

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS



“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.’” (John 11:25-26)

There’s a lot going on in the month of March – St. Patrick’s Day, March Madness, and the first day of spring to name a few. A lot’s been written about the month of March as well. The old saying, “March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb,” is quite a familiar one, that I’m sure you’ve all heard. It began as a statement regarding the weather that March often brings. It begins with a lot of storms and wind, but as the month ends things quiet down. However, that’s not always the case depending on where in the country you live. As we’ve seen here in Upstate NY, the weather can be pretty fierce even well past March.

This saying however, has me pondering about how it applies to the Church calendar, especially this year during March. We begin this month still in the quiet, reflective, and prayerful season of Lent. We are meditating on Jesus’ suffering and death and how he has been called the Lamb of God, because of the sacrifice of his life so we would have eternal life. And as the month goes on we move from the reflection of Lent to the triumphant entry of Jesus on Palm Sunday, to the drama of Holy Week, the heartbreak of denial and Jesus’ last meal with his disciples on Maundy Thursday, the pain of Good Friday, and finally the joyous excitement and celebration of Easter. The last day of March we will be celebrating Jesus’ resurrection. We will then proclaim with joy how the Lamb of God overcame death and the grave and sing with joy about the victorious risen King of Kings. (And I’m not talking about the Lion King!) In the Christian church this year, “March comes in like a lamb and goes out like a lion.” That’s quite a reversal from the original saying.

Jesus’ message however is all about reversals. The Church is called to be counter-cultural. We are called to follow Jesus and his way of turning things upside-down. Jesus went against the status quo. “The first shall be last.” (Matt. 19:30). “When I am weak, then I am strong.” (2 Cor. 12:9-10) And in the Beatitudes (Matt. 5:1-12)

Jesus contrasts radically with the values and attitudes generally accepted in Jesus’ context, as well as denouncing the oppressive and unjust practices and systems of that time. As follows of Christ, the Church is called to do the same. As we enter into the month of March, we do so knowing that our journey in Lent will soon be turned upside down. We reflect on the pain, suffering, and death that Jesus endured knowing that death was turned upside down through his resurrection. And that’s a turn worth celebrating!

Blessings and Peace, Pastor Edwina

LENTEN NEWS

- *“Local Pilgrim – Finding Grace in the Wilderness” Lenten Devotionals on back tables (LARGE PRINT TOO)*

LENTEN LUNCHEON SERIES

12 - 1 pm · Every Thursday in Lent

Join together in Christian fellowship for a brief Lenten Devotion followed by a delicious meal.

March 7St. Paul’s Church 1807 Bedford St, Rome, NY - Fr. Bob Kelly
March 14First Baptist Church 301 W Embargo St, Rome - Pastor Letta Palmer
March 21First Methodist Church 400 N George St., Rome - Pastor Shari Mahar

The Three Programs Supported By One Great Hour Of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.



Lenten Challenges

Blessings in a Back Pack

Apple Sauce

Granola Bars

Mac and Cheese

Canned Soup

Fruit Cups

One Great Hour of Sharing

CWS-Hygiene Kits

Give Donations to Sarah Briggs

Food for Food Pantry

Personal Care Items

Small bottles of shampoo	Dispoable Razors
Deoderant	Shaving Cream
Bar of soap	Hygiene wipes
Toothbruhes	Face and Hand Towels
Toothpaste	Toilet Paper
Dental floss	
Tissues	



RELAY FOR LIFE NEW

The Relay for Life teams of Rainbows of Faith and Hope will host a **BUY-A-PIE** on **Sunday March 24th** after church service in the Narthex. Please bake a pie or two and bring them to church before the beginning of the service. All proceeds go to the

American Cancer Society to help those afflicted with cancer. Thank you very much for your past support and for helping to get the teams over the \$20,000 mark. Together we will help to STOMP OUT CANCER.

On **April 2** from 6-8pm, **The Songbyrd Street Studio** will host another cut glass class. The cost will be \$10.00 plus whatever you make with the glass. Gail Tucker will be the hostess with the mostess and there will be more information to follow. We would have the same types of items: ornaments, nite lights, tea lights, small art pieces, pendants, trinket dishes, ... but with a spring/summer slant (for example ornaments might include things like butterflies, or flowers or pieces to make to put in a miniature watering can or flower pot etc.) All proceeds will go to the Relay for Life Teams.



Pampered Chef Bingo will once again be a fundraiser for Relay. It is always a lot of fun. It will take place on May 2nd at Gone Coastal in Lee Center. Doors will open at 5 with Bingo starting at 6 PM. **LIMITED SEATING.** More info to follow.

