

Pastor's Ponderings



“For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven...” (Eccl. 3:1)

This very familiar scripture reading from Ecclesiastes in the bible is most often read at funerals because it begins with “a time to be born and a time to die.” Yet the writer of Ecclesiastes does not promote apathy because there is nothing we can do about anything, but rather implores us instead to seize the day – carpe diem! In the grand scheme of the universe our lives *are* short and this is a call to make the most of it. There is no time for apathy and complacency, the very characteristics of the church in ancient Laodicea that caused God to be angry. We read in Rev. 3:15-16, “I know your works; you are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were either cold or hot. So, because you are lukewarm and neither cold nor hot, I am about to spit you out of my mouth.” These may sound like harsh words, but time is short and we can’t waste it.

Each season in nature adheres to this acknowledgment of doing what is necessary in the proper time and each carries a unique beauty and purpose. The season of Autumn that we have just begun reminds us that change is not chaos; it is sacred order. The changing and eventual falling leaves mirror the spiritual necessity of letting go and making room for new beginnings. Gardeners know that during this season specific plants must be pruned. Certain plants – like dahlias - require digging up, while others – like garlic – need to be planted. As Ecclesiastes says, “a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted.” There is indeed “a time to keep and a time to throw away” and “a time to keep silent and a time to speak out.” There is a time and a season for all things, and we must be alert and ready to act accordingly.

To everything
there is a season,
A time for every
purpose under heaven.

–Ecclesiastes 3:1



Life’s transitions need not be feared, but embraced because we have a God who is with us throughout all the seasons we encounter. The season of church stewardship campaigns are upon us and talking about money is not something to be feared; it is a necessity if church ministry and growth is to continue. There is a time to give and a time to hold back. Now is not the time to hold back financially. A stewardship letter from me will be going out soon.

A little over two years ago, our church building was significantly damaged by the tornado. It was a season of grief for quite a while. We entered into the season of rebuilding. What about us? Have we as a congregation let go of certain expectations and bad habits and allowed the Holy Spirit to shape us – reform us – into a new church or have we continued to cling to the past? The season of reformation is here; it’s time to begin living into a new season of being First Presbyterian Church. That is what reformation is all about, “always being made new.”

Blessings and Peace,
Pastor Edwina

Reformation Sunday Worship Service with the Joyful Ringers October 25, 2026.

**Reformation
Sunday**

**WEAR RED FOR
Reformation**

LET'S PARTY!

October Birthdays

Sue Hanson	10/2
Elizabeth Jean Mathy	10/2
Diane Burns	10/2
Lynda Little	10/2
Viola Head	10/3
Marcie Ferens	10/5
Lenora Merithew	10/6
Susan Davidson	10/7
Tanna Sreca	10/8
Kim Oliver	10/9
Mike Corbett	10/9
Star Andrews	10/13
Cailyn Armstrong	10/14
Brian Burke	10/14
Mary Grow	10/14
Marge Palmer	10/15
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

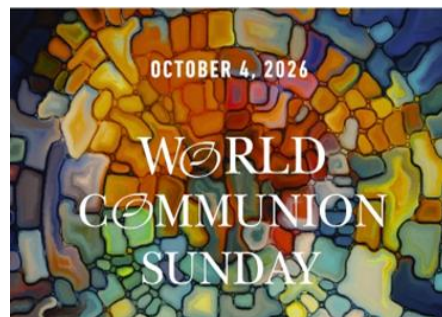
October Anniversaries

Kevin & Mikki Tayler	10/2
Andy & Bethany Bak	10/5
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	1/31



October Happenings

Saturday October 3rd at 4:00 pm –
All are invited for a short **Blessing of the Animals Service** in Zion's Churchyard area. All pets must be on a leash or in a carrying case. You are invited to bring new pet food or cat litter that will be donated to the Rome Humane Society.



Sunday October 4th at 10:30 am Every year on the first Sunday of October, churches observe **World Communion Sunday**, celebrating "the oneness of the family of God" as believers from many traditions share in the Lord's Supper together. Come and celebrate this unity together. **World Communion Special Offering due today. Thank you!**

Saturday October 10th from 9am – 3pm & Sunday, October 11th from 11am – 1:00 pm – Treasure's Sale at Trinity Church – Come and find some great treasures at this sale.





