

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](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

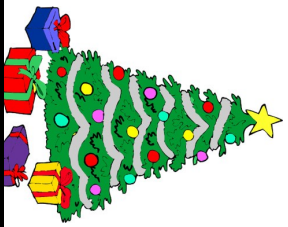
Fax: 732-721-9208

Sunday Worship 10:30am

Sunday School Oct—June 9:00am



# December



# December 2023

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.*

| Sun  | Mon                                  | Tue  | Wed                   | Thu                                     | Fri                          | Sat                           |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------|---|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
|  |                                      |  |                       |   | 1<br>3pm Pathway to Success  | 2<br>1:00 pm Deacon's meeting |
| 3<br>1st Sunday of Advent<br>9am Sunday School<br>10:30am Worship/Communion<br>11:30am Coffee Hour/<br>Congregational Meeting                  | 4<br>6pm Scouts                      | 5  | 6<br>6pm Girl Scouts  | 7                                       | 8<br>3pm Pathway to Success  | 9                             |
| 10<br>2nd Sunday of Advent<br>9am Sunday School<br>10:30am Worship/Children's Program<br>11:30am Happy Birthday Jesus<br>2pm Walk to Bethlehem | 11<br>6pm Scouts                     | 12   | 13<br>6pm Girl Scouts | 14                                      | 15<br>3pm Pathway to Success | 16                            |
| 17<br>3rd Sunday of Advent<br>10:30am Worship  | 18<br>6pm Scouts                     | 19<br>Food Delivery<br>8am Open Door<br>Articles due | 20<br>6pm Girl Scouts | 21<br>5:30 pm Blue<br>Christmas Service | 22<br>3pm Pathway to Success | 23                            |
| 24<br>4th Sunday of Advent<br>Christmas Eve<br>10:30am Worship<br>5:00pm Christmas Eve service   | 25<br>Christmas Day<br>office closed | 26<br>office closed                                  | 27                    | 28                                      | 29                           | 30                            |
| 31<br>New Year's Eve<br>10:30am Worship  |                                      |  |                       |   |                              |                               |

# BUILD A STRATEGIC FINANCIAL LIFE WITH US



For products and services that can help form the foundation of your financial life, turn to Prudential Advisors.

## ASSET PROTECTION

- Life Insurance
- Disability Income Insurance
- Long-Term Care Insurance
- Property & Casualty Insurance

## INVESTMENT AND RETIREMENT PLANNING NEEDS

- Annuities
- IRAs and Educational IRAs
- Mutual Funds
- SIMPLE IRA & 401(k)

## BUSINESS PLANNING NEEDS

- Business Continuation Funding
- Executive Compensation Funding
- Key Person Insurance
- Non-Qualified Deferred Compensation
- Group Benefits

## ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

- Asset Management
- Estate Planning Strategies



201-290-1941

**Armando Patino**  
Financial Advisor  
Prudential Advisors  
armando.patino@prudential.com  
1 Tower Center Blvd, East Brunswick, NJ 08816



732-645-4619

**Jeremy Gloth**  
Financial Advisor  
Prudential Advisors  
jeremy.gloth@prudential.com  
1 Tower Center Blvd, East Brunswick, NJ 08816

Prudential Advisors is a brand name of The Prudential Insurance Company of America and its subsidiaries. Life Insurance and annuities are issued by The Prudential Insurance Company of America. Offering investment advisory services through Pruco Securities, LLC (Pruco) (Member SIPC), under the marketing name Prudential Financial Planning Services, pursuant to separate client agreement. Offering insurance and securities products and services as a registered representative of Pruco and an agent of issuing insurance companies. 1-800-778-2255. Property and Casualty policies are issued by insurers that are not affiliates or subsidiaries of Prudential Financial. Long-term care and disability income insurance are issued by unaffiliated insurers and sold through Prudential Insurance Agency, LLC (PIA). Availability varies by carrier and state. Prudential, the Prudential logo and the Rock symbol are service marks of Prudential Financial, Inc., and its related entities, registered in many jurisdictions worldwide.

