

Issue 01

February
2021



From the Pastor



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ROCKAWAY, NJ

Church Street Journal

Note from the Pastor

My grandfather, who was a farmer and gardener all of his life, always said that we should plant peas on St. Patrick's Day. He and my grandmother had made the move from North Dakota to Oregon – to the Willamette Valley, where the climate was mild – in the late 1950's. They came back to North Dakota in the 1970's, ostensibly because my grandfather had rheumatism so bad he could barely move. In a miraculous healing, the rheumatism disappeared when they crossed the border into North Dakota. He had never liked Oregon, and tried all kinds of persuasions to get my grandmother to move back home. They also moved into a house in town for the first time in their lives, they had always lived in the country on a farm.

His garden was marvel. So when he said he planted peas on St. Patrick's Day. I had complete faith that they would grow and produce. But looking back, I really think he was still working as if he were gardening in the climate of Oregon. In North Dakota, the ground was still frozen solid on March 17, and if anything managed to grow above ground, it quickly froze. Blizzards still come in April! In spite of the cold, I think he continued to plant peas in March in North Dakota and managed to keep them warm and growing until the final thaw took over.

Faith and trust in God is like planting peas in March in North Dakota. We keep hearing assurances that God is present, always watching and caring for us. But maybe we don't see those assurances coming to fruition, and we decide to wait and see what God will do before we declare our trust. But faith doesn't work that way; we are called to believe even before we see what God is doing.

If we are willing to declare that we believe and rely upon God, we also have responsibility to nurture our faith. We are called to worship, pray, study, share in fellowship and mission. In all these things faith will grow, despite any distractions or seemingly impossible roadblocks in life.

I won't get my peas planted until the end of March, and I will need to watch them closely so we do not lose them. When we are eating them in June and July, I will give thanks to God for the gift of growing things and the lessons learned from my grandfather.

Pastor Nancy



Everyone: Since there was a lot of discussion about the Budget Deficit and our ability to call a full time Pastor I would like to give some further information to clarify our situation. I believe it shows that it is very possible for this Church to call a full time Pastor if the members of the Congregation really want a fulltime Pastor.

During the Congregation meeting people were concerned that given the projected budget Deficit of \$92,000 based on last year's giving that it will be impossible to call a full time pastor. About \$30,000 of the budget Deficit is for repairs to the Manse and repair/replacement of the sidewalk on Academy Street. The Church should be able to qualify for a PILP Loan from the Presbyterian Foundation to cover these Capital Improvement Expenses.

To date we have pledges from 51 out of 125 Church families for \$124,164 (an average of \$2400/family). This gives a Budget Deficit of about \$88,000 (assuming a PILP Loan to cover the manse/sidewalk repairs). Therefore, if the remaining 74 families pledge an average of \$1280/year, which is \$106/month or \$25/week we can have a balanced budget and be able to call a full time Pastor. Therefore if you have not yet pledged please prayerfully consider how much you are able to pledge. If you have pledged please prayerfully consider if you are able increase your pledge. Your pledges will enable the Congregation of First Presbyterian Church to call a full time Pastor and move forward to do God's important work/mission in our Community.

Please give any feedback and/or comments

Finance Committee: Rich Basile, Lillian Blair, Ken Blair, Pat Budis

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 2020 Per Capita Apportionment: Per Member is \$40.00

Our total apportionment is \$8,120 for 2021

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

Our giving makes a big difference!



**WORSHIP SERVICE INFORMATION
1st Presbyterian of Rockaway**

Join Zoom Worship (login beginning at 12 Noon EDT)

<https://zoom.us/join>

Phone in: (mobile or home phone) +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 742 347 8806 Passcode: 6562894

+19292056099,7423478806#, 0#,6562894# US (New York)

Rockaway Food Closet

Our monthly food distributions are continuing. This wouldn't happen without broad community support and thankfully we have that. The need has increased during this pandemic. Items needed most are: **cereal, peanut butter, tuna, macaroni & cheese, soup, canned beans, crackers, coffee, tea and hot cocoa.** All non-perishable items are gratefully excepted. **The Food Closet is open on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm.**

Thank you in advance for any help that you can give. If you have any questions, please call Linda Kirby [973-316-0598](tel:973-316-0598)

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN CHRISTIAN ED.....?

BIBLE STUDY

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO MAKE A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION!

