

October 2025

THE OPEN DOOR



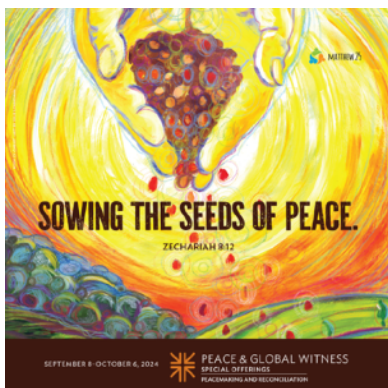
PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5TH

Sowing the Seeds of Peace *Zechariah 8:12*

The seed will grow well, the vine will yield its fruit, the ground will produce its crops, and the heavens will drop their dew. I will give all these things as an inheritance to the remnant of this people.

On World Communion Sunday, October 5, we celebrate that Christ's peace extends throughout all creation. Whenever the church gathers for worship, we are assured of Christ's peace. We celebrate that we are connected, we are loved, we are not alone. As we come together with Christians all over the world to break bread, we are reminded to use our time, talent and resources to extend Christ's peace to our community both near and far.

At FPCS, twenty-five percent of the gifts received from the Peace and Global Witness Offering will support the ministry of Camp Johnsonburg. This will be used for scholarships for young campers who otherwise could otherwise not afford to experience the "sacred place, open space", that is the gift 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. You are invited to visit the Peace & Global Witness website (pcusa.org/peace-global) to learn more about this special offering.



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. Please give whatever you can.

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AT THE OPEN DOOR

Pastor: Rev. Timothy Clarkson
Editor: Sandie DiDomenico
Church Office: 973-584-5238
Fax: 973-584-5140
E: fpcsunna@optonline.net

Email November
Open Door
submissions to:

FPCSOpenDoor@gmail.com
By October 19, 2025

LECTIONARY

Sunday, October 5

- Lamentations 1:1–6
- Lamentations 3:19–26
- 2 Timothy 1:1–14 2
- Luke 17:5–10

Sunday, October 12

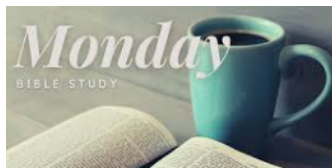
- Jeremiah 29:1, 4–7 2
- Psalm 66:1–12
- 2 Timothy 2:8–15 2
- Luke 17:11–19

Sunday, October 19

- Jeremiah 31:27–34
- Psalm 119:97–104
- 2 Timothy 3:14–4:5 2
- Luke 18:1–8

Sunday, October 26

- Joel 2:23–32
- Psalm 65
- 2 Timothy 4:6–8, 16–18 2
- Luke 18:9–14



Monday Morning Bible Study

We will continue the fall sessions on Monday mornings. 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.



Journey Circle

The Journey Circle will meet on Monday, October 13 at 7pm at the home of Kathy Ritchey. Women of the church are invited to participate! Please RSVP to Kathy: kritchey@optonline.net.

Cemetery Tour Sat, Oct. 25th!

What is the Cemetery Tour? a guided, evening walking tour through our lantern-lit cemetery, where you'll visit several resident "spirits" who will share their stories and a bit of local history. Our cemetery dates back to the 1600's (likely earlier!) with the original habitants of the land being the Lenni Lenape Native Americans. This year, we will have more resident "spirits" from the colonial & revolutionary times, in anticipation of our country's 250th anniversary. This is always a great, family-friendly (dark but not "scary") and fun-filled event.

Get involved! There's many ways you can help make this the most successful tour yet!

- good at advertising? - we need people to help spread the word - hang flyers around town, update & put out lawn signs, post on social media, and reach out to newspapers & local groups
- lend us your shepherd's hooks and lanterns
- donate white votive candles (NOT tea-lights, they don't last long enough)
- like to write? - help us with development of the scripts for "spirits" and tour guides
- participate - let Dana know you'd like to be a "spirit", tour guide, help with check-in, or serving cider & donuts
- Or, just gather your family & friends, and sign up to come enjoy the tour! Link to sign up is on our website.

Questions? contact Dana 609-315-2452 or skidana@optonline.net.



