

March & April 2025



First Presbyterian Church of Verona

**Come and Worship with Us
All Are Welcome**

10:15 a.m.

10 Fairview Ave, Verona, NJ 07044
973-239-3561

Seeking Permanent Pastor
Music Director: Kyle Blackburn
Christian Education Chair: Cathy Franco
Sexton: Open Position
Admin. Assistant: Patti Beirne

E-Mail: veronapreschurch@gmail.com

Website: www.veronapreschurch.org

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

**“Welcoming Hearts, Nurturing Spirits,
United Fellowship and Faith.”**

ONLINE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUPPORT AND WORSHIP

For those who are unable to attend, services will be streamed through this you tube site:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0czo7NSkhf56Ffx5OpA03Q>

Online giving is now available on our website: veronapreschurch.org

CHURCH OFFICERS

SESSION		DEACONS	
Cathy Franco Donna Lauckner Christopher Kiel Donna Kiel	Deborah Michelsen Marilyn O'Neil Janice Tierney Margaret Whiting	Kathy Dougherty David Haimann Matthew Koroluk Michael McGough Trevor Mescia	Willow Pomponio Tennille Wasek Barbara Haimann Marion Shine Daniel Uniss

Margaret Whiting, Clerk of the Session Council
 Dr. Michael Duhaney, Corporation President
 Ken Lauckner- Treasurer
 Kathy Dougherty & Donna Lauckner- Financial Secretaries
 Kathy Dougherty & Michael McGough- Deacon Co-Chairs



INCLEMENT WEATHER CHURCH CLOSING PROCEDURE

**If, because of the weather, we are unable
 to have a church service, you will be notified.**

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE (PNC) REPORT

Your Pastor Nominating Committee was elected by the congregation in October 2024 to begin the process of calling a new pastor to FPCV. Using the congregational survey and the Mission Study, the PNC committee constructed a profile and description of our Church that was posted on the Presbyterian website that notifies all Presbyterian Pastors seeking a new calling about our available Pastor's position.

The way it works is like this: A Potential Pastor candidate's profile is matched to our Church's profile according to similar compatibility. Our Church's PNC then reads the candidate's profile and decides to invite them to apply if we decide they are a good potential candidate. The candidate can either accept our invitation to apply or decline the invitation accordingly.

It is important for the congregation to understand that this process takes time, and we are restricted by the rules of Presbytery. Your PNC has been meeting weekly and we are working diligently to move the process along as quickly as possible but we are committed to finding the best candidate possible for our new Pastor.

So far, your PNC has conducted 3 interviews and has reviewed many profiles to consider.

In the meantime, Debbie Michelsen has been working hard with the pulpit supply at Presbytery to schedule guest Pastors to lead us through Easter and longer if necessary.

Your PNC asks that you keep the search committee in your prayers. God has already chosen the new Pastor for our Church, our committee but needs to discern his will and bring us together.

Yours in Christ, the PNC Committee:

Ernie Kiel, Kathy Dougherty, Mike Duhaney, Janice Tierney, Tennille Wasek, Riley Becker, Cathy Franco.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE



The weekly Sunday School lessons continue to be linked to the worship service. Each week the Pulpit supply individual lets the Sunday School teachers know what the scripture and sermon title is and the lessons are prepared from them. The older class begins each lesson by understanding who the author of each of the scriptures was to understand the context of what the passages are telling us. Their understanding is evident in the deep questions they ask and the connections that they are making to what they learn in history at school and how the passages guide our decisions on a weekly basis.

Our children participated in Souper Bowl Sunday take 2 when it was postponed due to snow and church was called off on the actual Super Bowl Sunday. Their enthusiasm was not deterred by the delay and they participated in a short skit about Souper Bowl Sunday, all coming dressed for the occasion. We collected 37 cans of soup and \$225 which all went to the Holy Spirit Episcopal Church's food pantry in town. Our totals were given to the national organization *Souper Bowl of Caring*[™]. Thank you to Dick Crawford for bringing all the cans of soup to the pantry.

