

December 2022



First Presbyterian Church of Verona

Come and Worship With Us

10:15 a.m.

10 Fairview Ave, Verona, NJ 07044;

973-239-3561

Pastor: Rev. Lynn Rubier-Capron,

609-613-1254

Seminarian Intern: Pam Osborne

Christian Ed. Facilitator: Liz Hathaway

Music Director: Abigail Schumer

E-Mail: veronapreschurch@gmail.com

Sexton: Andy Turner

Admin. Assistant: Patti Beirne

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.

SUNDAY WORSHIP: WE HAVE A NEW PROTOCOL- DETERMINED BY SESSION
as of August 26, 2021

- Until everyone has had the opportunity to be vaccinated, we will continue to wear masks in worship
- We will sing in worship; hymnals & bulletins will be available for everyone
- We will receive holy communion on the first Sunday of each month, removing masks to receive the elements
- We ask all who have not received the vaccine to leave masks on while in the church building
- We ask all who are sick to please worship from home.
- Those who are fully vaccinated and are leading worship may remove their masks to speak, then replace them.
- Masks will be used in Sunday School until the further notice.
- WE WILL RESUME OUR COFFEE HOUR IN CHAMBERLAIN HALL AFTER WORSHIP.
All doors will be open for ventilation.

**For those who are unable to attend, services will be streamed
to the church You-Tube Page:**

Instructions for seeing the streamed service live!

The service will be live-streamed at this address:

<https://www.youtube.com/VeronaPresbyterianNJ>

Important:

To see the service LIVE you must subscribe.

You will see the word *subscribe*

Click on the word and it will now read *subscribed*.

Do not go on prior to 10:15. If you do not see the service, *refresh*

Worship Services are available on this You-tube channel at any time

<https://www.youtube.com/VeronaPresbyterianNJ>

How to Find Us

ONLINE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUPPORT AND WORSHIP

On YouTube:	https://www.youtube.com/VeronaPresbyterianNJ and subscribe to our channel.
On Zoom:	Click the link you receive in the email from Pastor Lynn. Usually, that is enough. If not, start the Zoom app and enter the meeting ID and password. To phone in with the meeting ID and password, call one of the provided numbers.
On Facebook:	Go directly to our page at www.facebook.com/First Presbyterian Church of Verona
Our website:	veronapreschurch.org

Online giving is now available on our website: veronapreschurch.org

CHURCH OFFICERS

	SESSION		DEACONS
Ann Brillhart	Deborah Michelsen	Suzanne Fiederer	Dotty Ostella
Donna Kiel	Marilyn O'Neill	David Haimann	James Shorten
Cathy Franco	Nicole Shaw	Scott Klabenesh	Marion Shine
Michael Duhaney	Margaret Whiting	Matthew Koroluk	Dan Uniss
Christopher Kiel		Michael McGough	Willow Pomponio



Margaret Whiting, Clerk of the Session Council
Dr. Michael Duhaney, Corporation President
Ken Lauckner- Treasurer
Kathy Dougherty & Donna Lauckner- Financial Secretaries
Dotty Ostella & Michael McGough- Deacon Co-Chairs

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

The Greatest Gift of All

We know what the greatest gift of all is... the actual presence of the One we love among us. The baby, the man who showed us what it is to be human and who is also God, the Holy Spirit who daily recreates us in His image. We tell this story every year in word and song, with beautiful instruments and special decorations. We eat special food and, most importantly, we spend time together.

God with us - Emmanuel!

As you read through this news letter, every Christmas and Advent activity is an opportunity to connect with someone you know and love, or with someone who needs connection.

"Do you want to come with me when I go to the community concert this Sunday? Here is the invitation" (we will give you bulletin inserts to use as invitations as the date draws near).

"Do you want to come to church with me this Sunday? We have a special offering for Heifer this Sunday, and it is a great program that helps people get their own business going. After they get started, they often find ways to benefit their entire community. This year, I hope we can raise enough money to send someone an entire cow!"

