

THE OPEN DOOR



CONNECTIONS

By Pastor Tim Clarkson

Happy Summer, everyone! As the temperatures rise and school lets out, we all know people tend to travel – from day trips to long adventures in far away places. As we do that – and anticipate our version of sharing “What I Did this Summer” upon our returns – we remember how essential, how life-sustaining, it is to enjoy our connections with one another.



Evidence of this was heard in our recent congregational conversation about the various and vibrant ministries of this church. What a joy it was to have over 40 people stay after worship to raise questions and share ideas.

This newsletter is one key way information gets shared, as are the morning announcements that are made each Sunday at the opening of our central activity of the week: worship. Getting to know one another better is the very definition of connections, and in response to members’ comments at that meeting, we will be making a more intentional effort to connect names and faces and

roles in the life of the church. Whatever your gift may be, the goal is to affirm, enjoy, and engage that gift through connecting each of us with each other and the very aspects of the life of the church where we can be involved, moving us together in the direction of the Spirit calling us.

Just this morning, a member contacted me with a prayer concern. If someone has a joy or concern – between Sundays when we share these in worship – we can experience the power of connection with God and one another.

I hope we see each other often this summer. While some of us may have travel plans and expectations to spend time away, I hope we know the church is never “away.” May we connect with God and one another and the beauty of God’s creation as we worship outdoors, under the shade of the tree just outside Fellowship Hall, beginning July 6th. Weather permitting, we will worship there at 11am each Sunday of July and August (except August 3rd when we hold the Blood Drive). Let’s stay connected!

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AT THE OPEN DOOR

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JULY LECTIONARY

Sunday, July 6

- 2 Kings 5:1–14
- Psalm 30
- Galatians 6:[1–6] 7–16
- Luke 10:1–11, 16–20

Sunday, July 13

- Amos 7:7–17
- Psalm 82
- Colossians 1:1–14
- Luke 10:25–37

Sunday, July 20

- Amos 8:1–12
- Psalm 52
- Colossians 1:15–28
- Luke 10:38–42

Sunday, July 27

- Hosea 1:2–10
- Psalm 85
- Colossians 2:6–15 [16–19]
- Luke 11:1–13



Summer Services

During July and August, Sunday morning Worship will be held at 11 AM outdoors, weather permitting. Please bring a comfortable lawn chair, although extra chairs will be available if needed. We look forward to praising God amidst the beauty of His creation! Please note that, due to the blood drive, we will worship in the sanctuary on August 3rd.



MONDAY MORNING

Monday morning Bible study session group is on summer break. Stay tuned for news about our fall study and start date.

Summer Mission Experience 2025

Join Us for these Outreach Activities!

This summer we are offering a few ways for members and friends of all ages to be engaged with our mission by experiencing the good work being done by a local community organizations. Please be sure to register no later than **July 17** for any or all of these activities by contacting **Kathy Ritchey**: kritchey@optonline.net.

Thursday, July 24: Table of Hope & Church Clean-up (10:00 am – 6:00 pm)
Assist with community food distribution at Table of Hope in Morristown. Return to church for lunch and a clean-up project or two. Volunteers must be 14 or older to participate. <https://tableofhopenj.org/>

Wednesday, July 30: Faith Kitchen Meal Prep (6:00 pm – 8:00 pm)
Help prepare Mexican Quesadilla Chicken for 90 guests in the Fellowship Hall kitchen at the church.

Thursday, July 31: Faith Kitchen Serving, Dover: (9:00 am – 1:00 pm)
Serve meals to guests of the Faith Kitchen in Dover. Volunteers must be over 18 years old to serve. <https://www.faithkitchendover.org/>

Monday, August 4: America's Grow-a-Row (7:30 am – 3:00 pm)
Harvest produce to be distributed to area food banks. Carpool from the church to the farm in Pittstown. Lunch at Round Valley State Park in Lebanon, weather permitting. Bring a bag lunch. All ages are invited to participate, under age 16 must be accompanied by an adult. <https://americasgrowarow.org>.



