

THE OPEN DOOR

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Repairing the Breach - Isaiah 58

Providing Relief from Natural Disasters, Food for the Hungry, and Support for the Poor and Oppressed.



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. During the season of Lent (March 5 – April 20), we will learn how our gifts to OGHS help improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God’s love with our neighbors in need. In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way Presbyterian come together every year to work for a better world.

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (PDA)

Works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters, and support for refugees. PDA receives 32% of funds.

PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM (PHP)

Takes action to alleviate hunger, care for creation, and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed. PHP receives 36% of funds.

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

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.

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AT THE OPEN DOOR

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By March 19, 2025

LECTIONARY

Sunday, March 2

Transfiguration of the Lord
Exodus 34:29-35
Psalm 99
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2
Luke 9:28-36 [37-43]

Wednesday, March 5

Ash Wednesday
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12
Psalm 51:1-17
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Sunday, March 9

First Sunday in Lent
Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Romans 10:8b-13
Luke 4:1-13

Sunday, March 16

Second Sunday in Lent
Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Psalm 27
Philippians 3:17-4:1
Luke 13:31-35 or Luke 9:28-36

Sunday, March 23

Third Sunday in Lent
Isaiah 55:1-9
Psalm 63:1-8
1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Luke 13:1-9

Sunday, March 30

Fourth Sunday in Lent
Joshua 5:9-12
Psalm 32
2 Corinthians 5:16-21
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32



Gertrude Hawk Chocolate Orders

Gertrude Hawk Chocolate Easter Candy orders are due to Sue Anderson on/by Sunday, March 2, 2025. The candy will be delivered the first week of April, so you will have plenty of time to fill your Easter baskets before Easter, April 20th. Thank you for your support of our church in this fundraiser.

If you have any questions, please speak with Sue Anderson at 973-584-3816 or sueanderson14@verizon.net. Thank you.



MONDAY MORNINGS

All are welcome to Bible study on Monday mornings at 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. In March we will begin our Lenten Bible study. If you're inquisitive, enjoy lively discussion and seek a better understanding of faith through the study of scripture, join us! We meet person, but a Zoom option is available if you wish to participate virtually. Please contact Kathy Ritchey, kritchey@optonline.net if you have questions or need more information.



Ash Wednesday, March 5th Union Hill Presbyterian Church

With the solemn observance of Ash Wednesday, we begin our Lenten journey. On March 5th, we will gather at 7:00 PM in the social hall of Union Hill Presbyterian Church of Denville (in the brick building at 427 Franklin Road). We hope to see you there.

MESSY CHURCH NIGHT

March 9 at 5-7pm, April 6 at 1-3pm, May 4 at 5-7pm

We are excited for our 2025 Messy Church at the First Presbyterian Church in Succasunna for a fun intergenerational gathering with project/craft/games, a short worship, and dinner. Our theme this year is "Growing in Faith."

Please RSVP to fpsunna@optonline.net so we know how many for dinner. If you would like to participate in any of the preparations, just let us know. Thanks and excited to have you join us!





Prayers & Joys

Prayers needed for:

Diane Spinner Kathy Murphy Inge Roof Pat Mantone JP McConnon
For all those dealing with natural disasters
For all navigating struggles of body, mind, and spirit
Prayers for those recovering from fires in Lincoln Park, NJ

In sympathy with the families of: Janice Hayek
Georganne’s family on the passing of her sister-in-law
Jane’s family, upon the passing of her sister Elaine
The Mancini Family, at the passing of their mother
The families of those killed in the tragic DC plane/helicopter collision
The small plane crash into a Philadelphia neighborhood

Joys for:

Souper Bowl of Caring (collected 589 items, \$50.00 in ShopRite cards, and \$269)
Sean, (friend of Rick’s) is recovering from his recent procedure



SESSION SNIPPETS:

From the February Session meeting:

Upcoming Events:

- Blood Drive scheduled for March 2, 2025.
- Messy Church Dates:
 - March 9, 5-7 pm
 - April 6, 1-3 pm with Communion
 - May 4, 5-7 pm

- One Great Hour of Sharing – Minute for Missions begin Sunday, March 30
- Distribute Fish Banks. Receive Offering on Palm Sunday, March 24.

New Business:

- Next Session meeting is scheduled for March 12, 2025, at 7:00 pm.



In case you didn’t know...

FPCS is an Earth Care congregation! This means we are committed to caring for God’s Earth in all facets of church life. From time-to-time we *Share the Care* during Worship, or in the Open Door, offering both information to help us understand environmental issues as well as encouragement to help us respond to God’s call to be stewards of His creation. Please join us in Worship during the Lenten Season as we discuss the five “R”s of Earth Care. Be prepared to join in the action!

Refuse ♦ Reduce ♦ Reuse ♦ Repurpose ♦ Recycle



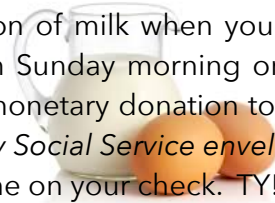
ROXBURY SOCIAL SERVICES

Milk and Eggs to Feed Hungry Families

Wednesdays, March 5 and March 19

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!



BACH IN THE SUBWAYS CONCERT

Come Celebrate the 340th birthday of JS Bach

Sunday, March 23, 3pm in our Sanctuary

On Sunday, March 23, 3 PM, the First Presbyterian Church of Succasunna will once again host a concert called “Bach in the Subways”, presented by various local musicians. This event was well-attended last year; all the musicians commented on what a pleasure it was to play in such a wonderful space with an appreciative audience. This year’s participants include Anthony Celentano, organist and Bach specialist (Anthony served here at FPCS for several years as organist/choir director); Rabbi Inna Serebro-Litvak, a talented soprano; Clarinets ala Mode (clarinetists Carlyn Smith, John Centenaro, Vincent Rufino & Joe Elliott); Oboist Karen Cavaliere; Cellist Jane Rufino; pianist June Kibe and perhaps some additional musicians.

Why “Bach in the Subway”?

In 2010, cellist Dale Henderson began performing the Bach Cello Suites in the subways of New York City, believing that many people never get a chance to experience classical music live and up close. Henderson declined donations and his efforts received appreciative attention from the media, fans and other musicians. In celebration of Bach’s 326th birthday on March 21, 2011, Henderson invited other musicians to join him, and in following years, this gained momentum throughout the world. In 2015, for Bach’s 330th birthday, thousands of musicians performed in 150 cities and 40 countries in subway stations, train stations, cafes, malls, etc., in concerts which were open free of charge to all. Since then, it has extended over multiple days, and now musicians around the world unite to connect multitudes with this incredible music.

We hope you will come and join us for a free, fun and educational experience on this celebration of the 340th birthday of Bach, followed by fellowship time.

- From the Worship Committee -



EASTER FLOWERS



The Worship Committee invites you to place your order for Easter flowers in honor or memory of loved ones. You can order by completing the online form [here](#), or by completing the form below, and placing it in the offering plate or sending it to the church. Orders can also be made by calling the church office at (973) 584-5238. Please include the memo "Easter Flowers" on checks. Flowers may be picked up after the 11:00 AM service on Easter Sunday, April 20th.



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 _____

Elders and Deacons Installed at Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation was held on February 2. Pictured are the Elders and Deacons installed and ordained for the coming year:

Cindy Medici, Deacon Moderator; Sue Anderson, Deacon; Rick Lansing, Deacon; Kathy Ritchey, Deacon; Ken Johnston, Deacon; Dana Haughey, Elder; Bob Doyle, Elder, President of the Corporation; Shannon Goldstein, Elder; Jean Gruezke, Elder; and Pastor Timothy Clarkson. Not pictured are Erin Johannesen, Deacon; Cathy Fellows, Elder; Dawn Ward, Elder; and Pat Shortridge, Clerk of Session.



LENT AND RECEIVED

From Pastor Jim



It may be hard to believe that in a month from the time this is written, it will be the season of spring! At the moment, we are in mid February, with temperatures around 20 degrees and the past 2 Sundays, worship attendance has taken a hit due to snow and ice that fell over weekends. Hopefully, you are reading this on a sunny day, with thoughts of increasing warmth, the purple of Lent, and the bright pastels of Easter on your mind (not to mention a new baseball season).

Lent is a time of reflection...and time to seek the presence and counsel of Jesus in some new way, challenging us to identify those aspects of our lives that can benefit from change. Lent is a time of commitment...and a time to expect God at work in (and on) us in ways that call us to behave differently, aligning us ever more closely to where the Spirit calls us to be.

As last year, we look forward to sharing Lenten services with our brothers and sisters in faith. Our **Ash Wednesday** service will be on March 5th at 7pm in the social hall of Union Hill Presbyterian Church of Denville (in the brick building at 427 Franklin Road). Members from UHPC are invited to join us on **Maundy Thursday** April 17th for the Agape Meal in Fellowship Hall at 630pm, followed by the service with communion in the Stoddard Memorial Chapel. The Methodist Church next door invites us to the annual **Good Friday** Cross Walk on April 18th at 3pm. Together, we will share the **sunrise service** at Horseshoe Lake on April 20th followed by brunch served at the Methodist Church. If sunrise is too early for you, fear not; our **Easter** service in the church will be at 11am.

You may associate Lent with the spiritual and practical discipline or “giving something up,” which can be an enlightening experience. In an amazing paradox, we may discover that giving up something in Lent “fills” us: Lent may be a time of receiving, as well!

Lent and Received. Receiving new ways of perceiving. Receiving new ways of responding to God’s love in Christ. Maybe that means being at worship more often, or stepping into a new role at church, or checking out Monday morning Bible study, or finding out first hand what **Messy Church** is like on March 9th at 5pm (and April 6th at 1pm with communion) as we consider what it means to “Grow in Faith.” Maybe it means appreciating the amazing sounds of the **Bach Concert** March 23rd at 3pm.

Lent and Received. Give and Take. Experience and Share. Let’s be part of this together!



A very heart-felt thank you to the volunteers who helped me during my recent absence from work. I appreciate you!

~ Debbie Tomkins



**Horseshoe Lake
72 Eyland Avenue, Succasunna**

A Life of My Own: Meeting Eleanor Roosevelt

Saturday, March 8, 2025 at 10:30am

Do you like history and would you like to meet First Lady, Eleanor Roosevelt? Linda Kenyon brings her One-Woman-Show to the stage. Come to the Roxbury Senior Citizens location in this building at 10am for refreshments first and then on to the show. This performance is about 45 minutes long and is free. It is sponsored by the Ferro Monte Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. If the weather is questionable, call Sue Anderson at 973 584-3816 for any cancellation. Hope to see you there!

Poor Man's Gambit Band

March 1, 2025 at 7:30pm

Poor Man's Gambit will be performing Irish-American music. This performance will be at the Citizens Bank Theater at Horseshoe Lake at 72 Eyland Avenue in Succasunna. Time to get in the mood for St. Patrick's Day!

Harry Chapin Band

Saturday, March 22, 2025 at 7:30pm

Performing at the Courtyard by Marriott in Mount Arlington

To get tickets and information of other performances please visit RoxburyArtsAlliance.org.

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**First
Presbyterian
Church**

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Succasunna, NJ 07876

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