

AROUND THE CONGREGATION

Birthdays

Libby Gleasman09/02
 Curtis Pilny09/03
 Dorothy Houseman09/11
 Abe Huntzinger09/12
 Fenna Tucker09/14
 Grace Engelbert09/16
 Jason Tucker09/17
 Ginger Passalacqua09/18
 Evan Griffith09/20
 Linda Hinman09/22
 Mikki Taylor09/22
 Isaiah Sexton09/22
 Jill Flanders09/24
 Amy Fiore09/25
 Jim Kennedy09/25

Birthdays Continued

Thylia Keoviengsamay 09/26
 Shari Fish 09/27
 Lois Streiff 09/29
 Ron Yingling 09/30

Anniversaries

Dave & Brenda McMonagle 09/09
 Kirk & Linda Hinman 09/14
 Dave & Carrie Scaccia 09/17
 Jim & Kerry Furney 09/20
 Bob & Julie Denton 09/27

Thank you for your prayers and concern expressed for my sister Stacey. She completed radiation treatment at the end of August and is doing very well. - Cynthia

A Note from Cynthia: About twelve years ago Sam and I discovered Rome, NY. A few months later we moved here, beginning a new chapter in our lives. The way we experience a place over time is, to me, interesting to reflect on. While we learned some of the history of the people and places of Rome, our experience of FPC Rome was this brief time that we were here. To us, these years constitute the whole of our lived experience of FPC Rome, but to you it is a chapter in the book of this church. You will go on at FPC Rome, continuing your witness to and life in Christ.

I've been thinking about this transition, and over the past few months have spent an hour or so many evenings weaving bookmarks. They were to be at the places at the pot-luck Sam and I anticipated. While that didn't happen, the bookmarks are woven and will, I hope, be at the dinner that you have to welcome your next pastor to mark the beginning of the next chapter of FPC Rome.

I am grateful for the opportunities you gave me to work with the JOY kiddos, to be part of the music program and to be involved in so many aspects of the life of this church. Thank you for your welcome, your care and your patience with us.



MORE AROUND THE CONGREGATION

Dear First Presbyterian Church Congregation, I'd like to thank you all for the support you've given me over the years. The efforts of this church to help raise and nurture me into who I am today have not gone unnoticed. I'd like to extend my eternal gratitude and thanks to the congregation for their support in my future.

The graduation gift basket, the cards, and a signed mask I received from the church were very thoughtful and I appreciate them immensely. You all have played a big part in my life that I wouldn't trade for the world. Even in tough times like these you all still do your best to show love and support to not only me but others as well. I'm attending Clarkson University in this fall and I'll miss the bright faces on Sundays. Thank you, Ryan Fish

A Note from Karen Quick: Thank you all for your prayers! I'm doing well with my new shoulder 😊 Blessings, Karen

Thank You from Cailyn Armstrong: Many thanks to everyone who helped with the collection for the Rome Humane Society. Your donations to this project were greatly appreciated!



Egg Cartons Thru September: We've had a generous donation from a congregation member to purchase eggs from the Cucura farm for the Rome Connected Community Schools program. Because the eggs are purchased in flats of 30, we are looking for donations of egg cartons that hold one dozen eggs. You are welcome to leave them in the kitchenette or on one of the pews in the middle narthex entrance. Our Mission Committee thanks you in advance

Our Crafty Ladies and Tuesday Mission Bunch held a socially-distanced pizza lunch to wish Pastor Sam good luck on his next adventure!!



SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Date	Layreader	Pulpit Supply	Open/Close	Recorder	Usher
6-Sep	Mary Grow	Michelle Dolan	McGibbon	Taylor	Scaccia
13-Sep	Dave Nolan	Helen Tracy	Scaccia	Fish J	Scaccia
20-Sep	Amy Garcia	Michelle Dolan	Wood	Fish S	Scaccia
27-Sep	Julie Denton	David/Congregation	Kolb	Wood	Scaccia

Presbytery Prayer Chain:

Sept 06..... First Presbyterian Church, Rome

Sept 13..... Weaving Home Ministries in Old Forge

Sept 20..... The Coordinating Council, of the Presbytery of Utica

Sept. 27.... Three Steeples United Church, Paris

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Do You Remember the Commitment We Make at a Child's Baptism?

