Since March we have shared with the world a challenge none of us has experienced before – a pandemic (worldwide epidemic) that was unknown before this and the consequent “stay-at-home” orders with severe economic results for many people. Most of us have stayed at home and worked from home for two months already. Loneliness, isolation, depression, anxiety – these are common for a growing number of people. And many of us miss being together at the church building for worship, activities, programs – able to see each other’s smiles, give hugs, and just be physically close. That time will come again. We must be patient. To help us through the coming weeks and months, I offer these three scriptures for us to hold in our hearts:

- “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:6-7)
- “We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love the Lord.” (Romans 8:28)
- “God is faithful and will not let you be tested beyond what you can bear. But when you are tested, God will also provide a way through so that you can endure it.” (1 Corinthians 10:13)

As we look toward our future, here’s a summary of what we anticipate:

- Congregations will be able to open for public worship again in Phase 4, which may begin as soon as the end of June (but not before). Right now, I hope we can hold our first service in the sanctuary on July 12, but even that is tentative.
- When we open the building again, we will need a lot of people willing to help us with all the necessary precautions – disinfecting, masks, moving chairs (or marking them to be empty), extra cleaning after every event. (If you would help, please email or call the church office.)
- Anyone who is high risk because of age or other physical conditions are asked to wait longer before they return. I am high risk myself, so we will continue to be very careful.

No one knows the long-term changes which may be necessary. We hear that choirs and even congregational singing should be curtailed for the rest of the year. We have no idea when social distancing will no longer be required. We do hope to be back to a more normal situation by the end of the year, but we all have to wait and see. And pray.

Meanwhile, here’s a brief update on other things going on at the church:

- Leta and Anthony postponed their wedding to September and their mission trip to Hungary until later in the fall. So Leta has agreed to continue working part-time through August.
- The trustees and the council continue to meet on Zoom to do the important work of oversight of the church, including finances and the building.
- The council appointed a New Structure team to create a detailed proposal for the congregation to discuss and vote on later in the year. We had agreed in January to simplify our structure for leadership and oversight of the congregation’s life and ministry. That is in process, and the presentation and decision has been postponed until late in the fall. The team includes Sue Miller, Charlie Page, Verna Hazen, and Richard Ashworth.
- Leta Williams and Briana Hanson have worked hard over the past several weeks to help me create a new website integrated with a new church app for our phones. You will find other information and instructions for how to easily download the app to your phone. This gives us new ways to communicate regularly with everyone – and for you to give online to the church (as you may do for many other things) – and provide easy-to-use resources for Bible reading, watching videos for learning, being engaged with events and activities at the church, and much more. Check out the new website at https://ucpittsford.org/.

More musings from the Choir Director!

Since I last wrote, we now know that the experts in singing and playing musical wind instruments are wisely saying that producing music by these means spreads the virus much more widely than it is spread when we speak. What this means is that it won’t be safe to have a choir when we start having services in church again. I’m afraid that it also means that we may not be able to have congregational singing either. (I can’t even begin to tell you how sad this makes me feel.) We’ll have to come up with some creative ways to include music in our services -- and we will. Once there is a vaccine for all of us, the Choir will be back, in all its glory!

In these weird times of isolation, we are having to re-learn how to keep ourselves and others safe. With all the disturbing news that can bombard us, I find it hard some days to focus on what is really important in my life. I find it helpful to take time every night to list the blessings in my life and to reiterate what I know to be true. I know that I am surrounded with God’s love and grace. (I also know that in no way did God cause this pandemic to happen!!) I know that I have a loving, supportive family and wonderful friends. I know that I have a splendid church family that truly cares about each other and about me. I know I can always get through just one more day. I do not know what the future will bring, so I try to put that on a shelf and leave it there.

As a church, we WILL be back together some time in the future. We as church leaders will do everything necessary to keep everyone safe, which will mean that our surroundings may look different, but it will be the same body of people, worshiping and joining in celebration of our faith. In the meantime, in these weird times, we need to hold on, one day at a time.

