

First Presbyterian Church of Succasunna
99 Main Street, Succasunna, NJ 07876
973-584-5238 ~ www.fpcsuccasunna.org



May
2020



THE OPEN DOOR

VIRTUAL WORSHIP

Worship is continuing to happen each Sunday morning at 10:00 am. We are gathering on the church Facebook page and worshipping together using Facebook Live. If you are not on Facebook, the worship service is being uploaded to the church website and Youtube and is available to view usually by 11:30 am. For those that do not have a computer, email, or internet access, we have been mailing a hard copy to your home address. If you are not receiving the worship service in one format or another, please let the church office or Pastor Carie know.



A Daily Devotion email has been going out three times a week. If you are not currently receiving this email and would like to be added, please let Pastor Carie know - pastorcarie25@gmail.com.

Our Thursday evening Lenten series has finished. If you are interested in joining another form of weekly study, learning, conversational type of group, new groups can be created. Just let Pastor Carie know a good day and time of the week, and if there is a specific topic that is of interest to you.

Christian Education: Hopefully by the time this newsletter is sent out, there will be a children's Facebook Live weekly gathering that will also be linked to Youtube and the website.

~ Pastor Carie

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AT THE OPEN DOOR

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By May 19, 2020

LECTIONARY

May 3

4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:42-47; Ps. 23; 1 Peter 2:19-25;
John 10:1-10

May 10

5th Sunday of Easter

Acts 7:55-60; Ps. 31:1-5, 15-16;
1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

May 17

6th Sunday of Easter

Acts 17:22-31; Ps. 66:8-20;
1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

May 24

7th Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:6-14; Ps. 68:1-10, 32-35;
1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11; John
17:1-11

May 31

Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21 or Num. 11:24-30;
Ps. 104:24-34, 35b; 1 Cor. 12:3b-13
or
Acts 2:1-21; John 20:19-23 or John
7:37-39



SHOP RITE GIFT CARDS



Shoprite Gift Cards
can be purchased weekly
by contacting Dick
Schulte; he can be
emailed at
rnsllks@optonline.net.

One Great Hour Sharing Offering

When we all do a little, it adds up to a lot



It's not too late to give to the 2020 One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world. Your gifts are needed now more than ever. OGHS shares God's love with our neighbors in need near and far by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, like the current Covid-19 pandemic, providing food for the hungry, and helping to empower the poor and oppressed.

As of April 18, we have received \$600, thank you! Please help us reach our congregational goal of \$1,600. You may mail your donation to the church, and put in the memo line: OGHS. You may also give online at: <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/make-a-gift/gift-info/oghs/>.

For more information on registration please contact Kathy Ritchey: kritchey@optonline.net



2020 Graduates:

If you're graduating from 8th grade, high school, college or graduate school, please let the church office know by June 1st.

Please share any additional information about your future plans. Just call the church office at 973-584-5238 or email Janet at fpcsunna@optonline.net.

PRAYERS & CONCERNS:

Sue Buldiger	Georganne and Fred Pisorchik
June Teates	Dolores Kiminkinen
Juanita Koch	Geraldine Underhill
Walter McConnell	Elaine Bearley
Stevan Gonzales	Reggie
Alex C.	Eva Roman
Jeff Poissant	Mary Acken
Carol Norton	Jennifer
Carole Rose	
Ed and Therese Loughrey	



Please pray for the families of:

Jim Crupi and Marlene Dodd.

PER CAPITA

EACH year, congregations contribute a gift to the greater church based on church membership numbers. Here, at First Presbyterian Church of Succasunna, we usually receive half of our per capita payment from our church members and the other half has to come out of our budget or reserves. As of the end of March, we have received \$2631 of the total \$6,591. That leaves \$3,960 that we will still need to submit to Newton Presbytery by year's end.

This year's per capita is \$39 per member. If you are able to make your per capita contribution, we would greatly appreciate it. If you are not able to, please contact Harry Geddicke and let him know. hgedicke@optonline.net

If you are not sure if you are still an active church member, you can reach out to the church office for your current status. fpcsunna@optonline.net

This gift keeps our presbytery up and running, which has been extremely important during this time of "sheltering in place". Virtual worship resources are being shared as well as many other ideas for how we can be the body of Christ during this time.