As a congregation, we pledge to guide and nurture children, by word and deed, encouraging them to know and follow Christ. Much of this work in the past was entrusted to our Sunday School teachers. Given the threat of COVID-19 however, the COFFEE committee has decided against in-person classes to start the year. In addition, our long-time teachers, Amy Garcia and Carrie Scaccia, have decided it is time to step back and give of their time/talents in other ways.

The committee therefore invites members of the congregation to consider videotaping a lesson or two, which we could share with our young people and their families. Maybe our "child-at-heart" members will want to watch too! Is there a Bible story you love to tell and talk about? Is there a holiday season that excites you? Do you have craft or music ideas?

This opportunity is perfect for those who do not want the long-term commitment of teaching an entire school year, but would like to convey a message to our children. No need to fear public speaking either, as all lessons will be taped in advance (in other words, if we make a mistake, we can start taping anew!). Plus - lessons should be short. Ten minutes or less is a perfect target.

No need to worry about how or where to videotape. Volunteers will be contacted to make arrangements. We just need to know who is interested!! We hope it's many of you!!

Please contact Kari in the church office if you are willing to help. We ask that you give this request prayerful consideration, in light of our congregational baptismal commitment.

SERENITY MESSAGE FOR SEPTEMBER FROM MICHELLE DOLAN

The Gifts of Darkness

Dear Friends, Have you ever been driving down a long, winding country road at night? There are no streetlamps, no other cars on the road, there's no illumination from houses or other buildings not even any moonlight, only the cars headlights leading you. But those headlights only show you a small distance in front of you.

Right now it feels like that is how we are seeing down the road for the future of our church. We only seem to see juuuust a little way ahead. We know a few things, our Pastor has retired, we are searching for a new Pastor, we have found other retired Pastors and Lay Preachers to lead services for the next few months, we have a committee of very capable and generous Deacons to check in with our congregation members and make sure everyone has what they need.

We are blessed with a Worship and Music committee dedicated to ensuring that our worship services are safe, creative, and available to everyone, and we are fortunate to have several Elders and Session members to provide leadership.

We have our headlights, showing us the way ahead.

But we want to see the destination - we want to see where the road leads us and just get there and be done with this ride. No more mystery, no more questions, no more waiting..... We want the unknown to be known! And we want it now!

And this idea of the unknown and the unseen led me to a verse from Hebrews Chapter 11, verse 3 "By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible."

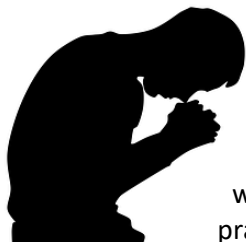
What is seen is not made from what is visible.... All things begin as a thought, out in the ether, sometimes we only know something by the feelings we associate with it. There is no person we can point to, no object that we can grasp. As people of faith we know that there is so much we cannot see, yet we choose to remain faithful. Especially at a time like this, when it feels like we are totally in the dark, not knowing what lies ahead ... Like when we close our eyes to pray, our physical eyes are closed so we do not see what is happening around us, and our minds and hearts can focus on communicating with God.

The word "Prayer" was coined from the Latin word "precari" which means to ask earnestly. Prayer is an act of seeking support and expressing gratitude. It is an essential part of our worship. The Apostle Paul wrote to the Thessalonians of the importance of prayer in 1 Thess. 5 verses 16-18: "Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

Continued...

SERENITY MESSAGE CONTINUED...

Closing our eyes helps us to avoid distractions when we pray so that our minds can focus and our hearts can be fixed on God. And as we pray, we also meditate and try to listen to God speak to us. God is a spirit being, and when we close our eyes to pray, it gives us a sense of being drawn closer to God. It allows our spirit to focus and connect with the spirit of God.



When we pray together here we bow our heads and our eyes are closed. And at this moment, during this time of transition, it feels like we are literally in the dark. And our faith makes it possible to not fear that darkness. Because we are together - whether we are in the sanctuary or watching from home, or listening in the parking lot. Even when we aren't in the same room, even when we aren't praying at the same time – we are united.

We close our eyes to pray and the material world falls away. We tap into the eternal part of ourselves. That divine spark within us all that has existed and will continue to exist beyond our physical bodies. That spark, that tiny pinpoint of light is ignited through our faith, it gets brighter with every prayer, every healing thought, every time to send your love into the world your light shines – you become the headlights – you illuminate the path.

