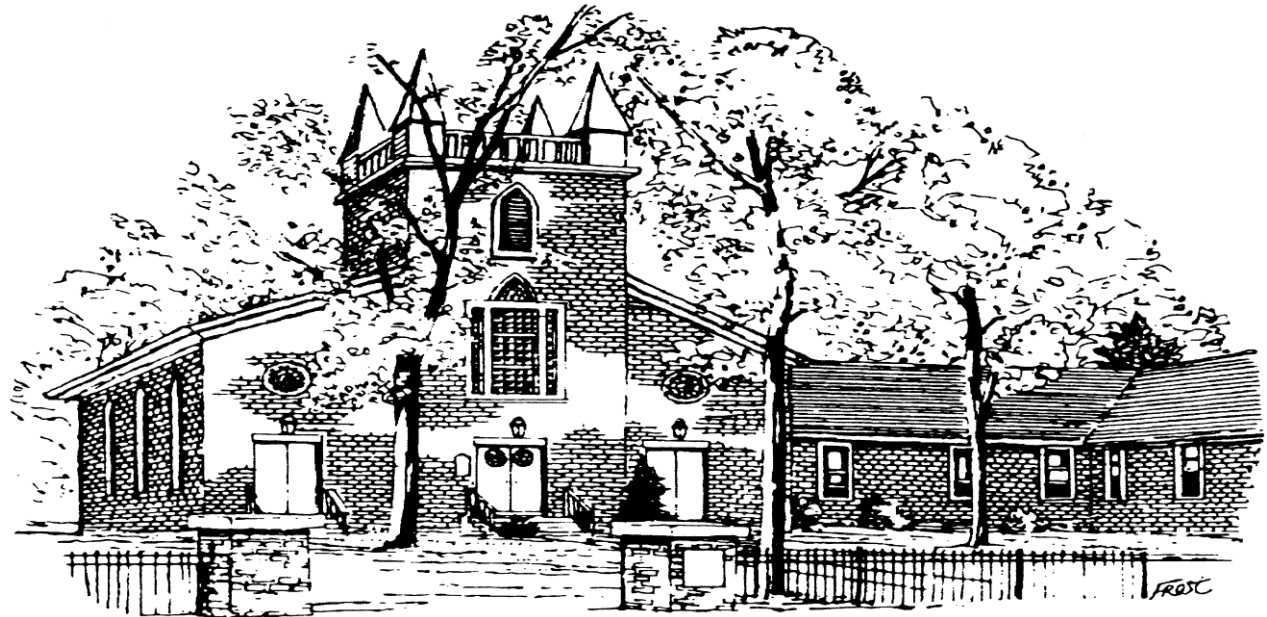


CHURCH STREET JOURNAL

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROCKAWAY

July/August 2023



Pastor's Reflection

At the end of June, this last week, our church hosted our annual Vacation Bible School for the children of our church and community. We had twenty-six children from kindergarten to 7th Grade participate. What makes Vacation Bible School such a special time is the smiles and energy that all the children exude as they learn about God's love, sing songs, make crafts, learn science, and hear Bible stories. Our volunteers also grow in their own faith, learning from the kids and becoming refreshed in the Spirit from all the laughter and joy which fills the week. As we go into the summer, it can be easy to be caught up in vacation plans or other endeavors. But it is important to remember that even during these warmer months, we can make a difference to our wider community. Worshiping God, volunteering for the community, and being an outward-facing body of Christ can go alongside our summer beach adventures, picnics, and other delights as we enjoy this time of year.

Another thing we can be aware of, in a practical and not alarming way, is of all the changes to our weather which have been affected by our participation as humans in climate change. If the haze from the Canadian wildfires and the endless rain from unusual weather patterns have taught us anything, our environment is rapidly changing, and we must be proactive with God's help. (Cont'd on Next Page)

As our Bible study participants have begun our Summer Climate Change study, we have been able to talk about the harmful ways that we as humans have impacted the earth, why it is so difficult to talk about our human impact in the world around us, and how to lament publicly, as a part of our worship to God. Lament allows us to express our grief and groaning with the whole of creation in a way that interacts with reality, leading to healing. You might be thinking that lament and summer do not go together. But as we continue to face extreme weather and temperatures different than summers of the past, reality can seep in even during times of vacation and pleasure.

