

2nd Quarter 2024



Church Street Journal

First Presbyterian Church of Rockaway



Pastor's Reflection



Peace in the Valley

Have you ever been in a dark valley with no foreseeable way out? Some days can feel like the dark valleys. News and TV do not help our predicament because there is always a novel problem vying for our time or another worry in our own neighborhood or across the world. Some days are dark valley days. Or as the lovable Eeyore says, "Could be worse. Not sure how, but it could be."

We all have these days and there is not much we can do about them. Sometimes the world just plain stinks. However, we are reminded constantly, especially in the Psalms to give thanks to God even on the bad days. In Psalm 147, the psalmist reminds us that it is good to sing God's praises. Doing something joyful lifts us up even when we are down. "He heals the brokenhearted, He binds up their wounds," says the Psalmist.

God's love and power are greater than all our bad days combined. Greater than all the horrible things going on in the world for that matter. If you read through Psalm 147 you will find the portrait of our invisible but all-powerful God. The power of music reminds us of God's love. Research has shown that listening to music can reduce anxiety, blood pressure, and pain as well as improve sleep quality, mood, mental alertness, and memory. When you sing in a choir, breath and heartbeat become regulated and attune with one another. Each member becomes in sync with another.

Music is all about connection, and as the Psalmist sings their song, we remember God is all about connection too. We find God's love in the clouds in the sky and the water cycle which keeps our leads fertile, and well-watered. Which keeps the grass growing on the hills. We are reminded of the food animals are provided to eat, the harmonious webs of nature. In all this, and more God is found. God is found in our mourning and our joy. In our work and play. God unlike our world does not care about how fast or productive we are. Instead, the Lord wants our loyalty and trust. Our hope of everlasting abounding love.

There is peace in the valley. This means that God is with us, and we can count on that presence. So, whatever the circumstances might, June we find peace. This looks different for each individual part of the body of Christ. Our varied gifts mean that we will have different joys that bring us peace. In those Joys we can spread God's love to others. When we have found God's joy and love, we like the psalmist can declare the handiwork of the Almighty, even when reporting on the inside looks dire.

This summer, there are two opportunities in which we can serve and find peace in the valley. One is through our Vacation Bible School, June 24th-28th. I invite you to either volunteer or spread the word to families whose children might be blessed by our teaching of the Word this summer with Camp Firelight as we set aglow for God. The other opportunity is through our Summer Study, which will be on The Chosen. We will explore together the first season of the TV series focusing on Jesus' life and the passages in the Gospels which correlate. This will be a fun study to grow together in God's light, learning and fellowshiping with one another. More info on both these events is in this newsletter. My hope is this Summer you might find a way to use God's love to spread to others, even in difficult times, finding peace in the valley.

*Blessings,
Pastor Ryan*

Calendar of Upcoming Events:

June 1st

Work Day - Help with necessary church Spring work from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. See Pat Budis for details.

June 1st

From 9 to 3 the Boy Scouts will be having a food drive at the ShopRite and Rise-Up will be having one at the ACME for our food closet.

June 3rd - Monday Study:

6:30 PM at the Manse watch an episode of The Chosen followed by a discussion.

June 4th - Tuesday Study:

9:30 AM on Zoom. Discussion on an episode of The Chosen (Watched beforehand individually).

June 7th

Community Cup—6-9 p.m. We hope you will join us in Fellowship Hall.

June 10th - Monday Study:

6:30 PM at the Manse watch next episode of The Chosen followed by a discussion.

June 11th - Tuesday Study:

9:30 AM on Zoom. Discussion on next episode of The Chosen (Watched beforehand individually).

June 23rd

The worship service changes to 9:30 am for the Summer.

June 29th

Rise-Up Community Breakfast: 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM and the **Blood Mobile:** will be on site from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM (registration is inside and donating in the Blood Mobile outside). The need is very critical, so after having some breakfast, please consider donating blood.

July 1st - Monday Study:

6:30 PM at the Manse watch next episode of The Chosen followed by a discussion.

