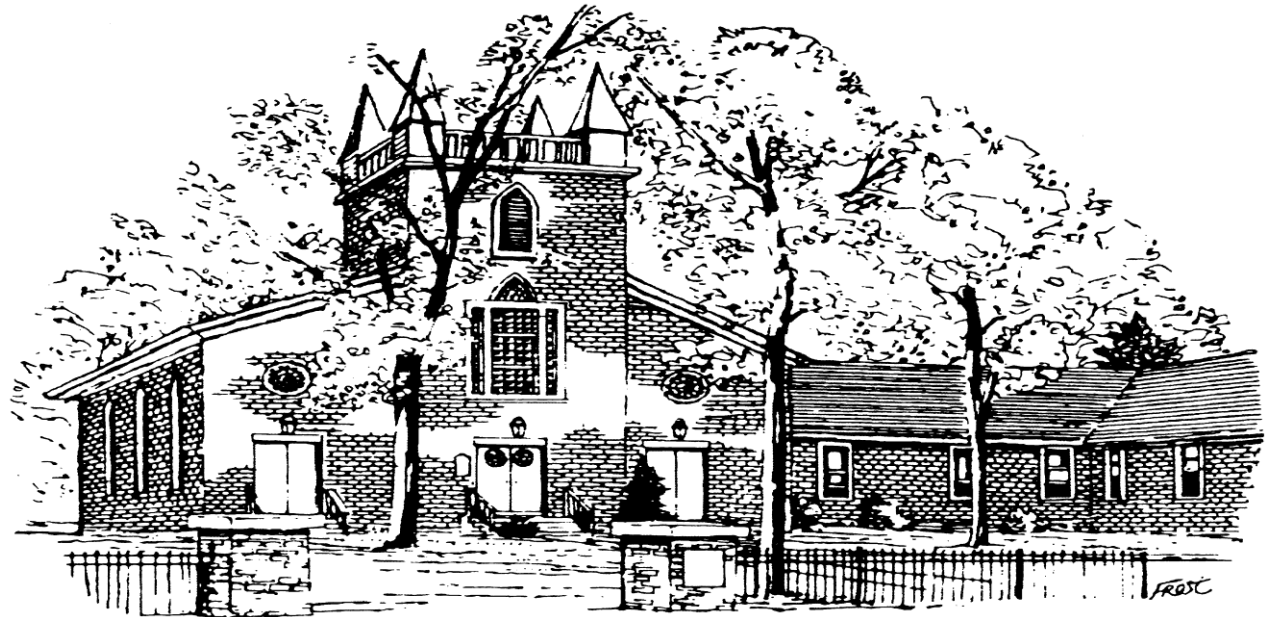


**CHURCH STREET JOURNAL**  
**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROCKAWAY**  
September-October 2023



**Pastor's Reflection**

September is upon us, and with September comes new beginnings. For children, it is a new year of school. For many, it means a new job or assignment. For others, it means the restart of programs, or volunteer activities. Summer means taking a break and with September comes business as usual. Or so we have been trained. What if we were to re-envision the end of Summer. Homecoming Sunday is so seared into our brains that it becomes almost rote. Preparing for the luncheon, for the start of Sunday School, and more committee meetings. What if instead we were to see Homecoming Sunday as the lines that lead back home. As just one way we as a church continually come to God in our work, worship, and fellowship marked as a body of believers called to love and nurture others. How do we as a church embody our coming back to God?

In Revelation 7:9, John writes of his continued vision, "After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands." For the Apostle John, Homecoming is a very serious, and large event. This is not just one church or one people group or one nation. This is a diverse gathering of all those who proclaim God's Salvation. Their attire signifies that their task is pure. Their palm

branches take us back to the scene where Jesus is celebrated with cheering and waving into the city of Jerusalem. Only this time, the experience is sincere and the ending much different.

How do we welcome all to the table as we celebrate Communion on our day of church Homecoming? Is this just our church Homecoming, or do we take the opportunity for it to be Christ's Church Homecoming? My suggestion is that we let God change and redirect the ways that we are going this year. To make Homecoming truly an event where we encounter and follow the lines God has placed before us that lead back home.

