



PASTOR'S PONDERINGS



"But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors, brought them out, and said, 'Go, stand in the temple and tell the people the whole message about this life.'" (Acts 5:19-20)

A new season arrives on June 20th; the season of Summer. For many, it's that anticipated time of year to spend in a slower more leisurely pace doing things like swimming, time at the lake or ocean, outdoor barbeques, picnics, and just being outdoors more. Nature is blooming and green is all around us. It's a season of growth as vegetables planted grow and mature until harvest time in the fall.

June is also a new season in the Church. The time after Pentecost until the first Sunday in Advent is known as Ordinary Time. The color is green, also symbolizing growth as we see reflected in nature. During this time, we practice growing as Christians by growing closer to God through prayer and other spiritual practices. The word "ordinary" in this context means "numbered" as it comes from the ordinal numbers. It is because the Sundays of Ordinary Time are numbered: First Sunday After Pentecost, Second Sunday After Pentecost, etc. This numbering continues all the way until a new Church season begins in Advent.

Ordinary Time however, is far from ordinary in the sense of being common. In the life of the Christian Church, the time after Easter/Pentecost is far from ordinary! Jesus has been raised and is truly alive, present with us through the gift of the Holy Spirit. The powerful Spirit of God works through us enabling us to do things we could not do on our own. The Spirit is the force that gives us growth and maturity as a Christian. The Spirit is not visible like Jesus was, but the effects of the Spirit *are* visible. In the Book of Acts, the Acts of the Apostles could really be re-named the Acts of the Holy Spirit because it is the work of the Holy Spirit that enabled the first apostles (sent ones) to perform the many miracles recorded. It was the Holy Spirit working *through* the apostles that brought about the miracles. One could say the Holy Spirit was working behind the scenes.

One of the prayers of gratitude spoken during our recent Joys & Thanks during worship was for dirt. For many this seemed like a comical prayer of thanks. However, dirt – like the Holy Spirit – works behind the scenes and is considered ordinary. Yet, there is nothing ordinary about dirt. Without good, rich dirt, the green visible in summer would not happen. During this Ordinary Time, let's really take the time to see those things we may often take for granted. God's Spirit touches all life and when that happens everything is made holy – even dirt.

Blessings and Peace, Pastor Edwina

CHURCH PICNIC AT 10:30 am



Relay for Life Fundraisers - Team of Rainbows of Faith and Hope.



Thank you to everyone who came to the Pampered Chef Bingo on Thursday night. There were a few winners from our church. The big winner was the American Cancer Society. The event brought in \$2,949. It was a fun night of bingo, food, and especially friendship. Thanks again to Margaret Spina for putting together all the Pampered Chef Baskets and to Engelbert's for the door prizes. Sue Hanson

During June, there will be [luminaries for sale](#) to honor or in memory of those who are fighting cancer, survived cancer, or were lost to cancer. Each luminary is \$5.00. Last year, there were 370 luminaries representing our church. There will also be "purple Luminaries" for \$25.00 to remember or celebrate a special individual. The names are placed on a banner and read during the luminary ceremony at the Relay Event at Delta Lake State Park on Saturday, June 14th, from noon to 10 PM.



Around 3-4 pm we will start filling the luminary bags, putting in candles, and placing them on the track. Much help will be needed to do this task. Thank you in advance. Our church normally has more luminaries than anyone else and therefore, the track is well lit for the luminary ceremony. FPC normally has around 300 luminaries. The survivor lap is always the first one around noon.

The **Relay for Life of CNY** will be held at Delta Lake State Park on Saturday, June 8th, from 12-10 PM. There will be no charge for entering the park if you mention Relay to the attendants. Relay will be in the Fox Run Parking area. The Rainbows of Faith and Hope team will be located in the same area as last year, in campsite #39. Please bring a chair with you.

... continued Relay for Life

All survivors, please sign up online to receive your survivor shirt. There is also a special survivor tent that will be set up with food, drinks, and goodies for you and a caregiver. This year, the Oneida Choral will be singing at the opening ceremonies. The Oneida Area Civic Chorale will present “A Concert of Hope: featuring Sing for the Cure”, an emotion-filled 11-piece work, which covers the journey from receiving a cancer diagnosis through survival.

While originally written about breast cancer, these pieces apply to any cancer diagnosis. It is a labor of love dedicated to those with the disease, and those who love and care for them. Not all of the 11 songs will be sung, mostly the uplifting ones. Their concert will be on June 2 at 4:00 at Oneida High School, and then come to the relay to hear them again on June 8th.

