

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



January



January 2025



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

NEW CREATION
Home Improvements




Fully Licensed & Insured

All work Supervised By Owner

All Phases


732-486-6488



AMBOY
Bank

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

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



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.

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



Thanks to Duane Garman (See Luke 2:1-16) 12-27-1999

LITTLE DID THE SHEPHERDS KNOW WHAT
WAS GOING ON WHILE THEY WERE VISITING
BABY JESUS IN BETHLEHEM

Copyright©2015 HarperCollins Christian Publishing
REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



Thanks to Todd Register (See Colossians 1:15-17) 12-28-2004

A LITTLE TO THE LEFT AND A LITTLE UP

Copyright©2015 HarperCollins Christian Publishing

Attention All Committees



All reports for the Annual Congregational Meeting on January 26, 2025, **must be given to the office by January 5, 2025.** Please have all reports clearly written, or printed or email them to the office.
~ Shirley Weaver

Save the Date for Our Annual Meeting

Jan. 26 - 11:30 am (after service)
Members are expected to attend.

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

Welcome

January

One day at a time.

- New Month.
- New Year, New Chapter.
- New Lessons, New Blessings.
- New Beginning.
- New Mindset.
- New Focus.
- New Intentions.
- New Inspiration.
- New Opportunities.
- New Results.



Prayer For Blessings And Opportunities

Dear God,
I am grateful for the life you've given to me. Thank you for being merciful and loving in my life.

Thank you very much for everything you do for me. In this new month, I pray for your continued blessings on my life.

Please open new doors of opportunities for me. I pray that you will also restore any opportunities that I may have missed in the past. Please open my eyes so I don't miss any more opportunities. Let your blessings abound in my life, Oh Lord. Guide me and help me to encounter the right people in my life. Teach me to hear your voice when you speak.

Amen.

WONDAFOX.COM



Our Sunday School Christmas Program Dec. 8th during service



When you look at a snowman
It's three snowballs round
He is reminding you
That in God, Three in One is found
The bottom reminds us of
God the Father
He's our strong rock and foundation
Creator of all living things
People, tribes and nations
The middle shows us God the Son
With His arms spread open wide
Who died on the cross for each of us
Our sins Jesus' blood did hide
The head reminds of
God the Holy Spirit
Who is our counselor and friend
He speaks to our hearts and minds
Transforming us into the
likeness of Him
So in the mist of wintertime fun a
snowman you do see
It a loving reminder
of the Blessed Trinity

CHILDREN'S Sunday School

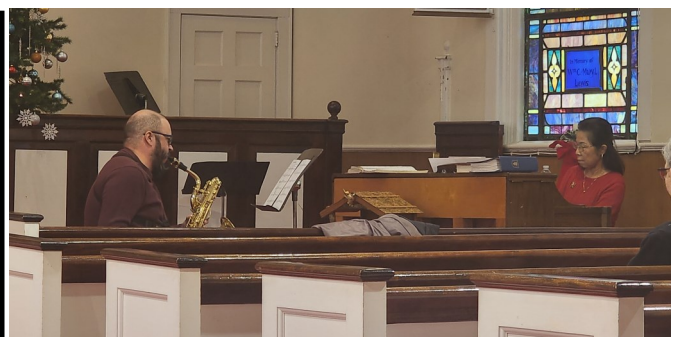
Classes will resume on Jan. 12, 2025. We wish you all a Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year!
Your Sunday School Teachers

INK CARTRIDGES RECYCLE

YEAH!!! My nagging worked. We did receive 16 used ink cartridges and two old printers. Brought them all to Staples and then came home and placed an order. Ordered two cases of copy paper and a hole puncher for our church office. That totaled \$116.07 minus Rewards (\$59.00) Thanks to you we paid \$57.07. Shipping was free. 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

Music

We were blessed to have Joe Beselinoff and Phyllis Chao play "Mary Did You Know" as a special prelude for us during our Dec. 15 worship service.



2024 FAMILY WALK TO BETHLEHEM

On December 08, we participate in the annual "Walked to Bethlehem." It is a community celebration of Jesus's birth. Members of the churches here in South Amboy came together and walked from church to church, 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 Star of the Sea Church, and Sacred Heart Church. Then we ended back at the Knights of Columbus for hot soup and sweet treats and fellowship. Approximately 40 people participated in this year's walk/drive.

~ Shirley W.



The Meaning of the Snowflake

Every new snowflake comes to the earth as a picture of our saviour's birth, because they are sent from up above and remind us of God's love.

Each one is so intricate and small because CHRIST sees the details of us all, and just as two are never the same the Lord knows and calls us each by name.

Snowflakes gently cover the world in white and hide what was unlovely from our sight, showing us how He Covers our Sin and gives us His Grace when we come to Him.

So may every "snowflake" bring Christ to mind and in every bit of white may you find a reason to celebrate anew and a reminder of His Love for you.

By Holley Gerth

God's "Forever Present"

Santa can't give me what I need for Christmas...even if I beg and plead.

He doesn't have the power... to give to me this hour... the thing I really need.

All other gifts he gave me, made me happy for awhile. The gift the God'll give will always live and bring an everlasting smile.

God sent a "forever Present"... that first Christmas morn. He loved this big old world so much, He sent His only Son to be born.

That who-oo so ever would believe Him, He'd give to them eternal life... Forgiveness for their sins... Peace, love, joy and hope within... If they'd just believe... they could receive... Jesus Christ the King.

