

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2026

FPCV NEWS

veronapreschurch.org

WELCOMING HEARTS, NURTURING SPIRITS,
UNITED IN FELLOWSHIP AND FAITH

PASTOR:

MUSIC DIRECTOR:

KYLE BLACKBURN

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CHAIR:

CATHY FRANCO

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:

DANIELLE CHRISTIANSON

SEXTON:

GABRIEL GONZALEZ

SEXTON EMERITUS:

ANDY TURNER

CLERK OF THE SESSION COUNCIL:

MARGARET WHITING

CORPORATION PRESIDENT:

DR. MICHAEL DUHANEY

TREASURER:

KEN LAUCKNER

FINANCIAL SECRETARIES:

KATHY DOUGHERTY & DONNA LAUCKNER

DEACON CHAIR:

KATHY DOUGHERTY

CHURCH OFFICERS:

SESSION:

DJENANE DUHANEY

CATHY FRANCO

CHRISTOPHER KIEL

DONNA KIEL

CAROLINE MESCIA

MARILYN O'NEILL

JANICE TIERNEY

DEACONS:

KATHY DOUGHERTY

SUZANNE FIEDERER

BARBARA HAIMANN

DAVID HAIMANN

LIZ MCGOUGH

WILLOW POMPONIO

MARION SHINE



Come Worship with Us

ALL ARE WELCOME!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VERONA
10 FAIRVIEW AVENUE, VERONA, NJ 07044

SUNDAYS AT 10:15AM

ONLINE OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORSHIP

SUNDAY SERVICES ARE STREAMED ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL:

WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/@FIRSTPRESBYTERIANCHURCHOFEV7478/STREAMS

SAYING GOODBYE

Thank you, Erik

Sunday, August 2nd, was Erik's last worship service here at FPCV. While we are sad that his time with us has ended so soon, we wish him all the best in his future endeavors! Goodbye for now, Erik, and thank you!

"THERE IS A ROAD, NO SIMPLE HIGHWAY
BETWEEN THE DAWN AND THE DARK OF NIGHT
AND IF YOU GO, NO ONE MAY FOLLOW
THAT PATH IS FOR YOUR STEPS ALONE

RIPPLE IN STILL WATER
WHEN THERE IS NO PEBBLE TOSSED
NOR WIND TO BLOW"
(“RIPPLE” BY GRATEFUL DEAD)



MUSIC MINISTRY

Make a Joyful Noise: *EXCITING UPDATES*



KYLE BLACKBURN
MUSIC DIRECTOR

As we settle back into the rhythm of the academic year, please know that we are hard at work ensuring the music ministry will remain consistent as we move forward in our search for a new pastor. We are also grateful that everyone can continue to enjoy the sound and presence of our new piano during worship and on our recorded live streams. If you're interested in contributing to the music ministry, AV work, or anything else you can think of, please don't hesitate to reach out!

Thank you for your ongoing support and prayers. I look forward to joining in the congregational singing of God's praises together this fall.



BUILDING AND GROUNDS

A Fresh Look for a Welcoming Space.

CHURCH UPDATES IN PROGRESS



AMANDA BECKER, DONNA GASIN, & DEBBIE MICHELSEN
CO-CHAIRS OF THE BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

It has been a very busy time for the Building and Grounds committee.

Chamberlain Hall and our parking lot recently served as a holding location for a film production company. The long day offered great learning moments, as our community came together to support the project. We thank Danielle Christianson and Walter Steinmann for their hard work and support. Furthermore, thank you to the Verona Police for safely directing traffic to and from our property and for keeping a close watch on our grounds. It was our joy to have the police officers use our church as a rest spot for a little respite.

We are excited to announce that Pushcart Players will be using Chamberlain Hall to rehearse! This 50+ year old professional touring theater company specializes in bringing educational theater to school children and community venues nationwide. Although there are only a few adults in the troupe, their impact is immense!

You may have noticed that multiple fire extinguishers have been added in the Sanctuary main floor and balcony. Your safety is our priority.

Updates to the Parlor, including new flooring, light fixtures and paint to refresh this beautiful space, will be starting soon.

Stay tuned for exciting updates as to how we are improving our church electrical system and kitchen safety!

Thank you to all of our committee members, as well to all those who spend their time beautifying our church grounds. It takes a village!



