

THE OPEN DOOR



SPREAD THE WORD

I thoroughly enjoy the prayer, preparation, and presentation of each sermon. Once asked what I pray before delivering a message, I responded – not unlike what Mr. Rogers prayed before each episode of Mr. Rogers’s Neighborhood – that I hope that something of what I am given to share is what someone needs to hear that day.



A lot of thought and effort is invested in each sermon, and then...it’s over. Think of everything that goes into cooking Thanksgiving dinner, then...it’s over.

I wondered how a sermon may continue to reach people after a worship service concludes. How may people of the church have access to review and revisit a sermon that raised questions and evoked thought? How may a message that matters reach people beyond the congregation?

Having considered it for a while, in July I created a place online where the manuscripts of each week’s sermon will be posted after the worship service. I invite the congregation to visit the site. Subscribers will receive an email each time something new is posted (hopefully weekly). There is no cost to subscribe and it would be great if subscribers then share the invitation and access with as many people as possible. Eventually, I may create a “paywall” to include archived sermons or original song lyrics, but accessing that will be optional. The beginning of each sermon notes FPCS, making this another way to pique the interest of those who have yet to experience this wonderful place.

To find the site, go to: pastortimc.substack.com. Happy reading and sharing!

~ Pastor Tim

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AT THE OPEN DOOR

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By September 19, 2026

AUGUST LECTIONARY

Sunday, August 2

Genesis 32:22–31
Psalm 17:1–7, 15
Romans 9:1–5
Matthew 14:13–21

Sunday, August 9

Genesis 37:1–4, 12–28
Psalm 105:1–6, 16–22, 45b
Romans 10:5–15
Matthew 14:22–33

Sunday, August 16

Genesis 45:1–15
Psalm 133
Romans 11:1–2a, 29–32
Matthew 15:[10–20] 21–28

Sunday, August 23

Exodus 1:8–2:10
Psalm 124
Romans 12:1–8
Matthew 16:13–20

Sunday, August 30

Exodus 3:1–15
Psalm 105:1–6, 23–26, 45b
Romans 12:9–21
Matthew 16:21–28



Summer Services

During August, Sunday Worship will be at 9am rather than our usual 11am; these services will be indoors.

In September, we return to 11am Worship indoors. Weather permitting, we will worship outside under God's glorious maple tree on September 6th and September 27th.



HARVEST PRODUCE FOR AMERICA'S GROW A ROW

Monday, August 3 - 7:30am to 1:30pm

Get ready to be tired, dirty and happy as we harvest crops for local food banks. This activity is open to volunteers of all ages and is a great opportunity for families to experience hands-on mission work together! We will meet bright and early, at 7:30 a.m., in the church parking lot and carpool to the farm. Orientation starts at 9:00 a.m. and harvesting shortly after. We will be done by about noon and plan to have a picnic lunch nearby, so please bring a bagged lunch and beverage. A stop for ice cream on the way back to the church is our traditional post-harvest treat!

Please look for a sign-up email through Breeze from Kathy Ritchey or you may contact Kathy directly at kritchey@optonline.net Hope to see you on the harvesting team this summer! Click here to learn more about [America's Grow a Row](#).



MONDAY MORNING

Mark your calendar for Monday, September 21 and join us at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall for Monday Morning Bible study lead by Pastor Tim. Information on our Fall study topic will be announced in the September Open Door.



Prayers & Joys

Prayers:

Rose S.; Marie; Henry; Jean's grandson Michael Raymond, improving after a return to the hospital; Madison Van Orden, at home recovering from surgery; Janet Lordi recovering from cataract procedures; Katherine B. and her baby; Christopher L.; Jane E., continuing treatment for cancer; Jamie; Dana; Baby Lily; Bob Criswell, back at Merry Heart and receptive to visits; Ash, who recently had surgery; Tara, having an upcoming test; Cheryl; Surgeries for Bob and Dawn G.; eleven-year-old Adelaide fighting for her life following a brain aneurysm; Robert, in hospital for pneumonia.

All impacted by the Canadian wildfires; safety for all who are traveling; a resolution on the matter of converting space in Roxbury to an ICE detention center; many in the community impacted by the recent intense heat and storms that took power down for many and damaged homes; including Kristyn.

