


## FROM YOUR MINISTER JIMMY READER


**Thank you for your generous gift to us!** With the COVID delay in a Christmas gift, we received it this past week, and Joy and I greatly appreciate your love and care for us expressed by this gift. We will use it to continue to prepare an anticipated vacation immediately following retirement. We have a wedding – the first for one of our 37 grandchildren – in Kansas and then expect to visit family and friends throughout the Midwest.



 **Less than 14 weeks to go** for my retirement and the ending of my pastoral relationship with you. The end of May will be one month shy of 8 years at the United Church of Pittsford. We have had challenges and celebrations, losses and sadness, and many good times together. Over the next couple of months, we will remember our accomplishments and successes together – and celebrate them! ... For now, please mark your calendars for **Sunday, May 16**, which will be my last Sunday with you.

**Meanwhile ...** a pastor search committee has begun to meet. They will work with Rev. Vonda Fossitt, UMC district superintendent, and Rev. Sandra Hasenauer, ABC executive minister to help guide their search for a candidate for your next pastor. Their process will be transparent, and they will keep you posted on their progress. Who they are contacting and talking to, of course, will be entirely confidential when that time comes. The committee includes Scott Hanson, chair; Fred Peckham, Logan Hazen, Nate Schunk, Briana Hanson, Anne Passmore, and Katie Zink.

**My focus as your pastor** for these remaining weeks, besides leading worship and responding to pastoral concerns, will be to work with the Council to help the congregation get organized for effective work together under our new structure. Council members provide leadership for the church and oversee the various parts of church life and ministry. The work of the church will be done by small teams and individuals appointed by the Council. I will work with the Council to identify and recruit people for all that needs to be done and help you move into this next phase of your life as a congregation.



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**What about meeting in person?** New cases and the “positivity rate” have been declining and are now at their lowest point since November 3. We are already well below the levels which forced us to stop in-person services before Thanksgiving. Assuming the decline continues, we may begin Sunday services in the sanctuary again in March. We will let you know after the Council meets next week. Many of you did not feel comfortable coming to in-person services before and may not again until this is “over.” So we are planning to combine video recording of our services with providing a Zoom link so you can participate in the services in the sanctuary as they are happening. We will let you know the details when the time comes.



**Digital ministry** will be the “new normal” for churches everywhere, even after the pandemic is over. **Livestreaming** services so people could join the service virtually on TV, computer, or phone has been happening for years at large churches. Now small congregations like ours are able to do the same. We have a church app and integrated website where videos have been uploaded. That same platform allows us to livestream the services and have the recording automatically available for viewing later. We are having that discussion now about whether to begin it. ... For five years, we have been involved with our **multimedia project** – installing a state-of-the-art sound system in both the sanctuary and Howard Hall. We added smart TVs in Howard Hall, the lounge, and the youth room upstairs to enhance our ministry. We have now added a camera and accessories to be able to continue recording our services on video – and other events in the sanctuary as well. I hope we can complete the final part of this project by May – installing large screens in the sanctuary (which can lay flat against the wall) and other hardware to be able to use photos, graphics, videos, words to scripture and hymns – as we have been doing on Zoom. .... Digital ministry is the “new normal” for churches everywhere, and I hope that UCP can more fully move in that direction.



I am looking forward to these final three months with you and anticipating all the good things we can yet do together. May God bless us all.

### PITTSFORD FOOD CUPBOARD

Chicken or vegetable broth , Pizza sauce and pizza crust mix , Canned spinach, collard greens, beets, relish, pickles, olives, yams, cauliflower rice, meats, mandarin oranges, pineapple (At this time no shelving space available for extra pasta, peanut butter, beans, spaghetti sauce, corn or tuna), Small 100% juice boxes, Alfredo sauce, Dry cat food , Body Lotion.

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### ROCHESTER FOOD CUPBOARD

There was a fire at the Rochester Food Cupboard in November. Please consider making a monetary donation to help rebuild portions of the pantry and replace some of the foods lost.



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There are no income requirements, but you must:

- reside in the 14534 zip code
- be 65 years of age or older
- show up in person 1 time to create file
- present picture ID and current mail.
- Call the morning of your delivery to choose menu items or leave a message with your food preferences
- Someone must be home to accept order.

### *PFC Has Delivery*

(Only on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Friday each month between 11am-2pm)

#### Winter Dates:

2/12  
2/26  
3/12  
3/26

Call 585-264-9860 and ask for Claire for more information.

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## **Our last Racial Justice Workshop Series**

co-sponsored and led by the Gandhi Institute

**Tuesday, February 16 (7:00-8:30 pm) - "Race and Restorative Justice"** - Some of us participated in a book study this fall, but we want to give people an overview of practices from this book in a single session. You might want to buy and read the book first. You can purchase it for \$5 or \$6 here - <https://www.amazon.com/Little-Book-Race-Restorative-Justice/dp/1680993437>. Again, it's free and open to anyone in the community or anywhere, but you must register to get the Zoom link - <https://ucpittsford.org/racial-justice-workshop-series-2-9>.



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# FELLOWSHIP AND FRIENDS

Did you enjoy BINGO night? Are you sad you missed it?

Don't worry! Craft Afternoon is here to cure your blues.

