



THE OPEN DOOR

Welcome Reverend Timothy Clarkson!

Good News for the New Year!

The Reverend Timothy Clarkson will begin his ministry at the First Presbyterian Church of Succasunna on January 3. Reverend Clarkson has been serving Union Hill Presbyterian Church as a part time pastor since his ordination in October 2017. He has also served as a hospice chaplain and prior to his ordination had been a clinical social worker for over twenty years, primarily in settings focused on children and families. He received his Bachelor’s degree from Montclair State, his Master of Social Work from Rutgers and a Master of Divinity from New Brunswick Theological Seminary.

Pastor Tim will serve us as a Shared Covenant Supply Pastor which means he will be sharing his time and ministry between our congregation and the Union Hill Presbyterian Church in Denville. The two congregations will also be sharing the cost of his salary and benefits.

Because he will be leading worship on Sundays at two separate churches, the Sessions at each church have agreed to change their worship time to accommodate his schedule. So please make a note: *starting on Sunday, January 7, our worship time will be 11:00 a.m.*

“I am excited for what God has planned for us!” says Pastor Tim. And we are pleased to welcome him to Succasunna!



JOIN US for worship with Pastor Tim on Sunday, January 7 at 11:00 a.m. He will lead us in worship and we will celebrate his new ministry at FPCS with a reception and light lunch in Fellowship Hall.

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AT THE OPEN DOOR

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By January 19, 2024

LECTIONARY

January 7

Baptism of the Lord

- First Reading Genesis 1:1-5
- Psalm 29:1-11
- Second Reading Acts 19:1-7
- Gospel Mark 1:4-11

January 14

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

- First Reading 1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20)
- Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
- Second Reading 1 Corinthians 6:12-20
- Gospel John 1:43-51

January 21

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

- First Reading Jonah 3:1-5, 10
- Psalm 62:5-12
- Second Reading 1 Corinthians 7:29-31
- Gospel Mark 1:14-20

January 28

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

- First Reading Deuteronomy 18:15-20
- Psalm 111:1-10
- Second Reading 1 Corinthians 8:1-13
- Gospel Mark 1:21-28



Church Clean-Up Day

Saturday, January 6th

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

We're starting out the New Year by cleaning-up, sorting out and organizing various storage areas in the church.

A couple of projects include the upstairs office area over the Chapel where our new pastor will have his office, the craft closet in the downstairs and the new nursery room. The Journey Circle study group is leading the way and looking for hardworking helpers, men, women, teens and families to join us! And yes, there will be pizza for lunch!

**New Sunday worship time
starts January 7 at 11:00 a.m.**



**SUNDAY
MORNINGS**

We continue to explore Jesus's teachings in the book of Matthew. Join us in the chapel at 9 am on January 7 and January 28. Contact Cindy Medici with questions (cjmedici@gmail.com).



Session & Deacons Meet Together

Wednesday, January 17

The Session Elders and Deacons will have a joint meeting on Wednesday, January starting at 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. More information to come.



CALL TO THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

The Annual Meeting is scheduled for the first Sunday in February, 2/4, and will take place after worship at 12:00 noon starting with a potluck lunch in Fellowship Hall.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

| | | |
|------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Georganne & Fred | Dolores & Dave | Bruce |
| June | Harry | Joyce |
| Sue B. | John | Harry Gedicke |
| Phyllis | Stanley | Gabby |
| Adelaide | Paulina | Melissa |
| Loraine | Carol | Mikaela |
| Cathy | Tom | Joey C. |
| Christina | Doris | Dolores & Dave |

Please pray for the family of Dorothy Shaver.



SESSION SNIPPETS:

From the December Session meeting:

Clerk's Report:

- A Certificate of Transfer was completed for Gayle and Jon Dierks to the Presbyterian Church of Chatham Township

Membership: 153

Action/Discussion Items:

- Approved the minutes of the November 15, 2023 Session meeting
- Treasurers report was received, discussed and approved
- Motion approved to accept the 2024 Budget
- Motion approved from the Personnel Committee to hire Deborah Tomkins as a part-time Administrative Assistant starting January 3, 2024
- Motion approved from Finance to approve a Password Manager Tool
- Motion approved for the 2024 Blood Drive: March 3, August 4 and November 3
- Motion approved via email to approve the Memorandum of Understanding for Reverend Tim Clarkson and to change worship time to 11am starting in 2024
- Motion approved to set Annual Congressional Meeting for February 4, 2024
- Discussion on committee report deadline is set for January 19, 2024
- Shared Covenant Supply Pastor Tim Clarkson's start date set as January 3, with first worship service on January 7, 2024
- Discussion on the Nominating Committee update
- Discussion on Stewardship and pledge results received to date, as stewardship letter and pledge cards have been sent out

