



September 2025

THE OPEN DOOR



PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING

We live in an era of uncertainty. The uncertainty of floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, climate change, political polarization, and more. The uncertainty of aggression through war, gun violence, human trafficking, and international conflict. The uncertainty of employment, inflation, illness—the list goes on.

Long ago, the Psalmist wrote: “Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me” (Psalm 23:4, NRSV). Today, as a community of faith, we claim God’s promise—you are with me.

A Season of Peace begins in September and culminates with the Peace & Global Witness Offering on World Communion Sunday in October. This offering draws Presbyterians together and provides education and exposure to siblings in Christ who work for peace every day. Your support of this offering helps encourage our church partners as they struggle against the trauma of war. It helps congregations begin to address the growing mental health crisis and the increase in the number of suicides in their communities. It provides resources for congregations seeking to address issues of gun violence in their communities.

This is why we give generously to the Peace & Global Witness Offering. We give because we know that every level of society needs (Continued on Page 6)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Lectionary, Sept Dates	2
Prayers, Session	3
Suckasunny Day	4
Pastor Tim	5
Etc.	6
Choir Notes	7
Summer Mission	8

AT THE OPEN DOOR

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By September 19, 2025

LECTIONARY

September 7

Jeremiah 18:1–11
Psalm 139:1–6, 13–18
Philemon 1–21
Luke 14:25–33

September 14

Jeremiah 4:11–12, 22–28
Psalm 14
1 Timothy 1:12–17
Luke 15:1–10

September 21

Jeremiah 8:18–9:1
Psalm 79:1–9
1 Timothy 2:1–7
Luke 16:1–13

September 28

Jeremiah 32:1–3a, 6–15
Psalm 91:1–6, 14–16
1 Timothy 6:6–19
Luke 16:19–31



Church Office Closed

Please note that on September 3, 4, 24 and 25, the Church office will be closed. Thank you!



SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Sunday morning Bible study will resume on Sunday, September 21 at 10:00 am. We meet in Fellowship Hall for about 45 minutes to read and discuss Bible passages. Join us on September 21 to vote for what we should study next. Stop in any week. Contact Cindy with questions (cjmedici@gmail.com).



Monday Morning Bible Study Starts Monday, September 15

We will begin the fall sessions on Monday, September 15. Pastor Tim will lead us in a study of the Corinthians I and II. Participants should plan to read Corinthians I over the next few weeks in preparation for our first session. Please join us in Fellowship Hall at 11:00 a.m. for lively discussions and new insights into Scripture. Contact Kathy Ritchey if you wish to participate on Zoom.



SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

- * Sunday, August 31st Backpack Blessings during Worship 11 am
- * Monday, September 1st Labor Day
- * Wednesday, September 3rd Session Meeting 7 pm
- * Wednesday, September 3rd Milk & Eggs delivery to Social Services
- * Wednesday & Thursday, September 3rd & 4th Office Closed for vacation
- * Saturday, September 6th Olde Suckasunny Day 2025
- * Sunday, September 7th Sunday School Classes resume
- * Sunday, September 7th Roxbury Historical Trust: Impersonator Program 2 pm
- * Monday, September 8th Aerobics Classes resume in Fellowship Hall
- * Tuesday, September 9th Presbytery Meeting
- * Wednesday, September 10th Deacons Meeting at 6pm in Fellowship Hall
- * Monday, September 15th Journey Circle Women's Bible Study resumes 7 pm
- * Wednesday, September 17th Milk & Eggs Delivery to Social Services
- * Wednesday, September 17th Mission Committee Meeting 7 pm
- * Thursday, September 18th Open Door Submissions Due
- * Thursday, September 18th Chime choir practices resume 7 pm
- * Sunday, September 21st Bible Study, 10am in Fellowship Hall





Prayers & Joys

Prayers needed for:

Emily	Ash	Cheryl	Janice	Cindy	Bruce Vane
Maria Soares	Scott B	Avery Jean	Jacob	Gemma	Joey C

Pray for the families of:

Georganne Pisorchik, Hilda Gomez, Colin Robertson and Sandi Goodman.