Move forward with confidence that Prudential Advisors is ready to help you meet your financial challenges.



1001144-00005-00 EXP: 03/24/23



## South Amboy

100 North Broadway  
South Amboy, NJ 08879  
(732) 721-0187

www.amboybank.com

CELEBRATING



VERITAS  
RECOVERY CENTER

540 Bordentown Ave.

South Amboy, New Jersey 08879

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

www.veritasrecoverycenter.com

Substance Use Disorder and  
Inpatient Withdrawal  
Management



## Prayers for Our Homebound Members & Friends

**Jean Chubway,**

458 Jack Martin Blvd, Apt. 238, Brick, NJ 08724

**Barbara Ballo,**

28 First Street, Sayreville, NJ 08872

**Ervant Mansfield,**

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

**Carla Ring,**

1084 Mulberry Pl, Toms River, NJ 08753

**Deborah Sargeant Sr.,**

3058 Bordentown Ave, Parlin, NJ 08859

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

PULPIT SUPPLY - John Mottley  
CLERK OF SESSION - Christine Vella  
MODERATOR OF DEACONS - Elizabeth Pinella  
TREASURER - Elaine Lopez  
SECRETARY - Shirley Weaver  
ORGANISTS - Phyllis Chao & Sharon Munoz  
SEXTONS - Erin Gualdarrama & Shirley Weaver  
MISSION CHAIR - Ruth Beselinoff  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SUNDAY SCHOOL - Shirley Weaver

As of Feb. 2023

### OFFICER NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Elder- Chris Adams    Deacon - Jill Berwick  
Joan Downes            Molly Solanki  
Elaine Lopez            Arvid Holt

### YOUR ELDERS / THE SESSION

*(Responsible for governing our church affairs)*

Ruth Beselinoff        Chris Adams  
Mary Porcello           George Schaefer  
Madhu Solanki

### YOUR DEACONS

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

Jill Berwick            Megan Jarvis  
Sherry Kuo             Elizabeth Pinella  
Joyce Solanki         Larry Wallace



**Happy Birthday  
Jesus Breakfast  
Dec. 10, 2023  
After Service**

The Deacons are hosting their Happy Birthday Jesus breakfast after service on Sunday, Dec. 10.  
~ Deacons



**Blue Christmas Service**

A service of comfort and hope

**Thursday, Dec. 21  
5:30pm**

**TIME TO ORDER YOUR  
CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS**

**Poinsettia orders will be taken until December 17.**

You can also order flowers "In Honor of" or "In Memory of" a loved one for Sunday worship. Sunday worship flowers are \$25.00 for both urns. Please make all checks out to **CASH**.

Thank you.

Jean Greene 732-727-8690

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



12-22-2014

**WHAT DO YOU BUY THE GUY WHO HAS EVERYTHING, MADE EVERYTHING, AND HAS GIVEN US EVERYTHING?**

Copyright ©2015 HarperCollins Christian Publishing

**December Birthdays**



Wishing a very Happy Birthday to:

*Dec. 8 Jean Chubway*

*Dec. 21 Phil Van Horn*

*Dec. 29 Christine Vella*

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

**December Anniversaries**

Wishing a very happy anniversary to:

*Dec. 18th*

*Carla & Gerald Ring*

*&*

*Dec. 29th*

*Rev. Jeffrey & Rev. Cynthia Carney*



**A Walk to Bethlehem**

**Dec. 10, 2023, 2pm**

**Starts at K.O.C. South Amboy**

**Attention All Committees**



All reports for the Annual Congregational Meeting in January 2024, **must be given to the office by January 7, 2024.** 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

## ~ Quotes ~

"The purpose of art is washing the dust of daily life off our souls." - Pablo Picasso

"The best protection any woman can have is courage." - Elizabeth Cady Stanton

"The most important single ingredient in the formula of success is knowing how to get along with people." - President Teddy Roosevelt

"Your most unhappy customers are your greatest source of learning." - Bill Gates

"Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth." - Muhammad Ali

"You cannot shake hands with a clenched fist." - Indira Gandhi

"When you're good at something, you'll tell everyone. When you're great at something, they'll tell you." - Walter Payton

"Hatred paralyzes life; love releases it." - Martin Luther King Jr.

