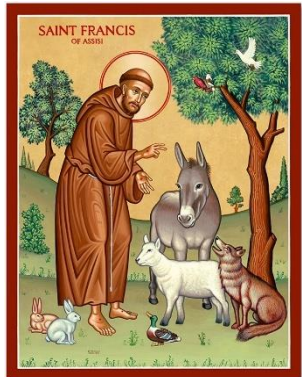


## PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

"But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds in the sky, and they will tell you, or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish in the sea inform you." Job 12:7-8



Several things come to mind as October approaches. Among them are brilliant fall foliage, autumn flowers, pumpkins, cooler temperatures, time change, stewardship, Halloween, and Reformation. The Blessing of the Animals is also another one of my most favorite autumn events for several reasons. It happens out in nature; all different kinds of animals are drawn together, and there's a tangible wisdom in the air. The scripture texts from Job are usually read that tell us that there is much we can learn from listening to the animals, birds, fish, and earth itself. They contain an ancient wisdom that humans often don't hear because we don't take the time to listen. The Blessing of the Animals service is one of those opportunities where we can do just that.



All the creatures in nature and earth itself are more in sync with the rhythm of the seasonal changes. They know, sooner than we do, when the temperatures will change, how to prepare for winter, and how to communicate with one another. The arrival of the change of seasons – particularly autumn - alerts animals to prepare and adapt to the changes about to happen. Many birds migrate to warmer climates. Some start storing food for the long winter months. Other animals burrow underground or go into a stage called dormancy. They prepare for the changes without anxiety or panic. They simply know it's part of the cycle

of the seasons. We can learn so much from nature, earth, and the many creatures about adaptability, flexibility, stewardship, celebration, and yes, even reformation and transformation. They do not worry about what is to come; they simply trust in the Creator. There is indeed so much that we can learn from all of them if we simply pause long enough and spend time in the natural world. It's part of stewardship and honoring God by caring for all God has made. The earth and all its creatures are not ours; all belongs to God, and we have a responsibility to love and care for all that has been entrusted to us. Giovanni di Pietro di Bernardone, most commonly known as St. Francis of Assisi, believed that nature itself was "the mirror of God." He called all creatures his "brothers" and "sisters." He understood they possessed the pure wisdom of God not tainted by human distortions. I hope to see you all at this year's Blessing of the Animals whether you have a pet or not. Come, see, and witness the wisdom they bring.

Blessings and Peace,  
Pastor Edwina



### OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Sue Hanson	10/02
Elizabeth Jean Mathy	10/02
Diane Burns	10/02
Lynda Little	10/02
Viola Head	10/03
Marcie Ferens	10/05
Lenora Merithew	10/06
Jerry Gleasman	10/06
Susan Davidson	10/07
Tanna Sreca	10/08
Kim Oliver	10/09
Mike Corbett	10/09
Star Andrews	10/13
Cailyn Armstrong	10/14
Brian Burke	10/14
Mary Grow	10/14
Marge Palmer	10/15

### OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Arlene Pfeuffer	10/16
Sue Hollenbeck	10/20
Evie Denton	10/20
Dianne Griffith	10/25
Candace Warner	10/27
Jon Denton	10/28
Frank Jokinen	10/28

### OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

Kevin & Mikki Taylor	10/02
Andy & Bethany Bak	10/05
Jerry & Libby Gleasman	10/16
Matthew & Jennifer Proper	10/17
Taylor & Tanna Sreca	10/18
Tim & Diane Burns	10/20
Charlie & Danielle Sexton	10/21
Bobbie & Bob Foote	10/31

## NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS



### Nursery School October News:

Classes began: 3 yr olds- Thursday Sept. 4  
4 yr olds- Friday Sept. 5

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 started Sept. 4th for the 3 year olds and September 5th for the 4 year olds.

## **WORSHIP & MUSIC NEWS**

We will welcome violinist Haley Rudolph to our Oct. 19th worship service. She will join our choir on the anthem entitled "The Journey", and will also perform a solo during the service. Haley is a strings teacher for the Rome City Schools.