Your Fearless Leader, Dot Borden

P.S. I still sing all day long -- sometimes to myself, but sometimes out loud. Music has been my love, my solace, my life’s work, and my energizing force.
PITTSFORD FOOD CUPBOARD
- Requesting homemade masks for clients as well as reusable grocery bags
- Continues to accept donation checks sent to:
  Pittsford Food Cupboard
  3800 Monroe Suite 26
  Pittsford, NY 14534
- Updated grocery requests:
  ◦ paper towels,
  ◦ hand sanitizer,
  ◦ cleaning supplies,
  ◦ shampoo,
  ◦ body wash,
  ◦ brown or white rice,
  ◦ Jam or jelly
  ◦ Cereal
  ◦ 100% large juices
- Marilyn Krager extends continued thanks to Sue Gaze for helping her get items from UCP to PFC on a weekly basis.

CAMERON COMMUNITY CENTER
- Continues to accept donation checks sent to:
  Cameron Community Center
  48 Cameron Street
  Rochester, NY 14606
- The money now supports 100 plus brown bag lunches that are provided on a daily basis...
- For more information, go to www.cameronministries.org

IN THE UCP OFFICE
are the following collection containers:
- Eyeglass and hearing aid items (including batteries) for Lion’s Club.
- Metal tabs from drinks and canned goods like soup, meats, fruits and

UPDATE ON OUR MISSION
KÖSZÖNÖM! That means “thank you” in Hungarian! Your support has meant so much to us, even through these strange and challenging times! Below on the left is a picture of Jon and Amanda Good, our resident missionary hosts in Debrecen, Hungary through International Ministries. We have had a few conversations so far and have been touched by their warmth and kindness! Not pictured are their four children, who we are excited to meet!

-Leta and Anthony

Clean used clothing can presently be put in the Women’s Club of Pittsford donation box in the UCP parking lot, or recently opened Goodwill drop off sites at Pittsford Plaza.
MISSING ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2020

To the Upper New York Conference on May 27, 2020:

“Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” -Romans 15.13

Dear Friends,

On most of our calendars, tomorrow, May 28, was marked as the beginning of the 2020 session of the Upper New York Annual Conference. Every year, I am filled with anticipation to gather together and share in times of worship, fellowship, learning, and yes even business. Like you, I will miss that gathering tomorrow, but look forward to the time when we will indeed gather together and share the hope we have together in Jesus Christ! The hope of Christ and all that reality brings is a truth that we and our world continue to desperately need. Amid a pandemic that has changed so much about life, we need the hope of Christ. For the sorrow and pain that has come in illness and death across our world, we need the hope of Christ. For the insecurity and financial hardships that many are experiencing, we need the hope of Christ.

The list could go on and on and the truth is that anything and everything included in that list is an ever-present reality in the world around us apart from a global pandemic. Our world is hurting, desperate and in many ways broken. The acts of racism that resulted in the deaths of Ahmaud Arbery and George Floyd are just the latest reminders of a world filled with injustice and evil.

While our day-to-day lives have been different over the last few months, the need for the Gospel of Jesus Christ remains constant. The mission of the Church to offer the light of Jesus into a dark world is urgent. We must continue to boldly speak out and show a different way – a way that brings justice to all and eliminates racism and other forms of injustice and oppression that too often permeate our world and the lives of those around us. As our hearts continue to be changed through the powerful, transforming grace of God in Christ, our lives and our voices must offer that same invitation to those around us. While we must continue to work for systemic changes in the structures of our society, we know that real change will only be realized when hearts and minds are changed because of an encounter with the living Christ. May that change begin with us and then with courage and urgency let us invite others to a heart-changing, life-altering relationship with Jesus!

I continue to give thanks to God for the leadership and ministry you have offered in these days. There have been challenges and frustrations, yet God has and will continue to use all that you offered. Thank you for being faithful to God’s call upon your life! Thank you for being the Church of Jesus Christ!

As we continue to move through the reopening phases, please continue to be patient with yourself and one another. While there are many messages and opinions regarding when and how to take different steps and actions, our first concern must continue to be for the safety and health of each member within our congregations and the communities we serve with and among.

