

# *The Pittsfield Pilgrim*

First Congregational Church  
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Pittsfield, NH 03263

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# *The Pittsfield Pilgrim*

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[www.pittsfieldcc.org](http://www.pittsfieldcc.org)

The Rev. David Stasiak, Minister  
Nella and Mike Hobson, Publishers

## Meet Your Church Family

Bob Giegerich, Choir Member

*Editor:* We asked our friend Bob Giegerich to share a little about himself.

I grew up on Long Island, N.Y. and attended a Congregational Church there. Over the years, I relocated many times around the country and attended churches of different denominations. But when I walked into First Congregational for the first time, I felt as if I were back home. Everything was the same as I remembered it from my youth, and I found everyone to be very friendly. I've been attending FCC for about a year and became a member last spring.



I retired from British Airways in 2002 after working for them for 33 years. It was a great career that came with frequent relocations, (New York, Chicago, Houston, Detroit, Miami and finally Boston) and fantastic perks!

**Giegerich — Continued on Page 3**

## “Tip o’ the Hat”

A special “Tip o’ the Hat” to our Church Collector, George Towle, who faithfully and meticulously carries out his duties each week. Thank you! Ω



## Upcoming Holy Week Services

✠ Our special Holy Week services this year begin with Palm Sunday, April 9 at 10 a.m. The worship service will recall the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem with the distribution of palms.

✠ A Maundy Thursday worship service including Holy Communion, commemorating the “Last Supper” of Jesus, will be held Thursday, April 13, at 7 p.m. Special music will be provided by the Chancel Choir and JuBellation.

✠ On Easter Sunday, April 16, 7 a.m., the Sunrise Service will be held in the sanctuary with breakfast immediately following (about 8 a.m.) in the vestry. The traditional worship service will commence at 10 a.m. Come and worship at either service and join in for breakfast! Ω

## Minister's Minute

If you watch TV, even occasionally, chances are that you have seen a commercial about a service called Life Alert. Like most companies Life Alert uses a catch phrase to identify its service or product. When you hear the phrase, "Help! I've fallen and I can't get up!" you almost automatically think of Life Alert. According to some statistics Life Alert saves a life from a catastrophe every 10 minutes.



When our granddaughter Cove found my mom's pendant and started playing with it she naturally pushed the little red button. Within approximately seven minutes we had three fire and rescue crew members at our door. Naturally we were quite embarrassed. If it had been a real emergency though, we would have been quite relieved as it may have saved a life.

The Good News of Easter is that God has put in place a spiritual Life Alert, if you will, that can save our very lives. We have and will continue to fall short of being the people that God intends for us to be. We trip over judgmental thoughts and actions, hypocritical behavior, prejudice and hate. We stumble when feelings of disappointment, despair, pain and grief weigh us down. God knew we would have times when we would fall and not be able to get up. At least not without help.

The help that God provides is not summoned by a pendant or bracelet but by a person. It is activated not by a red button but by a voice. God's Life Alert is even powerful enough to raise us from death to new life.

*Jesus Christ said, "I have come that you may have life and have it more abundantly." "I am the way, and the truth and the life." "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me even though he dies, yet shall he live and whoever lives and believes in me will never die."*

Those are promising words for when we fall and can't get up. The only cost for God's Life Alert is belief. The motive is pure unconditional love. Easter is a happy celebration of God's alert that he loves us beyond our ability to understand such love. *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, so that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."*

Yes, we have fallen, but no matter in what way or how many times, through Christ the light and life of the world we can always get up.

HAPPY EASTER! Ω

As always, I love being your minister.

Dave

### From the Board of Trustees



## Financial Support

This is the second in a series of articles the Trustees are presenting to remind you of the importance of your increasing financial support of our church. So, how are we doing financially? Well, through the month of February, our expenses are exceeding our income:

Expenses to-date:	\$11,529.14
Income to-date:	\$ 9,784.00
Amount we are short:	\$ 1,745.14

Whether it's an additional \$1.00, \$5.00 or \$10.00 per week, your increasing financial support of our church is so very important to the missions we support as a congregation.

Below is the second in series of articles Kevin Kennedy is providing on options for supplying additional financial support to the church.

## Stewardship Considerations #2

If you are planning to make a contribution to the church or a charity, college, etc., you should consider donating appreciated stock from your investment portfolio instead of cash. Your tax benefits from the donation can be increased and the organization will be just as happy to receive the stock.

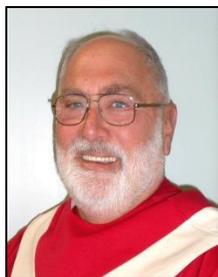
The deduction for a donation of property to charity is equal to the value of the property at the time of the donation (fair market value or FMV). Where the donated property might normally create a taxable gain on the sale, the donor does not have to recognize the gain on the donated property.

Yes, this does seem a little amazing, but it is true, as this rule allows the donor to benefit in two ways, a charitable deduction, plus avoiding tax on the appreciation in value of the donated property.

**Stewardship — Continued on Page 3**

**Giegerich — Continued from Page 1**

My family and I were able to travel for next to nothing, (or *free* as I got more seniority), and even though we'd get "bumped" once in a while, it was still a great experience. I don't use my travel privileges as much as I should, but I am resolved to change that in the near future.



I then drove a school bus and became a school bus driver instructor. In 2009, I went to work for Boston Express, driving a commuter bus between Londonderry and Boston.

My wife's brother was diagnosed with ALS, and he came to live with us in Sept. 2012. Coincidentally, my second grandchild was born a month later, and I left the work force to care for both of them. My brother-in-law has since moved to Chelsea, Mass., to a long-term facility that caters to ALS victims, but I still care for my grandkids. They live in Manchester and three days a week I go down to get them breakfast and ready for school. In the afternoon, I stay with them until their parents get home. During school vacations, I get them all week.

