

# THE OPEN DOOR

## ALREADY AND NOT YET

*The Spirit gives us the imagination and energy and enthusiasm to look with wonder*

**B**y the time you receive and read this, Lenten purple will have given way to the bright white of Easter joy! In fact, this article is being drafted in the days leading up to Palm Sunday and Holy Week. Hence, the experience of preparing these words calls to mind the notion we might most readily associate with the writings and theology of Paul: Living in the Already...and Not Yet.

Like Paul, we live in the confidence and trust that is faith to know that God has accomplished our reconciliation and redemption in Christ, even as we await the fullness and wholeness of personally experiencing resurrection. We live so much of this precious life in such a hurry, don't we? We are people eager for action, accomplishment, and "checking all the boxes" that we might be tempted to have mentally rushed through the season of Lent, with our minds preferring to minimize time spent in reflection and contemplation: we know where this story goes, after all.



Ready or not (and March 31 was an EARLY Easter!), we shared the Resurrection! Hopefully, each and all of us sense the Presence of the Risen Jesus. Sometimes, we make our way day by day. Sometimes, it is moment by moment.

When I reflect on the past month at FPCS, I see each of you and the Presence evident:

On Sundays (whether in the morning or Messy Church evenings)...voices in Word and song, announcements that show the life here, the care of communion, eye contact and hands extended in the Peace of Christ, prayers connecting us with God and each other, the progress of (Cont'd on Page 4)

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### AT THE OPEN DOOR

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By April 19, 2024

## LECTIONARY

### April 7

- First Reading Acts 4:32-35
- Psalm 133:1-3
- Second Reading 1 John 1:1-2:2
- Gospel John 20:19-31

### April 14

- First Reading Acts 3:12-19
- Psalm 4:1-8
- Second Reading 1 John 3:1-7
- Gospel Luke 24:36b-48

### April 21

- First Reading Acts 4:5-12
- Psalm 23:1-6
- Second Reading 1 John 3:16-24
- Gospel John 10:11-18

### April 28

- First Reading Acts 8:26-40
- Psalm 22:25-31
- Second Reading 1 John 4:7-21
- Gospel John 15:1-8



## SUNDAY MORNINGS

We continue to explore Jesus's teachings in the book of Matthew. Join us in the chapel at 10am on April 7 and 21. Contact Cindy Medici with questions ([cjmedici@gmail.com](mailto:cjmedici@gmail.com)).



### CELEBRATE 250 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

Saturday, April 20, 2024 at 2pm

America's Independence will be 250 years old in 2026. There are America 250th Markers being placed throughout the country to commemorate this event, by the Daughters of the American Revolution.

One of these markers will be placed in our cemetery near the burial site of our Revolutionary soldiers, by the Ferro Monte Chapter DAR.

All are invited to attend the dedication ceremony on Saturday, April 20, 2024 at 2:00 pm in the cemetery near the kitchen door ramp. Light refreshments will follow in Fellowship Hall.

## MESSY CHURCH NIGHT

April 21st, 2024

5-7pm

Messy Church is back at the First Presbyterian Church! It will be a fun intergenerational gathering with mission project, craft/games, a short worship, and dinner.

Please RSVP by 4/18 to Courtney at [clsilviotti@gmail.com](mailto:clsilviotti@gmail.com) so we know how many for dinner.



**Horseshoe Lake**  
**72 Eyland Avenue, Succasunna**

Come enjoy some entertainment!

- April 13th see Middle Eastern dance group at 7:30 pm, called Visions of the Near East.
- April 25th at 7:30 pm, there will be a talk on psychology by Dr. Matthew Zakreski. His talk will be on brain function, genius in neurodivergent individuals. This relates to the characters that appear in our spring play, "Proof", in May.
- Information available at: [roxburyartsalliance.org](http://roxburyartsalliance.org)

## PRAYERS & CONCERNS:

Georganne & Fred	Kim	Carol	Joanna S.
Ray	Steve C.	Ella S	Steve
Michelle P.	Joe	Rich S.	Vanessa
Trudy	Joanna S.	Chris	Baby Tyler
Steve	Eve	Sandy	Don
Susan	Lucinda	D & D	Lisa



For the families of Betty Gatto, Gordon Winch, Donald Knight and Leonardo G..

## SESSION SNIPPETS:

### The Session approved the following at the March meeting:

- The stone sign that hung above the exterior chapel doors will be replaced.
- The front sign will be updated with our new Worship time and Pastor Tim's information.
- The existing policy concerning refraining from the use of disposables at church functions was re-affirmed.
- FPC will participate in the Roxbury Arts Festival on April 13<sup>th</sup>.
- There will a dedication of the park bench on April 21<sup>st</sup> at 12:30 PM.



### Informational items include:

- The Fire Regulations inspection has been successfully completed.
- The next stated meeting of the session will be held on April 10<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at the church.



## Earth Care Happenings

April 13, 11am-2pm at the Roxbury Library

Join us at the Roxbury Arts Festival at the library on April 13<sup>th</sup> from 11 am to 2 pm. We'll be providing crafts that highlight repurposing! If you would like to help out with the crafts, please contact Jean at [jgruezke@gmail.com](mailto:jgruezke@gmail.com). Many hands make light work!

