Pastors Ponderings



"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." (Galatians 6:9)

November invites us to pause and give thanks. The brilliance of the fall foliage never ceases to take my breath away. Nature's tapestry comes alive with beautiful colors that add sunshine to even the cloudiest of days. It's a reminder of the graciousness of our amazing Creator, which always evokes thanksgiving. This season of harvest is possible only through the planting and constant care of seeds and plants throughout the year. This is equally true for our life of faith. **Christian discipleship requires careful nurturing of the seeds of faith we have been given.** Prayer, worship, service, stewardship of our time, talents, and finances are all necessary spiritual practices that strengthen our faith and draw us closer to God and one another. **Planting and harvesting are hard work whether it is in the soil of the earth or in the soil of our souls.** We must not grow weary if we want to reap an abundant harvest, and the harvest isn't for us, it is for all God's people.

The small, everyday things we do matter. Kindness matters. I had a conversation recently from a man in Rome who stopped by our office. He had a bag of small pvc pipes that he had cut to about six inches in length with a slit in the middle. He explained that one day he saw a woman on the bus carrying some grocery bags and she was struggling to hold on to them as they cut into her hand. He wondered how he could help her and this idea to make these handles came into his mind. I would argue that it was divine inspiration. He said his father always told him, **"Let me catch you doing something good."** That phrase has stuck with me for over a week. What a great motto to live by – always tying to do something good no matter how large or small. This is what St. Paul in his letter to the Galatians urges us to do. We are to not grow weary in doing good - not to benefit ourselves - but to be of service to others, to help lighten their burdens, and to shine the love of God through these random acts of kindness.

We need more kindness in this world, and it needs to start with each person. The words we say and the actions we do matter. **Kindness means showing up with compassion and acting for the greater good of all.** It's not about being nice or polite; sometimes kindness requires telling a truth that someone doesn't want to hear. Yet, even the hardest of conversations are made easier with kindness. It begins with understanding we all struggle. Kindness is a light in the darkness; it is healing and transformative. The main role of churches, are to be a light of Christ in this world. Congregations are to be an example others of how we should treat one another. We are called to shine the love of God in all our words and actions, and this behavior has a ripple effect. **Like a garden that produces a bountiful harvest, kindness produces a bountiful harvest of healing as well.** In this season of harvest and thanksgiving, let's cultivate kindness. It's a crop that is in high demand and one that with the right care produces in abundance. Cultivate kindness!

Blessings and Peace,
Pastor Edwina





November Birthdays

Taylor Sreca	11/3
Zak Taylor	11/7
Camille Wrege	11/8
Janet Varacalli	11/17
Meghan Mahosky	11/19
Chad Sexton	11/19
Amelia Kowalski	11/23
Rick O'Meara	11/23
Gail Bostwick	11/25
Jackie Dunadee	11/29

November Anniversaries

Wendy & Stephen Waters	11/3
Candy & John Fay	11/18
Jim & Dianne Griffith	11/19
Ray & Gail Tucker	11/22
Sam & Cindy Pendergast	11/26



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday – Nov. 1st – All Saints Day Worship Service – We will remember the saints of our church who have died in the past year and also those who have died over the years. Their name will read, a candle lit, and a bell tolled for each person.

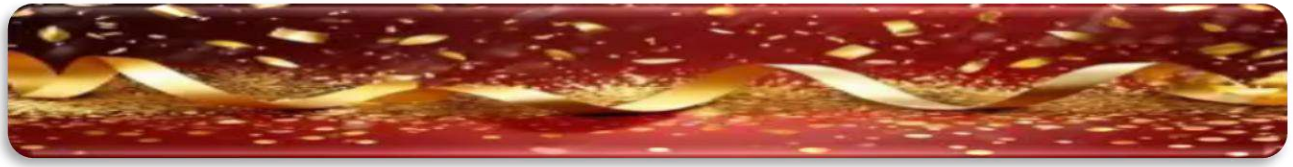
Sunday – Nov. 8h – We will be **honoring veterans** during our worship service.

