

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



WINTER
blessings

January



January 2024



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

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South Amboy

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South Amboy, NJ 08879
(732) 721-0187

www.amboybank.com

CELEBRATING



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

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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.

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

John Mottley	Jill Berwick
Joan Downes	Molly Solanki
Elaine Lopez	Arvid Holt

YOUR ELDERS / THE SESSION

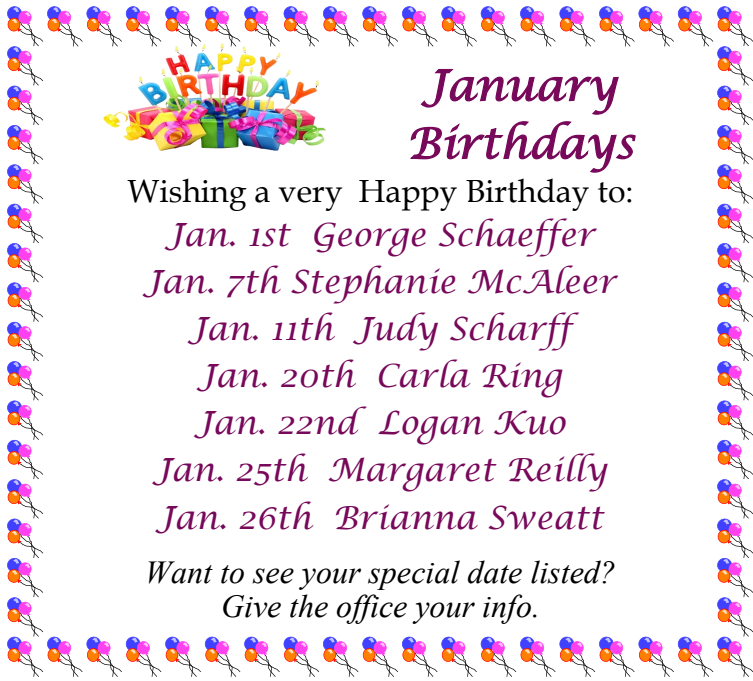
(Responsible for governing our church affairs)

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



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. 22nd Logan Kuo

Jan. 25th Margaret Reilly

Jan. 26th Brianna Sweatt

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



Save the Date for Our Annual Meeting

Jan. 28 - 11:30 am (after service)
Members are expected to attend.

Attention All Committees



All reports for the Annual Congregational Meeting on January 28, 2024, **must be given to the office by January 7, 2024.** Please have all reports clearly written, or printed or email them to the office.
~ Shirley Weaver



Merry Christmas to all from your Missions Committee

Thanks to all who have so faithfully contributed to Missions this year. As we navigate through the rough days ahead, just remember that God is faithful and we will continue to follow His will for this church. We are planning some fun-filled fundraising in 2024. Stay tuned. God bless you all!

~ Ruthie

From the Desk of the Deacons

In the Garden of Eden, God covered Adam's body with a simple fig leaf. Then from generation to generation, it went on...see how modern men and women elaborately cover their bodies!

With regard to food, just think about what we eat today and what they ate in old times and how they had to wander and find sustenance. Early humans "invented" fire and they eventually started to cook and now look at modern restaurants! How far mankind has advanced and cultivated all kinds of skills in all areas of life.

Think about Biblical wars...how they fought, and think about modern missiles and bombs. Think about how the means of transportation and communications have advanced! And the aeronautical and medical fields, too. God gave wisdom and skills to us, and we progress from one generation to another. Who knows how far it will go on!

No matter how humans use these skills, one thing is certain that God has been merciful to humans from one generation to another. Times change, but God has been faithful to us. Let us not worry, instead, let us offer ourselves to Him and courageously move into future. The God who has been with us all these years will sustain us!

Wishing you all a very happy and hopeful new year.

~ Joyce Solanki

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.





CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



CHILDREN'S Sunday School

Classes will resume on Jan 7, 2024. As the children led us in singing: We wish you a Merry Christmas, and a peaceful, happy, New Year! Yours in Christ, Miss Judy, Miss Christine, and Miss Shirley



Arvid Holt singing for us, accompanied by Phyllis Chao on Dec. 10.