The relay team, Rainbows of Faith and Hope, hosted the Pampered Chef Bingo at Gone Coastal. The donations to the American Cancer Society totaled \$2,580. Thank you to those who attended and those who helped to make this a big success, as well as fun. Three of our parishioners were the winners of some fabulous prizes from Pampered Chef as well as Engelbert’s Jewelers. Debbie Slagel won a Pampered Chef Basket and also a beautiful necklace donated by Engelbert’s. Muffy Engelbert and Heather Tucker were also winners of a Pampered Chef Bingo game. Congratulations to all.

Pampered Chef book party will end on May 1st or 8th. There is still time to place an order. The book is in the parlor. Sue Hanson.

Bake Sale: Thank you to all who supported the Mother’s Day Bake Sale. The total amount raised was \$365.00 to benefit the Relay for Life.

Tickets: Thank you to all who purchased the Adirondack Tickets to support the Relay for Life. Ticket sales totaled \$695.00. Although no one from our congregation won, the American Cancer Society did, as your donations help to support their efforts in finding a cure. Thank you!

NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

- **Graduation 4 years old** – June 14th – 9:30 am
- The last day of 3 the old class is June 13th
- Registration is currently underway for fall



WORSHIP & MUSIC

Calendar:

- Joyful Ringers/Senior Choir NO rehearsals in June
- Joyful Ringers will play on June 1st, Sunday the Worship
- Thank you to all of our church musicians for enhancing our worship services throughout the year! Your dedication and talents are so appreciated. We will celebrate with our choir members at a coffee hour after worship on June 23 (Choir Recognition Sunday). Starting on June 30 and throughout the summer, we will enjoy special music by soloists, duets, and guest musicians

CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays			
Bruce Engelbert	06/02	Josh Olney	06/23
James Griffith	06/02	Phetsamone Keoviengsamay	06/24
Andrea Radesi	06/02	Helen Tracy	06/25
June Sperlik	06/03	Paul Wrege	06/26
Jackie Nee	06/03	Liz Clough	06/27
Kayla Martin	06/04	Michelle Dolan	06/28
Jillian Olney	06/04	Donald Jones	06/29
C Samuel Haynes	06/04		
Rob Tracy	06/07		
Ronald Townsend	06/07		
Jason Eaton	06/08		
Steven Flanders	06/10		
Doug Yates	06/11		
Katrina Kolb-Schell	06/12		
Thavy Keoviengsamay	06/16		
Sheila Truesdail	06/19		
David Kolb	06/19		
Keith Butters	06/20		
Avery Eaton	06/21		
Mary Lou Alguire	06/23		

Anniversaries

Armen & Cindy Roubian	06/01
Mary & Ron Townsend	06/07
Brittney & Matt Cataldo	06/16
Heather & Ray Tucker	06/18
Donald & Barb Davidson	06/20
Donald & Sheila Jones	06/21
Kiki & Mark Hinman	06/21
Carol & Paul Berger	06/22
Linnea & Rich Linderman	06/25
Nancy & Ward Beeman	06/27
David & Lisa Dombrowski	06/28

ENVELOPES/PLEDGES



We are no longer ordering pre-printed envelopes. Instead, we will be providing plain envelopes for your convenience. These will be available every Sunday on the table in the Sanctuary after February 9th. If you need some mailed to you, please let us know.

In addition to your regular pledge/giving, here are some Special Offerings to consider:

- Holidays – Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve/Christmas.
- PCUSA Specific Offerings – One Great Hour of Sharing, Peace & Global Witness, Pentecost, Christmas Joy (See pcusa.org for more details on each).

- Per Capita – Used to support ministries of the Presbytery, Synod, and Wider Church, including grants, leadership & mission development (see synodne.org and presbyteryofutica.org for more details). The Per Capita for 2025 is \$46 per member.
- Capital Improvements.
- Restoration Fund.

FINANCIAL NEWS FROM SUSAN HATZINGER

		2024 Year-to-Date		2024
	April	Actual	Budget	Budget
Operating Budget:				
Receipts	\$ 14,609.75	\$ 159,536.49	\$ 134,584.57	\$ 391,273.69
Expenditures	\$ (26,036.18)	\$ (129,360.25)	\$ (131,740.72)	\$ (391,273.69)
Change in Net Assets	\$ (11,426.43)	\$ 30,176.24	\$ 2,843.85	\$ -
March Collections:				
Capital Improvement Fund	\$ 230.00			
OGHS	\$ 255.66			
March Fund Disbursements				

Go Green! Would you like to receive your quarterly financial statements via email? Contact Susan at fpcffinancial@gmail.com, and she'll make that happen for you!