There is so much pressure in this world, to define, to understand, to know the clear path to the destination. But that is a self-imposed pressure. God does not ask that of us. In fact it's quite the opposite, God asks us to carry on – without knowing. It is human nature to be curious, to have things clearly mapped out. So when we face the uncertainty and anxiety of not knowing, it is easy to forget who we ultimately answer to. With that in mind, isn't it a great comfort to know that we may not be able to see exactly where the road is taking us but we can trust that the Holy Spirit is lighting our path....? We simply need to remain on the road.

In the coming months when you may be feeling uncertain imagine sitting in the sanctuary with your church family, heads bowed and eyes closed, praying these words: "Beloved God... some of us cry out in the dark, some do not make a sound, yet you know our hearts, you are always at work even when we cannot see. When we are doubtful, and fearful because we cannot see the outcome, you are steadfast in your love.

Always working for our good. Heavenly Creator, please help us to be brave in the darkness, help us to be confident in your will, and trust in your plan for us. As we reach out with new life, let us find ways to become the embodiment of the embrace of God. May we be transformed by the renewing of our minds in this moment, to find creative new ways to shine our light to bring others out of the darkness. Amen."

SERENITY CIRCLE NEWS

We enjoyed a lovely outing to St. Margaret's House in New Hartford last week. We had not gathered in person since February, so it was a true delight to reconnect! The SMH Chaplain Reverend Elizabeth Gillett gave a presentation on St. Hildegard of Bingen, a fascinating mystic, scholar and doctor.

We had the opportunity to tour the facility and the surrounding land, and enjoyed a lovely catered luncheon hosted by the SMH staff. It is quite an oasis of peace in this area, so if you are ever able to spend time there, I highly recommend it. With a reservation (and a temperature check) you can visit and enjoy the library, the garden, and the historic chapel, for a few hours or for a few days as they have pleasant accommodations for long term guests.



For more information you can visit their website:

<https://www.stmargarethouseny.org>

They have weekly and monthly events (and fabulous food!)

We were so impressed by the life of St. Hildegard that we will continue to discuss her life and contributions this fall, among other topics. It is my intention to resume Serenity Circle gatherings soon. However, given our current quarantine restrictions, I am still trying to figure out the best way to meet, whether it will be over zoom or in-person/social distanced meetings. As soon as I have some clarity and have determined the safest plan, I will update the congregation. Thank you for your patience.....Michelle

A BEAUTIFUL GIFT INDEED

In honor of our congregation, Pastor Sam and Cynthia have graced us with a beautiful, hand-crafted Communion pottery set. The photo doesn't do it justice. It has been placed on our table in the sanctuary. Please take a socially-distanced peek next time you are in church. Thank you Sam & Cynthia.



MUSIC NOTES FROM DAVID KOLB

Hello everyone,

It may be some time yet before we are singing as a group, but the musical life of the church remains vibrant. The Joyful Ringers Handbell Choir will resume rehearsals on Wednesday evenings in September, and we hope to offer other musical opportunities soon. If you would like to participate in the church's music program or have other ideas for us during this time, feel free to contact David Kolb (315-725-5926, dakolb98@gmail.com). Thank you.

Leaving Church After Worship: Initially the Session asked us to remain seated during the Postlude. Now that everyone seems to have the gist of "no congregating in the church", you are welcome to stand, and to listen and to watch as Andrea leads us through this portion of the service. You are also welcome to exit the building at this time if you are more comfortable with this option

FINANCIAL NEWS FROM SUSAN HATZINGER

	July	2020 Year-to-Date		2020
		Actual	Budget	Budget
Operating Budget:				
Receipts	\$ 19,151.23	\$ 162,706.82	\$ 200,176.54	\$ 342,010.54
Expenditures	\$(21,820.22)	\$(176,101.95)	\$(196,467.86)	\$(342,010.54)
Change in Net Assets	\$ (2,668.99)	\$ (13,395.13)	\$ 3,708.68	\$ -
July Collections:				
Capital Improvement Fund	\$ 800.00			

GOOD THINGS TO KNOW

Our Deacons will meet via an Information Sheet from Gail this month. The September/October Upper Rooms are in; please help yourself and feel free to take one for a family member, friend or neighbor too!