Rainbows of Faith & Hope Team

RELAY FOR LIFE NEWS: Currently has two events taking place-

*Songbyrd Street Studios along with Relay for Life team
Rainbows of Faith & Hope is having a **Fused Glass Event**
Thursday November 19, 2026 at Zion Church from 5pm-8pm.*

•\$10 Relay for Life Donation at the door

- Light refreshments will be served •Projects range from \$25-\$40. Glass is pre-cut
- Call 315.336.1380 for **reservations** or use the **signup** list on the bulletin board in Clarke Hall, **deadline is November 16,2026.**

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**Wrap yourself in this cozy and heartfelt  
46 X 62 Hand Made Quilted Throw**

(Pictures do not do this Quilt justice. It is beautiful shades of blues,  
beiges, browns, white and some red)

**\$5 for 1 Ticket  
\$10 for 3 Tickets**

**Drawing is December 15, 2026**

**You will be called when your name is drawn**

**Please call Sue at 315.336.6251 for tickets or information.**



## WORSHIP & MUSIC NEWS

### Calendar:

Joyful Ringers rehearses each Wednesday in October at 6:15PM

Senior Choir rehearses each Wednesday in October at 7:00PM

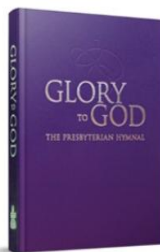
**Fall Choir** rehearsals are in full swing. Senior Choir sings in worship each week, and our Joyful Ringers will play in worship on October 25, 2026. Youth Chimes will begin rehearsing in November.

Our annual **Candlelight Service** is scheduled for **December 13, 2026**. Mark your calendars now, and plan to attend this inspirational afternoon of music and the Word. Senior Choir will begin working on our Candlelight cantata in late October. If you or someone you know would like to participate by singing or narrating, **contact Kim Nethaway** at [knethaway@twcnny.rr.com](mailto:knethaway@twcnny.rr.com) or by telephone at 315-725-8096.

**Kim Nethaway, Music Director 315-725-8096, [knethaway@twcnny.rr.com](mailto:knethaway@twcnny.rr.com)**

### NEW SUPPLEMENTAL HYMNALS-Deadline is November 1,2026

We are inviting the congregation 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 is a wonderful way to honor their 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!**

|                          |                |                  |
|--------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| October 4th              | Marge Palmer   | <b>Communion</b> |
| October 11th             | Raymond Tucker |                  |
| October 18 <sup>th</sup> | Keith Butters  |                  |
| October 25 <sup>th</sup> | Sue Moses      |                  |



**It's not just for Sundays!**

### CHILDREN AND YOUTH FAITH FORMATION NEWS

Carrie Scaccia will be leading the Children and Youth Faith Formation activities every Sunday **before worship from 9:30 am to approx. 10:20 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. The more children we have, the more exciting this class is for everyone. 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 not bible study classes, but rather 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.

Adult Faith Forums started on September 20th with a great presentation from Martie Talley on the Wolf Sanctuary of PA and caring for God's creatures. Tina Toglia gave a presentation on the organ and making a joyful noise to the Lord.

The Adult Faith Forum on **October 4<sup>th</sup>** will feature, Jim Clough who will give us a presentation on how the bagpipes work and a little of their history.

Pastor Edwina will give a presentation on the Reformation with some interesting pictures and visuals. Reformation **Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup>**.

More great Faith Forum presentations are scheduled. If you have craft, hobby, or other interest you'd like to present on, please contact Helen Adsit or Pastor Edwina.

### CONFIRMATION NEWS

Confirmation Day is almost here! Three students – Brayton Olney, Leah Sexton, and Jason Tucker – will make their Affirmation of Faith as adult members of our congregation on Sunday, October 18th during our worship service.

They've been working hard and will share their faith statements with everyone at that time. A special celebration with cake will follow in Clarke Hall after the service. Come and celebrate this milestone in their life of faith! It's only the beginning!

### YOUTH GROUP

Plans to make our Youth Group bigger and better are underway and therefore we are planning starting 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

Apple Week: 9/28-10/2

Fire Prevention Week: 10/5-10-9

Fall Changes: 10/12-10-16

Pumpkin Week: 10/19-10/23

Halloween Week: 10/26-10/30



Rome City Schools are closed October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026 for Superintendents Day and October 12, for Indigenous People's Day.