"There is no such thing as a little freedom. Either you are all free, or you are not free." - Walter Cronkite

"Courage is not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it." - Nelson Mandela

Submitted by Gerry Ring

Christmas  
BEGINS WITH  
Christ



## INK CARTRIDGES RECYCLE

THANK YOU to those who did answer my plea to replenish our supply of used ink cartridges. Again I must ask everyone to bring in their used ink cartridges because we have none, zero, in supply. Please bring your used ink cartridges so we can benefit from this wonderful program. Let's keep this wonderful program going. Thank you!!!!

Elaine Lopez



We want to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving as we happily prepare for our children's Christmas program, which will be on Dec. 10 during service. ~ Miss Judy

## PAVERS

We are selling engraved pavers for our "Memorial Paver Garden" out front.

Want one?

Complete a

form and hand it in with your payment. Forms are available on our website and in the mailroom at the church. For more information, contact Shirley in the church office. Pavers will be placed next year.



## FINANCIAL REPORT

### October 2023

|                     |                 |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Offerings           | \$ 6,118        |
| Covenant Income     | +4,189          |
| God's Pocket        | +6,400          |
| Designated income   | +331            |
| <b>Total Income</b> | <b>\$17,038</b> |

Disbursements \$-8,895

**ACTS 20:35 "IT IS MORE BLESSED  
TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE."**

Elaine Lopez, Treasurer

## ~ Bible Verses ~

Acts, 13:38 - Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins.

Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates his own love for us, in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 - Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Submitted by Gerry Ring



(See Luke 2:1-16)

12-19-2014

IT HAD A STAR ON TOP SO I FIGURED IT SHOULD HAVE A MANGER AT THE BOTTOM

Copyright ©2015 HarperCollins Christian Publishing



### December Bible Verses

“There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.” – Isaiah 11:1

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” -Isaiah 9:6

“Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.” -Luke 2:11

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” -John 3:16

Submitted by Molly Solanki

**Community Thanksgiving Service** held here on November 20, 2023, was such a wonderful service to get us all ready for this holiday season. What a blessing to see so many different congregations unite under one roof to praise and worship the Lord, Our God together. We recorded the service, so if you were unable to join us, you can watch it online via our web page or YouTube page. (pictured to the right are the three ministers who performed the worship service. Pastor John Mottley - First Presbyterian Church of South Amboy, Rev. Fred Galano - Christ Church Episcopal, & Rev. Vincent Frunzi - Trinity UMC & Sayreville UMC.)



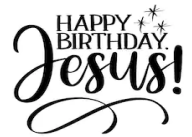
## Upcoming Church Events

**First Sunday in Advent**  
**Dec. 3, 10:30 am**



**Children's Worship Service**  
**Sun. Dec. 10, at 10:30 am**

**Happy Birthday Jesus**  
**Sun. Dec. 10, 11:30 am**



**Walk to Bethlehem**  
**Sun. Dec. 10, 2 pm**

**Blue Christmas Service**  
**Thurs. Dec. 21, 5:30 pm**



**Christmas Eve Church Service**  
**Sun. Dec. 24, 10:30 am**

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**  
**Sun. Dec. 24, 5 pm**



## From the Desk of the Deacons

Does our God, the God of the universe, have time for us?

Of course yes, He is our friend, our leader, our helper, our physician and what not!

Do not think that we are just nobody and God is too busy to help common people like us!

He listens to the widows and listens to the little children. Once a woman's husband died accidentally...A policeman promised to help her and gave her his business card. The widow lost the card and could not find it. She was disappointed. She prayed and she prayed and prayed. One Sunday morning she found it on the windowsill of her church!

Can you believe this?

God heard her prayer and came to help her!

Our God talks to the prophets and listens to the prayers of the kings, too!

The king of Judah, Hezekiah, once fell sick. The prophet Isaiah brought a message to him that he was going to die.

