



September 2026

THE OPEN DOOR



WORLD COMMUNION OFFERING

“What does the Lord require of you ... to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God...” Micah 6:8

Loving kindness is one of the most beautiful threads woven throughout the Old Testament. Repeatedly, we are reminded that the people we meet are not strangers or enemies but beloved children of God. The prophet calls us to recognize the inherent worth of every person, to practice welcome and to make room at the table for all God’s children. This is expressed in action, often involving mercy, faithfulness and steadfast commitment.

This year marks the first time congregations across the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) are invited to receive the World Communion Offering. Through this new Offering, we join with other congregations in supporting the wider church in the work of racial justice, gender justice, peacemaking, global witness, and ecumenical and interfaith relations. In a world that often feels divided, this Offering helps us remember that we belong to one another, even to people we may never meet.

As we enter a Season of Preparation leading up to the Offering, we will learn how our gifts make a difference in answering the prophets’ call to love kindness. We will prepare ourselves for World Communion Sunday, October 4, when we will gather for worship and communion and to receive this Offering. We join with our brother and sisters in Christ across the globe in God’s mission of welcome, justice and hope. We step beyond the boundaries of our neighborhood and into the life of the worldwide church, learning to see God’s image more clearly in one another. You are invited to take part fully in this season and in this Offering, as together we celebrate what it means to belong to a global, connected church shaped by God’s endless love.



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AT THE OPEN DOOR

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LECTIONARY

September 6

Exodus 12:1–14
Psalm 149
Romans 13:8–14
Matthew 18:15–20

September 13

Exodus 14:19–31
Psalm 114 or Exodus
15:1b–11, 20–21
Romans 14:1–12
Matthew 18:21–35

September 20

Exodus 16:2–15
Psalm 105:1–6, 37–45
Philippians 1:21–30
Matthew 20:1–16

September 27

Exodus 17:1–7
Psalm 78:1–4, 12–16
Philippians 2:1–13
Matthew 21:23–32



Community Connections

The next meeting is August 31:

- 6-7pm - Cemetery Tours planning
- 7-8pm - Regular meeting



SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Sunday morning Bible study will resume on Sunday, September 27 at 10am in Fellowship Hall. We will continue our study of the book of Genesis. No prep, knowledge or regular attendance required; join us when you are able. We read a passage from the Bible and discuss it. See Cindy Medici with questions.



Monday Morning Bible Study Begins Monday, September 21st

Mark your calendar for Monday, September 21 and join us at 11am in Fellowship Hall for Monday Morning Bible study lead by Pastor Tim. Information on our Fall study topic be announced soon.



Journey Circle

All women of the church are invited to join Journey Circle, a group that formed in March 2019 as part of the Presbyterian Women organization within PCUSA. Although our church's connection to PW is on hiatus, Journey Circle is still running strong! Our primary purpose is to support one another in both our faith and our life journeys. We meet on the second Monday of the month, gathering at 6pm, followed by a member-led discussion based on a selected book at 6:15, and ending with a time of Fellowship and, of course, tea and treats! We're kicking off the 2026-2027 year with a supper on Monday, September 14th, at 6pm at the church. We hope to see you there! Questions? Contact Cindy at cjmedici@gmail.com or Jean at jgruecke@gmail.com.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PICNIC

Sunday, September 6, 2026

Join us right after our 11am outdoor church service. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Hamburgers and hot dogs and beverages will be provided by the Deacons. There will be lots of fun to have with games and fellowship. It is rain or shine, both inside and outside. Look for more details in your e-mail soon. HOPE to see you all there!

**Prayers needed for:**

Shannon's grandmother, Robert, Judy Treutlein, Henry, Jevan, Doris S., Robert S., Edward S., Ash, Tara, Cheryl, Bob, Dawn G., Loyal, Kendra and Kylie's dad, Tracey and her family

Pray for the families of:

Lynnnda Schulte, Debbie Lance, Adelaide, Tom Cotrell, Daniel Lopez, Jenn Valenti on the loss of her husband

World, National, Community Prayers:

For those recovering from natural disasters in Venezuela, Columbia, Washington state, and Maine and the midwest flooding; for all managing stress, anxiety, and conflict; for expectant parents

Joys:

Max, whose mother can donate part of her liver; Will, Miles and Max Lowry's birthdays; for the anticipation of the wedding of Josh Clarkson and Megan Flynn, and appreciation to the worship committee leading worship while I am away; for Mike moving into his new apartment; for Dan Dyrness's birthday; for the positive experience of the group who went to America's Grow a Row, harvesting 10,000 pounds of corn. Appreciation from Pastor Tim for his time away last week with family and for John Ware preaching August 2. For Sue Anderson, and the good news of her recovering and for Jean's travels to her children and grandchildren.