JOIN US FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP AT 10AM

- *In Person at 108 West Court
- *Tune to 97.5 FM from Our Parking Lots & Neighboring Streets
- *Broadcast on Facebook Live
- ***Recording posted to our church YouTube Channel**
- *Link emailed to those who request it

MORE AROUND THE CONGREGATION

Birthdays

Muffy Engelbert.....	03/01
Jack Grow.....	03/04
Cheryl Sexton.....	03/05
Missy Graves.....	03/06
Joanie Lewis.....	03/07
Don Hanson	03/09
Harold Barry.....	03/10
Candy Fay	03/10
Patty Sutter.....	03/13
Clay Mowry.....	03/18
Alex Yates	03/18
Cara Yates	03/18
Ellen Kennedy	03/18
Sarah Briggs	03/19
Julie Denton.....	03/19
Steve Townsend	03/19
Maira Moraes (office)	03/20
Mary Conover (100).....	03/26
Ray Tucker	03/26
Amelia Sreca	03/31
Bethany Bak.....	03/31

There Are No Anniversaries in March

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS

2024 Country Fair is Sat October 15

Sharri Hartwell new phone: (315) 334-3690

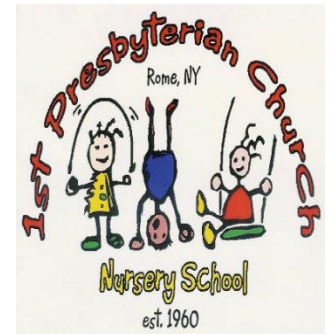
Chris Hayden new phone: (315) 281-8041

Basket for Birthday Cards for Mary Conover in the sanctuary back

Everybody please begin to collect egg cartons again (you are welcome to leave them on the table on the kitchenette)

NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

- School Pictures by Maria Mar 04 & Mar 05
- Hatching Chicken Eggs in an incubator
- Planting seeds for Mother's Day
- Easter Surprises



FAITH FORMATION NEWS

- Heritage Sunday will be held on March 10. We will be doing the Stations of the Cross
- Palm Sunday: Passing play/pageant with Youth Group service
- Youth Group: March 10th at FPC – 5-7:30 pm

MUSIC NOTES

On March 17th, we will enjoy special music in worship by soloist Andrea Falvo. Andrea performed for us during last summer worship, and we are bringing her back by popular demand!

The Joyful Ringers Handbell Choir will present two special pieces during our Palm Sunday worship service. One will be played to accompany our Palm processional.



Kim & John have tickets for the Oneida Chorale Concert on Mar 10

Senior Choir will present an anthem during our Maundy Thursday service.

Senior Choir will be rehearsing each week in preparation for our Easter cantata "And the Son Arose", by Mark Brymer and Cindy Berry. As stated by the composers: "Through the eyes of those who witnessed the ministry of Christ first-hand, the musical unfolds a blend of

classic Easter hymns, new songs, and contemporary favorites...all framed with the timeless words of the Gospel." The presentation will take place during our Easter worship service, and will feature several readers from our congregation.

Calendar:

- Joyful Ringers rehearse each Wednesday in March at 6:20
- Senior Choir rehearses each Wednesday in March at 7:30. In addition, Senior Choir will have rehearsal for "And the Son Arose" in the sanctuary on Saturday, March 30 at 10AM

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser: Fri Mar 08 at 1st Pres Church, 108 W Court St, Rome · Dinner includes pasta in homemade sauce, tossed salad, bread & beverage (drinks dine-in only). Adults \$10 / Child \$7 / Add Meatballs \$2 - Take Outs at 4:00 pm; Dine In at 4:30 pm & Serving til 7pm. Sponsored by Rome-Area Veteran's Support Group & Rome Refugee Services. Reservations Appreciated by Noon on Mar 6th at (315) 617-8226 or contact a member of RAVSG or RRS / Prepay via Venmo (<https://www.facebook.com/romerefugeeservices>) - Venmo or Cash at Door. Enjoy Dinner & Learn More About These 2 Great Community Organizations! Representatives will be on hand!