Our choirs will start rehearsing this month for our annual Candlelight Service, planned for Sunday, Dec. 14th at 4PM. If you or someone you know would like to join our Senior Choir for this event, please contact Kim Nethaway for more info. (315-725-8096, or [knethaway@twcny.rr.com](mailto:knethaway@twcny.rr.com)) Candlelight rehearsals take place each Wed. evening at 7PM, starting Oct. 15th. We will be presenting the cantata "Love Came Down At Christmas" by Joel Raney, celebrating God's hope, peace, love and joy felt during the Advent season.



Youth Choir will begin weekly rehearsals on Sunday, Oct. 19th. We leave worship during the last hymn for our 20-minute practice. We look forward to playing at Candlelight and in worship in December.

If you or anyone you know would like to participate in our music program, contact Kim

Nethaway at 315-725-8096, or [knethaway@twcny.rr.com](mailto:knethaway@twcny.rr.com). We always welcome new members!

## **MISSION NEWS**

**Blessings in a Backpack** – Thanks to your generosity we are off to a great start for the season. We have received many monetary and food donations to make the meals sent home more nutritious. If any congregation member would like to donate directly to this fund you can make a check out to First Presbyterian Church and put "Mary Mowry Scholarship Fund" on the memo line.

**Peace and Global Witness Offering** – The Mission Committee has decided to donate our portion of the offering (25%) to the Mary Mowry Scholarship

Fund which has been depleted at this time. If any congregation member would like to donate directly to this fund you can make a check out to First Presbyterian Church and put "Mary Mowry Scholarship Fund" on the memo line.

**Stuffed Animal Donation** – As a Christmas treat we give "Beanie Baby" sized stuffed animals to the Blessing in a Backpack program. On October 4<sup>th</sup> at the Blessing of the Animals please consider bring a pet food item as well as a small stuffed animal.

**Rescue Mission Cooking** – We are cooking October 22nd and October 29<sup>th</sup> at Zion Church from 10-noon. Liz will be captain for both these cooking sessions unless a new captain is found. Please consider coming to help.

**Kid Kits for Church World Service** – Sarah has 100 kid kits ready to send in the spring thanks to your generosity.

**RACC Holiday House** – Once again the Mission Committee will be partnering with the Presbyterian Women to have a table at the Rome Art and Community Center Holiday House (held the two weekend prior to Thanksgiving). If you have any crafts you make that would be appropriate please let Gail or Lenora know.

## **RELAY FOR LIFE NEWS** **TEAM OF RAINBOWS OF FAITH & HOPE**

On November 4th from 6-8 pm The Songbyrd Street Studio will host another cut glass class. The cost will be \$10.00 plus whatever you make with the glass (Items range from \$25 up) Gail Tucker will be the hostess and there will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. We would have the same types of items: ornaments, night lights, tea lights, small art pieces, pendants, trinket dishes. You are only limited by your creativity! Check out their Facebook page for inspiration!

All proceeds will go to the Relay for Life Teams.

Gail Tucker



## **COMMUNITY BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS**



**LED BY REV. EDWINA LANDRY AND SPONSORED BY THE  
COMBINED CONGREGATIONS OF ZION EPISCOPAL CHURCH &  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2025 AT 3 PM  
RAIN OR SHINE IN ZION'S CHURCHYARD  
IT WILL BE MOVED INSIDE IF RAINING**

**WE WILL BE COLLECTING DONATIONS OF PET FOOD AND OR  
KITTY LITTER TO BE DONATED TO THE ROME HUMANE  
SOCIETY.**

**WE WILL ALSO BE COLLECTING SMALL STUFFED ANIMALS  
(BEANIE BABY SIZE) TO BENEFIT THE BLESSINGS IN A  
BACKPACK PROGRAM.**

**THIS IS A FREE EVENT AND ALL ARE WELCOME; PLEASE LEASH  
ALL DOGS! ALL PETS ARE INVITED REAL OR STUFFED OR EVEN  
PICTURES OF YOUR PET THAT HAS PASSED ON!  
HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!!!**

## **FAITH FORMATION**

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

Faith Formation classes for children and adults began on Sunday,



September 28 th and will continue through May. Children/youth will meet before church led by Carrie Scaccia.