Join us on **Saturday, February 20 at 3:00pm** for a craft afternoon via Zoom. You will get a little bag of supplies, and we will log onto zoom to chat as we craft. All ages are welcome. Please call or email the office to sign up, get the link, and give us a head count for supplies. Contact Briana for specific details.

Please **sign up BEFORE 12:00pm on Monday February 15th** so that we have enough time to gather supplies for you.

We hope to see you there!

*email: [ucpittsford@gmail.com](mailto:ucpittsford@gmail.com)*

*phone number: 506-6870*

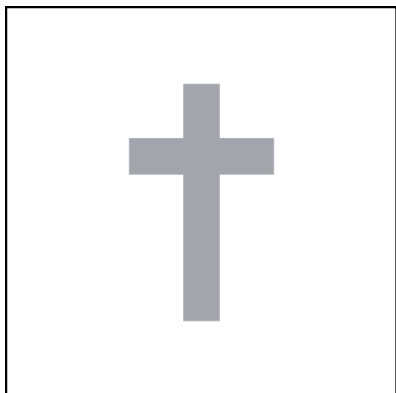


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## THE CHURCH APP

Stay up to date! Don't forget to  
download our app if you  
haven't already.

<https://ucpittsford.org/app-how-to-download>



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## February Birthdays



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







## OUR UNITED CHURCH CONNECTION



### Essay Contest



Entries are rolling in for the essay contest for high school juniors and seniors, who can win up to \$2000 for college in the Baptist Joint Committee's (BJC) Religious Liberty Essay Contest. This topic questions young minds if they believe religious leaders have a right to run for

public office. Don't forget, entries are due by March 26, 2021.

Read the full contest rules here: <https://tinyurl.com/BJC-essay-contest>

### 2021 Online Biennial Summit Speakers Announced

The Annual Conference has been moved online this year.

The first night, Friday, June 25, will have keynote speaker Rev. Dr. Winterbourne LaPucelle Harrison-Jones. On Saturday, June 26, keynote speaker will be Rev. Dr. Brianna K Parker.

The summit begins June 24 and with the keynote speakers, includes access to pre-recorded sessions and resources, as well as the virtual exhibit hall.

Read more here: [tinyurl.com/1kmetbpbk](https://tinyurl.com/1kmetbpbk)



### Churches Inject Energy Into Vaccine Access

A Methodist church in Vincennes, Indiana has converted their recreational area into a vaccination site. The church has been working closely with their health department to serve as a clinic.

They moved outside groups that use their building, including their food pantry to help in the fight against the coronavirus.

The fight continues as they work to help the underserved communities around them gain access to the vaccine.



Read more here: [tinyurl.com/1ku11rnw](https://tinyurl.com/1ku11rnw)

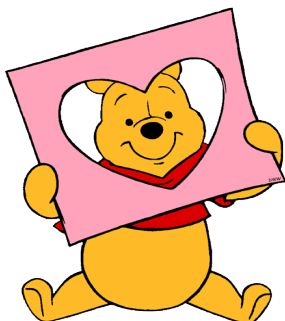
### Church Center Relieves Alzheimer's Isolation

Albany First United Methodist Church in Albany, Georgia gives the community access to a program for individuals affected by Alzheimer's and Dementia.

The program was built off of a ministry of the church for, and is a big aid for caregivers. This is especially important in the isolating times the nation is facing. The program aims to bring compassion and engaging activities to those effected by Alzheimer's.



Learn more here: [tinyurl.com/befwhdah](https://tinyurl.com/befwhdah)



# FEBRUARY 2021



UNITED CHURCH  
of PITTSFORD

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 10:00am Worship Service	8	9	10	11 Make a Friend Day 	12	13
14 Valentine's Day 10:00am Worship Service	15 Presidents' Day 7:00pm Church Council	16 7:00pm Race and Restorative Justice Workshop	17	18	19	20 Dialogue Deadline
21 10:00am Worship Service	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 10:00am Worship Service						



PLANNING AHEAD?  
LOOKING FOR UPDATES?

Check out the  
calendar on our website!

[www.ucpittsford.org/monthly-calendar](http://www.ucpittsford.org/monthly-calendar)

## NAMES AND NUMBERS YOU SHOULD KNOW

Office Phone Number:	586-6870
Rev. Dr. Jimmy Reader, Minister	315-9241
Dot Borden, Choir Director	624-2284
Chen Liang, Organist and Pianist	
Briana Hanson, Administrative Assistant	586-6870
Audrey Johnson, Council Chair	704-3748
Seth Hubbard, Church Clerk	749-4758

### Office Hours

Monday-Friday 9:00am-12:00pm

### COLLECTION CONTAINERS

We have the following containers in the office:

#### Used eye wear & HEARING AIDS

*(including batteries, etc.):*

These go to Lions Clubs International.

#### Can pull tabs

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

These go to McDonalds for Shriner project funding.



UNITED CHURCH  
of PITTSFORD

123 South Main Street

Pittsford, NY 14534

Phone: (585) 586-6870

We're on the Web!

**[www.ucpittsford.org](http://www.ucpittsford.org)**

**Email us at:** [ucpittsford@gmail.com](mailto:ucpittsford@gmail.com)

Follow us! @ucpittsford



Find us on the church app!



Love  
never  
gives  
up

1 CORINTHIANS 13:7

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