FINANCIAL NEWS FROM SUSAN HATZINGER

	January	2024 Year-to-Date		2024
		Actual	Budget	Budget
Operating Budget:				
Receipts	\$ 51,676.00	\$ 51,676.00	\$ 35,286.15	\$ 391,273.69
Expenditures	\$ (26,014.72)	\$ (26,014.72)	\$ (28,845.67)	\$ (391,273.69)
Change in Net Assets	\$ 25,661.28	\$ 25,661.28	\$ 6,440.48	\$ -
January Collections:				
Capital Improvement Fund	\$ 95.00			
January Fund Disbursements				
Founders' Fund				
Sanctuary floors	\$ 11,235.00			
Boilers and water heater	\$ 87,950.00			

WORSHIP LEADERS & RECORDERS

Date	Layreader	Recorder	Special Note
3-Mar	Mary Yates	Shari Fish	Holy Communion
10-Mar	Helen Tracy	Don Hanson	Heritage Sunday
17-Mar	Marge Palmer	Val Wood-McRae	
24-Mar	Helen Adsit	Jay Fish	Palm Sunday/Joyful Ringers
31-Mar	Isaiah Sexton	John Nethaway	Easter/Communion/Cantata
7-Apr	Keith Butters	Shari Fish	

MISSION NEWS

Thank You to all who donated food to our food pantry. We have many who come to our Mission Closet who also have food insecurity. The congregation was very generous in replenishing our supplies.

On-Going Food Collection for our Emergency Pantry : Always appreciated – peanut butter, jams & jellies, ramen noodles, sauces & pasta, cereal, breakfast bars, oatmeal, canned fruits & vegetables (especially snack size-applesauce, etc)

Cleaning out your house or garage? We will accept donations for the closet and/or June Rummage Sale. Please place donation outside the closet room rather than inside it!

Community Closet: We can always use donations of sheets (all sizes) blankets, towels, and children's & men's casual clothes and shoes. Please consider personal hygiene items including: *shampoo and conditioner, deodorant, bars of soap, toilet paper and tooth paste:* Thank you

Rescue Mission Cooking: cook captains are Bruce Warcup and Kari Ketchum on 03/19 & 03/26 – Meal details & times to follow. We're always looking for more help with cooking - call or talk to Liz if you can help. We can adjust cooking times to fit your schedule!!

It's Hygiene Kit Time! In the face of natural disasters, violence, or grinding poverty, hygiene kits can mean the difference between sickness and health for struggling families. Because we have so many items carried over from last years' Church World Service collection, **please consider a monetary donation to Sarah Briggs.** We've found that it is much easier to purchase the contents in bulk quantities.

However, we welcome donations of any of the following items enclosed in a Ziplock gallon bag: hand towels, wash clothes, large tooth combs, single-wrapped bars of soap, toothbrushes and nail clippers. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Envelopes are in the pews through Easter



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Extreme Makeover!

Please check out our newly **remodeled Website** - thanks to C&D Advertising at firstpresrome.com

It's even mobile friendly so you can check it out on your phone!

Let us know what you think.

Jen Brillante of C&D Advertising was recently featured on WKTV's Women Wednesday!

Caring.com is a leading senior care resource for family caregivers seeking information and support as they care for aging parents, spouses and other loved ones. We have been featured by AARP, The Administration for Community Living, The National Legal Resource Center, and Forbes, as well as referenced by many governmental agencies and organizations across the Internet.

FOR SALE BY THE CRAFTY LADIES

Need a Nice, Quick Gift?

Towel holders, cell phone holders, microwave bowls.

Available to purchase for \$6 each.

If interested

please see Lenora or Gail 😊



Please remember that we are gifted discount tickets for events at the **CAPITOL ARTS COMPLEX**

Thank you Gail & Ray Tucker

Tickets outside of the Church Office

SERENITY MESSAGE FROM MICHELLE

*Everything as it moves,
now and then, here and there, makes pauses.
The bird as it flies stops in one place to make its nest,
and in another to rest in its flight.*

*In the same way, God has paused as well.
The trees, the animals, the sun and stars,
are all places where God has stopped,
leaving the touch of the Holy in all these things.*

*We, too, have had God pause in us.
We too have the Holy touch in our beings.
With each star and planet, plant and animal,
let us pause from our daily tasks and praise our Creator.....from: Prayers for the Earth*

Friends, We have entered the Lenten season. Our time to pause. A time for reflection, meditation, & prayer. A time when we are encouraged to cultivate our connection with & understanding of God. Prayer is often thought of as speaking to God, but it also involves listening to God. Making time each day to be quiet, & to be with God can enrich our experiences and relationships and deepen our connection to our Creator. God is the constant, but the rest of the world continues to change. The Word of God is living & moving through our lives and always with us! Prayer changes us.