July 2nd - Tuesday Study:

9:30 AM on Zoom. Discussion on next episode of The Chosen (Watched beforehand individually).

July 12th

Community Cup—6-9 p.m. We hope you will join us in Fellowship Hall.

July 26th

Rise-Up Community Breakfast from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM. Come Hungry & Hopeful!

Website:

www.fpcrockaway.org

Facebook Group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/43847971726>

Church Worship Time Change



It's that time of the year when we change our hours for the worship service to 9:30 am starting on the 23rd of June for Summer, there will be no Adult Sunday School starting with this time change. Children's Sunday School ends on June 1st until September.

Supporting our Food Closet

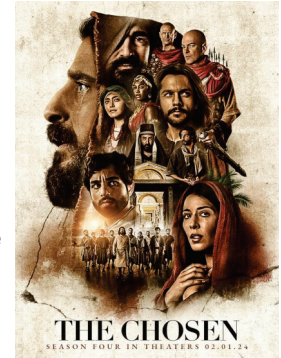
On June 1st, the Boy Scouts will be having a food drive at Shop Rite and Rise-Up will be having one at ACME for our food closet. First Presbyterian Church thanks you for your continued support in helping to feed those in the community in need!



Summer TV Show Study Opportunity: The Chosen

This Summer, our church will have the unique opportunity to explore the first season of the TV Show, *The Chosen*. Set against the backdrop of Roman oppression in first-century Israel, the series shares an authentic look at Jesus' revolutionary life and teachings.

The Chosen is a historical drama based on the life of Jesus and those who knew him. We will explore the Gospels and topics, which are touched on each week in this 8-episode first season of the TV Show that explores Jesus' life and ministry. This will be a fun opportunity, especially for those that want a lighthearted, easy-to-participate summer study!!



There will be two study opportunities:

1. **Tuesday morning Study Group on Zoom @ 9:30 AM:** We will discuss an episode weekly after watching it individually.
2. **Monday evening Study Group starting at 6:30 PM:** This group will meet together to watch an episode a week at the Manse (101 Church Street) and then discuss it afterwards.

This will Start at the beginning of June (dates listed below)!!

Study Dates & Times:

1. **Tuesday Study @ 9:30 AM** on Zoom (watch beforehand):
June 4th, June 11th, July 2nd, July 9th, July 16th, July 23rd, July 30th and August 6th.
2. **Monday Study @ 6:30 PM** (episode watch party followed by discussion):
June 3rd, June 10th, July 1st, July 8th, July 16th, July 22nd, July 29th and August 5th.

Community Cup



At First Presbyterian Church, 35 Church Street in Rockaway.
On the following Friday's from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM:

June 6th

July 12th

August 6th

September 20th



Community Cup is a place to get together for games, snacks, hot & cold beverages, conversations, and making new connections! We will also have a new computer and printer cart available for community use.

Rise-Up and FPCR Community Breakfasts

June 29th

Community Breakfast & Blood Drive

8:00 AM to 11 AM

8:00 AM to 12 PM

Blood Drive Signup Link: <https://tinyurl.com/ysc7bhuv>

Community Breakfast

Served the 4th Saturday of each month

From 8:00 AM to 11 AM

July 27th

August 31st

September 28th

Come Hungry and Hopeful!



Annual Work Day



Our Work Day is scheduled for June 1st from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Please see Pat Budis if you would like to help the church do some necessary Spring work so that we can have an idea of what tasks we can get accomplished.

Pentecost Offering

Please remember the Pentecost Offering, which unites us in a church-wide effort to support young people and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world. Give as you are able.

Investing in our greatest resource

Help youth begin life with a solid foundation of faith.

Psalm 71 testifies that a foundation of faith established during childhood helps ensure lifelong faith and service. The patterns and lessons established during these formative years continue to bear fruit throughout a person's life. By receiving the Pentecost Offering, you are nurturing the faith of those who are the church to come - children, youth, and young adults.