B&G COMMITTEE UPDATE

Honoring years of Dedication

PEG WHITING

CLERK OF THE SESSION COUNCIL

THANK YOU, CHARLES HEYER, for your thirteen years of co-leading the Building and Grounds Committee. I'm quite sure it has been longer than that!

Whether the problem was with the boiler not working properly, water in the basement of the thrift shop, a tree that had to be replaced along the driveway, drainage in the parking lot and so many other daily situations that needed to be addressed, you took care of the situation.

Then, the big projects like the church doors being fixed or replaced, the exits and walkway from Chamberlain Hall, finding the best person to repair and paint our church steeple, the roofing repairs, the gutters, and too many others to even begin to name, were in your competent hands.

Charles, your job was never done. The calls you answered and addressed were any time of the day or night. We can never thank you enough.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Building a Faith Foundation for the Next Generation

CATHY FRANCO

CHAIR OF THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

It is that time of year when everyone returns to their busy fall schedules including school and all the activities that go with it. We hope that the summer was a fun, relaxing family and friends time to recharge. We were able to award the **Andy Turner Scholarship** for the 2nd year to Andria Kiel to attend Camp Johnsonburg. We can't wait to hear how it went for her.

The registration for Sunday School is up on the church website and there are copies in the Narthex (back of the church). All children, even those returning, need to have a registration form completed. They can be mailed, emailed, or brought to the **first day of Sunday School on September 13th**.

September 13th will also be our annual **Blessing of the Backpacks** so have your child bring something they regularly use for school this day and the Pastor will be blessing them. The item could be a backpack, lunchbox, pencil case, notebook, headphones, or whatever will be used frequently. We began this annual event a few years ago to help our children understand that their church family thinks and prays about them during the week as they are handling the many challenges of life in addition to prayers for them on Sundays. We will have some items if your child forgets an item on September 13th.

At the start of 2026, our Sunday School classes went through a deep discussion about being the hands and feet of Christ and what that meant to them. Session approved money that the children could use in donations to ministries of their choosing. The classes decided to go with 4 organizations; one for each of the seasons. In the winter they selected Feed the Children and received a 16x match for their donation. We discussed how Jesus fed the 5,000 and how they can do something similar. In the spring they donated to Prison Fellowship to help provide summer camp for children whose parent(s) are incarcerated and participate in church. Matthew 25 shares that we shall help those who are in prison.

We just submitted our summer choice for Mercy Ships (with a matching donation of course) to help provide free lifesaving surgeries to children in the African continent in following our calling to help those who are sick. Our final donation in the fall will be to Donkey Rescue Mission in the US. Why this one you ask? Well our children said that there are so many Bible stories of Donkeys, we should of course help them. I am so very proud of our children who are living out their faith through these wonderful discussions and decisions to help others.

In the spring, Session approved that the church seek to hire a Christian Education Facilitator. We are working with Drew Seminary office to identify a candidate who would work with our children as well as with our adult education. This individual would be in addition to any of our church family who have expressed an interest in teaching Sunday School. It is envisioned that this individual would also lessen the frequency that our volunteers would need to be available to assist with teaching Sunday School.

Finally, for our adults who have been missing the **Bible Study** which Erik provided, please reach out to Cathy Franco if you are interested in getting together before we have either a Seminary student and/or our next called Pastor in place.

Welcome back everyone!

**OCTOBER 4 -
NOVEMBER 1**



Mischief to Ministry

Our annual **Mischief to Ministry** donation drive will begin on **October 4th**.

We will be collecting items typically used for mischief (toilet paper, shaving cream, soap, toothpaste), and use them for ministry!

All items will be donated to the **Holy Spirit Food Pantry**.

THRIFT SHOP

Business is Booming at the Thrift Shop!

Big news! The Thrift Shop now has a **Fitting Room!** With so many amazing clothes on the racks, you can now try everything on before you buy.

Plus, our very first Fitting Room Attendant, Christina Turkington, is absolutely killing it with her marketing skills.

Come check out the shop and see all the incredible updates we've made!

REGULAR HOURS OF OPERATION AND DONATION DROP OFF:

TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS, AND SATURDAYS
10:00am - 1:00pm

ANDREW TURNER SCHOLARSHIP FUND



Planting the Seeds of Success

Andrew Turner has been a friend of the Amsterdam family for 75+ years. Out of enormous respect and affection for Andy, Marcia Amsterdam Kean and Dianne (Amsterdam) Kangisser established the "Andrew Turner Scholarship Fund" in March 2024 with a generous check and the intent to fund it every year in Andy's honor.