Condolences to the families of:

Lynnda Schulte; Marie Scrivo; Bob Fullerton (7/12/26); Danielle Lopez; Loyal, a three-year-old who did not survive a choking episode.

Joys:

Pastor Tim's conversation with Silas Ridgway, who is beginning his ministry with Young Life; Dawn Ward's birthday on 7/12; Lauren's vocal solo on 7/12; Jean's grandson's health improving; the liberty and responsibility of living in this country; answered prayer for a relative to be discharged home from the hospital; update on Max, a child in need of a liver donor, his mother is eligible to be his donor; Amelia Medici's birthday on 7/17; appreciation for all who are participating in the Family Promise mission effort to feed three families.



SESSION SNIPPETS:

From the July Session Meeting:

Session Approved the following:

- Motion to approve days off for Pastor Tim - he will be off Aug 1, Aug 19, Aug 24, Aug 26
- Motion to approve building use requests
- Motion to approve worship-related lawn signs for in front of sanctuary
- Sept 13th – colonial impersonator, as the rain location
- Sept 15th – Lifeline medical testing
- Dec 19th – Wreaths Across America

Informational items:

- Next Session Meeting will be held Wednesday, August 5th at 7:00 PM in the room upstairs outside Pastor Tim's office



ROXBURY SOCIAL SERVICES

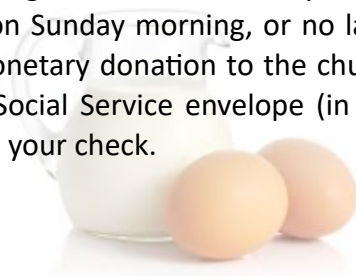
Milk and Eggs to Feed Hungry Families

Wednesdays, August 5 and 19

Summer Donations are Important!

To donate milk and eggs, 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 for your donations and support!



DEACONS DOINGS

The Deacons took a little rest in July, but we're gearing up for two big events.

First is a Blood Drive on Sunday, August 2. Blood banks are very low right now, so if you are able to donate, join us and be treated to an ice cream sundae (along with NYBC treats).

Second is our annual church picnic on Sunday, September 6. The festivities will take place inside and outside Fellowship Hall. Burgers, hotdogs, and beverages will be provided by the Deacons. You are asked to bring a side dish to share. There will be games and time to share summer memories with friends.

We continue to support our First Friends and others with soup, cards, and visits. If you would like soup or a visit, please let one of the Deacons know. Are you having surgery or feeling down? Please reach out.

Your Board of Deacons: Cindy Medici (Moderator), Sue Anderson, Ken Johnston, Rick Lansing, Kathy Ritchey, Bevin Robertiello, John Summers, Dawn Ward, Addison Brodsky, and Lexi Brodsky



Summer Mission Experience Update

Feeding Families at Family Promise – July 18-21

We planned, shopped and delivered a week's worth of groceries for three families who are being temporarily housed by Family Promise of Morris County. No small task, but we had many helpers who made it relatively "light work". Many thanks to all who participated or made donations. The families were most grateful! [Click here](#) to learn more about Family Promise.

Tri Harder Kids Triathlon

FPCS volunteers helped with registration at the Tri-Harder Triathlon at Horseshoe Lake on June 25.

Sing a New Song



My interest in music - and guitars in particular - began in childhood when I discovered Elvis and the Beatles and learned my uncle had been playing since his teenage years in the late 1950s. I enjoy those occasions to play with my cover band, aptly named the Altar Egos since it began among members of a church, and am grateful for the privilege of adding some strumming to the ministry of worship at church.

Over the years, I have written some original songs. Among the more recent of these was one directly inspired by a conversation and relationship with Freddy Pisorchik, son of Fred and Georganne. Following their passings, Freddy graciously decided to move to upstate New York, making room for his newlywed niece and her husband to begin their life together as the next generation to call the residence home.



Talking with Freddy over coffee before his move, I suspected transitioning from the place he had called home for practically his entire life may have been full of emotion. In classically Freddy style, he casually responded, "Well, I have my memories...at least the ones I remember." Instantly, it hit me. "That'll be a song!"

With Freddy's blessing, the words and melody came to me. It went over well at a local open mic I play and Jane kindly invited me to include it in worship. While I had reservations - it is not overtly religious - I was grateful for the opportunity. The line between the religious and the secular is an artificial construct; all of what we are and what we share is invariably related to and reflective of the Divine Source. Whether you interpret Freddy's Song as literally about the house or metaphorically about anything we value and appreciate and eventually leave, I hope it speaks to some part of you!

