

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



November

November 2024

*I have not stopped
giving thanks for you,
remembering you
in my prayers.
Ephesians 1:16*

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 3pm Pathway to Success	2
3 9am Sunday School 10:30am Worship/Communion	4 6pm Scouts	5 Election Day Scouts Fish Dinner 5:pm-6:45pm	6 6pm Girl Scouts	7	8 3pm Pathway to Success	9	
10 9am Sunday School 10:30am Worship	11 Veterans Day Office Closed	12	13 6pm Girl Scouts	14	15 3pm Pathway to Success	16	
17 9am Sunday School 10:30am Worship	18 6pm Scouts	19 Food Delivery	20 6pm Girl Scouts	21	22 3pm Pathway to Success	23	
24 9am Sunday School 10:30am Worship	25 6pm Scouts	26 8am Open Door Articles due	27 6pm Girl Scouts	28 Thanksgiving Day Office Closed	29 Office Closed	30	
31 9am Sunday School 10:30am Worship							

NEW CREATION

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VERITAS

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South Amboy, New Jersey 08879
Phone: 732-721-1000 - Fax: 732-952-3355
www.veritasrecoverycenter.com

Substance Use Disorder and
Inpatient Withdrawal
Management

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 in the fall.



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 - Michelle Herman
TREASURER - Christine Vella
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. 2024

OFFICER NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Joan Downes	Molly Solanki
Elaine Lopez	Judy Scharff
Ruth Beselinoff	Jill Berwick

YOUR ELDERS / THE SESSION

(Responsible for governing our church affairs)

Ruth Beselinoff	Mary Porcello
George Schaefer	Madhu Solanki
Christina Vella	

YOUR DEACONS

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

Jill Berwick	Michelle Herman
Megan Jarvis	Lori Ryan
Joyce Solanki	Larry Wallace

November Birthdays



Wishing a very Happy Birthday to:

Nov. 6 *David Coates*

Nov. 8 *Christian Dwojeski*

Nov. 10 *Joseph Beselinoff*

Nov. 11 *Dominick Vigliante*

Nov. 23 *Dorothy Rhodes*

Nov. 24 *Anthony Vella Sr.*

Nov. 25 *Joyce Solanki*

Want to add your special day?

Tell Shirley in the office.

Attention All Committees



All reports for the Annual Congregational Meeting in January 2025, **must be given to the office by January 5, 2025.** Please have all reports typed, clearly written, or clearly printed on 8 1/2" x 11" unlined paper, on one page if possible.

~ Shirley

TIME TO ORDER YOUR CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Poinsettia orders will be taken until December 15.

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

ANGEL TREE



In the spirit of sharing the blessings the Lord has bestowed upon us, we are sponsoring an Angel Tree for those less fortunate. Anyone wishing to help a child for

Christmas can take an angel card off the tree and buy an age-appropriate gift for that child and return the gift under the tree unwrapped. Please return the angel card with the gift. Gifts will be picked up weekly. When all the angels are adopted, the tree will have all crosses to replace them as a reminder of the Lord's "Christmas Present" to us, "His Son". Please have all gifts back by Dec. 15th, so we may get them out in time.

Quotes for November

"Autumn... the year's last, loveliest smile." — William Cullen Bryant

"Winter is an etching, spring a watercolor, summer an oil painting, and autumn a mosaic of them all." — Stanley Horowitz

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." — John F. Kennedy

"Autumn is springtime in reverse." — Terri Guillemets

"November. Crows are approaching, wounded leaves fall to the ground." — Sir Kristian Goldmund Aumann

Submitted by Molly Solanki



INK CARTRIDGES RECYCLE

ATTENTION!! This last month only two ink cartridges came in for recycling at Staples. Although I/we appreciate them it only gave us \$4.00 in Rewards. Due to the low Rewards total we skipped ordering more supplies. So don't forget to recycle your used ink cartridges with us. The Magic is you bringing in your used ink cartridges and us bringing 20 used cartridges a month to Staples. That equals \$40.00 in Rewards. Keep this wonderful program going and THANK YOU. God is good and supplies all our needs. Thank you!!!! *Elaine Lopez*

~ Bible Verses ~

"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful." -Colossians 3:15 NIV

"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful." -Colossians 4:2 NIV

"Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; His love endures forever." -1 Chronicles 16:34 NIV

"Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make music to our God on the harp." -Psalm 147:7 NIV

Submitted by Molly Solanki

Deacons

Our church family always pulls together to provide help where it is needed. We greatly appreciate all the help received by others in our church. Starting in December 2024, I have received a donation to supply our Sacrament of Communion for at least the next 6 months – God is good, Amen!

