

THE OPEN DOOR

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING 75TH YEAR

Repairing the Breach - Isaiah 58

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AT THE OPEN DOOR

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By March 19, 2024

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) — Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People — all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

This Lenten season, we will hear, learn and reflect on stories of the OGHS programs during the Minute for Missions shared in worship. Take a moment to learn more about OGHS at work by visiting: <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/oghs/>.



We will receive the offering on Palm Sunday, March 24, but your gift is welcome at any time. Please consider increasing your gift to this year's offering — you'll see how giving opens your heart to God's work in your own life. Last year our congregation gave \$1,141 to OGHS, well exceeding our goal of \$800. This year we hope to achieve our goal of \$1,200. Please prayerfully consider your gift. If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot! (Cont'd on Page 5)

Make a Difference this Lent - thoughtful practices for the Lenten season

LECTIONARY

MARCH 3

- First Reading Exodus 20:1-17
- Psalm 19:1-14
- Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:18-25
- Gospel John 2:13-22

MARCH 10

- First Reading Numbers 21:4-9
- Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
- Second Reading Ephesians 2:1-10
- Gospel John 3:14-21

MARCH 17

- First Reading Jeremiah 31:31-34
- Psalm 51:1-12
- Second Reading Hebrews 5:5-10
- Gospel John 12:20-33

MARCH 24

- Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
- Reading Mark 11:1-11
- First Reading Isaiah 50:4-9a
- Second Reading Philippians 2:5-11
- Gospel Mark 14:1-15:47

MARCH 31

- First Reading Acts 10:34-43
- Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
- Gospel John 20:1-18



DONATE BLOOD AT FPCS

Sunday, March 3rd, 9am-3pm

Please consider donating if you can, or spread the word. Walk-ins welcome, or register at https://donate.nybc.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/312230. All are welcome. Sponsored by the Deacons.



Journey Circle

The ladies are meeting on March 11th at 7pm. We will continue our discussion of Experiencing Contagious Joy.

Please contact Jean Greuzke at jgruezke@gmail.com with any questions.



SUNDAY MORNINGS

We continue to explore Jesus's teachings in the book of Matthew. Join us in the chapel at 10am on March 17 and 24. Contact Cindy Medici with questions (cjmedici@gmail.com).



Summer Camp REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

Register by February 29th for summer camp for an opportunity for a free week of camp! Camps are filling quickly; [more info here](#).

DEACONS DOINGS

The Deacons will be hosting the **Agape Meal in Fellowship Hall on Thursday, March 28th at 6:30pm. All are Welcome!**

If you plan on attending please bring one of the following items to share:

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------|
| Fresh or Dried fruit | Crackers |
| Olives | Carrot sticks |
| Cheese | Celery sticks |

The Deacons will provide bread and juice.

~ Kim Gedicke, Deacon

PRAYERS & CONCERNS:

Georganne & Fred
Lucinda
Heather
Rich S.
Carol
Eve
Steve
Steve

Dolores & Dave
Lisa
Michelle P.
Trudy
Chris
Steve
Don

Susan
Vanessa
Joe
Sandy
Kim
Tyler
Steve



Please pray for the family of:

Betty Gatto

SESSION SNIPPETS:

From the February Session meeting:

Pastor's Report

Pastor Tim has been actively working with the Christian Education Committee, the Mission Committee, and the Worship Committee, as well as engaging with the congregation through many pastoral visits. There are no weddings, funerals, or baptisms to report.

Clerk's Report

The Annual Statistical Report was sent to the Presbytery. We currently have 153 members.

Action Items

- A joint FPCS/UHPC Maundy Thursday service will be held here in Fellowship Hall at 6:30 PM.
- An Easter sunrise service with Methodist Church will be held at Horseshoe Lake at 6:30 AM, with breakfast to follow here at FPCS.
- Session voted to allow Pastor Tim to serve communion on home visits when not accompanied by an elder.
- Upcoming dates for Messy Church are February 25th, March 10th, and April 25th.
- A Roll Review Committee was formed to assess and update the Roll Book.
- A Bach Concert will be held in the Sanctuary on April 21st.
- The Deacons will host a Blood Drive on March 3, 2024.
- Pat Shortridge has graciously agreed to take on the role of Clerk of Session, and was duly elected.

