

THE OPEN DOOR

THE CHURCH REFORMED

We all know what October 31st is, right? Halloween! For some, this evokes reason for ghoulish, haunted things. (For the record, this as “entertainment” escapes me; real life is scary enough, isn’t it?) For others, it is an opportunity to pretend, dressing up in costumes. This can be variously amusing or adorable. (Plus, said the pastor with the sign in his office that reads COOKIES, chocolate is involved!)

October 31st, however, is something else in the life of the Church; it commemorates the date in 1517 when Martin Luther, loving his Church, risked everything to list 95 concerns he had about how the Church was functioning. While much of these revolved around the practice of indulgences, at the core was his concern that the Church did many things without an apparent directive or sanction or reason from Scripture.

In the subsequent 500 years, we have been the Church reformed and always being reformed according to the will of God as we are guided by the Spirit in Scripture.

As much as any of us values and reveres history, the Body of Christ that is the Church exists in the present moment and, we trust in faith, will proclaim the Good News for generations to come in the future.

As we anticipate the coming season, may we be prayerfully thinking about how this is happening in our midst...



In new faces in the pews and membership... in the next blood drive Nov 3rd, a life-giving event on a communion Sunday...in music soaring to the heights honoring veterans Nov 10th...in Messy Church Nov 17th, reminding us worship takes on many forms... in baptisms where expectations and (Continued on Page 5)

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AT THE OPEN DOOR

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 By November 19, 2024

LECTIONARY

November 3

- First Reading Ruth 1:1-18
- Psalm 146:1-10
- Second Reading Hebrews 9:11-14
- Gospel Mark 12:28-34

November 10

- First Reading Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17
- Psalm 127:1-5
- Second Reading Hebrews 9:24-28
- Gospel Mark 12:38-44

November 17

- First Reading 1 Samuel 1:4-20
- Canticle 1 Samuel 2:1-10
- Second Reading Hebrews 10:11-14 (15-18) 19-25
- Gospel Mark 13:1-8

November 24

- First Reading 2 Samuel 23:1-7
- Psalm 132:1-12 (13-18)
- Second Reading Revelation 1:4b-8
- Gospel John 18:33-37



DONATE BLOOD AT FPCS

Sunday, November 3rd
9am - 3pm

Appointments are recommended, but walk-ins are welcome. Please visit the website at nybc.org/njdrive for further information. Homemade soups will be served to all donors.



MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

All are welcome!

We gather in Fellowship Hall on Monday mornings at 11:00 a.m. Pastor Tim is leading our study of the first letter of John. Join us for lively discussion. A Zoom link will be provided if you wish to join us virtually. Please contact Kathy Ritchey kritchey@optonline.net for the link and passcode.



Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Monday, November 25th at 7pm
At FPCS

EVENTS AT UNION HILL IN DENVILLE

Nov 16 th	Open Mic Night, 7-9pm; Entertain or be entertained!
Nov 23 rd	Holiday Bazaar & Vendor Fair, 9am-3pm
Dec 29 th	Joint Worship, 10am, Social Hall at Union Hill

Church Office Update



- Got an event coming up? Remember to notify the office! We will put it on the calendar & publicize.
- November 2nd is end of DST (you probably know that one)
- PLEASE NOTE:
 - THE OFFICE WILL CLOSE AT 10:30 AM ON OCTOBER 31ST
 - THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED NOVEMBER 27TH & 28TH (THANKSGIVING)



Prayers & Concerns

Billy

Bob Bark

Those affected by Hurricanes Helene and Milton.



Joyful Note

Just wanted to share with the church the wedding of my son Matthew Thompson on 10/5/24. Brother Bryan was the best man. It was a beautiful day at Trout Lake Weddings in Stroudsburg PA. Matthew & Meghan now live in McLeansville, NC.

Enjoy your day,
Nancy



SESSION SNIPPETS:

From the October Session Meeting:

Upcoming Events:

- Messy Church Dates
 - November 17, 2024
 - December 8, 2024
- Blood Drive - November 3, 2024

Informational Items Include:

- The next stated meeting of the session will be held on November 6, 2024 at 7 pm at the church and by Zoom.



HONOR OUR VETERANS

Honor our Veterans at our Veterans Day Tribute Concert on Sunday, November 10, 2024 at 3 pm in our church. There will be vocal, chime and instrumental music performed by the church choirs and friends. Bring your veteran and friends to enjoy this wonderful music. Refreshments will follow.

This is presented by our church music department and the Ferro Monte Chapter DAR. If you have any questions, please contact Jane Rufino or Sue Anderson. All are welcome.