LOOKING FOR WAYS TO HELP DURING THIS PANDEMIC?

Our Non-Profit Community Needs You Now More Than Ever

The following is a list of the non-profit organizations that the Mission Committee in our church supports on a regular basis. With the COVID19 Pandemic their needs are even greater. We ask that you prayerfully consider a donation to assist them in helping families. No amount is too small. You may donate directly to them through their websites, or simply mail your check directly to them. Please consider having your donation matched by the Matching Gift program your company may offer. For more information, check with your Human Resources department or your company's website.

Faith Kitchen

123 East Blackwell St.
Dover, NJ 07801

Attn: Joanne Bleecker

<http://www.faithkitchendover.org/>

**Faith Kitchen provides lunches Monday thru Friday to those in need.*

Family Promise of Morris County

PO Box 1494

Morristown, NJ 07962

**This is the homeless program that our church supports by providing a meal and hosting at Ledgewood Baptist Church two times a year. They are currently housing homeless families in hotels and need help with covering this cost.*

<https://familypromise.org/>

Homeless Solutions

3 Wing Dr. Suite 245

Cedar Knolls, NJ 07927

**This organization offers an on-site shelter as well as services and supportive housing to homeless families and the working poor in Morris County. They have a wish list on their website.*

<https://homelessolutions.org/>

Morris Habitat for Humanity

**This organization builds homes and provides affordable homeownership for lower income families.*

They are in need of donations to sustain their programs. They are also partnering with the Interfaith Food Pantry to raise money to provide food for struggling families.

Morris Habitat for Humanity

247 South Salem Street

Randolph, NJ 07869

<https://www.morrishabitat.org/>

Presbyterian Church USA

PO Box 643700

Pittsburg, PA 15264

Attn: Presbyterian Disaster Relief

**They recently donated 2.7 Million Dollars to support the COVID19 emergency response both in the US and internationally. Note that your donation or One Great Hour of Sharing offering helps with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.*



Have questions or need more information? Please contact Linda Fleisher lfleischer@yahoo.com or Kathy Ritchey kritchey@optonline.net

Please be sure to check our Facebook page for updates on the needs in our community.

Matthew 25: Congregational Vitality

The week of April 26, I was supposed to be attending a conference on Congregational Vitality. This conference was to be a part of the Matthew 25 initiative of PC(USA). As congregations participate in Matthew 25, one of the three areas is to grow as a vital congregation. So, what does that mean?

Here are the seven marks the denomination has defined for congregations as they seek to grow in their vitality:

1. A commitment to forming disciples over every member's lifetime. This leads first to personal transformation, as people put on the heart of Christ, and then to social transformation, as people joyfully go forth into the community and tackle the issues facing today's culture.
2. Embracing the call to evangelism. We show forth the love of Christ by our actions and our lives even more than by our words. Our relationships are genuine and caring. People know we are Christians by our love.
3. An outward focus. Our church is not a place to escape from the world, but rather our gateway to our community where we may be the hands, feet, heart and mouth of Jesus Christ for people who are suffering or marginalized.
4. Empowering every member to discover their individual calling and the gifts God has given them so they can go forth and serve.
5. Spirit-inspired worship that challenges, teaches, transforms, convicts and energizes us so when we are sent out, we have experienced the wonder of God and are changed for the better from when we arrived.
6. Caring relationships modeled on God's love. We open our doors and hearts to all people, and we build relationships modeled on God's love, which leads to genuine reconciliation and peace.
7. Congregations with healthy systems. Our mission focuses are clear. There is fiscal responsibility and accountability. We have thoughtful decision-making structures. Our leaders and staff enjoy a sustainable balance of work/rest time.



During this time of "Sheltering in Place", we can still be a vital congregation. I would like for each and every member to consider participating in one or two of these marks:

#6, caring relationships, is one we can all practice during this time. We can send cards to various people. We can make phone calls and check in on each other. Even when we cannot be together, we can build relationships with each other.

#3, An outward focus: even as we are practicing physical distancing, we can still reach out to the greater community. Some of our church members have been sewing masks to donate to various medical facilities.

Our mission committee is checking in with various agencies to see what the immediate needs are. We are continuing to make donations to Roxbury Social Services, including sponsoring five families for a postponed Easter meal.