Per capita \$46.00

MISSION NEWS

Please consider personal hygiene items including: *shampoo and conditioner, deodorant, bars of soap, toilet paper, and toothpaste*. Thank you! With so many people utilizing this ministry, we need more help.

Blessings in a Backpack

Every year, we add a grade-appropriate book in the last backpack of the school year as an end-of-year gift. We could use a few more new or very gently used books suitable for children in grades K–6 to get the total of 100 that we need.

Rescue Mission Cooking: cook captains are Amy and Liz on 06/18 & 06/25 at TBD – Meal details. 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!!

WORSHIP LEADERS

06/01	Sue Moses	Outdoor Worship & Picnic
06/08	Marge Palmer	Communion
06/15	Gail Tucker	
06/22	Mellony Spinelli	
06/29	Raymond Tucker	

FAIR TRADE SHOP, STONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

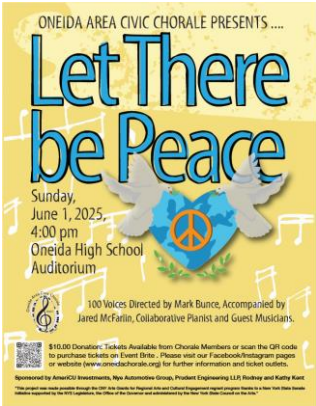
It's time to think about gifts for graduations, bridal showers, weddings, Father's Day, etc. We have a large selection of unique one-of-a-kind gifts for all of these occasions. Come in and check us out! Our Suspended Galaxies Necklace from India has beads suspended life tiny galaxies in this unique necklace from India. Creating these necklaces empowers women and provides opportunities for fair wages to the artisans. Shadowy blues, purples and blacks swirl around our handsome little Ancient Beauty Bud Vase from the West Bank. Recycled bottles are smashed into pieces and melted in high temperature ovens. Phoenician glass blowing artisans add substances to the molten glass, creating a range of colors within each piece.

These and MANY, MANY MORE uniquely handcrafted gift items from 38 different countries can be found at our **FAIR TRADE SHOP, STONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 8 SO. PARK ROW, CLINTON**. Our regular hours are 10am to 4 pm every Thursday, **SECOND SATURDAYS**, and by appointment by calling 315-853-1070. We will also be present at the **FARMER'S MARKET ON THE VILLAGE GREEN, EVERY THURSDAY, STARTING JUNE 5TH, 2025**. Purchasing fair trade items ensures artisans and small farmers fair wages and healthy working conditions, providing dignity, sustainable development and hope for marginalized people. **LET US BE YOUR GO-TO GIFT SHOP!** Visit us at <https://buildingstonesshoppe.square.site> or www.facebook.com/buildingstonesfairtradeshoppe.

Oneida Area Civic Chorale Concert (Kim Nethaway)

"Let There be Peace" Concert.
 Tickets for the concert are \$10 and are available from Chorale members, at the door, and on the Chorale Website through Eventbrite. Please refer to the OACC website (www.oneidachorale.org) or Facebook page for additional information.

Tickets are available from Kim & John Nethaway, and Valerie Wood-MacRae, or at the door.



SERENITY MESSAGE FROM MICHELLE

“Without judgment, without expectation, you are doing your part. Let God be God, and your relationship will flourish. We may reacquaint ourselves with our primary language, which is silence, and that silence communicates a love beyond all understanding.” Mary Dwyer www.marycdwyer.com

Dear Friends,

Our modern culture imposes expectations upon us to always be productive, constantly moving, forever seeking more and more stimulation. So, is it any wonder so many of us find that it is very difficult to just be quiet? Remember that God says to us “Be still. And know that I am.” It is one of our missions as modern disciples to cultivate this connection with our Creator. It can be so challenging to just be. Stillness does not have to mean that we must be alone in a dark room sitting perfectly still and having zero thoughts in our heads, however. The practice of mindfulness can bring us closer to a state of just being. Have you ever gotten lost in the routine of a daily activity or your favorite hobby? If so, then you understand that it is possible to become so deeply engrossed in your task that the world fades away.

Mindfulness is the basic human ability to be fully present, aware of where we are and what we're doing, and not overly reactive or overwhelmed by what's going on around us. The goal of mindfulness is to wake up to the inner workings of our mental, emotional, and physical processes. Mindfulness is available to us in every moment, whether through meditation, breath work, or mindful moment practices like taking time to pause when the phone rings instead of rushing to answer it. You can [read more on mindful.org](http://readmoreonmindful.org)

The Centering Prayer can also help you to cultivate and deepen your relationship with God. Father Thomas Keating is one of the architects of this method of contemplative prayer that originated at St. Joseph's Abbey in 1975. At that time, it was referred to as the 'Prayer of the Cloud' and it was taught to priests on retreat. Some have speculated that the phrase 'Centering Prayer' was coined by Father Thomas Merton. This is not meant to replace other kinds of prayer - rather it adds depth of meaning to all prayer and facilitates movement into *a receptive prayer of resting in God*. Centering Prayer emphasizes prayer as a personal relationship with God and a movement beyond conversation with Christ to Communion with Christ.

There are 4 simple guidelines: 1.) Choose a sacred word as a symbol of your intention to consent to God's presence and action within. 2.) Sitting comfortably ... **continued**
Serenity Circle
 with eyes closed, settle into your chair and silently introduce the sacred word. 3.) When engaged with thoughts, return gently to the sacred word. 4.) At the end of

your time in prayer, remain in silence with eyes closed for a few minutes. Check out contemplativeoutreach.org for more information. For a deep dive into the concept of Centering Prayer check out this lecture from Thomas Keating on YouTube:

The Psychological Experience of Centering Prayer - Part 1, with Thomas Keating
<https://youtu.be/GwBH89wZLLw?si=cJ6T-jUt4wmSbVw> (click on the link)
 photo: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/forbesoste/15655214702>

FAITH FORMATION (Sunday School)

No adult FF until September. Anyone with ideas they would like to either present or study, please contact me (chaucerg2@aol.com or 315-336-6256).Helen Adsit.

FACEBOOK & WEBSITE PAGES

WEBSITE: <https://firstpresrome.com/>

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/RomeFirstPresbyterian>

Mailing Address: PO Box 33 – Rome, NY - 13442

Email: firstpresrome@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS:

HONOR AMERICA DAYS

It will take place on Saturday, July 26th.
 The theme this year is **No Place like Rome – In the 80's!**



PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH TRIENNIUM 2025

July 28 – July 31, 2025

Registration is open now through June 13th.



In July 2025, the Presbyterian Church (USA) will welcome thousands of its high school-age youth and their adult youth workers to Louisville, Kentucky, for four days of worship, recreation, bible study, outreach, and faith formation all around the theme of “As If We Were Dreaming”.

Most programming and meals will be held at the Kentucky International Convention Center (KICC), with all participants housed at nearby Triennium hotels.

***\$199 Participant Fee**, this fee includes all programming, meals during the event, an official PYT t-shirt, and more! *Please note that an additional \$20 background check fee will apply to all adult participants for a total adult participant fee of \$219. Please also note that housing is an additional cost.* Housing is to be booked by each delegation at Triennium-designated hotels through Louisville Housing starting in early 2025 when registration opens. Please contact Pastor Edwina if you are interested in attending. It's been a while since they've had a Youth Gathering, so please consider going to this great event. Youth & youth ages 18-25 are eligible.

Chaperones at least 23 years of age are also needed. The total cost per youth is around \$700.00. There is money in the Presbytery to help offset the cost, and we can also do some fundraisers. There will be volunteer leaders from congregations to chaperone. Triennium Youth Gathering - we are looking for an adult interested in being a Chaperone, as well as Youth who are interested in attending the Triennium. It's a fun event, so please let Pastor Edwina know if you are interested.

Delta Lake Summer Youth Camp

July/20 to 25, 2025.

