



THE OPEN DOOR

PLASTIC-FREE JULY

The Earth Care Committee's "Share the Care"



As you know, our church is an Earth Care congregation, meaning we are committed to caring for God's Earth in all facets of church life. From time to time, we "share the care" with you, giving you information and encouragement to help in responding to God's call for us to be stewards of His glorious creation.

This summer we invite you to participate in Plastic Free July by committing to avoid single-use plastic items for the month of July. Here are some ways to accomplish that goal:

- Use refillable water bottles.
- Order coffee in your own refillable cup at the coffee shop-they're used to this now!
- Buy produce with re-usable produce bags rather than as pre-packaged items.
- Use bar products not only for hand soap, but for shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, and lotion!
- Buy beverages in containers other than plastic. Aluminum is much more sustainable than plastic.

There are a many other ways to avoid plastic. We'd love to hear your ideas! Our hope is that when we all realize how simple it can be to be plastic free, we'll choose to make every month a plastic free month!

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AT THE OPEN DOOR

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JULY LECTIONARY

July 2

First Reading [Genesis 22:1-14](#)

Psalm [13:1-6](#)

Second Reading [Romans](#)

[6:12-23](#)

Gospel [Matthew 10:40-42](#)

July 9

First Reading [Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67](#)

Psalm [45:10-17](#)

Alternate Song of Solomon
[2:8-13](#)

Second Reading [Romans](#)

[7:15-25a](#)

Gospel [Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30](#)

July 16

First Reading [Genesis 25:19-34](#)

Psalm [119:105-112](#)

Second Reading [Romans 8:1-11](#)

Gospel [Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23](#)

July 23

First Reading [Genesis 28:10-19a](#)

Psalm [139:1-12, 23-24](#)

Second Reading [Romans](#)

[8:12-25](#)

Gospel [Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43](#)

July 30

First Reading [Genesis 29:15-28](#)

Psalm [105:1-11, 45b](#)

Or alternate Psalm [Psalm](#)

[128:1-6](#)

Second Reading [Romans](#)

[8:26-39](#)

Gospel [Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52](#)



The Tri-Harder Kids Triathlon is on!

Mark your calendar for
Thursday, July 7th.

If you can check in participants or cheer them along the course, please contact Cindy Medici (cjmedici@gmail.com or 570-460-0871). We will gather at 4:45pm in front of the Recreation Office at 72 Eyland Avenue. We should be done by 8:00. If you can't arrive until 5:00 or 6:00, we can still use your help.



*Wouldn't you
like to host?*

Fellowship time continues during the summer months with Lemonade and Iced Tea. (Cans of mix are at church. Just have to mix with cold water.) And bring a treat to share.

Sign up sheet is in the fellowship hall. Please volunteer. We still like to visit even during July and August. Any questions please contact Sue Anderson at 973 584-3816 or sueanderson14@verizon.net. Thank you.



**Outdoor Summer
Concerts @ 7pm
HSL Bandshell**

June 29 - The Uptown Getdowns

July 13 - Hoi Polloi

July 20 - Total Soul

www.roxburyartsalliance.com



SUMMER WORSHIP

This summer the worship committee has planned four Sundays to worship outside, weather permitting. Dates are July 9th, July 30th, August 13th and August 27th.

We meet outside behind the Fellowship Hall in the cemetery so bring your own chair. It's a fun way to enjoy nature and praise the Lord!

PRAYERS & CONCERNS:

Georganne & Fred	Dolores & Dave	Bruce	Carol
June	Harry	Charlie	Lorraine
Sue B.	John	Nelda	Kirby
Phyllis	Stanley	David	Maisie
Adelaide	Paulina	Jan	baby Madi

Please pray for the families of:
Bernadette Hill, Ray Hopkins, and those impacted by gun violence.



SESSION SNIPPETS:

Action/Discussion Items from June Session Meeting:

Pastor's Report

- Baptism of Charlotte and Aubrey Ayres on May 21
- Graveside for Geraldine Underhill on May 12
- Funeral for Mable Ward on May 17
- Camp Johnsonburg chaplain – July 30 – August 4
- Sundays off - Aug 6 (Communion Sunday to be moved to following Sunday) and Aug 20 (Vacation from Aug 18 – 25)

Clerk's Report:

- 2022 Session Minutes were approved by Presbytery

Action/Discussion Items:

- Approved the minutes of the May 3, 2023 Session meeting
- Treasurers report was received, discussed and approved. It was noted the Mosaic Group provided a \$400 donation
- Discussion on Summer worship schedule outside – set for July 9, July 30, August 13 and August 27
- Discussion on Christmas Eve 2023 which falls on a Sunday and the 4th Sunday of Advent. It was agreed to hold only one morning and one evening (candle light) service
- Discussion on new letters for outside sign which Kathy Ritchey has already ordered
- Approved through email the use of folding chairs by Habitat for Humanity
- Discussion on Worship Committee providing Grapevine wreaths for the church doors (2 office doors and 2 sanctuary doors) and to weave seasonal items into them
- Discussion on Worship Committee who would like to provide 2 outdoor concerts this summer

