

JUNE 2024



First Presbyterian Church of Verona

Come and Worship With Us

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

Website: www.veronapreschurch.org

MISSION STATEMENT

We are a caring and welcoming church fully engaged in the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we live and worship in joyful fellowship with God, proclaiming the Good News through an active program of Christian education and music for children, families, and individuals of all ages. We are committed to sharing our gifts and talents to implement God's will and to assume leadership in our community, guided by the principles of Christian love.

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

Online giving is now available on our website: 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—June 2024

"I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions."

(Joel 2:28)



My dear friends in Christ,

As you know, our Mission Study Team has been hard at work for months. They were instructed to study the church's story to this point, consider the church in the present day, and try to envision where God may be leading the congregation in the future. They were also charged with considering what the church most needs in a new pastor—their vocational skills, personal characteristics, and more. To that end, they initiated a congregational survey, engaged you in conversation, studied town demographics, looked at church financials, and had many, many prayerful discussions about where God is leading the church.

The Team has prepared a report that contains the results of those endeavors as well as some recommendations for the Session regarding an updated Mission Statement and a Vision Statement for a modern age. It is our hope to present a completed report to the Session very soon for their review, discussion and, if the way be clear, approval. Once approved, the Report will then be distributed to members of the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry for their attention and approval as well. If all goes well, we hope to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) this summer—and then the real fun of searching for a pastor will begin!

Once the Mission Study Report has been approved by both entities, we will share it with you at an open forum so that we can discuss its contents together. That should happen before a PNC is elected. So, keep an eye out for an announcement of that date. The more voices we hear, the better our outcome.

On another note, I will be out of the office for a couple of weeks in June. Dave and I will be at our home in Ellenville, NY working on some projects that “need doing.” Hopefully, the weather will cooperate so that we can accomplish our outdoor projects!

Shelley Gardner will be leading worship and filling the pulpit on June 9th. Please welcome her warmly. Ernie Kill will do the same on June 16th, and I know he covets your love and support. Our Sunday School teachers will be leading worship on June 23rd. That coincides with the last day of Sunday School and will also be Recognition Sunday. If you would like any honoree recognized, please let Cathy Franco know—sooner rather than later.

I will be blessed to join my home congregation for their 100th Anniversary Worship and Luncheon on June 23rd. As my maternal grandparents were charter members of Clinton Avenue Reformed Church in Bergenfield, and as both my mother and my siblings and I were baptized there, and I was married there, I am excited to be a part of their big celebration.

Our Spring Book Study will conclude on Tuesday, June 4th @ 7pm. There will be no book study over the summer. We will look to hold one in the fall. I will keep you posted on that front once the Christian Education Committee has settled on a topic. Meanwhile,

Yours very truly in Christ,

Pastor Rhonda

The Rev. Dr. Rhonda Myers
Interim Pastor

Looking Forward to June

- May 31st Movie Night, showing “Unbroken”
- June 2nd Deacons meeting, following worship in the Parlor
- June 3rd Mission Study Team, 7:00pm by Zoom
- June 4th *In Search of Belief* book study, 7:00 pm in the Sunday School room and on Zoom. (Last session.)
- June 9th Shelley Gardner preaching
- June 16th Ernie Kiel preaching
- June 23rd Sunday School Ends for the Year with Worship and Recognition Sunday
- June 30th An Infant Baptism

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.

HOPE FOR UKRAINE

The past deliveries of Warm Clothing and Afghans came to another 30+ boxes – Thanks to Dick Crawford and Thrift Shop

The biggest need currently is for canned food. Nothing that needs water added (like Campbell soup) Examples of needed food are - Canned vegetables and fruit, canned pie filling, canned meats & fish, canned coconut milk, etc . Everything is sent by boat and there are rats on the boats. They get into the shipping containers and make short work of any food not in cans.

Thank you all so much for your continued support and love of the Ukrainian people.
Велике спасибі. Хай вас Бог благословить.

Thank you all so much for your continued support and love of the Ukrainian people.

Christina Turkington

MUSIC NEWS



Our Chancel Choir leads us in music on Sunday mornings. We continue to rehearse at 9:45, prior to Worship on Sunday mornings. As Chae's busy schedule slows down, rehearsal times may change.

It is hoped that the children will be singing more often, that guitars will be added from time to time and our Chancel Choir will grow in number.

In May we celebrated Chae's receiving his Master's Degree with a special Coffee Hour.

Peg Whiting



BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

There is a lot happening around the church this summer. The men's room is being rehabbed with new lighting, paint, flooring, toilets and sink/vanity. The kitchen remodeling is in the planning stage, as is the Julie Chamberlain Room upstairs.

