

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up." (Galatians 6:9)



We all know what it feels like to be weary. Last July, we experienced a devastating tornado. The winter brought crushing snow. Spring brought a deluge of rain and flooding. This summer has begun with more storms. And we have experienced significant deaths in our congregation, most recently the sudden death of our beloved former secretary and friend, Kari Ketchum. I think it's fair to say that we are all a bit weary at this point.

It's been a tough year, a challenging season for all of us. A new season, however, has also begun, a season of growth. On June 8th the Church season of Pentecost began. It's the longest season of the Church year ending on Christ the King Sunday right before the season of Advent. This year the season of Pentecost will last for 24 weeks or six months! The color associated with this season is green symbolizing growth. What will we as Jesus' disciples grow this season? There are many seeds to plant and grow: kindness, love, compassion, mercy, justice, service, unity.....

Just as the summer season is a time of increased growth for flowers and vegetables, the season of Pentecost is an opportunity to focus on increased growth in our faith. It's a time to draw closer in relationship with the Holy Spirit who guides, teaches, and draws us closer to the heart of God. No matter where we are – in worship, at home, at work, on vacation- we can find time to pray and be aware of the presence of God in our lives. Being mindful and aware of God's presence gives us strength to persevere in challenging times and to "not grow weary in doing what is right." This is what strengthens our faith.

During this season of Pentecost we will be focusing in worship together on what it means to live as Jesus' disciples. In August, I'll be giving a four-part sermon series focusing on faith from the lectionary texts from the Book of Hebrews. We will be reminded of the strength of our ancestors in faith, and how they found the strength to persevere.



This season of Pentecost be on the lookout for the many ways the Holy Spirit is at work in our lives in unexpected places, people, and situations. Share this news with those around you. "Do not grow weary in doing what is right for we will reap at harvest time if we don't give up."

Blessings and Peace,
Pastor Edwina

Celebrations

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Sharon St. John	07/01
Matt Abreu	07/01
Norine Sexton	07/01
Dan Cucura	07/03
Natalie Wreage	07/03
Ginny Semp	07/04
Gage Bates	07/05
Mark Hinman	07/08
Esi Simons	07/09
Sandy Braun	07/10
Carli Ann Griffiths	07/10
Grady Engelbert	07/11
Jack Brownell	07/12
Carol Lee	07/12
Andrew Abreu	07/14
Barbra Davidson	07/14
Dick Martin	07/16
Helen Adsit	07/19
Barbra Tracy	07/20
Betty Warren	07/20
Maddie Shaffer	07/21
Laura Bochniak	07/22
George Vickers	07/22
Kathryn Jasiewicz	07/23
Maxine Strong	07/23
Donna Jones	07/24
Kevin Taylor	07/25
Matthew Proper	07/25
Ruth Jokinen	07/25
Muffy Engelbert	07/25
Maggie Jevens	07/27
Michael Scaccia	07/29
Christian Olney	07/30
Steve Huntzinger	07/31

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Jenna Gillander	08/01
Kim Nethaway	08/02
Somphone Keoviengsamay	08/04
Dave McMonagle	08/05
Raymond Tucker	08/07
Wesley Tucker	08/07
Brayton Olney	08/09
Harry Carpenter	08/11
Theresa Vetter	08/12
Jay Fish	08/18
Bobbie Foote	08/19
Debbie Slagel	08/20
Bill Nee	08/21
Eunice Edwards	08/22
Sally Hinman	08/25
Ethan Rushton	08/25
Chris Hayden	08/27
Tom McGibbon	08/29
James Mathy	08/30
Nancy Beeman	08/31

JULY & AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Jerry & Libby Gleasman	07/05
Kristin & Rich Stolo	07/11
Bill & Jackie Nee	07/17
Paul & Helen Adsit	07/28
Mike & Lynda Little	07/28
John & Kim Nethaway	07/29
Doug & Sue Davidson	08/03
Rob & Helen Tracy	08/06
Mark & Maureen Engelbert	08/17
Mary Lou & Mike Alguire	08/21
Martie Talley & Jane Muehl	08/21
Amber & Bill	08/24
Mark & Sarah Rushton	08/28
Nikki & Steve Huntzinger	08/28
Ronald & Barbara Rhodes	08/29

NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

The Nursery School completed another successful school year. Thank you so much to MaryLou Alguire and Kristen Stolo for providing a great learning experience for the children in Rome year after year!



The Nursery School will continue to be located at St. John's Lutheran Church for the 2025-2026 school year and classes are already full! Fall classes will start September 4th for the 3 year olds and September 5th for the 4 year olds.