Sunday – Nov. 22nd – Our **Stewardship Pledge Drive ends**. Please submit your pledges by this date. Prayerfully consider increasing your pledge this year or pledging for the first time.

Sunday – Nov. 29th – The **first Sunday in Advent**. Our Advent themed worship services will revolve around **"A Noel Celebration."** Each week – similar to Lent – we will focus on a specific object with a dramatic reading that leads up to the Christmas story.

Sat. – Dec. 5th – Salvation Army Bell Ringing for First Presbyterian Church. Please sign up to volunteer for an hour between 10am – 6pm at Price Chopper/Market 32. It's a great hour to spend with a buddy and help collect money for a worthy cause during the holidays. Sign up sheet is on the bulletin board in Clarke Hall.

*****See all the exciting upcoming Adult Faith Forums on page 4 under Adult Faith Formation News!**





Rainbows of Faith & Hope Team

Upcoming Events: All proceeds from these events go directly to
The American Cancer Society



Thursday-November 19, 2026-Songbyrd Street Studio will host a glass fusion class at Zion Church. The event will **start at 6:00 PM** with snacks available. This is a **fund raiser for the Relay for Life with a $10.00 admission fee**. The craft projects generally have a cost of $25-$40 which will be paid to Songbyrd Street Studio. Most glass is pre-cut for your convenience. **Doors open at 5:00 PM** so that Songbyrd can set up the precut glass and decorating items. Please come and enjoy a fun evening of crafts, laughter, and fun.



Thursday-November 19, 2026-The Angel Tree-will be set up in front of the Sanctuary in the morning with tags. The angel tree will help children from the Community have a very Merry Christmas. This is coordinated with the **Salvation Army** of Rome. Last year, there were 80 children who received a Christmas because of you. Thank you so much for your continual and generous support for the Rome Community. You are indeed a blessing.

Sunday-November 22, 2026-The Bi-Annual Buy a Pie will take place during coffee hour and again after the 10:30 church service.



There is always a wide variety of fruit, pumpkin, and cream pies. Please bring your sweet tooth to church**. If you are baking pies, please bring them to church on Sunday morning. Any specialty baked items will gladly be accepted.** It does not have to be a pie. If you need a pickup, please let Sue Hanson, 315.338.1473 know-and a Saturday pickup will be made at your convenience.

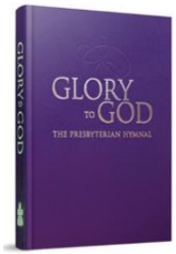
WORSHIP & MUSIC NEWS

Exciting news: Our music program recently received a grant from the Rome Community Foundation in the amount of $2,500. These funds will be used for choral and bell music, folders and bell supplies. We thank the donors of the Frank Jr. and Velia Di Berardino Memorial Fund for this generous gift.

In addition to preparing weekly anthems, our church musicians are rehearsing in preparation for the Advent season and for **our Dec. 13th Candlelight Service at 4 pm.** We will be presenting music from "A Noel Celebration" by Lloyd Larson at weekly services as well as at Candlelight. We hope these inspirational songs, accompanied by dramatic readings, will enhance your Advent journey.

We have recently added three new members to our Senior Choir, and two new bell players to our Joyful Ringers. It is always great to increase our numbers. If you or someone you know would like to make music with us, please contact:
Kim Nethaway, Music Director. knethaway@twcny.rr.com, 315-725-8096

NEW SUPPLEMENTAL HYMNALS-Deadline extended to Dec 1st,2026



There is still time to **purchase one or more** of these books in **Honor of or In Memory of** a loved one. A special bookplate with this information will be placed in each book**. The cost of each book/bookplate is $25.00. This would make a wonderful Christmas gift to honor a loved ones legacy.** Thank you for your support! Forms are available on the bulletin board in Clarke Hall.

Lay Readers

A special Thank you to everyone that filled in our Layreader list for the year!