So, as we journey into the heart of the summer months, I offer the following suggestion. I invite us to be guided by the patterns of lament and praise found in the Psalms and other books of the Bible. Psalm 42 reads, “My tears have been my food day and night, while people say to me all day long, ‘Where is your God?’” and Psalm 32 reads, “Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!” The rhythm of the psalms is a great guide for us. Joy and lament, joy and lament, rinse and repeat.

We can find the God of Joy through our interactions with our children, with these young humans who provide hope for our future through their simple needs, joys, and deeds, and whom we must provide a healthier and better world to live in while we are in charge. We do not do this alone; we have God who walks with us. The children at VBS learned what it means to be heroes as they explored the Bible world of ordinary people transformed by God to do great things: Moses, Miriam, Pharaoh’s daughter, newly transformed Saul, and the disciples of Jesus.

I invite us to explore our faith this summer in ways that are new and inviting to others. Talk to those you have never talked to before. Volunteer for those in need. Join the Climate Change study or simply read your Bible at home in a book you usually do not explore. As we learn the rhythms of Joy and Lament this summer, from our children and world alike, may we be a blessing to others as Christ and the Holy Spirit are a blessing to us. May God be with you and keep you.

Blessings, Pastor Ryon



A Note from our Music Director, Krista Sweer

The music program at the First Presbyterian Church of Rockaway was celebrated on Music Appreciation Sunday, June 18th. Each of the three musical groups lead the congregation in worship skillfully and with so much joy! The directors would like to thank the congregation for the generous gifts and recognition of their hard work throughout the year.

Special music has already begun for the summer and will continue through Homecoming Sunday in September. Many members of the congregation will enhance worship through instrumental and vocal solos and chamber music. If you are interested in participating, please contact Krista Sweer at kristasweer@gmail.com.

PER CAPITA APPORTIONMENT

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 Per Capita helps make things happen in the Presbytery of the Highlands

Our 2023 Per Capita Apportionment: Per Member is \$42.50

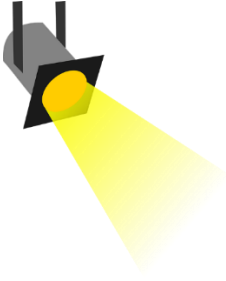
Our total apportionment is \$7,437.50 for 2023

We have currently collected a total of \$2,421.50

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

Our giving makes a big difference!

Spotlight on Worship Committee



The Worship Committee works diligently to create a meaningful worship experience for our congregation. This includes all aspects of planning and organizing the worship service, from providing liturgists, ushers, greeters, communion servers to planning structure and content of the actual service. Members of the Worship committee include Joe Martinoni (Chair), Barbie Restaino, Krista Sweer, and Carl Kline.

What's Been Happening Around FPCR?

Heroes are called to:

Follow Jesus Help Others Work Together Listen to God Show Grace

Romans 14:19

So let's strive for the things that bring peace and the things that lift each other up.



Vacation Bible School 2023 was a great success. With 26 children attending, and 30+ volunteers, the week was spent hearing stories from the bible, singing songs, dancing, and 5 different activity workshops: Storytelling, Science, Crafts, Recreation and Snack. A big thank you to Karen Basile for leading the team and to all the volunteers who helped to make it a week the children are sure to remember! Below is the list of volunteers (adults and youth) and some comments from the children who participated. If you weren't lucky enough to be there, the pictures will make you feel as though you were...

