



PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

"But I trust in you, O Lord; I say, 'You are my God.' My times are in your hand..."(Psalm 15:14-15a)

In less than a week we will once again adjust the time on our clocks. On March 8th we begin daylight savings time and our clocks leap forward by one hour. It makes me think of the 1976 hit by the Steve Miller Band, "Fly Like an Eagle." The lyrics repeat, *"Time keeps on slippin', slippin', slippin' into the future."* It describes the relentless, fleeting nature of time, urging listeners to make a difference while they can. People used to tell me that time would move faster as I got older; they were right. It really does feel like *"time keeps on slippin', slippin', slippin', into the future."* No sooner did February arrive and we began the season of Lent, and now we are into March. Lent is well underway and each week during worship we are drawn further and further into the Passion Story of Jesus.

Jesus certainly understood the fleeting nature of time and the importance of making each moment count. He lived with purpose and a single-minded focus on fulfilling God's mission to save the world. He wasted no time in proclaiming that the kingdom of God had come near through teaching, preaching, healing, and everyday acts of love and compassion. Even when he was busy, he made the time for those who were in need. At the same time, he also made time for rest in order to accomplish everything he had to do. His public ministry was only a little more than three years and so he had to make every moment count because he knew that *"time keeps on slippin', slippin', slippin' into the future."*

Taking time each week to intentionally focus on a different part of the Passion Story of Jesus is the best way to spend our time this Lenten season. It's so tempting to turn away from the suffering Jesus and focus only on the empty cross of the resurrection. We don't want to enter into the pain and suffering of Jesus; it's dark and uncomfortable. Yet, when we do that, we have a deeper understanding of what He went through for each one of us. He intentionally entered into our pain and suffering in order to truly understand us and to save us.

Throughout the centuries the Church has taught atonement theories that state it was God who sent Jesus to die, but those old theories are flawed and don't portray the loving heart of God who would never intentionally kill anyone, least of all God's Son. The truth is that God did not send Jesus to die; God sent Jesus to save the world. It was humans who killed Jesus. Our sinful nature, our greed, our thirst for power and control, all the evil that was taken out on Jesus, was humanity's evil. Jesus' mission could have had a different outcome, but human sinfulness wouldn't let that happen. That's the reality we face and realize when we enter into the Passion Story.

Hope however, is not lost. God took the thirst for violence and blaming taken on by Jesus, and turned it around. Evil thought it had won; Jesus knew better. God did not abandon Jesus; God was with Him and in Him through it all and what was meant to destroy was turned into resurrection. We can't experience the joy of Easter without first going through the darkness of Lent. We do so however, knowing how the story ends. Time may keep *"slippin', slippin', slippin' into the future"* but God is the one who controls all time – past, present, and future. The difficult times, the struggles, the pain we endure at times is not outside of the embrace of God who is with us at all times. We like the Psalmist can say through faith, *"But I trust in you, O Lord; I say, 'You are my God.' My times are in your hand."* God's trustworthiness has been proven. God has saved in the past, has saved through Christ, and will continue to save. Jesus said, *"I am with you always, even to the end of the age (time)."* With this in mind, we can make every moment in time count.

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Edwina



FPC Vision Statement

The First Presbyterian Church exists to shine God's light in the world.

FPC Mission Statement

We gather as God's people to deepen our relationship with Christ, to spread His word and teachings, and to reach out to our church family, our community, and the world through acts of compassion, kindness, and love.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- Muffy Engelbert.....03/01
- Gavin Dunadee.....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
- Ryan Fish.....03/15
- Clay Mowry.....03/18
- Alex Yates.....03/18

MARCH BIRTHDAYS CONTINUED

- Cara Yates.....03/18
- Ellen Kennedy.....03/18
- Sarah Briggs.....03/19
- Julie Denton.....03/19
- Steve Townsend.....03/19
- Ray Tucker.....03/26
- Amelia Sreca.....03/31
- Bethany Bak.....03/31

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- Derrick & Susan O'Meara.....03/13

LAY READERS FOR MARCH

<u>03/01</u>	<u>Mellony Spinelli</u>	<u>Communion</u>
<u>03/08</u>	<u>Gail Tucker</u>	
<u>03/15</u>	<u>Cailyn Armstrong</u>	
<u>03/22</u>	<u>Raymond Tucker</u>	
<u>03/29</u>	<u>Sue Hanson</u>	<u>Palm Sunday</u>



Winter Weather Cancellation-In the event of an extreme weather event causing us to cancel service, we will send out an e-mail announcement. It will be listed on the WKTV-2 news announcements.

*PLEASE NOTE: this announcement may go out from the pastor's mail, so also check your spam folder.

WORSHIP & MUSIC NEWS



Music News: We will welcome Andrea Falvo back to sing for our March 1st worship service. Thank you, Andrea!

