



## First Presbyterian Church

10 Fairview Avenue  
Verona, New Jersey 07044  
(973) 239-3561

August 1, 2024

Dear Family;

The summer is quickly coming to an end and we are all starting to plan for resuming our school year lives. At First Presbyterian Church of Verona, we have worked all summer long at updating and reorganizing our Christian Education program and are excited to share some of the highlights with you. Both of the Sunday School rooms had the flooring redone and it looks beautiful. We can't wait for you to see them.

Our **Sunday School classes will resume for ages 3 – 12 on Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>**. It is also Grandparents Day so invite grandparents to come to church with your family.

**Please have children bring their backpack, lunchbox or other school item with them to church on September 8<sup>th</sup> for our "Blessing of the Backpacks"** during the Children's Message in the service. We want them begin the school year knowing that their church family will be supporting them in the year to come.

We have 2 Sunday School classes. Our younger class is for **ages 3-completion of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade**. Ms. Riley Becker is our teacher for this class. Riley is completing her college degree in Early Childhood Education and is well versed in the learning needs of this energy-packed group.

Our older class is for **grades 4<sup>th</sup> and above through students making their Confirmation**. Ms. Cathy Franco is the teacher for our older class. During the week Cathy is the Clinical Director for a company that provides therapy services to schools. Cathy also teaches the Pediatrics course at a college and has worked with students of all ages and with all learning skills for many years. The older class focuses on helping the students to understand their faith, how it applies to their daily lives, and the decisions that they make. When the students have acquired sufficient understanding of what their faith means to them, they will be recommended to begin their Confirmation classes which are led by the Pastor.

It is sometimes hard for **young adults who have made their Confirmation** to know "what's next" on their journey of faith. We encourage our young adults to come and help assist the Sunday School teachers and assist with running some of the family activities we have listed below. Their participation as members of the church in the life of the church is strongly encouraged and mentoring is provided. Joining the choir and being on the list for Lay Readers are some other options.

The Christian Education program embraces a family first approach with how we share the love of God with our children and youth. The weekly sermons align with what the children are learning in Sunday School so that families can discuss their experiences and grow together in their faith. We are here to support our families with materials for them to use at home. We have resource materials for families to help you find quick and easy ways to create faith inspired traditions, ceremonies, and learning opportunities within your daily lives for children of all ages. We would be glad to talk with you to find what might meet your family's needs to help your faith be part of your whole week and not just Sundays.

A listing of family oriented opportunities through the end of 2024 is attached. Put them on your calendar so that your family won't miss out on our fun things going on.

If you have thoughts, questions or suggestions on how the Christian Education program can help your family deepen the connection of your faith in your daily lives, please reach out to Pastor Rhonda or anyone on the Christian Education Committee (Cathy Franco, Riley Becker, Christina Turkington, Cathy Collins, Donna Kiel, and Willow Pomponio).

Families are always invited guests to our monthly committee meetings. They are held during coffee hour and are posted in the monthly Church Newsletter.

One last parting thought: If your child is going to be out on a Sunday, please let us know. Our volunteer teachers work hard on preparing the lessons and do not live locally. Knowing who is or isn't attending is greatly appreciated.

We look forward to seeing everyone in September,

Yours in Christ,

Cathy Franco

Chair, Christian Education Committee

Upper Sunday School Teacher

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Riley Becker

Younger Sunday School Teacher

