



Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit." (John 20:21-22)

"Peace be with you." We say these words each week during our worship service, and I wonder if we understand what we are actually saying and doing. In John's gospel, the Pentecost story is not the one we hear from the writer of the book of Acts that speaks about the loud sound of rushing wind, fire and dancing flames, and speaking in different languages. Instead, John says the Holy Spirit is given quietly after Jesus gives the disciples a blessing, "Peace be with you." He then breathes on them, or more accurately translated, breathes *into* them the Holy Spirit. John's understanding of what happened that day began with quiet blessing and warm breath. Yes, the Holy Spirit can make a grand entrance and really stir things up. It may be a physical experience that propels us into action, like St. Paul's conversion experience with lightning and hearing Christ's voice. And the Holy Spirit can also come quietly like a gentle breeze, a soft breath, a quiet whisper. We may experience this as a quiet nudging or gut feeling to something. No matter how we encounter the Holy Spirit, we are changed, and new life is breathed into us. The Holy Spirit blesses us and we, in turn, are sent to bless others.

This is exactly what we are doing when we pass the peace during our worship services. It's not a time to have lengthy conversations and catch up; that's the purpose of coffee/fellowship time. When we pass the peace, we are passing along this Pentecost blessing, "Peace be with you." With our warm breath, we – like Jesus – are inviting the Holy Spirit into that person. We are saying, "Don't be afraid. God is with you. Here, breathe in the peace of the Holy Spirit." Our passing of the peace each week is a *holy act* of blessing and being blessed. It is an invitation to the Holy Spirit to stir up within each person a confident peace and joy that comes from an experience with our Living God. Christ is risen, and the Holy Spirit breathes resurrection into us. What a gift the risen Christ has given us in the Holy Spirit!

Pentecost Sunday is on May 24th and the Pentecost season lasts for twenty-one weeks this year. This season in the Church is also known as Ordinary Time, but there is nothing ordinary about this time. It is a season of new growth, renewal, and resurrection infused and stirred-up within us by the power of the Holy Spirit. It is a season of breath and blessing. Remember this the next time you pass the peace – the passing of God's blessing of the Holy Spirit!.

Blessings and Peace,
Pastor Edwina



Sunday May 24th

Celebrate Pentecost during worship on Sunday, May 24th as we give thanks for the gift of the Holy Spirit. It is officially the birthday of the Church. On Pentecost the first disciples received the Holy Spirit and were united as one living body of Christ and sent out to spread the gospel.

Wear some red or orange or yellow – colors of the flames. Be prepared for the unexpected ways the Holy Spirit will show up!



MAY BIRTHDAYS

Mary Yates.....05/04
 Ryan Storms.....05/05
 Carl Longley.....05/07
 Gail Tucker.....05/09
 Paisley Mahosky.....05/09
 Donna Longley.....05/11
 Tina Toggia.....05/13
 Hayden McMonagle.....05/14
 Beverly Johnson.....05/17
 Valerie Cucura.....05/17
 Connor Griffiths.....05/21
 Amber Laremore.....05/22
 Dale Dombrowski.....05/22
 Hunter McMonagle.....05/23
 David Scaccia.....05/24

MAY BIRTHDAYS CONTINUED

Ed Pilok.....05/26
 Paul Adsit.....05/27
 James Henderson.....05/30
 Laura Dutton.....05/30
 Erin O'Meara.....05/31

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

Keith & Joyce Butters.....05/02
 Doug & Mary Yates.....05/26
 Eileen & Jim Kennedy.....05/28
 Arlene & Ronald Pfeuffer.....05/31

LAY READERS FOR MAY-Thank You!

05/03	Carrie Scaccia	Communion
05/10	Sue Hanson	Mothers Day
05/17	Raymond Tucker	New Members
05/24	Helen Tracy	Pentecost
05/31	Cailyn Armstrong	Choir/Graduate Recognition



WORSHIP & MUSIC NEWS

Our choirs are ushering in spring with several new worship anthems this month. We will present something very different on May 10th. You will have to come to worship to find out the surprise!

We are looking forward to **Choir Recognition Sunday on May 31st** as we celebrate the gift of music in our church family. Both Senior Choir and Joyful Ringers will participate in worship that day.

Looking into June, our outdoor worship service, followed by a picnic, will be held on June 7th at Lee Town Park. Kevin Bailey will return to lead us in song. Let's hope for a warmer day than last year!

