

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)

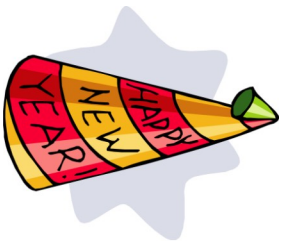
Phone : 732-721-4516 Fax: 732-721-9208

Sunday School 9:00 am

Sunday Worship 10:30 am







January



January 2018



When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 7 9am Sunday School 10:30am Worship/Communion 11:30am Coffee Hour	1 New Year's Day 6pm Scouts 	2	3	4	5	6 Epiphany of the Lord 9am Spanish Worship 12 noon Missions 3pm Taking down Decorations
8 6pm Scouts	9	10 7:30pm Scouts Leaders	11 	12	13 9am Spanish Worship	
14 9am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 11:30 am Deacon	15 Martin Luther King's Day 	16	17 8:30 am Session	18 9:30am Bagging	19	20 9am Spanish Worship 9am Food Pantry
21 9am Sunday School 10:30am Worship	22 6pm Scouts	23	24	25 	26	27 9am Spanish Worship
28 9am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 11:45 am Annual meeting 1pm Scouts Pinewood Derby	29 6pm Scouts	30	31			

~Schedules~

PLEASE GET A SUBSTITUTE FOR YOURSELF IF YOU CANNOT BE THERE ON YOUR ASSIGNED DATE. RECORD CHANGES IN SCHEDULE ON MASTER COPY LOCATED IN OFFICE, ROOM 2.

READER SCHEDULE

JAN 7th Joan D.
14th Elaine L.
21st Jennifer H.
28th Jennifer B.

FEB 4th Joe B.
11th Olivia J.
18th Ruth B
25th Sherry K.



GREETERS & USHERS SCHEDULE

JAN 7th Arvid H, Gail H.
14th Megan J, Norma M.
21st Shirley W, Cara W
28th Madhu S, Joyce S.

FEB 4th Lori R, Betty P.
11th Mary P, Elaine L.
18th George S, Joan D.
25th Arvid H, Gail H

NURSERY SCHEDULE

JAN 7th Elaine L.
14th Mike W.
21st Sherry K
28th Martha M

FEB 4th Faith Mc.
11th Christine V
18th Betty P.
25th Elaine L.



COMMUNION SET-UP SCHEDULE

JAN 7th Christine V, Jean G.
FEB 4th Gail H, Lisa A.

COMMUNION SERVING SCHEDULE

JAN 7th Christine V, Shirley W,
Olivia J, Beth M.

FEB 4th Gail H, Lisa A.
Arvid H, George S.

COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

JAN 7th Sherry K, Betty P, Shirley W.
FEB 4th Boy Scouts

Prayers for Our Homebound Members & Friends

Virginia Porter at Care One Somerset Valley
1621 Rt. 22, W. Bound Brook, NJ 08805

Debbie Sargeant Sr
3058 Bordentown Ave, Parlin, NJ 08859

Agnes Schaefer at Madison Center
625 State Rt. 34, Matawan, NJ 07747

Lorraine Scharff
6 Bates Court, Parlin, NJ 08859



Please remember our homebound with a card and prayer.

As of Feb. 2017

PASTOR – Rev. Jeffrey H. Carney

CLERK OF SESSION - Joan Downes

TREASURER - Elaine Lopez

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT -
Geraldine Wines

SECRETARY - Shirley Weaver

ORGANIST - Kevin Shoemaker

OFFICER NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Arvid Holt, Gail Hawkins

Stephanie McAleer, Carolyn Nappe

Peggy Holt, Lori Ryan, Madhu Solanki

YOUR ELDERS / THE SESSION

(Responsible for Governing our Church Affairs)

Joan Downes Gail Hawkins

Arvid Holt Elaine Lopez

Dorothy Rhodes Christine Vella

YOUR DEACONS

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

Mary Dieker Stephanie McAleer

Ken Gibson George Schaefer

Megan Jarvis Shirley Weaver

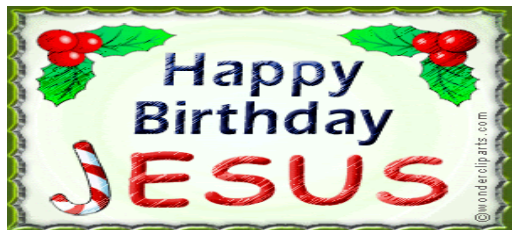


Sunday School Children's Christmas Program

Dec. 10, 2017

The weather was cold and wet outside, but Our Children did a wonderful job with their performance. Thank you to all who came out to see them.