I also want to encourage you to follow guidelines provided by the Annual Conference regarding preparing your building for reopening and important safety practices to follow. These guidelines can be found on the Conference website at www.unyumc.org. Please be alert for additional guidelines and resources that will be made available as necessary. If you have specific questions or concerns related to the guidelines, please contact your District Superintendent.

Even as we move through the various phases of reopening, we recognize that some situations require continuing online worship only and we offer our FULL support for those who make that decision.
As I have stated many times, if there is anything I or other Conference leaders can offer in coming alongside your leadership and ministry in these days, please let us know. We cannot address a need if we do not know it exists. Be assured of my ongoing prayers for each of you!

As we prepare to celebrate the Day of Pentecost, we acknowledge and claim the gift of the Holy Spirit within our lives. Through the Holy Spirit we are filled, equipped and empowered with the very presence of God to accomplish anything God calls us to. Let us offer our lives in a fresh way to the promise and reality of God’s Spirit! May we cry, “Come Holy Spirit!”

In closing, I want to share John Wesley’s Prayer of Submission that I used at our most recent prayer gathering and many of you requested to receive. May we join in this prayer, trusting our God to continue to mold and shape us, filling us with all joy and peace so that we may abound in hope through Jesus Christ!

“To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, my Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier, I give up myself entirely. May I no longer serve myself, but you, all the days of my life.

I give you my understanding. May it be my only care to know you, your perfections, your works, and your will. Let all things else be as dross unto me, for the excellency of this knowledge, and let me silence all reasonings against whatsoever you teach me, who can neither deceive nor be deceived.

I give you my will. May I have no will of my own. WHATSOEVER you will, may I will and that only. May I will your glory in all things, as you do, and make that my end in everything. May I ever say with the Psalmist, “Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire other than you.”

May I delight to do your will, O God, and rejoice to accept it. Whatever threatens me, let me say, “It is the Lord; let him do what seems good to him.” And whatever befalls me, let me give thanks, since it is your will concerning me.

I give you my affections. Dispose of them all. Be my love, my fear, my joy; and may nothing have any share in them, but with respect to you and for your sake. What you love, may I love; what you hate, may I hate; and that in such measures as you are pleased to prescribe for me.

I give you my body. May I glorify you with it, and preserve it holy, fit for you, O God, to dwell in. May I neither indulge it, nor use too much rigor toward it; but keep it as far as in me lies, healthy, vigorous, and active, and fit to do you all manner of service that you shall call for.

I give you all my worldly goods. May I prize them and use them only for you. May I faithfully restore to you, in the poor, all you have entrusted me with, above the necessaries of life; and be content to part with them too, whenever you, my Lord, shall require them at my hands.

I give you my credit and reputation. May I never value it, but only in respect of you; nor endeavor to maintain it, but as it may do the service and advance your honor in the world.

I give you myself and my all. Let me look upon myself to be nothing, and to have nothing, apart from you. Be the sole disposer and governor of myself and all; be my portion and my all.

O my God and my all, when hereafter I shall be tempted to break this solemn engagement, when I shall be pressed to conform to the world and to the company and customs that surround me, may my answer be: “I am not my own. I am not for myself, not for the world, but for my God. I will give unto God the things that are God’s. God, be merciful to me a sinner.” AMEN.

Grace and Peace,
Bishop Mark J. Webb
Upper New York Area Resident Bishop
NEW WAY S TO CONNECT: OUR NEW WEBSITE AND APP!

Though you will get to the website the same way as before (by typing ucpittsford.org into your browser), you will see that it has a totally different look! We offer access to sermons, learning series, online giving, and more.

To download our new church app, text the code UCOP to 888-364-4483.

While major features will remain unchanged, we will be continuing to refine the content and functions of the app as we integrate our worship, work, and mission onto the platform.