As always, we hope you have found our music inspiring and moving. We musicians are lucky to be the "messengers" as we present each song. Thanks for your support!

Kim Nethaway

FREE - THIS GREAT PIANO IS STILL LOOKING FOR A HOME

This beautiful piano is no longer being used and we don't have space for it. 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 help. Please get in touch with the office if you are interested. 315-336-1380/315-570-1880.





The Mission Committee, together with our partners at Trinity Church, has decided to separate our “Blessings in a Backpack” program from the national organization and continue as a totally local effort. We are now operating with a new name: “Weekend Blessings.” We feel this will allow us to maximize the food items we can send home on weekends to the 100 students at Gansevoort School that we are assisting.

Thank you for your amazing response to our Lenten challenge for Weekend Blessings. More than one hundred food items were donated each week. Check the totals posted on the bulletin board in Clark Hall.

Weekend Blessings-Weekend Blessings meet at 10:30 at Trinity Church every Thursday 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 May is scheduled for May 20th and 27th. We do the cooking Wednesday mornings at 10 in the kitchen at Zion. Call Liz Clough if you have questions or would like to help in any way.

Hygiene Kits Sarah Briggs has been coordinating the assembly of Hygiene Kits for Church World Service. A big thank you to members of our Confirmation Class who helped put them together. They will be shipped during the last week of April. We pay \$2 per kit toward the shipping cost. If can make a donation to help with this expense, see or contact Sarah.



FRIENDS OF KARI

Saturday May 16, 2026 from Noon -3 pm

We are an organization created to continue the legacy of our dear friend Kari, who passed unexpectedly. Kari was a loving and caring person who gave tremendously to our community and was always deeply involved in helping others. We started this nonprofit in her honor, with the goal of carrying forward her spirit of service, compassion, and empowerment. Through this event, we aim to celebrate women, foster connection, and keep Kari’s light alive in our community.

Our Mission

To honor Kari’s legacy by creating a community of women who come together in friendship, share meaningful conversations, support one another, and inspire empowerment through connection and care.

Our Vision

To build a growing circle of women rooted in friendship and service, where each connection creates new opportunities for love, support, and empowerment—keeping Kari’s spirit alive in every gathering.





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

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.

HOPE ON THE MENU-Spessos is once again helping support our Relay for Life team by having a Hope on the Menu Event on Monday, May 18th. Come in any time from 6:00 am-2:30 pm and Spessos will donate 10% of their profits to Relay for Life. Enjoy a great meal and support our team!

RELAY FOR LIFE Deadline is May 10th to purchase your tickets
Donation is \$5.00 for 1 ticket OR \$10.00 for 3 tickets. Please see Reverend Edwina Landry for tickets. She will be selling them before and after worship

Vermont Vacation Raffle
— Supporting the American Cancer Society —

- Win an overnight stay for two at Hotel Champlain in Burlington, VT \$300 Value!
- \$75 Gift Card for dinner at The Waterworks Restaurant on Winooski River!
- Two passes for Lake Champlain sightseeing cruise aboard the Spirit of Ethan Allen!

Proceeds Benefit American Cancer Society

Tickets - \$5 each or 3 for \$10

Drawing on Friday, May 15th

Winner need not be present

MEMORIAL DAY

On Sunday, May 24th, we will take a few moments to honor loved ones who served in the military and have died. We want to make sure the list we have is accurate. **Please contact the office with the name of a relative you would like named in our worship service. Thank you.**

PRESBYTERY NEWS

PRESBYTERY NEWS

The Utica Presbytery is in discussions with the Northern NY Presbytery to work toward a merger of our two Presbyteries. This would enable our two group to be one bigger and better Presbytery by sharing resources. And speaking of sharing resources, one member of the Northern NY Presbytery has created a new website for our Presbytery!

Here you will find your one-stop-shop for Presbyterian events, classifieds, and church information. See what's happening in the churches in our Presbytery by checking it out at: thepresbysaver.church



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

CHILDREN/YOUTH FAITH FORMATION

Nurturing our children's faith is crucial if they are to continue to have a life-long commitment to regular participation in worship and the life of the church. Carrie Scaccia prepares fun and meaningful scripture-based activities each Sunday. Please make sure your children/youth attend each week and have them bring a friend.

ADULT FORMATION

We're never too old to grow in faith! Come and join together after worship each Sunday in Zion's parlor for faith-filled discussion on different topics. If you are interested in something in-particular, let Helen Adsit or Pastor Edwina know. Currently, for the rest of May, we are discussing the women disciples around Jesus. Please come and join in on the conversations. The more people we have, the more wisdom is shared.

