a professional scribe, vocational musicians, and religious leaders.

7. **The books of the Old Testament are arranged differently in Judaism.** The English Bibles we use group the books of the Bible loosely by type of literature. In Judaism’s Hebrew Bible, the books of law come first (the Torah), followed by the former and latter prophets (a blend of prophets and history), followed by “the writings” (a blend poetry, history, and prophetic books). In this arrangement, the last book is Chronicles, not Malachi.

8. **There are at least 185 songs in the Bible.** And 185 is a bare minimum—that’s only if you count the portions of Scripture that are specifically labelled as “song,” “psalm,” “dirge,” or “chant.” You can see the list (and infographic) here.

9. **Some of the “First” and “Second” books were divided after they were written.** If the books of 1 & 2 Kings were combined, they would be the longest book of the Bible. 1 & 2 Kings were originally written as one book. The same goes for 1 & 2 Samuel and 1 & 2 Chronicles.

10. **The authorship of Hebrews has remained anonymous for centuries.** Authorship of this book has been debated for centuries.

11. **The word “Trinity” is never mentioned in the Bible.** Most Christians believe that God eternally exists in three persons: The Father, the Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. And all three are referred to as divine in Scripture. However, do a word search: the word “Trinity” doesn’t come up.

12. **The Bible was written on three continents.** Most was written in what is modern-day Israel (Asia). But some passages of Jeremiah were written in Egypt (Africa) and several New Testament epistles were written from cities in Europe.

13. **There are 21 dreams recorded in the Bible.** And most of them are had by two different men named Joseph!

14. **The book of James is the bossiest book of the Bible.** If you make a list of words in each book of the Bible and then a list of commands in the same book, the book with the highest concentration of words is the book of James.

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**COMING UP: LENT LEARNING STATIONS**

Lent begins with **Ash Wednesday on February 26**, and not including Sundays, there will be forty days thereafter until Easter Sunday. As Christians, what should we be talking about and doing during the season of Lent? In addition to your own Lenten practices at home, you are invited to participate in the Board of Christian Education’s **Lent Learning Stations** each Sunday after church during the Lenten season. These will be interactive learning opportunities hosted by each of our board members to help us learn more about the meaning of and reason for Lent.
FELLOWSHIP AND FRIENDS

Saturday February 8th • 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM

RISE AND SHINE PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Sausage Links Pancakes Scrambled Eggs
Maple Syrup Blueberry Topping Beverages

$5

United Church of Pittsford
123 South Main Street (at Sunset Blvd.)
(585) 586-6870 • www.ucpittsford.org

Proceeds to Elderberry Express

STUDENT SHEPHERD PROGRAM

As a community centered around caring, we are excited to announce an opportunity for us to connect with one another! We will be pairing children and youth one on one with a shepherd, who may remain anonymous to them. Throughout the year, you are invited to write them cards, letters, or give them small gifts. If you choose not to remain anonymous, you may attend activities that the student participates in. You are invited to make this commitment for 2020. For applications, or to learn more, email ucpchildrenanyouth@gmail.com

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2/1 Laura Wallman
2/3 Melanie Burnett
2/3 Danielle Strauf
2/3 David Bradway
2/5 Jen Cranch
2/10 Stephen Wallman
2/18 Kim Blood
2/22 Jane McCollum
2/22 Bev Snyder
2/26 Stacie Hyde
2/28 Marilyn Krager
MINORITY FUNDING CRITICAL TO SEPARATION DEAL

JIM PATTERSON, UM NEWS

$39 million. That’s the amount set aside to go to minority ministries in the proposed protocol to settle differences about LGBTQ inclusion in The United Methodist Church. It is $14 million more than the new, as-yet unnamed traditionalist denomination would get to fund its startup.

What does the LGBTQ issue have to do with the support of traditionally underserved racial minorities in the church?

“As you think about any kind of restructure or budget reductions or reallocations or whatever the case may be, historically marginalized communities usually become affected,” said the Rev. Junius Dotson, who took part in the negotiations and is top executive of United Methodist Discipleship Ministries.

“That was a real concern, that we keep the most vulnerable communities in our purview.”

The Protocol of Reconciliation & Grace Through Separation, announced earlier this month by a broad coalition of church leaders, is still being drafted as legislation and would require approval by the 2020 General Conference.

The $39 million, to be distributed over eight years, would essentially guarantee that minority ministries be funded at their current levels for that period, Dotson said.

“The idea was to try to avoid a disruption in funding and … to make clear that the church has a commitment to these communities of color.”

The protocol directs that “the goal of these earmarked funds shall be to strengthen ministries by and for Asian, black, Hispanic-Latino, Native American and Pacific Islander communities, encourage the full participation of historically marginalized communities in the governance and decision-making of the church and ensure that the vital work of training the next generation of leaders by Africa University will be maintained.”

Read more at tinyurl.com/minority-fund-umc

COMPARING PLANS HEADED TO GC2020

This summary compares proposals from various groups, in alphabetical order, about the structure of The UMC. It does not include proposals from individuals. Further details are in the documents and legislation. All proposals will be open for amendments at General Conference and may be subject to Judicial Council review.

Follow the link to see the chart: tinyurl.com/UMCplans2020
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<td>9AM PUNS 6PM Village Squares</td>
<td>9AM PUNS 6:30PM PUNS Staff Meeting</td>
<td>8AM Rise &amp; Shine Pancake Breakfast</td>
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PLANNING AHEAD?
Check out our calendar online!

WITH THE
UNITED CHURCH OF PITTSFORD

page 7
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
Scott Hanson, Moderator 586-6861
Don Reeve, Chair, Trustees 704-3748
Richard Ashworth, Chair, Deacons 381-2189
Jennifer Cranch, Chair, Board of Christian Education 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 Schriner project funding.

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