New Business

- The next Presbytery meeting is March 7th via Zoom.
- The next stated meeting of the session will be held on March 20th at 7 pm at the church.



EASTER SERVICES

March 29: Good Friday, more info to follow

March 31: Easter Sunrise Service, 6:30am

- Sunrise Service beside Horseshoe Lake behind the pavilion at 72 Eyland Ave. in Succasunna
- 7:10 AM, there is a Pancake Breakfast at our church. Serving pancakes, eggs, sausage, juice, coffee, tea, hot chocolate and fresh fruit. Donation asked is \$5 apiece or a family; no more than \$20. All are welcome!
- 11:00 AM Easter worship service in our church. Donated flowers may be taken home after this service



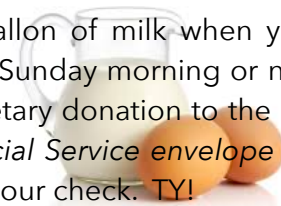
ROXBURY SOCIAL SERVICES

Milk and Eggs to Feed Hungry Families

Wednesdays, March 6 and March 20

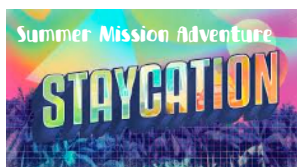
We are making regular donations of milk and eggs to Roxbury Social Services to help families in our community who continue to struggle with providing food for their families.

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. TY!



ADJUST YOUR ONLINE ADDRESS BOOK!

Make these changes to avoid confusion — list fpcsunna@optonline.net as Church Office (instead of Janet) and fpcsrev@optonline.net as Pastor Tim or Pastor FCPS (instead of Carie).



Summer Mission Adventure

Stay tuned! More to come on our 2024 Summer Mission Adventure in the April Open Door.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Make a Difference this Lent - thoughtful practices for Lent

Continued from Page 1

One Great Hour of Sharing also promotes environmental stewardship. "Make a Difference this Lent" is a resource and guide to the practice of environmental stewardship. The guides and fish banks will be distributed to the Sunday School, or you may pick them up from the display in Fellowship Hall.



PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (PDA): Works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters. Provides support for refugees. PDA receives 32% of funds raised.

PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM (PHP): Takes action to alleviate hunger, care for creation, and the systemic causes of poverty, so all may be fed. PHP received 36% of funds raised.

SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE (SDOP): Invests in communities by responding to their experiences of oppression, poverty and injustice. Educates Presbyterians about the impact of these issues. SDOP receives 32% of funds raised.

nourish.NJ
feed lives . fuel futures

Breakfast Bags for Nourish NJ

During Lent, we will be collecting ingredients for breakfast bags, which we will assemble on Palm Sunday, March 24 and donate to NourishNJ. Please consider donating the following:

- small boxes of cereal
- small boxes of shelf-stable milk, such as Parmalat or Horizon
- soft and healthy granola or protein bars
- clean paper bags, slightly larger than lunch bags, no wider than 6 inches and no taller than 12 inches, handles are okay
- money toward purchase of other components

Contact Cindy Medici at cjmedici@gmail.com with questions.



March 2024 Retreat for Women

Letting Love Lead: The Sacred Art of Hearing our Inner Voice

Saturday, March 16, 2024

9:00am - 3:00pm (doors open at 8:30am)

West Side Presbyterian Church, 6 S. Monroe Street; Ridgewood, NJ

Lent is the perfect time to quiet our minds, open our hearts, and listen for the Divine Source who abides within each of us. By taking time in community to ground ourselves in God's unchanging and ever-present love for us, we will seek to expand our capacity to live each day from a place of love, wherever that may lead. \$25 - lunch included.

[CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP](#)

Led by Lorelei Oelschlager and Amy Clarkson.

-From the Worship Committee-



EASTER FLOWERS



It's time again to place your order your Easter flowers in honor or memory of a loved one. Easter is March 31, but we will need the orders by March 18 so the florist can place the order. The cost is \$12 for tulips and daffodils (6 bulbs per pot) and \$16 for lilies (4-7 blooms per plant). Also available are mini daffodils (jonquils), at a cost of \$7 per plant. Please use the form below and put it in the offering box on Sunday or return to the church office. Please write "Easter Flowers" on the memo line of your check.