"Do you want to come to church with me on Christmas Eve? It is a quiet service at 8:00 - I just love singing those Christmas carols and would enjoy them even more if I could sing them with you."

More than ever before, we have learned this year that "being with" is not exactly the same thing as seeing something or hearing something. We need the physical presence of other people.

The greatest gift of all is the physical presence of God on this earth over 2000 years ago. God made our human need for each other holy. I hope we will spread the good news this year that God wants to be with us, and we want to be with each other, and we want to be with... well, I will wait to see who else you want to be with when you bring your friends, neighbors and loved ones to the events listed in this news letter!

Mark your calendar, set up a notice to remind you to invite someone. Think about who you want to invite and make a plan in your to do list. We know what the greatest gift of all is, and you cannot buy it in stores.

Blessings,
Lynn

December Lay Readers		December Ushers	
December 5	Pam Osborne	December 5	Mike McGough/Matt Koroluk
December 12	Janice Tierney	December 12	David Haimann / Dan Uniss
December 19	Beth Shorten	December 19	Mike McGough / James Shorten
December 24	Pam Osborne 4pm	December 24	4:00 Suzie Fiederer, Dan Uniss
December 24	Beth /James Shorten	December 26	8:00- David Haimann
December 26	Chris Kiel		



HANGING OF THE GREENS

On Saturday, December 11 at 10:00 a.m., we will be decorating the church in preparation for the Christmas season. Hanging of the Greens will be open to anyone who wishes to participate. Come join us in this joyous, anticipatory activity as we prepare our church for the celebration of the Christ-child's birth. Refreshments will be served in the Narthex and masks are required in the sanctuary for this event.

POP-UP MINISTRY ON SPECIAL OFFERINGS- 2022

Brian Tracy, motivational speaker and self-development guru has been a major influence in how I conduct my life both professionally and personally. A few quotes from Mr. Tracy that I've prospered from.... "If it's to be, it's up to me" and "Successful people are always looking for opportunities to help others. Unsuccessful people are always asking, 'What's in it for me?'" But one of my favorites is, "**Love only grows by sharing. You can only have more for yourself by giving it away to others.**"

Keeping this in mind, we have been offered the opportunity to help others through our Special Offerings at Church. This year, Session has approved the following recipient organizations for our special offerings: The Heifer Project, The Christmas Joy Offering, One Great Hour of Sharing, and Frontera de Cristo.

Below is a brief description of each of these special offering opportunities and the target date for collection. More information about each offering can be found on-line at specialofferings.pcusa.org and fronteradecristo.org

Heifer Project: Heifer International (also known as Heifer Project International) is a global nonprofit working to eradicate poverty and hunger through sustainable, values-based holistic community development. Heifer Project International provides cows, sheep, and other livestock to rural families around the world with the aim of fighting hunger. (December -- in place of the Alternative Christmas Mall)

Christmas Joy: "The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) reflects God's gifts to us, through the Christmas Joy Offering with generous gifts supporting church leaders among us – retired, present and future – who have pointed us to God". (December)

One Great Hour of Sharing: One Great Hour of Sharing helps improve the lives of people in challenging situations through three programs: Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program and Self-Development of People. (Beginning April 12, 2022)

Frontera de Cristo: "By demonstrating gospel values in all that we do, Frontera de Cristo seeks to build relationships that demonstrate God's will, and build bridges rather than walls. So many people are migrating, seeking refuge and fleeing extreme poverty and violence. Our goal is not only to address their immediate needs, but also to address the root causes of mass migration, creating safe and prosperous opportunities that allow our sisters and brothers to stay in the land they call home, if they so choose." (Mother's Day, May 8; Father's Day, June 19)

Respectfully submitted, *Dotty Ostella* Recording Secretary for the Pop-Up Ministry on Special Offerings 2022



HAVE YOU STARTED WRITING YOUR ARTICLE FOR THE 2021 ACTS?

