

Friends, Visitors, Guests

First Presbyterian Church of South Amboy
P.O. Box 787, 150 N. Broadway
South Amboy, NJ 08879

THE OPEN DOOR

First Presbyterian Church
150 North Broadway, PO Box 787
South Amboy, NJ 08879

Office e-mail: firstsouthamboy@optimum.net

Web Site: www.fpcsachurch.org

Facebook page: [fpcsamboy](https://www.facebook.com/fpcsamboy)

Phone : 732-721-4516

Fax: 732-721-9208



June

June 2020

Be on your guard;
stand firm in the faith;
be courageous; be strong
1 Corinthians 16:13

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Flag Day 	15	16	17	18 	19	20 Summer begins 
21 Father's Day 	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

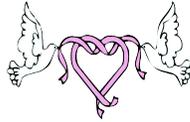
June Anniversaries

Wishing a very happy anniversary to:



June 10th
Shirley & Michael
Weaver

June 14th
Suzanne & David
Schafer-Coates



June Birthdays

Wishing a very Happy
Birthday to:

June 2 Madhu Solanki
June 13 Gerald Ring
June 18 Marion Rothman
June 18 Peter Rothman
June 24 Michael Weaver

Want to see your special date listed?
Give the office your info.

FINANCIAL REPORT

April 2020

Offerings	\$ 17,553
Covenant Income	1,595
God's Pocket	15,300
Designated Income	+ 376
Total Income	\$ 34,824
Disbursements	\$ -12,824

HOW WE GIVE IS MORE IMPORTANT
THAN HOW MUCH WE GIVE.

Elaine Lopez, Treasurer

Prayers for Our Homebound Members & Friends

James and Barbara Ballo,
28 First Street, Sayreville, NJ 08872

Ervant Mansfield,
Heritage at Clara Barton, 1015 Amboy Ave,
Apt 316, Edison, NJ 08837

Beverly Mezger,
250 S. Broadway, Apt 511, So. Amboy, NJ 08879

Carolyn Nappe,
250 S. Broadway, Apt 215, So. Amboy, NJ 08879

Debbie Sargeant Sr.
3058 Bordentown Ave, Parlin, NJ 08859

Please remember our homebound with a card and prayer.

CLERK OF SESSION - Gerry Ring
MODERATOR OF DEACONS - Shirley Weaver
TREASURER - Elaine Lopez
SECRETARY - Shirley Weaver
ORGANIST - Kevin Shoemaker
SEXTONS - Erin Gualdarrama & Shirley Weaver
MISSION CO-CHAIRS—Ruth Beselinoff & Stephanie
McAleer
SUPERINTENDENT OF SUNDAY SCHOOL -
Shirley Weaver

As of Feb. 2020

OFFICER NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Elaine Lopez Mary Porcello
Jill Berwick Joan Downes
Arvid Holt Joyce Solanki
Molly Solanki

YOUR ELDERS / THE SESSION

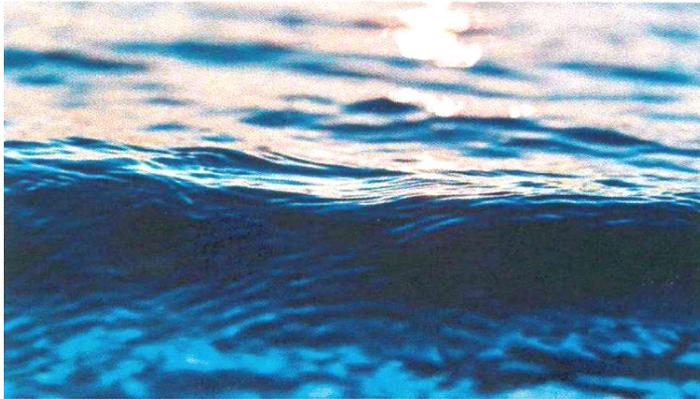
(Responsible for Governing our Church Affairs)

Elaine Lopez Mary Porcello
Dorothy Rhodes Gerald Ring
George Schaefer Christine Vella

YOUR DEACONS

(Responsible for Assisting our Church and
Community in Times of Need)

Jill Berwick Megan Jarvis
Sherry Kuo Stephanie McAleer
Elizabeth Pinella Shirley Weaver



Substance Use Disorder and
Inpatient Withdrawal
Management

VERITAS

540 Bordentown Ave.
South Amboy, New Jersey 08879

Phone: 732-721-1000 - Fax: 732-952-3355

www.veritasrecoverycenter.com

INK CARTRIDGES RECYCLE

I miss all of you. Please hang on to your ink cartridges for recycling. Even Staples shut down the recycling program for the months of April and May. I will check to see if they are operating that program in June. Patience, Patience, Patience. I have learn that word really well these last tooooo many weeks.

