

Friend/Visitor/Guest

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

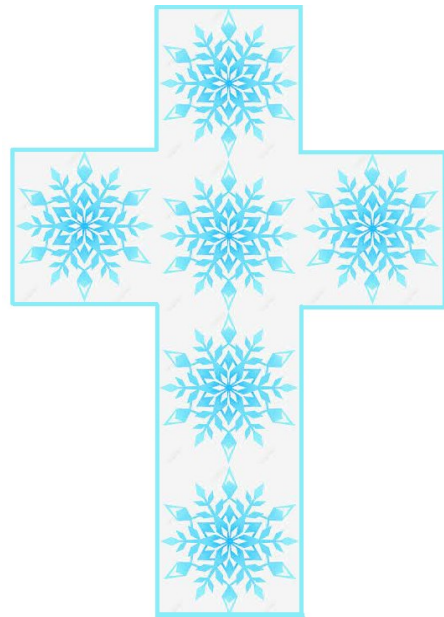
Facebook page: [fpcsamboy](https://www.facebook.com/fpcsamboy)

Phone: 732-721-4516

Fax: 732-721-9208

Sunday Worship 10:30 am

Sunday School Oct—June 9:00 am



January

JANUARY 2021

One of the most peaceful mindsets ever begins the moment you finally find the courage to let go of what you can't change. It is what it is. Accept it, learn from it and move on. It doesn't matter what you've done; what matters is what you choose to do from here.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 New Year's Day
2 9am Sunday School 10:30am Worship/Communion 11:30am Coffee Hour	3 6pm Scouts	4	5 6pm Girl Scouts	6 Epiphany of the Lord	7 3pm Pathway to Success	8 12 pm Missions
9 9am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 11:30 am Deacon	10 6pm Scouts	11	12 6pm Girl Scouts	13	14 3pm Pathway to Success	15 6pm Spaghetti Dinner
16 9am Sunday School 10:30am Worship	17 Martin Luther King Jr. Day 6pm Scouts	18 Food Delivery	19 2:30pm Session 6pm Girl Scouts	20	21 3pm Pathway to Success	22
23 9am Sunday School 10:30am Worship	24 6pm Scouts	25	26 6pm Girl Scouts	27	28 3pm Pathway to Success	29
30 9am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 11:30am Annual Meeting 3pm Pinewood Derby	31 6pm Scouts					

PULPIT SUPPLY - John Mottley
 CLERK OF SESSION - Christine Vella
 MODERATOR OF DEACONS - Shirley Weaver
 TREASURER - Elaine Lopez
 SECRETARY - Shirley Weaver
 ORGANISTS - Phyllis Chao & Arvid Holt
 SEXTONS - Erin Gualdarrama & Shirley Weaver
 MISSION CO-CHAIRS - Ruth Beselinoff & Stephanie McAleer
 SUPERINTENDENT OF SUNDAY SCHOOL - Shirley Weaver

As of Feb. 2021

OFFICER NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Elaine Lopez	Mary Porcello
Jill Berwick	Joan Downes
Lori Ryan	Judy Scharff
Joyce Solanki	

YOUR ELDERS / THE SESSION

(Responsible for governing our church affairs)

Ruth Beselinoff	Elaine Lopez
Mary Porcello	George Schaefer
Madhu Solanki	Christine Vella

YOUR DEACONS

(Responsible for assisting our church and community in times of need)

Jill Berwick	Megan Jarvis
Sherry Kuo	Larry Wallace
Elizabeth Pinella	Shirley Weaver

**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.*



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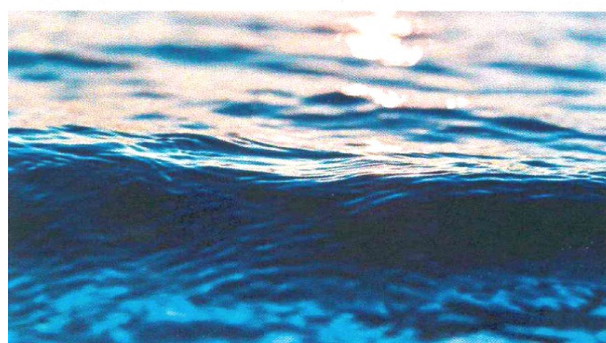
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Attention All Committees