November 1st	Marge Palmer	**Communion**
November 8th	Maxine Strong	
November 15th	Sue Hanson	
November 22nd	Mary Yates	
November 29th	Liz Clough	

FAITH FORMATION

CHILDREN AND YOUTH FAITH FORMATION NEWS

Carrie Scaccia continues to faithfully lead the Children and Youth Faith Formation activities every Sunday **before worship from 9:30 am to approx. 10:15 am**. Younger children, activities will start at 9:30 am and youth in choir may join in at 9:45 am. A lot of important faith building happens at this time as she brings biblical concepts alive through fun activities based on scripture.

Please bring your children, grandchildren, or invite any children you know to come and spend this brief but meaningful time of faith building on Sunday mornings. **This small seed of faith time will reap a big harvest in their lives for years to come!** We are in need of another helper for children's activities. Please contact Carrie Scaccia or Pastor Edwina if you can help**.**

ADULT FAITH FORMATION NEWS

Adult Faith Forums are ways to connect scripture with everyday life through the talents and skills we have been given. We invite you to come and join in on these Faith Forums every Sunday for about 30-45 minutes after worship.

Our Adult Faith Forums have been a huge success so far; let's keep it going!

If you have a craft or hobby, or other interest you would like to present on, contact Helen Adsit or Pastor Edwina.

Here's what coming up in November/December:



November 1st – Dia De Los Muertos (Day of the Dead) – As we celebrate All Saints Day, learn from Pastor Edwina about the origins of this vibrant Mexican holiday that celebrates deceased loved ones for a joyous reunion.

November 8th – Genealogy Gems – Both Matthew 1:1–17 and Luke 3:23–38 list the genealogy of Jesus. Are you curious about your own genealogy? Chris Tyrlik will lead us in resources on finding out more about your ancestors.

November 15th-Ring Those Bells! Tom McGibbon will be presenting on bell and chime ringing. Come and learn all about how bells play a significant role in worship.

November 22nd – "O Christmas Tree" – Learn about the origins of the Christmas tree as the Olney family leads us in an exciting presentation on how they grow and prepare Christmas trees.

November 29th –Adventures Trip-Join us as Sue Moses takes us on an exciting adventure of her recent travels through Machu Pichu and the Galapagos Islands. Exodus 34:14 says "My presence will go with you and I will give you rest." Don't miss this!

December 6thth –How to make a Christmas Card. Join Nancy Schoff for a great craft as we kick off the first Sunday in Advent. Please sign up on the bulletin board in Clarke Hall so Nancy knows how many materials to order.

CONFIRMATION NEWS



Congratulation's again to Brayton Olney, Leah Sexton, and Jason Tucker – on making their Confirmation October 18, 2026.

YOUTH GROUP

Plans to make our Youth Group bigger and better are underway and therefore we plan to start up in January after all the holiday activities are done. More help is needed so please contact Pastor Edwina if you are interested.

NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS



Nursery School Calendar of Events
Nov 2-6: Good Manners Week
Nov 9-13: Staying Healthy Week
Nov 15020: Harvest and Thanksgiving Week
Nov 22-23: Thanksgiving Parties

Nursery School is Closed the following Dates:
Nov 11-Veterans Day Observation
Nov 25-27-Thanksgiving Recess

There are a few spots open in our 4yr. old Pre-K class. Call 315-339-7529 or email 1stpresnurseryschool@gmail.com for more information.

WEEKEND BLESSINGS

This new program of the Mission Committee replaces our work with the national Blessings in a Backpack program and allows us to direct the money and food we receive to serve more children locally in our community. We've recently designed a new flyer to highlight what this program is all about. It includes:

Mission Statement:
Provide nutritious food on weekends to supplement households for 100 children who attend Gansevoort Elementary School (Rome City School District) who are economically disadvantaged.



About Our Program:
The program provides supplemental nutritious food to students who receive free breakfast and lunch throughout the year.

Looking Forward:
We want to double the amount spent on each child, per week from $1.50 to $3.00 enabling, us to provide more nutritious food along with more food items. Send 4-5 protein-based items, 1-2 fruit items, 1-2 cereal items and a snack in each child's bag.