GIVING TREE



Once again, we will be participating in Verona's community project to supply gifts to those in our area who are in need. The procedure this year will be the same as last:

1. Contact Dotty Ostella via email at dotteo52158@yahoo.com or by phone at (973) 650-8458 for a gift request from a family in town.
2. Every week in Advent, Dotty or Pastor Lynn will add an ornament to the tree for every time a person has offered to purchase a gift.
3. A box will be located near the Giving Tree in which you can deposit your **unwrapped gift**. If you are not able to come to church, contact Dotty again and she will make arrangements to pick up the gift for the Giving Tree. **The deadline to get your gifts in the box is December 12th.**

Below is the list of items requested for this year. Those already selected are indicated by a line through the item.

Family #24 Girl age 8

- Barbie doll clothing/accessories
- ~~Journey girl doll/and accessories~~



- Twin size sheets- purple or pink
- ~~Warm winter hat and gloves pink, purple or blue~~
- Art supplies/glitter/paint/brushes

Family #36 Girl age 14

- Fuzzy socks
- Pajama shorts set (pink) size woman's large
- Sweater (woman's large)
- ~~Sweatshirt (woman's Large)~~
- Bath & Body works gift (anything)or gift card

Family #7 Boy age 20

- Sleeping bag for an adult
- Laundry basket-plastic or fabric
- iphone portable charger
- AA/AAA Batteries Energizer or Duracell
- ~~Gift card for Game stop~~
- Gift card Best Buy

Last year's response was so heartwarming! We had more members giving than we had recipients, and we had to obtain more names from the town. Let's make this year's Giving Tree as equally successful. *Dotty Ostella*

MESSAGE FROM OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR

Dear friends,

As the colorful fall season gives way to a sparkly winter, we are excited to introduce some sparkle of our own with our community concert, **A Christmas Medley**, featuring Iris Prcic, voice and Robbin Gordon Cartier, harp.

Please join us for an array of exciting Christmas music, from classical repertoire to all time popular favorites.

All are welcome to tune in either via You Tube, or join us in person at the First Presbyterian Church of Verona on Sunday, December 12th at 2:30pm.

Please save the date, you won't regret it!

Sincerely, *Abigail Schumer, Music Director*

THE SENIOR CHOIR IS SINGING!!!

In the absence of Abigail Schumer, her substitute, Tina Schrubha has agreed to meet with choir members at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings to rehearse the music for that Sunday's Worship Service and for the next few Sundays. A small group has started slowly with music that is familiar with us. We are almost ready to tackle some of our more challenging anthems. At this time we have a base, two altos, and four sopranos. Iris Prcic, the soprano who has been leading our singing beautifully every Sunday, is also singing with us. We are hoping to have more of our singers back as we begin working on music for the Christmas Season.

Tina is also willing to start a children's choir and would meet with them following Worship on Sunday mornings. Anyone who is interested is welcome to talk to Tina following Sunday Worship. *Peg Whiting*



FELLOWSHIP HOUR

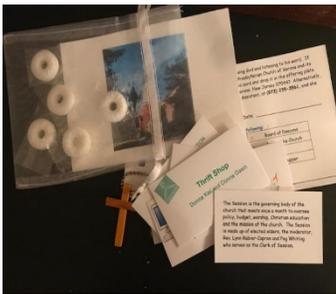
Wednesday evenings at 8:00 pm, is a time to check in with each other, share concerns, joys, and prayer requests, and close with a prayer.

All are invited.

The zoom invite will be sent for you prior to the meeting time.

If you have a prayer concern but are unable to attend the get-together, email Pastor Lynn beforehand.

NEW WELCOME PACKAGE



We have a new welcome package for our church visitors located in a basket on the table in the Narthex. The welcome “bags” include:

Colorful and cheerful cards about many of our ministries, programs and people in our church

- A “reply” card where our guest can indicate if he/she would like more information about our programs
- Several peppermint Lifesavers (for both literal and metaphorical purposes)
- A lovely wooden cross keepsake

Please stop by the Narthex table and take a look – but leave the Lifesavers!