Prayers & Concerns

Prayers needed for:

Brian Kunze	Sandy Egbert	Ken Trowbridge
Cathy French and her partner Ken		Roger Hendrickson
Rick's Aunt Rita	Raymond	Dalyce
Lillian Verner	Lynnda Schulte	Kathy
Mary Knoll	Betsy C	Donna
Edna D	Edwin	Gloria O
Joey C.	Alfonse	Cliff A
Scott	Sohail A.	Kay
Pam	Jack on hospice	Cheryl
Gina	Amy	Shannon's grandmother & grandfather

Please pray for the families of:

Ken Trowbridge, Dr. Walter McConnell, Patricia C. Dillon (Nancy Thompson), Pilar (Tim L), Emily (the Andersons & the McConnors), Georganne Pisorchik, Don McClelland, Colin Robertson, Sandi Goodman, Skip Valorano, Baby Vincent MacDonald, Geoffrey Andrews, Scott McClutchy.

World, National, Community Prayers:

Tensions and conflicts- personal, interpersonal, in families, workplaces, churches & nations; gun violence at schools and universities.

SESSION SNIPPETS:

From the September Session Meeting:

Upcoming Events:

- Cemetery Tour – Sat. Oct. 25th.

Session has approved the following items:

- Christmas Eve Service to be held at 9pm
- Revised Children and Youth Policy to include Adults with Vulnerabilities.
- New MinistrySafe Training Policy for Session

Informational items include:

- Next Session meeting is scheduled for October 9, 2025, at 7:00 pm.





ROXBURY SOCIAL SERVICES

Milk and Eggs to Feed Hungry Families

Wednesday, October 1, 15, and 29

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. 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!



Fair Trade

As an Earth Care congregation, we're committed to caring for God's Earth in all facets of church life. PC(USA) has been involved in Fair Trade since 2001, keeping small farmers active in the world marketplace by ensuring that more of the money spent reaches the hardworking farmers who actually grow the food, and requiring that environmental practices preventing negative impacts on the livelihoods of producers and communities are employed.

Fair trade is important to Presbyterians; it is in line with our scripture and our tradition. The way we consume in this world should reflect our values and not harm other people or God's creation. Please join us in our Fair Trade Marketplace: Equal Exchange at [Equal Exchange](#). Although you can place your own order, please contact Jean to join in our shipping-free order. This is not a fund-raiser; we are encouraging the purchase of fair-trade items by bundling our orders and saving the shipping costs. Orders must be received by Monday, October 13th. We hope to hear from you!



Remembering Loved Ones

On Reformation Sunday, October 26th, we will have a Time of Remembrance for our loved ones who have gone before us.

You are invited to light a candle as their names are read. Please let us know the names you would like to be read by completing either the form at [Time of Remembrance](#) or the form provided in the narthex, placing it in the Offering Plate, or by calling Debbie at the church office.



The Deacons are busy keeping in touch with our "first friends and others" that can't get out. Homemade soup is delivered to some either by one of the Deacons or Pastor Tim on his many visits. We are always adding people to check in with. So if there is someone you know who needs a visit or call or soup please let one of the Deacons or Pastor Tim know. We would love to "cheer" them up!

We provided a book for the baptism of Asher Martin Reed on September 14th. This is something the parents can keep and read to their young son. Asher is a beautiful bright-eyed young boy.

Our next Blood Drive is November 2, 2025. We will be serving our homemade soups. So wouldn't you like to help by donating blood and then getting a nice hot cup of delicious soup to thank you.....



My Life Publications is now consolidating the Roxbury and Randolph online paper. The issue with FPSC' profile just came out. You can see the August/September edition of Randolph/Roxbury Life by clicking on following link: [Randolph/Roxbury Life Aug/Sept 2025](#)



I want to thank all the bakers, helpers, sellers, set up and clean up for our church's Bake Sale and Drinks table at Olde Sucksunny Day on September 6th. Even though the weather was not the best, we did very well. We sold \$420.00 baked goods and \$74.00 drinks.....great job everyone! So almost \$500.00 for our church to use.

Thank you, Sue Anderson

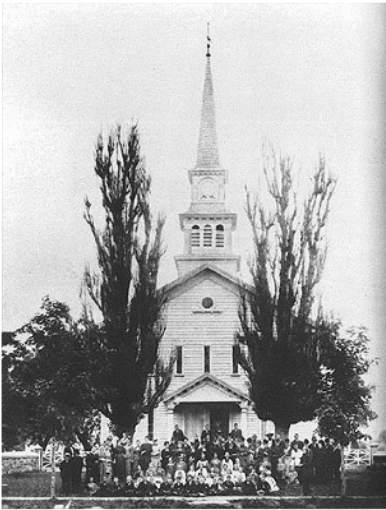


Ushering Is Fun!

