

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

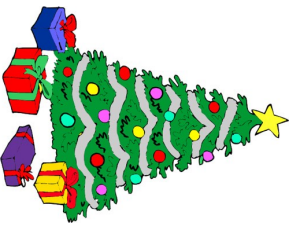
Fax: 732-721-9208

Sunday Worship 10:30am

Sunday School Oct—June 9:00am



# December



# December 2024

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.  
Philippians 4:6*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9am Sunday School 10:30am Worship/Communion	2 6pm Scouts	3	4 6pm Girl Scouts	5	6 3pm Pathway to Success	7
8 9am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Kids Program 2pm Walk to Bethlehem	9 6pm Scouts	10	11 6pm Girl Scouts	12	13 3pm Pathway to Success	14
15 10:30am Worship 11:30am Happy Birthday Jesus	16 6pm Scouts	17 Food Delivery	18 6pm Girl Scouts	19	20 3pm Pathway to Success	21
22 10:30am Worship	23 6pm Scouts	24 <b>Christmas Eve</b> 8am Open Door Articles due	25 <b>Christmas</b> 6pm Girl Scouts	26	27 3pm Pathway to Success	28
29 10:30am Worship	30 6pm Scouts	31 <b>New Year's Eve</b>				

**NEW CREATION**  
Home Improvements

Fully Licensed & Insured

All work Supervised By Owner

All Phases

**732-486-6488**

**AMBOY**  
Bank

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South Amboy, NJ 08879  
(732) 721-0187  
www.amboymbank.com

CELEBRATING  
**125**  
YEARS OF TRADITION

 **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

**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.

MY BELOVED WIFE ♥ ALICE ♥ SCHWANKERT	OUR LOVING MOM ALICE SCHWANKERT
† THANK YOU LORD CHRISTIAN, CARA, SHIRLEY & MIKE †	DIEKER MARY ☉ FRED 11-07-1964

 **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

# Attention All Committees



All reports for the Annual Congregational Meeting in January 2024, **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 Weaver

## 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*



Donations to our Food Pantry from Amboy Bank!



## 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

## December Quotes

"Of course there is a Santa Claus. It's just that no single somebody could do all he has to do. So the Lord has spread the task among us all. That's why everybody is Santa Claus. I am. You are." – Truman Capote

"Once in our world, a stable had something in it that was bigger than our whole world." – C.S. Lewis

"God did not send His heavenly angelic hordes to accomplish His majestic purpose, but He sent a tiny, tender, helpless babe in the person of His son." – Billy Graham

"How many observe Christ's birthday! How few, His precepts!" – Benjamin Franklin

"He who has not Christmas in his heart will never find it under a tree." – Roy L. Smith

"The world has grown weary through the years, but at Christmas, it is young." – Phillips Brooks

"I heard a bird sing in the dark of December. A magical thing. And sweet to remember. We are nearer to Spring than we were in September. I heard a bird sing in the dark of December."

— Oliver Herford

Submitted by Molly Solanki



## INK CARTRIDGES RECYCLE

**ATTENTION!!** Sorry to say but the same situation happened again. This last month only two ink cartridges came in for recycling from Trinity Methodist Church. 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.**

Elaine Lopez

## Our Sunday School

Our Sunday School lessons are going well. The children are very thankful that our tree has so many leaves. Our two newest Sunday School teachers Miss Betty and Miss Cara, made Christmas wreath crafts with the kids this month while we practiced for our upcoming Children's Christmas Program. The Christmas Program will be performed on Dec. 8, during our worship service. We hope you can all come out to see the kids.

~ Miss Shirley



## Bible Verses

"I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity." -1 Timothy 2:1-2

"Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails." -Proverbs 19:21

"Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification." --Romans 14:19

"Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others." Colossians 3:13

"Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble."

-1 Peter: 3:8

Submitted by Molly Solanki

## Happy Birthday

Jesus Breakfast

Dec. 15, 2024

After Service



The Deacons are hosting their Happy Birthday Jesus breakfast after service on Sunday, Dec. 15.

~ Deacons



## A Walk to Bethlehem

Dec. 08, 2024, 2pm

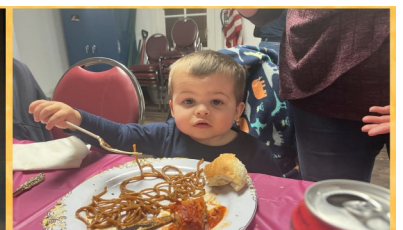
Starts at K.O.C. South Amboy

## Blue Christmas Service

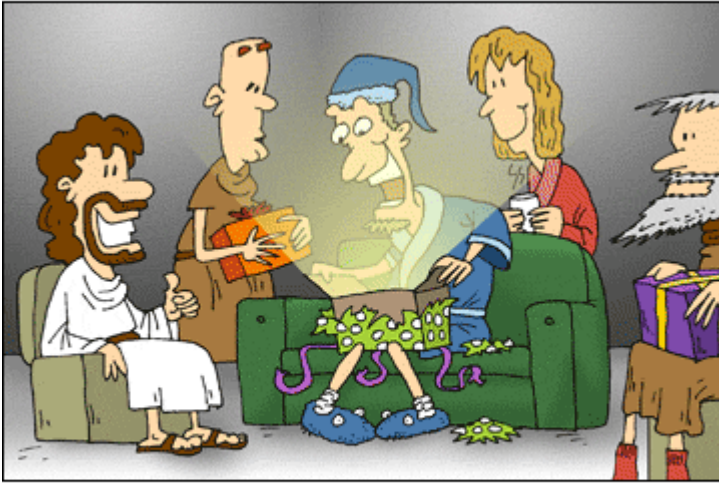
A service of comfort and hope.