The Scholarship Fund helps send a deserving child—or children—to Camp Johnsonburg for a week each summer. We are deeply grateful to the Amsterdam family for making this possible.

If you would like to contribute to the growth of this Scholarship Fund and help more of our children attend summer camp, your support would be greatly appreciated. Together, we can help raise the next generation of children to know Christ and to grow in their love for God.

May Andy's humility, kindness, and deep love for children remain a guiding light and inspiration to us all.

ANDRIA KIEL WAS THE LUCKY RECIPIENT OF THE AWARD THIS YEAR!

SHE GAVE A HEARTFELT 'THANK YOU' TO EVERYONE DURING WORSHIP SERVICE ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 2ND.



COMMUNITY

A Dog in Church?: MULLIGAN, THERAPY DOG

JANICE TIERNEY

That's right. Mulligan, a certified therapy dog, is a monthly visitor during worship and fellowship. Owned and handled by the Tierney Family, they have donated a visit each month to support church members and visitors. You may also see him around the church at other times offering a tail wagging greeting to the volunteers and staff that make our church run.

He is a big, goofy bernedoodle who thrives on leaning in for a good pet. Mulligan "volunteers" his time bringing care, calm and comfort in hospitals, schools and universities, care facilities, infusion labs and even court. His cold nose warms hearts everywhere he goes. If you see him around church, take a moment to say hi. It just might make your day!



DONATIONS

Hope 4 Ukraine

CHRISTINA TURKINGTON



Greetings – There is a need for canned goods. Not just fruit and veggies but also DOG food (and you know what Dog spelled backwards is...).

Please feel free to write notes or cards and leave them in the bin located in the church foyer. They will be included in the boxes. One of our Sunday School students drew a picture of their family and we sent that to Ukraine.

**HELP PEOPLE,
EVEN IF THEY NEVER
KNOW WHO HELPED THEM.**

Online Giving is always available on our website: www.veronapreschurh.org/donate.

MISSION AND OUTREACH

Come Together in the Spirit of Giving



JANICE TIERNEY

CO-CHAIR OF THE MISSION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The Mission and Outreach Committee has been very active in supporting the needs of the community!

Our commitment to the **Holy Spirit Food Pantry** in Verona continues. The August needs for the food pantry included peanut butter, cereal, tea, pasta sauce, and toothpaste. Our group of very savvy shoppers were busy finding the best prices and shopping sales to ensure that our dollars go as far as possible. Thank you to Donna Gasin, Rose, and the Thrift Shop volunteers who made the August deliveries.

The summer brings challenges to many families that receive food assistance through the schools. The M&O Committee collaborated with **Verona Public Schools** to provide gift cards to local food markets to support families in Verona until the new school year begins. The Shop Rite in West Caldwell provided 5% discounts for these gift cards, increasing the amount we were able to give!

We have already begun planning additional programs, including a monthly delivery of snack items to Verona School nurses to support students in need, as well as a monthly delivery of single serve beverages to **Isaiah House**.

In conjunction with the Christian Education Committee, we will be donating backpacks with school supplies to help successfully launch the new school year for students in Verona and West Orange. The Duhaney Family has donated the backpacks – our next mission will be to fill them! Watch for more information on how you can help!

Thank you to our congregation, which allows our work to reach out into the community to do what we are called to do.

PLANSOEN GRANT

Funding Boosts Programs & Projects

For many years, FPCV has been the grateful recipient of a generous grant from the Plansoen Foundation. The Plansoen Trust has provided ongoing support for our music program, including— funding for concerts, professional musicians— especially during worship services—organ and instrument maintenance, and children's programs.

Other worthwhile endeavors have included significant improvements to Chamberlain Hall, including stage restoration, the installation of an ADA-compliant door, an exterior walkway, and a much-needed ADA-accessible bathroom. Previous grants have also enabled support of local food pantries, the Children's Christmas and Easter workshops, as well as painting the newly-repaired steeple.

Looking forward, some of the projects planned are the purchase and installation of a new Virtual Pipe Organ (VPO) to replace the 75-year-old organ, improved hearing devices in the sanctuary, upgrades to the kitchen fire-suppression system, and a carillon for the church steeple.

