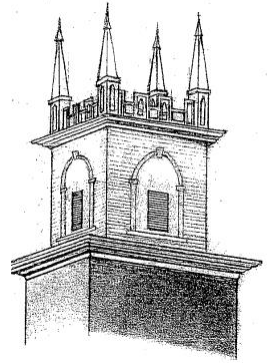


**+ N.E.W.S. CONNECTION**

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**Message from the Pastor**

**Deeper Roots of Fellowship**

Our word fellowship comes from two Old English words with a two-fold meaning: one who shares with one another as well as one who puts down money in a joint adventure. Both senses apply to our Fellowship Hall. As with other parts of our historic building, the Fellowship Hall shows signs of age. While we have solved the water and humidity problem which no longer requires a bucket and mop after heavy rains, the floor tiles need to be replaced. Move into the kitchen and see the industrial dishwasher that has been disconnected for most of this century because of leaks. Our hot water heater is also on its last legs. The church trustees are working to solve these problems, all of which require a significant capital investment.

This is not welcome news when some churches around us close because their church buildings have been money pits. And in some cases, those closures have made sense to move congregations to a smaller and more affordable location. We are not there! Keep in mind, I am but one voice and have no voting authority. Nonetheless, I wish to make known my stance on why I think it important to keep our ship afloat with all parts in good working order. Yes, I believe the maintenance of our Fellowship Hall and necessary kitchen repairs fulfill an important part of our mission in serving the community.

To understand more fully other ways of looking at fellowship, we turn to the New Testament. A more accurate translation comes from the Greek word *koinonia*, which describes how Christians must come together in communion and in the breaking of the bread. The First Letter of John says, "If we walk in the light, as he is the light, we have fellowship with one other" (1:7). Our coming together in shared solidarity and friendship is a key aspect of Christian life. Preparing and sharing meals is as ancient as our faith.

Hearing the woes of the world around us easily overwhelms us, and that sometimes results in a sense of powerlessness. Many communities have broken down. All of us here, however, possess the power to make a contribution, not only in financial support, but in sharing our time and talent in the support of the church. You have often seen our deacons and other church members at work in the kitchen. Let us add to those numbers and begin, once again, in the frequent serving of meals to our community. Not only does that serve our community, it builds our community. Hunger is real, both physically and spiritually.

Please continue to support our trustees in their care of our building from the bottom up. As we maintain responsibility that has been ongoing for over two centuries, let us not falter in our vigilance in keeping The Pittsford Congregational Church alive and well in the heart of our community.

With shared faith,  
Michael F. Dwyer, Pastor