World, National, Community Prayers:

Anonymous prayer for reuniting of a family; those managing addictions, and those who love them; the people of Texas and all those struggling following natural disasters; those navigating struggles of body, mind, and spirit; those who are discouraged; all dealing with health issues, especially those with cancer. Issues, tensions, and violence in the country; victims of gun violence; victims of the horrors of war; prayers for peace and for world leaders to act with integrity, respect, and dignity.

Joys:

Adrienne's son's birthday; appreciation for the kindness of Cindy; appreciation for the soloist Lauren last Sunday.



SESSION SNIPPETS:

From the August Session Meeting:

Upcoming Events:

- Suckasunny Day September 6
- First day of Sunday School – September 14
- Cemetery Tour – Sat. Oct. 25th.

Session has approved the following items:

- Redo the exterior of the old garage.

Informational items include:

- Next Session meeting is scheduled for September 3, 2025, at 7:00 pm.

DEACONS DOINGS

We hosted the annual church picnic on Sunday, July 27 following worship. We grilled hamburgers and hotdogs, dined on delicious side dishes prepared by members of the congregation, and enjoyed games and time to chat with friends.

In August, our blood drive resulted in collecting 27 units to help save lives in our community. We donated sixteen \$25.00 gift cards to Roxbury Social Services for families in need of assistance with purchasing back-to-school supplies. The soup ministry continues in the summer months along with visits and calls to FPCS' First Friends.

The funeral luncheon for Georgeann Pisorchik was held on Saturday August 2. Many thanks to all contributed desserts and helped with set-up and clean-up. It was lovely to see so many members of our church family attend and offer to help, a testament to Georgeann's life and her love for our church.

Gifts from the Deacons fund were approved for Table of Hope, Camp Johnsonburg and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance specifically for wildfire and flood relief efforts. A new 60 cup hot water urn was purchased for the kitchen.

That's the latest from your Board of Deacons: Cindy Medici, Moderator, Sue Anderson, Erin Johannesen, Ken Johnston, Rick Lansing and Kathy Ritchey.

OLDE SUCCASUNNY DAY

SEPTEMBER 6TH!



WALKING TACOS

We're selling Walking Tacos on Olde Succasunny Day, Saturday, September 6, to benefit the Faith Kitchen!

What is a walking taco? A combination of taco meat and toppings stuffed inside a bag of Doritos or Fritos. It's both delicious and portable! And they walk out *fast* during Olde Succasunny Day!

What can I do? Contribute taco ingredients. We need packets of taco mix, and monetary donations towards the purchase of ground beef, cheese and sour cream. Please bring your donations and leave on the counter in Fellowship Hall kitchen **by Sunday, September 1.**

Who's preparing and serving? Taco team volunteers are needed to serve the tacos on Olde Succasunny Day. Please look for the sign-up email from Dana Haughey in your inbox.



Who benefits from the sale of Walking Tacos? The Faith Kitchen will receive the proceeds from the sale. With the help of over 230 volunteers and donations from the community, it serves over 30,000 meals annually! <https://www.faithkitchendover.org/>

More questions? Please ask any member of the Mission Committee: Jean Gruezke, Shannon Goldstein, Dana Haughey, or Cindy Medici.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CEMETERY UPDATE

You will be seeing activity in our cemetery:

- We are adding a Columbarium. In case you're not familiar, a Columbarium is a structure that has 72 areas where two containers of ashes can be buried. Since many people get cremated now, it is well worth the investment.
- The "old" garage will be vinyl-sided and the doors will be changed.
- We've added new trees on the left side of the cemetery as you face Meeker Street. We added two dogwood trees near the cemetery sign in front of the garage. And we've trimmed most of our trees.
- We now have cameras on the garage, so watch your "P's and Q's", you never know who's looking. They are really only there to check for vandalism, etc.
- We finally came into the 21st century and digitized our cemetery records.
- Even though you might not see all that goes on in the cemetery, the cemetery committee and Bob Stark and his Dad are hard at work!



If you have any questions or would like to join us, please speak with one of us: Sue Anderson, Dick Schulte, Linda Smith, Adrienne Roman, Bob Stark, Cathy Fellows or Pastor Tim.

WHAT WE DID THIS SUMMER...

AND WILL DO THIS FALL!