Dottie Ostella

THE BEECH TREE



This autumn it was necessary to remove the Beech tree from the manse property at the edge of the church driveway. It was over 100 years old and had a disease that was killing it from the top down. Also, the root area at the driveway edge was rotting and the entire tree was leaning towards the Manse. Deciding to remove this prominent tree was not done lightly, but the three strikes against it meant that it had to come down now. The process was drawn out over months, having to get the town’s permission for the removal and to obtain estimates.

The empty space the tree leaves is very evident, but in the spring, we will be planting a new substantial tree in its place that will stand for another 100 years. *Charles Heyer*

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday Suppers Craft group:

This creative and energetic group keeps growing and we would love to have you join us. Fellowship and fun abound during our monthly get-togethers to make an item to send with the Sunday Supper meal. We meet on the Saturday before the meal delivery. If you are interested let Cathy Franco know.

Christian Education Committee:

Our dedicated confirmands are meeting regularly 2x's per month to explore and learn ways to deepen their faith. Pastor Lynn and Liz Hathaway are co-leading this group of our next leaders of the church.

Youth ministries

The 3rd annual *Mischief to Ministry* drive in October netted 56 items of hygiene items for the Pantry. Thank you to all who helped with donations.

The 4th annual *Sock Drive* will be launched earlier this year to gather items sooner to help those in need. Look for the bin in the church entrance right after Thanksgiving. The drive will end the end of February.

Crutches4kids™ collection of medical equipment especially crutches, walkers, canes and other devices for walking are gathered year-round. We are about ready to bring our next load to the distribution site in Secaucus where all of the items will be shipped to children in countries who have lost their legs in worn torn countries.

Children's Christmas Workshop

The **Children's Christmas Workshop** will be on Saturday, December 11th. It is from 10 – 2pm. There will be crafts, fun, and great God time with Pastor Lynn. If you are interested, please let Liz Hathaway know as spots will be limited as we continue to practice safe distancing. Lunch will be bring your own for the day.

Family events

Christmas is coming and who doesn't love cookies, hot chocolate and a great Christmas movie? Our **December movie** will be in Chamberlain Hall immediately following coffee hour on Sunday, December 19th. It will be an oldie but goodie Christmas movie, and we would love to have everyone bring a dozen of their best Christmas cookies for an old-fashioned cookie swap/eat with us. If you are not a baker, your favorite store-bought cookies are great too or you can sign-up for items for the hot chocolate fixings bar.

Christmas Eve Family Service

The **4pm Christmas Eve church service is traditionally our family service**. Liz Hathaway and Pastor Lynn will lead all youth who come to the service in our rendition of the Christmas Story. Costumes will be available for all children who want to participate and there is no practice in advance.

As we begin this most wondrous time of the year when we celebrate the birth of Jesus our Lord and Savior the Christian Education Committee sends Christmas wishes of Peace, Joy, and Love to all those near and far in our Church family.

Merry Christmas! *Cathy Franco, Liz Hathaway, Nicole Shaw, & Pastor Lynn*

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, Deacon, or Pastor Lynn at any time. 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.



Chancel Flower Donations.

What a beautiful way to remember our loved ones at Sunday Worship. Your name and that of your loved one will be included in the Bulletin.



December 5th

December 12-26 *Donated Poinsettia's from Members / Friends of FPCV*

If you wish to donate, please contact Barbara Levenson at barbarabert@verizon.net or call the church office at 973-239-3561

Thank you and God Bless You for your generous donation!

HOLY SPIRIT FOOD PANTRY

The Holy Spirit Food Pantry continues to need our help. The curbside-pick up food pantry, instituted at the beginning of the pandemic, remains in operation.

You may use the 24-hour drop-off bin in their parking lot on 30 Gould Street for any donations. Please consider writing a check to: Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit with "food pantry" in the memo line. *Dan Uniss*

BEHIND-THE-SCENES

There are many church friends and members who are busy, behind-the-scenes, helping to make FPCV a special place to worship.

