

## Pastor's Ponderings



*“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control....If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, competing against one another, envying one another.” (Gal. 5:23a;25-26)*

One of the things I love most about summer is gardening. Whether it's flowers or vegetables, I love the process of growing them both. And it's quite a process. While I find gardening very relaxing, it's not easy. A lot of hard work goes into it long before the first seed is planted and well afterward. The soil has to be tended and nurtured, preparing the way for optimal growth. Even after planting, the pH is often tested, and nutrients are added as needed, not to mention regular watering. If you wait until a plant is totally dried out, it's usually too late to save it.



The same is true for us spiritually. If we wait until we are spiritually dry, it's very difficult to come alive again. But it's not impossible! Remember, Jesus said, “With God all things are possible.” (Matt. 19:26) In order for this to happen, however, we have to let the Master Gardener take over cultivating our souls.

Pruning is my least favorite part of gardening, but it's a necessary one. The same is true for our spiritual souls. We must be willing to be pruned in order to grow into our best selves. As an example, my first attempt at growing lavender seemed so easy. It flourished and produced abundantly. Several years later, however, I noticed that in its overgrown state, it had become large and woody. It produced far less lavender, and the next spring, there were no signs of green growth at all. I had neglected the important process of pruning, and the effects were fatal. We can't allow unhealthy thoughts and actions to take hold, or the effects for us individually and as a congregation will be fatal as well.

In order to produce healthy fruit as Christians, we need to allow the Holy Spirit to prune us. Selfish desires, apathy, speaking before thinking, unkindness, competing against one another....these are only some of the things that may need pruning.

We need the Spirit's wisdom if we are to produce the healthy fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. We need to allow the Holy Spirit to help us to let go of those things that get in the way of us producing good fruit. It may not feel good at the time, but in the long run, the fruit of the Spirit will overflow in abundance. Summer is the perfect time to let the Master Gardener do some amazing work in us. What a healthy harvest awaits the Church if we do!

Blessings and Peace,  
Pastor Edwina



**church  
PICNIC**

**First Presbyterian Church**  
**Outdoor Worship Service and Picnic**  
**At Lee Town Park**  
**Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am**

**RAIN OR SHINE**

Bring a favorite side dish to share, a drink or two, and a lawn chair if you'd like, there will be pavilions and benches.

We will provide the burgers, hot dogs, rolls and condiments.

Kevin Bailey is returning to lead us with some warmer music.





**THANK YOU to Stewarts Shops for their generous picnic donations!**



**BIRTHDAYS**

Bruce Engelbert	6/2	Thavy Keoviengsamay	6/16
James Griffith	6/2	Sheila Truesdail	6/19
Andrea Radesi	6/2	Keith Butters	6/20
June Sperlik	6/3	Avery Eaton	6/21
Jackie Nee	6/3	Josh Olney	6/23
Jillian Olney	6/4	Mary Lou Alguire	6/23
Rob Tracy	6/7	Phetsamone Keoviengsamay	6/24
Ronald Townsend	6/8	Helen Tracy	6/25
Jason Eaton	6/8	Paul Wrege	6/26
Steven Flanders	6/10	Liz Clough	6/27
Doug Yates	6/11	Michelle Dolan	6/28
Katrina Kolb-Schell	6/12	Donald Jones	6/29

**ANNIVERSARIES**

Armen & Cindy Roubian	6/1	Kiki & Mark Hinman	6/21
Mary & Ron Townsend	6/7	Carol & Paul Berger	6/22
Brittney & Matt Cataldo	6/16	Linnea & Rich Linderman	6/25
Heather & Ray Tucker	6/18	Nancy & Ward Beeman	6/27
Donald & Barb Davidson	6/20	David & Lisa Dombrowski	6/28
Donald & Sheila Jones	6/21		



**WORSHIP & MUSIC NEWS**

Our Senior Choir will sing in worship on June 14 and June 21 before taking a break until fall. **(No Wednesday rehearsals until September)** Starting June 28th, special music will be provided by various vocalists and instrumentalists, some from our choir and several guests. There will be a great variety of music, so please come to worship and enjoy!

We thank all the members of our Senior Choir, Joyful Ringers, and Youth Choir for their many contributions to our worship services over the last ten months. We are so fortunate at First Presbyterian to have such dedicated choir members and a wonderful keyboardist (Tina!) to enrich our worship time together.