SESSION SNIPPETS:**From the August Session Meeting:****Session approved the following:**

- Motion to approve a day off for Pastor Tim – October 25th
- Motions to approve building use requests
- Motion to approve \ addition of bench near columbarium in cemetery
- Motion to approve the removal of dead trees in the cemetery
- Motion to approve the repair of the parking lot – hot fill, sealing, and restriping
- December 5th – Roxbury Township – Home for the Holidays
- August 8th – Roxbury Library – summer reading celebration (parking lot, lawn space)

Informational items:

- Next Session Meeting will be held Wednesday, September 2nd at 7:00 PM in the room upstairs outside Pastor Tim's office.

DEACONS DOINGS

The Deacons are keeping busy delivering soup to our First Friends and others. We send cards, call and visit our friends who don't get out that often.

Come to our Church Picnic on Sunday, September 6, 2026 right after our outside 11am church service. The Deacons will provide the hamburgers and hot dogs and beverages. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. It will be outside and inside, rain or shine. There will be games to enjoy. Look for more details to come in your e-mail.

With sadness we note the passing of our long time and active member, Lynnda Schulte. We served her repast meal on August 14th.

Thank you to those who donated blood at our Blood Drive on August 2nd. We were able to supply 36 units of blood.

Tuesday, September 15th we will host another Life Line Screening event. Participants are screened for Stroke and Cardiovascular Disease Risks. If you are interested, please call 800-324-9458 and use promo code NABCO01.

We strive to help our members and community as much as possible. If you need food, company, assistance or some cheering up, please let one of the Deacons know. We would be happy to help.

The Deacons of the FPCS - Cindy, Kathy, Bevan, Sue, Lexi, Addison, Ken, Rick & John



ROXBURY SOCIAL SERVICES

Milk and Eggs to Feed Hungry Families

Wednesdays, September 2 and 16

You can participate by simply picking 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!



Roxbury Arts Alliance

- Sat., Sept. 12, 2026 --Secret Comedy Show
- Sat., Sept. 26, 2026--Hocus Pocus Murder Mystery Dinner

Check www.roxburyartsalliance.com for tickets and further information.

LITTLE FREE PANTRY COMES TO FPCS



The Mission Committee is launching 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.

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.

If you have questions about the Little Free 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

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.”

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

In addition to keeping current rolls for the church, Membership Committee addresses the needs of the congregation by keeping up with members and offering Christian fellowship opportunities.

If you would like to serve on this committee, please contact Jean at jgruezke@gmail.com or Pastor Tim at fpcsrev@optonline.net. And mark your calendars for the following events:

- September 11th, 6 PM: Singles’ Supper, open to all singles in the church. To RSVP or for more information, contact Jean at jgruezke@gmail.com or fpcsunna@optonline.net.
- October 24th, 7 PM: Fun & Friends, open to all adults- young or old, single or partnered!
- December 13th, following Worship: Congregational Christmas Cookie Exchange

OLDE SUCCASUNNY DAY

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH!



WALKING TACOS ARE BACK

We're selling Walking Tacos on Olde Succasunny Day, Saturday, September 19, 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 or donate towards the purchase of ingredients. Please look for the sign-up email coming to your inbox.

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 in your inbox or speak to Kathy Ritchey or Cindy Medici.



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/>

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Olde Suckasunny Day is just around the corner, and we could use your help!

We need are in need of volunteers to donate baked goods and beverages(soda, iced tea, juice boxes, water bottles) for the bake sale, help with set up/take down, prizes for the kids games, and help with different stations throughout day. As always, monetary contributions are welcome as well.

Please see Natalie, Dawn, or Dana for more details. Thank you!

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Our committee is looking for new members! Our responsibilities include:

- Working with Pastor Tim and Jane Rufino to plan services
- Coordinating and enlisting Readers, Ushers, and Fellowship Time hosts
- Coordinating Sunday flower orders and picking them up on Saturdays
- Decorating the sanctuary for Thanksgiving, Advent, Lent, Pentecost, and others
- Decorating the outdoor space
- Arranging for replacements when Pastor Tim or Jane Rufino are absent

If you would like to join the committee, or if you aren't able to join the committee but can help out once in a while, please contact Jean at jgruezeke@gmail.com.

BIBLE STUDY: GETTING BACK INTO THE SWING OF THINGS

Among the most fun aspects of weekdays at FPCS is the Monday morning Bible study. While the relaxed schedule of the summer is a refreshing break, there is something to be said about the combination of prayerful engagement and playful conversation around the tables in Fellowship Hall that happen each week.

The Monday morning Bible study resumes September 21st at 11am.



I have selected a short book of Scripture – Habakkuk – for the first of several books we will read and discuss from September through the spring of 2027. Habakkuk is all of three chapters long and surprises us with the unsuspected ways in which this relatively obscure prophet engages with God.

How honest, direct, and bold might we be inspired to be once we have explored how Habakkuk interacted with God?