Now that we have the greater vision in mind, that Homecoming is larger, more inclusive, more genuine, and deeper in God's love and grace that we can ever know in this lifetime, we accept the task of living it out in this lifetime. Our Homecoming might not seem grand in comparison, but in God's eyes, it is both pleasing and good. As we worship in joy and adoration. As we work to help others and bring hope to the hopeless. As we fellowship in understanding and love. What we must do now is live out practical ways of Homecoming in our personal and communal lives.

The words from the Apostle Paul in Romans 12:9-13 (NRSV) give us practical habits to participate in, lines if you will that lead us back home. "Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers."

While practicing all of these seems overwhelming, picking a few to work on and to get better at can become a start for all of us as we enter sincerely back into our church and into the family that we find ourselves in that we weren't born into but adopted into by God. Practice love, or hope, or perseverance. Help others who need your help. As we celebrate Homecoming, do what you can to bring joy in times of joy and patient presence in times of disorder. May God be with us as we, First Presbyterian Church of Rockaway, enter this season of Homecoming, eyes on the eternal kingdom. Amen.

*Blessings, Pastor Ryon*



## A Note from our Music Director, Krista Sweer

We are so blessed at FPCR to have so many members willing to use their musical gifts to enhance worship. Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time and talents over the summer for special music!

The choir and both handbell ensembles are eager to start back Homecoming Sunday. If you are interested in singing or ringing please reach out to Krista at [kristasweer@gmail.com](mailto:kristasweer@gmail.com).

## Bible Study Return

Our Bible Studies are returning this week!! **Monday Study** will start a new endeavor, studying Revelation with the help of Eugene Peterson's Book, *Reversed Thunder: The Revelation of John and the Praying Imagination*. The book will be helpful but not required. Contact Pastor Ryon if you need help ordering the book. Monday Study meets at the church manse (101 Church Street) at 7 on Mondays.

We will begin with an overview of the author and context of Revelation this Monday. **Tuesday Study** is resuming its chapter-by-chapter journey through the Book of Acts. This Tuesday, we will begin discussing Chapter 13. We meet at 9:30 AM on Zoom starting this Tuesday. Contact Pastor Ryon for the link.

Sunday School also returns with a Multi-Age Children's Class that meets 9:15 am in the Sanctuary and a weekly Adult Class that meets 9:15 am in the BK Room.

## **New Membership Classes**

If you are interested in becoming a new member, we will be hosting new membership classes in a few months. The class usually runs around a month and meets before church or at a time during the week agreeable for all interested. In this class, you will learn about our church history, what it means to be Presbyterian, and how our church is involved in our community. Contact Pastor Ryon if you are interested ([ryon@fpcrockaway.org](mailto:ryon@fpcrockaway.org))

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### **Our Cemetery Sexton, Rob Nichols, is retiring on September 15, 2023**

Rob has been our Cemetery Sexton for 20 years!

If you would like to make a donation for a gift for Rob, please see Pat Budis or a member of the Office Staff. Thank you for your generosity.



### **New Cemetery Sexton, Scott Lovenberg**

I am a lifelong Morris County resident, my wife Sharon and I have resided in Rockaway Borough for 31 years, we have two grown children and two grandchildren. I was a career firefighter for nearly 30 years, retiring in 2015. After which, I worked for the Morris County Park Commission. I enjoy the outdoors and spending time with family and friends.

I look forward to working with the church staff and members of the First Presbyterian Church of Rockaway!

## **Stewardship Committee Members Needed**

It is that time of year again that we need to establish a Stewardship Committee.

We need people who are willing to serve on the committee that will begin meeting in September and complete their responsibilities by the end of

November. This committee works with the

pastor to establish the theme for our Stewardship Campaign, prepare and mail

Pledge Cards, and contact members concerning pledging.

Please Contact Rev. Ryon if you are interested in serving on this committee.

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## **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!**

# Homecoming Sunday! September 10, 2023

Sunday School begins at 9:15!



Worship at 10:30!

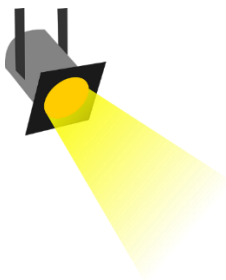


Homecoming Luncheon after worship!!



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## Spotlight on Personnel Committee



The Personnel Committee keeps things working smoothly for those employed by FPCR. This is creating job descriptions, interviewing, hiring, preparing annual reviews, handling conflicts, and preparing exit interviews. Members of the Worship committee include: Carol Lutcza (chair), Joe Martinoni, Ken Blair, and Linda Kirby. New members are always welcome.