~ Pastor Tim

Freddy's Song

March 30, 2026

BENEATH THESE RUGS THERE WAS HARDWOOD
HELD ON TO MORE, PERHAPS, THAN WE SHOULD
DIFFERENCES END WHEN IT'S TIME TO
SURRENDER

I'VE GOT MY MEMORIES...AT LEAST THE ONES I REMEMBER

THIS OLD PLACE HAS GOOD BONES / TIME
TOGETHER ; TIME SPENT ALONE
THERE WERE TIMES TO BE ROUGH / AND
TIMES TO BE TENDER

I'VE GOT MY MEMORIES...AT LEAST THE ONES I REMEMBER

GRATEFUL MUSIC PLAYED ; GRATEFUL PRAYERS
WERE PRAYED
THERE'S WHAT WE TAKE; THERE'S WHAT WE
RENDER

I'VE GOT MY MEMORIES...AT LEAST THE ONES I REMEMBER

THIS GARDEN SAW MANY THINGS GROW
A PLACE TO NOURISH BODY AND SOUL
THERE WERE TIMES TO SAVE ,TIMES TO BE BIG
SPENDERS

I'VE GOT MY MEMORIES...AT LEAST THE ONES I REMEMBER

THE TRUNK HOLDS ALL THE SECRETS /
MYSTERY AS GOOD AS IT GETS
THERE WAS MAJOR DAMAGE; TIMES THAT BENT
THE FENDERS

I'VE GOT MY MEMORIES...AT LEAST THE ONES I REMEMBER

WHEN YOU HEAR THE FLOOR CREAK; LISTEN TO IT
SPEAK
SOMETHINGS YOU'LL BORROW; SOMETIMES BE A
LENDER

I'VE GOT MY MEMORIES...AT LEAST THE ONES I REMEMBER

THIS ONCE WAS MINE; IT'S YOURS NOW
YOUR STORY WILL UNFOLD HERE SOMEHOW
THERE WILL BE THINGS LIFE WILL DELIVER
SOME DAYS YOU'LL BE THE SENDER

I'VE GOT MY MEMORIES...AT LEAST THE ONES I REMEMBER



THE BOTTOM LINE

Income rose somewhat in June, but our expenses did, too. This year, maintenance and inspection fees for our fire & security systems have cost over \$3,000. Heat has cost \$13,000. Insurance has cost \$6,000.

Cleaning has cost \$4,000. By the end of June, we were about \$3,000 in the red, despite having tapped our reserves for \$9,000 by then. And, we needed another infusion in early July. So, we're not really keeping up.

We have many faithful donors, though the bulk of the weight is being borne by a relative few. That's not uncommon since some donors are in a stronger financial position than others. But we can't run a deficit forever. If you're behind in your giving, please try to catch up. If you are able, please help us avoid tapping our reserves further. Everyone should have received a mid-year statement in early July indicating their progress.

On the plus side, worship attendance has been good this summer. Our Summer Mission Adventure is underway; hands are at work demonstrating "The Good News". And the floor in Fellowship Hall looks great (thanks to a generous donor!). There is much for which to be grateful. Let's all demonstrate our faith and gratitude!

Jim Ritchey, Treasurer; Bob Fellows, Assistant Treasurer; Elder Janet Lordi, Finance Committee

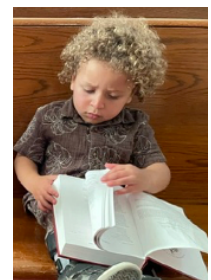
CHOIR UPDATES



Rehearsal for our music programs will resume in September. If you would like to sing and/or ring chimes, now is the time to plan it into your fall schedule. Several of the psalms tell us to "make a joyful noise unto the Lord", "Praise the Lord with sound of the trumpet and strings", "Sing out with joy".

Our choir helps lead everyone in the singing of hymns, which is especially helpful as we add new hymns to our repertoire. We will also learn some anthems to sing on selected Sundays. Rehearsals will begin on Sundays at 10 AM, starting September 13.

