

**JULY & AUGUST 2024**



**First Presbyterian Church of Verona**

***Come and Worship With Us***

**Sunday-10:15 a.m.**

10 Fairview Ave, Verona, NJ 07044  
973-239-3561

Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Rhonda Myers  
Director Music: Chaequan Anderson  
Christian Education Chair: Cathy Franco  
Sexton: Andy Turner  
Admin. Assistant: Patti Beirne  
E-Mail: [veronapreschurch@gmail.com](mailto:veronapreschurch@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.veronapreschurch.org](http://www.veronapreschurch.org)

**OUR NEW MISSION STATEMENT**

**“WELCOMING HEARTS, NURTURING SPIRITS,  
UNITED IN FELLOWSHIP AND FAITH**

## ONLINE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUPPORT AND WORSHIP

For those who are unable to attend, services will be streamed through this you tube site:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0czo7NSkhf56Ffx5OpA03Q>

**On YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0czo7NSkhf56Ffx5OpA03Q>  
and subscribe to our channel.

**Church Website** [www.veronapreschurch.org](http://www.veronapreschurch.org)

**Online giving is now available on our website:** [veronapreschurch.org](http://veronapreschurch.org)

2024 CHURCH OFFICERS			
SESSION		DEACONS	
Cathy Franco Christopher Kiel Donna Kiel Donna Lauckner	Marilyn O'Neill Deborah Michelsen Margaret Whiting	Kathy Dougherty David Haimann Matthew Koroluk Michael McGough Trevor Mescia	Barbara Haimann Willow Pomponio Marion Shine Tennille Wasak Daniel Uniss
Margaret Whiting, Clerk of the Session Council Dr. Michael Duhaney, Corporation President Ken Lauckner- Treasurer Kathy Dougherty & Donna Lauckner- Financial Secretaries Michael McGough- Deacon Co-Chair			

## From the Pastor's Desk—Summer 2024

**“Forget what happened long ago! Don't think about the past.  
I am creating something new. There it is! Do you see it?  
I have put roads in deserts, streams in thirsty lands.”  
(Isaiah 43:18-19)**



My dear friends in Christ,

Good news! Since last I wrote you, both our Session and the Transitions Team of the Committee on Ministry (COM) of the Presbytery of Northeast New Jersey have approved our Mission Study Report. Copies of that Report are available to you, and I hope you will take time to review it. You will see that it includes a great deal of information about where the Mission Study Team believes the congregation is being led by God to continue serving in ministry in this beautiful community of Verona.

The Mission Study Team made it their point to prayerfully engage both God and you in conversation over the future of the church. They very thoughtfully created and distributed a congregational survey, studied town demographics, looked at church financials, led small discussion groups, and had many discussions amongst themselves about the *new things* God has in mind for the church.

But of course, *new things*—by definition—are new! And God is frequently calling us to welcome the new things that God is putting before us—roads in the desert moments of life and streams of fresh water in the dry and thirsty lands of a stale life or a stale religion, as the prophet Isaiah describes them. A reflection of all that newness is seen in the Mission Study Report. To begin with, the church has a new Mission Statement:

*“Welcoming Hearts, Nurturing Spirits, United in Fellowship and Faith”*

And we have a new Vision Statement:

*“On our journey forward, with God's help we will seek to:*

- *Grow in faith through study and worship;*
- *Share Christ's love through outreach;*
- *Nurture one another with fellowship;*
- *Provide support through mission.*

The Team feels strongly that we are being led to a new day in ministry, with new opportunities before us to share the gracious gift of God's loving, enduring presence through our ministries of worship, education, mission, outreach, and fellowship. And they shall encourage a Pastor Nominating Committee to seek a pastor who has skills in and a passion for pursuing ministries in these areas.

The Team and Session are excited to offer you an opportunity to discuss the Report in an open Forum. One has been scheduled for July 21st. Those who are interested in being part of this discussion can grab some coffee and goodies after worship that day and meet in the Parlor.

The Nominating Committee is soon to be at work putting together a slate of congregants to serve on a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC), at least one of which needs to be a Ruling Elder who will serve as chair of the committee and liaison to the Session to accommodate any needs of the PNC. Remember: while the Session elects a temporary pastor (like me), the congregation elects a permanent pastor. You have a voice and a role in this process; please utilize it well.

Thank you for your support. We know this process seems a long one. But the work is vital and, when done well, should lead to the calling of a new pastor who is ripe and ready for new things.

On another note, I will be doing a sermon series on the fruit of the Spirit this summer. I hope you will plan to join us: "...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." (*Galatians 5:22-23*) We begin with love!

