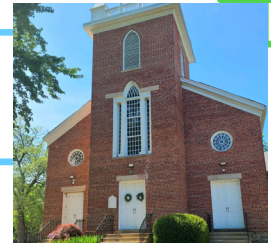


3rd Quarter 2024



Church Street Journal



First Presbyterian Church of Rockaway

Pastor's Reflection



Autumn Upon Us

We are entering the Autumn Season, and with it we find subtle changes. The days are getting shorter again and the nights longer. The cool evening air has returned and many of us feel that we can breathe again, no longer breathing in thick, hot humid air. Leaves are beginning their bright yellow, and red colors, changing ever so slightly in color as they begin the end of their cycle. Those with gardens are finding an abundance of harvest, and those across the world in the Northern Hemisphere who

depend on this harvest for their winter meals are stocking up and canning. School is back in session, with children learning and frantically organizing their schedules: cross country, year-book, soccer, or cheer. Life is in the air but also our awareness of death and the end of the life cycle are ever present in this season as well.

In the book of Job, you will find a puzzling story, one bereft with controversy but also worthy for those struggling with what to do if they have entered a season of heavy grief. Job has a splendid life filled with everything he could ever want, bountiful fields of sheep and livestock, 10 children, servants, and friends. However, Satan sees how dutiful and obedient he is to God and decides to test him, telling God, let us take away all these things and see if he still is obedient and loving to you. You might expect God not to go through with this sort of action, but we find that indeed, all of Job's flocks, children, and servants die, and Job is left with his wife telling him to curse God and die!

Job is a case study in how we handle grief, disappointment, and the feeling that everything in life is chaotic and wrong. We are to live our lives even when terrible things happen, or the inevitable death happens. Reading Bible stories with no easy answers, perhaps ripping apart any palpable trust in God, is one thing. Experiencing death and grief, and choosing life and God is another.

Job amidst his dialogue with God, asking why God has done all this comes to a revelation. He insists even in all his grief and disappointment that he will know God as his Redeemer. Death does not have the last word. Death is not the end. That once Job has died, he will truly see God, and in this vision, his grief and worries will subside. "I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see him with my own eyes—I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!" (Job 19:25-27 NIV).

As Christians, we know our Redeemer Jesus Christ who walks with us though unseen. But some days, some seasons might feel like we are Job. "Why O God are you conspiring against us?" you might proclaim. We do not claim to have all the answers even as practicing Christians, yet we can choose the hope of redemption in Christ, that Easter Hope of new resurrection found not only in the Easter season. May we cling onto Easter Hope in the harvest of Autumn, in the colors of the changing trees, new opportunities such as the new Family Services.

I encourage you all to become newly involved in one ministry of the church. That is all it takes to make the difference in the lives of a fellow congregant or community member who needs someone to sit with them in a difficult time to feel the promise of life in God. To hear the words of our Redeemer Jesus Christ in another. One of these ways is through our Family Service every first Monday of the month starting October 6th. With this service, we have an opportunity to minister to families, young and old, in a new way. Through fellowship over a shared meal, and interactive worship through story, song, and craft. May we begin this new season with the shared hope that our Redeemer is working through our actions, each end means a new beginning. God is besides us working in these times. Amen.

*Blessings,
Pastor Ryan*

4th Qtr. Calendar of Events:

- October 1st to the 10th** - Coat Collection held for Rise-Up.
- October 4th** - Blessing of the animals 5 PM.
- October 7th** - Family Church at 6 to 8 PM. Held on the first Monday of each month.
- October 18th** - Community Cup 6 to 9 PM. All are welcome to attend.
- October 26th** - Rise-Up Community Breakfast 8 to 11 AM and the **Blood Drive** 8 AM to 12:30 PM.
- October 26th** - Spooktacular at Parks Lake in Rockaway from 5 to 9 PM . All are invited to join us.
- October 29th** - Congregational Care Committee Mtg. at 7:00 PM in BK room.
- November 2nd** - Church Work Day from 9 AM to 3 PM
- November 3rd** - Outreach meeting after worship in the BK room.
- November 4th** - Family Church at 6 to 8 PM
- November 8th** - Community Cup 6 to 9 PM. All are welcome to attend.
- November 12th** - Sara Circle Meeting 7 PM All are welcome to attend.
- November 17th** - Confirmation Sunday
- November 17th** - Begin selling tickets for the Christmas Luncheon. (See Linda Urwin)
- November 24th** - Outreach Sunday
- November 30th** - Rise-Up Community Breakfast from 8 to 11 AM. Come hungry and hopeful.
- December 1st** - Greening of the sanctuary. Please join us after church to help.
- December 2nd** - Family Church 6 to 8 PM.
- December 13th** - Community Cup 6-9 PM. All are welcome to attend.
- December 15th** - Christmas Luncheon following the church service.
- December 28th** - Rise-Up Community Breakfast from 8 to 11 AM. Come hungry and hopeful.