Fair Trade Shop at Stone Presbyterian Church, 8 So. Park Row, Clinton: Each Thursday from 10am to 4pm, at the Farmer's Market on the Village Green from 10am to 4pm and by appointment by calling 315-853-1070. All customers will be required to wear a face mask. Gloves and hand sanitizer will be available. Only one customer group at a time will be allowed inside the shop at a time

Flags for all Heroes 2020 – The Good News Center announces the posting of 1000 flags on Utica's Memorial Parkway the week of Veterans Day; Nov 2nd – Nov 12th. To honor our active military & vets but during this pandemic we want to include "essential" workers. We are all in this fight together, and the United States Flag symbolizes our unity as a people, your flag will be tagged in memory or honor of a loved one. The cost to sponsor a flag is \$35. Proceeds support the Military Rehabilitation program at Sitrin Health Care Center. To order call 315-735-6210

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS

PW Coordinating Team meets on Mon, Sept 14 at 11am in the parlor

Fall Country Fair: Sat, Oct 17 is the tentative date for the fair. We're not sure how the esthetics will look yet, but we're excited to be tossing around ideas as we prepare for a safe and socially distanced event! There will be no luncheon and all



items at the Candy Cupboard and Pantry Shelf will be prepackaged. If you pickle and/or can items such as jams, jellies and fruits, your contributions to the fair are especially needed. Thank you in advance for your contributions

Quilt Raffle Tickets on Sale before & after worship beginning Sun, Aug 30! See Lenora or Bev to purchase yours! Tickets also available on Tuesdays from the Crafty Ladies or anytime at the Church Office.

NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

- Due to safety precautions our Nursery School will remain closed for the fall semester. Please keep our teachers and students in your prayers
- On Sundays, Sept 13 & Sept 20, the Nursery School Board invites you to donate to the Mary Mowry Memorial Scholarship Fund. Envelopes will be provided in the pews. **Please make checks payable to: The First Presbyterian Church noting Mary Mowry Scholarship in memo line.** We have awarded over \$15,000 to Nursery School families over the years. We have several requests each year and all assistance is greatly appreciated.
- Nursery School Board members include Ann Hapanowicz, Linda Hinman, Jackie Nee, Kevin Taylor, Mary Townsend and Muffy Engelbert (chair). Our teachers are MaryLou Alguire and Kristen Stolo

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SUMMER CONFIRMANDS AND THANK YOU TO THEIR SPONSORS!

Isaiah Sexton & Ron Rhodes
Emily Turner & Kim Nethaway
Evie Denton & Liz Clough
Jon Denton & Bill Nee

MISSION COMMITTEE NEWS & UPDATES

Collection for Food Pantries on the 3rd Sunday of each month: Sept - Bill Gavin Food Pantry Lee Center. Please consider single-serve items such as soups, mac 'n cheese, fruit cups and juices. Peanut Butter always welcome. All canned & boxed food products are greatly appreciated!!

Our Mission Closet Is Open! Tuesdays & Thursdays from 10am to Noon to help families in need. Sheets & bedding, towels and personal care items always needed. See Liz, Gail or Kim Oliver to find out how you can help!

Now Accepting Items for the tentative Fair/Rummage Sale Event on Sat, Oct 17! Please drop off items at the east end of the dining hall. Tables have been provided. **No clothing accepted at this time**

Cooking for the Rescue Mission is temporarily halted due to virus restrictions. We continue to bring them food items for take-out meals. Watch for details; we'll need help when this mission project resumes

Bread of Life could use Saturday delivery drivers. Delivery takes place on Saturday between about 11:30 and 2:00 or so. The more people to deliver, the less time it takes for any one delivery team. Please be in touch with the Rev. Art Atkins about volunteering. You can reach Pastor Art at numbers2226@yahoo.com

RELAY FOR LIFE NEWS

Even though Rome's Relay for Life event didn't take place in June, local Relay teams continue to raise money to fund the American Cancer Society's work. Our traveling flock of flamingos has been a fun way to raise money! The culmination of that work will be a **Drive-Through Luminary event on Saturday, Sept 19.**

Instead of walking the track to look at the luminaries, participants will drive through the area to reflect & remember those who fight cancer and those who have passed. Working toward that event, we are accepting donations for luminaries. If arranged through the Relay team, they will again be \$5 each; the donation is \$10 on-line. Stop by the church (table across from church office) or see Sue following worship to arrange for luminaries. The event goal is to sell 1,000 luminaries in the month of August. Luminary deadline is September 17.

