Worship Services – As you know, we began outdoor services in July with all the health precautions – masks, social distancing, hand sanitizer, limited touching of objects like bulletins or offering plates. On August 16, we resume indoor worship in the sanctuary with all the same precautions. 10% of those present were over 90, but the choice whether to run the risk of contracting the virus is entirely up to each individual. We will continue to do our best to minimize the risk as we return to church together. One of the “casualties” of this pandemic is that churches are urged not to have choirs or even congregational singing yet. We’ll evaluate these decisions in January. For now, we will not have a choir, and although we will have hymns during our worship, people are asked to sing softly with their masks on or hum or simply meditate on the words as we “sing.” We continue to record the services live and post the videos on our church app and our website at https://ucpittsford.org/videos for those who cannot attend in person.

Sunday School – Some churches do not plan to offer in-person services until later in the fall, and all churches are looking at options for the children other than in-person Sunday School. I have emailed all parents & grandparents with children who might be in S.S. or in the nursery to ask for their ideas and preferences, and we will have a Zoom meeting or two for everyone involved before Labor Day. At this time, resuming “normal” Sunday School classes (even with masks and social distancing) has its risks, according to medical and education experts. Some of our options include:

- Having outside activities during worship (or at other times)
- Providing learning resources online – videos, downloadable materials, links to children’s Christian education websites – with guidelines developed for our context
- Beginning in-person classes during worship in October

But for this fall, there will likely not be a nursery available because there is no ventilation in that room.

Please call me (585-315-9241) or email me (jimmylreader@gmail.com) with your thoughts and ideas as we continue to find a way through this for the children and families that will be good for everyone.

New Structure Process – Many of you may remember that at our January annual meeting of the congregation, we voted to begin a process of changing the way our church is structured for leadership and ministry. Obviously, this COVID-19 “era” has slowed us down. The Council appointed a team to work on the details and bring their recommendations back to Council. The team includes Charlie Page, Sue Miller, Richard Ashworth, Verna Hazen, and me. In September, we expect the Council to approve a final version of revised Constitution & Bylaws to reflect the changes, and we will begin to make the information available to everyone. Whenever we can safely have in-person meetings to discuss it and then to vote on it (hopefully by late fall), we will move into that final phase.

New Teams – We have already been using smaller teams of people to do the work of the church and keep our ministry and programs going forward. I invite you to let me know if you would be willing to be part of either one of two new teams forming soon:

A MUSIC TEAM would work together to (1) plan “special music” for each Sunday, (2) help with selection of hymns and other music for the services, and (3) work with the pastor to decide what we will do in our church for music as we move through this time.

A MULTIMEDIA TEAM would (1) oversee sound and video support for our services, (2) train new people for those roles, (3) complete the 4-year long project of having full multimedia technology throughout our building, and (4) learn to make full use of all the technology for our ministry and outreach.
In the Church Office – Briana Hanson will officially be our new church secretary (office admin) as of August 31. She will be in the office Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to noon. We look forward to welcoming her to this new role in her ongoing participation in the life and ministry of UCP.

In the Community

Antiracism series – Nothing is more important to our community and our nation at this time than working for justice and equality of all people, regardless of color, race, or ethnic origin. This is especially true for Black people because of the 400-year history of systemic white supremacy exercised through slavery, “Jim Crow” laws, lynchings, and so much more. The American Church has been complicit in it throughout the years and remains so in many places in our country. In the Pittsford community, the need to do something became public over a year ago in the schools. Community groups have formed on Facebook to create networks of people in the area to work on this together. In the first two Zoom workshops we have had, over half the participants were from the wider community. This is one way we can serve the community to bring transformation in our world.

As your pastor, I urge you to learn more about the history and the reality – and how you can help make changes – during our 6-month series co-sponsored with the M.K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence. Kit Miller, executive director, will lead most of the workshops (either on Zoom or in person later in the year). We have just started a 5-week discussion group on “White Fragility” by Robin D’Angelo – an excellent place to start for those of whose who are white. Please go to https://ucpittsford.org/white-fragility-book-group, and register for free. We will send you the Zoom link to join us and other information you need from week to week. And feel free to invite anyone you know – wherever they live – to join us in the same way.

On a Personal Note

Vacation Plans – As is true for everyone, our vacation plans have changed twice already. We had hoped to go to the Midwest to see family (kids and grandkids), but COVID-19 has put that on hold until 2021. However, I will take vacation time (probably for gardening, resting, reading, etc.) from September 20 – October 4 (3 Sundays and the two weeks in between). Rev. Joanne Gilbert-Cannon, retired pastor from FBC Brockport, will preach those 3 Sundays, and Briana will be in the office every day to respond to anything that may come up.