Adult Faith Formation classes take place immediately after worship for about 30 -45

minutes until about noon/12:15pm. The current discussion topic is the first apostles. Other topics will be discussed throughout the year. If you have something in particular that you would like to talk about, please contact Helen Adsit at 315-336-6256 or [chaucerg2@aol.com](mailto:chaucerg2@aol.com)

Confirmation will begin on Sunday, October 5 th immediately after worship for about 1hr 45 minutes until 1:30 pm. They will meet twice a month upstairs in the Zion vestry room. A schedule will be handed out prior to the first class.

Youth Group – The Youth Group will start up again either in October or November. Stay tuned for more updates in the weekly emails.

## **LAY READERS FOR OCTOBER**

<u>10/05</u>	<u>Rob Tracy</u>	<u>Communion</u>
<u>10/12</u>	<u>Mark Hinman</u>	
<u>10/19</u>	<u>Mary Yates</u>	
<u>10/26</u>	<u>Cailyn Armstrong</u>	

## MONTHLY FINANCIALS

### 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](http://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](http://synodne.org) and [presbyteryofutica.org](http://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](mailto:fpcfinancial@gmail.com), and she'll make that happen for you!

**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](http://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 & family for the beautiful handcrafted church donation box for our Restoration Fund; located in the Zion sanctuary on Sunday Morning!

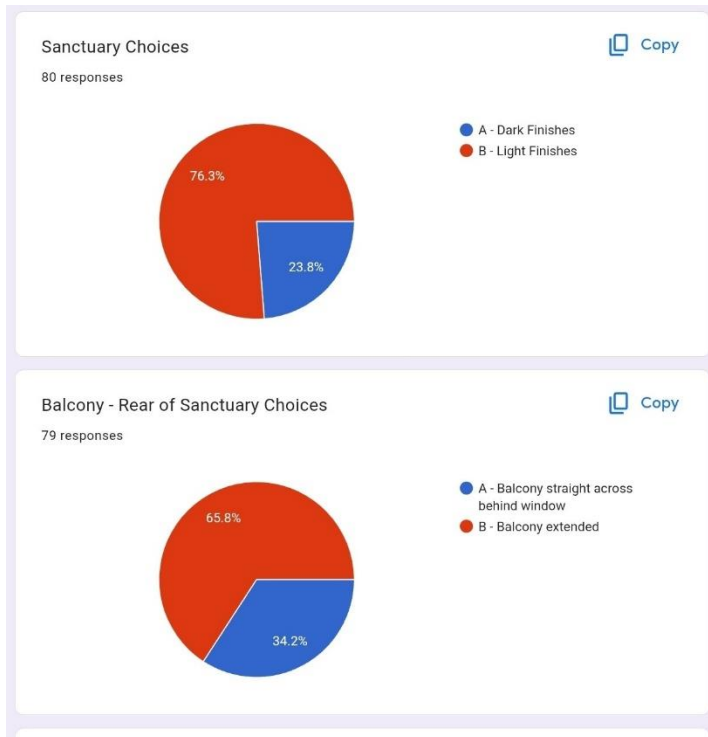
## FINANCIALS

### 2025 YEAR-TO-DATE

<u>OPERATING BUDGET</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>2025 BUDGET</u>
<u>Receipts</u>	<u>\$13,773.00</u>	<u>\$189,736.11</u>	<u>\$239,867.92</u>	<u>\$359,801.91</u>
<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>\$(16,706.07)</u>	<u>\$(185,106.33)</u>	<u>\$(232,700.52)</u>	<u>\$(359,801.91)</u>
<u>Change in Net Assets</u>	<u>\$(2,933.07)</u>	<u>\$4,629.78</u>	<u>\$7,167.40</u>	
<u>August Collections:</u>				
Capital Improvement	<u>\$50.00</u>			
Restoration Fund	<u>\$5,631.17</u>			
Pentecost	<u>\$178.08</u>			
OGHS	<u>\$25.00</u>			
Peace & Global	<u>\$25.00</u>			
<b>AUGUST FUND DISBURSEMENTS</b>				

## Re-Imagination Vote Results

Thank you to everyone who took the time to listen to the presentation and vote on choices for the new sanctuary. The overwhelming majority of people voted for options B in both categories. Please note that everyone's voice matters and for those who liked options A for darker wood, etc., we will be making the sanctuary warmer with colorful banners, lighting, and other additions. It will be wonderful when we are finally back in our building. We will keep you updated as more information becomes available.