Prayers & Joys

Prayers needed for:

| | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| George Goodman | Rhiannon | Kelly | anonymous nephew |
| Kristy Glover | Rick's son | Rick's neighbor | Roma's mother |
| Dave (Sue's cousin) | Colin Robertson | Bobby C. | Toby K. |

Pray for the families of:

Sandi Goodman, baby Vincent MacDonald, Geoffrey Andrews, family who has lost Aunt Ginette while Uncle Guy entered hospice care, Sherry Sewell, Skip Valorano.

World, National, Community Prayers:

For all navigating struggles of body, mind, and spirit. For those who are discouraged.

All dealing with health issues, especially those with cancer.

For all those dealing with natural disasters. Issues, tensions and violence in the country.

The families of the lawmakers assassinated in Minnesota & all victims of gun violence.

Victims of the horrors of war; prayers for peace and for world leaders to act with integrity, respect, and dignity. For our servicemen and women stationed around this dangerous world.



SESSION SNIPPETS:

From the May Session Meeting:

Upcoming Events:

- June 26: Annual Tri Harder Event
- Plastic-Free July

New Business:

- Next Session meeting is scheduled for July 2, 2025, at 7:00 pm.

Baptism:

- Baptized Jacob Stellingwerf, son of Brian and Linda Stellingwerf.

Updates:

- Air Conditioning unit was installed in Fellowship Hall.
- All service for July and August outside weather permitting, with the exception date of August 3, 2025.
- 5 cases of Fair-Trade coffee were generously donated for Fellowship Time.
- **A certificate of Recognition was awarded to FPCS on Wednesday, June 11th, at Roxbury Town Hall.** FPCS has been chosen by the Roxbury Historic Advisory Committee to receive this award to recognize our efforts to maintain the original style of our historic buildings. (Stoddard Sign)

DEACONS DOINGS

No relaxing for the Deacons this summer.

- On June 15, we celebrated Dads and Grads with a special Fellowship Time.
- Join us for good food and fellowship by staying after worship on **July 27 for a picnic lunch**. The Deacons will be providing burgers, hot dogs, and beverages. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.
- **Donate a pint of blood on August 3** and be treated with ice cream at our summer Blood Drive for NY Blood Services.
- The Deacons continue to deliver soup, send cards, and help with groceries for members who have trouble getting out.



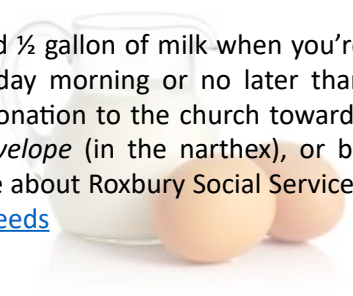
ROXBURY SOCIAL SERVICES

Milk and Eggs to Feed Hungry Families

Wednesdays, July 9 and 23

Help Roxbury Social Services Feed Families in our Community!

It's easy to take part in this outreach! Simply pick-up an extra dozen eggs and ½ gallon of milk when you're grocery shopping. Put your donations in the refrigerator at church on Sunday morning or no later than Tuesday for our Wednesday delivery team. 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. Learn more about Roxbury Social Services and other food donations needed, by visiting <https://www.roxburynj.us/257/Needs>
Thank you for your support!



Share the Care: Plastic Free July

As you know, our church is an Earth Care congregation, meaning we are committed to caring for God's Earth in all facets of church life. From time to time, we "share the care" with you, giving you information and encouragement to help in responding to God's call for us to be stewards of His glorious creation.

This summer, we invite you to participate in our church's Plastic Free July event by committing to avoid single-use plastic and other plastic items during the month of July. In addition to the unsightliness plastics lend to our environment, one of the biggest concerns today is the presence of micro-plastics in our environment, food chain, and bodies, and how these tiny particles affect our health. Here are some ways to help reduce plastic pollution:

- Use refillable water bottles.
- Order coffee in your own refillable cup at the coffee shop- they're used to this now!
- Buy produce with re-usable produce bags rather than as pre-packaged items.
- Buy beverages in containers other than plastic. Aluminum is much more sustainable than plastic.
- Use bar products not only for hand soap, but for shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, and lotion!
- For liquid hand and dish soaps, purchase a powder and make the product at home!