Remember being assigned on the first day of school to write a summary of your summer adventures? The Open Door would have to be The Open House in order to include everything this church did in what some may consider a “slow” time of the year. That being said, here are but a few of the things that energized the Summer of 2025 and put our faith into practice:

- * Worship shifted under the shade of the tree outside. With the help of many setting up and cleaning up, we enjoyed the beauty of being in God’s Creation together
- * Miles participated in Vacation Bible School at Union Hill, where several of us from FPCS lent a hand (and dance step) to teach and remind all to “Trust Jesus!”
- * Thanks to our Earth Care team, we learned a lot and made realistic, practical, and sustainable efforts committed to a Plastic Free July (and beyond)
- * Thanks to our devoted deacons, the latest church blood drive collected 27 units
- * Applying the love we have received, the church participated in the mission ministries of Table of Hope, Faith Kitchen, and America’s Grow a Row. There is something truly dynamic and satisfying in being together and accomplishing something for good beyond ourselves
- * Plans were approved to move forward with the installation of a columbarium in the cemetery, getting ahead of the curve of the trend toward more cremations than traditional burials, and for improvement of the garage beside the larger cemetery garage. Committed to reducing the risk of falls, plans are underway to replace a section of sidewalk outside.
- * We held a congregational conversation after worship, which drew much participation and ideas! Perhaps among these is the reminder that communication is essential, so we began printing more announcements and increased the utilization and accessibility of the church calendar. If you have events or meetings planned, please email these to Debbie at the church office to be included.



After an active summer, we look forward to what September will bring, including...

- * Olde Succasunny Day returns September 6th, coordinated by Dana Dyrness-Haughey. Let’s all be part of the action in ways that show the town church people are FUN people– games, baked goods, being neighbors, and, of course, the world famous walking tacos!
- * We will have a baptism on September 14th! Asher Reed, grandson of a dear friend of mine (who helped me move into FPCS), and whose parents attended both funerals for the Pisorchiks here and worshiped the day of the church picnic, will remind us of God claiming each of us as God’s own.
- * Monday morning Bible study returns September 15th at `11am in Fellowship Hall. Please see Kathy Ritchey’s article on how we will segue from 1st to 2nd Corinthians
- * Sunday School resumes September 21st with the presentation of Bibles! Please consider joining Cathy Fellows in coordinating what we offer to the next generation of Christians here.

(Continued on page 6)

WHAT WE DID THIS SUMMER....

Continued from Page 5

- * September 21st will also feature a Stewardship Theme in worship. Like all of us, I am grateful to Jim Ritchey for sharing the multitude of his talents with FPCS, including serving as our Finance Chair. While we may have the idea that “as long as the door is open and the lights are on, everything is fine,” there is a gap between income and expenses. It is healthy and appropriate to understand how and where we can all contribute to being responsible stewards and this could be a step in that direction.
- * Completion of the columbarium, garage, and sidewalk projects
- * Exploring restoration of stained-glass windows in the sanctuary. Thanks to the thoughtfulness of the family of our beloved Georganne Pisorchik and the generosity of all who have been making donations to the church in her memory, along with plans to apply for grants, treating the treasures that are these windows will be possible.

So, you see, we are a busy, active bunch! God is at work within, between, and among us. God has been, is, and will be partnering with us in ways that nourish and inspire us and draw us to share the Good News of God’s love, Christ’s grace, and the Spirit’s encouraging presence!

Peace
Pastor Tim

PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING

Continued from Page 1

Christ’s peace. From our congregation, where we retain 25% of this Offering to support local mission and its important role in our community; to the region, where 25% is retained by mid councils to support peacemaking efforts with our neighboring congregations; and to the ends of the Earth, where the remaining 50% is used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to join the peacemaking efforts of church partners all over the globe. We join these monetary gifts with our prayers for peace and our work for justice.

Visit the Peace & Global Witness website (pcusa.org/peace-global) to learn how your support of this offering helps peacemaking efforts both in the U.S. and around the world. As a community of faith, we want to deepen our commitment to peacemaking so that it becomes a visible and profound witness to our community.