Blessings my friends,  
The Rev. Dr. Rhonda Myers, Interim Pastor

### **Summer Sermon Series on the *Fruit of the Spirit***

Pastor Rhonda will be offering a Sermon series this summer based upon the Apostle Paul's counsel to the church in Galatia to strive to abide in the Spirit's fruitfulness. These are the topics to be covered:

June 30 Love: *"The Fruit of the Spirit is Love"*  
July 7 Joy: *"Making Our Joy Complete"*  
July 14 Peace: *"Seasoned With Peace"*  
July 21 Patience: *"Patiently Bearing Fruit"*  
July 28 Kindness: *"Kindness is a Way of Life"*  
August 4 Generosity: *"Generosity is a Practice"*  
August 11 Faithfulness: *"Faith More Precious Than Gold"*  
August 25 Gentleness: *"With Tender Arms and a Gentle Shoulder"*  
September 1 Self-Control: *"Maintaining a Balance"*

### **Summer Hymn Sing**

Come a little early on Sundays during July and August and join us for a 15-minute hymn sing, from 10:00 to 10:15am. People enjoyed the hymn sing so much last summer that we decided to do it again! Come prepared to call out some of your favorite hymns and join Pastor Rhonda and Chae Anderson as we sing with joyful hearts to the Lord!

### **Welcome New Members**

We offer a great big welcome to our new members, Max and Samantha Marquart. Max comes to us from the First Presbyterian Church in Carlstadt and is happy to be a part of a Presbyterian church that exhibits a similar measure of community and hospitality. Max and Samantha, who now reside in Little Falls, are looking forward to raising their children at the Verona church. Please make it a point to welcome them, too.

### **OUR SACRED LIBRARIES**

Dear Church Members & Friends,

Join the Verona Clergy Council at 6:30pm on Thursday evenings, July 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup> at the Verona Public Library for another wonderful Interfaith learning experience where we explore Our Sacred Libraries—the Bible, the Episcopal Book of Prayer, the Jewish Mishnah, and more. The themes are as follows:

- July 11<sup>th</sup>, Introduction and Finding Hope
- July 18<sup>th</sup>, Addressing Poverty
- July 25<sup>th</sup>, What Happens When You Die?



Thank  
you

Dear Pastor Myers, Elders, Members and dear Friends including the Thrift Store Gang

I would like to extend my sincere thanks for your warm cards, calls, emails, texts and, most of all, prayers for my recovery from knee surgery. They made all the difference.

My recovery couldn't have gone any better!

Thank you also to my friend, Barbara Lyons, for covering for me during my time away. I am confident to go back to a well-organized office!

My return date is set for Tuesday July 2nd 2024. I am looking forward to being back in the office and continuing the administrative work for FPCV

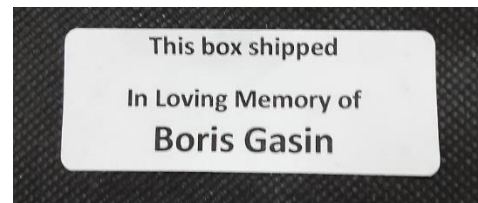
Blessing to all! Patti Beirne

### HOPE FOR UKRAINE

As the war drags on we continue to collect for the people of Ukraine. Current needs are clothing and canned foods. The Hope for Ukraine Website has started Arts and Crafts for the children. We are starting to collect paper, crayons, pencils, etc to send to the children. Any items you can add to our box is most appreciated.

When we started taking the collections, Boris Gasin was very helpful in what we sent, special collections and information. Boris also made the delicious Ukrainian deserts for Coffee Hour. In May we started adding a small label to the side of our boxes -Thank you all so much for your continued support and love of the Ukrainian people.

Велике спасибі. Хай вас Бог благословить. Christina Turkington



### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

There are numerous opportunities for church friends to share their talents. Opportunities are published every week in our Thursday Tidings. Ideas are always welcome. Feel free to speak with a Session member or Deacon. Lay Readers for Sunday Worship are always needed. If you would like to volunteer