I also enjoy model railroading, reading and working on my cars. And playing Santa Claus for one of the elementary schools in Londonderry!

I love singing in the choir and am thankful that no one has complained about my voice. Yet, I believe music adds so much to the worship service and I look forward to serving in the choir for as long as I can. Or as long as they'll have me! Ω

**Stewardship — Continued from Page 2**

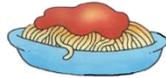
There are a few things to be cautious of, though. This will generally not work if the stock has not been held for more than a year. If the property is other ordinary income property, e.g., inventory, similar limitations apply. Limitations may also apply to donations of long-term capital gain property that is tangible (not stock), and personal (not realty). Finally, depending on the amounts involved and the rest of your tax picture for the year, taking advantage of these tax benefits may trigger alternative minimum tax concerns.

If you are interested in this kind of charitable giving, we hope you will follow up with your tax advisor or contact Kevin Kennedy for more information.

As always, if you have any questions, ideas, or concerns feel free to let any of the trustees know — Marilyn Thyng, Gloria O'Connor Biron, Sue Bleckmann, Chris Ward or Harry Vogt. Ω

**Easter Flowers:** It's time for Easter flower orders! This year we will be ordering tulips in red, yellow or white, daffodils, and Easter lilies all in six-inch pots. Tulips and daffodils are \$12 each and lilies are \$13. The deadline is April 9. Please make checks out to "Forget Me Not Flowers" and give to Jaime Koladish with your order. Contact Jaime at 435-0544 with any questions or email at [bondinality@gmail.com](mailto:bondinality@gmail.com). Ω

**Dorcas Guild:** The March 14 meeting of the Dorcas Guild was cancelled due to severe weather. They plan to meet as scheduled April 11 at 6:30 p.m. in the vestry. Hostesses are Peggy Jacobs and Gailann Newton. Ω

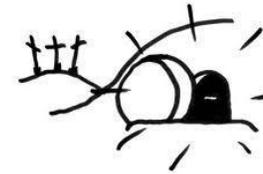
**The Christian Education Committee** will be hosting a spaghetti dinner fundraiser on April 21, 6-8 p.m. They are raising funds to purchase a new table  for the younger kids and baskets/bins to help organize Sunday School supplies. Additional funds raised will go towards a Heifer International donation and to save to support future projects. If you have any questions or want to help in any way, please contact Jaime Koladish, 435-0544. Ω

**"Parents Night Out"** On Friday May 12th our church will be hosting a "Parents Night Out." We will be looking for volunteers to be at the church to hang out with the kids. There will be pizza and a movie for them. Spread the word if you know of any parents who would enjoy this event. Hopefully we can meet some new families! Please see Jaime Koladish for more information and if you would like to help out. Ω

**Tithing Poles** — If you've been in the vestry lately and noticed an addition to the décor, you're observant! Two beautiful new light oak cases have been handmade by David Harper to accommodate our tithing poles that were formerly in the curio cabinet. Many thanks to Larry Berkson, who contacted the Trustees and made the project happen. Now these two pairs of tithing poles have a permanent home on display. Great job! Ω



# April 2017



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> Worship Service 10 am <i>Holy Communion</i> Sunday School 9:45 am Fellowship Hour 11 am - Potluck	<b>3</b> “How Jesus Became God” video series 6:30-7:30 pm Pilgrim Room	<b>4</b> Infant & Toddler Diaper Pantry 9-11 am	<b>5</b> Dorcas Guild work group 10-2, vestry  Bible Study 7-8 pm Pilgrim Room	<b>6</b> Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm JuBellation Rehearsal 7:45 pm, vestry	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Palm Sunday 9</b> Deacons’ Meeting 8:45 am Worship Service 10 am Sunday School 9:45 am Fellowship Hour 11 am	<b>10</b> “How Jesus Became God” video series 6:30-7:30 pm Pilgrim Room	<b>11</b> Men’s Breakfast <u>8 am</u> Parker’s Rest.  Dorcas Guild Meets – 6:30 pm – vestry	<b>12</b> Dorcas Guild work group 10-2, vestry  <b>NO</b> Bible Study	<b>13</b> <b>Maundy Thursday</b> Service – 7 pm  No Rehearsals	<b>14</b> <b>Good Friday</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Easter 16</b> Sunrise Service 7 am Breakfast 8 am Worship Service 10 am No Sunday School	<b>17</b> “How Jesus Became God” video series 6:30-7:30 pm Pilgrim Room	<b>18</b> Infant & Toddler Diaper Pantry 9-11 am  Trustees’ Meeting 6 pm	<b>19</b> Dorcas Guild work group 10-2, vestry  Bible Study 7-8 pm Pilgrim Room	<b>20</b> <b>NO</b> Choir Rehearsals	<b>21</b> <b>Spaghetti Dinner</b> <b>6-8 pm</b> <b>Benefit: Christian</b> <b>Education</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> Worship Service 10 am Sunday School 9:45 am Fellowship Hour 11 am	<b>24</b> “How Jesus Became God” video series 6:30-7:30 pm Pilgrim Room	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Bible Study 7-8 pm Pilgrim Room	<b>27</b> Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm JuBellation Rehearsal 7:45 pm, sanctuary	<b>28</b> Last day for <i>Pittsfield</i> <i>Pilgrim</i> news -- forward to Nella Hobson	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> Worship Service 10 am <i>JuBellation</i> plays Sunday School 9:45 am Fellowship Hour 11 am						