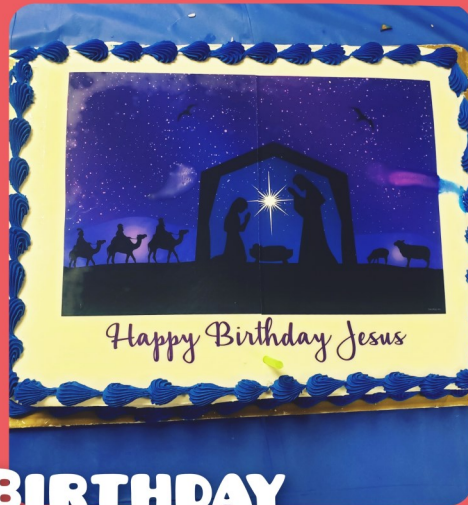
Sunday Worship Flowers

Flowers for Sunday Worship are \$25.00 for two urns. There are 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

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. *Philippians 4:6-7*





**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
JESUS**



January Bible verses

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

2 Corinthians 5:17

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

Proverbs 23:18

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 43:19

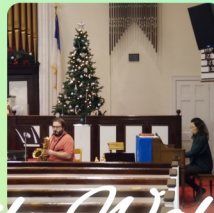
“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11

Submitted by Molly Solanki



FAMILY WALK TO BETHLEHEM

On December 10, following our Children's Christmas Program and celebrating Jesus' birthday here in Fellowship Hall, we "Walked to Bethlehem." This walk has been an annual event for five years now. It is a community celebration of Jesus's birth. The pouring rain turned this year's walk into a caravan of vehicles driving from church to church instead of people walking, but we still had a wonderful time praising our savior and preparing our hearts for Christmas. We started out at Knights of Columbus and stops along the way included Christ Episcopal Church, First Presbyterian Church, St. Mary's Church, and Sacred Heart Church. Then we ended back at the Knights of Columbus for hot soup and sweet treats. Approximately 40 people participated in this year's walk/drive, and we are hoping for even more next year. ~ Shirley W.



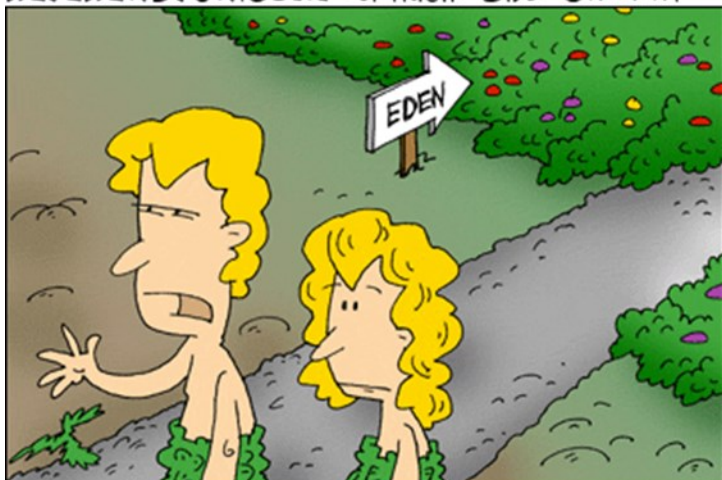
Family Walk to Bethlehem





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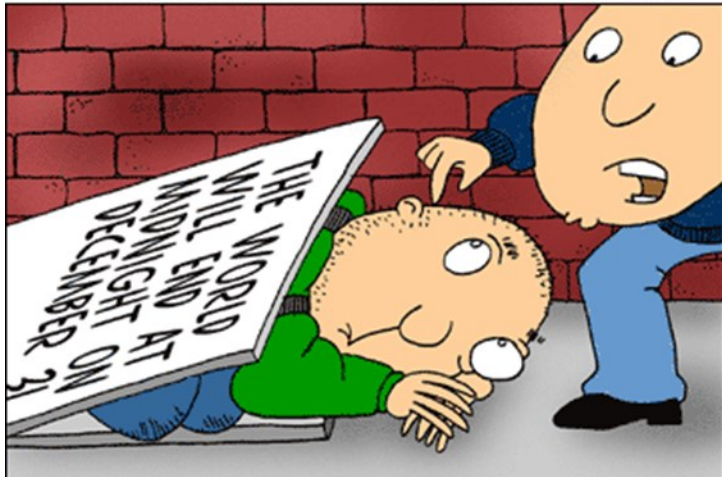
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Thanks to Dad Hengeveld (See Genesis 3) 01-03-2005

