



# THE OPEN DOOR

## P E N T E C O S T

*Matthew 25: Vital Congregations and Pentecost*

We are entering the season of Pentecost, a season where we reflect and acknowledge the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon all believers. The Holy Spirit has always been at work in the world, God has always used people to guide and lead God’s people. With the gift of Pentecost, God has expended the role of leadership to all. Yes, our congregations have set aside people with specific roles such as pastor, elder, deacon, and committee chairs, but all of God’s people have gifts that can and should be used for the good of the church and, more importantly, for serving God.



Pentecost reminds us that we have all received the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives, and with that, we have all received a gift, talent, or fruit of the Spirit to share within our communities of faith. One of the seven marks for a vital congregation, within the Matthew 25 initiative is: empowering every member to discover their individual calling and the gifts God has given them so they can go forth and serve. Pentecost is the perfect season to focus on this specific mark.

From the Office of Vital Congregations within the PC(USA), the following appears in the toolkit: “All people (cont’d on Page 7)

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Lectionary .....2
- June Updates .....2
- Prayer Concerns, etc. ....3
- Online Worship . ....4
- Giving Back .....5
- Help during Pandemic ....6
- Pentecost cont’d. ....7
- Summer Programs.....8

### AT THE OPEN DOOR

Pastor: Rev. Carie Morgan  
 Secretary: Janet Melvin  
 Editor: Sandie DiDomenico  
 Church Office: 973-584-5238  
 Fax: 973-584-5140  
 E: [fpcsunna@optonline.net](mailto:fpcsunna@optonline.net)

Email July/August Open Door  
submissions to:

[FPCSOpenDoor@gmail.com](mailto:FPCSOpenDoor@gmail.com)

By June 19, 2020

## LECTIONARY

**June 7**

**Trinity Sunday**

Gen. 1:1-2:4a; Ps. 8;  
2 Cor. 13:11-13;  
Matt. 28:16-20

**June 14**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after  
Pentecost**

Gen. 18:1-15 (21:1-7);  
Ps. 116:1-2, 12-19;  
Rom 5:1-8; Matt.  
9:35-10:8 (9-23)

**June 21**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after  
Pentecost**

Gen. 21:8-21; Ps.  
86:1-10, 16-17;  
Rom. 6:1b-11; Matt.  
10:24-39

**June 28**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after  
Pentecost**

Gen. 22:1-14; Ps. 13;  
Rom 6:12-23;  
Matt. 10:40-42



## SHOP RITE GIFT CARDS



**Shoptite Gift Cards**  
can be purchased weekly  
by contacting Dick  
Schulte; he can be  
emailed at  
[rnslks@optonline.net](mailto:rnslks@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 1<sup>st</sup>.

Please send a photo and share any additional information about your future plans for a photo video. Just call the church office at 973-584-5238 or email Janet at [fpcsunna@optonline.net](mailto:fpcsunna@optonline.net).

## WOMEN'S Ministry

A watercolor-style illustration of a butterfly with pink and orange wings, perched on a small bouquet of flowers.

### Journey Circle

The last Journey Circle "gathering" will be Monday, June 8th at 7pm. A Zoom link will be sent closer to the date. We will continue in our study of the book "A Woman's Guide to Hearing God's Voice". The chapter we will be exploring takes a look at the answer to "Where is God when...?" It's a timely topic with all that we are going through right now. hope you will join us!

We will be taking a summer break for July and August. Any questions please contact Linda Fleischer at [l.fleischer@yahoo.com](mailto:l.fleischer@yahoo.com).



## Adopt a Spot

During this time of physical distancing, will you consider adopting a spot around the church to keep weeded and perhaps even plant some flowers?

For the creative types, you can make a family marker and place it in your spot. Some suggestions are: you can paint a rock, or a piece of wood.

If several families adopt a small spot, it will still make a difference. Let's keep the church property looking nice during this time.

## PRAYERS & CONCERNS:

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



## Please pray for the families of:

Laurel Pezeur and family on the passing of her mother, and Sandy Egbert and family on the passing of her husband, Jim.

