



THE OPEN DOOR

THIS IS A GOOD THING TO DO!

A WORD FROM PASTOR TIM



It is fair to say, we are all motivated for this church to “succeed.” We pray for the pews to be filled, along with the line items of the budget, of course. When we talk about the church “succeeding,” we mean those things but not only those things. We exhibit positivity and energy when we know in our bones that we receive and respond to the goodness that makes church the church. We look to find and participate in the living presence of Christ within, between, and among us here.

It is appropriate and healthy for any church to periodically take stock of what its people have been doing and where the Spirit may be leading into the future. While these intentional conversations tend to happen in times of transition, it really makes sense for churches to revisit what has happened and prayerfully discern what God may be calling us to do in the present and near future. In other words: This is a good thing to do!

With this in mind, I raised the idea at the March Session meeting. As I felt myself getting enthusiastic in introducing it, that energy seemed palpable in the room. We are not “required” to do this by Presbytery or anyone else. We need not prepare and submit a formal report to anyone for approval. Engaging this endeavor will be by the congregation, for the well-being of the congregation. In other words: **THIS IS A GOOD THING TO DO!**

Like most things, this will not be completed overnight. With coordinated and dedicated effort, however, it is realistic that we could discern findings and recommendations by the end of the year or by this time in the new year.

Some aspects involved include gathering the stories of this church, interpreting the data on the people and area around the church, and sensing the needs and trends this church can serve now and in the near future, especially those of which we may not yet be aware.

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AT THE OPEN DOOR

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By April 19, 2026

LECTIONARY

April 5

Easter Sunday
Acts 10:34–43 or Jeremiah
31:1–6
Psalm 118:1–2, 14–24
Colossians 3:1–4 or Acts
10:34–43
John 20:1–18 or Matthew
28:1–10

April 12

Acts 2:14a, 22–32
Psalm 16
1 Peter 1:3–9
John 20:19–31

April 19

Acts 2:14a, 36–41
Psalm 116:1–4, 12–19
1 Peter 1:17–23
Luke 24:13–35

April 26

Acts 2:42–47
Psalm 23
1 Peter 2:19–25
John 10:1–10

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SCHEDULE

- ◆ Palm Sunday Worship Service, Sunday, March 29th, 11:00 AM, Sanctuary
- ◆ Maundy Thursday Agape Meal, Thursday, April 2nd, 6:30 PM, Fellowship Hall
- ◆ Maundy Thursday Communion Service, Thursday, April 2nd, 7:00 PM, Chapel
- ◆ Good Friday Cross Walk, Friday, April 3rd, 3:00 PM, Succasunna United Methodist Church
- ◆ Easter Sunday, April 5th
Sunrise Service, 6:30 AM, Horseshoe Lake Pavillion, the Rev. Steven Yun (SUMC) preaching. Breakfast to follow at FPCS Fellowship Hall
- ◆ Easter Worship Service, 11:00 AM, Sanctuary



Maundy Thursday Service Thursday, April 2, 2026

Join us at 6:30pm for our Agape Meal in Fellowship Hall followed at 7:00pm for our Communion Service in the Chapel. Please bring fruit-dried and/or fresh, cheese, veggies, olives ready to be plated. No nuts please!

The Deacons will put together platters to be shared along with grape juice and bread. Worship and communion will be held after the meal in the Chapel. All are welcome.

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE April 5th at Horseshoe Lake Pavilion

Everyone is invited to our Easter Sunrise Service on April 5, 2026 at 6:30am at Horseshoe Lake, 72 Eyland Avenue, Succasunna. The service will be held on “the island” near the pavilion, along the shoreline. What a glorious way to start Easter by watching the sunrise over the lake!

Join us after services at 7:10am for breakfast at the First Presbyterian Church, 99 Main Street, Succasunna. Enjoy eggs, pancakes, sausage, etc. along with fellowship with others gathered for the delicious meal. A minimal charge will be collected.



MONDAY MORNINGS WEEKLY AT 11AM

All are welcome to Bible study on Monday mornings at 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. All you need to bring is a curious mind and an appreciation for lively discussion. Our study and discussion is led by Pastor Tim. 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.

PS: Many thanks to the Deacons for serving us breakfast on Monday, March 9. What a delicious treat!



Fun and Friends Saturday, April 11th, 7pm

FPCS is reviving our Fun and Friends adult fellowship group! Our last event was a Pickle Party in October 2019, so it has been too long!

All adults, singles or couples, from Boomers to Gen Z, are invited to join in an evening of fun, games, food, and Christian fellowship on Saturday, April 11th, at 7:00 PM. Questions or to RSVP, email jgruezke@gmail.com.



FPCS Earth Fest!

Earth Day will be celebrated during the April 19th Worship service. Following worship, we'll continue the celebration at Earth Fest 2026, with games, crafts, education, activities, and refreshments, as we praise God for His awesome creation!

We'll also have a mini swap meet for books, games, and puzzles. Bring any of these that you aren't using anymore, and swap them for something new to you! And we'll celebrate our success in the Earth Care Lenten Series, too!