We are deeply thankful for this longstanding and generous support, made possible through the close relationship between the late Charlotte Cunningham, former Music Director for 43 years, and the Plansoen Foundation.

CHANCEL FLOWERS

Beautify the Sanctuary: A Meaningful Tribute



Decorating the sanctuary for worship is an offering of hospitality and a sign of welcome!

Chancel Flowers may be ordered through the Church Office for delivery from Anderson's Flowers in Verona. **\$32 for one arrangement and \$64 for two arrangements.** When using Anderson's Flowers, they can generally be used for more than one week unless you specify otherwise.

If interested, please sign up using the Flower Chart located outside Chamberlain Hall. You may also check for available dates by contacting the Church Office directly at 973-239-3561 or veronapreschurch@gmail.com. All orders must be submitted to the Church Office by the Wednesday prior to delivery.

This gift of hospitality is one that is surely appreciated and is a wonderful way to remember or honor a loved one!

PER CAPITA

The Collective "glue" That Funds Shared Costs

PEG WHITING

CLERK OF THE SESSION COUNCIL

You may ask, what is Per Capita? It is "an annual per member apportionment that congregations pay to the larger Presbyterian Church (USA) to share the administrative, ecclesiastical, and governance costs of the church." Basically, it is a way for all Presbyterians to share in the costs that belong to the whole church – like paying to belong to the internet. This supports the work of PC(USA) at each governing level: the General Assembly, the Synod of the Northeast, and the Presbytery of the Northeast.

At the General Assembly and Synod levels, the total costs are allocated equitably to each Presbytery, according to the membership within its bounds. The Presbytery of the Northeast Per Capita Rate is determined by the Finance Committee and then approved by the Council. The Presbytery of the Northeast fully supports General Assembly, Synod, and Presbytery on behalf of every church.

All of us, as members of First Presbyterian Church of Verona, should pay our own Per Capita, which is **\$37 per member**. The total amount due every year, based on our membership, is paid to the Presbytery by our treasurer.

Thank you for your help in the support of this worthwhile cause!

Volunteer Opportunities

There are many ways for our church family to share their gifts and talents. We invite you to consider how you might use your unique abilities to support the important work of the church.

- The **choir** continues to seek new members and are grateful for the new voices who have joined.
- **Sunday School substitute teachers** are always welcome.
- The Worship & Music Committee would love to have some additional **lay reader participants**. Let the Church Office know if you are interested, 973-239-3561.
- Providing **fresh flowers** on a Sunday would be most welcome.
- Contributing **socks** and/or **food** would be appreciated.
- **Coffee Hour Hosts** are needed. Individuals or groups could work together.

Another year Blessed!

We happily celebrate the birthdays of those born in September and October!

SEPTEMBER 2ND.....CHRIS KIEL
 SEPTEMBER 9TH.....ALEXANDRA KIEL
 SEPTEMBER 16TH.....CHUCK BECKER
 SEPTEMBER 28TH.....WILLOW POMPONIO
 SEPTEMBER 28TH.....RUBY KLABENESH
 SEPTEMBER 29TH.....CATHY COLLINS

OCTOBER 18TH.....WILLY BURGOS
 OCTOBER 21ST.....DAVID HAIMANN
 OCTOBER 22ND.....DEBBIE MICHELSEN
 OCTOBER 22ND.....DANIELLE O'BRIEN

If you would like to have your birthday added to our list, please contact Dan Uniss or a Deacon to provide your information. No year required!



LAY READERS

September & October 2026



DATE	SUNDAY	WORSHIP LEADER	READER
SEPT 6TH	COMMUNION SUNDAY	ELDER GAYLE GRIFFIN	PAT HEYER
SEPT 13TH	SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS CHURCH PICNIC	PASTOR ANTHONY FALCE	CHRIS KIEL
SEPT 20TH		BETH SHORTEN	DOTTY OSTELLA
SEPT 27TH		REV. DR. GRACE NZAMEYO-MAA	JANICE TIERNEY
OCT 4TH	COMMUNION SUNDAY	REV. JEFF LEININGER	PAT HEYER
OCT 11TH	BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS	CHRISTINA TURKINGTON DOTTY OSTELLA	CHRIS KIEL
OCT 18TH		PASTOR ANTHONY FALCE	DOTTY OSTELLA
OCT 25TH		REV. DR. GRACE NZAMEYO-MAA	JANICE TIERNEY

