

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](mailto:firstsouthamboy@optimum.net)

Web Site: [www.fpcsachurch.org](http://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 9:00am




# January

# January

# 2019

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
6 <b>Epiphany of the Lord</b> 9am Sunday School 10:30am Worship/Communion 11:30am Coffee Hour	7 6pm Scouts	8 <b>Office Closed</b> 	9 8:30 am Session 7:30pm Scouts Leaders	10 	11	5 9am Spanish Worship 12 noon Missions
13 9am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 11:30 am Deacon	14 6pm Scouts	15	16	17 9:30am Bagging	18	19 9am Spanish Worship 9am Food Pantry
20 9am Sunday School 10:30am Worship	21 <b>Martin Luther King's Day</b> <b>Office Closed</b> 	22	23	24 	25	26 9am Spanish Worship
27 9am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 11:30 Annual Meeting	28 6pm Scouts	29	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

Undetermined  
Need more volunteers

## GREETERS & USHERS SCHEDULE

Undetermined  
Need more volunteers

## NURSERY SCHEDULE

Jan. 6 Mike & Shirley W  
13 Elaine L. & Faith Mc.  
20 Sherry & David K.  
27 Martha M, & Jennifer B.

Feb. 3 Betty P. & Christian D.  
10 Christine V, David C.  
17 Mike & Shirley W.  
24 Elaine L, Faith Mc.

## COMMUNION SET-UP SCHEDULE

Jan. 6 Elaine L, George S.  
Feb. 3 Christine V, Jean G.

## COMMUNION SERVING SCHEDULE

Jan. 6 Elaine L, George S, Arvid H, Gerry R.  
Feb. 3 Christine V, Mary P, Lori R, George S.

## COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

Jan. 6 ???? /None  
Feb. 3 Boy Scouts



## Prayers for Our Homebound Members & Friends

### **Beverly Mezger**

250 South Broadway, Apt 511, So. Amboy, NJ 08879

### **Ervant Mansfield**

8 Anne Terrace, South Amboy, NJ 08879

### **Virginia Porter** at Care One Somerset Valley

1621 Rt. 22, W. Bound Brook, NJ 08805

### **Debbie Sargeant Sr.**

3058 Bordentown Ave, Parlin, NJ 08859

*Please remember our homebound with a card and prayer.*



## **2018**

INTERIM PASTOR – Suzanne Schafer-Coates

CLERK OF SESSION - Joan Downes

TREASURER - Elaine Lopez

SECRETARY - Shirley Weaver

ORGANIST - Kevin Shoemaker

## OFFICER NOMINATING COMMITTEE

George Schaefer, Megan Jarvis,

Molly Solanki, Jill Berwick, Ken Gibson,

Gail Hawkins, Dorothy Rhodes

## YOUR ELDERS / THE SESSION

*(Responsible for Governing our Church Affairs)*

Joan Downes

Gail Hawkins

Elaine Lopez

Dorothy Rhodes

Gerald Ring

Christine Vella

## YOUR DEACONS

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

Jennifer Harmsen

Sherry Kuo

Ken Gibson

Stephanie McAleer

Elizabeth Pinella

Shirley Weaver

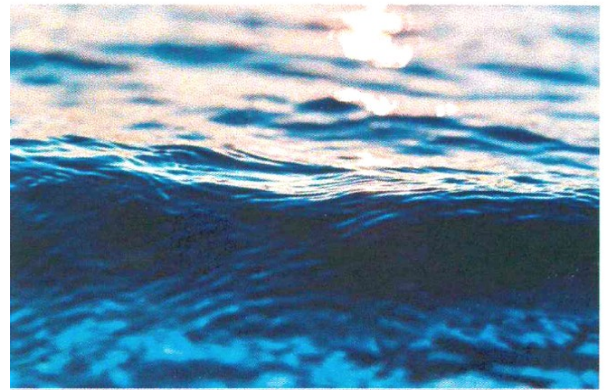
We need more volunteers especially for Readers and Ushers. However Coffee Hour, Nursery, and Communion could use more helpers too. If you did not return you Purple Update and volunteer sheet, in November, I don't have you confirmed to volunteer again for 2019. If you are willing to help out and volunteer for 2019 please see Shirley. Thank you and Happy New Year!!



## Merry Christmas

Once again, our Church and community came together to offer another joyful Christmas. We received bikes, scooters, jackets, sweaters, and a Hugh array toys. Along with the gifts we had several people adopt a complete family. Not only did they buy the gifts and tree, they also purchased food and table dressing for each of the families. This part of Christmas sharing started three years ago. The most beautiful part the families and the people themselves, share the whole holiday. Some even go to worship with the group. The Lord has found favor with our program for years. Each year something new is added. How or why I don't know this has just evolved over the years. I can tell you first hand, we have many generous people that come around each year to be part of our program. Sometimes, before we have our list ready several people are calling asking for a child. With grateful heart, I thank each and everyone for their help. Again, I must spotlight Mike & Shirley Weaver, my Granddaughter Jennifer Perez without them this would be impossible for me.

In His Service  
Mary Porcello  
Elder



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](http://www.veritasrecoverycenter.com)

### 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



# Sunday School Children's Christmas Program

Dec. 9, 2018

Our Children did a wonderful job with their performance this year! I am so Proud of each of them. Thank you to all who came out to see them. Sunday School will resume Jan. 6th, 2019. Happy New Year! ~Shirley



...And some pictures of the kids with Santa ...



