



October 2026

THE OPEN DOOR



WE RECEIVE THE WORLD COMMUNION OFFERING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4TH

"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 woven throughout the Old Testament. 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 year marks the first time congregations across the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) PCUSA 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. You can learn more about this offering by viewing this [video](https://vimeo.com/1215798957?fl=pl&fe=sh) (<https://vimeo.com/1215798957?fl=pl&fe=sh>)

On World Communion Sunday, October 4, 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. Please give prayerfully and generously to the World Communion Offering.

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AT THE OPEN DOOR

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*What does the Lord require
of you, but to do justice,*

...to love kindness

and to walk humbly with your God.

Micah 6:8



WORLD COMMUNION
OFFERING



Email November
Open Door
submissions to:

FPCSOpendoor@gmail.com
By October 19, 2026

LECTIONARY

Sunday, October 4

- Exodus 20:1–4, 7–9, 12–20
- Psalm 19
- Philippians 3:4b–14
- Matthew 21:33–46

Sunday, October 11

- Exodus 32:1–14
- Psalm 106:1–6, 19–23
- Philippians 4:1–9
- Matthew 22:1–14

Sunday, October 18

- Exodus 33:12–23
- Psalm 99
- 1 Thessalonians 1:1–10
- Matthew 22:15–22

Sunday, October 25

- Deuteronomy 34:1–12
- Psalm 90:1–6, 13–17
- 1 Thessalonians 2:1–8
- Matthew 22:34–46



Sunday Morning Bible Study

Join us at 10:00 am in Fellowship Hall as we continue our study of Genesis. No prep or regular attendance required. Each week, we read a passage (or a few) of the Bible and dwell in the word.



MONDAY MORNING

What do you know about the Book of Habakkuk?

Hmm...guessing not a lot. Come join us as Pastor Tim leads us in a study of the Book of Habakkuk. We will be gathering in Fellowship Hall each Monday morning at 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. *Please note that we will not be meeting on Monday, October 26 when we will be serving at the Faith Kitchen.* You may join us in person or virtually - a Zoom link will be provided by request.



CHURCH OFFICE NEWS

The office will be closed on October 21st & 22nd; Debbie will be on vacation.

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.



Prayers & Joys

- Thanks for the special music from Bob Fellows and Brian Silviotti last week & the music from Amy Clarkson & Dina Stierli today!
- Jess Lordi starting a new library job
- Theresa having surgery
- The 25th Anniversary of September 11, 2001 – for all those who were affected in large & small ways.
- Jason S
- John C from Massachusetts
- Mike's sister's dog recovering from being hit by a vehicle, and for the vehicle driver, who was shaken by the incident
- Bob Criswell (8/24/26) longtime member of both Calvary PC in Florham Park and FPCS
- Lynnda Schulte (6/27/26)
- Bob Fullerton (7/12/26), Sue's cousin's husband
- Pat Clark, Sue's neighbor (9/6/26) 2 months shy of turning 100
- Xavier, a 12-year old boy in south Jersey, went into a coma after being struck by a baseball during his team warmups. His community invited prayer this morning. He is in a short term facility and still on a ventilator, but showing signs of improvement.
- From a Scout at Olde Succasunny Day: For the memory of his mom who has passed and appreciation for Gina, his father's new partner
- For Janet's brother-in-law Marty, recovering well from surgery
- For the successful Olde Succasunna Day event, everyone who participated in ways large and small, and for the leadership and coordination of Dana and Natalie. The event raised nearly \$2500
- For the joy of today's baptism of Shea Keith Reed
- Appreciation for family
- For parents and family members who have passed
- For the family of Milan Madjarcic
- For Savannah, recovering with complications from surgery
- Delcay with advanced COPD
- Houston undergoing chemo
- Jeffrey diagnosed with multiple myeloma
- Mike, stage 4 stomach cancer
- Healing for Norma and Bob'
- That all may work out positively for a daughter and grandson
- For a couple hoping to conceive and become parents; for all hopeful and expectant parents, including for healing and comfort for a cousin who had a miscarriage
- For a friend navigating anxiety and arguments with her parents
- For Ken Johnston and the circle of friends who recently lost a longtime friend to a sudden heart attack
- For a family in cycles of crisis
- Rich, in need of a liver transplant
- For Pat Mantone and her family, upon her being admitted to the hospital on Wednesday with weakness and decrease in appetite



ROXBURY SOCIAL SERVICES

Milk and Eggs to Feed Hungry Families - Marks 6 Years! **Wednesday, October 7 and 21**

Did you know that we have been donating Milk and Eggs to Roxbury Social Services since 2020? This is our sixth year! That's a lot of eggs and milk for families and individuals in our community.