to lay read, please contact Beth Shorten for information: 973-641-2296

## RECOGNITION SUNDAY 2023-2024 VOLUNTEERS

<b>PREACHERS OF THE WORD:</b>	<b>Nativity Set-up &amp; Take Down</b>	<b>CHANCEL CHOIR:</b>
Ernie Kiel	Dick Crawford	Doug Hathaway
Beth Shorten	Matthew & Walter Koroluk	Charlie Heyer
Christina Turkington	Mike McGough	Chris Kiel
<b>LAY READERS:</b>	<b>BUILDING &amp; GROUNDS:</b>	Isabel Mercado
Beth Shorten: organizer	Charles Heyer: co-chair	Caroline Mescia
Joyce Cougan	Debbie Michelsen: co-chair	Marilyn O'Neill
Pat Heyer	<b>Lawn/Exterior:</b>	Willow Pomponio
Chris Kiel	Dick Crawford	Beth Shorten
Dotty Ostella	David Haimann	Christina Turkington
Janice Tierney	Doug Hathaway	Peggy Whiting
<b>MISSION STUDY TEAM</b>	Charlie Heyer	<b>RENTALS:</b>
Mike Duhaney	Dan Uniss	Donna Gasin
Ernie Kiel	<b>WORSHIP &amp; MUSIC:</b>	Donna Lauckner
Caroline Mescia	Ernie Kiel: chair	<b>SECURITY:</b>
Marilyn O'Neill	Debbie Michelsen	Charlie Heyer
Beth Shorten	Marilyn O'Neill	Mike Duhaney
Janice Tierney	Peggy Whiting	<b>UKRAINE SUPPORT:</b>
<b>THE SESSION:</b>	<b>OUTREACH:</b>	Christina Turkington: Organizer
<b>Elders:</b>	Donna Kiel: chair	Dick Crawford
Peggy Whiting- Clerk	Cathy Franco	Warren Hull
Cathy Franco	<b>PLANSOEN GRANTS:</b>	Isabel Mercado
Chris Kiel	Barbara Haimann	Dotty Ostella
Donna Kiel	Debbie Michelsen	<b>CHURCH DECORATING</b>
Donna Lauckner	<b>NOMINATING:</b>	Cathy Collins
Debbie Michelsen	Debbie Michelsen: chair	Kathy Dougherty
Marilyn O'Neill	Barbara Haimann	<b>COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS</b>
<b>SESSION COMMITTEES:</b>	Marilyn O'Neill	<b>Newsletter &amp; Spirit:</b>
<b>CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:</b>	<b>OUTREACH:</b>	Peggy Whiting
Cathy Franco: Chair	Donna Kiel: Chair	<b>Facebook:</b>
Riley Becker	Cathy Franco	Melissa DiRoma
Cathy Collins	<b>HUMAN RESOURCES:</b>	Beth Shorten
Melissa DiRoma	Chris Kiel-Chair	Peggy Whiting
Alexis Kiel	Cathy Franco	<b>IT Support:</b> Steve Shorten
Donna Kiel	<b>THE DEACONS</b>	<b>Live-Streaming:</b>
Willow Pomponio	Kathy Dougherty- co-chair	Jack & John Hromoko
Christina Turkington	Mike McGough- co-chair	Ernie Kiel
Tennille Wasek	David Haimann	Mike McGough
<b>Children's Workshop Volunteers</b>	Matthew Koroluk	Trevor Mescia
Cathy Franco: Chair	Trevor Mescia	Walter Koroluk
Amanda Becker	Willow Pomponio	<b>Coffee Hour Music:</b>
Riley Becker	Marion Shine	Willow Pomponio
Cathy Collins	Dan Uniss	<b>Website:</b> Cathy Franco
Melissa DiRoma	Tennille Wasek	<b>Coffee Hour Planners:</b>
Donna & Ernie Kiel	<b>Fish Fry Event:</b>	Donna Kiel
Cece Kim	Marion Shine	Marion Shine
Matthew & Walter Koroluk	Matthew Koroluk	Dan Uniss
Donna Lauckner	Walter Koroluk	
Christina Turkington	Mike McGough	
Willow Pomponio		

## MUSIC NEWS



Our Chancel Choir leads us in music on Sunday mornings. They will begin rehearsals again in September.

There will be no Sunday School during the months of July and August. However, children who come to Worship will be invited to “Sing with Chae” in the music room during the sermon.

*Peg Whiting*

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



The Sunday School Classes have ended for the school year. On June 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Sunday Worship Service celebrated achievements of our students along with recognition of the many people in the church who's contributions have helped to model and provide a fertile environment for children to grow in their faith. Please look at the extensive listing of committee's and organizers within the church who have provided a warm and welcoming place for our children to learn the ways of Jesus Christ as they learn and grown in their faith in our nurturing environment.

The students from the upper class along with two of our young adults provide readings and prayers as part of the service. Our young adults, Julia Hromoko did a scripture reading and Jack Hromoko led the Call to Confession. AJ Wasek did the Prayer for Illumination while James Hromoko did the Call for the Offering and Andria Kiel provided the Prayer of Dedication. Christina Turkington delivered the message, helping us to identify who or what our Goliath's are and how our faith in God can help us to defeat it with something as small as a stone. We are very proud of our older students who braved the fear of public speaking and did a wonderful job. We had 3 students who were recognized for their achievements this year. Clara Kiel will be entering preschool (we can't believe how big she is getting!), Cricket Wasek will be advancing to the older Sunday School Class in September (her help to Ms. Riley will be missed in the younger class), and Andria Kiel is moving on to Middle School (we know this young lady is ready to lead the way there).