The church will be offering free samples of dish and hand soaps made from powders on Sunday, July 20th, after Worship. Please bring a reuseable bottle, and go home with a free sample!

Our hope is that when we all realize how simple it can be to be plastic free, we'll choose to make every month a plastic free month!



Cemetery Tour 2025!

FPCS is hosting our much-loved cemetery tour in late October (date TBD). We will be coordinating with Roxbury's committee that's planning our country's 250th celebration events throughout the year. We've been asked to "beef up the revolutionary & colonial" representation in our cemetery tour. If you like history - local, NJ, or USA - you can help us research and create new revolutionary & colonial era "spirits" for this year's tour!

We're once again looking for many volunteers to play spirits, be tour guides, work the check-in table, serve the cider & donuts, and of course set-up and clean-up. We're also looking for help advertising our cemetery tour. If you're interested in helping in any way - please reach out to Dana Dyrness-Haughey (cell) 609-315-2452.

AUGUST LECTIONARY

Sunday, August 3

- Hosea 11:1–11
- Psalm 107:1–9, 43
- Colossians 3:1–11
- Luke 12:13–21

Sunday, August 10

- Isaiah 1:1, 10–20
- Psalm 50:1–8, 22–23
- Hebrews 11:1–3, 8–16
- Luke 12:32–40

Sunday, August 17

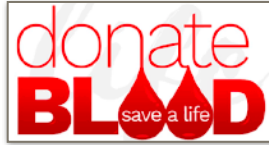
- Isaiah 5:1–7
- Psalm 80:1–2, 8–19
- Hebrews 11:29–12:2
- Luke 12:49–56

Sunday, August 24

- Jeremiah 1:4–10
- Psalm 71:1–6
- Hebrews 12:18–29
- Luke 13:10–17

Sunday, August 31

- Jeremiah 2:4–13
- Psalm 81:1, 10–16
- Hebrews 13:1–8, 15–16
- Luke 14:1, 7–14



DONATE BLOOD AT FPCS

Sunday, August 3rd 9am-3pm

To schedule an appointment, [visit nybc.org/njdrive](http://visit.nybc.org/njdrive)

Or call (800) 933-2566

Appointments preferred, walk-ins welcome. Donors need to wear a face covering. The Deacons will be serving ice cream sandwiches for the Donors at the canteen area.



CHURCH MEMBER SERVICES OFFERED



Jim Ritchey is offering church members a free service: sharpening kitchen knives and converting VHS video to digital format. Bring your knives or VHS cassettes to church on Sunday and he can work on them as time permits.



Congratulations to Jacqlyn Kirk, daughter of Debra Champion and granddaughter of Bob & Pat Champion. Jacqlyn recently graduated from Montclair High School and will be attending the University of Rhode Island in the fall where she plans to double major in animal science & technology and marine biology (pre-vet).



Congrats to the Dads and Grads!

We celebrated
with a special
Fellowship time. Thanks to Sue
for the great pics!



OLDE SUCCASUNNY DAY

SEPTEMBER 6TH!

A message from Dana Dyrness Haughey:

We are once again selling our world-famous walking tacos, hosting our ever-popular kids' games, and holding a yummy bake sale & selling refreshing drinks!

We are looking for help to plan each of these activities, work the activities throughout the day (in shifts of course!), and set-up & clean-up.

** we still need someone to run the kids' games!

If you'd like to help in any way - please contact Dana Dyrness-Haughey (cell) 609-315-2452.

We also have lots of vendor spots available (\$40 per spot) in our parking lot! Please spread the word with your friends & neighbors who are crafters & vendors.

We are once again planning entertainment on main street in front of FPCS throughout the day. If you have a suggestion for a group to perform, please let Dana know.

First Presbyterian Church

99 Main Street
Succasunna, NJ 07876

Time Dated Material

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