## STEWARDSHIP NEWS

It's that time of year again....**Stewardship Time!** Now, before you start thinking, "here we go again asking for money!" Don't think about it as a chore you have to do, but rather an opportunity to invest in something bigger than yourself. That's why this year's stewardship theme is Re-Imagining Church. We've been talking a lot about re-imagining what our building will look like, but it's so much more than that. Let's re-imagine how we do mission, ministries, faith formation, activities, hospitality, and so much more. So, save the date for Sunday, Oct. 12<sup>th</sup> when our Stewardship Re-Imagining Drive will kick-off! Letters and some very different looking pledge cards will be arriving in the mail to you soon. On your mark, get set, re-imagine stewardship!

FPC Stewardship Committee

## FROM THE SESSION:

In our most recent Session Meeting we talked about how to get the congregation members more involved. One of the ways suggested is that often people don't have time to be on particular committees, or even if they do join a committee, they are overwhelmed with everything that needs to be done. We'd like to experiment with tasks. That approach has already worked in our redevelopment of the church building. Different people are taking on different tasks to make it easier. We'd like to suggest the same approach with many things in our congregation that need to be done. The Stewardship Committee will be coming up with a list of tasks as part of their campaign this year. Stay tuned for more to come.

### **STAY CONNECTED**

See the latest news and events.  
We are the Church together!

[Presbyteryofutica.org](https://Presbyteryofutica.org)  
[Synodne.org](https://Synodne.org)  
[Pcusa.org](https://Pcusa.org)



**First Presbyterian Church of Rome, NY**

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

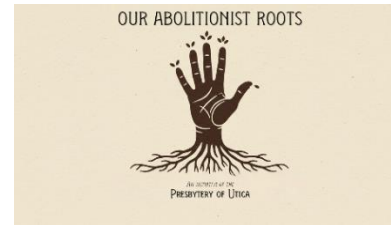
**FACEBOOK:** <https://www.facebook.com/RomeFirstPresbyterian>

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

**Email:** [firstpresrome@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresrome@gmail.com)

### **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](https://bit.ly/PECYANetwork). Then, tag a friend who's ready to take action and share this with your community.



### **Our Abolitionist Roots**

There were twenty Welsh churches in Oneida and Lewis Counties. Under the leadership of Rev. Robert Everett, the churches took an anti-slavery stance. Everett formed several anti-slavery societies among the Welsh community. He published a Welsh-language newspaper that had national and international circulation. Everett's home near Remsen was a stop on the Underground Railroad.

Southern Oneida County was particularly committed to anti-slavery. The Hanover Congregational Church strongly denounced slavery and urged banning slavery supporters from the pulpit and communion table. The Sauquoit Presbyterian Church hosted an anti-slavery society after the group had been refused use of the Methodist Church.

### **Transformational Trails**

Together, curiosity, compassion, and active listening form the foundation of trauma-informed care. Curiosity opens the door to understanding, compassion ensures that understanding is grounded in care rather than judgment, and active listening makes both possible in real time. Practiced together, they shift our way of engaging from simply knowing about trauma to truly embodying a way of being that honors dignity, fosters safety, and creates space for healing.



**You are personally invited to join the Transformational Trails community on ZOOM to learn more.**

Session Details:

What: Bi-Weekly ZOOM Learning Session (1 hour)

Focus: Making Curiosity, Compassion, and Active Listening real in practice.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 14 at 3:00 PM

Register: email [uticastatedclerk@gmail.com](mailto:uticastatedclerk@gmail.com) for the ZOOM link to join the sessions

## Reducing/Eliminating Fossil Fuels

The Presbytery of Utica is partnering with **ReWire Energy** in Saratoga Springs (<https://rewireenergy.com/>) to reduce or eliminate our dependency on fossil fuels. The first two parts of the project:

**NYSERDA Energy Audits.** ReWire will coordinate level one energy audits with an NYSERDA certified auditor at no cost to congregations of the Presbytery of Utica. The audit report will help congregations determine recommended energy improvements make the most sense for the congregation.