In other ministry work by the Sunday School, as of the submission of this newsletter, they have counted a total of 207 pairs of socks for those less fortunate in our 7th annual sock drive. There is 1 week to go, so the final count will be after printing of the newsletter. This year they began to insert notes into each pair of socks or taped to each multipack of socks saying "God loves you" to let the people know that they matter to God and to us. The children lovingly counted the pairs of socks, placed the notes inside and gave bags to Ms. Liz Greene to take to Betsy's Closet in Newark to distribute to those in need. Our youth are learning and living the teachings of Jesus Christ in their lessons and the ministry projects through the year. We have others coming up in the spring too so the learning never stops. As you stroll down to the parlor, please look at all of the work that the children are making and sharing with everyone about the teachings of Jesus Christ and how to be good followers of him.



We are gearing up for the annual Good Friday Workshop in April. Some of our regular volunteers have been sidelined, so we are looking for some additional volunteers to help out. The day is well organized with strong communication and guidance for anyone who wants it. Please consider helping our youth develop relationships with all of our church members through helping out in some way with this morning event (10am – 12:30 pm).

Our adult offerings for Bible/book study are on hold without a permanent pastor however, if anyone is interested in initiating one, please speak with Cathy Franco.

Cathy Franco, Chair Christian Education Committee

LOVE TO SING? JOIN THE CHANCEL CHOIR



Rehearsals are Thursday at 7:30 pm and 9:30 am on Sunday mornings prior to the worship service.

Additional singers are most welcome.

Our new Music Director, Kyle Blackburn hopes to get the children

involved with singing and/or musical instruments.



On April 6th a visiting group- "Beyond the Borders." Will lead us with special music. You don't want to miss it!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

There are numerous opportunities for church friends to share their talents. Please consider how you might use your gifts and talents to support the vital work of the church during this season of transition.

- The **choir** continues to seek new members and are grateful for the new voices who have joined.
- **Sunday School substitute teachers** would be appreciated as some of the regular subs are away for the winter months.
- The Worship & Music Committee would love to have some additional **lay reader participants**. Let Patti Beirne know if you are interested. 973.239.3561
- Providing **fresh flowers** on a Sunday would be most welcome.
- Contributing "**socks for the homeless**" and/or **food for the hungry** would be appreciated.
- **Coffee Hour Hosts** are needed. Individuals or groups could work together.



Our membership vows include a commitment to being a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ and devoting ourselves to the work of the church. Let's be sure to uphold those vows!

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

The Kitchen renovation is underway. New electrical plugs have been installed and others repaired. A new 4' light will be installed near the stove on the ceiling. A new surface will be installed on the island, the cabinets will be painted and the wallpaper taken down and replaced with paint. Some of this is necessary because of the smoke from the Chamberlain Hall fire.

The Manse is empty now, and any need for repairs or repainting will be evaluated. A new Circuit Board Panel in the Manse is imperative.

A new electric line will be run to the Church Office.

Debbie Michelsen & Charles Heyer—co chairs of the B&G Committee

LAY READERS

	March		April
2 nd	Dotty Ostella	6 th	Dotty Ostella
9 th	Chris Keil	13 th	Pat Heyer
16 th	Pat Heyer	17 th	
23 rd	Chris Kiel	20 th	Janice Tierney
30 th	Janice Tierney	27 th	Chris Kiel

PLANSOEN GRANT

Once again, the First Presbyterian Church of Verona received a significant grant of \$ 50,000 for use in 2025 from the Plansoen Foundation. For many years, the Foundation has offered an opportunity for us to apply for a grant. In the past and currently, the Church has requested funds for continuing support of the music program including concerts, professional musicians especially during Worship Services, maintenance of the organ and other musical instruments, and children's programs.

Previous grants have enabled restoration of the stage in 2019, new doors including an ADA- compliant door and an exterior walkway for Chamberlain Hall, completed in 2024, and support for food kitchens especially during the pandemic. Currently, funds are being used to add a much-needed ADA bathroom across the hall from Chamberlain Hall.