Informational Items:

- Wreaths Across America set for December 16
- Bill Willans to preach on December 31
- No Sunday School pageant this year
- Messy Church to start up again in 2024
- Mosaic Art Classes continue in December

Unfinished/Old Business:

- No update yet on new plaque to replace the chapel sign above the entrance that was removed
- No update from Dawn on the cost of an automated external defibrillator (AED) for the church

New Business :

- The next Presbytery meeting is on January 27, 2024 via zoom
- A combined Session and Deacons meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 17 at 7:00pm



Alternative Gift & Home for the Holidays Raise Funds for Mission

Thank you, thank you! We were grateful and blessed by those who supported Home for the Holidays Décor Sale and Alternative Gift Market in 2023. These year- end events raised significant funds with over \$2,000 added to our designated mission funds. As a result, the Mission Committee was able to distribute over \$4,000 to the following organizations: Faith Kitchen, Family Promise, Morris Habitat for Humanity, Homeless Solutions, Camp Johnsonburg, Table of Hope, Presbyterian Missions, NJ Nourish and Heifer.

Whether you gave of your time, talent or treasure, it was most appreciated by the Mission Committee and the organizations who are helping those who need it most. God bless!



New Staff Member Starts in the New Year

There will be a new face in the office at FPCS. Deborah (Debbie) Tomkins will start on January 3 as our new Administrative Assistant.

Debbie comes to us from the Union Hill Church where she has served in the same role for over 10 years. She has been an active member of the Union Hill congregation and has served as an Elder, Deacon, as Chair of Christian Education and was a youth group leader for many years. She is a graduate of Moravian College. Debbie lives in Denville with her husband and is the mother of three grown children and a grandmother.

Welcome Debbie!



A Huge

Thank You

Thank you SO very much to ALL the bakers, sellers, helpers and buyers of the Home for the Holidays Bake Sale, Beverage and Hot Dog Sales. And those that helped set up and clean up, too.

We made a profit of \$1,138.00 for our church! Great job everyone....as they say "it takes a village..." Much appreciation is extended to all.

Thank you, Sue Anderson



ROXBURY SOCIAL SERVICES

Milk and Eggs to Feed Hungry Families

Wednesdays, January 10 and 24

Help Roxbury Social Services Feed Families in our Community!

We are making regular donations of milk and eggs to Roxbury Social Services to help families in our community who continue to struggle with providing food for their families.



Here's how it works: Simply pick-up an extra dozen eggs and ½ gallon of milk when you are grocery shopping. Put your donations in the refrigerator at church on Sunday morning or no later than Tuesday for our Wednesday delivery. You may also make a monetary donation to the church towards the purchase of milk and eggs by placing it in a Roxbury Social Service envelope (in the narthex), or by indicating Roxbury Social Services in the memo line on your check. Thank you!

DEACONS DOINGS

The Deacons would like to share the following organizations that were helped either with a monetary or material donation in 2023:

- Cholangiocarcinoma Cancer Foundation
- Faith Kitchen
- Family Promise
- Homeless Solutions
- Jersey Battered Women's Services
- Presbyterian Disaster Fund
- Roxbury Public Library
- Roxbury Social Services

We are happy to report that Camp Johnsonburg achieved their goal of \$2M for renovating their facilities. The Deacon's contributed \$6,000 to that goal.

As we begin the New Year, always remember: *What you are is God's gift to you, what you become is your gift to God.*

- Kim Gedicke, Deacon

SAVE THE DATE



SOUPEL BOWL OF CARING & DRIVE-BY COMMUNITY FOOD DRIVE

Saturday, February 10 and Sunday, February 11

Souper Bowl weekend at FPCS will be Saturday and Sunday, February 10 and 11. Make your non-perishable food and/or monetary donation in honor of your favorite team and we'll determine the 2023 Souper Bowl winner! More to come!

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Presbyterian
Church

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