Senior Choir is preparing music from "**Whispers of the Passion**" by Joseph Martin for our Sundays during Lent. Each week we will focus on a different symbol of Lent, through readings and song.

Our Adult Chime Choir is excited to be preparing Easter music to be played on...wait for it...handbells! We were able to retrieve a few of our bells and are anxious to ring joyously on Resurrection Sunday!

If you or anyone you know would like to join our choir family, please get in touch with Kim Nethaway (knethaway@twcnny.rr.com). Help us make a joyful noise as we head into spring!



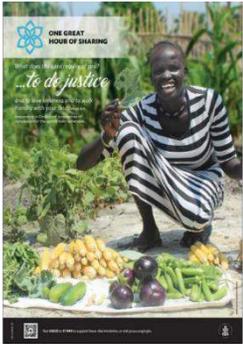
As our building restoration continues, part of that process is cleaning out rooms for repair. This beautiful piano is no longer being used and is in need of a good home. If you, or someone you know, would like this piano, you may have it at no cost. You would need to make arrangements to have it moved. The person who tunes our pianos would be able to do this for free. Please get in touch with the office if you are interested.

MISSION NEWS

Building on the success of the Souper Bowl Challenge, the Mission Committee decided to continue the challenge through Lent. Our goal is to continue to help students at Gansevoort School get bags of nutritious food each Friday despite rising grocery prices..

We're asking everyone to continue to bring these items for our Backpack program on each of the 5 Sundays of Lent for a **Lenten Challenge**

- February 22 – Individual fruit or applesauce cups (120 were donated!!)
- March 1 – box of Macaroni and cheese
- March 8 – Spaghetti O's or any canned pasta meal
- March 15 – individual packets of oatmeal
- March 23 – canned vegetables or beans
- March 29 – canned soup or ramen soup



PCUSA has revised and updated its annual churchwide offerings and reduced the number from four to three. The first is **One Great Hour of Sharing**, which is received during the season of Lent (February 18 – April 5). The offering supports three programs (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self Development of People), which are organized to help individuals and communities in need here in the US and around the world.

Our church received \$5000 in Disaster relief funds following the 2024 tornado. More information is posted on the bulletin board or you can visit pcusa.org/oghs We will be accepting donations until Easter Sunday, You will find envelopes on the table in the dining room or you can mail a check directly to the church.

Rescue Mission Cooking –We continue to cook 2 hot meals for 50 -60 each month for the Rescue Mission. We always welcome more volunteers – no cooking skills are required! In March, we are cooking in the kitchen at Zion at 10 AM on both March 18th and the 25th. Call Liz Clough (315-335-0976) if you have any questions.

In March the Mission Committee will start assembling **Hygiene Kits for Church World Service**. They must be ready for shipping by the last week of April. Contact Sarah Briggs if you would like to make a donation or help in any way.

RELAY FOR LIFE PALM SUNDAY BUY A PIE SALE
 Clark Hall After Worship – Buy, Donate or Both
 Proceeds to our Relay for Life Teams

Once again, **buy-a-pie** will take place on **Sunday March 29th starting at 10:00 AM**. If you are able to make a pie, please bring it in the morning of the sale. I would also be happy to pick up any pie that you make. If you have a special baked good that you would rather make, please feel free to also bring it in. Thank you to all the wonderful bakers and also thank you to all the hungry parishioners. All proceeds go to the American Cancer Society. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me.



On **Tuesday, April 7th**, the team of Rainbows or Faith and Hope will host **Songbyrd Street Studio for an evening of fused glass**, light refreshments, and fun. The admission fee is \$10.00 which will be donated to the American Cancer Society. The Songbyrd Street Studio will have many items that you can make for around \$25.00. They will collect the money for the fused glass item or items that you make. Many of you have made some very lovely crafts. Your talents are amazing!!!



FAITH FORMATION

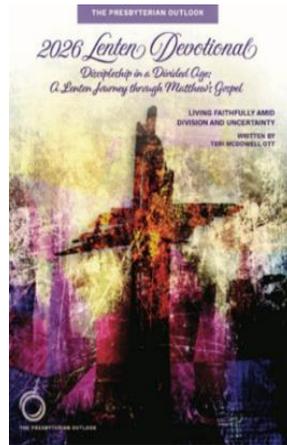
(Formerly known as Sunday School; because it's not just for Sundays!)



Carrie Scaccia continues Youth Christian Education before service each Sunday. Please make sure they are here by 9:45 am so that they can learn and grow in faith.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION – After Worship each Sunday in the parlor.

Discussion of the new PCUSA Lenten Devotional – Discipleship in a Divided Age: A Lenten Journey through Matthew's Gospel by Rev. Teri McDowell Ott continues each week. In this devotional she explores how we can live faithfully amid the division and uncertainty of our time. Through reflections, prayer, and visio divina “divine seeing” through artwork, Rev. Ott leads us in a meaningful Lenten practice. Come and see Christ in this Lenten Devotional discussion.



SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS 2026

Scholarships are available for members of First Pres Church who desire further education in graduate school, college, junior college, trade school, or technical training. The amount of each scholarship is \$2000. Applications may be picked up at the Secretary's office after May 1st. The scholarship will be awarded in June.

Youth Group News

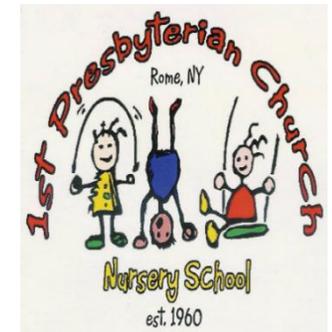


Several youth met on Sunday, Feb. 15th for food, fun, and faith. We had an Olympic themed night with some fun games that included Matchbox Nose Race, Aardvark Race, and Mini Golf. They are all champions!

The **next youth group** will be on **Sunday, March 22nd** from 5:00 pm-7:30 pm at Zion. We will begin with a meal that we provide followed by a devotion, crafts, and games. If you are able to help with providing a meal, or helping with games or crafts please let Pastor Edwina know. We want this to be a dynamic and fun time for the youth in our congregation and community. Please invite any youth you know.

NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

March 2 –6 Rhyme Time Week
 March 2 & 3 School pictures by Maria (former owner of the Photo Shoppe)
 March 8 – 13 Our 5 Senses Week
 March 16-20 Colors of the Rainbow Week
 No School March 20 -Superintendents Conference Day
 March 23 -27 Spring and Planting Week
 March 29- Apl 2 Easter Week
 No School April 3 – Good Friday



MONTHLY FINANCIALS

OFFERINGS/PLEDGES

Please prayerfully consider increasing your pledge this year as we have more expenses than usual due to rising costs and the restoration of the church building. Remember, your financial support can also be paid via Venmo.



ENVELOPES



Plain envelopes, stamped with our address, are available for your offering. A box is on the table in Clark Hall 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 Offering Opportunities:

- **Holidays** – Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve/Christmas, World Communion Offering.
- **PCUSA Specific Offerings** – One Great Hour of Sharing, World Communion Offering, Christmas Joy Offering (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 2026 is \$46 per member. It has not increased.
- **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!

FINANCIALS

2025 YEAR-TO-DATE

OPERATING BUDGET	January	Actual	Budget	2025 BUDGET
Receipts	\$82,536.05	\$82,536.05	\$31,390.71	\$292,152.43
Expenditures	\$(23,371.29)	\$(23,371.29)	\$(28,405.80)	\$(359,801.91)
Change in Net Assets	\$59,164.76	\$59,164.76	\$2,984.91	\$(67,649.48)
January Collections:				
Capital Improvement	\$50.00			
Restoration Fund	\$100,615.00			
JANUARY FUND DISBURSEMENTS				

RESTORATION FUND NEWS...Thanks to some generous contributions from people locally and across the country, we have received over \$370,00 toward our restoration goal of at least \$1,000,000.

WHAT IS THE PER CAPITA?

The per capita expense is not what it costs to be a member of FPC! You do not have to pay to be a member! Per capita is money that each member contributes to support the wider mission of the Presbytery, Synod, and PCUSA. Work like grant funding, and guidance for leaders and congregations are all supported from the per capita giving. It is about joining together as a community and being one body, the body that is Christ's church in the world. If every member pays this fee it would save FPC almost \$7000.00 per year. This per capita really helps everyone!

CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE UPDATES

Pastor Edwina has been working closely with our webhost to make new updates to our FPC website and has learned how to make web changes. She will be keeping this more up to date to keep you and our community informed on what is happening in our church.

New menu tabs have been added to make navigation easier and that highlight our various ministries. A separate Nursery School menu tab has also been added. New information is being added weekly.

One of the biggest accomplishments is the addition of a new Restoration Page on our website. This will include updates on the progress with pictures. Check our website at firspresrome.com

**ESTATE SALE March 14th – 9 – 2pm
Trinity Church
215 W. Court St. Rome, NY**

Crafting Materials:

- • Yards and yards of quilting material and binding, thread
- • Knitting supplies: yarn, needles, etc.
- • Crafting supplies
- • Crafting books and magazines
- • Reverse painting on glass kit



Antiques & Furniture:

- • Antique Armoire
- • Antique sewing machine
- • Pictures
- • Collectibles



Books

Bake Sale

- Homemade goodies

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

Stewardship is caretaking. It is giving of our financial gifts, our time and our talents. We are restoring our church building so that we will have a place – a mission station – in which to continue to carry out the work Christ has given us to do.