Thank you to all support this mission effort on a regular basis with donations of milk and eggs or monetary gifts. Kudos to our delivery team – Jean Greuzke, Cathy Fellows, Cindy Medici, Kathy Ritchey and Adrienne Roman who make sure the 10 dozen eggs and 10 half gallons of milk arrive at Roxbury Social Services on the first and third Wednesday morning.

Want to be part of this mission outreach? Here's how it works: 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.



What a beautiful day we had for the picnic on September 6! Thank you for all of the good food and fellowship.

Many thanks to Sue and Kim for showing hospitality at the Lifeline screening on September 15 and for those who helped celebrate the life of Bob Criswell on September 12.

The Deacons continue to reach out to our members and provide soup to our First Friends. We recently provided \$400 worth of school supplies to Roxbury Social Services and have money available to support those who are raising money for other causes, such as Rox-thon and walks for Alzheimers. Reach out to a Deacon (Cindy, Dawn, Kathy, Sue, Ken, Rick, John, Bevin, Lexi, and Addison) with concerns.



SESSION SNIPPETS:

From the September Session Meeting:

Informational items:

- Session is researching and discussing the establishment of an AI policy for the church.
- Session continues discussion on how to structure room use by outside groups, and ensure the structure is within appropriate tax laws.
- Next Session Meeting will be held Wednesday, October 7th at 7:00 PM in the room upstairs outside Pastor Tim's office.

LITTLE FREE PANTRY IS OPEN!



Our Little Free Pantry is open and available to help those in our community who are struggling with meeting their basic food and personal care needs. 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.

How does it work? For now, it's a large cooler placed on the wooden arbor in the garden between the chapel and sanctuary. The pantry is filled with non-perishable, canned food and personal care items. It's available 24/7 to anyone who needs to supplement their food supply or personal care needs.

How can you participate? Be sure to spread the word about our Little Food Pantry with family, friends, and neighbors and on social media! You may bring any of the non-perishable items listed to the church and place them in the grocery cart outside the kitchen door.

Please note we are collecting items as listed, with 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

If you have questions about the Little Food Pantry, please reach out to anyone on the Mission Committee - Jean Gruezke, Shannon Goldstein, Natalie Lowry, Cindy Medici, Bevin Robertiello, and Kathy Ritchey



CHILI IS ON THE MENU AT THE FAITH KITCHEN - Monday, October 26

Our congregation has been asked to prepare a meal for the guests at the Faith Kitchen on Monday, October 26. Your helping hands are needed with donations, cooking and serving.

Calling all Chefs! On Sunday, October 25 at 12pm - We'll gather in the Fellowship Hall kitchen to prepare chili for approximately 90 Faith Kitchen guests. Be sure to bring your apron!

Volunteers to Serve! Monday, October 26 from 9am to 1pm - We'll meet at the church, load up our cars with all the food and fixings, then it's off to the Faith Kitchen to serve!

Donations Needed! by Friday, October 23

- ✓ 28 oz cans of crushed tomatoes
- ✓ 15 oz cans of red kidney beans
- ✓ bananas and oranges

Monetary donations are welcomed for the purchase of supplies and ingredients: rice, ground beef, peppers, onions and spices.

Please check your inbox for a sign-up sheet. You may also contact the church office or Kathy Ritchey if you can lend a hand!

HOPEFUL POSSIBILITIES!



Thank you to everyone who has been sharing thoughts and visions with the Discernment Team. The recent congregational conversation provided plenty of interesting ideas for the faith journey that happens here. While the Team will be meeting this month to process and glean meaning from that information, I want to share just one piece that came to the surface several times, from the different groups around tables in Fellowship Hour that day.

Along with positive memories and expectations of renewal came the appreciation of the space with which we are blessed. Notably, while the congregation values its history and what being here conjures up for each of us personally, there is a current of energy asking, essentially, “How can this wonderful space be used and appreciated in ways that engage the community?”

In other words, those of us who are already here know how special this place is. The responses and conversations suggest a healthy desire that people who have not been here get to know and use the rooms in ways that are beneficial and advance our call to share the love and message of Jesus.

With this in mind – and being clear that this article is premature, as these are purely in the discussion stage – there are some prospective relationships that for the moment I will call Hopeful Possibilities.

A local young man met with me at the church (and again at Olde Succasunny Day) to discuss his ministry of outreach and engagement with high school youth and young adults. While currently operating from another church, FPCS may prove an ideal location for him to set up office space (in the room opposite the Pastor Study upstairs).

A creative group nurturing the giftedness of songwriters is in need of a space for an event in mid-October. The coordinator toured the church and would like to hold the group in the chapel space. This becoming a regular base of operations for this group is a very Hopeful Possibility!

A third Hopeful Possibility, a non profit like those noted above and consistent with what FPCS values, is a town-based program that merges developing Christian faith with providing its participants healthy nutrition.

As each of these Hopeful Possibilities evolves, look and listen for updates. In the meantime, please pray for these and other Hopeful Possibilities that advance the mission and ministry of this church.