Look for a Drive-Thru Basket Raffle that night too – All tickets are \$1 and additional details to follow

Lastly, if you are a cancer survivor, we need a picture of you!! A Virtual Survivor's Page will be shown online beginning at Noon on September 19. Please email a pic to firstpresrome@gmail.com or Sue Hanson can take your picture after Sunday Worship on the front church steps. You are also welcome to bring a photograph to church on Sunday to give to Sue. **CONGRATULATIONS SURVIVORS!!**

PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING

We this offering is celebrated on the first Sunday of October on World Communion Sunday. A gift to this offering enables the whole church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice across the world. Individual congregations keep and use 25% of this offering to be part of the global witness of Christ's peace. We use ours to support "Blessings in a Backpack". Presbyteries retain an additional 25% for ministries of peace and reconciliation. The remaining 50% is used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness. Envelopes in the pews throughout October

2020 ROME AREA HUNGER WALK - SUNDAY OCTOBER 18

Due to safety issues, our Hunger Walk Coordinating Team has decided that it is not possible to meet and walk together this year. However, we still feel it is important that we try and do some fund-raising to support our local food pantries. To that end, we reached out to some local businesses that have supported us in the past and we have already gratefully received significant donations from them.

On Sunday, October 18th, committee members will be at the First Presbyterian Church in Rome between noon and 1 pm to collect any money raised. Checks should be made payable to First Presbyterian Church and note "Hunger Walk" in the memo line.

The money raised by the RAHW is shared among the following agencies: Bill Gavin Food Pantry at St Joseph's in Lee Center; Bread of Life, Catholic Charities of Rome; Foothills Rural Ministries; Mission of the Christ Child; Salvation Army and Rome Rescue Mission. All services are provided without regard to race, gender, or religious affiliation. Additional details to follow! Thank you in advance for your support!!



Rome Area Hunger Walk

JOIN US FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP AT 10AM....

- **Visit Us at 108 West Court Street**
- **Tune to 103.3FM from Our Parking Lots & Neighboring Streets**
- **Broadcast on Facebook Live**
(for those without Facebook or for those who wish to watch later, the link is emailed around 11am)
- **Choose an Option from Our Website**

WHAT'S HAPPENING..

ALL EVENTS REQUIRE SOCIAL-DISTANCING AND MASKS

- Sunday Worship at 10am
- Crafty Ladies meet Tuesdays in the parlor at 10am
- Our Mission Closet is open every Tuesday & Thursday from 10am to Noon
- AA meets each Monday evening at 8:00 pm in our Dining Hall
- NA meets each Tuesday evening at 7:30 pm Upstairs
- Mary Mowry Nursery School Scholarship Collection, Sept 13 & 20
- PW Coordinating Team meets on Mon, Sept 14 at 11am in the parlor
- DAR meets in our dining hall on Thursday, Sept 17 at 9:30am
- Sept 20 – 3rd Sunday Food Pantry Collection for Bill Gavin Food Pantry
- Mission Committee meets Tuesday, Sept 22 at 2pm in the Chapel
- Session meets Thursday, Sept 24 at 7pm

Hold in Prayer: Kelly Kimball, The Bak Family, Maggie Jevens, Chris Hayden, Kirk & Linda Hinman and family, Gail Bostwick, Merithew-Armstrong family member, Barb Steagall, Russ Fielding, Vi's friend Madeline, Sue Hollenbeck, Theresa Vetter, Alli, Nate & Spencer; Gene Millhouse, Carrie daughter of Dick & Helen Martin; Andrea Radesi, Carol Lee, Brittney Cataldo, Michael & Kathy Patashnick, Chuck & Rayna Schneider, The Turner Family, Bill Herter, Warner-Warcup Family, Kristen Conway, Gerry Storms, Dick Simons, Bev Alessi, Debbie Sanderson, Shirley Sutter, Bruce Engelbert, Lois Streiff, Al Drumluk, Dori Clark, Cille Throop, Megan Davidson, Richard Doyle, Barbara Rudolph, Family & friends of Helen Adsit, Sarah Gately-Barcomb, Friends & family of Michelle Dolan, Mary Davis, Geoffrey Berry, Manganaro Family, Pat Peck, Gavin Maloney, Dorothy Houseman, Ron Owens, Sybil McDonough, Mike Redmond, Diane Mayer, Rob Backstrom son-in-law of Darlene & Russ Fielding and Michael Scaccia, Dan Carpenter, Logan Storms, Kyle Seifert, Samantha Roush, Rich Turner, Erik O'Meara & all who serve our nation



Norine Sexton, Clerk of our Session, presents Pastor Sam with the reversible stole given to him upon his departure.