VBS – Camp Firelight**June 24 – June 28, 2024****9:00 AM – 12 noon****Ages 5 thru 7th Grade**

- ◆ Registration is available on our website: Register Early! Invite your Friends!
- ◆ Those entering 8th grade and older are encouraged to be a Youth Guide!
- ◆ For more information contact Karen Basile (201) 213-0312 or Pastor Ryon

VBS Supplies Are Needed

Once again we are asking the congregations' assistance in providing some of the supplies we need for VBS. Please put your donated items in a box in the office. Thank you for your assistance in making VBS a success again this year.

VBS Science Supplies:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Two 16-ounce boxes of Baking Soda | <input type="checkbox"/> 16 ounces of black powder |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Two Hand Held Hair Dryers | <input type="checkbox"/> 16 ounces of dish soap |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Four skateboards | <input type="checkbox"/> Sixteen 6.5-ounce cans of Corn Starch |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Four 3–4-pound weights | <input type="checkbox"/> 20 two-liter empty soda bottles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Four to Eight Bricks | <input type="checkbox"/> 64 balloons |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 16 Aluminum pie pans | <input type="checkbox"/> 64 12-ounce empty plastic soda bottles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 16 bottles of bubbles with wand | <input type="checkbox"/> Four to Six flat pieces of expanded polystyrene foam about 12"x 12" square |

Decorating Supplies: – *Please put your name on all items you donate for decorating so we can return them to you.*

- Fake Plants
- Fake Christmas Trees
- Lanterns
- Camp chairs
- Small indoor tents



Scan QR to register
today!

Vacation Bible School
First Presbyterian Church of Rockaway
June 24th - 28th
9 am - 12 pm
Ages 5 - 7th grade
(\$25 per child or \$60 per family)
Send questions to office@fpcrockaway.org

Food Closet—Donations Always Needed

The Rockaway Food Closet is a community food pantry that serves the residents of Rockaway Township and Borough. For donation delivery drop offs and client pickups, we are located in the rear of the First Presbyterian Church. We also accept monetary donations and checks should be made out to "Rockaway Food Closet". For food drives/large deliveries please contact us to set up a drop off time.



The following are some much needed items this month:

Peanut Butter	Pasta	Canned Fruit	Beans (<i>kidney, black, etc.</i>)
Crackers	Pasta Sauce	Canned Vegetables	Tea
Tuna	Rice	Macaroni & Cheese	Coffee

See Linda Kirby for questions on how you can help. Also the following is a link to the Rockaway Food Closet Facebook page with all of their information. <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100091853865086>

Presbytery Scramble

On Sunday April 21st, our church got to participate in the first ever Presbytery Scramble. What this was is that we swapped leadership with another church so that the members and leadership of each church could receive a fresh perspective.

Pastor Ryon, Carl Kline, and Lillian Arqueta went to Franklin Presbyterian Church to preach and lead worship while Pastor Julie Raffety, Rich Simmons and Judy Perentin came to our church to preach and lead.

Both churches enjoyed the experience as well as getting to know people from each other's church and have a unique opportunity to connect. It is always a blessing to worship in new ways and with new people.



Easter Blessings

Thanks to the Outreach Committee and congregations generous donations received, Committee Members, Debbie Harrington, Debbie Garris and Betty Shuman were able to put together several Easter baskets pictured below that they donated to the community.



Sara Circle prepared Easter meals of ham, turkey, mashed potatoes and carrots and delivered them to Family Promise.

Food preparers (l-r):

Debbie Harrington
Steve Argueta
Amber Laccitiello
LeeAnn Robinson
Donna Van Dyke
Lillian Argueta



Sara Circle Project

Sara Circle started a collection earlier this year and with the items collected to date, our members (Barbara Weinberg, Sally Small, Donna Van Dyke, Amber Laccitiello, Allyson Anello and Karen DeChristopher) were able to make up 30+ much needed special care packages (see photo) for Family Promise’s drop in center “Our Promise”. This center provides a drop-in day center that serves the local homeless population of Morristown and surrounding area. While at the center, guests have access to services that follow:

- Case management
- Charging station
- ID assistance
- Information & referral
- Linkage to medical & dental services
- Mailing address
- Public restrooms
- Systems advocacy
- Donated toiletries and hygiene products
- Warming/cooling center

Donna Van Dyke delivered the bags of health & hygiene, some cleaning supplies, along with some pet items to the Our Promise facility. The following was a note we received the next day from Savannah at Family Promise:



Donations Today Inbox ☆

Savannah Voelbel May 23 to me ↩ ⋮

[Display images](#)

Hi Donna,

I want to thank you again for dropping off the donations today. We started handing them out right away and our guests were thrilled. We heard several people say that the bags were so thoughtful & very strategically put together with items that are so useful!

The Wawa sandwiches were a HUGE hit as well 🍔 They are literally about to be gone!

Thank you SO SO much for everything you do to support our agency!

Savannah Voelbel, LSW

As there is a constant needs for these item, we will continue doing collecting for this project and anyone wishing to help by donating any items from the list below, there will be a box in Fellowship Hall to place your donated items. Sara Circle thanks you in advance for your generous support for this outreach.

Health & Hygiene Supplies

- Toilet Paper
- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Wash Cloths
- Tissues, Reg. & Pocket
- Mouthwash, small travel size
- Hand Sanitizer
- Body Lotion
- Hand Soap
- Body Wash
- Men’s & Women’s Razors

Dog Care Supplies

- Dry Food
- Canned Food
- Treats
- Collars & Leashes
- Toys
- Water Bowls
- Food Dishes
- Beds
- Poop Pick-up Bags

June 11th will be our last meeting until we resume on September 10th.

In the meantime, we wish to thank our Sara Circle members for their hard work and dedication in serving our community in need and look forward to picking up where we left off at the September meeting.

Until than, Sara Circle would also like to thank the congregation and members of Lennon House for their support and generosity in helping us meet our goals to date.





In the Spotlight



First Presbyterian Church News

Our Church, Committees and members continue to do what they do best...support the church and community. The Congregational Care helped host six Lenten Luncheons. The participating community churches offered food, fellowship along with a short message. Each week we had about between 70-80 people in attendance. Continuing to have our Rise-Up / FPCR Community Breakfasts which are held the last Saturday of each month. Friday Community Cup get togethers continue to be a big hit, members from our church and the community gather to play various games, share some light snacks and beverages and enjoy a night of fellowship with special friends. Not to mention, Pastor Ryon hosting with Wharton United Community Church for the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. Everyone in the congregation is invited to join us for any of these activities. It is a great way to reach out to members of our community and show them that First Presbyterian Church of Rockaway continues to be alive and active in the community! Special thanks to our Congregational Care Committee for hosting a fantastic luncheon for our congregation. The food and fellowship was great and very much appreciated by everyone!



Special Offering for the Deacon's Fund

Please consider giving a special offering to be put into the Deacon's Fund. Any questions about what the Deacon's Fund is used for, please contact Linda Urwin.

Per Capita Apportionment 2024

The apportionment of the First Presbyterian Church of Rockaway for ecclesiastical expenses for the next fiscal year is based upon the membership of our church as reported to the last General Assembly.

Our 2024 Per Capita Apportionment: Per Member is \$42.50.

Our total apportionment is \$6,927.50 for 2024.

If you are able to give for two that would help those who cannot afford to give!

Our giving makes a big difference!

Quarter Tube

The quarters that are put in the Quarter Tube in the front of the sanctuary are used for the Mission work of our church. Simply place your quarters in the tube so we can further our mission work.



ShopRite Gift Cards!!

When you purchase Shop Rite gift cards from our church, the church receives 5% of the cost of the gift card. (There is no extra cost to you).



We have been selling Shop Rite Gift Cards at the church for many years. The profits we receive have been used to pay for programs/projects in our church. We all need to eat! It is a 'win win' for our church.