Please consider serving as Usher! You'll get to greet and meet people- the best part! And then you'll collect the offering- the other part! We'd love to see you take a spin at this!

If you would like to contribute your time with this important aspect of Worship, please let Jean know, or email Debbie at the church office. And remember: **Many Hands Make Light Work!**

HEAR YE, HEAR YE!



We all know that this church has a rich history. Throughout the centuries, FPCS has connected with events and people shaping the course of progress. We can imagine times when, from the steps of this church, town criers have bellowed, “Hear, ye! Hear ye!” announcing news of significance to the community.

In the past month, I and members of the church have engaged in conversations with sources of local news. Reporters and photographers have published information chronicling the congregation’s past, present, and future. The near community reading these articles have been informed about our storied past, recent projects preserving and honoring that identity, and invitations to engage in events like Olde Succasunny Day and the Historic Cemetery Tour (on October 25th this year...please connect with Dana Dyrness Haughey to learn more about opportunities to be part of the action).

In one interview, the reporter and I discussed our understanding of “History.” In that conversation, I said that, as much as people and events of the past are honored, revered, and appreciated, my suspicion is that, at the time those memorable things were happening, the people doing them did not stop to say to themselves (or others), “Hey, I am making history here!” Rather, they immersed themselves in the moment, responding to a sense of call to action, leaving to future generations to acknowledge and celebrate their achievements. The reporter thanked me for that insight. A student of history herself, she shared a similar perception and appreciated it being articulated so.

While the church has recently been “getting press,” and we look forward to cultivating relationships with people who know how to get the word out about us, this is as much our opportunity and responsibility as it is for a trained journalist.

Think about it. Pray about it. What do you want people to know about this church? Where are you experiencing joy here that others need to know is readily available for them as well? Each and every one of us, as Ambassadors for Christ, gets to be a town crier for church. Maybe speaking to a crowd on the steps of the church is not your thing. That is totally fine! Maybe it is a casual chat over the fence as you and your neighbor are raking leaves. Perhaps, it is a topic you raise while waiting for your server to bring your order at the coffee shop or favorite lunch spot. All of us can talk up the church among friends who aren’t already part of a church, and very well may benefit from being encountered by love, grace, and fellowship among us. In whatever way works for you, call out, “Hear, ye! Hear, ye!”

In Christ,
Pastor Tim



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. Many weeks, we work on learning new music and sit throughout the congregation to help with the singing, so you can still be with your family and friends. We will occasionally sing an anthem together and will begin preparing for the Christmas Candlelight Service in November. 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. Rehearsals began on 9/14, but we still welcome new members.

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. Our first engagement is on November 8 for the Veteran's Celebration – we will be playing an exciting arrangement combining *Yankee Doodle* and George M. Cohan's *Yankee Doodle Dandy*. Ideally, we need 2 more members to fill in all the notes.

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 and songs from the Revolutionary War period and WWI & II. 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. There will be 3 rehearsals on Sundays Oct. 12 & 26 and Nov. 2, 4-5 PM in the sanctuary. 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.

OLDE SUCKASUNNY DAY 2025



Success!

What a great day we all had at this year's Suckasunny Day! It was a fun time of meeting, talking with, and having fun with many friends in our community! Our mission committee served up our famous walking tacos - and sold out by 1:30! They raised \$558 for the Faith Kitchen in Dover. Our kid's games and sales of baked goods and drinks had lots of action all day long. We saw many people taking a break & escaping the sun under our big tree by the chapel, and grabbing some water from our free water bottle refilling station. We hosted over 30 wonderful crafters & local businesses in our vendor area. We also hosted the "Main Street entertainment" - the Roxbury HS marching band, Generations of Dance (with a few of our own - Lexie & Addison - performing), Randolph Gymnastics Elite team (coached by our own Shelly Ward!), Master Lim's Tae Kwon Do, and Slattery School of Irish Dance.

Many thanks to everyone who helped make the day such a success for FPCS - our setup & cleanup crews, volunteers who planned and ran our great booths, and those who baked and donated everything we needed. All in all, we raised over \$3,140.

Mark your calendars - Olde Suckasunny Day 2026 will be on Saturday, Sept. 19th!

First Presbyterian Church

99 Main Street
Succasunna, NJ 07876

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