Elaine Lopez

Dad In your eyes
I've seen God's love
In your words
I've heard this wisdom
Through your life
I've found this grace

Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord and who has made the LORD his hope and confidence
Jeremiah 17:7

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19 Lister Avenue
Newark, NJ 07105

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Owner/Estimator
CELL (732) 551-8475



Debra Kurzawa
External Case Manager

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South Amboy
100 North Broadway
South Amboy, NJ 08879
(732) 721-0187
www.amboybank.com



South Amboy Emergency Food Pantry First Presbyterian Church Eight Week Report

Nine weeks ago, we started on a journey none of us could ever imagine. We went into a shut-down worldwide. As such we and Office Emergency Management joined forces to help keep the residents of South Amboy and surrounding community with food on their table. Having said that once God blesses something it just grows. This endeavor certainly did. Megan Jarvis, George Schaefer and I, Mary Porcello never even gave a thought to being nine weeks down the road. We are at the church six days a week. At the close of eight weeks we have given out 4,768 bags of groceries. We had concluded yesterday we would do this four more-weeks ending this part of emergency on June 13th, 2020.

Late March we received an email for a grant, I asked Ruth Beselinoff too please fill it out. The request for information was very limited, one of the questions was how much money we thought we needed, Ruth filled it out suggesting we could use \$10,000.00 sent it back. About three days later I receive a phone interview, that was again about twenty minutes long. Again, I was asked if a monetary donation would help? I repeated a \$10,000.00 grant would help a great deal. By April 13th, or there about we received a check for \$10,000.00. As you read the information that came with the grant, I was not allowed to share this with anyone until the relief fund gave me permission to do so. Other than Elaine, she had to deposit the check and Ruth wrote the first request. I did reach out to the fund and ask if I could do the report for Session. We also received a \$2,500.00 check from Middlesex Water Company, having been reference by Mayor Henry. Since that time, many things have happened, St. Mary's food bank share their food with us, within the city itself we have received many donations. Food, checks, manpower and so much more.

Regards, Mary Porcello

Deacon's Monthly Update

Our Deacons delivered small Mother's Day gifts to the homes of the women in our congregation the Friday before Mother's Day to lift their spirits and bring them joy. We hope that everyone enjoyed our little surprises.

Food Pantry

Our food Pantry is working with the South Amboy OEM to help our neighbors & community with emergency food pick ups during this time of need. To schedule an appointment you need to contact us by one of the ways listed below and leave the following information about your household. Household information needed: Contact person name, family size, and needs of the household. All pick ups are to be no contact outside, out of the Church Street entrance, that has the white screen door with brownish red solid door.

Ways to contact us:

Texts only to 732-902-1172

Calls only to 732-588-5830 and leave a message

Emails only to saoem@southamboynj.gov

PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE A MESSAGE ON THE CHURCH PHONE.

You can also contact us using the ways listed to drop off any donations.
~ Shirley Weaver



TRAVELING MERCIES

Friday, May 22, 2020

“Now you all are the body of Christ, and individually members of it. God has appointed apostles, prophets, teachers, gifts of power and healing, and assistance and leadership. Do all of us wield these gifts? No, but pursue love which is the more excellent way.” 1Cor. 12: 27-31 paraphrased.

One thing that we may forget sometimes is that the church of Jesus Christ is called to be more like a verb, than an institution. It’s called to *be* a community where we *experience* God’s presence, spiritual growth, learning, and the love and support of our sisters and brothers in faith. That living functioning experience is why Paul came up with the metaphor of the *body* of Christ. We are a living breathing organism.

In today’s reading, in verse 27, Paul points to a couple of powerful truths. When he said we *all* are the body of Christ he’s saying that we are a *unity*. Then when he said we all are *individually members of it*, he’s saying that we are a *diversity* – different people with different personalities, gifts, and thoughts. He went on to specify some of the gifts that people in the community had been given and then he made it clear that no one possesses every gift. He was alluding to an earlier part of this chapter where he said that we need each other, with all of our diverse gifts to be a functioning body. That is what he meant when he said, “The eye can’t say to the hand, or the head say to the feet, ‘I don’t need you.’”

The message that we need each other is an important one for churches to recall. If we’ve been members of the same congregation for years, we tend to stay with the programs and committees we joined early on. It’s a good thing to stick with those that we’re interested in and that we have an affinity for. But what often happens, over time, is that various committees and programs become entities unto themselves. What often happens is that they develop borders and constitutions not unlike that of a sovereign country. They start guarding those borders and how the work within it is done. When that happens, the status quo of the church gets solidly rooted and we lose the living, breathing character Paul is proclaiming here. When that occurs, the growth that happens in healthy “bodies” gets arrested.

We are in a highly unusual time in the life of our church. Sheltering in place and virtual meetings probably makes most of us feel terribly restricted. This can be a time to take a closer look at the life of our church and its purposes, its reasons for being. This can be a time to re-examine and re-assess our programs and committees, asking ourselves, “What is the Spirit calling us to be and do now, and for our future?” This can be a time to recall in ways that we may have lost sight of, that we truly need each other and our ministries to work together cooperatively. This can be a time to revitalize the “more excellent way” Paul introduced, which is love that is patient, that is kind, that doesn’t insist on its own way, that resists being envious, arrogant and resentful, but that bears all things, hopes and endures all things, *together*.

Prayer: Come Lord Jesus, transform us with your life-giving power. Help us to use it to do something that is in keeping with your purposes for us. Inspire us to link our passions with courage, our hopes with creativity, and our love with persistence. Amen.