It has been sometime since things like floors have been addressed, so there will be some sanding and varnishing done to clean up several rooms. Already, the carpets in the Parlor and the Pastor's Study have been cleaned. The carpet in the Julie Chamberlain Room will be removed soon. Andy says that it was there when he started in 1960, so it has served us for about 65 years.

The Chamberlain Hall project is nearly complete, with only the purchase of the inside aluminum ramps yet to be done. Planseon money will also be used to create an ADA accessible bathroom on the first floor. This will be important to serve the public better.

The big project for this summer is the restoration of our steeple. There are wood pieces of wood falling off, and it is in dire need of new paint. This will mean a major investment in our church building. Contractors are presently being sought to accomplish this work.

Charles Heyer and Debbie Michelsen

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Well, we are coming to the end of a successful Sunday School year. We have averaged 4-5 students per week and the students are all growing in their faith and relationship with Jesus from our youngest to our oldest participant. Having Riley Becker join us has been wonderful and we look forward to her return with us in September. The children were active in the church's celebration of Pentecost and the birthday of churches. The older students created church liturgical calendars for their families and other members of the church to help them anticipate what the next church season will be. If you would like one of them please see one of the older students and they will make one for you.

The adult book study will conclude on 6/4 and will take a break over the summer. If there are topics you would like to have as the focus of the group when it resumes at the end of the summer, let Reverend Rhonda know.



Our end of the Sunday School year will be on June 23rd. This is also Recognition Sunday, where we celebrate any major milestones in academic or personal lives. The deadline for letting Christian Education know of something to celebrate in your life is **June 15th**.

Over the summer there will be no weekly Sunday School however, the packets from last year were used so we are going to continue to provide them starting the first week of July. Packets are done by age group and will be in the Narthex for families to pick up and use during the service. We will also be offering the return of "flat Jesus" for people to take some photo op's with as you enjoy your summer. Please send photo's to Cathy Franco at turtlebacktwo@gmail.com and we will post them.



In July we will be having a family movie day. We will be doing Christmas in July by watching the movie "The Journey to Bethlehem". Keep your eye on *The Spirit* or the church website to find out whether we will be doing it on 7/26 or 7/27.

Cathy Franco, Christian Education Committee Chair

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



There are numerous opportunities for church friends to share their talents. Opportunities are published from time to time. 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.

LAY READERS FOR JUNE

June 2 Beth Shorten

June 9 Beth Shorten

June 16 Chris Kiel

June 23 Dotty Ostella

June 30 Joyce Cougan

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.**

JUNE		JULY	
2	Open	7	OPEN
9	Open	14	OPEN
16	Open Father's Day	21	OPEN
23	Amanda Becker	28	OPEN
30	Beth Shorten in memory of maternal Grandparents' Anniversary, Clinton F. & Jessie S. Kilbury		

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)!

June

Liz McGough 16
Donna Kiel 29



JULY

Cathy Franco 1
Liz Hathaway 27

GRANDPARENTS' GROUP

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



Please email patheyer75@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 JUNE

(Adjustments will be made as necessary)

Sunday, June 2nd **Communion Sunday**

10:15am: Worship Service
Deacon Meeting following Worship in Parlor

Tuesday, June 4th

7:00pm *In Search of Belief* Book Study
Sunday School Room and via Zoom

Friday, June 7th

6 – 8:00pm TPAPNJ in Chamberlain Hall

Saturday, June 8th

4 – 8:30pm TPAPNJ in Chamberlain Hall

Sunday, June 9th

10:15am: Sunday Worship
led by Rev. Shelley Gardner

11:30am: Christian Ed Committee meeting in
Chamberlain Hall following Worship.

Thursday, June 13th

11:00am Grandparents Group via Zoom

Sunday, June 16th: **Fathers' Day**

10:15am Sunday Worship led by Ernie Kiel

Sunday, June 23rd

10:15am: Sunday Worship led by Cathy Franco

Wednesday, June 26th

Articles due for July – August Newsletter

Thursday, June 27th

7:30 pm: *Session* via Zoom

Sunday, June 30th

10:15am Worship Service
Baptism of Max Marquardt

Pastor Rhonda will be away from June 8 through June 23.

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

AA Meetings

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

Al-Anon Meetings

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

Music Together

This will run from 4/15 through the week of 6/16.

The following week may have some makeup classes (week of 6/24).

Mondays 9:30 to 11:30 am in dedicated space. |

Tuesdays 3:30 to 4:30 pm - in their dedicated space.

Thursdays 9:30 to 10:30 am- in their dedicated space.

Saturdays 9:30 to 11:30 am- in their dedicated space. (