There are a few spots open in our 4yr. old Pre-K class. Call 315-339-7529 or email [1stpresnurseryschool@gmail.com](mailto: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

Over the summer **Weekend Blessings** collected a total of 273 food items.

In addition to that for the month of **September 2026** they collected 164 food items and \$225.00 in cash.

Your support is greatly appreciated for this program!

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

## SPECIAL OFFERING



### World Communion Offering Sept. 13-Oct 4, 2026.

This Special Offering (formally known as Peace and Global Witness) supports cultivating reconciliation by supporting racial and gender justice, peacemaking efforts, global witness and nurturing ecumenical and interfaith relations.

**These Special Offerings are the single, largest way Presbyterians join together to make a lasting impact in the world. Let's be the Church together. This Special Offerings is due by October 4<sup>th</sup>.**

## 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.





The Church grows from the gifts and talents of each member and your skills are especially needed in the following areas:

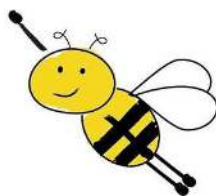


Being helpful is an act of love and your Church family needs the help that you can give. We really need a **Fellowship Coordinator**, which is all about hospitality. Scriptures tell us hospitality is an essential part of being a Christian. People want to feel welcomed. They want to feel they belong and they want to enjoy themselves. Fellowship is all about these things. Whether it's Sunday Fellowship time, a funeral reception, or even a special Church-wide fun-filled activity – these occasions bring people together and help grow our church.

The **Fellowship Coordinator** calls people and makes sure there are snacks, a person to make coffee, people to set-up and cleanup, and keep track of any supplies we need and inform the office. The Coordinator doesn't need to do all the work- just coordinate it. Please consider prayerfully being a Fellowship Coordinator and contact Pastor Edwina or the office today! Thank you.

**Are you anxious about trying something new? Maybe you're thinking "I don't know if I could do this." Give it a try!!**

**Rescue Mission Cooking Coordinator** – FPC cooks for the Rescue Mission the last two Wednesdays of every month (with the exception of December. We don't cook in December, but every Wednesday in January). Liz Clough and Bruce Warcup are the current Cooking Coordinators and they can't do it on their own! **Another Coordinator is really needed!** This person would be in charge of deciding on what to cook, shopping for the ingredients, and contacting helpers to assist that day. (We have a list of people to ask.) Please consider giving this a try; you'll be glad you did! Contact Pastor Edwina or Liz Clough today! Thank you.



*Bee brave*



#### CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE UPDATES

How exciting!!! Did you know that we currently have 955 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](http://firstpresrome.com)

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

Instagram at [firstpresbyterianchurchromeny](https://www.instagram.com/firstpresbyterianchurchromeny)

Youtube at [@firstpresbyterianchurchofrome](https://www.youtube.com/@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](http://thepresbysaver.church)



If you or another member one 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.



On **Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>**, we will remember all the **Saints of the Church** especially those members who have died in the past year. Their names will be read, a candle lit and a bell tolled.



# FINANCIAL

"When I was hungry, you gave me food, thirsty and you gave me something to drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you gave me clothing, in prison and you visited me... Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me." (Matt. 25:40)

These words from Jesus' parable, are a command as disciples to care for our neighbors through acts of loving service. The PCUSA takes this command seriously, and that is why congregations who take this command to heart, are designated as Matt. 25 Congregations and that includes our congregation.

Rescue Mission cooking, CWS Kid Kits, Youth Group activities, cards and gifts to the homebound from our Deacons, are a few of the programs that your ministry dollars support. Thank you for your ongoing financial support!



Due to the late date and no response with someone to head up our stewardship pledge drive, I am taking the lead and heading this up myself this year. I will be crafting a letter to be mailed out to the congregation, and we will have three brief stewardship talks before the final Stewardship Sunday.