Please use this form to make your order and drop it in the offering plate or Church Office, send via email to fpccsunna@optonline.net or call the **Church Office at (973) 584-5238**. **Please make your check out to: FPC Succasunna and write FLOWERS on the memo line.** The cost of each plant is listed below. The last day to order plants is **March 18**. You may pick up your plant(s) after the 11:00 AM service on Easter Sunday.



PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!!!

Number of lilies (\$16 ea.) _____ Number of tulips (\$12 ea.) _____
Number of daffodils (\$12 ea.) _____ Mini daffodils (\$7 ea.) _____

Total Enclosed _____
In Memory of _____
In Honor of _____
From _____
Telephone _____

SING FOR EASTER



Would you like to sing for Easter? Te choir will be practicing music for Easter over the next few weeks. Rehearsals are on Sunday mornings at 9:45 AM. Please e-mail Jane Rufino at janemaror@gmail.com if you would like to join with us and we will have music ready for you!



LENTEN WISHLIST FROM ISAIAH 58

- * **Make the system of justice work: Be mindful of the most vulnerable among us**
- * **Relieve someone else's burden**
- * **Make sure people have food to eat and a safe place to live and decent clothes to wear**
- * **Be kind to your family (biological family and those related by virtue of being another human made in God's image)**
- * **Avoid mean-spirited, slanderous speech and unnecessary and irrelevant criticism**

By the time you read this, we will be well into the season of Lent, with thoughts of Holy Week and anticipation of the Resurrection on our minds. As we continue our Lenten journey, I am moved to share with you a portion of the sermon I delivered at the Ash Wednesday service attended by members of FPCS and Union Hill of Denville. While intended for that service, its message is relevant not only throughout Lent, as the focus and pledge we make during Lent to seek a closer life with Jesus transcends any time-limited space on a liturgical season calendar. With that in mind, please read Isaiah 58, then consider the wording above of what God is directing and expecting of us in that chapter.

This is our Lenten Wishlist. It is SO easy to say, "Well, I can't fix the world's problems." What if...what if...what we "give up" this Lent is more than chocolate? What if we give up giving up? What if in the time we spend alone in prayer with God, we do as much listening as we do talking? What if in that time of spent sensing God close to us, Jesus whispers a way to do SOMETHING on that Lenten Wishlist?

Here is an invitation. Notice, with intention, if only once daily, that opportunity before you where you are presented with a choice to say or do something that aligns with the Lenten Wishlist from Isaiah. If at least once a day, you respond to that invitation with a "YES!" pause to notice how you feel.

It could be something small, like leaving the last helping of food for someone else at your own table. It could be a random act of kindness, like letting another customer get to the checkout counter before you, or holding the door for a stranger. It could be taking a stand for something, for someone, who might be on the other side of the world. It could be committing to one small thing that makes one huge difference in accepting being a steward of God's Creation.

Keep track of it, in your mind or on paper. It may happen multiple times a day, but let's make sure we remember at least one a day, and the ways we are different for it.

Whatever it is, notice when that invitation arrives. Notice the tension that may arise within you. Notice that tension lift and yourself feeling somehow lighter when you respond in a way that your time alone with God inspires you to embrace the energy of that Lenten Wishlist.

May the discipline of noticing, attending to, and responding to God's call upon you be one that improves your life and that of others God brings you to encounter. Let's share with one another those experiences. None are too small to appreciate! Let's discover and share how doing so shows God at work - within, between, and among us - to make the world a better place.

~ Pastor Tim

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING 2024

Souper Bowl Caring 2024 was a WIN!!

We collected 1,030 items for Roxbury Social Services and \$369 for Dover Faith Kitchen. A huge thank you to everyone who donated and volunteered making this event a huge success for our community!



Thank you to Pastor Tim and John for bringing our donations to Social Services.

Thank you to our Roxbury High School students who volunteered at the Drive-Thru.



Thank You to everyone who ordered Gertrude Hawk Chocolates Easter Candy to benefit our church. It is appreciated. We don't know our profit yet, but I will let you know.

Thank you, Sue Anderson

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

First Presbyterian Church

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Succasunna, NJ 07876

Time Dated Material

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