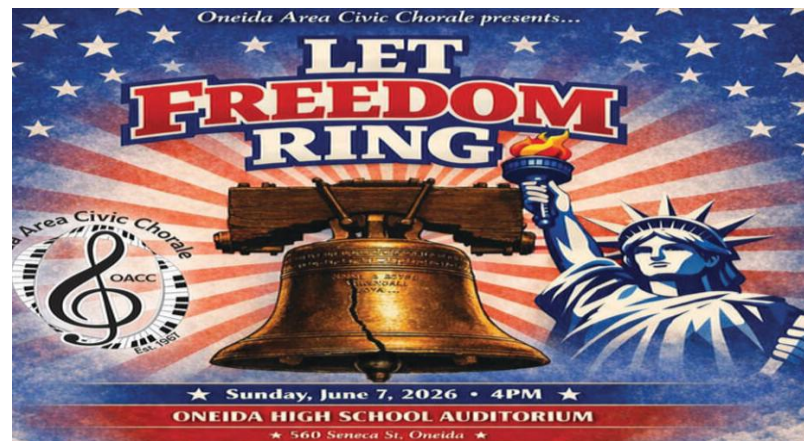
Kim Nethaway,  
Music Director

**ONEIDA AREA CIVIC CHORALE – Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup> – 4:00 pm at Oneida High School**

Come and hear the Oneida Chorale perform "Let Freedom Ring", celebrating the 250th anniversary of our country.



6/7	Helen Adsit	
6/14	Keith Butters	Communion
6/21	Gail Tucker	
6/28	Mark Hinman	





**WEEKEND BLESSINGS**-June 17<sup>th</sup> is the last packing until the fall. Weekend Blessings meet at 10:30 at Trinity Church every Thursday when school is in session. The only exception would be when students have Friday off (then we pack on Wednesday). We send bags home each week until the close of school. We will continue to accept donations of food items. We are also looking for new or “gently used: books suitable for grades K – 6. We send a book home with each child in the last bag of the school year.

**RESCUE MISSION COOKING** in June is scheduled for June 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. We do the cooking on Wednesday mornings at 10 in the kitchen at Zion. Call Liz Clough if you have questions or would like to help in any way.

**THE RESCUE MISSION IS LOOKING FOR A COOKING CAPTAIN**-Plan the menu, shop for groceries (you will be reimbursed or use the church credit card) recruit workers for Wednesday morning to help, and make sure food is delivered to the Rescue Mission. Contact Liz if interested at 315-335-0976

**KIT SUCCESS** A total of 170 kits were mailed in May. 100 Kid Kits (formerly called School Kits) and 70 Hygiene Kits. The total cost for shipping was \$340, all of which was donated by congregation members. Thank you for your generosity as we help people locally and around the globe

**SERVING CHRIST IN THE COMMUNITY**

#### RELAY FOR LIFE NEWS-FROM OUR TEAM, RAINBOWS OF FAITH & HOPE

**RELAY FOR LIFE - at Delta Lake State Park-Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup> Noon -10 pm**  
It's almost here! This year's theme is Decades of Hope, and we are going to have a lot of fun with that! Our team is working on creatively decorating our site. Maybe we'll win first prize this year? Time will tell.

In the meantime....There is 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 hopefully be located in the same area as last year, in campsite #39. Please bring a chair with you. Food trucks will be available on site all day.

**We will need help around 3:00 PM to put sand and candles in the luminary bags.** These are placed on the track and then lit around 8 pm. There will be a sign-up sheet for walkers. Each team needs to have a person on the track during the event.

We've been working diligently to raise money for Relay for Life to find a cure for cancer through research and development. And the American Cancer Society also provides so much more – rides to appointments, housing at no cost at Hope Lodge in Rochester, and other much-needed resources. Thank you for your generosity in sponsoring our walkers and for participating in our fundraisers. We'd love to have more walkers this year, so come out and join us even for a little while.

#### LUMINARIES

Sue Hanson will be selling luminaries during coffee hour and after church during the month of May. Luminaries in honor of or in memory of can be purchased for \$5.00. Special purple luminaries can be purchased for \$25.00. Names are written on the bags by hand, so please purchase them ahead of time so we don't have to do them all at once.



**Formerly known as Sunday School,  
because it's not just for Sundays!**

### CHILDREN/YOUTH FAITH FORMATION

Classes have now ended for the summer, but that doesn't mean that Carrie Scaccia is not thinking of creative and fun ways to help our children grow in faith. If you have any ideas or would like to join the faith formation committee, please see Carrie or Pastor Edwina.

**ADULT FORMATION** has ended for the summer session. We will meet again in the fall. If you have any topics you would like to discuss, please contact Helen Adsit and share your thoughts.

### CONFIRMATION NEWS

Confirmation Classes finished until September, with the last class held on Sunday, May 31st. Students have almost completed the entire workbook on Presbyterian History and Doctrine. A lot of creative and interesting theological discussions have taken place. **Even though classes have ended for the summer, meeting with mentors has not.** Students will continue to meet with mentors for an hour each month over the summer and will discuss various theological questions and work together on chapters in their Old and New Testament Workbooks. They will also be thinking about their favorite Bible verse as they plan for their confirmation in October.