CONFIRMATION NEWS

Confirmation classes with Pastor Edwina and three of our youth – Brayton Olney, Jason Tucker, and Leah Sexton are going well. They will be confirmed on Sunday, October 18th. Students have been studying Presbyterian History & Doctrine from the Collaborate curriculum and supplementing with Scripture resources. The students are engaging in lively discussions on these topics of church history and faith.

They are also meeting with mentors monthly for an hour and will continue through the summer. Mentors and students are enjoying learning from each other about faith, scripture and so much more!

Part of the Confirmation program also involves integrating scriptural responsibilities with engaging in the world. As a result, community service projects are a big part of this. They have helped assemble Hygiene Kits for Sarah Briggs on two separate occasions (and did a great job!)

Matthew 25 Pill Bottle Donation Program

5

This is a new service project led by our confirmation students. Many poor countries do not have a way to distribute medicine to those in need. To address this problem, Matthew 25 Ministries accepts donations of clean, empty, recapped, label and residue-free plastic pill bottles for inclusion in shipments of medical supplies. Our pill bottle program fulfills the dual needs of improving medical care in developing countries and caring for our environment.

We are off to a great start! 175 bottles were donated by you in April. The students have washed the bottles. Please remove the labels before bringing them to the church.



There is a donation bin for these on the table in Clark Hall. Students will then wash and prepare them for shipment.

Thank you for your help in this new outreach ministry led by the Confirmation Students!

Youth Group

The next Youth Group will be on **Sunday May 17, 2026** from 5:00-7:30 pm at Zion Church. This is the last Youth Group until September. We will begin with a pasta 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 Edwins 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

- May 4-8 Mother's Day surprises
- May 4 & 7 Free preschool vision screening by CABVI
- May 11 & 12 Jervis library field trips
- May 14 & 15 Utica Children's Museum field trips
- May 18-22 Pet week
- May 25 Memorial Day- no school
- May 26-29 Community Helper week



MONTHLY FINANCIALS

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 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 First Presbyterian Church almost \$7000.00 per year. This per capita really helps everyone!

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.



Scan this code to pay

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.**

FINANCIALS 2025 YEAR-TO-DATE

<u>OPERATING BUDGET</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>2026 BUDGET</u>
Receipts	<u>\$20,017.00</u>	<u>\$116,717.05</u>	<u>\$94,172.13</u>	<u>\$376,688.48</u>
Expenditures	<u>\$(34,302.58)</u>	<u>\$(82,761.70)</u>	<u>\$(92,998.86)</u>	<u>\$(376,688.48)</u>
<u>Change in Net Assets</u>	<u>\$14,285.58</u>	<u>\$33,955.35</u>	<u>\$1,173.27</u>	-
<u>February Collections</u>				
One Great Hour of Sharing	<u>\$720.00</u>			
<u>March Fund Disbursements</u>				
Restoration Fund ServPro	<u>\$505,288.11</u>			

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.

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!



STEWARDSHIP NEWS

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarships are available for members of First Presbyterian Church who desire further education in graduate school, college, junior college, trade school, or technical training. The amount of each scholarship is \$2000. Applications are on the table in Clarke Hall or by contacting the office.

Applications are due June 1st and will be awarded in June.

The First Presbyterian Church Educational Scholarship is intended to serve The First Presbyterian Church Community (teen, young adult and adult) in their desire to further formal educational opportunities to help offset the rising costs of continued education.

O'MEARA SCHOLARSHIP

The Reverend Robert O'Meara dedicated his life to the betterment of people everywhere. This memorial scholarship reflects his expressed desire to help others improve the human condition. He wanted to help those adults who wished to enhance their current human services skills, to re-enter the human services, or to change their career to human services.

Applications are available on our website at firstpresrome.com on the scholarship tab under Mission and Outreach

Application Deadline is May 1st

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 that highlight our various ministries. A separate Nursery School menu tab has also been added. New information is being added weekly.

WORKER BEES NEEDED!

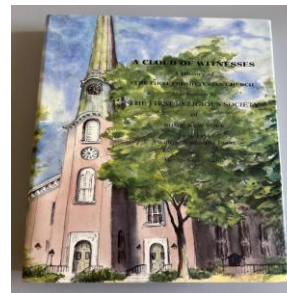
We need your financial gifts and the gifts of you talents. **There are several tasks that we really need help with.** If you can help with something, please let Pastor Edwina know and/or call the office.