Being here tonight, you need a present. Santa can't meet the need.

So, I share my "Forever Present"... with you before you leave.

Jesus is God's gift that keeps on giving.
Jesus is God's gift that keeps on living.
Open up your heart and just believe.
You can take Him home this Christmas Eve.

God's "Forever Present"

Jesus Christ!

God's "Forever Present" Jesus

~ 11/05 S. Munoz

Bible Verses

“Certainly the faithful love of the LORD hasn’t ended; certainly God’s compassion isn’t through! They are renewed every morning. Great is your faithfulness. I think: The LORD is my portion! Therefore, I’ll wait for him. The LORD is good to those who hope in him, to the person who seeks him.”
Lamentations 3:22-25

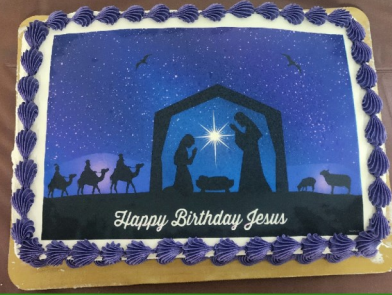
“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.” Proverbs 3:5-6

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”
Philippians 4:6 (NIV)

“May he give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed.” Psalm 20:4 (NIV)

“So we say with confidence, ‘The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?’” Hebrews 13:6 (NIV)

Submitted by Molly Solanki



Deacon's Happy Birthday Jesus Luncheon



January Quotes

“Winter is not a season, it’s a celebration.” – Anamika Mishra

“Year's end is neither an end nor a beginning but a going on, with all the wisdom that experience can instill in us.”
– Hal Borland

“Our lives are not moving straight ahead; instead, hovering, wavering, returning, renewing, repeating.”
– James Hillman

“And now we welcome the new year. Full of things that have never been.” — Rainer Maria Rilke

“And suddenly, you know: It’s time to start something new and trust the magic of beginnings.” – Meister Eckhart

“You can’t go back and make a new start, but you can start right now and make a brand-new ending.”
—James P. Sherman,

“Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let every New Year find you a better man.”
—Benjamin Franklin

“What the new year brings to you will depend a great deal on what you bring to the new year.” – Vern McLellan

Submitted by Molly Solanki

From the Deacons

The Christmas season is now upon us, and what a wonderful season it is! Also, it can be a very stressful season for some of us. With it comes the hustle and bustle of gift buying, entertaining family and friends and all the mental and financial stress we seem to put on ourselves with doing all these things, especially in this economy. On top of this, you have your daily work, doctor appointments and family to take care of. When you feel stressed and overwhelmed from the holiday, take time to reflect to what is really important to you and how to prioritize them in your daily life. Ask yourself what is the true meaning of Christmas is in your heart...the true meaning of Christmas is CHRIST. Christ was born to provide us the way, the truth and the light. We are only human and we do get overwhelmed and stressed. Christ is here for us to put our troubles on him so our hearts can be light yet heavily filled with his love. Not just during Christmas, but every day, let Christ’s love shine through you and onto others who feel overwhelmed, stressed and despair. Let the peace of Christ’s love be with you this Christmas and always!

~ Michelle Herman



May God bless you with a safe, healthy, and joyous New Year. Sending you well wishes and praying for you in the coming year! May God bless your family with prosperity, good health, and happiness in the New Year. May God help you strengthen your bond with family and friends this New Year.

the OPEN DOOR

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



Welcome 2025!

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” (2 Corinthians 5:17 ESV)

There’s just something about writing the new year’s date down that makes something “click” in our minds. 2025...amazing that another year has already come and gone.

Many people are inspired by the idea of a new year. It’s like sitting down with a blank sheet of paper with endless possibilities. Hence all the New Year’s resolutions that get made this time of year. Faced with the infinite possibilities of the New Year to come, it’s a great time to decide what are we going to do in 2025 that we did not do in 2024? What do I want to accomplish by the end of the year? What do I want to be different about myself come 2026?

It’s never been a better time than now to quit that bad habit you’ve promised yourself you would quit. Or to take up that new hobby you promised yourself you’d finally invest in. For many of us the “perfect time” will never come, the best time just might be now. So make that commitment to read the Bible, to come to bible study, to step up and serve, to learn that new skill, to go to the gym, or to finally put the phone down and start reading books again.

The same is true of our church. For a multitude of reasons, we don’t have to be the same church in 2025 that we’ve always been. Let’s imagine what kind of church we want to be by the end of the year. Just like in our personal lives, what do we want to be doing at the end of the year that we are not *currently* doing? And what things are we doing now that we hope to *not* be doing by the end of the year? What new events are we doing? What new ministries have we launched? What new fellowship groups are we doing? And what are you doing to help?

Church, I give you permission to dream and dream big about the upcoming year! With more opportunity and less restrictions than ever before, let us step ahead into becoming the church God has called us to be. Share that idea and that vision you had just now while you were reading this with someone, and let’s make a plan together for how to make it happen. Let’s embrace this season of freedom and inspiration and see what God will do with it!

John Mottley

Citations from the Westminster Shorter Catechism

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

Q6: How many persons are in the one God?

A: Three persons are in the one God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are one God, the same in substance and equal in power and glory.

A picture is worth a thousand words

For more: 1 Jn 5:7, 2 Cor 13:14, Mt 28:19, Mt 3:16-17

Submitted by John Mottley