We all make New Year's resolutions to eat better, stop smoking or workout more. Do we ever think of working on our "spiritual muscles"? How about making a resolution to start attending **Adult Bible Study!!**

Sunday Morning 9:30-10:30-am—
SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY: PSALMS
We meet via Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86468468691?pwd=Z3ZNNzJabHdKaFNOTjhrOEVBYXlqdz09>

Meeting ID: 864 6846 8691

Passcode: 317165

TUESDAY MORNING STUDY

9:30 – 11:30 am

We are studying the book
**Everything Is Spiritual: Finding
YourWay in a Turbulent World**
by Rob Bell

The book is available on Amazon for \$13.95.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81660964669?pwd=TEVQNTYwN3FuWHVVBV0pFa2xySkRQUT09>

Meeting ID: 816 6096 4669

Passcode: 666503

Children's Sunday School

Children ages 4 thru 8th grade are meeting on Sunday mornings at 9:30am via Zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72138575076?pwd=OE9DM2VERFhYbEMwQmRtbzBrRTZRQT09>

Meeting ID: 721 3857 5076

Passcode: 0vkJRu

Donna VanDuyne is teaching fun classes. They are studying the life of Jesus and learning the Lord's Prayer. The children really enjoy seeing each other and talking to each other.

Have your children come join if they are not already attending!

YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

The Youth Group made beautiful grave covers and wreaths for Christmas. The proceeds will help them with their outreach. The advisors are hoping to have a gathering via Zoom in the near future. They will also see how things look come spring for a possible in person meeting(s).

Advisors: Chris Harrington, Mark Kuschke, Lisa DiBonaventura



AMAZON SMILE FUNDRAISER

The First Presbyterian Church of Rockaway is a registered charity on AmazonSmile. Every time you make a purchase at smile.amazon.com, 0.5% of your eligible purchases will be directly donated to our church. It costs you nothing and the church gets income to continue its ministries in the community. All you need to do is sign up and here's how!

Go to **smile.amazon.com**. If you already have an existing Amazon account, just sign in (you will use your same Amazon login and password).
Whenever you want to purchase anything from Amazon you **MUST sign in to this site in order for the church to receive a percentage of your purchases (the church will receive no money if you just sign in to Amazon.com).**

On your first visit to AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), you are prompted to select a charitable organization from their list of eligible organizations. You can change your selection at any time. To list our church as your charitable organization, enter "First Presbyterian Church, Rockaway."

Let's get the word out to our family, friends, co-workers and neighbors.

Anyone can sign up and designate our church to receive funds so



please spread the word!

OUTREACH NEWS

Outreach has some activities in the near future that you could be a participant in Feb. 20 – Interfaith Furnishings will need us to provide strong volunteers. The exact time is to be determined.

Dover Faith Kitchen may ask us to provide a meal at the beginning of March. This activity has a lot of restrictions due to the pandemic and will be handled if required by a small number of committed members.

Family Promise will re-establish their emergency shelter program probably in February. Our congregation has provided support for this program. Information will be coming soon.

Frank Novak



Stephen Ministry **Things Are Different This Year**

With the holidays upon us and during this year of Covid-19, your Stephen Ministry team continues to provide care to those suffering illness, loss, isolation and stress. Stephen Ministers talk with their care receivers by phone. We look forward to the time when we can meet in person with our care receivers but will continue to follow CDC, state & our church's guidelines.

If you would like to talk with a Stephen Minister on a one-time basis, we would be glad to talk confidentially with you. Please call our Referrals Coordinator, Linda Kirby (973-316-0598 or lkirby717@aol.com) or one of our Stephen Leaders: Pat Warren (973-586-2923), Sue Scott (201-412-9285) or Betty Smith (973-432-9410).

In His Peace, Your Stephen Leader Team



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 profit we receive has 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 delivery is even an option.

SCHEDULE UPCOMING EVENTS

All services and meeting are being held via Zoom

February 7 – Worship Service 12 Noon with communion
February 17 – Ash Wednesday Service 7pm
February 17 – Session Meeting
March 7 – Worship Service 12 Noon with communion
March 17 – Session Meeting
March 28 – Palm Sunday Worship Service 12 Noon
April 1 – Maundy Thursday
April 2 – Good Friday
April 4 – Easter Sunday

Join Zoom Worship (login beginning at 12 Noon EDT)

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**Phone in: (mobile or home phone) +1 929 205 6099 US
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Passcode: 6562894
+19292056099,7423478806#, 0#,6562894# US (New York)**

Any Questions about events please contact the church office 973-627-1059 or email office@fpcrockaway.org



The **Church Office** is staffed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays every week from 9am to 12noon.



<p><i>Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Nancy Young</i></p> <p><i>Music Director: Bonnie Pomeroy Office</i></p> <p><i>Staff: Karen Basile, Ken Blair, Carol Lutza</i></p> <p><i>Cemetery Sexton: Robert Nichols</i></p>			
<p><i>Clerk of Session: Karen Basile</i></p> <p>Church Office Phone: 973-627-1059</p> <p>E-mail: office@fpcrockaway.org</p> <p>Website: www.fpcrockaway.org</p> <p>PCCNS</p> <p>Phone 973-586-3665</p> <p>Cheryl Piscopo, Director</p>			

The Church Street Journal will be emailed to all members who have provided us with email addresses. Copies will be mailed only to those who do not have internet access. It is also available on the church website www.fpcrockaway.org.

Look at our Facebook page to find important events and information.