Informational Items:

- Last day of Sunday School is June 11
- 2nd grade Bible Presentation
- Looking at last Sunday in June for next Messy Church
- Blood Drive is August 6
- Succasunny Day is September 9

Unfinished/Old Business:

- Organ repairs are completed and to be reimbursed by the insurance company
- Kathy Ritchey is continuing to move ahead with the Google shared calendar

New Business

- Pastor Carie reported on the May 9 Presbytery meeting held at Camp Johnsonburg



AUGUST LECTIONARY

August 6

First Reading [Genesis 32:22-31](#)

Psalm [17:1-7, 15](#)

Second Reading [Romans 9:1-5](#)

Gospel [Matthew 14:13-21](#)

August 13

First Reading [Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28](#)

Psalm [105:1-6, 16-22, 45b](#)

Second Reading [Romans 10:5-15](#)

Gospel [Matthew 14:22-33](#)

August 20

First Reading [Genesis 45:1-15](#)

Psalm [133:1-3](#)

Second Reading [Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32](#)

Gospel [Matthew 15:\(10-20\) 21-28](#)

August 27

First Reading [Exodus 1:8-2:10](#)

Psalm [124:1-8](#)

Second Reading [Romans 12:1-8](#)

Gospel [Matthew 16:13-20](#)



DONATE BLOOD AT FPCS

Sunday, August 6th 9am-3pm

To schedule an appointment, [visit nybc.org/njdrive](http://visit.nybc.org/njdrive)

Or call (800) 933-2566

Appointments preferred, walk-ins welcome. Donors need to wear a face covering. The Deacons will be serving ice cream sandwiches for the Donors at the canteen area.

DEACONS DOINGS

The Deacons are supporting Erica with her gold award project of preparing meals for motel residents. They are also sending financial support to Family Promise and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

Mark your calendars for the blood drive on Sunday, August 6. Schedule your appointment through nybc.org, donate a pint, and enjoy an ice cream.

Also mark your calendars for a BBQ luncheon after the outdoor worship on Sunday, August 27. Join us to close out the summer and kick off the beginning of the school year.

Reach out to one of the deacons if care is needed through our soup ministry, card ministry, or home communion.

Walking Tacos for Succasunny Day!

Saturday, September 9th, 2023

Proceeds to help the Faith Kitchen

Donations are needed by September 2nd.

Look for the link to Sign-up Genius coming soon!

Here's what's needed: packets of taco mix, jars of taco sauce and monetary donations towards the purchase of ground beef, chips and cheese. Please place your food donations in the Fellowship Hall kitchen. For monetary donations please make your check out to the church with "Tacos" in the memo line. Thank you!

Volunteers needed to serve the tacos on **Succasunny Day, Saturday, September 9.** Please contact **Cindy Medici** (cjmedici@gmail.com) or **Kathy Ritchey** (kritchey@optonline.net) for more info.





ROXBURY SOCIAL SERVICES

Milk and Eggs to Feed Hungry Families

Delivery Dates In July and August it will be every other week on the following Wednesdays: July 12, 26 and August 9, 23.

Please pick-up an extra a dozen eggs or half gallon of milk or two when you' re food shopping to help families who are struggling in our community. Donations can be put into the refrigerator at church any time before our Wednesday morning delivery. Thank you.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2023



High School Graduates:

Katelyn Pezeur is graduating from Lenape Valley High School. She is planning to attend JWU (Johnson & Wales University) this coming Fall for Baking and Pastry Arts.

Savanah Turner is graduating from Dover High School. Savanah wants to start to train and breed German Shepherd Dogs. She is working with a mentor and a facility that she really enjoys.

College Graduates:

Sophie Olsen graduated from Stockton University with a BS in Environmental science, concentration in Soils & Hydrology. She is working for PE Marucci (the Rutgers Extension for Blueberry and Cranberry Research). Sophie is the granddaughter of Joyce & Dan Dyrness, and the niece of Dana Dyrness-Haughey.

Kyle Ratner graduated Summa cum Laude from the University of South Carolina. He will continue his education at the University of Florida's School of Physical Therapy. Kyle is Lynnda & Dick Schulte's grandson.

Doug DiDomenico graduated from University of Delaware with a BS in Mechanical Engineering. He will be working at Desesa Engineering in Livingston.

Graduate School:

Christina Stellingwerf graduated with an MBA from NYU Stern School of Business. Christina is a Global Product Lead at Google.

Continuing Education:

Kathy Ritchey will be graduating from the Rutgers Master Gardner program.

CHOIR UPDATES:

Do You Love to Sing?



As we enter into the more relaxed pace of summer, our church choirs will be taking a break, as happens in most churches. However, now is the time to begin planning for a return to the structure of fall!