The chime choir rehearses once per week and plays on occasional Sundays, as well as special celebrations. It is a fun way to be a part of producing instrumental music, even if you have never played an instrument before. You do not need to know how to read music – we highlight all the places to play and rehearse all the music thoroughly. We have been practicing on Thursdays at 7; however, we are open to switching to Tuesdays if you cannot come on Thursdays. We need 3 more members to be able to effectively play the level of music we have achieved. I hope to start rehearsals the week of September 21, so please contact me at janemaryor@gmail.com or text 973-727-8397.



If you play an instrument, please let me know and contact me at the above information so we can incorporate you into our worship services.

All of us lead busy lives, so we try to be flexible and rehearse music early enough so that we can accommodate these busy schedules. If you have questions, concerns or suggestions, please contact me at the above information.

LITTLE FREE PANTRY COMES TO FPCS



The Mission Committee would like to start a Little Free Pantry to help those in our community who are struggling with meeting their food and personal care needs. As you may have guessed, a Little Free Pantry works like a Little Library, except instead of books the “libraries” are filled with non-perishable food and personal care items. Since a Little Food pantry is limited in scope, variety and quantity, it is not intended to replace food pantries like Roxbury Social Services. It is a safety net created for those who may not have access to local food banks. It is neighborhood based and available around the clock to those in need.

From [Little Free Pantry.org](http://LittleFreePantry.org): *Whether giving or taking, everyone approaches the Little Free Pantry the same way, mediating the shame that often accompanies need.*

How does it work? To start, the Little Free Pantry will be a large cooler placed on the front porch outside the chapel, filled with non-perishable, canned food and personal care items. The cooler will be available 24/7 to anyone who wants to donate or needs to supplement their food supply or personal care needs.

How can you participate? We are asking members of our congregation to bring their non-perishable items listed here to the church on or by Sunday, September 6.

Please note we are collecting items as listed, no substitutions. All items must be unexpired.

- Canned vegetables
- Canned soups
- Canned proteins including peanut butter
- Personal care items – feminine products, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, body wash, shampoo, conditioner, in small containers. No razors or sharp items

Please limit your donations to this list. If you have questions about the Little Food Pantry, please reach out to anyone on the Mission Committee. Be sure to spread the word about our Little Food Pantry with family, friends, and neighbors and on social media!

The Mission Committee – Jean Gruezke, Shannon Goldstein, Natalie Lowry, Cindy Medici, Bevin Robertiello, Kathy Ritchey



Church Gardens Spruced Up!

Have you taken a good look at our church gardens recently? They’ve been weeded, shrubs pruned and beds mulched. On Saturday, June 27 at 8:30am the work began and by 11am a yard of mulch was spread in our garden beds! Kudos to our gardening crew: Addison and Lexi Brodsky, Cathy Fellows, Cindy Medici, Jim Ritchey, Pastor Tim, Kelly and Rihanna Van Orden and Dawn Ward. Thanks to all who helped that day and in the weeks prior to prune, plant, remove unwanted weeds, and provide tools: Bob Doyle, Dan Dyrness and Kathy Ritchey. We may do some fall planting, so if you have any perennials you’d like to donate, please contact Kathy Ritchey.

OLDE SUCRASUNNY DAY

SEPTEMBER 19TH!

Community Connections Committee (CCC) Needs YOUR Help!

We are busy planning for a bigger and better presence at our church this year! We'd love your help in planning, donating, and working the event. An email with detailed signup information will be forthcoming early August.

What's in the works?

- All of our past tried-and-true things - walking tacos, kids games, and of course our sale of baked goods and drinks
- NEW things being considered (no promises - we haven't decided yet!) -
 - a scavenger hunt
 - root beer floats
 - pie contest (we bake the pies, patrons can taste & vote)
 - "need prayer?" - prayer request station, we lift them up on Sunday during worship
 - coloring for Merry Heart
 - and - just possibly - ring the bell!
- Expanded information on our church - the CCC is creating reusable posters showcasing some of the great things about our missions, members, and activities. We'll have information about future events and joining our congregation.

How can YOU help?