If you have been a consistent participant in the Bible study, welcome back! If you have not done so previously and are curious, please consider making this a lively part of your week. We enjoy each other's company in the company of our loving God, who blesses us with the Word in Scripture to be - and stay - in relationship with us.

WORSHIP TIME RETURNS TO 11AM ON SEPTEMBER 6TH

Thanks to everyone who responded to the sign in front of the church this summer announcing The Early Bird Gets the WORD. It may have been super early for some, but it was cooler in the sanctuary for the summer months.



As of September 6th, we return to gathering for worship at 11am.

If you would like to be an usher or reader for Sunday worship, or host Fellowship Hour on a given day, please sign up online or speak with a member of the worship committee.

As is often said in a Call to Worship: Let us worship God together!

THE DISCERNMENT TEAM ASKS YOU TO SHARE YOUR CHURCH STORY SEPTEMBER 13TH

The Discernment Team continues its work of sensing who God created this church to be, where Jesus is at work here, and where the Holy Spirit is inviting us forward. With all this in mind, like the Timeline event from several months ago, **the next congregational conversation will be after worship on September 13th**. The team would like to hear your story of this church – your memories, joys, and recollections of awe, wonder, humor, and hope. Please be thinking about what you recall that you would like the team to know!



LIFE LINE SCREENING®
The Power of Prevention

**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://www.llsa.social/habc)





Scan here

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



Corn is Harvested for America's Grow A Row

As a part of our Summer Mission Adventure, the First Presbyterian Church of Succasunna and Union Hill Presbyterian Church members joined forces for a great cause. On Monday, August 3 we spent the morning at America's Grow-a-Row and helped harvest over 10,000 pounds of corn. That's nearly 42,000 servings of fresh produce for area food banks! We had 15 volunteers of all ages who endured humidity and some light rain, but that didn't stop us!

It was great seeing everyone coming together for the end goal of helping so many others. Click here to learn more about [America's Grow a Row](#).





CHOIR NOTES

Come and Praise the Lord with Music!

We have reached that “new start” time of year – as you plan your schedule, prayerfully consider reserving some time to praise our God through music. The choir is looking for teens and adults to join us on Sunday mornings at 10am. We will learn new hymns to lead our congregation in singing, and practice some special music to sing on selected Sundays. We are understanding that everyone has a busy life, so you won’t be chided for having to miss if something else is happening some weeks. Sanctuary choir begins Sunday, September 13.

Our chime choir is also in need of new members. Our rehearsal time has been on Thursday from 7-8pm but we are open to starting a little later or moving to Tuesday evenings if that is a better night. Chime Choir begins Thursday, September 24.

And, most of all, sing out from your pew! There is no better sound than hearing everyone sing together in songs of joy and praise.

Please contact Jane Rufino with any new ideas or to volunteer at janemaryor@gmail.com.

Veterans Choir

The Ferro-Monte Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution is sponsoring a tribute to Veterans on Saturday, November 14 at 2pm here at the First Presbyterian Church. We will be forming a community choir to sing patriotic and other appropriate music. Rehearsals will be on Sunday afternoons, 4-5pm 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



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 Lowry.

FPCS September 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7:30-8:30 PM <i>Roxbury Arts Association</i>	2 SS Milk/Eggs 9 AM-noon Office Open 5:30 PM Membership 7 PM Session	3 9 AM-noon Office Open	4 6:00-9:30 PM <i>Mosaic Art Studio</i>	5 10:00 AM-6:00 PM <i>Mosaic Art Studio</i>
6 11 AM Worship Noon Church Picnic	7 9-10 AM <i>Aerobics Class</i>	8	9 9 AM-noon Office Open 9-10 AM <i>Aerobics Class</i>	10 9 AM-noon Office Open	11	12
13 10 AM Choir Rehearsal 11 AM Worship 11:15 AM Sunday School	14 12:30 PM Worship 6 PM Journey Circle	15 9 AM <i>Lifeline Screening</i>	16 SS Milk/Eggs 9 AM-noon Office Open 9-10 AM <i>Aerobics Class</i> 6 PM Mission	17 9 AM-noon Office Open	18 <u>*Open Door Articles Due*</u> 6:00-9:30 PM <i>Mosaic Art Studio</i>	19 9 AM-4PM Olde Suckasunny Day! 10:00 AM-6:00 PM <i>Mosaic Art Studio</i>
20 10 AM Choir Rehearsal 11 AM Worship 11:15 AM Sunday School	21 9-10 AM <i>Aerobics Class</i> 11 AM - noon Bible Study	22	23 9 AM-noon Office Open 9-10 AM <i>Aerobics Class</i>	24 9 AM-noon Office Open 7-8 PM Chime Choir	25	26
27 10 AM Choir Rehearsal 10 AM Bible Study 11 AM Worship 11:15 AM Sunday School	28 9-10 AM <i>Aerobics Class</i> 11 AM - noon Bible Study	29	30 9 AM-noon Office Open 9-10 AM <i>Aerobics Class</i>			