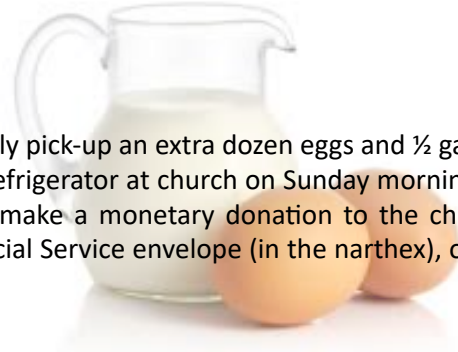
ROXBURY SOCIAL SERVICES

Milk and Eggs to Feed Hungry Families

Wednesdays, November 13 and 27

Help Roxbury Social Services Feed Families in our Community!

Want to be part of this mission outreach? 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.



DEACONS DOINGS

The Deacons served a delicious spaghetti and meatball lunch to 25+ members of our church following worship on Sunday, October 20th. The camaraderie in Fellowship Hall was felt in the reminiscing of sharing stories, conversations on our church today and discussions on what the future holds for our church.

Many thanks to our chefs, Rick and Bob, who made enough food to feed Messy Church which met later that same day and to serve our homebound members too. A huge thank you to ALL the Deacons who participated in making this luncheon happen. It certainly was appreciated.

Watch for our flyer for our Beauty & Wellness Drive that will be happening in November. In lieu of a traditional Thanksgiving Drive the Deacons donate items like soaps, shampoos, toothbrushes and toothpaste to Social Services at this time.

The Deacons are here for you. If you or anyone you know of that may be in need of groceries delivered, a container of homemade soup or simply a card or phone call please let anyone of us know or contact the church office.

We hope everyone has a Blessed Thanksgiving.

~ Kim Gedicke, Deacon



New Church Management Software

You probably received an email recently inviting you to our Spaghetti Luncheon, or to help with our Hymnal Refresh Campaign, or to register for our Cemetery Tour. These emails contained a button that opened an online registration form so that you could register quickly & easily. The Cemetery and Hymnal forms even let you pay immediately via Credit Card. This was made possible by our new Church Management Software called "Breeze". It has other features to help church leaders organize events by inviting, tracking, and reminding event volunteers. It even has a "Giving" feature to track donations, issue giving statements, and accept online gifts.

We're very excited that this tool will help church leaders save time and streamline our ministry efforts. We hope that our members and friends will find it beneficial as well.

~ Jim Ritchey, Treasurer & IT

A letter from Chenoa Stock, Mission Co-worker Serving Peru – Fall 2024

Isaiah 43:19: See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up, do you not perceive it?

Dear Friends,

It had been a while since I traveled above 10,000 ft, and I was happy to have a chance to do so when visiting Peru and our partners there this summer. My travels began in Cuzco (11,152 ft), visiting our partners of the Evangelical Church of Peru (IEP) - and the landscape of the Andean Mountains of this historical city did not disappoint. As I traveled through the rural areas outside of Cuzco with Pastor Leopoldo Aguilar, our long-time partner and colleague of the IEP, it was wonderful to hear about the ministry plans being carried out for both newer and older IEP institutions. Throughout my visits, I witnessed how our partners are breaking through old patterns and forging new paths for their ministries and future.

We first visited IEP church members of the Ccorca Ayllu village. These members recently came together to buy land and are now designing a retreat center for not only local church events but also events and gatherings of the greater IEP denomination. While they are still in the initial paperwork and planning phases, one could feel the energy and excitement that this new outreach is creating for the surrounding church community.

I also visited the historical IEP Sicuani Seminary and met with its Director, Pastor Santiago Condori, and a few of the seminary's professors. The seminary will be celebrating its 75th anniversary next year and continues to strive to develop strong and committed faith leaders for the IEP. Though it faced some difficult challenges throughout the pandemic and continues to work to reach student enrollment numbers of pre-pandemic times, the staff of the Sicuani Seminary moved into action with the local community and found new ways to raise funds for various projects of the seminary: a new kitchen, a boys' dormitory and bathroom, and new and updated classrooms. Their greatest dream, for which they have been searching for funds for years, is the construction of a multi-use outdoor auditorium to replace the temporary tarp they currently use. With this permanent space, they could hold their graduations and other local and denominational events without worrying about the wind or other elements. The local community has been invited to support this effort, and I would also invite you all and your congregations to do so, should you feel called to support in any way. As you can see, the IEP is doing great work to develop lay and pastoral leaders, and I know they would appreciate your support and accompaniment as they continue to search for new ways to teach and exemplify God's word and love.



Read more of Chenoa's letter here:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/letter/breaking-through/>

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commitments are made not only on behalf of little ones, but by the congregation...in sharing pews with people of different faiths at the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service Nov 25th...in considering, maybe in some new way, what stewardship, and giving of our time, talents, and treasures looks like as we head into a New Year...

In a time bombarding us with the pressures of the world and so much tension and conflict filling the airwaves and our capacity to cope, this is, as always, a good time to remember that it is into the midst of life that the love of God, the peace of Christ, and the presence of the Holy Spirit come!

SOME DATES AND DOINGS

Heading into the fall and the holidays, there will certainly be much happening in the life of the church. While much of that is featured in this issue, I just wanted to highlight a couple of these for your attention.

NOV 3

Communion and the Next Blood Drive

NOV 4

Presbytery is offering a zoom on creating an Anti-Racism Policy as each church is responsible to do. Registration is available on the Presbytery website

NOV 7

Presbytery is offering a zoom called Creating a Culture of Change, featuring ideas to keep churches up to date with times in which we live. Registration is available on the Presbytery website

NOV 10

Concert for Veterans in the Church at 2pm

NOV 16

Open Mic Night at Union Hill at 7pm

Nov 17

Messy Church at 5pm

Nov 24

Anticipated Dual Baptisms at 11am Worship!

Nov 25

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service in the Sanctuary at 7pm

Dec 5

Roxbury Interfaith Clergy Association Holiday Potluck Dinner at Redeemer Lutheran at 6pm

~ Pastor Tim

DECEMBER DATES



Home for the Holidays Décor Sale - Donate today!
Sat, Dec. 7th

Now is the time to clean out those closets and donate to our Home for the Holidays Décor Sale. Please bring your *gently-used holiday and Christmas items including wreathes, ornaments, candles, garland, or trees to the donation area in Fellowship Hall.* The sale of all donations will benefit the community mission outreach of the First Presbyterian Church of Succasunna.



Re-purpose, recycle, re-use! First Presbyterian Church of Succasunna is an Earth Care congregation!

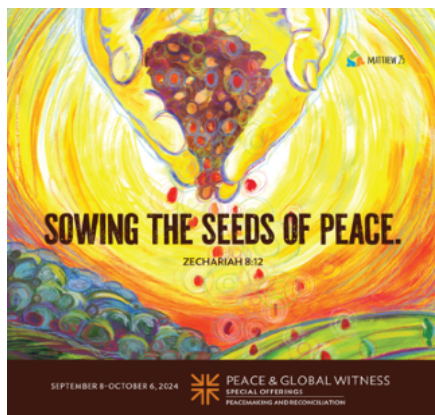


HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7TH

Home for the Holidays will be on Saturday, December 7, 2024 from 10am to 3pm. We are calling all church members and friends to bake their favorite baked goods to sell at our Bake Sale table. We will also be selling hot dogs and drinks. HELP is needed to work to sell these items. Please contact Sue Anderson at 973 584-3816 or at: sueanderson14@verizon.net or at 973 219-7960 if you can help in any way. It is appreciated!

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held at 7 PM on Tuesday, December 24th. Those interested in an earlier service are welcome to attend one of the Union Hill Presbyterian Church services, which will be held at 2 PM and 4 PM.



Peace and Global Witness Offering

Thank you for your generous donations to the Peace and Global Witness Offering. We received \$660 on World Communion Sunday. Twenty-five percent of the total amount will support the ministry of Camp Johnsonburg, specifically for scholarships to help young campers experience the "sacred place, open space" of Camp Johnsonburg. The balance of the offering will go to regional efforts in our mid-councils, and the Presbyterian Mission Agency for its ministries of education and partnership with active peacemakers all around the world.



Christmas Flowers



We will be ordering poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas from Lakeland Florist. If you wish to order plants, please use this form and drop it in the offering plate or Church Office. You may also mail it to: First Presbyterian Church of Succasunna, 99 Main St, Succasunna, NJ 07876. **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 **December 5**. You may pick up your plant(s) to enjoy at home any time after the 9PM Candlelight service on Christmas Eve.

Please print Clearly!!!

Number of 6 in. poinsettias (\$17 ea.) _____ Number of 4 ½ in. poinsettias (\$11 ea.) _____

Total enclosed _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

From _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

First Presbyterian Church

99 Main Street
Succasunna, NJ 07876

Time Dated Material

Published Monthly

Address Service
Requested