## SESSION SNIPPETS

From the April Session Meeting:

### Pastor's Report

- No baptisms, weddings, or funerals to report

### Clerk's Report:

- Membership: 172

### Action/Discussion Items:

- Approved: minutes of the March session meeting.
- Discussed how everyone is doing amidst the COVID-19 stay-at-home restrictions.
- Committee reports were received.
- All agreed to move forward with cleaning and repainting basement Sunday School room wall, and look into fixing broken glass in window.
- Approved: no communion on Palm Sunday. We will continue with worship via facebook live.
- Approved: we will do virtual communion on Maundy Thursday.
- Staff update: Staff continues to work; Rosie is doing deep cleaning, Janet is working from home with quick trips to the office for mail, etc., Jane continues to make and post musical recordings.
- Approved: continue to pay all employees their full salaries.
- Finance committee:
  - Finance report was received.
  - Finance committee will look into another means of online giving.





# W O R S H I P U P D A T E

As we begin to see various openings of non-essential businesses and the reopening of parks, you might be wondering when we can reopen the church. The governor has a three stage plan for reopening the state. We have spent the past two months in stage zero, and we are just now entering into stage one. Gathering for worship, inside a church sanctuary, is in stage three of the governor’s plan. So, at this moment, we are still in a time of waiting before we can gather in person again. There is a chance that we will be able to worship outdoors this summer. As soon as this information is made available, I will make sure to communicate it to the congregation. Until then, we will continue to worship at 10:00 am on the Church Facebook page. That service will be placed and Youtube and then linked to the church website.

There is conversation that when we can return to the sanctuary, we will still need to physically distance ourselves, perhaps marking off every other pew. We may have to wear masks, and we will have to look into how the state requires us to sanitize our space both prior and post worship. There is also conversation as to whether we can use the pew Bibles and Hymnals. Once we are gathered together, we will also have to discern how we practice Communion. Worship is going to remain different for some time. Again, as we learn more, this information will be shared.

Once we do return to our gathered worship space, I am going to continue to offer the worship service being livestreamed on our Facebook page and linked to our website. It has been wonderful to have many additional attendees gathered for worship in our virtual space and we will continue to provide it.

I hope this newsletter finds you well. Please contact the church office or myself if you need any assistance or help with finding resources that you might need during this time.

Blessings, Pastor Carie [pastorcarie25@gmail.com](mailto:pastorcarie25@gmail.com)



The Finance Team of FPCS has created an on-line giving account located on the church website: [www.fpcsuccasunna.org](http://www.fpcsuccasunna.org) - Just click on the **Give Now** button located on the Home Page and you can make a gift directly to the church general fund.

The Presbyterian Foundation’s Online Giving Program offers a simple and easy way to raise and manage funds for your mission or ministry. It provides congregations with flexible online giving solutions through a trusted partner able to professionally administer and safeguard the funds you raise. The Presbyterian Foundation uses the Vanco Payment Solutions platform. Vanco Payment Solutions is an industry leader in providing churches, secure, simple, and specialized payment and giving solutions. Vanco’s standards meet Payment Card Industry (PCI) data security standards for handling, storage, and transmitting credit card information.

- Cost – setup is free, no monthly/annual costs, transaction fee is 2%.

Every donation received for your fund will receive an automatic acknowledgment email to the donor from the Foundation. There is no need for your organization to provide a gift acknowledgment to the donor. The Foundation will also provide a year-end gift summary to donors for tax reporting.



# MAIL 4 MERRY HEART

## Greeting Card Ministry

The residents at Merry Heart Senior Care, many confined to their rooms with no visits from family and friends, are feeling very much alone during this pandemic crisis. The simple gift of a card brightens their day.