The king prayed to God. (2 Kings 20:2) God heard his prayer. He told the prophet to go to the king and tell him that fifteen more years were added to his life!

Yes, God hears and He cares. He provides and protects. He heals and He rescues, and also raises us from the dead!

Joyce Solanki



## Movie Quotes

1. "You can't hurt Christmas, Mr. Mayor because it isn't about the gifts or the contests or the fancy lights." — Lou Lou Who, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*
2. "Faith is believing in things when common sense tells you not to." — Fred Gailey, *"Miracle on 34th Street"*
3. "If you look for it, I've got a sneaky feeling you'll find that love is actually all around." — Prime Minister, *"Love Actually"*
4. "Seeing is believing, but sometimes the most real things in the world are the things we can't see." — Conductor, *"The Polar Express"*
5. "I think there must be something wrong with me, Linus. Christmas is coming, but I'm not happy. I don't feel the way I'm supposed to feel." — Charlie Brown, *"A Charlie Brown Christmas"*
6. "Seeing isn't believing; believing is seeing." — Charlie, *"The Santa Claus 2"*
7. "A true selfless act always sparks another." — Klaus, *"Klaus"*
8. "God bless us, every one!" — Tiny Tim, *"A Christmas Carol"*



Submitted by Molly Solanki

## Prayer to Remember What Christmas is All About

Lord, I thank You for coming to earth so You could redeem me. When I think of the extent to which You were willing to go in order to save me, it makes me want to shout, to celebrate, and to cry with thankfulness. You love me so much, and I am so grateful for that love. Without You, I would still be lost and in sin. But because of everything You have done for me, today I am free; my life is blessed; Jesus is my Lord; Heaven is my home; and Satan has no right to control me. I will be eternally thankful to You for everything You did to save me! I pray this in Jesus' name! ~ Rick Renner

# *the* OPEN DOOR

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
150 North Broadway  
South Amboy, NJ 08879



## Prepare Your Heart

I confess that many times December 24th & 25th have “caught me off guard”. It’s odd that it happens, because it’s not like it happens on different dates throughout the year. The calendar obviously does not change, it’s simply the situation of my heart that was not prepared to marvel the wonder of the incarnation of Jesus Christ. Don’t be like me and find yourself sitting in a Christmas Eve worship service contemplating these truths for the first time that year!

What are you planning on doing this year to prepare your hearts to worship this Christmas? Do you have a plan to read through the Christmas narrative in your Bible? Do you have a Christmas devotional to go through with yourself or with your family? When do you plan on listening to Christmas music? Is that music “Christ exalting” or is it mostly about “the weather” as seasonal music is this time of year?

This is what the season of Advent is about - preparing our hearts to worship God as we contemplate the wonder of Jesus’s coming to earth as a child to save the world from our sins.

To aide in this goal, our church has many events this month designed to prepare our hearts to worship.

The first is our “Walk to Bethlehem” event on December 10th where starting at 2pm we will walk through several of our communities churches and partake of our various traditions. We will be singing Christmas Carols, seeing different styles of decorations, hearing homilies, and enjoying sweet fellowship with Christians from various churches in town!

The same day we will also worship with our Sunday School kids leading us while the deacons have a very special “Happy Birthday Jesus” breakfast planned after service.

What if all of this “holly jolly Christmas stuff” just isn’t resonating with you? What if the very idea of “tis the season” sounds hollow to you in light of what you are going through? Or the diagnosis you or a loved one received, or the empty seats at the dinner table? If that’s you, we would particularly like to invite you to our Blue Christmas Service on Thursday December 21st at 5:30pm. It is a service of hope & healing where we remind ourselves of the truths of the gospel and allow them to minister to our broken hearts, whatever the reason might be. All are welcome to come, no questions are asked, we simply look to Jesus & His Word for the answers.

Finally we encourage everyone to join us for our Christmas Eve services. Since Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year we will host our regular Sunday Worship Service at 10:30am then we will return for our traditional candlelight service at 5pm. We hope and pray you are able to join us.

We pray that many of these resources are a blessing to you this season and help you experience a more spiritual Christmas season this year.

*Pastor John Mottley*