As Presbyterians, we claim Jesus Christ as the Prince of Peace and pattern our lives in the compassion, kindness, and grace that he shows us. God is with us. May we joyfully bring that peace to all those we care for, love, and serve.

**Roxbury Arts
Alliance**

Performances are starting at the theater of the Roxbury Arts Alliance. Check them out at www.RoxburyArtsAlliance.org. Come enjoy an evening or afternoon of entertainment.



CHOIR NOTES

Opportunities in the Music Ministry

FPCS has had a long tradition of excellent choirs. In order to continue this tradition, we need new members to join with us. In the past few years, our focus has changed and we have added much contemporary music to our repertoire. In addition to vocalists, we also welcome any other instrumentalists to participate. We currently have choir rehearsal on Sunday mornings from 9:45 to 10:45 (before the 11 AM service). We are flexible and realize that everyone has other commitments which may interfere with participating every week, but we will accept whatever time and talent you can contribute. The more people we have singing, the less an absence has an impact. I try to rehearse any new or difficult pieces a few weeks ahead. We will begin rehearsing on 9/14.

The **chime choir** rehearses on Thursday evenings, 7-8 PM in the chapel and also welcomes new members. If you have never played any instrument before – no worries! Each member has just 1 or 2 notes to play, we color-code the music and rehearse it thoroughly for several weeks (sometimes months) before playing. Rehearsals will begin on 9/18.

No musical experience is required for either group. To volunteer or to get more information, please contact Jane Rufino at janemaryor@gmail.com or text or call 973-727-8397.

Community Celebration Choir

On Saturday November 8 at 2 PM, we will be hosting an event honoring veterans in our community, sponsored by the Ferromonte chapter of DAR. This is the third year we will be hosting this celebration, which is a joyful, well-attended event. We would like to form a community choir, open to people of all ages, to sing patriotic songs. This will be a non-sectarian group, let your neighbors know that if they would like to come and sing in honor of the people who have served our country, they are welcome. I am planning to have 3 rehearsals on Sundays prior to November 8, 4-5 PM. This is a limited commitment, so please come join us if you like to sing and spread the word! To volunteer or for more information, please contact Jane Rufino at janemaryor@gmail.com or text or call 973-727-8397.



ROXBURY SOCIAL SERVICES

Milk and Eggs to Feed Hungry Families

Help Roxbury Social Services

Delivery Dates are Sept 3 and 17

We continue to donate milk and eggs to Roxbury Social Services every other week. Why not pick-up an extra dozen eggs and ½ gallon of milk when you are grocery shopping? Donations can be put into the refrigerator at church before the Wednesday dates for distribution. Thank you!



SUMMER MISSION EXPERIENCE



The Summer Mission team worked hard, but happily, in the summer sun to assist community organizations addressing the problem of food insecurity and hunger in our community. July 24 found us at Table of Hope in Morristown where we sorted and bagged groceries that were distributed to hundreds of families who drove or walked to TOH. For the Faith Kitchen, Dover, we shopped, prepared and served a meal for 76 guests on July 31. We were in Pittstown on August 4 at America's Grow-a-Row, a farm with acres of produce that is harvested by volunteers and then distributed exclusively to area food banks. During our time there we worked with a team of about 25 volunteers to pick cucumbers and zucchini, nearly 7,000 lbs or enough to feed 28,000 persons! While we live in a world where there is much abundance, we saw that it is often not available to those who need most.

A special thanks to Sue Anderson for sharing her knowledge of church history and leading us in sprucing up the Stoddard Chapel. Once again we learned that laughter and ice cream can get you through a long, hot day! This year's ice cream venue of choice was Humdoo's in Flemington. Thanks for the recommendation Pastor Tim!

Our team included FPCS members Sue Anderson, Addison, Lexi and Selina Brodsky, Amy and Pastor Timothy Clarkson, Bob Doyle, Cathy Fellows, Shannon Goldstein, Jean Gruezke, Dana Haughey, Carol and Will Lowry, Cindy Medici, Kathy Ritchey, Bevin Robertiello, and Jane Rufino. It was wonderful to have Union Hill members join the team –Steve Campman, Kathi McCann, and Evelyn Plumb.

Thanks be to God for all who donated their time, treasure and talent. Blessings to all who were served!



First Presbyterian Church

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