### Here's how it works:

- Select or make a card(s). Label your card (s) envelope on the outside simply with "Pen Pal"
- Drop your cards in the Greeting Card Ministry mailbox located in Fellowship Hall (open Monday mornings, 9:30 -12 noon)

You may also mail your card labeled "Pen Pal" to either of the addresses below:

Merry Heart Assisted Living  
 118 Main St.  
 Succasunna, NJ 07876

Merry Heart Nursing Home  
 200 Route 10 West  
 Succasunna, NJ 07876

A message from Merry Heart:

*Please thank all in the congregation at the First Presbyterian Church of Succasunna for their kindness, thoughts, and prayers. Your actions and thoughts are reassuring in this time of great distress and fear.*

*Much appreciated and God Bless,  
 Barbara Bonifacio  
 Merry Heart Senior Care*

Questions? Please Contact Kathy Ritchey [kritchey@optonline.net](mailto:kritchey@optonline.net).



## ROXBURY SOCIAL SERVICES

### Milk & Eggs

Starting June 1st, the Mission Committee is coordinating a delivery of milk and eggs to Roxbury Social Services each Wednesday. If you are grocery shopping over the weekend and would like to donate a dozen eggs or half gallon of milk that would be great! Donations can be put into the refrigerator at church on Mondays between 9:30am and 12pm. Thank you!



### Food Pantry Needs

Crunchy Peanut Butter  
 Jar gravy (beef, turkey)  
 Jelly - grape, strawberry  
 Juice - grape, cranberry  
 Breadcrumbs  
 Men's razors  
 Canned chicken, salmon  
 Sweet & Low  
 Salt  
 Iced tea mix

# 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](mailto:lfleischer@yahoo.com) or Kathy Ritchey [kritchey@optonline.net](mailto:kritchey@optonline.net)

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

# PENTECOST

(cont'd from Page 1) of God, in the image of Christ, are given fruit of the Spirit and spiritual gifts meant for building up the Church. In this way, we are all called to serve the Lord, to do our part in membership of the body of Christ. Every part is necessary. Every part is valuable, and every voice is important. Every person should be equipped, nurtured, and supported to use their gifts to glorify God, through servant leadership; not just cliques of powerful people or continual burnout of the same leaders. In keeping with true discipleship formation, churches are called to help all members to be empowered to use their gifts in servant leadership. And, God calls and equips some for the particular task of pastoral ministry, which must be cultivated, nurtured and trained. Ministry can never be about a single pastor, but it is about identifying, equipping and empowering those servant leaders God puts in our midst.”

Studies show over and over again, that 20% of the people do 80% of the work. Within the life of the church, we need to change this statistic. Everyone has valuable gifts to share and purposeful work to do. As people are empowered to share their gifts they are also given the opportunity to grow deeper in their own journey of discipleship. Congregations should seek ways to celebrate the variety of gifts that we all have and the ways in which we use them.

In this specific moment in ministry, how might we be seeing gifts, talents, abilities in new ways? Are there people within your congregation that have skills that can be used for virtual worship? For helping edit or create videos? This is a time where we seeking to creatively find new ways to worship and do ministry, and there are people with a variety of gifts that can provide leadership in new and exciting ways. Let us embrace this time of uncertainty as a time of newness and exploration as we empower disciples to use their gifts in creative and innovative ways.

~ Pastor Carie



## MISSION FUNDS GO TO FAMILY PROMISE AND HOMELESS SOLUTIONS



The Mission Committee has donated \$500 to Family Promise to help house families in local hotels so they can shelter safely during the pandemic.

The Committee has also approved a \$250 donation to Homeless Solutions.



# SUMMER CAMPS CANCELLED

Difficult decisions were made to cancel these camps due to COVID-19. There is fun stuff going on to help those in the community, such as sending greeting cards to Merry Heart residents, and donating eggs and milk to Roxbury Social Services. Camp Johnsonburg is planning some virtual fun; check out their website in the coming weeks! [campjburg.org](http://campjburg.org)

#jburg2u. It is camp-in-a-box for all ages with some fun camp swag, recipes for easy ice cream and campfire snacks, crafts, discussion starters, prayer activities and more.

The Mission Committee welcomes your ideas and input for responding to the needs in our community during this crisis. Stay tuned!

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

**First  
Presbyterian  
Church**  
  
99 Main Street  
Succasunna, NJ 07876  
  
Time Dates Material  
  
Published Monthly  
  
Address Service  
Requested