We are most grateful for this amazing support, all started many years ago because of the close connection of Charlotte Cunningham, former Music Director, and the Plansoen Foundation.

Barbara Haimann & Debbie Michelsen



HELP UKRAINE

Ukraine continues to need canned food items.
Thank you for your continued support.



STEWARDSHIP IS VITAL TO THE FUTURE OF THE CHURCH



As we move forward into a new future, with new pastoral leadership, our prayer is that you will choose to support the church in fulfilling its calling to grow in faith and mission as together we give of our time, talent, and treasure.

Offering envelopes are available now. If you would like to contribute by envelope and haven't received them as yet, please contact Assistant Treasurer Donna Lauckner. dklauckner@verizon.net.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

One Great Hour of Sharing Envelopes will be included in the Sunday bulletins during Lent and Advent.

The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering has a long history as an ecumenical endeavor that involves 9 denominations and Church World Service in response to the devastation left behind by the Second World War. The first Presbyterian participation in this ecumenical offering was initiated in 1947 and by 1949, church leaders across America began working together to promote this effort.

Over time, many aspects of the offering and its participants have changed, but the purpose remains the same: to share God's love with people experiencing need. Our gifts support ministries of disaster relief, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development aid. The 3PC(USA) mission programs that receive undesignated gifts from this Special Offering include the Presbyterian Hunger

Program, the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program, and Self-Development of People. Your gift to the One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering will make a difference around the world where millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. Please consider making a special gift this Easter. Thank you for your support!



NEWS FROM THE THRIFT SHOP



The Thrift Shop wishes to thank all of its patrons. With your help were able to make a difference in the Community and make a large donation to the FPCV at the end of the year. Remember the Thrift Store is open Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday each day from 10 am to 1 pm. We appreciate you!

A few weeks ago we suddenly lost one of our faithful volunteers, Joyce Cougan. She was also a member of the FPCV and she will be sorely missed by all.

Holy Week AT FPCV- 2025

	Sun. April 13	<p style="text-align: center;">PALM SUNDAY: 10:15 a.m.- Worship Service</p>
	Thurs. April 17	<p style="text-align: center;">MAUNDY THURSDAY: Simple Meal, Communion 5:30- set up in Chamberlain Hall 6:00- Soup Supper 7:00- Hand Washing and Service in the Sanctuary</p>
	Fri. April 18	<p style="text-align: center;">GOOD FRIDAY: 10:00 am-12 noon: Children's Workshop Reservations are required Reservation forms on church website: www.veronapreschurch.org Sanctuary open for prayer- Noon-1:00 pm</p>
	Sat. April 19	<p style="text-align: center;">Decorating the Sanctuary</p>
	Sun. April 20	<p style="text-align: center;">EASTER SUNDAY 10:15 AM- Worship Service Coffee Hour following Worship</p>

EASTER FLOWERS

If you wish to contribute,
 please make your check out to
 First Presbyterian Church of Verona (FPCV)
 and in the memo section include "Easter Flowers."

The deadline for donations is April 6th

This is such a pleasurable and rewarding way to participate in the Easter season!

CHANCEL FLOWER DONATIONS			
		<p>Just as decorating a home for guests is a sign of welcome and hospitality, decorating a sanctuary for worship is also an offering of hospitality. The church has begun a relationship with Anderson Flowers for the regular delivery of fresh flowers to the church for Sunday worship. To make this program work, we are asking for your support. Please consider signing up to provide fresh flowers in honor of a loved one, in thanksgiving for God's blessings, in celebration of a special event, etc. The cost is \$30 for one arrangement and \$60 for two arrangements. When making your payment to the church, please note that it is for flowers. Thank you for your support of the church and its ministry! Contact the church office to check for the available dates. Or use the sign in sheet located outside Chamberlain Hall.</p>	
March		April	
2nd			
9th		6 th	
16 th		13 th	Palm Sunday Marion Shine in loving Memory of her Husband
23 rd		20 th	Easter Sunday
30 th		27 th	

HOLY SPIRIT FOOD PANTRY



The Holy Spirit Food Pantry continues to need our help. You may use the 24-hour drop-off bin in their parking lot on 30 Gould Street for any donations. However, you may leave donations here at our Church. Each Tuesday Dick Crawford brings them over to Holy Spirit. Please consider writing a check to: Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit with "food pantry" in the memo line.