CONNECT

Come Gather:

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FPCV

AA MEETINGS

MEETING IN CHAMBERLAIN HALL

TUESDAYS.....8:30PM TO 9:30PM

AL-ANON MEETINGS

MEETING IN SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSROOM OR
JULIE CHAMBERLAIN ROOM

FRIDAYS.....12:30PM TO 1:30PM

BIBLE STUDY

ON BREAK

GRANDPARENTS' GROUP

MEETING VIA ZOOM

SECOND THURSDAY OF THE MONTH

EMAIL PATHEYER75@GMAIL.COM OR CALL
973-239-3592 IF YOU'D LIKE TO JOIN

WEST ESSEX MUSIC TOGETHER

MEETING IN MUSIC ROOM

SEPTEMBER 14TH TO NOVEMBER 20TH

MONDAYS.....9:30AM TO 11:30AM
THURSDAYS.....9:30AM TO 10:30AM
FRIDAYS.....9:30AM TO 11:30AM

PUSHCART PLAYERS

MEETING IN CHAMBERLAIN HALL

REHEARSALS - SEPTEMBER 1ST TO 30TH

MONDAYS - FRIDAYS.....9:00AM TO 2:00PM
(EXACT DATES MAY VARY)



OCTOBER 11

Blessing of the Animals



A favorite Fall service returns!

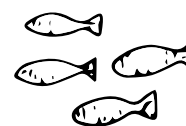
Weather permitting, the **Blessing of the Animals** will be held outside on **October 11th**. In the event of rain, the service will move inside to Chamberlain Hall.

Bring your live pet or service animal, picture of a pet, stuffed animal, or representation of animals that you care deeply about for a blessing!

All are invited to our Coffee Hour following the service.

OCTOBER 16

Annual fish fry



MARION SHINE

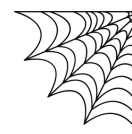
Hi Members of the First Presbyterian Church of Verona and Friends, I hope everyone had a good summer!

Fall is fast approaching and that means our annual **Fish Fry** will be on **Friday, October 16th** from **5:00pm to 7:00pm** in Chamberlain Hall. Tickets will be **\$25 per person** and can be obtained from the Deacons.

May it turn out to be a great success!

OCTOBER 25

Trunk or Treat



Our annual **Trunk or Treat** will be held on **October 25th**!

Start thinking of how you'd like to decorate your car using a bible story theme!

CALENDAR

September & October 2026 Upcoming Events: (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			
September						

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
October						

DATE	EVENT
WED, SEPT 2ND	7:00PM: WORSHIP & MUSIC MEETING (ZOOM)
SUN, SEPT 6TH	10:15AM: WORSHIP SERVICE
MON, SEPT 7TH	LABOR DAY
THURS, SEPT 10TH	11:00AM: GRANDPARENTS' GROUP (ZOOM)
SUN, SEPT 13TH	10:15AM: WORSHIP SERVICE SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS
WED, SEPT 16TH	2:00PM: BUILDING & GROUNDS MEETING
SUN, SEPT 20TH	10:15AM: WORSHIP SERVICE
THURS, SEPT 24TH	7:00PM: SESSION (ZOOM)
SUN, SEPT 27TH	10:15AM: WORSHIP SERVICE

DATE	EVENT
THURS, OCT 1ST	7:00PM: WORSHIP & MUSIC MEETING (ZOOM)
SUN, OCT 4TH	10:15AM: WORSHIP SERVICE MISCHIEF TO MINISTRY BEGINS
THURS, OCT 8TH	11:00AM: GRANDPARENTS' GROUP (ZOOM)
SUN, OCT 11TH	10:15AM: WORSHIP SERVICE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS
FRI, OCT 16TH	5:00PM - 7:00PM: FISH FRY
SUN, OCT 18TH	10:15AM: WORSHIP SERVICE
THURS, OCT 22ND	7:00PM: SESSION (ZOOM)
FRI, OCT 23RD	DEADLINE FOR NOVEMBER/DECEMBER NEWSLETTER ARTICLES
SAT, OCT 24TH	11:00AM - 2:00PM: VERONA'S FALL-O-WEEEN FALL FESTIVAL
SUN, OCT 25TH	10:15AM: WORSHIP SERVICE TRUNK OR TREAT

REMINDER!
NOVEMBER 1ST: DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS

