

April 2025

THE OPEN DOOR



JOYOUS OPPORTUNITIES

INQUIRE WITHIN

New Members

While I like to think all Session meetings are special, our March gathering had a lot to interest, inspire, and excite us! We began receiving four new members into the life of the church: Betty Lou DeCroke, and Kelly, Madison, and Rhiannon Van Orden. While the date to formally introduce them as members is pending, please join me in the joyous opportunity of greeting and welcoming them each time we see them on Sundays. At the April Session meeting, Natalie Lowry and Bevin Robertiello were received into membership. Plan to be at worship to “officially” welcome Natalie April 27th and Bevin on May 25th. Each of our newest members brings a wealth of experience serving their former churches. In time, we anticipate the joyous opportunity of having them actively involved here in ways that celebrate their giftedness and blend them into the fabric of this congregation.

Be a Part of the Action

We are all grateful for everyone who steps up to lead parts of our worship. The joy session shared in March was Ellen Alpaugh asking if she may be added to the lector list. Wasting no time, she scheduled to do so March 16th. What a joy to have someone initiate volunteering! If you would like to do the same, please speak with Worship Chair Jean Gruezke or myself.

Baptisms This Spring!

Session also anticipates the joyous opportunity of celebrating the baptisms of Maxwell Lowry on April 27th, Bevin’s daughter, Alexandria Kusik May 25th and Jacob Stellingwerf (son of member Brian Stellingwerf and his wife Linda) on June 15th! Let’s hope for a full church these Sundays to welcome him as we share the chorus, singing, “Yes, Jesus Loves Them.”

Nursery Care and Sunday School

With Maxwell and his older brother joining the ranks of children in the FPCS family, Session recognizes the essential ministries of providing consistent nursery care and Sunday School. In recent weeks, Courtney Silvotti and Cathy Fellows have graciously stepped into those roles, with support from (continued on Page 4)

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AT THE OPEN DOOR

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By April 19, 2025

LECTIONARY

Sunday, April 6

Fifth Sunday in Lent
Isaiah 43:16–21
Psalm 126
Philippians 3:4b–14
John 12:1–8

Sunday, April 13

Luke 19:28–40
Psalm 118:1–2, 19–29
Isaiah 50:4–9a
Psalm 31:9–16
Philippians 2:5–11
Luke 22:14–23:56 or Luke 23:1–49

Thursday, April 17

Maundy Thursday
Exodus 12:1–4 [5–10] 11–14
Psalm 116:1–2, 12–19
1 Corinthians 11:23–26
John 13:1–17, 31b–35

Friday, April 18

Good Friday
Isaiah 52:13–53:12
Psalm 22
Hebrews 10:16–25 or
Hebrews 4:14–16; 5:7–9
John 18:1–19:42

Sunday, April 20

Easter Day
Acts 10:34–43 or Isaiah 65:17–25
Psalm 118:1–2, 14–24
1 Corinthians 15:19–26 or
Acts 10:34–43
John 20:1–18 or Luke 24:1–12

Sunday, April 27

Acts 5:27–32
Psalm 118:14–29 or Psalm 150
Revelation 1:4–8
John 20:19–31



SUNDAY MORNINGS

We continue to explore Jesus's teachings in the gospel of Matthew. No preparation needed—we read a passage and answer questions about it. Join us at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Contact Cindy Medici with questions (cjmedici@gmail.com).



All are welcome to Bible study on Monday mornings at 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Our Lenten study was selected by the group, the Book of Esther. Did you know that God isn't mentioned at all in Esther? Curious? Join us and learn how God speaks to us through the stories in scripture. Come share in the discussion led by Pastor Tim.

We meet in 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.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES

Thanks to everyone who was able to participate in the Ash Wednesday service we shared at Union Hill in Denville. As we did last year, FPCS will host our shared Maundy Thursday service.

Thanks to all who donated flowers to decorate the Church! (Orders are due by April 1st.)

Palm Sunday, April 13th

- The children will be doing a Palm Parade.

Maundy Thursday, April 17th

- Agape Meal coordinated by the Deacons in Fellowship Hall at 6pm, and shared with Union Hill Presbyterian Church
- Maundy Thursday service in the Stoddard Memorial Chapel with Communion by intinction at 7pm

Good Friday Cross Walk, April 18th

- Seven stops beginning at the Methodist Church at 3pm and concluding at FPCS

Easter Sunday, April 20th

- Sunrise at Horseshoe Lake 6:30am, followed by brunch at 7:15am at the Methodist Church
- 11am service in the Sanctuary; bring your donated flowers home after the service.



Prayers & Joys

Prayers needed for:

Betty Tucker	Cheryl	Christina	Crystal
Daniel and Heather	Baby Dante	Dave K.	Declan & Bridget
Donna	Edward	Ellen - Joan Salmon's granddaughter	Jayden
Emily	Gemma	Janice	Kathy M.
Jim P.	Joan	Kate	Mika
Kay	Linda L.	Mary, Tim, and Cathy	Rick's Aunt Rita & Cousin Linda
Omar	Peace for Thomas	Randy H	
Roy V - Cindy's dad	Sandi	Toni	

In sympathy with the families of: The family of Diane Spinner

The family of Douglas Mulvihill

The family of Bob Morgan

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

Joys for:

4 new members , 2 anticipated baptisms, and Justin's 31st birthday

World, National, Community Prayers:

For all those dealing with natural disasters

For all navigating struggles of body, mind, and spirit

All dealing with health issues, especially those with cancer

All dealing with the horrors of war; prayers for peace and for world leaders to act with integrity, respect, and dignity



SESSION SNIPPETS:

From the March Session meeting:

Upcoming Events:

- Messy Church Dates:
- April 6, 1-3pm with Communion
- May 4, 5-7pm
- April 13th: Palm Sunday 11am service
- April 17th: Maundy Thursday joint service with Union Hill Presbyterian Church at 7pm in Chapel at FPCS
- April 18th: Cross Walk with Succasunna United Methodist Church at 3pm
- April 20th: Sunrise service with Succasunna United Methodist Church at 6:30am at Horseshoe Lake
 - Breakfast to follow at Succasunna United Methodist Church
 - Easter 11am service at FPCS

New Business:

- Next Session meeting is scheduled for April 2, 2025, at 7pm

JOYOUS OPPORTUNITIES

Continued from Page 1

Amy Clarkson. Being with, caring for, and teaching the youngest among us is essential, gratifying, and joyous. Committed to growing and nurturing the church, we need more people to respond to the joyous opportunity to share in a rotation with Courtney and Cathy. In your prayer time, inquire within yourself, discerning if God may, indeed, be calling you to be part of creating church as a warm, welcoming place to all the children who God sends our way. Please speak with Christian Education Chair Cathy Fellows or myself to become part of this.

Community Connections Committee

All the congregation is motivated in growing the church, because we experience the love of God in Jesus Christ here, in community, and want to share that joy with others. With energy and positivity, the Session initiated a new committee – the Community Connections Committee – to advance the awareness of what the church does and offers. Dana Dyrness-Haughey, Jean Grueze, and Dawn Ward invite you to bring your love of this church and energy for its future into the workings of this new thing God is doing at FPCS.

Joyous Opportunities: Inquire Within!

There is much about which to be joyful and hopeful and...involved! There is room for you!
Please inquire within yourself and in conversations with church leaders to be part of it!

Grateful to serve with you in ministry,
~ Pastor Tim



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. We will receive the offering on Palm Sunday. Please give prayerfully. When we all give a little, it adds up to a lot!



ROXBURY SOCIAL SERVICES

Milk and Eggs to Feed Hungry Families

Wednesdays, March 5 and March 19

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 hosted a Blood Drive on Sunday, March 2. Thirty-two life-saving units of blood were collected with our donors enjoying homemade soup. Leftover soup is distributed to our first friends and others.

Please join us at the Agape Meal prior to the Maundy Thursday worship service on April 17 at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Bring one of the following items (clean and ready to serve):

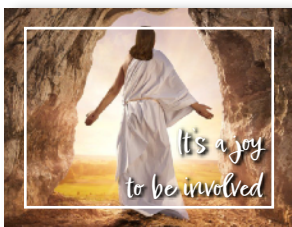
- fresh or dried fruit
 - cheese
 - olives
 - carrot sticks
 - celery sticks
-



A BIG Thank You to everyone who purchased chocolates from our Gertrude Hawk Easter Candy sale. The sale made \$450.00 for our administrative assistant. We appreciate your support of our church, while filling your Easter baskets! Thank you!

~ Sue Anderson





First Presbyterian Church

99 Main Street
Succasunna, NJ 07876

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