God calls us to be stewards of His creation!

Congregational Updates

The Membership Committee is in the process of updating information for our members and friends. So if you see one of us with a laptop during Fellowship Time, please stop by to update or confirm your information! It will only take a moment! Thank you in advance for your participation. We appreciate your time!

~ Jean Gruezke, Dawn Ward, Kim Gedicke, Natalie Lowry



Prayers & Joys

Prayers needed for:

Renee M.; Christina S.; Edward S.; Sohail A.; Vince recovering from surgery; Don Seeger and family; Jean having eye surgery; Betsy who completed chemo; the Johnsons dealing with Mrs J's ongoing health issues; Dave Kiminkinen recovering from a fall; Fe recovering from surgery; Ron undergoing tests; Brodie's shoulder surgery; Steve Buldiger, with stents following a heart attack

Community/World Prayers:

For all impacted by the horrors of war; for kindness and acceptance; for reconciliation amid the differences and divisions within the township; for survivors of the attack at the synagogue in Michigan

Joys:

For the joy of Carol joining FPCS



SESSION SNIPPETS:

From the February Session meeting:

Session approved the following:

- Motion to provide a stipend, from the spiritual development fund, to the leaders of the upcoming Lenten retreat on March 21st
- Motion to support community issues by way of communicating events with our membership
- Motion to name all members of session as commissioners to Presbytery and serve as needed throughout 2026
- Motion to replace the cemetery office computer

Informational Items:

- Next Session Meeting will be held Wednesday, March 11th at 7:00 PM in the room upstairs outside Pastor Tim's office - Please note this is the SECOND Wednesday of March

Upcoming Events:

- March 1st - Blood Drive (held by the Deacons)
- March 21st - Lenten Retreat
- March 22nd - Bach in the Subway

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TO BEGIN, WE NEED A SMALL GROUP OF PEOPLE (NO MORE THAN 6) TO BE THE "DISCERNMENT TEAM," INTERESTED AND COMMITTED TO THE PROCESS.

We would meet no more than monthly, and plan 3 times to seek intentional conversation and participation from the broader congregation. The Discernment Team would be comprised of a cross-section of the congregation: spanning age ranges as well as involving people with both a lengthy personal history with this church and those who may have more somewhat recently become part of the faith community here. If what you are reading is sparking something within you, let me know! If I tap you on the shoulder or send an email or text, please consider the invitation to be part of this good thing.

As you may imagine, I have read plenty of books (and more articles) and attended various workshops, all of which could be broadly tied to the theme of "Church Vitality." We are part of the church because it matters to us. We experience joy and comfort and friendship here. It has long been my conviction that church needs to be relevant and accessible to people. The purpose of participating in these conversations is, ultimately, to discern and demonstrate how this church is and will be relevant and accessible to both existing and prospective members moving forward together. **CONSIDER BEING PART OF THIS GOOD THING TO DO!**



One Great Hour of Sharing

What Does the Lord Require of You "... To Do Justice ... " – MICAH 6:8

During worship in Lent we have shared the stories of individuals and families who have been helped by One Great Hour of Sharing. They are just some of the millions of people around the world whose lives have been changed for the better by our gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing. It has made a difference in communities who lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. It serves those facing the dire consequences of natural disaster, hunger, poverty, climate change, and immigration/migration. One Great Hour of Sharing provides people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

We are all aware of the many ways our church strives to ensure that all of God's people can flourish. Because we believe that all people are created and loved by God, our faith compels us to work toward justice for all, in the way of Christ Jesus. This is what the Lord requires of us - to do justice, but also to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.

This Easter season, let us do our part to be the Church together by supporting One Great Hour of Sharing. We will receive One Great Hour of Sharing on Palm Sunday, March 29, but your gifts are welcome at any time. Please give prayerfully and generously. If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.



ROXBURY SOCIAL SERVICES

Milk and Eggs to Feed Hungry Families

Wednesdays, April 1 and 15

Help Roxbury Social Services Feed Families in our Community!

We are making regular donations of milk and eggs to Roxbury Social Services on the **first and third Wednesday** of the month.



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 morning 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.

These donations help those in our community who struggle with providing food for themselves and their families. Thank you for your continued support!

DEACONS DOINGS

- In March, we hosted a community blood drive, which resulted in 41 units of life-giving blood. All who donated were thanked with an assortment of homemade soups.
- Deacons Rick, Sue, and John served breakfast to our Monday Bible study participants.
- We are hosting the annual Agape Meal on Thursday, April 2. Please arrive at 6:15 with a ready-to-serve contribution of dried or fresh fruit, cubes of cheese, veggie sticks, or olives to be added to the platters. No nuts please! The meal will begin at 6:30, followed by worship at 7:00.
- We are sponsoring LifeLine screening on April 14.
- Let one of the Deacons know if you would like support with soup or cards.

Knife Sharpening? Jewelry Cleaning? Video Conversion?

Jim Ritchey is offering these services to church members for free!

Have your kitchen knives or scissors sharpened.