Choirs are a long-standing part of the Presbyterian church and FPCS has had large choirs in the past. As the congregation has grown smaller, so has the choir and more than a year of COVID restrictions did not help. We would like to increase our membership in the fall, and are going to try **flex-choir**. We will continue with Thursday evening rehearsals at 8, but if you would like to be a part of the choir but cannot come on Thursday nights, we will have a rehearsal on Sunday morning from 9-9:30 to learn new music, and then everyone will come together at 9:30 to warm up for the Sunday service. Sometimes people say that they cannot be there every Sunday, so do not want to make the commitment. That is everyone, including current choir members, who experience this. The more members we have, the less impact absences have on us. Or maybe you are away for Christmas – that's okay. While it is an important celebration, so are the other 40 Sundays of the year that we sing.

The only qualification to be in choir is an enjoyment of singing. You do not need to know how to read music – we start learning all our anthems several weeks before singing them for a service. You do not even need to be a member of the church – if you know someone who likes to sing, they can come and join us. Roxbury High School has a long tradition of quality choral programs, so maybe we have potential members in the community. The choir is open to teenagers and adults.

We have been singing music in a variety of styles, from classics, gospel to contemporary Christian songs. We hope you will consider becoming a member of the choir in September. For more information, you can speak to Jane Rufino, or contact by email (jrufino@optonline.net), text or phone (973-727-8397).



Our **chime choir** has 8 members who faithfully have attended our Thursday evening rehearsals and are also currently on break for the summer. Unlike the vocal choir, COVID helped in the growth of the chime choir, as we were able to socially distance, wear masks, and clean the chimes after using them. During this time, the skill level has grown considerably.

For a very brief history, bell choirs started in England because of the use of bells to communicate and call people to worship and other activities. Handbells were created of different sizes so people could create music inspired by the various bells that were heard that were of different pitches. The choir chimes that we are using were invented in the 1970s as a more affordable option for churches and schools to make this available to more people. They are also more lightweight than a handbell. We have a large set of chimes, donated more than 30 years ago by the family of Frances Kuelling. This was a generous gift at the time, and, looking at replacement costs, has grown to be a very valuable asset of the church. It has been a privilege to put them into service and honor the memory of Frances, who was an active church member for many years and also a member of the choir.

The chime choir will also be resuming rehearsals in September and welcome any new members. If you are hesitant to join in because of inexperience, we can have a few sessions for beginners to get you started. Some churches have several levels of bell/chime choirs – wouldn't it be wonderful if that is in our future? The chimes can be played by anyone at any age, since they vary in size depending on their pitch. If you are interested, please contact Jane at jrufino@optonline.net or 973-727-8397 (call or text).

SUMMER CAMP



Summer Mission Adventure July 9 - 13, 2023

Help feed the hungry! Practice hospitality! Get creative! Care for our planet! Enjoy fun and fellowship! Youth and Adults Welcome!

The Summer Mission Adventure is 5 days of activities designed for youth ages 12+ and adults. Each day, we'll gather together for a meal and fellowship. Some of the organizations we will be working with this summer as volunteers include Table of Hope, America's Grow-a-Row, and Camp Johnsonburg.

- Registration Fee: \$100 (\$40 per day)
- Scholarships are available
- FPC youth and adults: \$25.00

Sunday, July 9 (10 am to 2 pm); Monday, July 10 (8 am to 4 pm); Tuesday, July 11 – Wednesday, July 12 (8:30 am Tues. to 10 am Wed.); Wednesday July 12 (11 am to 4 pm); Thursday, July 13 (10 am to 8:30 pm).

RSVP to Pastor Carie or Kathy Ritchey ASAP - Let us know if you're are planning to participate.

Questions? Want to know more? Please contact Kathy Ritchey: kritchey@optonline.net or Pastor Carie: pastorcarie25@gmail.com today!



SUCCASUNNA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH'S VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Week of July 17-21, 2023
VBS Registration is OPEN!

SUMC is so excited to invite you to Vacation Bible School this Summer. Our VBS program is the week of 7/17-7/21 from 9:30 am-12:00 pm!

Our 2023 Vacation Bible School program is Hero Hotline! Hero Hotline VBS invites children of all ages to answer the call to serve God together. Join the Professor and Super Meer as young Heroes learn to strive for the things that bring peace and the things that build each other up as we are taught in Romans 14:19.

To register your children or sign up to volunteer please visit our [VBS website](#). Please contact [Jennifer Antoncich](#) if you have any questions.

OLDE SUCCASUNNY DAY

SEPTEMBER 9TH!



How Can You Help?

Donations and help are needed before and on the day of OSD. Please fill out the form below and place in the offering plate or contact the church if you can help.

- I can donate juice boxes (apple, grape, punch - no exotic flavors, please)
- I can donate bottled water
- I can donate Walking Tacos ingredients
- I can donate prizes
- I can help hand out information
- I can help sell Walking Tacos
- I can help run a game
- I can donate money to rent games

All donated items can be brought to the church August 29th through September 3rd.

Name _____ Phone _____

For questions, please contact Rick Lansing at 201-874-5501.

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First Presbyterian Church

99 Main Street
Succasunna, NJ 07876

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