Session has approved that the flooring in the younger class Sunday School will be replaced over the summer. The current one is splintered beyond repair and has been covered with area rugs to safeguard our little feet. The students will be seeing some new things in the fall in both of the classes. The changes will also provide for expanded comfort for our adult classes as well.

There will be a Christmas in July showing of the movie “The Journey to Bethlehem”. This was a new musical movie this past Christmas Season that was a big hit. We will be doing it on July 28<sup>th</sup> at the end of the Coffee Hour so plan on getting ready for this fun movie.

Also starting in July there will be two options for children who come to the Sunday service. There will be activity bags in the Narthex that they can use while sitting in church. The bags will be labeled by age group. Children can work with them and leave the bag for their next visit or for someone else to use. We will also offer practice singing with Mr. Chae in the air-conditioned Parlor. Interested children will leave the sanctuary with Mr. Chae before the Sermon and will return after it. This will be a low pressure, just fun, singing with instruments time for the children. Come fall, they may be more comfortable with other options for sharing their talents with us.

Stay cool over the summer and make sure to see Jesus in the people and places wherever you go.

*Cathy Franco Christian Education Committee Chair*



**BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE**

In an effort to spruce up areas of the Church that have been ignored for years, several projects have been done over that summer. Of course, regular maintenance has been ongoing also.

- The roof leak over the balcony ceiling has been sealed, and the interior plaster repaired.
- The men’s room has been renovated with new paint, lighting, floor tile and fixtures.
- The Julie Chamberlain Room on the second floor has been painted also. The next phase is to replace the over 60-year-old carpeting with a refinished floor and a throw rug. New window treatments will also give the room a fresh look.
- In early July the floors in Room 26, the Julie Chamberlain room and the “green” room will also be addressed.
- In early Fall the stage will get a final light sanding and varnishing. This was to be done in 2020, but the pandemic intervened.

This is going to be a lot of work, but we will soon be calling a new pastor and the church needs to be attractive. The sanctuary is over 70 years old, and the other part of the church is over 90 years old. As long-time members, we “get used” to the conditions around our building, but we need to look at our church through the eyes of someone new walking through the door. Keeping it fresh and clean is imperative. *Charles Heyer & Debbie Michelsen*

**NEWS FROM THE THRIFT SHOP**

**The Thrift Shop will be open all summer.**



We would not be anywhere without our volunteers. Thanks to the congregation for the cake! We always appreciate food. Be sure to check out our write-up in ACTS to see the list of other people and missions we also service. Check us out on Facebook for the most up to date info! We will be open all summer with the same hours.

Check out Maya, our latest volunteer, cleaning the Hess Trucks. No job too big – no volunteer too small. *Christina Turkington*

**FISH FRY**

We’re into the Summer Season and hope all have an enjoyable time. It will fly by fast and Fall will be fast approaching. We then look forward to our annual Deacon’s Fund Raiser – the Fish Fry!!

Save the date – Friday, October 18, 2024. Peace & Blessings, *Marion Shine*



**GIFT WE ALL CAN GIVE IS THE “THE GIFT OF THOUGHTFULNESS.”**



Take some time to remember those who do not have email and/or are unable to attend Worship with us.

Check the church prayer lists that are provided in the Sunday bulletins and are on the weekly Spirit and choose some friends to remember with a note, visit or phone call. A gift that we all can give is the gift of remembrance.

If you would like some assistance in choosing persons to contact, please contact Dotty Ostella or Patti Beirne by phone or email.

**LAY READERS FOR JULY/AUGUST**

July 7	Pat Heyer	August 4	Pat Heyer
July 14	Dotty Ostella	August 11	Janice Tierney
July 21	Janice Tierney	August 18	Dotty Ostella
July 28	Chris Kiel	August 25	Chris Kiel

## CHANCEL FLOWER DONATIONS



Just as decorating a home for guests is a sign of welcome and hospitality, decorating a sanctuary for worship is also an offering of hospitality. **The church has begun a relationship with Anderson Flowers for the regular delivery of fresh flowers to the church for Sunday worship.** To make this program work, we are asking for your support. Please consider signing up to provide fresh flowers in honor of a loved one, in thanksgiving for God's blessings, in celebration of a special event, etc. The cost is \$30 for one arrangement and \$60 for two arrangements. When making your payment to the church, please note that it is for flowers. Thank you for your support of the church and its ministry! **Contact the church office to check for the available dates.**

JULY		AUGUST	
7	OPEN	4	OPEN
14	OPEN	11	OPEN
21	OPEN	18	OPEN
28	OPEN	25	OPEN

## WISHING BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS, ...a very HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

Remember, the only way to be added to this list is by reaching out to Dan Uniss or a deacon and providing your birthday information (no year required)!