At our last Deacon's Meeting, Joyce attended and what a blessing to have her back in church and continuing to do God's work. We continue to pray for Madhu, our homebound members and our country. As always, reach out to us if you or someone you know is in need of anything we can help with.

Dear God,
You are our creator and savior of our world and all people. Let us pray for all people, and countries, wherever they are and whatever their needs - Amen
~ Michelle Herman



In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns
below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep,
 though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

-John McCrae



CHILDREN'S Sunday School

The Sunday School is off to a wonderful start this year. This year we have three children registered. Looking forward to this year's Children's Christmas Program on Dec. 8, 2024, during service.
~ Miss Shirley



Happy Birthday
Jesus Breakfast
Dec. 08, 2024
After Service

The Deacons are hosting their Happy Birthday Jesus breakfast after service on Sunday, Dec. 8.
~ Deacons

Save the date
A Walk to Bethlehem
Dec. 8, 2024, 2pm
Starts at K.O.C. South Amboy



Blue Christmas Service

We will be having our Blue Christmas service this year. It's a service of comfort and hope. More information to come soon.

Citations from the Westminster Shorter Catechism

"Frequently Asked Questions" from the 1600's
written by Presbyterians.

Q4: What is God?

A: God is a spirit, whose being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth are infinite, eternal, and unchangeable.

God is unique, awe inspiring, and whose attributes go beyond human comprehension. There are endless reasons to worship Him.

For more: Jn 4:24, Ex 3:14, Ps 147:5, Gn 17:1, Is 57:15, Dt 32:4, Ps 100:5, Ex 34:6-7, Jb 11:7-9, 1 Jas 1:17

Submitted by John Mottley

Wait

By Russell Kelfer

Desperately, helplessly, longingly, I cried.
Quietly, patiently, lovingly, He replied.
I pleaded, and I wept for a clue to my fate,
And the Master so gently said, "Child, you must wait."

"Wait? Your say wait??" my indignant reply.
"Lord, I need answers, I need to know why.
Is your hand shortened? Or have you not heard?
By faith I have asked, and I'm claiming your Word.

"My future, and all to which I can relate
Hangs in the balance, and you tell me 'wait'?"
I'm needing a 'yes', a go-ahead sign,
Or even a 'no', to which I can resign.

"And Lord, you have promised that if we believe,
We need but ask, and we shall receive.
And Lord I've been asking, and this is my cry:
"I'm weary of asking: I need a reply!"

Then quietly, softly, I learned of my fate
As my Master replied once again, "You must wait."
So I slumped in my chair; defeated and taut
And grumbled to God; "So I'm waiting, for what?"

He seemed then to kneel and His eyes met with mine
And He tenderly said, "I could give you a sign.
I could shake the heavens, darken the sun,
Raise the dead, cause the mountains to run.

"All you see I could give, and pleased you would be.
You would have what you want, but you wouldn't know
Me.

You'd not know the depth of My love for each saint;
You'd not know the power that I give to the faint.

"You'd not learn to see through clouds of despair;
You'd not learn to trust, just by knowing I'm there.
You'd not know the joy of resting in Me,
When darkness and silence was all you could see.

"You would never experience that fullness of love
As the peace of My Spirit descends like a dove.
You would know that I give, and I save, for a start,
But you'd not know the depth of the beat of My heart.

"The glow of My comfort late in the night;
The faith that I give when you walk without sight;
The depth that's beyond getting just what you ask
From an infinite God who makes what you have last.

"And you never would know, should your pain quickly
flee,

What it means that 'My grace is sufficient for thee.'
Yes, your dreams for that loved one o'ernight could
come true,

But the loss! if you lost what I'm doing in you!

"So be silent, my child, and in time you will see
That the greatest of gifts is to get to know Me.
And though oft' may My answers seem terribly late,
My most precious answer of all...is still...wait."