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# *What's Been Happening Around FPC*

Summer isn't normally a busy time for church activities but here at FPCR we were very busy! This summer included our usual community breakfasts, offering a lighter fare for our guests but still plenty for everyone! We also held our Community Cup, offering fellowship, games, refreshments to our neighbors in the community as well as our congregation. VBS was a success earlier in the Summer, a great time for our volunteers and community children!! See last month's newsletter for pictures from VBS. Outreach efforts continued as we participated in the National Night Out, held at Firemen's Field in Rockaway. Our table, which represented the activities and programs of our church, was well attended and we met many of our community partners and members. Later in August we had a table at Rockaway Township Days. Again, we met many members of our community and were able to show our community what a great place FPCR is!



## The Doors are up!

Many thanks to the guys (Ken, Rich, Larry and Ryon) for completing a huge project that adds to the beauty of our historic building!





# First Presbyterian Church of Rockaway Community Fall Cookout

*Join us for hot dogs and  
hamburgers!*

**October 21<sup>st</sup> from 11-2  
rain date: October 22<sup>nd</sup>  
from 12-3**



**Checkout our concurrent  
Cemetery Tour!! (see flyer)**

101 Church Street Rockaway, NJ  
Park in the big parking lot and  
come to the cookout in the small lot  
closest to Academy St.  
(Sponsored by Outreach Committee)

The Outreach Committee, in conjunction with the Rockaway Borough Historical Committee has the speakers lined up for this event , but needs lots of other help, from social media outreach, to set up on Friday, to day of parking, guiding, clean up etc.If you would like to be a part of this fun and memorable event, as we bring the history in our cemetery alive, please call or reach out to Donna Schrader, [mom2duffy@hotmail.com](mailto:mom2duffy@hotmail.com) or at 973-876-9315.



## 1<sup>ST</sup> PRESBYTERIAN OF ROCKAWAY CEMETERY TOUR

Join us on October 21<sup>st</sup> from 11 am-4 pm (rain date: the 22<sup>nd</sup> from 1-5) for a tour through Rockaway's historic cemetery with live reenactors telling the stories of those who lived in and helped shape Rockaway. Portrayals include William Winds, Mary Estill, Joseph Tuttle, and Stephen Jackson. A hot dog and hamburger cookout will be available to all from 11 am-2 pm same day (see Outreach Cookout Flyer).

Tickets: \$15 each, \$5 for children 10 & under, \$40 family deal

Sponsored by First Presbyterian Church of Rockaway and  
Rockaway Borough Historical Committee

Contact the church office at (973) 627-1059 and leave a message or Rev. Ryon Herin at [ryon@fpcrockaway.org](mailto:ryon@fpcrockaway.org) for advanced tickets.

[fpcrockaway.org](http://fpcrockaway.org) \* [rockawayhistoricalcommittee.org](http://rockawayhistoricalcommittee.org)



*Financial Secretaries  
Greeters  
Technology Support  
Committee Members*

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



**RiseUp and FPCR Community  
Breakfast:  
September 30<sup>th</sup>  
October 28<sup>th</sup>  
8:00am-11am  
Come Hungry and Hopeful!**

**Community Cup:  
September 8<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>  
October 13<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>  
Meet friends, play games, or just  
relax!**

**Sarah Circle: Tuesday, September  
12<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm in the library**  
Sara Circle is the last running fellowship and study circle of FPCR. Circles were traditionally for women, but we are open to any who would like to join. We meet monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 7 pm. We divide our time between fellowship, devotionals, and service projects a FPCR and beyond. We are planning a monthly meet and greet at Family Promise where we volunteered in the Spring to organize and sort all their donated goods.

**Men's Breakfast:  
September 16<sup>th</sup>, 8 AM @ Hibernia  
Diner**

**Cemetery Tour: October 21<sup>st</sup> 11-4**

**Fall Cookout: October 21<sup>st</sup> 11-2**

You too can submit your creative works to the Church Street Journal!! Just email [office@fpcrockaway.org](mailto: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](mailto:ryon@fpcrockaway.org)

E-mail – [office@fpcrockaway.org](mailto:office@fpcrockaway.org)

Website – [www.fpcrockaway.org](http://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](mailto:directorpccns@gmail.com)