WORSHIP SERVICE

ONLINE

John Mottley did a wonderful worship service that is posted to our website and Facebook page. Please check it out, Thank you John, I love it!!

Mail in Offering Envelopes

You can mail in your offerings to PO Box 787, South Amboy, NJ 08859



Welcome Back, First Presbyterian South Amboy!!

May 24th, after over 9 weeks of lockdown John Mottley, our Pulpit supply, stood up on our pulpit and happily proclaimed these blessed words, and he did it four times in 2 hours. He Preached the difference between the current popular belief that we are in the new normal when actually we are in transition. John walked us through a work by John Piper who suggests what God is using the corona virus for.

He made three important points:

1. God reminds us that this life is temporary
2. For people to understand the infinite worth of Christ.
3. That we share the gospel worldwide as our time here is short and precious.

And, we were treated to Kevin playing our favorite hymns and our beloved benediction. Don't you miss holding hands, looking around at the familiar faces in the sanctuary and swaying to the peaceful tune? Today we could not hold hands, faces were covered with cloth so smiles were hidden but peaceful assurance that all was well was given to each one of us.

Lori said she was teary eyed during the service as she was enjoying being back with her church family. My heart was overjoyed being back in church, said Mary. Our favorite twins were both thrilled to be back. Joan T saying she was happy when she got the call that a service was planned as she had missed church. Jean C said, "it's Sunday again!" Both sisters said it felt so good to be there and hoped that we will continue to meet. Why not experience this peace with us next Sunday?

~Ruth Beselinoff



UPDATE ON MCALEER ADOPTION

Baby Grace continues to be a blessing. She is growing very fast and learning English very well. She can point out her nose, eyes, eyebrows and elbows. She calls my brother Dada and sister-in-law Ma. She is ahead of most other children her age developmentally.

It was wonderful to see [via video call] my sister-in-law enjoying her first Mother's Day as Grace's mother.

Thank you again for the prayers. God truly answered them by providing them the opportunity to adopt Grace when he did. Even without Corona Virus issues South Korea has halted adoptions to Americans so that avenue would have been closed indefinitely to them.
~Stephanie McAleer



The picture attached is of Brant, Jen and Grace. You can see how happy they all are.

the OPEN DOOR

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
150 North Broadway
South Amboy, NJ 08879



Reflections from your *former* Interim Pastor,

I am very grateful to be still writing this column for the Open Door. I know that in time (I hope sooner rather than later) you will have another pastor, but I love having another chance to share some thoughts with you.

In checking the church's website I was delighted to watch the Rev. John Mottley's service that he conducted from his home on Sunday, May 17th. I hope all of you who have internet access have been able to see this. And I understand that starting Sunday, May 24th, you will be able to return to worship in your beloved church. I am so excited for you and only wish that I could join you! It is wonderful that things are beginning to open up again, and I'm sure that those of you who have been staying sequestered at home for the last several months will be emerging gingerly, continuing to keep social distance and wearing face masks. I am proud of the creative way the Elders have planned for you to be able to come to church while complying with the current rules as laid down by Governor Murphy: four services of 30 minutes each for ten people at a time (eight worshipers plus John Mottley and Kevin Shoemaker), a disinfecting wipe to clean your worship space, no pew cushions (good thing the service is only 30 minutes!), no hymnbooks or Bibles, one sheet of paper with one verse of each hymn, and required wearing of face masks, entering in one door and exiting by another, and I suppose no touching, hugging, or holding hands during, "May the Lord, Mighty Lord." Even with all of that, Glory Be!, I can hear you reciting the opening words of Psalm 122, "I was glad when they said unto me, 'Let us go into the House of the Lord.'"

In all my years of ministry, I have never experienced a congregation who loves their church and their worship services as much as you South Amboy Presbyterians do. I came across an old hymn the other day, and as I read the words, I thought, "That's how the people at South Amboy Pres. feel about their church!" The hymn is "I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord", and although the writer is speaking about the Church as the place where God's Kingdom is made real, the words made me think about how you feel about your church, especially in these months that you have not been able to attend:

I love Thy kingdom, Lord,
The place of Thine abode,
The church our blest Redeemer saved
With His own precious blood.
I love Thy church, O God;
Her walls before Thee stand,
Dear as the apple of Thine eye,
And graven on Thy hand.
For her my tears shall fall;
For her my prayers ascend;
To her my cares and toils be giv'n,
Till toils and cares shall end.
Beyond my highest joy
I prize her heav'nly ways,
Her sweet communion, solemn vows,
Her hymns of love and praise.
Sure as Thy truth shall last,
To Zion shall be giv'n
The brightest glories earth can yield,
And brighter bliss of Heav'n.

So wear your masks, keep your social distance, and rejoice in being together in your church worshipping the Lord together once again.

~~~~~Pastor Suzanne

PS As I go to the grocery store in my mask, I have noticed that I can tell when people are smiling at me by the way their eyes crinkle.. I expect there will be a lot of crinkly eyes at church this Sunday and in the weeks to come. I'll be smiling here in North Carolina, as I think of you and thank God for you.