WORSHIP & MUSIC NEWS

Our choirs are on hiatus for the summer. We appreciate all they do to enhance our worship each week. We can look forward to summer music provided by guest musicians as well as some of our choir members.



Choir rehearsals will resume in September. If you or someone you know would like to make music with us, please contact Kim Nethaway at 315-725-8096 or knethaway@twcnj.rr.com.

MISSION NEWS

Thank you to all who contributed to the Pentecost Offering this year! The collection totaled \$178.08. We get to keep 40% locally; the rest is sent to PCUSA. The Mission Committee voted to donate our share which is intended for youth at risk the Mary Mowry Scholarship at our Nursery School.



Rescue Mission Cooking continues on the last two Wednesdays of the month through the summer months. **We really need more help with this program to keep it going, especially another captain (coordinator)!**

July 23 & 30

August 20 & 27

Watch for details in Friday emails and Sunday bulletins.

We will soon start putting together **"Kids Kits" (formerly School Kits) for Church World Service.** Sarah Briggs will again co-ordinate this effort.

We will be collecting these items or cash donations so we can purchase them:

- Boxes of 12 unsharpened colored pencils
- Blunt round tipped scissors
- 70-page spiral notebooks
- 12" rulers
- Large erasers (not pencil cap erasers)
- Hand held pencil sharpeners
- Unsharpened pencils
- Boxes of 24 crayons
- Glue Sticks
- 2 pocket folders



Remember – Back-to School Sales will be starting soon!

RELAY FOR LIFE NEWS
TEAM OF RAINBOWS OF FAITH & HOPE

The 2025 Relay for Life of Central New York was a huge success! Once again, our team came in first place for the most money raised – over \$28,000 to help with critical research, and provide care for those with cancer. There were over 370 luminaries that lit up the track. Thank you to everyone who helped us reach this milestone! Thank you Brenden for the great racecar game he built! The total amount raised so far for all teams is over \$250,000! Your financial help will enable us to find a cure one day!



Thank you to all who helped with the success of the relay. God bless you all!

Please join us for more Relay Fundraisers coming up, especially the next one – Wine & Beer Tasting –August 14th.



Hosted by the Relay for Life Teams of
RAINBOWS OF FAITH AND HOPE
FIRST PRES ROME

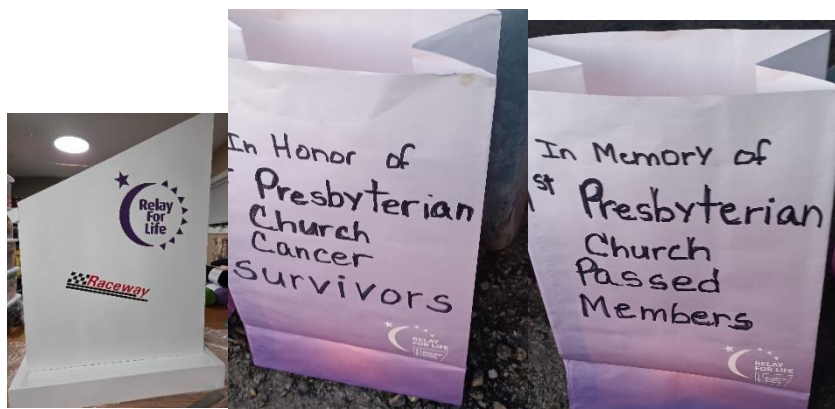
Thursday, August 14, 2025 from 5 -7PM
\$10 Initial Tasting · \$10 Additional Tastings

Finger Foods Included · Food to purchase from selected LDYC menu

RAFFLE BASKETS - Advance Sale Tickets: Sue Hanson 315-336-6251

All Proceeds to the American Cancer Society

Join us at Beautiful LDYC – 6487 Karlen Rd – Rome



SERENITY MESSAGE FROM MICHELLE

Serenity Circle will resume gathering in September after Labor Day.
Have a great summer!

Dear Friends,
God finds us. Even when we try to hide, when we believe we aren't worthy, when we aren't looking. The wisdom that existed before the world was created is infused into every molecule of our being. And when we start to notice God's presence – that wisdom is activated!

What makes it so surprising is that it's not what we picture wisdom to be in this modern world. It's not some aged person, long white hair, wearing a flowing robe, sitting stoically on a mountain top, possessing great knowledge, speaking softly, their words sparse and solemn and mysterious.

Wisdom is joyful! Celebratory! Delights in life! Wisdom is in our hearts – not our minds! When we are young, we are taught that we should be prudent, approach things intellectually, be discerning. Good rules to live by, reasonable, sensible ... But where's the joy in that? Where's the heart? Can you be truly discerning by only using your intellect?