One of these persons provides all of the flags, hanging banners, signs on the lawn, decorations on the doors and so much more. If you think you know who this person is, check the Spirit on December 11th to verify your answer.

These persons deserve a special "thank you" from all of us. **If you know of a person who is busy behind-the-scenes**, please email me to let me know. I will attempt to describe one person in each issue of the Church News. Peg Whiting pegkatz@optonline.net.

LEAF RAKING

Thank you to all who worked on Saturday afternoon, November 20th, to clear the church and manse lawns of the many fallen leaves. Special thanks to Boy Scout Troup 2 for their help.



CHURCH SECURITY SYSTEM

After many months of touring, discussion and proposals, we are ready to move forward with our security update granted by the NJ Dept of Homeland Security and Preparedness. ALLEN Security is the company we have chosen to do the work. We anticipate it would take 4 – 6 weeks to complete after parts are orders and come in. That may take an additional 3 weeks because of supply chain constraints with distributors. Work will begin in early October.

It's been a much longer and arduous road than anticipated but the light is starting to shine at the end of the tunnel.

The project includes video surveillance, door access control with a/v intercoms, panic alarms, door alarms (thrift shops) and exterior lighting additions and upgrades as well as interior added electrical service to the mail room/secretary's office complex. Limited Ethernet expansion to be added to basement as well for thrift shop. Praise the Lord! *Mike Duhaney & Ken Lauckner*

**Please take a moment this month to wish our special
BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS a very Happy Birthday.**

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



DECEMBER

Bonnie McCarthy	1	Pastor Lynn	26
Joyce Cougan	12	Ralph Ostella	27
Clover Burgos	18		

2022 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN UPDATE

We are currently in our 2022 Stewardship Campaign and are thankful for the support received thus far. We currently have 22 responses for a total of \$60,000 in pledge commitments.

However we are far from our goal with only about half of our pledging members responding. We encourage every family to mail their pledge commitment to the church or place it in the plate at Sunday morning worship. There will be pledge cards available in the Narthex should you forget to bring your form. Also if more convenient, you may send your pledge to me, Donna Lauckner, via email: dklauckner@verizon.net.

Our hope is to wrap the campaign up shortly so we can send the information to our Session ahead of budget discussions. Any questions regarding any aspect of your pledge or financial giving may be addressed to the Committee members. Thank you for your cooperation.

The Stewardship Committee: *Donna Lauckner, Barbara Haimann, Marilyn O'Neill*

GRANDPARENTS' GROUP



Grandparents Group meets the second Thursday of the month via Zoom Thursday September 9 at 11:00am (new time). Please email pathey75@gmail.com or call 973-239-3592 if you'd like to join us.

NEWS FROM THE THRIFT SHOP

December Hours

Tuesday 10 am to 1 pm, Thursday 11 am to 1 pm, Saturday 10 am to 2 pm

*The Thrift Shop will be closed from January 1st 2022 thru February 20, 2022
Re-Opening on Tuesday, February 22, 2022 with the same hours*

THE 12 DAYS OF THRIFT SHOP

On the First day of Christmas the Thrift Shop gave to me- Volunteers as merry as can be!

On the Second day of Christmas the Thrift Shop gave to me- Two Holly Candles,
And Volunteers as merry as can be!

On the Third day of Christmas the Thrift Shop gave to me- Three crystal punch bowls,
Two Holly Candles and Volunteers as merry as can be!

On the fourth day of Christmas the Thrift Shop gave to me-Four high heeled sneakers,
Three crystal punch bowls, Two Holly Candles, And Volunteers as merry as can be.



On the Fifth day of Christmas the Thrift Shop gave to me- Five bells that ring,
Four high heeled sneakers, Three punch bowls, Two Holly Candles, And Volunteers as merry as can be!

On the Sixth day of Christmas the Thrift Shop gave to me- Six Gemstone earrings, Five bells that ring,
Four high heeled sneakers, Three punch bowls, Two Holly Candles, And Volunteers as merry as can be.