This year was very special it was the first year we did "A Walk to Bethlehem." We started at K.O.C. in So. Amboy, and walked from church to church stopping and having a short story and token at each. We ended back at the K.O.C for soup and fellowship after. Churches we visited were Christ Episcopal, Everlasting Ministries, 1st Pres. St. Mary's and Sacred Heart. (pictured below is the stop at 1st Pres.)







### Deacon's Monthly Update

What a wonderful time everyone had at the Happy Birthday Jesus, Breakfast with Santa party. It was so good to share and celebrate the birth of our Savior together. Thank you to Mike Weaver for cooking for us, everyone loved your eggs and sausage. The Board of Deacons was also blessed in so many ways in regards to the food pantry this month it just makes my heart fill with joy. The Lord has just showered his love for this community and church on us all and I for one feel truly blessed to bare witness to the way He provides and His endless love for us. Hope you all had a wonderful Christmas! ~ Shirley Weaver



### Food Pantry News

I am intrigued by the wonder and marvel at how God works in mysterious ways, His Wonders to perform. This month we did not receive many offers or allotments from the Food Bank. However, with our trust in God to provide, we were blessed with fifty turkeys from Rev. Suzanne, other donations from our sister churches in the area, a wonderful donation from Scout Pack 101 and food and gifts for the kids provided by our new friends at Zeta Phi Beta Sorority. We opened our doors to recipients with smiles on their faces happy to see us. With God's help we provided for 73 families. ~ Megan Jarvis



### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

**November 2018**

Offerings	\$ 5,981.00
Covenant Income	+ .1,38500
Total Income	<b>\$ 7,366.00</b>
Disbursements	<b>\$ - 12,379.08</b>

**WE GIVE BECAUSE GOD GAVE FIRST**

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

*Elaine Lopez, Treasurer*

## The Mission Committee

Our next meeting will be on Jan 5th at 12noon. Please come out and join us, all are welcome.

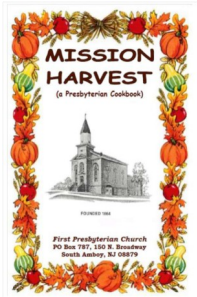


**Save the Date**  
**"Warm Hearts, Warm Hands"**  
 fundraiser dinner on  
 2/16/19 Fellowship Hall.

## MISSION HARVEST COOK BOOK

**\$12 Each**

**Phone: 732-721-4516**



## Attention All Committees



All reports for the Annual Congregational Meeting on January 27, 2019, **must be given to the office by January 6, 2019.** 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

## January Anniversaries

Wishing a very happy anniversary to:

*Jan. 15th*

*Peggy & Arvid Holt*

## January Birthdays

Wishing a very Happy Birthday to:

*Jan. 1st George Schaeffer*

*Jan. 11th Judy Scharff*

*Jan. 20th Carla Ring*

*Jan. 21st Rev. Cynthia Cochran-Carney*

*Jan. 22nd Logan Kuo*

*Jan. 25th Margaret Reilly*

*Jan. 26th Brianna Sweatt*

*Jan. 30th Beverly Mezger*

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



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

**CELEBRATING**  
**125**  
 YEARS OF TRADITION



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

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



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# the OPEN DOOR

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
150 North Broadway  
South Amboy, NJ 08879



*A note  
from the pastor*

## Pastor's Musings on a New Year....

It was a wonderful Advent and Christmas at our church. The church was decorated beautifully (thanks to all who helped!), and every Sunday morning as we gathered to worship, we could feel the excitement of Advent building until it came to its apex on Christmas Sunday (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent) and Christmas Eve. We had the Hanging of the Greens, the Children's program and the party for Jesus' birthday and a visit from Santa (thank you, Deacons and Mission Committee), we had a service of Advent poetry and carols, and finally our Christmas Eve service of Lessons and Carols when we prepared the manger for Jesus and lit our candles and sang "Silent Night." We also had a Blue Christmas service when we were reassured that Jesus comes to comfort those whose hearts are breaking, as well as those who feel like celebrating the joy of his birth.

And now, we move into a new year. It was a year ago that I began to get to know you as I preached and led worship on Sundays, and just four months ago that I became your Interim Pastor. Now is the time for us to roll up our sleeves and begin the task of looking to the future of our church, particularly in regard to looking for your next pastor. In order to do this, we need to look at our church's past (what kind of church have we been?), our present (what kind of church are we now?) and then, our future (what is our mission? What kind of church do we want to be?). We will be looking at the community of South Amboy, what are the needs of the folks in our town, both physical and spiritual? We will be asking ourselves what are the needs, spiritual and physical, of our members? And we will have to ask hard questions, such as what are our financial resources? Can we actually afford another pastor? Can we keep our beloved church building maintained? What do we need to do to be a church that faithfully follows our Lord Jesus Christ and lives out his commandments?

We will be doing a lot of talking and a lot of praying. The talking will start soon, but we can begin the praying now. Take some time every day to sit quietly and ask God what God wants us to do. This church has always been a faithful church, always believing that God will provide for this congregation to go forward in mission, but let us do our part and ask God for guidance, and listen for God's answers. I'll do this. Will you?

Finally, in this new year, let me leave you with this thought from the preacher Howard Thurman, maybe we can find our mission in his words.

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and the princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,  
The work of Christmas begins:  
To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among people,  
To make music in the heart.

~ Pastor Suzanne