Financial - The cost of this restoration is a lot and we need everyone’s help. If you have pledged already – thank you so much. If you have not pledged or would like to increase the amount you’ve pledged it would be greatly appreciated.

Time and Talents – Even now, as we are worshipping in Zion’s building thanks to their continued hospitality – there are many tasks we need help with to do the work we are called to do. If everyone does a little, then a few don’t have to do it all. “Many hands make light work.”

Please think about the things you love to do, what you are good at, and how you can use your God-given gifts to help the church. Below are some areas we really need help with:

- Rescue mission cooking/ another coordinator
- A new coordinator/chair for the Fellowship Committee – This person would help organize our other volunteers when we have potlucks, picnics, or other creative fellowship activities. Bruce was doing this and can’t be the coordinator any more.
- Another person or two to help with fun activities/games with our Youth Group once a month as well as helping with food.
- At least one or two people to help learn how to run the live-stream on Sunday.

Please prayerfully consider sharing whatever gifts you have to help rebuild our church by shining your light!



EASTER FLOWERS MEMORIALS 2026 ORDER FORM

Please return this form to the church office no later than **Friday, March 19th**. Bring your arrangements to Zion by **Friday, April 3rd, by Noon**. We will be decorating the sanctuary with Easter flowers on Saturday, April 4th, at 9 AM.

***Please make sure you put your name on your flowers somewhere so that you can take them home afterwards.** Remember, Pastor Edwina is allergic to lilies, so please select another variety. Thank you.

In Loving Memory of / Honor of.....(specify which one)

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

**LENTEN LUNCHEON SERIES
12 - 1 pm · Every Thursday in Lent**

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

March 05.....St. Peter’s Church
200 N. James St., Rome, NY-
Fr. Sean O’Brien & Fr. Immanuel Agbulu

March 12Zion Episcopal Church
140 W. Liberty St., Rome, NY
Rev. Emily Hyberg & Rev. Edwina Landry

March 19.....First Baptist Church
301 W. Embargo St., Rome, NY
Rev. Letta Palmer

March 26 Mt Calvary Baptist Church
203 Erie Blvd. E-Rome, NY
Pastor Tommy Jackson



Holy Week

MARCH 29-PALM/PASSION SUNDAY—HOLY EUCHARIST AT 10:30 AM

April 2-Maundy Thursday-7 PM

April 3 GOOD FRIDAY- **2 JOINT SERVICES WITH ZION**

Noon Stations of the Cross

5 PM-Good Friday Service

April 4-CNY Diocesan Wide Ecumenical Easter Vigil Service 7 PM

April 5-Easter Sunday-10:45 AM Holy Eucharist

Come and join us for worship at the church!!!

FPC-March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:45 am-Children/ Youth Faith Formation 10 am Coffee/Fellowship Servic 11:30 Adult Faith Formation	2	3 10:00 am Crafty Ladies at Eunice's House	4 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal @ Zion	5 Lenten Luncheon-St. Peter's Church Noon-1PM	6	7
8 9:45 am-Children/ Youth Faith Formation 10 am Coffee/Fellowship Servic 11:30 Adult Faith Formation 11:45 AM Confirmation class	9 4:00 pm Serenity Circle on Zoom	10 10:00 am Crafty Ladies at Eunice's House	11 6:15 pm Adult Bell Choir Rehearsal @ Zion 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal @ Zion	12 Lenten Luncheon-Zion Episcopal Church Noon-1PM 6:30 pm W&M Meeting on Zoom	13	14 Friends of Kari Gathering 12-3 PM @ Zion
15 9:45 am-Children/ Youth Faith Formation 10 am Coffee/Fellowship Servic 11:30 Adult Faith Formation	16 6:00 pm Faith Formation Committee Meeting on Zoom	17 10:00 am Crafty Ladies at Eunice's House HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY 	18 10:00 am-Rescue Mission Cooking 6:15 pm Adult Bell Choir Rehearsal & 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal @ Zion	19 Lenten Luncheon-First Baptist Church Noon-1PM	20 COPPERSPIRE DEADLINE	21
22 9:45 am-Children/ Youth Faith Formation 10 am Coffee/Fellowship Servic 11:30 Adult Faith Formation 11:45 AM Confirmation class 5:00 pm Youth Group	23 4:00 pm Serenity Circle on Zoom	24 10:00 am Crafty Ladies at Eunice's House 4:00 pm Presby. Stated Mtg. in Lowville.	25 10:00 am-Rescue Mission Cooking 6:15 pm Adult Bell Choir Rehearsal @ Zion 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal @ Zion	26 Lenten Luncheon-Mount Calvary Baptist Church Noon-1PM	27	28
29 PALM SUNDAY 9:45 am- Youth Faith Formation 10 am- Coffee/Fellowship 10:30 am-Worship Service 11:30 Adult Faith Formation	30	31	 			