All reports for the Annual Congregational Meeting on January 30, 2022, **must be given to the office by January 5, 2022.** Please have all reports typed, clearly written, or clearly printed on 8 1/2" x 11" unlined paper, on one page if possible. ~ Shirley Weaver

DECEMBER 25TH, 2021

CHURCH FAMILY

RE: CHRISTMAS GIFTS

DEAR CHURCH,

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION IN OUR ANGEL TREE PROGRAM.
YOUR GENEROUS GIFTS FILLED GREAT A NEED.
IT IS PEOPLE SUCH AS YOU THAT ALLOW US TO HAVE A "CHRISTMAS TREE PROGRAM" EACH YEAR.

IN CHRIST,

MARY PORCELLO
Elder



January Birthdays

Wishing a very Happy Birthday to:

Jan. 1st George Schaeffer

Jan. 7th Stephanie McAleer

Jan. 11th Judy Scharff

Jan. 20th Carla Ring

Jan. 21st Rev. Cynthia Cochran-Carney

Jan. 22nd Logan Kuo

Jan. 22nd Dee Sepulveda

Jan. 25th Margaret Reilly

Jan. 26th Brianna Sweatt

Jan. 30th Beverly Mezger

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

Save the Date for Our Annual Meeting

Jan. 30 - 11:30 am (after service)
Members are expected to come.

Sunday Worship Flowers

Flowers for Sunday Worship are \$25.00 for two urns. I have many openings. You can order flowers to honor someone or in memory of a loved one. Order forms are in the pews and mail room.

Please make checks payable to "Cash". To place an order or if you have any questions please contact me. - Jean Greene

INK CARTRIDGES RECYCLE

Due to my injured knee and Jesus's Birthday, I was consumed this December. I never delivered 20 used ink cartridges to Staples. BUT I intend to in January so keep saving them for us. Elaine Lopez

The Mission Committee

The next mission meeting will be on Jan.8. Will you join us? We meet in Room 1 at the church. We have a snack and a good time while we discuss ways to help people in need.

~Ruthie and Stephanie,
Co-Chairs, Mission Committee

We still have a lot of shirts left. Please consider buying one to support our Food Pantry.

T-shirts \$15 each

Sizes Available:
S, M, L, XL, 2XL

Phone: 732-721-4516



Debra Kurzawa
External Case Manager

275 John T O'Leary Blvd, South Amboy, NJ 08879
T 732.721.8200 • C 732.322.4840 • F 732.721.4438
Efax 732.782.0331 • dkurzawa@venetiancc.com

Jokes

A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means!" His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you 'know' what the Bible means?" The son replied, "I do know!" "Okay," said his father. "What does the Bible mean?" "That's easy, Daddy..." the young boy replied excitedly, "It stands for 'Basic Information Before Leaving Earth.'"

There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country. "Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk. "Only the Ten Commandments," answered the lady.

A Sunday School teacher began her lesson with a question, "Boys and girls, what do we know about God?" A hand shot up in the air. "He is an artist!" said the kindergarten boy. "Really? How do you know?" the teacher asked. "You know - Our Father, who does art in Heaven."

The minister was preoccupied with thoughts of how he was going to ask the congregation to come up with more money than they were expecting for repairs to the church building. Therefore, he was annoyed to find that the regular organist was sick and a substitute had been brought in at the last minute. The substitute wanted to know what to play.

"Here's a copy of the service," he said impatiently. "But, you'll have to think of something to play after I make the announcement about the finances." During the service, the minister paused and said, "Brothers and Sisters, we are in great difficulty; the roof repairs cost twice as much as we expected and we need \$4,000 more. Any of you who can pledge \$100 or more, please stand up."

At that moment, the substitute organist played "The Star Spangled Banner."

And that is how the substitute became the regular organist!