GRANDPARENTS' GROUP



Our Grandparents Group meets on the second Thursday of the month via Zoom.

Please email patheyer75@gmail.com or call 973-239-3592 if you'd like to join us.

WISHING BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS, A Very Happy Birthday.

Remember the only way to be added to this list is by reaching out to Dan Uniss or a deacon and providing your birthday information (no year required)!



Scott Klabenesh March 9
Charles Heyer: April 9
Marion Shine- April 13
Peg Whiting- April 29
Andrea Kiel- April 29

CALENDAR FOR MARCH & APRIL 2025

(Dates are subject to change when necessary)

MARCH

Sunday March 2 **Holy Communion Sunday**

10:15 am Worship Service –Rev. Shelley Gardner

Wednesday March 5

7:00 pm **Ash Wednesday Service** – We will worship with the Presbyterian Church of Caldwell at Caldwell.

Sunday March 9 **Day Light Savings Time**

10:15 am Worship Service –Elder Robert Mason
Christian Ed. Mtg. during Coffee Hour

Wednesday March 12

4:15 pm Staff Meeting via Zoom
7:00 pm Worship & Music

Thursday March 13

11:00 am Grandparents' Group- Zoom

Saturday March 15

8:00 am Boy Scouts Pancake Breakfast

Sunday March 16

10:15 am Worship Service – Beth Shorten
7:00 pm Interfaith Service at Islamic Center Verona

Sunday March 23

10:15 am Worship Service – Rev. Debra Given

Wednesday March 26

4:15 pm Staff Meeting via Zoom
7:00 pm Session –Zoom

Sunday March 30

10:15 am Worship Service – Elder Robert Mason

APRIL

Sunday April 6 **Holy Communion Sunday**

10:15 am Worship Service – Elder Gayle Griffin

Wednesday April 9

4:15 pm Staff Meeting via Zoom
7:00 pm Worship & Music Committee

Thursday April 10

11:00 am Grandparents' Group- Zoom

Sunday April 13 **Palm Sunday**

10:15 am Worship Service –Pastor Anthony Falce
Christian Ed Mtg during Coffee Hour

Thursday April 17 **Maundy Thursday**

6:00pm Soup and Salad Supper Hand Washing and
Communion Service Elder Gayle Griffin

Friday April 18 **Good Friday**

10:00 am to 12 Children's Workshop – Registration
12 Noon to 1pm Sanctuary open for private prayer

Saturday April 19th

11:00 am Church Decorating for Easter

Sunday April 20 **Easter Sunday**

10:15 am Worship Service – Rev. Jeff Leininger

Wednesday April 23

4:15 pm Staff Meeting via Zoom
7:00 pm Session via Zoom

Friday April 25

Last Day to submit articles for May/June Newsletter

Sunday April 27

10:15 am Worship Service – Elder Gayle Griffin

For Pastoral needs during the Pastor's absence, please contact Peggy Whiting- 908-753-5882

- **Chancel Choir Practice is held each Thursday in-person at 7:30 pm and at 9:30 am each Sunday before the Worship Service**

AA Meetings

Meeting in Chamberlain Hall-

Tuesdays 8:30pm-9:30pm

Al-Anon Meetings

Meeting in Julie Chamberlain Room

Fridays 12:30pm – 1:30 pm

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TPAPNJ

Mondays 4 to 6:30pm

Tuesdays 4 to 7:30pm

Wednesdays 4 to 7:00pm

Thursdays 4 to 7:00pm

Fridays 4 to 6:00pm

Classes will run through June 7, 2025

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WEST ESSEX MUSIC TOGETHER

Music Together has three classes for
10 weeks ending March 31st.

Mondays. 9:30 to 11:30

Thursdays. 9:30 to 10:30