THANK YOU ALL FOR BEING A CARING, GENEROUS CHURCH.
PITTSFORD FOOD CUPBOARD

School supplies
(notebooks, folders, lined paper, markers, pens, pencils, crayons)

Bags and storage goods
(Wegman’s style reusable bags, Saran wrap, tin foil, zip lock baggies (snack/sandwich size), paper lunch bags)

Hygiene and sanitation products
(Paper towels, Hand sanitizer, Dish soap, laundry detergent, Feminine hygiene products)

Canned goods
(Canned spinach and collard greens, spaghetti sauce)

Condiments:
(ketchup, BBQ sauce, salsa, salad dressing, mustard)

Thank you for your continued giving!
During times of social distancing we are still collecting **can tabs, eye glass and hearing aide items, and box tops for education.**
Please leave these items in the respective containers during church office hours.

MISSION & MINISTRIES

Used Laptop

Coffee Connection is looking for a used laptop. If you or someone you know has one you would like to donate, please contact Joy [315-7826]
WHITE FRAGILITY

VIRTUAL BOOK GROUP

This book group is for white people who are interested in and committed to deepening their understanding of their own racial identity, increasing their skills and resilience for the work of ending racism in our community and beyond, and in support of racial accountability for white people.

Led by Kit Miller,
Director of the Gandhi Institute

WEDNESDAYS 7:00-8:30PM • AUG 19 - SEPT 16

SIGN UP FOR FREE AT UCPITTSFORD.ORG/WHITE-FRAGILITY-BOOK-GROUP

SPONSORED BY
THE M.K. GANDHI INSTITUTE FOR NONVIOLENCE IN ROCHESTER
AND THE UNITED CHURCH OF PITTSFORD
TO OUR UCP FRIENDS AND FAMILIES:
Thank you for all your thoughtful prayers, e-mails, greeting cards/notes, phone calls and delivered meals. It has been very inspirational and encouraging to hear from many in the UCP congregation that have had similar total knee replacements as well as hip and back procedures. It is quite an amazing and remarkable group of individuals to now be part of. Thank you one and all as I continue to take one day at a time… one step at a time.

As Dick and I head into our 50th year of marriage I can’t praise him enough for standing by and caring for me “through sickness and health” and everything else that has come and gone during our 50 years together.

Sincerely, Marilyn Krager

And now a joke break...
A humorous break is just what we need with everything going on at the moment. So, enjoy a joke so bad it might actually make you laugh!

Why do Bees have sticky hair?

They use a honeycomb!
AUGUST 1: VIRTUAL PEACE CONFERENCE
Mark your calendars for the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America’s Regional Virtual Summer Conference! Mark your calendars for our regional virtual Summer Conference! There will be activities for all ages, music and art. Visit https://www.bpfna.org/regionales-2020 to register.
Afterwards, come August 29, we’ll hold our International Virtual Peace Conference where all the regions will come together for the same online event, to talk about peace and justice. Join us and invite your friends and family! It will be great to see you. More details to come! And

Pastor’s Note: Joyce Space shared this with me, and we thought some of you might be interested and want to consider what he says.

TIME FOR THE CROSS AND FLAMES TO GO
REV. EDLEN COWLEY, TEXAS, UM NEWS
I saw my first burning cross in 1979 when I was 10 years old. It was night. My family and I were on our way to Shreveport, Louisiana, from the parsonage of Miles Memorial Christian Methodist Episcopal Church in Marshall, Texas, where my dad was pastor.
We were comfortably talking and riding along when to our right, my mother pointed out a large burning cross just off the freeway. My mother told my brother, sister and me that the burning cross was a powerful image devised to evoke fear in black people. Read more at tinyurl.com/no-cross-flame

VICK AND PATHFINDER MINISTRIES OFFER “CAMPING OUT OF THE BOX”
Want to engage with your kids and connect with God this summer? Join in the fun! We are offering six weeks – two of which are still left! - of individualized programming for different age groups.
Your Box Purchase Includes:
• 10+ activities per week including materials – each week is unique, and theme based!
• Twice weekly “sing along” Campfires
• Daily social media challenges
• ...and more!
Learn and grow along with us with many hands on, interactive adventures as we all camp out of the box together! Visit tinyurl.com/vpcc-camp-box

VIRTUAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE INFORMATION
Earlier this spring, the Upper New York Conference postponed our Annual Conference with the hope of gathering together on Saturday, Oct. 3. The ongoing realities of COVID-19 and our commitment to the safety of those who will be a part of that gathering, has caused us to change these plans. Bishop Webb said, “Each of us from our own location will gather on Saturday, October 3 for our Annual Conference session. This will be an abbreviated session that will only deal with the essential business required. To view the message from Bishop Mark Webb regarding this year’s arrangements, visit tinyurl.com/unyumc
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**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

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.

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