TOP TEN TOPICS BREACHED IN OUR ZOOM FELLOWSHIP
in no particular order:
10) How to zap a squirrel
9) Riding in a motorcycle side car
8) Identifying birds
7) Rhubarb!
6) Guessing where in the world Richard Ashworth is
5) Completed puzzles
4) Styles of face masks
3) Campers, camping, and summer
2) “Is my camera working?”
1) How we can be praying for one another

...and occasionally, a K-9 will contribute their thoughts on these matters!

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

6/3 Rick Hyde
6/4 Kyle Wallman
6/7 Briana Hanson
6/9 John Tyson
6/11 Judy Wolfe
6/13 Marilyn Grunert
6/15 Luanne Kuimjian
6/15 George Yaneka
6/17 Judy Wallace
6/19 Katie Wallace Zink
6/21 Jeff Cornell
6/24 Don Hutchins
Celebrating the

Class of 2020

Commit everything you do to the Lord, Trust Him, and He will help you. 
Psalm 37:5
Dear American Baptists,

The death of George Floyd has caused widespread pain, rage, protests, and violence in Minneapolis and across the United States. I appreciate the input received from officers of the Regional Executive Ministers Council, members of the National Executive Council, and others in constructing a response to this event. While American Baptists have never advocated violence, we grieve with those feeling the pent-up pain from years of racial discrimination and injustice.

The horrifying video captured at the corner of Chicago Avenue and 38th Street in Minneapolis has released years of frustration that can never be fully understood by those who have not consistently lived with injustice historically and presently. Acts of current racial injustice as well as the effects of historic racial injustices have been brought into the light in recent weeks as we recognize that African-Americans have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. In a recent study, the Centers for Disease Control found that 45% of individuals for whom race or ethnicity data was available were white, compared to 55% of individuals in the surrounding community and that 33% of hospitalized patients were black compared to 18% in the community. Unequal access to healthcare, jobs, education, and training have all been influenced by the racialized society in which we continue to live.

Read more at: tinyurl.com/racial-injustice-response

GENERAL COMMISSION ON RELIGION & RACE RESPONDS TO DEATH OF GEORGE FLOYD

ERIN HAWKINS, GENERAL SECRETARY, GCORR

“Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Isaiah 58:6 (NIV)

Yesterday, video footage posted on social media showed George Floyd, a 46-year-old unarmed African-American man, handcuffed and pinned to the ground at the neck by a Minneapolis police officer’s knee. Mr. Floyd can be heard gasping, “I can’t breathe!” Bystanders also begged officers to assist Mr. Floyd, who was in distress. But the officer didn’t let up, and Mr. Floyd appeared to pass out and, later, died. Hours later, the Commission on the General Conference of The United Methodist Church (UMC) released a statement announcing new dates for the 2020 General Conference to be held in Minneapolis but was postponed due to COVID-19. It is no coincidence that the city of Minneapolis serves as a common backdrop for Mr. Floyd’s death to an egregious act of racism and for General Conference, which has at various times in its history sanctioned discrimination and racial oppression impacting the lives of people of color (and may do so again in 2021). We are being presented with a divine invitation to face the pain points of racial violence and oppression, to see the realities of a denomination still mired in institutional racism reflected in the assault on black and brown personhood, and, finally, to choose once and for all the path of anti-racism in word and deed.

Read more at: www.gcorr.org/moving-toward-the-pain/
WEEKLY HAPPENINGS:
Online Video Worship Service
The Sunday School Show
Sunday Morning “Coffee Hour”

Check out the website
ucpittsford.org
for more information and links

SPECIAL DAYS AND HOLIDAYS:
June 7
Trinity Sunday

June 14
Flag Day

June 20
Summer Solstice

June 21
Father’s Day

June 22
Dialogue Deadline

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

Monday
June 8 at 7:00 pm  Trustees Meeting

Tuesday
June 9 at 10:00 am  Deacons Meeting

Wednesday
June 10 at 7:00 pm  Board of Christian Education

Monday
June 15 at 7:00 pm  Church Council

Please look for further communications about changes to our calendar of events. Thank you for your understanding and patience in these circumstances.
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 Schriner project funding.

UNIVERSAL CHURCH
of PITTSFORD

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We’re on the Web!

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