Submitted by Elaine Lopez

FINANCIAL REPORT

November 2021

Offerings	\$ 8,694
Covenant Income	506
God's Pocket	50
Designated Income	+ 442
Total Income	\$ 9,692
 Disbursements	 \$ - 9,790

1 Corinthians 12:27 "Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you (us) is a part of it." Based on your spiritual gifts, what part do you play in the body of Christ? How are you joining with others to fulfill His mission?

Elaine Lopez, Treasurer

Board of Deacons

We are still selling tickets for our Spaghetti Dinner on Jan. 15, at 6pm. Tickets are \$15. Please see any Deacon or call the church office for tickets.

We hope everyone enjoyed their Christmas and has a Happy New Year. May we all be blessed in 2022.

~ Shirley Weaver

**First Presbyterian Church's Board of Deacons
will be having a**

Spaghetti Dinner

**Saturday, January 15, 2022
6pm - 8pm**



Tickets are:
\$15 per person

Please make all checks out to: **First Presbyterian Church of So. Amboy**
Put "Spaghetti Dinner" in the memo.

Space is limited so buy your tickets now!

First Presbyterian Church, 150 N. Broadway, So. Amboy, NJ 08879
For more info call 732-721-4516



A Blessed Anniversary!

Sisters Joan Travisano and Jean Chubway will be celebrating their 73rd year of membership in our church. Their parents moved into South Amboy and immediately joined our church and enrolled them into Sunday School. They made their confirmation here on Jan. 2, 1949, at age 12. Throughout the years, they have supported our church in many ways and continue to be faithful members, attending worship and praising God with us.
~ Elaine & Shirley

CHILDREN'S Sunday School

What a wonderful job our children did in their Christmas program this year! Thank you to Mr. Arvid for accompanying them on the organ and to the congregation for singing with them. We wish you all a safe and wonderful Christmas and a very blessed and happy New Year! Classes will resume on Jan 2, 2022.

Yours in Christ,
Miss Judy and Miss Shirley

Happy New Year! Bible Verses

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."
Jeremiah 29:11

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.
Proverbs 3:5-6

There is surely a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off.
Proverbs 23:18

Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.
Isaiah 43:18-19

Submitted by Molly Solanki



FAMILY WALK TO BETHLEHEM

On December 12, following our Sunday School's worship program celebrating Jesus's birthday and the breakfast with Santa in Fellowship Hall, we "Walked to Bethlehem" at 2 PM. This walk has been an annual event for four years now. It is a community celebration of Jesus's birthday. We started at our Knights of Columbus parking lot, walked to Christ Episcopal Church on Main Street, went in for a short worship service, and then continued to walk to our First Presbyterian Church where our Pastor John conducted a meaningful service. Afterwards, we continued to St. Mary's Church where they lead us in a scripture worship service using each letter of the alphabet. Off we continued to Sacred Heart Church where Gary read the true meaning of Christmas, The Birth of Jesus. Our big day ended back at the Knights of Columbus for a wonderful hot soup lunch. Approximately 75 people participated in the walk and all were looking forward to doing it again next year.

Elaine Lopez

so blessed

McAleer Adoption Update

Grace is growing up very fast and continues to be a blessing. It's hard to believe she turned 3 two months ago. We got to spend Thanksgiving with her. I had a great time critiquing the Thanksgiving Day Parade floats and dances. Here are some recent pictures of her enjoying making a gingerbread house, Christmas Tree Shopping, getting her hair and nails done and sitting on a cement camel with my brother.

Stephanie McAleer



Family Walk to Bethlehem





Happy Birthday, Jesus



Missions gifts for the kids



Ring Out The Old and Ring in the New

Though tolling of bells to “ring out” the ending year and “ring in” the starting one was a tradition before the time of Lord Alfred Tennyson, the phrase became even more connected with New Year festivities after the English Poet Laureate’s poem, “In Memoriam, (Ring out, wild bells),” grew in popularity. The poem, which Tennyson wrote in 1850 after the passing of his dear friend, is said to have become a favorite of Queen Victoria after the death of her beloved husband Prince Albert in 1861.