OUR RESOLUTION LAST YEAR COULD HAVE BEEN "LESS FRUIT", BUT NO ... WE WENT WITH "TRUST PEOPLE MORE"

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01-01-2002

WAKE UP FELLA ... IT'S TIME TO CHANGE YOUR SIGN

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A Prayer to Keep God First This New Year

Dear God, Thank you that you make all things new. Thank you for all that you've allowed into our lives this past year, the good and the hard things that have reminded us how much we need you and rely on your presence filling us every day. We pray for your Spirit to lead us each step of this New Year. We ask that you will guide our decisions and turn our hearts to deeply desire you above all else. We ask that you will open doors needing to be opened and close the ones needing to be shut tight. We ask that you would help us release our grip on the things to which you've said "no," "not yet," or "wait." We ask for help to pursue you first, above every dream and desire you've put within our hearts.

We ask for your wisdom, strength, and power to be constantly present within us. We pray you would make us strong and courageous for the road ahead. Give us ability beyond what we feel able, let your gifts flow freely through us, so that you would be honored by our lives, and others would be drawn to you. We pray that you'd keep us far from the snares and traps of temptations. That you would whisper in our ear when we need to run and whisper in our heart when we need to stand our ground.

<https://www.christianity.com/wiki/prayer/prayers-for-new-year-pray-to-renew-heart-and-mind.html> Submitted by Molly Solanki

Heavenly Father, please be with me today. My heart hurts. I feel overwhelmed, and it's difficult for me to see the joy that only You provide.



Still, I trust in You and place my problems in your hands. I pray that you can open my eyes to the ways in which Your love is embracing me.

Amen.



the OPEN DOOR

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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What do we do now?

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. (James 1:12 ESV)

To say that there have been some changes recently is an understatement. Change, whether for the good or bad can be scary, it can be uncomfortable, it stretches us outside our comfort zone. So what are we to do as a church when we find ourselves in a place like this? I once heard an account of what instructions fighter pilots are to follow during intense maneuverings. In the heat of exchanges at such incredible speeds and maneuvers, a pilot can easily not know “which way is up” especially in bad weather. While the popular motto of our age might be “trust your instincts”, they were actually told to “trust their instruments.” This is a fascinating difference that we ought to learn from. The pilots instruments in their cockpit will tell them which way is up and which way is down regardless of what the pilot “feels” in the given moment. And if they follow the “sure guidance” of their instruments, they will successfully complete their mission. So what are we to follow as Christians? What is our “instrument” to lead us into truth? Many of you would correctly guess, and you probably have several copies of these instruments around your home: the Bible! It is steadfast and true regardless of how we feel. It is right even when I am wrong. Since it has faithfully guided the church for thousands of years, I am confident we will do fine so long as we don’t get distracted from where it leads. Therefore, in one sense, nothing is going to change because our guiding principles are the same! We are still going to preach the gospel to all nations (Romans 10:14-17), we are going to make disciples (Matthew 28:20) we are still going to remember the poor through the deacons & food pantries ministries (Galatians 2:10), we are still going to gather together to worship and encourage one another (Hebrews 10:25), and we are still going to equip the saints for the work of the ministry (Ephesians 4:12). There is a temptation to “wait” until some semblance of normalcy returns to reengage, but resisting that temptation is why our church continued to thrive during the “covid season” while others struggled a lot more. The time for the church to be huddled in an upper room ended in Acts chapter 2 with the coming of The Holy Spirit at Pentecost, now it’s our job to shine our light to Judah, Samaria and the ends of the earth! To us that means Broadway, South Amboy, and the ends of New Jersey! This year will present many challenges, but most of them are really just distractions. Let’s not let them get the best of us, let’s lift our eyes towards the heavens and continue to be about our Father’s business until Jesus Christ comes again! Amen church?!

John Mottley