Church Website:

www.fpcrockaway.org

Facebook Group:

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

Daylight Savings Time—Fall Back!

The twice-annual time change is set to end on **Sunday, Nov. 3rd as the clocks for millions, will be set back an hour in order to allow for more daylight in the mornings.** Even though daylight saving time's ending in November, it brings an extra hour of sleep, but also remember that the time change can still cause confusion and disruptions to the schedules for children and pets. The time change won't return until March 2025, when daylight saving time will begin again and the clocks will spring ahead.

Family Worship Services

Family worship services will be held at First Presbyterian Church, 35 Church Street, Rockaway starting on Monday, October 7th and will continue on the first Monday of each month at 6 pm.

We hope you will join us in this new endeavor, as we host a family-style worship service each month in our Fellowship Hall. The time will begin with a kid-friendly meal such as chicken nuggets, macaroni & cheese with juice and dessert. This will be followed by an interactive worship service, which will involve singing, story time, and dancing for children younger and older, as well as their parents or other family members. The following are some photos from our first Family Worship Service held on Oct. 7th..



Coat Drive

The church held their annual Coat Drive for Rise-Up from October 1st until October 23rd to collect new and gently used coats of all sizes. What a tremendous response...Thank you to everyone for donating for people in the community needing warm coats. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!



Parks Lake Spooktacular on October 26th

We will once again participate in the Parks Lake Spooktacular as a church, passing out candy to the children in our community at Parks Lake on Saturday evening, October 26th, from 5:30 to 9:00 PM. The address is 8 Mount Hope Road in Rockaway.



We are looking for donations of fun-sized candy for us to pass out to the children as well as any decoration donations that will fit our theme for this year: Spies and Special Agents.



We are also calling all adult and youth participants to help the Confirmation Class of 2024 as they pass out candy to the children. See Pastor Ryon if you are interested in volunteering.

Community Cup



Join us at First Presbyterian Church, 35 Church Street in Rockaway.
on the following Friday's from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM:



November 8th
December 13th

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.

All are welcome to attend...We hope to see you there!

Rise-Up and FPCR Community Breakfasts

Just to remind everyone, in addition to our Community Breakfast on October 26th

First Presbyterian Church of Rockaway is sponsoring the Blood Drive.

Which will be held from 8:00 am – 12:30 pm

Appointments are strongly recommended

To schedule an appointment, call 1 (877) 258-4825 or you can go to

<https://donors.vitalant.org> (using blood drive code: XXRPRC).

We hope you will join us for breakfast and consider donating blood.



RISE^{UP}
Rockaway

**& FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF ROCKAWAY
COMMUNITY BREAKFAST
8:00 AM – 11:00 AM**



Last Saturdays of the Month
Breakfasts on:
October 26th (Blood Drive)
November 30th
COME HUNGRY AND HOPEFUL!



Church Work Day

VOLUNTEER



November 2, 2024

9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Metal Recycling:



There will be a dumpster onsite during the Work Day for you to deposit any metal objects to be recycled. Items such as old pots and pans, metal tools, copper piping, etc. They will even take electrical cords and Christmas lights. If you have a very large item Joe DiBonaventura is willing to pick it up. All the proceeds will be given to our church.

Any questions, please contact Joe DiBonaventura or the church office.

Other Upcoming Events

Sara Circle next meeting—November 12th (All welcome)

Confirmation Sunday — November 17, 2024

Outreach Sunday — November 24, 2024

Library News

For those who have been members of the First Presbyterian Church for some years you may have been acquainted with Edward T. (Buddy) Evans.

After his death, his daughter compiled the diaries from his service in the Army Air Corps and has given a copy to our church to be added to our library. It has now been catalogued and you can find it under 940.54 EVA. Even if you are not a long-term member of this church, I would highly recommend reading it. It makes interesting reading and gives a personal insight into one man's experiences during WWII. I also recently discovered that there is a plaque on one of the light stanchions at Park Lake dedicated to both him and his wife, Betty.

If you have any questions, please text me 973-525-8157 or email me at barbaralweinberg@gmail.com, or catch me in church.

Barbara Weinberg

Sara Circle

The Sara Circle group meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month in the church library to discuss / plan community outreach projects, talk about any ideas or areas within the church that help is needed, and just enjoy a evening of fellowship & comradery with each other. All are welcome to attend.

