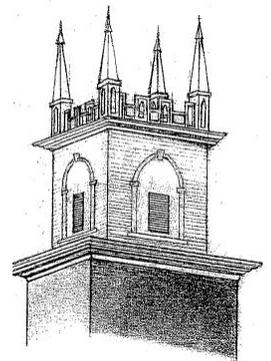


+ **N.E.W.S. CONNECTION**
Pittsford Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
121 Village Green
PO Box 570
Pittsford, VT 05763



Vol. 22 No.06

June 2022

Message from the Pastor



New members join the church on Sunday, 22 May 2022. Left to right: Kat Larson, Rob Larson, Michael Dwyer [about to do an “elbow bump”], and Molly Douglas.

Our last two Sundays of May were marked with celebration. We formally recognized three new church members, Molly Douglas, Kat Larson, and Rob Larson, who with the congregation renewed their baptismal promises. The hymn we sang “Renew Your Church” speaks to the significance of the occasion. Verses one and four serve as a meaningful prayer of our work and mission.

Renew your church, our ministries restore:
both to serve and adore.

Make us again as salt throughout the land,
and as light from a stand.

'Mid somber shadows of the night,
where greed and hatreds spread their blight,
O send us forth with power endued,
help us, Lord, be renewed.

Teach us to love, with strength of heart and mind,
each and all, humankind;

break down old walls of prejudice and hate,
leave us not to our fate.
As you have loved and given your life
to end hostility and strife,
O share your grace from heaven above,
teach us, Lord, how to love.



Our “instant choir” on May 29: Molly Douglas, Michael Dwyer, James Cassarino, at the organ, Kelley Lyon, George Valley, Elise Cassarino, Matt Harvey, and Elizabeth Frost.

We could not have asked for a more beautiful Memorial Day weekend. May 29 coincided with Sylvia Kallen’s 90th birthday, and we were able to honor her with a choral anthem, “The Church’s One Foundation,” a favorite hymn since her childhood. Sylvia’s family and friends, in strong attendance, also contributed to the fullness of the worship service. We incorporated the musical talents of the Cassarino family on their return-home visit from Asheville, North Carolina.

In keeping with a long-standing tradition, we sang “America the Beautiful” as our concluding hymn, especially poignant for a holiday first intended to honor and remember the fallen of the Civil War. Our Pittsford community has always done an outstanding job of marking veterans’ graves with flags. Over the years, the purpose of the holiday has extended to remembrance of our loved ones, and as proximity to their resting places allow, we decorate with flowers their gravesites.

News from Buffalo, New York, and Uvalde, Texas continues to shake us to the core with unfathomable sorrow. We must respond with prayer, contemplation, and what we must do to keep our church a vital force that draws all members in with love, ever mindful that we see increasing numbers of individuals filled with hate withdraw from the mainstream of an integrated community. On a date to be announced soon, we will hold an evening service of prayer, healing, and reconciliation as we mourn with those who endured unimaginable loss.

With shared faith,

Michael F. Dwyer, Pastor