**Community Solar Program.** ReWire has organized a program whereby congregations can purchase their electricity from a local solar farm. There is no cost to join the program, and no additional equipment needed. First Presbyterian Church of Holland Patent is the first congregation to commit to participating in the community solar program; while there will be incremental dollar savings over the course of the year, the church will reduce its carbon footprint by approximately 6.6 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> annually.

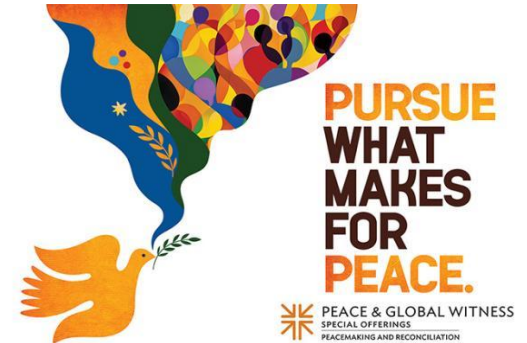
As more congregations join the program, the churches of the Presbytery of Utica can have a tremendous impact on reducing the amount of carbon dioxide we introduce into the atmosphere—and increase shalom for ourselves and for the land.

For more information or to schedule an energy audit, contact Larry Beasley at [uticastatedclerk@gmail.com](mailto:uticastatedclerk@gmail.com) or 315-794-9124. Our Abolitionist Roots

## PCUSA CURRENT SPECIAL OFFERING PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS

This Special Offering began September 7th and continues through October 5<sup>th</sup>. This offering enables the Church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. Through the Peace & Global Witness Offering, congregations are encouraged and equipped to find and address the anxiety and discord that is prevalent throughout this broken and sinful world.

25% of the money raised stays to help those locally in our community. This year the 25% will be used for the Mary Mowry Scholarships to help those in financial need for the nursery school program. The scholarship is currently depleted. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



## October 2025-FPC

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> 6:15 pm Chimes Rehearsal @ Zion 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal @ Zion	<b>2</b> 7:00 pm Worship & Music Meeting	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <b>3 PM Blessing of the            Animals in Zion's            churchyard</b>
<b>5</b> 9:45 am-Children/ Youth Faith Formation 10 am- Coffee/Fellowship <b>10:30am-Worship            Service/Communion</b> <b>11:30 Adult Faith Formation</b> <b>11:45 Confirmation starts</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 10:00 am Crafty Ladies at Eunice's House	<b>8</b> 6:15 PM Chimes Rehearsal @ Zion 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal @ Zion	<b>9</b> 7:00 pm-Deacons Meeting	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 9:45 am-Children/ Youth Faith Formation 10 am- Coffee/Fellowship <b>10:30am-Worship            Service/Communion</b> <b>11:30 Adult Faith Formation</b>	<b>13</b> Indigenous Peoples Day	<b>14</b> 10:00 am Crafty Ladies at Eunice's House	<b>15</b> 6:15 pm Chimes Rehearsal @ Zion 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal @ Zion	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 9:45 am-Children/ Youth Faith Formation 10 am- Coffee/Fellowship <b>10:30am-Worship            Service/Communion</b> <b>11:20 am Youth Choir</b> <b>11:30 Adult Faith Formation</b> <b>11:45 Confirmation</b>	<b>20</b> <b>6:00 pm Faith            Formation            Committee            Meeting on Zoom</b>	<b>21</b> 10:00 am Crafty Ladies at Eunice's House 12:00 Mission Committee Meeting-Spressos	<b>22</b> 10:00 am-Rescue Mission Cooking – Amy 6:15 pm Chimes Rehearsal @ Zion 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal @ Zion	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 9:45 am-Children/ Youth Faith Formation 10 am- Coffee/Fellowship <b>10:30am-Worship            Service/Communion</b> <b>Youth Choir-11:20 am</b> <b>11:30 Adult Faith Formation</b>	<b>27</b> <b>6:30 pm – Session            Meeting at Zion.</b>	<b>28</b> 10:00 am Crafty Ladies at Eunice's House	<b>29</b> 10:00 am-Rescue Mission Cooking – Bruce 6:15 pm Chimes Rehearsal @ Zion 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal @ Zion	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	