In Memoriam, (Ring out, wild bells)

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light:
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.
Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.
Ring out the grief that saps the mind
For those that here we see no more;
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,
Ring in redress to all mankind.
Ring out a slowly dying cause,
And ancient forms of party strife;
Ring in the nobler modes of life,
With sweeter manners, purer laws.
Ring out the want, the care, the sin,
The faithless coldness of the times;
Ring out, ring out my mournful
rhymes

But ring the fuller minstrel in.
Ring out false pride in place and blood,
The civic slander and the spite;
Ring in the love of truth and right,
Ring in the common love of good.
Ring out old shapes of foul disease;
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;
Ring out the thousand wars of old,
Ring in the thousand years of peace.
Ring in the valiant man and free,
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;
Ring out the darkness of the land,
Ring in the Christ that is to be.

By Alfred Lord Tennyson
(1809-1892)

Submitted by Molly Solanki

Happy Birthday Jesus Breakfast!

What a wonderful time everyone had at the Happy Birthday, Jesus and Breakfast with Santa party this year. It was so good to share and celebrate the birth of our Savior together. Thank you to the Deacons and Missions committees for putting together this event for our church every year! Special thank you to Betty, Larry, Jill and Stephanie for cooking for us -everyone loved your bacon, eggs and sausages- and to Chris Adams for being our Santa.

~ Shirley Weaver



New Year Riddles

Why did the woman start making breakfast at 11:59 p.m. on December 31? **She wanted a New Year's toast.**

Why did the man sprinkle sugar on his pillow on New Year's Eve? **He wanted to start the year with sweet dreams.**

What is a New Year's resolution? **Something that goes in one year and out the other.**

What do snowmen like to do on New Year's Eve? **Chill out.**

What's the easiest way to keep your New Year's resolution to read more? **Put subtitles on the TV.**

Why does the man who runs Time's Square on New Year feel like a failure? **He always drops the ball.**

What's the easiest New Year's resolution to keep? **Be yourself.**

<https://www.countryliving.com/life/entertainment/a35086123/best-new-year-jokes/>

Submitted by Molly Solanki



Pictures with Santa

the OPEN DOOR

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
150 North Broadway
South Amboy, NJ 08879



Resolutions

"If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God" - Colossians 3:1 ESV

I have never been too big on "New Years Resolutions". I always thought that if I needed to change something, I should do it right away. Why wait until a particular day? For that reason a few years ago I joined a gym in the middle of October. I had the place all to myself until late December! Of course I was alone again by March but that is another story.

While I still believe that is a good principle we should follow in general, there is something special about January that makes us think ahead more than the other months of the year. It's a great time to pause and ask the question, "Where do I want to be at the end of the year?"

What does that question mean to you personally? At the end of 2022, what is different about you? Are you the better spouse that you wanted to be, the better parent, the better student, the better professional, a better prayer life and so forth? By now something is bound to have come to mind.

The problem is that we approach change like it "just happens" automatically. It doesn't. It almost never does. It's Newton's first law that said that an object at rest will stay at rest and an object in motion will stay in motion *unless it is acted upon by a force*. That is easily true of each of us. John Wooden said, "Five years from now, you're the same person except for the people you've met and the books you've read."

With that in mind, what "forces" are you putting in your life to change your trajectory into the new year? Who are the people that you are going to surround yourself with? Are they people that are going to encourage you and disciple you? Are they going to pray with you and encourage the changes you desire to make?

What about "the books you read"? Are you planning on reading the Bible this year? While I have certainly benefitted from books in my professional life, no book has ever so radically changed my life as the Bible. No other book will connect us to a better "force" for change than the living God revealed in the scriptures. Even just a few minutes a day can make a radical difference.

When I first started reading the Bible in college it was one chapter of the Psalms during breakfast. I was convinced it was the only part of the Bible I could read at that hour in the morning! It didn't seem like much, but it formed a habit that slowly brought great change to my life. I heard a similar story of an athlete whose rise to fame can be attributed to his commitment to spend only 5 minutes a day at the gym. It wasn't the 5 minute workout that changed him, it was him getting used to keeping a commitment and forming a life changing habit that opened doors for him.

I would encourage each of us to spend time prayerfully considering now where you want to be at the end of the year. What steps do you need to take to get there from where you are today?

God bless,

John Mottley