Submitted by Molly Solanki

Special Days



Community
Thanksgiving
More information
to come

Decorating the Sanctuary
for Advent/Christmas

Nov. 30
time TBD

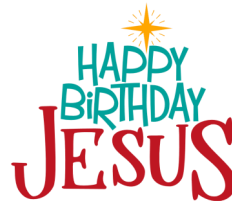


First Sunday in Advent

Dec. 3
10:30am

Children's
Christmas Program

Dec. 8
10:30am



Happy Birthday
Jesus Breakfast

Dec. 8
11:30am

Walk to Bethlehem

Dec. 8
2:00pm



Blue Christmas
More information
to come

Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service

Dec. 24
time TBD



THANKFUL
GRATEFUL
BLESSED

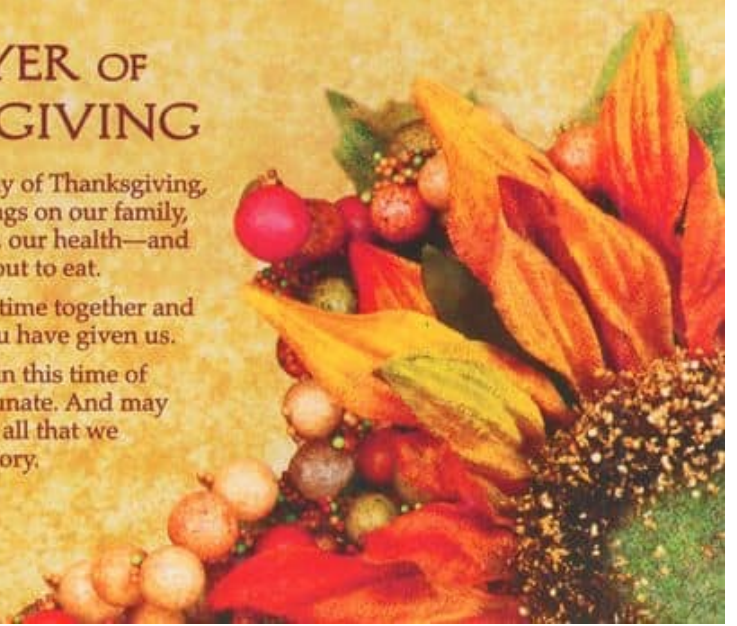
A PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Lord God, on this day of Thanksgiving, we ask your blessings on our family, our friends, our home, our health—and on the food we are about to eat.

We thank you for this time together and the many gifts that you have given us.

Help us to remember in this time of bounty those less fortunate. And may your love consume us all that we might share in your glory.

Amen.



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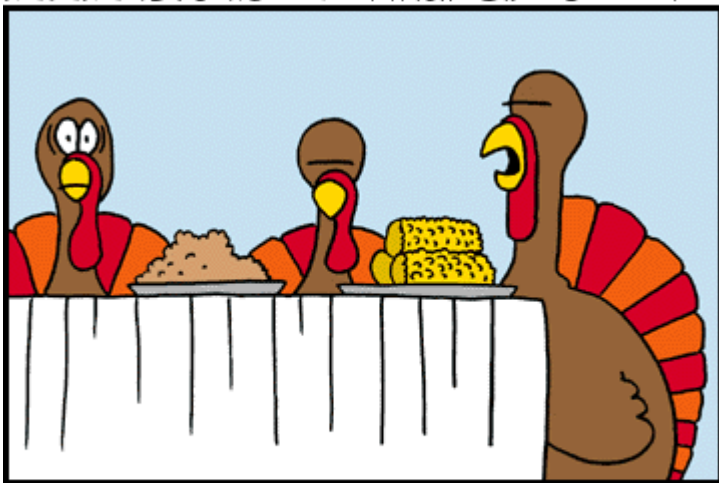


Thanks to Mikel Rice (See Matthew 14:14-21) 05-31-2010

YOU ABSOLUTELY HAVE TO COME WORK FOR ME ... NAME YOUR PRICE!

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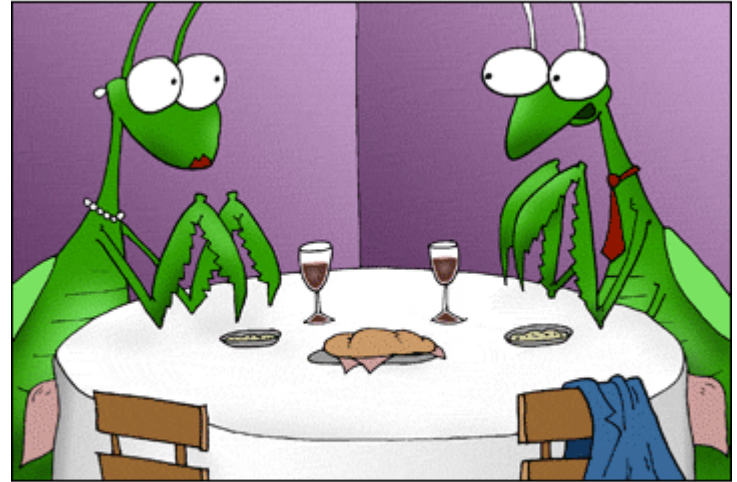