If you have any questions or are interested in purchasing ShopRite gift cards, please contact Pat Budis at (201) 230-2286. You can pick them up from Pat or she will even deliver them to you.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROCKAWAY

**Has worship services in the sanctuary, via Zoom and on Facebook.
The Zoom information and link follows:**



Join Zoom Worship (login beginning at 10:30 AM EST)
Phone in: (mobile or home phone) +1 929 205 6099 US
Meeting ID: 468 322 0487 Passcode: **FPCR2021**
One tap mobile: +16465588656,,4683220487#,,, *67022253#



<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/4683220487?pwd=OHBUB2V4RmJVMGF2U3VEVEFLMWNjUT09>

We hope you will join us!

GIVING TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROCKAWAY

Go to our website Giving page at <https://fpcrockaway.org/giving>.
Select the "Donate" button and give electronically or you can mail your donation to:

First Presbyterian Church of Rockaway
35 Church Street
Rockaway, NJ 07866-3027



Volunteers Needed

We are still looking for church members that will volunteer to assist people in our community with job applications, assistance programs, etc. through the new Computer Cart Ministry that is available during our Rise-Up Breakfasts and Community Cups. The volunteers will need some computer knowledge and will be responsible for maintaining and bringing out/putting away the cart. See Pastor Ryon if interested.

Volunteers are always needed for the following, as well:

- ◆ Greeters and Ushers
- ◆ Coffee Hour Hosts
- ◆ Liturgists
- ◆ Choir Members
- ◆ Vacation Bible School
- ◆ Church Street Journal contributors



We also have so many talented and creative members here at First Presbyterian Church of Rockaway, so why not share your gift by submitting a poem, a reflection, drawing, photo, recipe or whatever inspires you! See Karen DeChristopher for more information.

Donate Your Used Eyeglasses

Did you know you can donate your used eyeglasses to the local Lions Club to be recycled so others can see better? Karen DeChristopher is collecting used eyeglasses for the needy and dropping them off at the local Lions Club drop-off boxes so the glasses can be recycled and given out to those in need.



A box is located in the Narthex to put all types of used eyeglasses and sunglasses, prescription and non-prescription, for children and adults are accepted, including exceptionally strong or weak prescriptions. Reading glasses are also useful for those who perform close-up tasks while at work. Sunglasses are needed for people living near the equator, especially those with cataracts.

It is only through kindness of donors like you that we can offer the gift of sight to those in need.

Elders, Deacons & Committee Chairs

Serving Elders:

Lillian Argueta - Outreach
 Lillian Blair – Church Treasurer & Finance Committee
 Dan Cassidy – Outreach Committee Chair
 Debbie Harrington – Outreach Committee
 Joe Martinoni – Worship Comm Chair & Personnel Comm.
 Laurie Morse – Outreach Committee
 Barbie Restaino – Nominating Comm. Chair,
 Worship Committee & CE Comm.

Kathy Shuey – Congregational Care Committee

Kathy Siegrist – Christian Ed. Committee

Vivian Santos – Congregational Care Committee

Committee Chairs:

Rich Basile – Finance Comm. Chair & Property Comm

Carol Lutcza – Personnel Comm. Chair & CE Comm.

Pat Budis – Property / Cemetery Committee Chair

Linda Urwin – Congregational Committee Chair

Donna VanDuyne – CE Committee Chair, Nominating Committee Chair

Deacons

Lisa DiBonaventura

Debbie Garris

Alison Molinaro

Vicki Philhower

Linda Sunderman

Linda Urwin

Barbara Weinberg

First Presbyterian Church of Rockaway
35 Church Street. Rockaway, NJ 07866-3027
(973) 627-1059

Reverend Ryon Herin
ryon@fpcrockaway.org

E-mail – office@fpcrockaway.org

Website – www.fpcrockaway.org

Sunday School 9:15 – 10:15 am

Sunday Morning Worship Service 10:30 am

Office Hours 9:00 am – 12:30 pm Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday

Krista Sweer, Music Minister

Scott Lovenberg, Cemetery Sexton

Karen Basile, Clerk of Session

Presbyterian Church Co-op Nursery School (PCCNS)
 (973) 586-3665

Cheryl Piscopo – Director

E-mail – directorpccns@gmail.com