By only relying on knowledge? ... God calls us to throw our hearts into it!! Like when a coach says, "put your back into it!" "Put your heart into it!!" That's what makes us stronger. Because - if our hearts aren't in it – then, what's the point?!

The only way to bring peace to the world is to lead from the heart. Especially now. There's so much suffering in the world, in our country and in our communities. When wisdom guides your life, there is no room for despair, or indifference. When you stand on the foundation of wisdom, you are grounded in God's love. You stand strong in your faith, you are not overcome, you don't become cynical. Everything you see is filtered through the lens of your heart, not just your mind and your intellect.

Kindness emerges and ripples out into the world. Then it is harder to disrespect your neighbors, it's impossible to dehumanize marginalized people. Kindness diminishes fear, it pushes back against hatred. Wisdom breeds joy, kindness and love. It creates space for hope, it nurtures peace.

Wisdom was here before the world was created, before people existed, before people began making a mess and hurting each other... and wisdom will remain after all this is gone. When we choose to live with compassion, when we choose to see the value and dignity of every person, without exception – love and kindness grow stronger, and the reach of God's light moves further and further into our world.

Michelle Dolan

FAITH FORMATION

(Formerly known as Sunday School; because it's not just for Sundays!)

While there are no Children, Youth, or Adult Faith Formation classes until September, please take time to pray together as a family and enjoy the beauty of God's creation.



If anyone has any ideas they would like to either present or study for Adult Faith Formation classes, please contact Helen Adsit at chaucerg2@aol.com or 315-336-6256

LAY READERS FOR JULY/AUGUST

<u>07/06</u>	<u>Noah Sexton</u>	<u>Communion</u>
<u>07/13</u>	<u>Helen Tracy</u>	
<u>07/20</u>	<u>Mary Yates</u>	
<u>07/27</u>	<u>Cailyn Armstrong</u>	
<u>08/03</u>	<u>Carrie Scaccia</u>	<u>Communion</u>
<u>08/10</u>	<u>Sue Moses</u>	
<u>08/17</u>	<u>Helen Adsit</u>	
<u>08/24</u>	<u>Liz Clough</u>	
<u>08/31</u>	<u>Gail Tucker</u>	

FINANCIAL NEWS

OFFERINGS/PLEDGES

Please continue to give your offerings and pledges as the church's work continues wherever we are. Remember, your financial support can also be paid via Venmo.

ENVELOPES New plain envelopes, stamped with our address, are now available for your offering. A box will be placed on the table in the sanctuary each week. If you would like some to be sent to you, please let Susan Hatzinger know, and we will mail some to you.



SPECIAL OFFERINGS

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.**

GO GREEN! Would you like to receive your quarterly financial statements via email and help save the environment? Contact Susan at fpcfinancial@gmail.com, and she'll make that happen for you!

MONTHLY FINANCIALS

		2025 Year-to-Date		2025		
	May	Actual	Budget	Budget		
Operating Budget:						
Receipts	\$ 12,634.00	\$ 122,257.34	\$ 149,917.45	\$ 359,801.91		
Expenditures	\$ (20,687.25)	\$ (119,894.53)	\$ (144,184.66)	\$ (359,801.91)		
Change in Net Assets	\$ (8,053.25)	\$ 2,362.81	\$ 5,732.79	\$ -		
May Collections:						
Capital Improvement	\$ 50.00					
Restoration Fund	\$ 2,550.00					
Pentecost	\$ 25.00					
OGHS	\$ 66.40					
May Fund Disbursements						
	\$ -					

ONLINE DONATE BUTTONS – We now have **donate buttons right on our website** to donate online via credit/bank card to the General Fund or the Restoration Fund. Check out our website today at firstpresrome.com

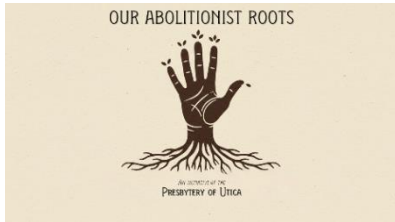
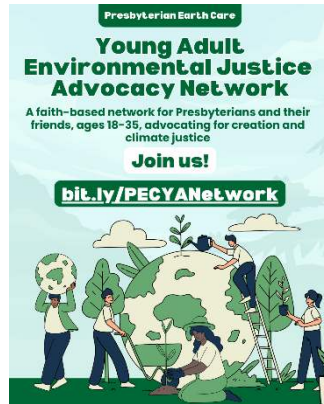
**Make a General Donation**
Fuel our faith community with a donation to our general fund.

**Support the Restoration Project**
Join us in restoring the beauty and integrity of our sacred space.

RESTORATION FUND NEWS.....Thanks to Bev Johnson, we have a beautiful handcrafted church donation box for our Restoration Fund. Check it out in the sanctuary on Sunday morning! Thank You Bev & Family!

PRESBYTERY NEWS

Calling all young adults (18-35) who are passionate about climate justice and creation care! Presbyterians for Earth Care is building a faith-based network of young people who are leading the way in environmental advocacy - from local congregations to the PC(USA) to the national stage. Is that you? Or does it describe someone you know? Join us by completing our interest form: bit.ly/PECYANetwork. Then, tag a friend who's ready to take action and share this with your community.



Our Abolitionist Roots

Do you have documentation or information on Presbyterian churches in the anti-slavery movement? Contact Steve Smits, Lead Researcher at stephensmits@gmail.com, 315 832- 0484.

Transformational Trails

Language Matters Labels like "survivor" or "victim" can harm; this labeling may then be experienced as invalidation. What is crucial in language is ensuring people feel supported, seen, and empowered. Utilizing the term "traumatized person" provides legitimacy to the totality of one's experience and allows the individual who has withstood the trauma to choose how they wish to be identified. Transformational Trails has a video channel with full-length videos on YouTube at [@TransformationalTrails](https://www.youtube.com/TransformationalTrails).



Interested in learning more about trauma-informed congregational care? Contact Rev. Dr. Aemina Razzano at hear.aemina@gmail.com, 607.435.4179 or Dr. Lee Vance at lee@lmwellnesscoaching.com, 315.771.0164.

Indigenous Peoples/Earth Care

To learn more about the PCUSA Earth Care Congregation initiative, visit <https://qrco.de/bg21OK/>
Weaving Home ministry new blog post at <https://qrco.de/bg21QE>

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 & Parade 2025

This year, the parade will take place on Saturday, July 26th at 10:00 am. The theme this year is No Place like Rome – In the 80's!. We will be doing a combined float with Zion Church this year. Please let Pastor Edwina know if you are interested in helping out with the float or walking in the parade. We are collecting candy to hand out during the parade.



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



COPPER CITY COMMUNITY CONNECTION – SOUNDS OF SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Food available for purchase. Rain or Shine!

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| • July 16 | Fritz's Polka Band |
| • July 30 | Anthony LaBarbera & the Fast Four |
| • August 13 | Trigger Finger |
| • August 28 | Fritz's Polka Band |

FPC-July 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 10 am Crafty Ladies at Eunice's House	2 	3 	4 Happy Fourth of July Office Closed	5
6 – 10 am- Coffee/Fellowship 10:30am-Worship Service/Communion	7 	8 10 am Crafty Ladies at Eunice's House	9 	10 	11 	12 2 – 4 PM Zion's Organ Recital
13 – 10 am- Coffee/Fellowship 10:30am-Worship Service	14 	15 10 am Crafty Ladies at Eunice's House	16 	17 	18 	19 3 PM Geller Group Concert
20 10 am- Coffee/Fellowship 10:30am-Worship Service	21 Cure Sanfilippo Foundation Fundraiser Event at Teugega Country Club	22 10 am Crafty Ladies at Eunice's House	23 10 am-Rescue Mission Cooking - Bruce	24 	25 	26 10 AM Honor America Day Parade Noon - 3 PM Zion's Strawberry Shortcake Festival
27 - 10 am- Coffee/Fellowship 10:30am-Worship Service	28 6:30 pm – Session Meeting at Zion.	29 	30 10 am-Rescue Mission Cooking - Liz	31 		

FPC-August 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3- 10 am- Coffee/Fellowship 10:30am-Worship Service/Communion	4	5 10 am Crafty Ladies at Eunice's House	6	7	8	9
10 – 10 am- Coffee/Fellowship 10:30am-Worship Service	11	12 10 am Crafty Ladies at Eunice's House	13	14 5 – 7 PM Relay for Life Wine & Beer Tasting Fundraiser	15	16 2:30 PM Zion's 200th Anniversary Celebratory Eucharist Service
17 10 am- Coffee/Fellowship 10:30am-Worship Service	18	19 10 am Crafty Ladies at Eunice's House 12:00 pm-Mission Mtg. at Sprezzos	20 10 am-Rescue Mission Cooking	21	22	23
24 – 10 am- Coffee/Fellowship 10:30am-Combined Worship Service with Zion with Communion and Picnic	25 6:30 pm – SESSION Meeting at Zion.	26	27 10 am-Rescue Mission Cooking	28 7 PM Deacons Mtg.	29	30
31 10 am- Coffee/Fellowship 10:30am-Worship Service						