Don't miss your chance to secure a spot at camp, where adventure, friendship, and lifelong memories await. Tag your camp friends and spread the word! Who's ready for the best summer ever?! For more information and to register, go to www.deltalake.org/youth-camps

The Honor America Days Parade 2025



ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH



ORGAN/PIANO – CHRISTIAN CLOUGH

Saturday, June 14th, 2025. ¶
Hymn Sing. 2pm, at Zion. ¶



Led by Christian Clough, Canon for Liturgy and Music at the Cathedral of St. Luke, Portland, ME. ¶

ME. ¶


Organ/Piano, followed by a meet-and-greet reception. ¶




Women of Worship Awards

We are delighted to announce the 2025 Women of Worship Honorees selection. The 18th Anniversary award and recognition luncheon in their honor will be held at Hart's Hill Inn at noon on Saturday, June 7. It is open to the public. Introduced in 2007, the Women of Worship (WOW) Awards are a way of highlighting the many selfless acts of love and kindness completed by the honorees and countless other women in area churches and parishes. The awards are based on the attributes of biblical and modern-day women. Attached is the list of honorees and a ticket/reservation form. The deadline to reserve seats/tables is June 3rd. The event is a wonderful time of fellowship while enjoying good food, great music, and lots of joy, while shining the light on some of His precious daughters. We are honored to celebrate all of these remarkable women on June 7th. We look forward to seeing you there. Please share this information with your congregation and others so the honorees can feel surrounded by your love and support. Please contact me with any questions at 315-525-9792.

With gratitude, Susan Woods - *On behalf of:* Women of Worship Awards.

 P.O. Box 111, Clinton, NY 13323 315.525.9792	
You are cordially invited to attend the 18th Anniversary Luncheon honoring the 2025:	
Women of Worship Award Recipients	
PASTOR SHARON BAUGH.....Hope Chapel AME Zion, Utica DOREEN DeJEAN.....St. Matthew's Temple, Utica LIDERMARY GONZALEZ.....Maranatha Church, Rome GENIENE HARVEY.....St. Matthew's Temple, Utica PATRICIA JOSEPH.....Stone Presbyterian, Clinton PAMELA MADDOX WILLIAMS.....St. Paul Baptist, Utica PEARL PATRICK.....Utica City Church, Utica	
Saturday, June 7, 2025 Hart's Hill Inn, Whitesboro 12:00 Noon \$35 per person or \$280 Table of 8 Mail the form below with a check to: P.O. Box 111 Clinton, NY 13323 or Cash App to: \$WOWwoods Questions - Call or text 315-525-9792 Reservations Requested by: Tuesday, June 3, 2025	
Please provide the name of a contact person in case there are questions about your reservations. Name: _____ Phone #: _____ Email: _____ Total # of Seats or Tables Reserved: # _____ Total Payment Included: \$ _____	Please reserve seats for the following individuals: \$35 per person/\$280 per table by June 3, 2025
We Invite the Entire Mohawk Valley Community to Come and Celebrate these Amazing Women!	

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
July 2024						
1 – 10:30 am - Outdoor Worship Service PICNIC – Lee Town Park 	2	3 10 am Crafty Ladies at Eunice's House	4 NO CHOIR REHEARSALS In June	5 10:30 am – BIB - Trinity 7 pm - W&M Meeting – Zoom and Zion	6	7
8 - 09:50 am Children & Youth Faith Formation (Sunday School) 10 am- Coffee Fellowship time 10:30am-Worship Service 11:30am-Adult Faith Formation	9	10 10 am Crafty Ladies at Eunice's House	11	12 10:30 am – BIB - Trinity 7 pm – DEACONS Mtg. at Zion.	13 9:30 am - Nursery Graduation for the 4-year-olds Ask Mary Lou for more information (Nursery School)	14 12:00 pm to 10:00 pm WALK RELAY FOR LIFE Delta Lake State Park Luminaires. 
15 - FATHER'S DAY – Senior 09:50 am Children & Youth Faith Formation (Sunday School) - 10 am- Coffee Fellowship time 10:30am-Worship Service 11:30am-Adult Faith Formation	16	17 10 am Crafty Ladies at Eunice's House 12:00 pm-Mission Mtg. at Spressos	18 10 am-Rescue M. Cook (Liz)	19 10:30 am – BIB - Trinity	20 3 pm – Copperspire Deadline for 2 months: July & Aug	21
22- 09:50 am Children & Youth Faith Formation (Sunday School) 10 am- Coffee Fellowship time 10:30am-Worship Service 11:30am-Adult Faith Formation	23 6:30 pm – SESSION Meeting at Zion.	24 10 am Crafty Ladies at Eunice's House	25 10 am-Rescue M. Cook (Bruce)	26	27	28
29 - 09:50 am Children & Youth Faith Formation (Sunday School) 10 am- Coffee Fellowship time 10:30am-Worship Service 11:30am-Adult Faith Formation	30	NO Youth Choir Sunday REHEARSALS In June		THU - 10:30 am BIB. (Trinity Church) It depends on the school's closing date		Choir Picnic - Tucker's house.