### INTERGENERATIONAL SUMMER FAITH FORMATION ACTIVITY

Even though there are no formal faith formation classes for children, youth, and adults for the summer, it's important to keep cultivating our faith. The Faith Formation Team has come up with **an exciting, fun summer faith activity for everyone. It's called Flat Disciples.** Stay tuned for more info in the upcoming weeks on how you can participate in this exciting, fun summer activity!

### YOUTH GROUP

The last Youth Group until September ended with a fun outdoor event at Carrie Scaccia's house.

Youth had a great meal prepared by Carrie, enjoyed outdoor games, and learned more about God through gardening and caring for creation.



### MATTHEW 25 PILL BOTTLE DONATION PROGRAM

This new program, led by the Confirmation students, is off to a great start! Thanks to your generosity, almost 200 pill bottles have been collected, washed, and are being prepared to ship. This will keep these bottles out of the trash and recycling and help those in need of medical care.



When first aid workers go to places that need medical care, the medicine they have is stored in large bags or containers. When they prescribe medicine for individuals, the clean pill bottles we ship to them are then used to hand out to individuals with their needed medication and dosage. This is such a blessing to these individuals.

This collection will be ongoing, and the donation bin is on the table in Clark Hall. **Please be sure all the label residue is off the bottles before donating.**

### NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

Classes end June 11th and 12th

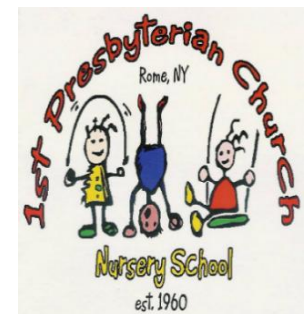
June 11<sup>th</sup> 3-year-old program ends

June 12<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am 4-year-old Pre-K Graduation

Start date for September 2026

3-year-olds September 10, 2026

4-year-olds September 11, 2026



There are limited spots available in our 4-year-old Pre-K program for the 2026-2027 school year. Please call 315-339-7529 for more information.

# 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 Clarke 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](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 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](mailto:fpcfinancial@gmail.com), and she'll make that happen for you!

## WHAT IS THE PER CAPITA?

The per capita expense is not what it costs to be a member of First Presbyterian Church! 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 by 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 paid this fee, it would save First Presbyterian Church almost \$7000.00 per year. This per capita really helps everyone!

## FINANCIALS 2025 YEAR-TO-DATE

Operating Budget:	April	Actual	Budget	2026 Budget
Receipts	\$12,307.00	\$129,024.05	\$125,562.84	\$376,688.48
Expenditures	\$(30,157.3)	\$(113,012.15)	\$(120,195.39)	\$(376,688.48)
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$17,850.34</b>	<b>\$16,011.90</b>	<b>\$5,367.45</b>	-
<b>April Collections:</b>				
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$298.66			
<b>April Fund Disbursements</b>				
Restoration Fund- Wilson Roofing	\$107,875.00			

**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.

### STEWARDSHIP NEWS

#### WORKER BEES NEEDED!

We need your financial gifts and the gifts of your talents. **There are several tasks that we really need help with.** If you can help with something, please let Pastor Edwina know and/or call the office.



**A FELLOWSHIP COORDINATOR & FELLOWSHIP HELPERS** – Someone to coordinate the various fellowship events we have, such as Sunday morning coffee/fellowship time and other meals and events. Bruce Warcup was doing this and couldn't do it any longer. This person would make phone calls and see who can bring food, set up, clean up, etc. This person doesn't need to do all the work; you just need to coordinate the worker bees.

**FAITH FORMATION COMMITTEE** Growing in faith is important in being a Christian. Do you have ideas on how we can make our adult and youth faith formation classes better? If this excites you, we need your gifts on this team!

**RESCUE MISSION COOKING CAPTAIN**-Plan the menu, shop for groceries (you will be reimbursed or use the church credit card), recruit workers for Wednesday morning to help, and make sure food is delivered to the Rescue Mission. Contact Liz if interested at 315-335-0976

**STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**-Do you like to talk about money and the ways we can use it to do God's work? We need people to help build a dynamic stewardship program.

**STREAMING/AUDIO & VISUAL HELPERS** – Brenden needs help! Currently, he is the only person who is live streaming our services and really needs help and a break from doing it every single week. Once we are back in our own building, we will also need other helpers for sound, cameras, and lights. We know there are techy people out there. Let your talent shine and give us a hand!



### CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE UPDATES

Do you want to keep up with the latest news on restoration and other events? Check out our website at **firstpresrome.com**

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

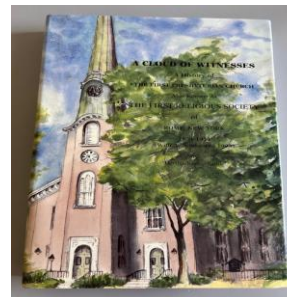
We now have an **Instagram** site, follow us at **firstpresbyterianchurchromeny** Visit us on all our sites for Worship, present and past, restoration updates and daily news.

## *Presbytery News*

### PRESBYTERY NEWS

If you haven't checked it out already, the Utica Presbytery has a new website for one-stop shopping for all Presbyterian events, classifieds, and church information. It can be found at: [thepresbysaver.church](http://thepresbysaver.church)

### RESTORATION FUND RAISER



We are still selling **The History of First Presbyterian Church** hardcover books for \$20.00 per book before and after worship on Sundays. All proceeds to benefit the Restoration Fund.

Or call the office at 315-336-1380 to reserve a copy, and you may pick up the copy at your convenience.

Cailyn Armstrong invites everyone in the Congregation to attend her graduation party! Thank you, Lenora and Skip!



**SPECIAL COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE**

July 16 th marks the two-year anniversary of the Rome tornado. Despite the destruction of our city and our church building, we have so much to be grateful for, that no lives were lost.

**Come and celebrate on Sunday, July 19 th – 10:00 am, at a special time** for a special Combined Worship Service with Zion as we give thanks to God for protection, strength, perseverance, and the generosity and hospitality of so many people who are helping us to rebuild the church – both physically and spiritually. Come and worship together with Zion, who has extended such hospitality to us during these past two years. We are stronger together!

**HONOR AMERICA DAY PARADE**

Honor America Days is coming up on Saturday, July 25th. If anyone is interested in helping with a float for this year’s parade, please let Pastor Edwina know as soon as possible. The theme this year is Celebrating 250 Years of America.

**IT'S STRAWBERRY PICKING TIME!!!**



**ZION is in need of strawberry pickers! Please call your local Farm to make sure when the berries will be ready.**

**Candella’s Farm (Marcy) 315-736-8782**

**Hinman Farms (Verona) 315-829-2963**

**Swistak Farm (Verona) 315-336-1251**

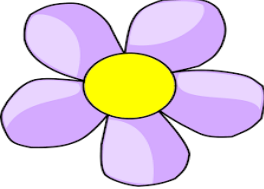




**Tasselberry Farm (Westmoreland) 315-982-7045**

**Strawberry season usually begins the second week of June and only lasts a couple of weeks.**

**They are looking to pick 125 quarts this year. There will be a sign-up sheet in Clarke Hall. Please write how many quarts you picked next to your name when the time comes.**

**Thank you!**

# June 2026 First Presbyterian Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 10:00 am Crafty Ladies at Eunice's House	3	4	5	6 Noon-10:00 pm Relay for Life Delta Lake State Park
7 10:30 am Outdoor Worship Service/Picnic Lee Town Park  4:00 pm Let Freedom Ring Oneida Chorale Oneida High School	8 4:00 pm Serenity Squares-Zoom	9 10:00 am Crafty Ladies at Eunice's House	10  Smile	11 3-year-old program ends  7:00 pm Deacons Meeting	12 4-year-old Pre-K Graduation 10:00 am  Blood Drive at Zion Church Clarke Hall 10:00 am-3:00 pm	13
14 <b>Flag Day</b> 10:00 am Coffee/ Fellowship  10:30 am Worship Service- Communion	15	16 10:00 am Crafty Ladies at Eunice's House	17 Weekend Blessings-Last Packing until fall  10:00 am Rescue Mission Cooking-Zion  6:00 pm Choir Picnic at Wendy Waters home	18	19 <b>Juneteenth</b> 🌐 Offices are Closed	20  Be Happy
21 <b>First Day of Summer</b> <b>Father's Day</b> 10:00 am Coffee/ Fellowship 10:30 am Worship Service	22 4:00 pm Serenity Squares-Zoom  6:30 pm Session Meeting at Zion	23 10:00 am Crafty Ladies at Eunice's House  Noon Mission Committee at Spressos	24 10:00 am Rescue Mission Cooking-Zion	25  Have fun	26 Blood Drive at Zion Church Clarke Hall 10:00 am-3:00 pm	27
28 10:00 am Coffee/ Fellowship 10:30 am Worship Service	29	30 10:00 am Crafty Ladies at Eunice's House				 Be Thankful