Saturday, Dec. 21

6 pm



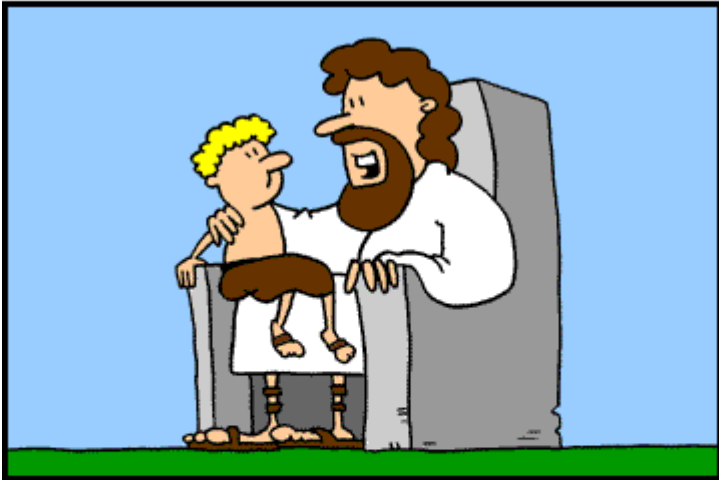
# Our Community Thanksgiving Service and Dinner



Thanks to Andrew S. 12-21-2007

ETERNAL LIFE, MY FAVORITE ... THANKS JESUS!

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Thanks to Christopher Huffman 12-24-1998

HOW ABOUT IF INSTEAD OF GIVING YOU EVERYTHING THAT YOU THINK YOU WANT FOR CHRISTMAS I GIVE YOU WHAT YOU NEED?

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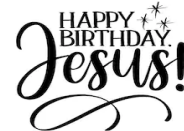
## Upcoming Church Events

**First Sunday in Advent**  
**Dec. 1, 10:30 am**



**Children's Worship Service**  
**Sun. Dec. 8, at 10:30 am**

**Walk to Bethlehem**  
**Sun. Dec. 8, 2 pm**



**Happy Birthday Jesus**  
**Sun. Dec. 15, 11:30 am**

**Blue Christmas Service**  
**Sat. Dec. 21 at 6pm**



**Christmas Eve**  
**Candlelight Service**  
**Tues. Dec. 24, 4pm**



### All I want for Christmas is Peace

I don't want a lot for Christmas,  
There is just one thing I need.  
I don't care about the presents,  
Underneath the Christmas tree.

All I want is us together,  
All the family, here forever,  
Make the wars and hatred cease,  
All I want for Christmas...is peace.

I don't need a lot this Christmas,  
Just one tiny thing will do.  
For everyone to all be smiling,  
That's my one big dream come true.

I don't need to hang my stocking  
There upon the fireplace,  
All I want's a family dinner,  
No arguments on Christmas day.

I won't ask for much this Christmas,  
I won't be needing gifts this year,  
But I'll be giving all I have,  
To recreate the Christmas cheer.

I won't complain when days grow cold,  
And snow falls on the grounds,  
As long as the fire is warm and cosy,  
And all my friends are safe and sound.

I wish that it would come to morning,  
And we would find that hope is dawning,  
If only for a day —  
Wash our sorrows all away —  
If only this Christmas we'd be...happy...

I don't want a lot for Christmas,  
Grant me just one thing I pray -  
End the murder, end the sadness,  
If only just for Christmas day.

I just want us here together,  
All the world unite forever,  
Make the wars and hatred cease,  
All I want for Christmas, is peace.

~ Author unknown



May **PEACE** be your gift at Christmas  
and your blessing all year through!



# A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Eternal God, the hope of all humankind, you gave us the greatest gift of all in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Son of God, you came as God's Light to shine brightly in the darkness of minds and hearts; bathe our world in your Light.

Jesus Christ, Word made flesh, Make a way for the Good News of your Kingdom to reach every home, every heart, everywhere.