At our September meeting, we opened with a devotional and the group shared their thoughts about it. The group went on to discuss ideas & plans for community projects & outreach volunteer opportunities for the rest of the year.

The 1st project that came to mind was helping at the monthly Family Services, since they were starting on Oct. 7th. Pastor Ryon had mentioned there would be a craft portion during the Family Services that Alexa was going to lead, but she would like some assistance. We helped the kids with their crafts as needed. What an amazing service...everyone in attendance had such a fun and enjoyable evening.

Our 2nd project discussed, was for an organization called "Nourish NJ" that has volunteer activities that require covering kitchen shifts all based on specific dates, times and locations. We decided we will review their schedule to see if we can arrange dates that will accommodate our volunteers in October and November and organize groups to help with their meal distribution.

Vacation Bible School “Camp Firelight”

“Whenever I’m Afraid, I put my trust in you” Psalm 56:3.

There were 26 enthusiastic children that attended VBS June 24th thru June 28th from 9 am to 12 noon each day. Lu, our lightning bug puppet, visited everyday to help Counselor Alexa. There were songs, crafts, snacks, storytelling, science and games each day.

We had 27 Adult Volunteers and 10 Youth Volunteers to lead the activities and the children during each day. Without the volunteers this program would not be able to be offered each year. Since our focus was on trusting we decided to have the Seeing Eye bring a dog to visit one day. Those without sight trust their dog to guide them as we trust God to guide us. The children and adults enjoyed meeting the dog and learning about their training.

We thank the congregation for their help.

Karen Basile, Director



A Note From Our Music Minister



Our church had a wonderful summer filled with a wide variety of music from singers and instrumentalists. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to the special music. Your talents and dedication enriched our worship services and helped create a beautiful atmosphere of praise.

As we transition into the fall, Laurie and I are excited for the restart of both the choir and handbell choir! We look forward to making joyful music together as we continue to serve and inspire through the gifts of music. If you've ever considered joining, now is a great time to get involved—there's a place for everyone!

Anyone interested in singing or in the handbell choir, please reach out to Krista at kristasweer@gmail.com.

In gratitude,
Krista Sweer, Music Director



In the Spotlight



First Presbyterian Church News

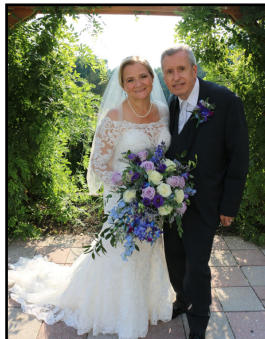
Many thanks to Pastor Ryon, our Church, Committees and members that continue to do what they do best...support the church and community.

It was a joyous occasion on July 14th, when Pastor Ryon performed the marriage in our sanctuary for two of our church members, Karen & Dan Cassidy. Thank you Pastor Ryon for the very memorable ceremony and the beautiful heartfelt words spoken. We were so honored and blessed to have you as our wedding officiant.

Wow and love must be in the air, because guess who got engaged on August 19th? Ryon proposed to Alexa and she of course said yes! Congratulations to the perfect happy couple.

On September 8th, Communion Sunday we had even more exciting news, Pastor Ryon and all of us welcomed two new members, Joan Potomis and Laura Layton and we also witnessed both of them being baptized. How awesome is that! Congratulations and welcome to the First Presbyterian Church of Rockaway family. We are all so blessed to have both of you as part of the congregation.

We also want to thank our Congregational Care Committee, who hosted the Homecoming Luncheon following the service on September 8th. All in attendance enjoyed the food, fellowship and a delicious meal with a cake that was served to celebrate the Joan and Laura as new members and Ryon and Alexa's engagement!!



Food Closet—Donations Always Needed

The Food Closet is always in need of donations. We help about 150 families from Rockaway Borough and Township every month. Any non-perishable food items are greatly appreciated including items for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Please leave them under the coat rack outside of the kitchen.



We also accept monetary donations and checks should be made out to "Rockaway Food Closet". We hope you will consider donating a few of the following items during the coming months.

Peanut Butter	Pasta	Canned Vegetables	Macaroni & Cheese	Canned Beans (<i>kidney, black, etc.</i>)
Cereal	Pasta Sauce	Canned Fruit	Noodles	Beef, Chicken or Turkey Gravy
Soup	Tuna	Crackers	Canned Yams	Cranberry sauce
Coffee	Tea	Cold drink mixes	Packaged Starches (<i>Boxed potatoes, stuffing, rice, etc.</i>)	

Any questions, please contact Linda Kirby at 973-997-9672. You can also follow us on Facebook at Rockaway Food Closet.