For those on the Stewardship Committee - and anyone else who would like to offer input -there will be **a brief meeting before worship on Sunday, October 11th in Clarke Hall.**

**The dates for the Stewardship Pledge Drive this year will be as follows:**

- 1st Week -Begin on – Reformation Sunday
- October 25th – brief stewardship talk from member
- 2nd Week – November 8th – 2nd stewardship talk
- 3rd Week – November 15th – 3rd Stewardship talk
- Stewardship Sunday/Christ the King Sunday
- November 22nd – All Pledges Due

Pastor Edwina

# SNAPSHOT

## FINANCIALS 2026 YEAR-TO-DATE



| Operating Budget:                   | August         | Actual          | Budget          | 2026 Budget    |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Receipts                            | \$ 17,802.26   | \$ 193,861.31   | \$ 251,125.68   | \$ 376,688.48  |
| Expenditures                        | \$ (21,391.52) | \$ (205,446.95) | \$ (243,304.58) | \$(376,688.48) |
| Change in Net Assets                | (3,589.26)     | \$ (11,585.64)  | \$ 7,821.10     |                |
| Aug Collections:                    |                |                 |                 |                |
| Restoration Fund                    | \$ 1,000.00    |                 |                 |                |
| Aug Fund Disbursements              |                |                 |                 |                |
| Restoration Fund-Fred Collis & Sons | \$ 4,151.25    |                 |                 |                |

### RESTORATION FUND NEWS

Thanks to many generous contributions from people locally and across the country, **to date** we have received a total of **\$389,079.35** toward our restoration. Thank you!

### 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.



# October 2026 First Presbyterian Church

| Sunday                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Monday                                                                                           | Tuesday                                                                                       | Wednesday                                                                                                                    | Thursday                                                                                        | Friday                                                                                             | Saturday                                                                                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                  |                                                                                               |                                                                                                                              | <b>1</b><br>6:00 pm Worship & Music Meeting                                                     | <b>2</b>                                                                                           | <b>3</b><br>4:00 pm Blessing of the Animals-<br>Zion Churchyard                                    |
| <b>4</b> 10:00 am Coffee/Fellowship<br><b>10:30 am Worship Service</b><br><b>World Communion Sunday</b><br>11:30 am <b>Congregational Meeting-No Adult Faith Forum – Children &amp; Youth will meet during meeting</b>  | <b>5</b><br>    | <b>6</b><br>10:00 am Crafty Ladies at Eunice's House                                          | <b>7</b><br>6:15 pm Joyful Ringers Rehearsal-Zion<br>7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal-Zion                                     | <b>8</b><br> | <b>9</b>                                                                                           | <b>10</b><br>9am-3pm Trinity Treasure Sale                                                         |
| <b>11</b> 9:30 am Children's Faith Formation Activities<br>10:00 am Coffee/Fellowship<br><b>10:30 am Worship Service</b><br>11:30 am Adult Faith Forum & Confirmation Class                                             | <b>12</b>                                                                                        | <b>13</b><br>10:00 am Crafty Ladies at Eunice's House<br>Noon-Mission Commission meeting      | <b>14</b><br>6:15 pm Joyful Ringers Rehearsal-Zion<br>7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal-Zion                                    | <b>15</b>                                                                                       | <b>16</b><br>   | <b>17</b>                                                                                          |
| <b>18</b> 9:30 am Children's Faith Formation Activities<br>10:00 am Coffee/Fellowship<br><b>10:30 am Worship Service</b><br><b>Confirmation Day</b><br>11:30 am No Adult Faith Forum<br><b>Confirmation Celebration</b> | <b>19</b><br> | <b>20</b><br>10:00 am Crafty Ladies at Eunice's House<br>6:00 pm Faith Formation Meeting-Zoom | <b>21</b><br>10:00 am Rescue Mission Cooking<br>6:15 pm Joyful Ringers Rehearsal-Zion<br>7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal-Zion | <b>22</b>                                                                                       | <b>23</b>                                                                                          | <b>24</b><br> |
| <b>25</b> 9:30 am Children's Faith Formation Activities<br>10:00 am Coffee/Fellowship<br><b>10:30 am Worship Service</b><br><b>Reformation Sunday-Bells playing</b><br>11:30 am Adult Faith Formation                   | <b>26</b><br>3:00pm Nursery School Meeting<br>6:30pm Session Meeting                             | <b>27</b><br>10:00 am Crafty Ladies at Eunice's House                                         | <b>28</b> 10:00 am Rescue Mission Cooking<br>6:15 pm Joyful Ringers Rehearsal-Zion<br>7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal-Zion    | <b>29</b>                                                                                       | <b>30</b><br> | <b>31</b>                                                                                          |