Share your stories, either through our Facebook page, or email them to pastorcarie25@gmail.com.

SUMMER MISSION ADVENTURE

First Presbyterian Church of Succasunna
99 Main Street

TRANSFORMING OUR COMMUNITY
SUNDAY, JULY 5—SATURDAY, JULY 11

A mission experience for all —
youth & adults, ages 12 and up

Partnering with local organizations such as...

Homeless Solutions
Morris Habitat for Humanity
Manna House

Roxbury Social Services
Camp Johnsonburg
America's Grow-a-Row



VBS

July 20-24, 2020
United Methodist Church
91 Main Street, Succasunna

Cokesbury's VBS 2020, Knights of North Castle: Quest for the King's Armor, invites children to be strong in the Lord and in the strength of God's power by exploring how we put on the armor of God.

Kids will take on the role of brave Knights and begin their quest each session by opening the King's Book. They'll explore Old and New Testament stories and discover different pieces of protective armor—the Belt of Truth, the Breastplate of Justice, the Shoes of Peace, the Shield of Faith, and the Helmet of Salvation—at work in the lives of familiar Bible characters, and explore how that armor works in their own lives as they follow and serve God.

Help kids take up the gauntlet this summer and accept the challenge to "armor up" and be strong by remaining with God and sharing God's love in a world that needs it more than ever.

FINANCE UPDATES

Members & Friends,

Thank You to everyone that has continued to send in their pledges. We are seeing a consistent giving those that made formal pledges. We are, on the other hand, seeing a large drop in our regular offering giving. We understand that this has been an extremely difficult time for many financially. While some are still able to work from home, we understand that others are not currently able to work. For those that are able to contribute to the ministry of the church, we would prayerfully ask that you do so. The Deacons have made a nice donation to help feed families that are being supported by Roxbury Social Service and we are collecting food items for five families to receive a delayed Easter meal. Although we are physically distanced right now, we know there is still work to be done and are seeking the best way to serve God and our community during this time.

FPCS is working hard to keep operations flowing during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Similarly, the Finance Committee has been asked about online pledging and giving (since the bills don't stop!). We're considering services such as PayPal, but the cheapest, fastest, and easiest way to send your pledge or offering is to use your bank's "Online Bill Pay" feature. Most banks offer this ability. Just logon to your bank's website and create an "online payee" called **First Presbyterian Church Succasunna at 99 Main St. Succasunna, NJ 07876**. When you make a payment, fill-in the "memo" field so we can allocate your payment correctly (pledge, flowers, deacons, music, etc.).

If you don't already have an online account at your bank, it's smart to create one:

- It's free! It avoids the need for stamps. It avoids charges by services like PayPal (2-3%)!
- It lets you verify account activity at any time, making it easy to spot suspicious activity.
- It lets you setup alerts for things like 'low-balance'.
- It lets you verify whether deposits and checks have 'cleared'.
- It's more reliable than a paper check-register.
- It prevents someone else from fraudulently setting-up online access to your account.

If you need help, reply to this email and we'll have someone contact you.

Of course, you can always send your pledge or offering thru the U.S. Mail.

Thanks! Stay safe.

Jim Ritchey
Treasurer, FPC Succasunna



In light of the current COVID19 Crisis Bunco will be canceled for May 11th. Once we are in the clear we will be sure to offer this fun evening once again.

Instead we will be offering a Zoom Meeting on that night at 7pm, the plan is to play a game to lighten our spirits, stay connected and offer support to one another in these difficult days. This will be for all women of the church...so be on the look out around May 4th for an email link to the Zoom Meeting.

If you have any questions please email me at l.fleischer@yahoo.com. Hope to see you then!





THANK YOU!



Thank you to everyone who bought and sold Gertrude Hawk Easter Chocolates as a fundraiser for our church! And to those that donated, too! Special thank you to Sheila Kelly for selling SO much for us. We made about \$585.00 for our church.

In these trying times, this is a nice contribution for our church. Hope everyone had a Blessed Easter and enjoyed their chocolates. I did.....

Thanks again, it is greatly appreciated!

~ Sue Anderson for the Fundraising Committee

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

**First
Presbyterian
Church**

99 Main Street
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