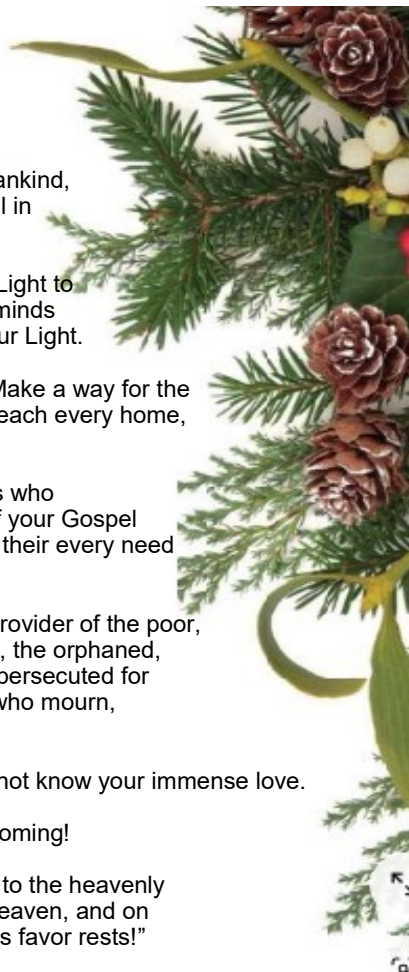
Protect and preserve the laborers who courageously declare the glory of your Gospel throughout the world. Provide for their every need and be their strength and joy.

Be the comforter, defender and provider of the poor, the helpless, the cold, the hungry, the orphaned, the weary, the oppressed, those persecuted for their faith in you, the sick, those who mourn, the aged and the little children.

Reveal yourself to those who do not know your immense love.

Bless those who rejoice at your coming!

Glorious Lord, we join our voices to the heavenly host and say: "Glory to God in Heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom His favor rests!"  
**Amen.**



## Citations from the Westminster Shorter Catechism

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

**Q5: Is there more than one God?**

A: There is only one, the living and true God.

As we will highlight next month, there is only one God, who exists in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

For more: Dt 6:4, Jer 10:10

Submitted by John Mottley

# Christmas BEGINS WITH Christ

*First Presbyterian Church of  
South Amboy's Winter Tricky  
Tray*



*Sunday, January 26, 2025*

**Knights of Columbus 308 4th Street, South Amboy**

Come join us for a fun-filled tricky tray sponsored by Friends of South Amboy. All proceeds will go to the First Presbyterian Church of South Amboy's Food Pantry

Doors open at 12:00 p.m. & Drawing begins at 1:30 p.m.  
Adults only - No one under 18 admitted

**\$35 Pre-Sale Admission**

**\$40 at the door**

**\*Includes: 2 Sheets of Tier 1 tickets, Door Prize Ticket, & Dessert**



Contact

Lisa Barbarino at [CCLOFSA@OPTONLINE.NET](mailto:CCLOFSA@OPTONLINE.NET)  
or 908-216-1155



ACCEPTABLES PAYMENTS:  
CASH

CASH BAR - NO OUTSIDE  
BEVERAGES ARE TO BE  
BROUGHT IN  
"Bring your own food"



**50/50 Raffle**

Pre-Sale General Admission  
Encouraged and due by January 17,  
2025

## SHARE ON Christmas Day

By: 365greetings.com

*"Loving is sharing, and sharing is loving"  
This is a phrase that we've all been hearing.  
It is time to prove that this saying is true,  
For Christmas is already here with me and you.*

*Honor and praise for Jesus is coming.  
Be thankful to God of what you are receiving.  
Say "thank you" for you still have something to cook,  
And share it to others who have no food.*

*It is time to think of what we've been doing.  
Is there a good place where the world is going?  
Change the things that would hurt others and you,  
And focus on deeds that would only do good.*

*Remember that all lives are worth living.  
There's always a purpose of what you are making.  
Keep in mind that you have someone to turn to,  
Never feel blue for God is always with you.*

# the OPEN DOOR

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
.150 North Broadway  
South Amboy, NJ 08879



## Tis the Season!

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It's the most wonderful time of the year at our church! We are especially busy with great things this time of year! Please see the list of events in this newsletter and mark your calendar now. You don't want to miss any of them.

From fellowship events like the Deacons luncheon, youth events like our Sunday School Christmas program, Community events with the Walk to Bethlehem, pastoral and compassion events like Blue Christmas, and our traditional Christmas Eve candlelight service. Pray about who you can invite to each of them as we have something for everyone this time of year. Pray also if there are ways you can help.

The one thing I tell everyone this time of year is to *start preparing your hearts now for Christmas.*

I vividly remember sitting in the pews many years ago at a Christmas Eve service and it was the *first time* that December I've really thought about what the manger means to me! The overtime hours at my job, pressure to keep holiday traditions, and shopping took all my time away from what really mattered. Don't rob yourself of the joy we are meant to experience.

There are many obvious ways to do this that we just need to make time for. Get your hands on a good Christmas devotional. Read the Christmas story in the early chapters of Matthew and Luke. Come to some of our events this year like Walk to Bethlehem and especially the Blue Christmas service if "holly & jolly" is not your gut reaction to this time of year. Listen to some great bible teachings about the Christmas story online. And of course, listen to some Christmas music - especially those that are focused on Christ and not just the weather. Some radio stations in our area starting playing Christmas music even before Thanksgiving...but don't get me started...

I pray that your hearts and minds are full of Jesus Christ this season. He is indeed the reason for the season. See you soon!

*John Mottley*