A Fellowship Coordinator – Someone to coordinate the various fellowship events we have such as Sunday morning coffee/fellowship time and other meals, events. Bruce Warcup was doing this and can'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.

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 and cameras and lights. We know there are techy people out there. Let your talent shine and give us a hand!

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.



**RELAY FOR LIFE - at Delta Lake State Park –
Saturday, June 6th – Noon – 10PM**

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 fund raisers. We'd love to have more walkers this year, so come out and join us even for a little while.

**OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE AND PICNIC - at Lee Town Park
Sunday, June 7th, 10:30 am**

Get ready for an exciting outdoor worship service at Lee Town Park. Kevin Bailey is returning again this year to lead us in song. (We told him no cold, *Blowing in the Wind* song! Maybe Ring of Fire? Okay not that hot!) Invite friends and family to join us for this great day of outdoor worship and fun!

Bring a favorite dish, a drink or two, and a lawn chair if you'd like something other than the benches in the pavilion. Rain or shine, be ready for a great time!

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

Come and hear the Oneida Chorale perform, "Let Freedom Ring", celebrating the 250th anniversary of our country. More info to come soon!





On **Sunday, May 17th**, we will be officially receiving five new members into our Congregation (although they have been worshipping with us for quite some time). These members are Wendy Waters, Candy and Jeff Evans, and Paul and Janet Varacalli.

Join us after worship that day for a reception to officially welcome them and get to know them!

If you have been worshipping with us and are thinking about joining, but can't make that date, please contact Pastor Edwina to join at a later date.

We will also be installing/ordaining our new elder and deacons that day; what a great day of celebrations!

May 2026 First Presbyterian Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 9:45 am Children/ Youth Faith Formation 10:00 am Coffee/Fellowship Service 10:30 am Worship Service 11:30 am Adult Faith Formation/ Confirmation Class	4 4:00 pm Serenity Squares on Zoom	5 10:00 am Crafty Ladies at Eunice's House	6 6:15 pm Joyful Ringers Rehearsal at Zion 7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal at Zion	7 5:00 pm DOORS OPEN Relay For Life PAMPERED CHEF BINGO 6:00 pm BINGO STARTS	8 10 am-3 pm Blood Drive at Zion Clarke Hall	9
10 <i>Mother's Day</i> 9:45 am Children/ Youth Faith Formation 10:00 am Coffee/Fellowship Service 10:30 am Sunday Worship Service 11:30 am Adult Faith Formation	11	12 10:00 am Crafty Ladies at Eunice's House	13 6:15 pm Joyful Ringers Rehearsal at Zion 7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal at Zion	14	15  Bee Happy!	16 12-3 pm Friends of Kari
17 <i>New Members</i> 9:45 am Children/ Youth Faith Formation 10:00 am Coffee/Fellowship Service 10:30 am Worship Service 11:30 am New Member Reception 11:45 am Adult Faith Formation/ Confirmation Class 5:00 pm Youth Group	18 6:00 am-2:30 pm Hope on the menu Spressos 4:00 pm Serenity Squares on Zoom 6:30 pm Session Meeting at Trinity	19 10:00 am Crafty Ladies at Eunice's House Noon Mission Committee at Spressos	20 10:00 am Rescue Mission Cooking 6:15 pm Joyful Ringers Rehearsal at Zion 7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal at Zion	21 6:30 pm Worship and Music Meeting at Zion	22	23
24 <i>Pentecost</i> 9:45 am Children/Youth Faith Formation 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am Worship Service 11:30 am Adult Faith Formation and Confirmation Class	25 <i>Memorial Day</i> <i>Office is Closed</i>	26 10:00 am Crafty Ladies at Eunice's House	27 10:00 am Rescue Mission Cooking 6:15 pm Joyful Ringers Rehearsal at Zion	28  Bee Kind!	29	30 2:00 pm Geller Concert at Zion
31 9:45 am Youth Faith Formation 10:00 am Coffee/Fellowship 10:30 am Worship Service 11:30 am Choir and Grad Recognition 11:45 am Confirmation	<p><u>First Presbyterian Church Vision Statement</u> The First Presbyterian Church exists to shine God's light in the world.</p> <p><u>First Presbyterian Church Mission Statement</u> 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.</p>					