Sunday School will resume Jan. 7th.
~SW



Happy Birthday Jesus ~ Breakfast with Santa

Our Annual Breakfast with Santa was a great success! We had 12 kids from the church register. Thank you to the Missions and Deacons Committees for making all the arrangements and putting this event together. I know the Children really enjoyed it. It was a wonderful time of food, fellowship, Christmas cheer, and of course presents! But as the Kids taught us during their Christmas program the Best Present of All was Our Savior Jesus!

~ Shirley Weaver



Go Ahead, Try Me

by Darla Noble

Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house, and test me now in this," says the LORD of Hosts, "if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there will not be room enough for."

Malachi 3:10

In today's verse we see God encouraging us... even daring us to test Him. "Go ahead and see what I'm made of," He is saying. And so I did.

Farming is hard work and pay days for a farmer are seasonal rather than weekly or monthly like they are for most people. And when you throw in the fact that I am a freelance writer and author who depends on assignments and quarterly royalty checks, you end up with erratic income and fixed monthly expenses. In other words, it's not always easy. And I confess that over the years I have been stingy at times. I've not given back to God first so I would be certain of having what I needed for my kids' Christmas gifts, school supplies, and the other little extras that come with having a large family. And you know what? Those times were ALWAYS more stressful emotionally, spiritually, and financially than when I gave first.

So one day I decided I was going to try it—the 'it' being tithing without fail. I figured if I trusted and believed God's promise of eternal life through Jesus (which I do), then why not trust Him on this, too.

From that day forward I've given over and above my tithe and NEVER... not once have I been lacking. In fact, I've had less financial stress than I ever had trying to do it my way. So go ahead... test God and see what He will do. You will be blessed in ways you cannot imagine.

Pray: LORD, thank You for Your promise to supply my needs and then some. Help me trust in this promise and receive the blessings You have for me. In Jesus' name, I pray, Amen.

This year with Pastor Jeff off to new adventures in warm California, we welcome some new and familiar faces to our pulpit for Sunday services. We hope everyone will come out to welcome and greet them.

Chaplain Wayne Smith will be with us on New Years Eve. Rev. Lisa Lancaster will be with us Jan. 7 & 14, and Rev. Suzanne Schaefer Coats will be here Jan. 21 & 28.

I'm sure they have some wonderful sermons planned for us.

~ Shirley Weaver



COFFEE HOUR NOTICE

Thank you to everyone who has donated to our Coffee hour cans. Your donations have really made a difference in deferring the cost of coffee hour for the volunteers. With that said we are happy to welcome 9 new volunteers to help with Coffee hour set up. We look forward to another wonderful year of fellowship and delicious food.

We hope everyone had a Happy New Year!

Thank you, Shirley Weaver

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 to "Cash". To place an order or if you have any questions please contact me.

-Jean Greene



© 1985 Doug Hall

"This year our special Christmas offering will go to cover damages and lawsuits resulting from the donkey running amuck at our living Nativity."

Kessler REHABILITATION CENTER

Select Medical

Irina Fookson, PT, DPT, CDT

40QA01047600

Center Manager

540 Bordentown Ave, Suite 4700, South Amboy, NJ 08879

office: 732.525.0123 fax: 732.525.0133

ifookson@kessler-rehab.com

kessler-pt.com



South Amboy

100 North Broadway

South Amboy, NJ 08879

(732) 721-0187

www.amboybank.com

CELEBRATING



YEARS OF TRADITION



VENETIAN

Care & Rehabilitation Center

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



Missions

Missions will be having a meeting on Saturday, January 6, 2018 at noon. All are welcome to join. We have a snack and share fellowship while helping others.

DEACON'S FOOD PANTRY

Old man winter is on his way. Just one week away. Despite this we had some very cold days and snow already. The elements did not prevent us from opening up the doors to our food pantry for our recipients: seniors, mothers with kids, etc., all with bright smiles on their faces, (despite the weather) and greetings for a Happy Holiday and Merry Xmas. "Christmas" a season which is noted for shopping, presents, and parties. So many are oblivious that Jesus is the reason for the season and He is totally forgotten. This season let us use the opportunity to give the best present ever. The gift of ourselves in bringing hope by letting the lives we live speak for us. Today we fed families with much necessities for living. ~ Megan Jarvis

Upcoming Church Events

Jan. 6th - 3 pm

Taking down Christmas
decorations



Jan. 18th - 9 am

Bagging



Jan. 20th - 9 am

Food Pantry



FEED THE
HUNGRY

Jan. 28th - 11:45 am

Annual Meeting



CHRISTMAS STORY SHARING OUR LOVE

LET ME START BY SAYING THANK YOU TO EACH OF YOU. ONCE AGAIN, WE PUT UP OUR ANGEL TREE ALLOWING OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS TOO SHARE IN THE JOY OF THE SEASON. I AM ALWAYS AWE STRUCK BY THE GENEROSITY OF EACH OF YOU. THERE IS ALWAYS ONE SPECIAL GIFT, THAT TOUCHES MY HEART. THIS YEAR'S SPOTLIGHT GIFT COMES FROM SOMEONE WHO TRULY UNDERSTANDS GIVING FROM THE HEART. YOU MAY NOT HAVE NOTICED THE MCDONALDS HOUSE BOX UNDER THE TREE. AS I OPENED THIS GIFT IT CERTAINLY BROUGHT ME TO TEARS. TALK ABOUT GIVING UP YOUR TREASURE. INSIDE THIS BOX WAS A TOY GIVEN WITH A HAPPY MEAL. THIS IS CERTAINLY A CHILD WHO KNOWS THE ART OF SHARING.