Peace, Pastor Tim



THE BOTTOM LINE

As we near the end of the third quarter of 2026, our financial condition for the year is coming into focus. Pledge & Plate income remains positive, but it's being outpaced by rising expenses. Our largest expenses are Heat, Payroll, and Insurance. Our Payroll increases have been modest these past few years (only about 3% per year), but Medical Insurance has risen by about 35% and Heat has risen by almost 85% compared to just two years ago!

To close the gap, we've tapped our reserves for \$17,000 as of early September. That leaves about \$140,000 in our Endowment (mainly the Grob and Manse funds). We have other funds, but they're designated for specific purposes such as Music, Flowers, Organ, and Building, so we can't tap them for operational expenses such as heat or electricity.

With the 2026 Stewardship season upon us, it's time to think about our 2027 giving plans. If you haven't increased your pledge in recent years, this would be a good time. We recognize that families are facing their own price increases on gasoline, groceries, and perhaps college expenses. But if we can raise our pledging for 2027, maybe FPCS can reduce our dependence on our diminishing reserves and hopefully ensure another 275 years at 99 Main Street, Succasunna!

Meanwhile, we hope everyone enjoyed Olde Suckasunny Day, and be sure to sign-up for this year's Cemetery Tour!

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



Remembering Loved Ones

In our Worship Service on November 1st we will have a Time of Remembrance for our loved ones who have gone before us.

During the service, you are invited to light a candle as their names are read. Please let us know the names you would like us to include by completing either the online form found at [Time of Remembrance](#) or the paper form provided in the narthex, placing it in the Offering Plate, or by calling Debbie at the church office at 973-584-5238.

OLDE SUCCASUNNY DAY 2026



Taco Sale a Success!

Succasunny Day on September 19 was another banner year for Walking Taco sales. We broke our previous record and sold over 120 tacos for \$620! After expenses, we expect to send a donation of at least \$450 to the Faith Kitchen. Thank you to all who helped with set-up, donated ingredients, served tacos and pitched-in whenever and wherever needed.



Home for the Holidays Donate Today!

Now is the time to clean out those closets and donate to our Home for the Holidays Décor Sale. Please bring your gently-used holiday and Christmas items including wreathes, ornaments, candles, garland, or trees to the donation area in Fellowship Hall.

Mark your calendar for Saturday, December 5 for our Home for our Home for the Holidays Décor Sale!



Re-purpose, recycle, re-use! First Presbyterian Church of Succasunna is an Earth Care congregation

FPCS October 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9 AM-noon Office Open 7 PM Chimes	2 6:00-9:30 PM <i>Mosaic Art Studio</i>	3 10:00 AM-6:00 PM <i>Mosaic Art Studio</i>
4 10 AM Bible Study 10 AM Choir 11 AM Worship and Sunday School	5 9-10 AM <i>Aerobics Class</i> 11 AM - noon Bible Study	6 7:30-8:30 PM <i>Roxbury Arts Association</i>	7 SS Milk/Eggs 9 AM-noon Office Open 9-10 AM <i>Aerobics Class</i> 5:30 PM Discernment 7 PM Session	8 9 AM-noon Office Open 7 PM Chimes	9	10
11 10 AM Bible Study 10 AM Choir 11 AM Worship and Sunday School 4 PM Veterans' Rehearsal	12 9-10 AM <i>Aerobics Class</i> 11 AM - noon Bible Study 6 PM Journey Circle	13	14 9 AM-noon Office Open 9-10 AM <i>Aerobics Class</i> 6 PM Deacons	15 9 AM-noon Office Open 7 PM Chimes	16 6:00-9:30 PM <i>Mosaic Art Studio</i>	17 10:00 AM-6:00 PM <i>Mosaic Art Studio</i> Moonlight Cemetery Tour!
18 10 AM Bible Study 10 AM Choir 11 AM Worship and Sunday School 12 PM Journey Circle Kitchen Clean-Up	19 <u>*Open Door Articles Due*</u> 9-10 AM <i>Aerobics Class</i> 11 AM - noon Bible Study	20	21 SS Milk/Eggs *Office Closed 9-10 AM <i>Aerobics Class</i> 6 PM Mission	22 *Office Closed 7 PM Chimes	23	24
25 10 AM Bible Study 10 AM Choir 11 AM Worship and Sunday School 12 PM Faith Kitchen Prep 4 PM Veterans' Rehearsal	26 9-10 AM <i>Aerobics Class</i> 9-noon Faith Kitchen Service *No 11 AM Bible Study	27	28 9 AM-noon Office Open 9-10 AM <i>Aerobics Class</i>	29 9 AM-noon Office Open 7 PM Chimes	30 6:00-9:30 PM <i>Mosaic Art Studio</i>	31 10:00 AM-6:00 PM <i>Mosaic Art Studio</i>