Volunteers

Joy Potter Durland
 Jim Glass
 Linda Stuhmeier
 Lisa DiBonaventura
 Pat Budis
 Kathy Shuey
 Tyler Basile
 Cadence Beardsley

Rev. Ryon Herin
 Donna VanDuyne
 Carl Kline
 Noelle Restaino
 Elissa Shuman
 Nancy Wood
 Lucas Cuspilich
 Jenna Basile

Barbara Weinberg
 Debbie Garris
 Linda Urwin
 Lillian Blair
 Doreen Scheetz
 Jackie Hecht
 Ella Durland
 Natalia Gomez

Rich Basile
 Ken Blair
 Vivian Santos
 Kathy Siegrist
 Ellen Weygandt
 Amber Laccitiello
 Sadie







*When the children were asked to describe VBS with one word, they said, “Fun”, “Cool”, “interesting”, “understand” All great answers!!!
God’s work is Alive at FPCR!*

Choir Recognition Sunday



Sarah Circle coordinates a volunteer day at Family Promise

A group of 9 spent the morning sorting and organizing a supply closet at Family Promise. They stacked and sorted supplies which included everything from toilet paper to diapers!



Youth Group Reunion

On Saturday, May 20th, former members of FPCR youth groups came together for a fun afternoon of talking, catching up and sharing fond memories of their activities and mission projects as youth. Everyone agreed that it was time well spent and that they should continue to get together. More reunions to be planned.



***Financial Secretaries
Greeters
Technology Support
Committee Members***

***Coffee Hour Hosts
Liturgists Choir Members
Church Street Journal contributors***

Summer Responding to Climate Change Study

As a Matthew 25 Congregation, we are continuing to learn about and become more informed on the numerous ways in which the current events of our world cause us to respond in action as Christians.

This Year, we will look at Climate Change, how human action has negatively affected our environment, how we can become informed in a hopeful way, and how we can practically respond as a congregation and Christ's Church. I invite you to join me in this study and endeavor beginning in June, with our Monday and Tuesday Bible Studies. I invite our Sunday School adult participants to join as well. Below are the dates and times as well as book info. Send Pastor Ryon an email (ryon@fpcrockaway.org) to register for a group and more info!

Responding to Climate Change published by Christian Century.

(Available by email as a PDF to read on your electronic device or to print)

<https://www.christiancentury.org/free-guide-climate-change>

Saving Us: A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World by Katherine Hayhoe (Buy on Amazon or other distributors)

Mondays at 7 PM (June 12 & 19: July 3, 10, 24 & 31: August 7 & 14)

Location TBD (Let Pastor Ryon know if you would like to host)

Tuesday at 10:00 AM (June 13 & 20: July 11 & 25: August 1, 8, 15 & 22)

Via Zoom



**Rise UP and FPCR Community
Breakfast:
8:00am-11am
July 30th
August 26th
Come Hungry and Hopeful!**

**Don't Forget the Blood Drive!!
July 29th 9:30am-2:30 pm**

**National Night Out
August 1, 2023**

**Community Cup:
6pm-9pm
July 14th & 28th
August 11th & 25th
Get out of the house for
conversation, games or just relax!**

**Rockaway Township Days:
Saturday, August 19th**

**A Poem by Carl Kline:
Welcome to Forever**

Walk with me
Across the sea of Eternity
Under a perfect sky of crystal blue

A dimensionless place
Without time, without space
And we'll glide together
Towards an Eden unimaginable,
Towards a rendezvous of bliss
With the loved ones you've missed

Where you will see the lion
Lying down with the lamb,
Where your cup overflows
With love given by your Father

Where you only need to listen
And God will provide
Where you'll dance joyfully together
To the rhythms of God's Groove,
Where you'll sail across the sky
And toss down rainbows of love
To those on the Earthly Plane
As reminders of kindness,
As truth to their disbelief

As invitations to Forever

**You too can submit your creative works to the Church Street Journal!! Just email
office@fpcrockaway.org with your submission!**



SHOP RITE GIFT CARDS!!

When you purchase Shop Rite Gift Cards from our church the church receives 5% of the cost of the gift card. (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. When we had to install a new boiler, we used this money to help pay the loan we had for the boiler. We all need to eat! It is a 'win win' for our church.

Contact Pat Budis if you have any questions 201-230-2286. You can pick them up from Pat or she will even deliver.

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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>

First Presbyterian Church of Rockaway

35 Church Street

Rockaway, NJ 067866-3027

(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

Robert Nichols, 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