RESPECTFULLY,
MARY PORCELLO



Attention All Committees

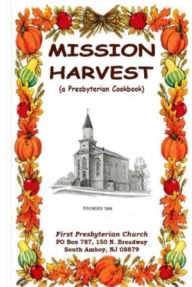
All reports for the Annual Congregational Meeting on January 28, 2018, **must be given to the office by January 7, 2018.** Please have all reports typed, clearly written, or clearly printed on 8 1/2" x 11" unlined paper, on one page if possible.

~ Shirley Weaver

MISSION HARVEST COOK BOOK

\$12 Each

Phone: 732-721-4516



January Anniversaries

Wishing a very happy anniversary to:



*Jan. 15th
Peggy & Arvid
Holt*

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



FINANCIAL REPORT

November 2017

Offerings	\$ 14,126
Covenant Income	+ 1,595
Total Income	\$ 15,721
Disbursements	\$ -18,749

WE GIVE BECAUSE GOD GAVE FIRST

How we give is more important than how much we give .

Elaine Lopez, Treasurer

January Birthdays

Wishing a very Happy Birthday to:

Jan. 1st George Schaefer

Jan. 11th Judy Scharff

Jan. 20th Carla Ring

Jan. 21st Rev. Cynthia Cochran-Carney

Jan. 25th Margaret Reilly

Jan. 30th Beverly Mezger

Want to see your special date listed?
Give the office your birthday and/or anniversary info.



the OPEN DOOR

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

150 North Broadway
South Amboy, NJ 08879



New Year, New Blessings

It is with a heavy heart I sit down to write the last newsletter article for you. Yet at the same time, it brings to mind a central promise of our Christian faith — with every ending is a new beginning. It is the promise of paradox. Christ became poor that we might become rich . . . He died that we may live . . . Into our darkness he brings light. Could it be that what appears to be the end of the road simply bends, and reveals a new path ahead? Could it be our questions have an answer that are yet to be revealed, and the divine creator is already calculating on our behalf? And could it be that though we are separated, we will be inextricably in each other's hearts? The gospel is always offering us the promise of paradox. What is lost is found, and Christ is always turning old wine into new.

The future is uncertain for all of us in the coming months, myself included. Yet a closer look beneath the surface reveals that this is always the case. Our lives are constantly taking turns in a direction we can never imagine. Our plans are laid waste only to have God chart a new course. Our hopes and dreams take a detour, only to bring into focus God's plan for our lives. I believe it was Martin Luther King Jr who said, "I don't know what the future holds, but I do know who holds the future." Never has that been more true for you and me.

We could choose to be anxious and fearful, or we could choose to embrace the future with joy and anticipation. As Christians we know which choice God would have us make. If we are overwhelmed with worries, we might miss God whispering in our ear. If we choose to dwell in darkness, we will fail to see the light. Times of uncertainty bring into focus the need for faith. Times of doubt provide an opportunity to move forward and follow Him. He is always going ahead of us, and beckons us to follow. Christ does not dwell on the past, and always reminds that he is the one who can make all things new and bring lasting joy.

So here we are at what appears to be the end of the road after seven wonderful years. But a closer look reveals a new path He calls us to walk. When we look back on our lives, we should have no regrets. Sometimes that means embracing new opportunities. So let's travel a new road together, though it might not be on any map. My spiritual director once said something I have never forgotten. He said, "There are many roads that leads to blessings when you walk with the Lord."

W.H. Auden in his narrative poem *For the Time Being: A Christmas Oratorio*, says as much:

He is the Way.

Follow Him through the Land of Unlikeness;

You will see rare beasts, and have unique adventures.

He is the Truth.

Seek Him in the Kingdom of Anxiety;

You will come to a great city that has expected your return for years.

He is the Life.

Love Him in the World of the Flesh;

And at your marriage all its occasions shall dance for joy.

Thank you for the privilege of allowing me to serve as your pastor for seven years. I have been in the ministry for thirty three years now, and by far, you are the best! I have been blessed, and there is no reason to doubt those blessings will continue for all of us.

Stay Blessed,

Pastor Jeffrey