11-27-1997

WE GIVE THANKS FOR ALL THE BOUNTY THAT FARMER BOB HAS BLESSED US ALL WITH THESE PAST FEW MONTHS

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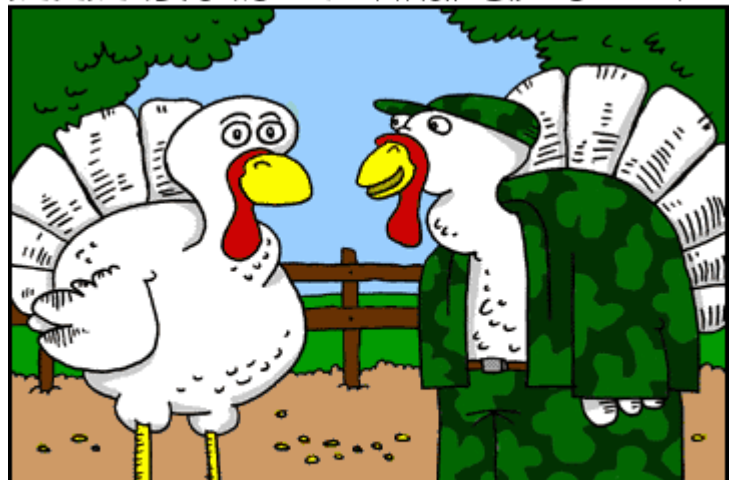


10-27-2006

WHAT ME? ... OH NO, I'M DONE PRAYING ... I THOUGHT YOU WERE STILL PRAYING!

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11-21-2000

FOR THANKSGIVING THIS YEAR I AM THANKFUL FOR MY NEW CAMOUFLAGE GEAR

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the OPEN DOOR

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
.150 North Broadway
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Thankful for the Gospel

“Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.” Philippians 4:11-13 (ESV) Most people now know that Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday of the year. The simplicity of gathering in a spirit of gratitude has always inspired me ever since my youth. It is also perhaps the most countercultural holiday we celebrate. How many people are honestly content with what they have? Are we truly grateful for the home we have? For the food that we have? The income that we make? For the cars that we drive? Discontentment is everywhere. How do we avoid being swept up in this tidal wave of negative thinking? Paul tells us exactly how to do that in the scripture above from Philippians 4. Having faced terrible circumstances as he traveled the world for the gospel, he learned that his contentment must be found in Christ. People will fail you, even Christians will fail you - but Jesus never fails. Understanding the riches of the gospel gives us strength to endure the hardships of the greatest poverty - because we possess an inheritance that cannot be taken from us, with more riches on the other side of eternity than all the kings on earth! Yet Paul also knew the secret to “facing abundance” as well, by realizing even when he was materially blessed that his true riches were from God and not his bank account. Are we going to choose to be thankful this season? Will we choose to be grateful even when we feel like complaining? Will we choose to focus on the spiritual riches we have regardless of whatever else we have? Do we realize the many spiritual blessings we enjoy now on this side of eternity? When I think of what I am thankful for, I frequently think about our church. I am grateful to be part of a community of believers who have been so absolutely good to me and my family since my return to the church. I am thankful to have a place to regularly meet together to worship God. I am thankful for the many hands that get involved to help. I am thankful for every single one of you for your faithful attendance. There are so many churches in our area and you choose week after week to be part of our community and I am glad you do. I’m sure this will be a turbulent November with our ever intensifying election cycle in full swing. I suspect we will all be tempted to be “less than gracious” with someone on the other side of the political aisle, to get riled up by a soundbite we hear on the news, and to feel our blood pressure rise over obviously misleading talking points. Let’s therefore choose to enter this month in a spirit of thankfulness by setting our minds on who is “King of Kings” and not who will receive the far smaller title of “President.” Thank God that “His” title is not up for election this year!

John Mottley