An eagle flies not by constantly fluttering and flapping their wings... but they unfurl their wings and catch a breeze. When an eagle perches on a tree branch with her wings locked tight at her sides, no wind will lift her. But if she just unfurls her wings a little bit, she may find the wind to catch her. The Hebrew word for wind is Ru'ah. It is onomatopoeic. When it is spoken you hear the wind. You also hear breath. Ru'ah means wind and it means breath and it also means Spirit.

Now us human beings – how do we fly? — *not* by constant flutters and flaps... we unfurl our wings and catch the Spirit. And we glide on — not relying on our own strength but in the work of the Spirit lifting us up, sustaining us. We may swoop and play and rejoice in the work of the Spirit. We have been made for this relationship of self and Spirit. So, the Lenten invitation to us is to pause, especially when we are weary, tired, impatient, frustrated. This is the time to shake loose our wings and swoop them open wide. Knowing that the Holy Spirit is at work, *catching us up in a movement greater than our own strength.*

Here is a prayer to feel closer to God:

*God of life, God of hope, God of all,
Lift me on your love like eagle's wings.
Sustain me, Guide me, Heal me.
Then send me forth into the world,
that I may always trust that you are
walking with me, and that I may love
as you love. Amen.*

Zoom Broadcast: We'll be moving our Sunday Worship Service broadcast to Zoom in the late spring. To most of us this will be "old hat" as we use Zoom for committee meetings, Faith Formation classes and Serenity Circle. For those of you who will be using Zoom for the first time, please contact the church office to let us know. When the time nears, we'll contact you to help setup your account so that things run smoothly. We will continue to post our services to Youtube, and will begin to post to Facebook, so that you are still able to watch the videos about an hour after the service concludes! We're excited and hope you are too!!

EASTER FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS

Return the below slip to the church office by Fri, March 22 and bring your **arrangements to Church by Fri, March 29** at Noon.

Once again we could not find a suitable service to deliver this season, so it's "bring your own".

Pastor Edwina is allergic to lilies. Please be mindful to select another variety. If you are unable to get out to select your plant, contact the Church Office & we'll gladly help

In Loving Memory/Honor of....	Submitted by...

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

SPRING FORWARD on Sunday – March 10th.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
MARCH 2024	<i>ESL</i> – Tues & Thurs-9:30 am and 6:00 pm <i>GIRLS SCOUT</i> – Tuesdays - Dining Hall – 4-5:30pm <i>NA</i> – Tuesdays 7:30PM <i>AA</i> -Tuesdays 8:00PM				1	2
3 10 am Worship COMMUNION Coffee Hour Faith Formation	4 PEO – Parlor – Noon Serenity Circle-4:00pm	5 C.Closet-9:30-Noon C Ladies-10 am	6 Bell Choir-6:20pm S. Choir – 7:30pm	7 C.Closet-9:30-Noon Lenten Luncheon, St. Paul’s Church-NOON W&M-7:00 pm	8 Refugees Center: (Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser 4pm-Take out 4:30-7pm-Dining in)	9
10 Heritage/Stations of the Cross 10 am Worship Oneida Chorale 10 am Coffee Hour Faith Formation Youth Group 5-7:30 pm	11 Serenity Circle-4:00pm	12 C.Closet-9:30-Noon C Ladies-10 am Rome C.S.Group (ALZ) - 5:00 pm	13 Bell Choir-6:20pm S. Choir – 7:30pm	14 Maira’s Day off C.Closet-9:30-Noon Lenten Luncheon, First Baptist Church:12-1 pm	15	16
17 10 am Worship Coffee Hour Faith Formation Andrea (guest musician)	18 Serenity Circle-4:00pm	19 C.Closet-9:30-Noon C Ladies-10 am PW-9:30 am R.Mission cooking Mission M-1:00 pm	20 COPPERSPIRE DEADLINE Bell Choir-6:20pm S. Choir – 7:30pm	21 C.Closet-9:30-Noon Bible Study-10:00 am Lenten Luncheon, First Methodist Church: 12- 1 pm	22 Deadline FORMS for Easter flowers	23
24-PALM SUNDAY 10 am Worship Coffee Hour Faith Formation Relay for Life/Pies	25 Serenity Circle-4:00pm Session M.-6:30pm	26 C.Closet-9:30-Noon C Ladies-10 am R.Mission cooking	27 Bdlg Meeting,.5:00pm Bell Choir-6:20pm S. Choir – 7:30pm	28-MAUNDY THUR COMMUNION C.Closet-9:30-Noon Faith Formation-5:15p Mandy Thursday Service at 7pm, with COMMUNION	29-GOOD FRIDAY Tenebrae Service-7pm	30
31-EASTER COMMUNION 10 am Worship Coffee Hour NO Faith Formation classes						