On the Seventh day of Christmas the Thrift Shop gave to me- Seven Books by Dan Brown,
Six Gemstone earrings, Five bells that ring, Four high heeled sneakers, Three punch bowls,
Two Holly Candles, And Volunteers as merry as can be!

On the eighth day of Christmas the Thrift Shop gave to me- Eight King size blankets,
Seven Books by Dan Brown, Six Gemstone earrings, Five bells that ring,
Four high heeled sneakers, Three punch bowls, Two Holly Candles
And Volunteers as merry as can be.

On the Ninth day of Christmas the Thrift Shop gave to me Nine Angel Statues,
Eight King size blankets, Seven Books by Dan Brown, Six Gemstone earrings, Five bells that ring,
Four high heeled sneakers, Three punch bowls, Two Holly Candles And Volunteers as merry as can be.

On the Tenth day of Christmas the Thrift Shop gave to me-Ten Winter Coats,
Nine Angel Statues, Eight King size blankets, Seven Books by Dan Brown, Six Gemstone earrings,
Five bells that ring, Four high heeled sneakers, Three punch bowls, Two Holly Candles And Volunteers as merry as can be!

On the Eleventh day of Christmas the Thrift Shop gave to me-Eleven Pairs of mittens,
Ten Winter Coats, Nine Angel Statues, Eight King size blankets, Seven Books by Dan Brown, Six Gemstone earrings,
Five bells that ring, Four high heeled sneakers, Three punch bowls, Two Holly Candles And Volunteers as merry as can be.

On the twelfth day of Christmas the Thrift Shop gave to me Twelve Happy Customers,
Eleven Pairs of mittens, Ten Winter Coats, Nine Angel Statues, Eight King size blankets, Seven Books by Dan Brown,
Six Gemstone earrings, Five bells that ring, Four high heeled sneakers, Three punch bowls, Two Holly Candles
And Volunteers as merry as can be.

Merry Christmas and God Bless Us, Everyone.

Christina Turkington

CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER

Pastor Lynn will be on Vacation from December 27, 2021 returning January 4th, 2022.

For Pastoral needs during her absence, please contact Peggy Whiting.

Wednesday December 1

8:00pm Church Fellowship Zoom

Sunday December 5

10:15am Worship Service with Robbin Gordon Cartier

4:00pm Confirmation

7:00pm Deacon Meeting

Wednesday December 8

7:00 pm Worship & Music

8:00pm Church Fellowship Zoom

Thursday December 9

11:00am Grandparent's Group

7:00 pm CE Committee via Zoom

Saturday December 11

10:00am to 2:00pm Children's Christmas Workshop – Chamberlain Hall, Kitchen, & Parlor

10:00am Hanging of the Greens in the Church Sanctuary

4:00pm Sunday Supper Crafters

Sunday December 12 *Sunday Supper Delivery*

10:15am Worship Service

2:30pm Community Concert – Christmas Melody

Tuesday December 14

12:15pm Staff Meeting

Wednesday December 15

8:00pm Church Fellowship Zoom

Thursday December 16

7:00pm Session

Friday December 17

9:30am Building Committee Meeting in Julia Chamberlain Room

Sunday December 19

9:00am Play Date with the Pastor

10:15am Worship Service

11:15am Movie following Coffee Hour-Chamberlain Hall

4:00pm Confirmation

Wednesday December 22

8:00pm Church Fellowship Zoom

Friday December 24

4:00pm Children's Worship Service

8:00pm Adult Worship Service

Saturday December 25

Merry Christmas

Sunday December 26

10:15am Worship Service

Additional Use of the Facility

TPAPNJ (Children's Theater Group)

Classes to run from September 13 to December 17, 2021

Location: Outside on the front lawn and in Chamberlain Hall

Mondays: 4pm to 7pm

Tuesdays: 4pm to 6pm

Wednesdays: 4pm to 5pm & 6pm to 7pm

Thursdays & Fridays: 4pm to 6pm

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