Please join us at worship on April 21<sup>st</sup> as we celebrate Earth Day! In our Worship Service, we'll focus on caring for God's Earth. We'll also have a dedication of the Nextrex park bench we received from our recycling of soft plastics after the service, to be placed between the church and the library.

And there's wonderful news: Staples now collects batteries for recycling! And, if you're a card-carrying Staples member, you can earn up to \$5 in points each month. It's so easy to participate. Just take your batteries to the front desk.

# ALREADY AND NOT YET

*Continued from Page 1*

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the Confirmation Class navigating their way to identify how God is at work, the nourishment of food (and hot chocolate!) and each other's company in fellowship following worship...

On weekdays...exploring in Bible Study where Scripture encounters everyday life, in getting to know members through visits and time with those who may not be making it to church on Sundays, in the opportunity to serve a meal to people at Faith Kitchen, in the various meetings and conversations that consider what we have done and what will happen next...

Throughout Holy Week...Palm Sunday, The Agape Meal and service on Maundy Thursday, the Cross Walk of Good Friday, Easter Services with a breakfast in between...

Sensing the Spirit gives us the imagination and energy and enthusiasm to look with wonder at what the spring might bring!

- Partnering with our Library Neighbors for the Roxbury Arts Festival April 13
- A dedication in the cemetery by the Daughters of the American Revolution April 20
- Celebration of Earth Day April 21 with the dedication of the park bench and Messy Church living into being stewards of God's Creation with efforts in the garden
- Progress toward replacing the sign above the Stoddard Chapel entrance
- A spring cleaning of the church basement
- Planning for Confirmation Sunday
- Exploring what this year's Summer Mission Adventure will look like in mid July!

Already and not yet. This is how Paul described the joy of Resurrection and the Christian Faith. As the church, much has happened already, and much awaits us yet! Let's be part of this together!

Peace to You!  
~ Pastor Tim

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## Keep in Touch!

Join our Facebook page First Presbyterian Church Succasunna, NJ for the latest news and livestream worship. View the FPCS complete calendar on our website: <http://www.fpcsuccasunna.org/special-events>.

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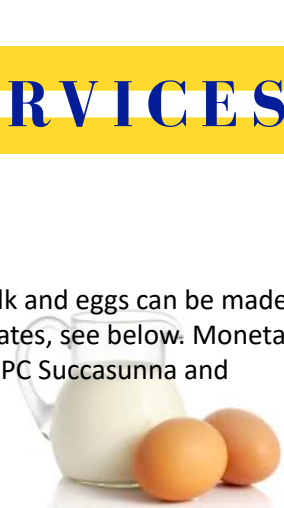
Union Hill Presbyterian Church of Denville invites the congregation to participate in and attend an Open Mic Night on Saturday April 13th from 7-9pm. While there is no charge for admission, a freewill offering will be received and sent to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Ministry, the same part of the PC(USA) Mission Agency about which we have been hearing during some of our Minute for Mission announcements during Lent. Please speak with Pastor Tim for details.



# ROXBURY SOCIAL SERVICES

## Milk and Eggs to Feed Hungry Families

Thank you to everyone who has continued to support this ministry! Donations of milk and eggs can be made by leaving them in the Fellowship Hall refrigerator before our Wednesday delivery dates, see below. Monetary donations to supplement our mission outreach can be made by sending a check to FPC Succasunna and indicating Roxbury Social Services in the memo.



Our delivery dates for April are **Wednesday, April 3 and Wednesday April 17.**



If you wish to have an event publicized on the church's public Facebook page (Blood Drive, Messy Church, etc.), please send information and/or graphics to Debbie at [fpcsunna@optonline.net](mailto:fpcsunna@optonline.net). I suggest substituting the church's email address for your own private email address on any graphics or information you send, and the office will forward you any RSVPs or questions that are sent.



5th Annual

## SUMMER MISSION ADVENTURE

July 9 - 12

**Help feed the hungry! Get creative! Care for our planet! Enjoy fun and fellowship! Youth and Adults Welcome!**

Join our 2024 Summer Mission team! This year's Summer Mission Adventure will be July 9 -12, three days of activities designed for youth ages 12+ and adults. We will be working with local organizations that help those struggling with food insecurity and hunger in our community. We will also be tackling a spruce-up project here at our church.

**Stay tuned, specific dates and times to come.**

Help will be needed during the week to plan and prepare meals for volunteers, chaperone and drive volunteers to activity sites. Questions? Want to know more? Please contact Kathy Ritchey:

[kritchey@optonline.net](mailto:kritchey@optonline.net).



On behalf of our family, we express our sincere and heartfelt appreciation of the kindness and sensitivity the congregation has so graciously shown us in the time following the passing of Amy's dad/ my father-in-law, the Rev. Donald Knight. We wish you could have gotten to know him. In your kindness, understanding, and compassion, we continue to be reminded of him and his gentle ways.

In humble gratitude,  
Pastor Tim and Amy



**A BIG Thank You** to everyone who bought the Gertrude Hawk Chocolates for our church Easter fundraiser! We made a profit of \$659.67!!!!!! Thank you, thank you, thank you! Now you can enjoy the good chocolate and have a Happy and Blessed Easter.

~ Sue Anderson



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HERE

## First Presbyterian Church

99 Main Street  
Succasunna, NJ 07876

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Published Monthly

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