### July

Cathy Franco 1

### August

Andy Turner 18

Pat Heyer 26



## GRANDPARENTS' GROUP

Our Grandparents Group meets on the second Thursday of the month via Zoom.

Please email [pathey75@gmail.com](mailto:pathey75@gmail.com) or call 973-239-3592 if you'd like to join us.



## HOLY SPIRIT FOOD PANTRY



The Holy Spirit Food Pantry continues to need our help.

You may use the 24-hour drop-off bin in their parking lot on 36 Gould Street for any donations. Please consider writing a check to: Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit with "food pantry" in the memo line.



## Calendar for July and August 2024- (to be updated as needed)

**Summer Hymn Sing:** For the months of July and August, we will be enjoying a *Hymn Sing from 10:00 to 10:15am* each Sunday before worship. Come ready to call out some of your favorite hymns and sing with joyful hearts!

### JULY

#### **Wednesday July 3**

7:30pm Worship & Music Meeting via Zoom

#### **Thursday July 4 Independence Day**

Office Closed

Thrift Shop is Open

#### **Friday July 5**

Office Closed

#### **Sunday July 7 Communion Sunday**

10:15am Worship Service, Sermon: *"Making Our Joy Complete"*

Deacon's Meeting following Worship

#### **Thursday July 11**

11:00am Grandparents Group via Zoom

6:30pm Our Sacred Library @ Verona Public Library

- Week 1 *Introduction to Sacred Texts and Finding Hope*

#### **Sunday July 14**

10:15am Worship Service, Sermon: *"Seasoned With Peace"*

Christian Ed. Com. Meeting during Coffee Hour

#### **Thursday July 18**

11:00am Grandparents Group via Zoom

6:30pm Our Sacred Library @ Verona Public Library

- Week 2 *Addressing Poverty*

#### **Sunday July 21**

10:15am Worship Service, Sermon: *"Patiently Bearing Fruit"*

Following Service -Open Forum on the Mission Study Report

#### **Wednesday July 24**

7:30pm Session Meeting via Zoom

#### **Thursday 25**

6:30pm Our Sacred Library @ Verona Public Library - Week 3 *What Happens When You Die?*

#### **Sunday July 28**

10:15am Worship Service, Sermon: *"Kindness is a Way of Life"*

### AUGUST

#### **Sunday August 4 - Communion Sunday**

10:15am Worship Service, Sermon: *"Generosity is a Practice"*

Deacon's Meeting following Worship

#### **Wednesday August 7**

7:30pm Worship & Music Meeting via Zoom

#### **Thursday August 8**

11:00am Grandparents' Group Meeting via Zoom

#### **Sunday August 11**

10:15am Worship Service, Sermon: *"Faith More Precious Than Gold"*

#### **Thursday August 15**

7:30pm Session Meeting via Zoom

**August 8/17 to 8/23** *Pastor Rhonda's vacation*

#### **Sunday August 18**

10:15am Worship Service, Beth Shorten preaching  
Christian Ed. Com Meeting during Coffee Hour

#### **Friday August 23**

*Articles due for September Newsletter*

#### **Sunday August 25**

10:15am Worship Service, Sermon: *"With Tender Arms and a Gentle Shoulder"*

#### **Sunday September 1**

10:15am Worship Service, Sermon: *"Maintaining a Balance"*

**"Pastor Rhonda will be away from August 17- August 23.**

**Contact Peggy Whiting for Spiritual Needs  
during Pastor Rhonda's Absence**

**Save the Date**

**Sunday, September 8, 2024: Church Picnic First day of Sunday School**

**Music Together Summer Program**

Held in the Music Together Room

July 8 through August 15

Mondays: 9:30am to 11:30am

Thursdays: 9:30am to 10:30 am

**TPAPNJ Summer Camp**

Held in Chamberlain Hall

July 15 through August 30

Weekdays: 9:00am to 2:00pm

**AA Meetings**

Meeting in Chamberlain Hall - Tuesdays 8:30pm-9:30pm

**AI-Anon Meetings**

Meeting in Julie Chamberlain Room – Fridays 12:30pm to 1:30 pm