Facts of the Program:
•Gansevoort School has an 86% rate of families that are economically disadvantaged and food insecure
•12% of grades 3-6 scored in proficiency level on the NYS ELA exam
•Only 13% of Gansevoort students are reading at or above grade level.
•Children who do not come to school hungry are more eager and ready to learn along with having better attendance.
•Children that take home food on the weekends feel that they are helping their families and have proud moments when doing so.
•This Program is modeled after Blessings in a Backpack.
•48% are reading at or above grade level on STAR (Statistics are from Rome City School District 2026)



Thank you for supporting this program with your food and monetary donations. You are improving the lives of children in our community for the better!

Mission News

Thank you so much for helping the children in Gansevoort School bring home safe and healthy foods to eat.

In October your donations amounted to over 363 items for our Kid Kits.

Your support is greatly appreciated for this program!

CWS (Church World Service)
Kid Kits – Sarah as 101 done (95 boxed and ready to go and another 6 waiting to see if she gets more donations). The kids made up 20 of the bags for her during the congregational meeting. She has $220 for shipping which will go to Liz. Each bag cost $4.57 to make up.

MATTHEW 25: MINISTRIES
M25M.ORG

MATTHEW 25 PILL BOTTLE DONATION PROGRAM
This ongoing youth-led mission project helps recycle pill bottles to assist first-aid workers all over the world. These much-needed bottles are used to distribute medicine by Red Cross and First Aid workers to those in desperate need of medical care, around the globe. Donate your empty pill bottles – **with the labels removed (if the labels are hard to remove, please don't donate-Thank you!)** – in the bin located on the table in Clark Hall. Thank you for your support.



WHO DOESN'T LOVE A PARTY!



Fellowship is a Christian word that basically means getting together for a good time! Getting together for snacks and beverages before or after worship services, hosting special events like a confirmation or baptism celebration, special community dinners, and even funeral receptions to celebrate the life of a deceased saint of God. These are only some of the ways we enjoy fellowship with one another.

Putting these events together takes one person to coordinate it all with a few helpers. **Our church really needs a Fellowship Coordinator/Party Planner** because that's really what it is, to help make events run smoothly. This person will call people and ask if they would like to bring food, set up the area, help clean up afterwards, and any other details needed. This person doesn't do all the work; they just make sure there are people scheduled to help.

Do you enjoy helping others? Do you like to plan fun events? Do you like to call people on the phone or ask them in person if they can help? Are you organized? If you answered "yes" to any of these, this is the perfect position for you! Please prayerfully consider helping out with this position that is so rewarding and helping to make our congregation come alive with fun and creative events.

We know there's a Fellowship Coordinator/Party Planner out there somewhere!

Please contact Pastor Edwina if you're out there!



CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE UPDATES

How exciting!!! Did you know that we currently have 957 followers on our Facebook page? Let's see if we can hit 1000. Ask you friends and family to come along and follow us for more exciting posts.

Keep up with the latest news on restoration and other events on our website at **firstpresrome.com**

Facebook at **First Presbyterian Church Rome, NY**

Instagram at **firstpresbyterianchurchromeny**

Youtube at **@firstpresbyterianchurchofrome**

Visit our sites for Worships, present, past, restoration updates & daily news.

Keep up with Presbytery news, events, classifieds, and church information at: **thepresbysaver.church**

Hospital Stays



If you or another member is admitted to the hospital, **please note that the hospitals no longer contacts-Clergy.**
Please inform Pastor Edwina if anyone enters the hospital so she may visit. Thank you.

FINANCIAL

A LITTLE FINANCIAL HUMOR…….



A minister was preoccupied with thoughts of how he was going to ask the congregation to come up with more money than they were expecting for repairs to the church building.

Therefore, he talked with the organist to see what kind of inspirational music she could play after the announcement about the finances to get the congregation in a giving mood.

"Don't worry," she said. "I'll think of something."

During the service, the minister paused and said, "Brothers and Sisters, we are in great difficulty; the roof repairs cost twice as much as we expected, and we need $4,000 more. Any of you who can pledge $100 or more, please stand up."

Just at that moment, the organist started playing, "The Star Spangled Banner."

STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE DRIVE

Our **Stewardship Pledge Drive kicked off on Sunday October 25th** with a heartfelt stewardship talk by Amy Garcia. Stewardship letters and pledge cards were passed out after Sunday service and what was not picked up was mailed the next day, pledge cards **are due back by November 22 when our drive ends.**
Thank you for faithfully contributing financially to support the ongoing work of our Congregation. Also, thank you for supporting through your gifts of time and talent. Your actions do not go unnoticed!

Pastor Edwina

SNAPSHOT



FINANCIALS
2026 YEAR-TO-DATE

Operating Budget:	September	Actual	Budget	2026 Budget
Receipts	$ 12,803.00	$ 206,464.61	$ 282,516.39	$ 376,688.48
Expenditures	$ (24,182.61)	$ (229,365.67)	$ (276,701.11)	$(376,688.48)
Change in Net Assets	(11,379.61)	$ (22,901.06)	$ 5,815.28	
Sept Collections:				
Restoration Fund	$ 225.00			
World Communion	$ 50.00			
Sept-Fund Disbursements				
Restoration Fund-ServPro	547,879.49			

ONLINE/DIGITAL GIVING
In addition to checks, envelopes, and loose giving, you can also donate via Venmo.
Scan on this QR code or the one on the back of the bulletin.

First Presbyterian Church
@First_Presbyterian_Church
venmo

November 2026 First Presbyterian Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 **Make sure you turned back your clocks** 😊 9:30 am Children's Faith Formation Activities 10:00 am Coffee/Fellowship 10:30 am Worship Service-**All Saints Day** 11:30 am Adult Faith Forum	**2**	**3**  10:00 am Crafty Ladies at Eunice's House	**4** 6:15 pm Joyful Ringers Rehearsal-Zion 7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal-Zion	**5** 6:00 pm Worship & Music Meeting	**6** **National Nacho Day** 	**7**
8 9:30 am Children's Faith Formation Activities 10:00 am Coffee/Fellowship **10:30 am Worship Service** SALUTE TO VETERANS 11:30 am Adult Faith Forum	**9** **National Play Games Day** 	**10** 10:00 am Crafty Ladies at Eunice's House	**11** **Veteran's Day**  6:15 pm Joyful Ringers Rehearsal-Zion 7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal-Zion	**12** 6:00 pm Deacons Meeting-Zion	**13**	**14** **National Pickle Day** 
15 9:30 am Children's Faith Formation Activities 10:00 am Coffee/Fellowship **10:30 am Worship Service Honoring Veterans** 11:30 am Adult Faith Forum	**16** 6:00 pm Faith Formation Meeting-Zoom	**17** 10:00 am Crafty Ladies at Eunice's House 10:00 am Stated Mtg of Presbytery Clinton Noon- Mission Commission meeting	**18** 9:30 am Rescue Mission Cooking 6:15 pm Joyful Ringers Rehearsal-Zion 7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal-Zion	**19** Noon-Rome United Churches Mtg 5-8pm Relay for Life Glass Fusion Event	**20** **Office Closed** 	**21** Noon-3pm Friends of Kari
22 9:30 am Children's Faith Formation Activities 10:00 am Coffee/Fellowship **10:30 am Worship Service Christ the King & Stewardship Sunday** 11:30 am Adult Faith Forum	**23 National Espresso Day**  6:30 pm Session Meeting	**24** 10:00 am Crafty Ladies at Eunice's House 6:00 pm Faith Formation Meeting-Zoom 6:15 pm Joyful Ringers Rehearsal-Zion 7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal-Zion	**25** 9:30 am Rescue Mission Cooking RESCUE MISSION	**26** **Office Closed** 	**27** **Office Closed** 	**28**
29 9:30 am Children's Faith Formation Activities 10:00 am Coffee/Fellowship **10:30 am Worship Service-Advent** 11:30 am Adult Faith Forum Activities	**30** 6:30 pm Session Meeting-Zion					