Property Committee Note: Site Manager Needed

The Property Committee is looking for a member of the church that would like to be the Site Manager when groups not affiliated with our church rent our building. You would be opening and closing for the groups for their event and being on-site to insure all is 'going accord to plan'. You would receive a stipend of \$20/hour.

Please contact Rev. Ryon or Pat Budis if you are interested and to receive further information.

Blessing of the Animals

This year on October 4th, at 5 PM, Pastor Ryon lead an informal Blessing of the Animals service on the front lawn of the church between the church sign and the flagpole.

Traditionally, on the feast day of St. Francis, churches have a service to bless the pets of the community and recognize our love of animals all around the world. This was be a short outdoor service for our congregation to bring their pets or if their pet was no longer with us, or not good at socializing and being around other pets were able to bring a picture of them to participate. The service concluded with an individual blessing for all the pets (either in-person or using the picture that was provided).

Several members brought their pets on a leash or a picture . It was a wonderful experience for everyone!

Karen Basile,

Clerk of Session



Clerks Corner

Your Session has been working with the committees of the church to better serve our church and community. The following is an update on some things the committees are working on:

It was decided we needed to have improved security for our church. Session voted to install 6 wireless solar power cameras covering all doors and parking lots. There will also be video doorbells installed at the two entrances into Fellowship Hall. In addition, two 12" Convex Security Mirrors will be installed in the front of the sanctuary.

The Baby Nursery will be cleaned and updated furniture, rugs and toys will be added. This will provide a place for small children to go during the worship service with adult supervision.

Lennon's House began meeting in our church in the spring. They are a day program for young adults with special needs. They have an office at the Pine Street Commons in Rockaway. Once a month they use our kitchen to learn how to prepare a meal and then enjoy the meal together.

Our Children's Sunday School has begun to use a new curriculum titled "Follow Me" Biblical Practice for Faithful Living.

Session continues to support the PCCNS for children 2 ½ to 5 years old that meet downstairs Monday thru Friday from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm.

Please speak to any of the Elders listed below serving on Session if you have any questions.

Karen Basile, Clerk of Session

Lilian Argueta	Laurie Morse
Lillian Blair	Barbie Restaino
Dan Cassidy	Kathy Shuey
Debbie Harrington	Kathy Siegrist
Joe Martinoni	Vivian Santos

Hurricane Helene Assistance by the PCUSA

Helene made landfall in Florida late evening on September 26th as a very dangerous category 4 hurricane. The impact of Helene has been felt across multiple states. With the storm surge, wind damage, and flooding, it is crucial to have the necessary resources to support the many communities that are affected. Helene caused devastating damage in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Tennessee. Your generous gifts will bring hope and encouragement.

PDA is in communication with affected presbyteries and National VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster) to share information and coordinate resources as damage is assessed. PDA has deployed a National Response Team to Tampa Bay Presbytery, Presbytery of Western North Carolina and Northeast Georgia Presbytery.

We have approved several initial assistance grant requests and are anticipating additional requests from affected presbyteries to help respond to needs in their communities.

Please join us in praying for everyone affected by Hurricane Helene. To donate to assist in the clean-up from Hurricane Helene designate your gifts to DR000169 on the website PDA.PCUSA.org

Thank you!

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
- ◆ Newsletter 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 Cassidy 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 Cassidy 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 & Committee:

Lillian Argueta – Outreach Committee Co-Chair
 Lillian Blair – Church Treasurer & Finance Committee
 Dan Cassidy – Finance Committee
 Debbie Harrington – Outreach Committee Co-Chair
 Joe Martinoni – Worship Comm Chair & Personnel Comm.
 Laurie Morse – Outreach Committee
 Barbie Restaino – Nominating Committee Chair, Worship Committee
 & Christian Ed. Committee
 Vivian Santos – Congregational Care Committee & Stewardship Comm.
 Kathy Shuey – Congregational Care Committee & Stewardship Comm.
 Kathy Siegrist – Christian Ed. Committee

Deacons

Lisa DiBonaventura
 Debbie Garris
 Alison Molinaro
 Vicki Philhower
 Linda Sunderman
 Linda Urwin
 Barbara Weinberg

Committee Chairs:

Rich Basile – Finance Committee Chair & Property / Cemetery Committee
 Carol Lutcza – Personnel Committee Chair & Christian Ed. Committee
 Pat Budis – Property / Cemetery Committee Chair
 Linda Urwin – Congregational Committee Chair
 Donna VanDuyne – Christian Ed. Committee Chair & Nominating Committee

First Presbyterian Church of Rockaway

35 Church Street. Rockaway, NJ 07866-3027

Website – www.fpcrockaway.org

(973) 627-1059

Reverend Ryon Herin – E-mail: ryon@fpcrockaway.org

Church E-mail – office@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