- PLAN - Help us plan the events listed above!
- DONATE - we are collecting the following -
 - drinks - 12-oz cans of soda (ice tea & lemonade OK too) and juice boxes - stick to the main brands & flavors please!
 - prizes for kids games
 - monetary donations to go towards any of the above
- PARTICIPATE - mark your calendars to work with us during the event! We always have a lot of fun with each other and with the community!
 - Set-up Fri - we'll need crews on Friday evening and early Saturday morning to mark out spaces for vendors, move tables, set up tents
 - Set-up Sat - early Saturday morning we'll need to set up all of our activities, information, food, and more
 - Sat 10-4 - run all of our wonderful activities & food booths!
 - Break-down - clean up and put everything away.
 - *We still need leaders for each area (walking tacos is already covered by the Mission committee).*

Have questions? Have some great ideas? Reach out to Dana, Natalie, or Dawn!

OLDE SUCCASUNNY DAY

SEPTEMBER 19TH!

We're selling Walking Tacos 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 Succasunny Day!

What can I do? Contribute taco ingredients or donate towards the purchase of ingredients.

Who's preparing and serving? Taco team volunteers are needed to serve the tacos on Succasunny Day. Please look for the sign-up email 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!



Upcoming Concerts at Citizens Bank Theater

72 Eyland Ave, Succasunna - roxburyartsalliance.org

The Liberty Tree

Aug 01, 2026, 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM

Celebrate 250 years of American freedom with the great songs and stories of days gone by with singer-guitarist Charlie Zahm, fiddler Tad Marks and Steve Hobson.

Worldbeat Music - The Chuck Wood Group

Aug 23, 2026, 4:00 PM – 5:45 PM

A vibrant celebration of rhythm and culture, the Chuck Wood Group blends global musical traditions into an unforgettable live experience that is both uplifting and deeply engaging.

Songs of Hope, Freedom and America with Gathering Time

Aug 29, 2026, 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM

Relive the unforgettable harmonies and timeless songs of the 1960s and '70s as Gathering Time brings the music of Peter, Paul & Mary, Simon & Garfunkel, and more.



You're invited to a Life Line Screening event!

Where: Succasunna – First Presbyterian Church
When: Tuesday, September 15, 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](https://llsa.social/habc)
- Scan the QR code or 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.



Tribute to Veterans

Rehearsals start October 11th

The Ferro-Monte Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution is sponsoring a tribute to Veterans on Saturday, November 14 at 2 PM at the First Presbyterian Church of Succasunna on 99 Main St. We will be forming a community choir to sing patriotic and other appropriate music.

Rehearsals will be on Sunday afternoons, 4-5 PM on October 11, 25 and November 8 at the First Presbyterian Church. Come pay tribute to our veterans through joyful music! This choir is open to anyone of any age who would like to sing, so spread the word to your friends and neighbors. For more information or to join, please email janemaryor@gmail.com so that we will have music ready for you.



Cemetery Tour 2026

Saturday, October 17th

This year's cemetery tour promises to be our best one yet! In the spirit of celebrating our great country's 250th anniversary, we will be highlighting our church's and town's ties to our country's revolutionary era and other history. If you have any ideas, let us know!

If you'd like to get involved with the event planning and "spirit" creation, please reach out. We'd love some fresh perspectives as we work to make this cemetery tour one to remember! Reach out to Dana Dyrness-Haughey Or Natalie Lowrey.

FPCS August 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9 AM Worship 9 AM-3 PM Blood Drive	3 7:30 AM-noon Summer Mission Adventure: America's Grow-A-Row	4 7:30-8:30 PM <i>Roxbury Arts Association</i>	5 SS Milk/Eggs 9 AM-noon Office Open 7 PM Session	6 9 AM-noon Office Open	7 6:00-9:30 PM <i>Mosaic Art Studio</i>	8 10:00 AM-6:00 PM <i>Mosaic Art Studio</i>
9 9 AM Worship	10	11	12 9 AM-noon Office Open 6 PM Deacons	13 9 AM-noon Office Open	14 10 AM-2 PM Celebration of Life: Lynnda Schulte	15
16 9 AM Worship 10 AM Journey Circle Kitchen Clean-Up	17	18 <i>*Open Door Articles Due*</i>	19 SS Milk/Eggs 9 AM-noon Office Open 6 PM Mission Committee	20 9 AM-noon Office Open	21 6:00-9:30 PM <i>Mosaic Art Studio</i>	22 10:00 AM-6:00 PM <i>Mosaic Art Studio</i>
23 9 AM Worship	24	25	26 9 AM-noon Office Open	27 9 AM-noon Office Open	28	29
30 9 AM Worship	31					