- Have your jewelry cleaned in an ultrasonic cleaner.
- Have your home movies converted from VHS or VHS-C to digital.

Contact Jim for details – jritchey@optonline.net.

FPCS Summer Schedule

It's not too early to add the church's summer schedule to your calendar!



- **June 7 & 28** – Weather permitting, our **11:00 AM** service will be held outdoors under God's glorious maple tree behind the church building.
- **July & August** – Summer worship services move to **9:00 AM** in the sanctuary.
- **September 6 & 27** – We return to outdoor worship at **11:00 AM**, weather permitting.

We hope you'll join us!



CATHERINE "CATY" GREENE

EYEWITNESS TO THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Saturday, April 11, 2026, 10:30am
Roxbury Arts Alliance Citizens Bank Theater
72 Eyland Avenue, Succasunna

Carol Simon Levin portrays Catherine "Caty" Greene, the indomitable wife of Nathanael Greene, one of Gen. George Washington's most valued officers.

Light refreshments available at 10am, show starts at 10:35am. Entrance is through the Roxbury Senior Citizen Center. Sponsored by the Ferro Monte Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution. Special thanks to the Roxbury Arts Alliance for use of their theater. Let's celebrate America's 250th!!



SPRING AEROBIC DANCING CLASSES

An exhilarating fitness program that is a COMPLETE body workout as effective as it is fun!

This three-part program designed by Jackie Sorenson includes:

- Great abdominal workout.
- Weight training to strengthen your muscles, bones, and heart.
- Dynamic cardiovascular dance routines set to a wide variety of current popular music.

Come "sweat & smile" with us as you work out on your own individual level!

- Monday and Wednesday mornings at 9 am in Fellowship Hall.
- For more information, contact Annette Buzzelli (instructor) 973-927-9326.

FPCS April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 SS Milk/Eggs 9 AM-noon Office Open 9-10 AM <i>Aerobics Class</i> 5:30 PM Membership 7 PM Session	2 9 AM-noon Office Open 6:30-7 PM Agape Meal 7-8 PM Maundy Thursday Communion Service	3 3:00 PM Cross Walk at SUMC	4 12:30-6:30 PM <i>Mosaic Art Studio</i>
5 6:30 AM Easter Sunrise Service, Horseshoe Lake 7:10 AM Easter Breakfast, Fellowship Hall 11 AM Worship	6 9-10 AM <i>Aerobics Class</i>	7 7:30-8:30 PM <i>Roxbury Arts Association</i>	8 9 AM-noon Office Open 9-10 AM <i>Aerobics Class</i>	9 9 AM-noon Office Open	10	11 7:00- 9:00 PM Fun & Friends Adult Fellowship RSVP to the church office
12 10 AM Bible Study 11 AM Worship 11:15 AM Sunday School 12-1 Journey Circle Kitchen Clean-up	13 9-10 AM <i>Aerobics Class</i> 11 AM - noon Bible Study 6 PM Journey Circle	14 8:00 AM – 5:30 PM Lifeline Screenings	15 SS Milk/Eggs 9 AM-noon Office Open 9-10 AM <i>Aerobics Class</i> 6 PM Mission Committee	16 9 AM-noon Office Open 7-8 PM Chime Choir	17	18 12:30-6:30 PM <i>Mosaic Art Studio</i> <u>*Open Door Articles Due*</u>
19 10 AM Bible Study ⁴ 11 AM Worship 11:15 AM Sunday School 12-1 PM Earth Fest 2026	20 9-10 AM <i>Aerobics Class</i> 11 AM - noon Bible Study	21	22 9 AM-noon Office Open 9-10 AM <i>Aerobics Class</i>	23 9 AM-noon Office Open 7-8 PM Chime Choir	24	25
26 10 AM Bible Study 11 AM Worship 11:15 AM Sunday School	27 9-10 AM <i>Aerobics Class</i> 11 AM - noon Bible Study	28	29 9 AM-noon Office Open 9-10 AM <i>Aerobics Class</i>	30 9 AM-noon Office Open 7-8 PM Chime Choir		



You're invited to a Life Line Screening event!

Where: Succasunna -
First Presbyterian Church
When: Tuesday, April 14, 2026

Life Line Screening is the nation's leader in **Stroke and Cardiovascular Disease Risk** Screenings.

Trusted by over 11 million customers.

Screenings are simple and painless. Get peace of mind or early detection.

Who should attend:
Anyone **age of 40+**

Special Pricing for \$129

- ♥ Carotid Artery Disease Screening
- ♥ Atrial Fibrillation Screening
- ♥ Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening
- ♥ Peripheral Artery Disease Screening

4 ways to book your appointment...

Call **800-324-9458** and use
promo code **HABC001**

Visit  LLSA.SOCIAL/HABC



Text the word **"circle"**
to **216-279-1607**

These tests cannot detect all risk factors for all conditions, such as and including the presence of coronary artery disease. Those with abnormal results should discuss possible next steps with their family healthcare provider and ensure they understand the risk and benefits of any additional testing or procedures.