

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



# February

# February 2025

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9am Sunday School 10:30am Worship/Communion Scout Sunday	3 6pm Scouts	4	5 6pm Girl Scouts	6	7 3pm Pathway to Success	8
9 9am Sunday School 10:30am Worship	10 6pm Scouts	11	12 6pm Girl Scouts	13	14 <b>Valentine's Day</b> 3pm Pathway to Success	15
16 9am Sunday School 10:30am Worship	17 <b>Presidents Day</b> office closed 6pm Scouts	18 Food Delivery	19 6pm Girl Scouts	20	21 3pm Pathway to Success	22
23 9am Sunday School 10:30am Worship	24 6pm Scouts	25 8am Open Door Articles due	26 6pm Girl Scouts	27	28 3pm Pathway to Success	29
30 9am Sunday School 10:30am Worship	31 6pm Scouts					

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CELEBRATING  
**125**  
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**VERITAS**  
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540 Bordentown Ave.  
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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**

*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. 2025**

**OFFICER NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Joan Downes	Elaine Lopez
Lori Ryan	Molly Solanki
1 from session	

**YOUR ELDERS / THE SESSION**  
(Responsible for governing our church affairs)

Ruth Beselinoff	Mary Porcello
Madhu Solanki	Christina Vella
Larry Wallace	

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

Michelle Herman	Betty Pinella
Lori Ryan	George Schaefer
Joyce Solanki	



## Quotes for February

“What is done in love, is done well.” – Van Gogh  
“Though February is short, it is filled with lots of love and sweet surprises.” – Charmaine J. Forde  
“February is the border between winter and spring.”  
– Terri Guillemets  
“Why does February feel like one big Tuesday?”  
– Todd Stocker  
“February teaches us the value of patience as we eagerly await the arrival of spring’s vibrant colors.”  
– Suzanne Woods Fisher, *The Keeper* (2012)  
“In February, nature reminds us that even in the coldest moments, beauty can still flourish.”  
– Gabriela Alemán, *Poso Wells* (2010)  
Submitted by Molly Solanki



## Board of Deacons

Winter is upon us and boy has it been cold! I am sure we are all praying for spring to get here sooner than later, impatiently waiting for the season to change. Although our patience seems to run “thin”, God’s does not. God’s patience and love for us never changes. Let us reflect on Hebrews 13:8:  
“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever more”-Amen ~Michelle Herman

## Citations from the Westminster Shorter Catechism

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

**Q7:** What are the decrees of God?

**A:** The decrees of God are his eternal plan based on the purpose of his will, by which, for his own glory, he has foreordained everything that happens.

**Comments:** The Westminster Shorter Catechism describes a “Big God”. One that is not “hoping things work out”, but has a sovereign plan and purpose for all things. If anything happens anywhere, it's because God foreordained that it happens, and he will use it ultimately for good (Romans 8:28).

**For more:** Eph 1:4&11, Acts 4:27-28, Ps 33:11, Eph 2:10, Rom 9:22-23, Rom 11:33

Submitted by John Mottley



## JESUS, HELP ME!

In every need let me come to You with humble trust, saying:

Jesus, help me!

In all my doubts, perplexities, and temptations:

Jesus, help me!

In hours of loneliness, weariness and trials:

Jesus, help me!

In the failure of my plans and hopes, in disappointments, troubles and sorrows:

Jesus, help me!

When others fail me, and Your Grace alone can assist me:

Jesus, help me!

When I throw myself on Your tender Love as Savior:

Jesus, help me!

When my heart is cast down by failure, at seeing no good come from my efforts:

Jesus, help me!

When I feel impatient, and my cross irritates me:

Jesus, help me!

When I am ill, and my head and hands cannot work and I am lonely:

Jesus, help me!

Always, always, in spite of weakness, falls and shortcomings of every kind:

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, help me and never forsake me.



## INK CARTRIDGES RECYCLE



Thanks to YOU we did it again which is saving \$. This past month we ordered a four pack of three ring view binders and a 24 pack of double A batteries. Total cost \$102.88. We had \$39.00 built up from recycling used ink cartridges, bringing the bill down to \$63.88. Again that is THANKS to you. Keep this wonderful program going and THANK YOU.

**God is good and supplies all our needs.**

Thank you!!!!

~Elaine Lopez

### Sir Charles (Charlie) Spencer Chaplin

(April 16, 1889 to December 25, 1977)

Charlie was an English comic actor, filmmaker and composer who rose to fame in the era of silent film. He became a worldwide icon through his screen persona, the Tramp, and is considered one of the film industry's most important figures. Wikipedia Charlie Chaplin was 88 years old when he died. He left us with four (4) statements:

1. Nothing is forever in this world: not even our problems.
  2. I love walking in the rain because no one can see my tears.
  3. The most lost day in life is the day we don't laugh.
  4. The six (6) best doctors in the world: The Sun, Rest, Exercise, Diet, Self-respect, & Friends. Stick to them at all stages of your life and enjoy a healthy life.
- When you see the moon: you will see the beauty of God. When you see the sun: you will see the power of God. When you look into a mirror: you will see God's greatest creation. So believe it. We are all tourists, God is our travel agent who has already identified our routes, booking and destinations. Trust him and enjoy life. Life is just a journey! Therefore, live today! For tomorrow may not be.

Submitted by Gerry Ring



### February Birthdays

Wishing a very Happy Birthday to:

*Feb. 10 Rev. Jeffrey Carney*

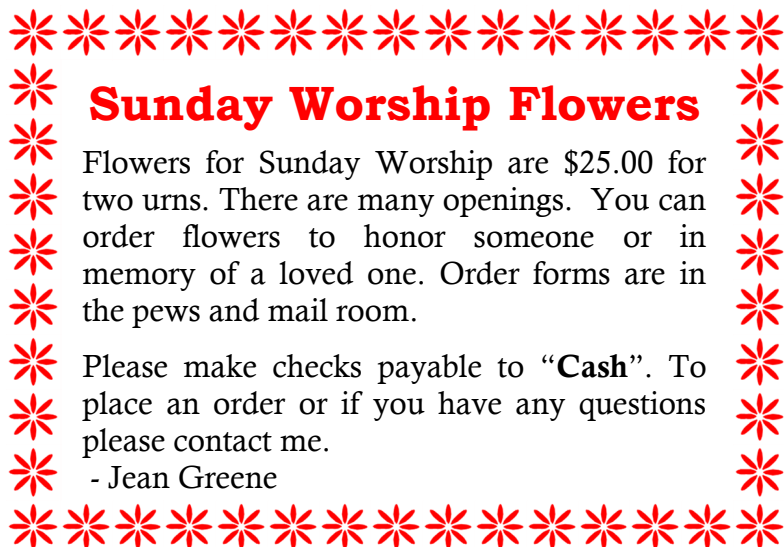
*Feb. 12 Debbie Sargeant Jr.*

*Feb. 17 Nimish "Norman" Solanki*

*Feb. 24 Amanda Vella*

Want to see your special date listed?

Give the office your information.

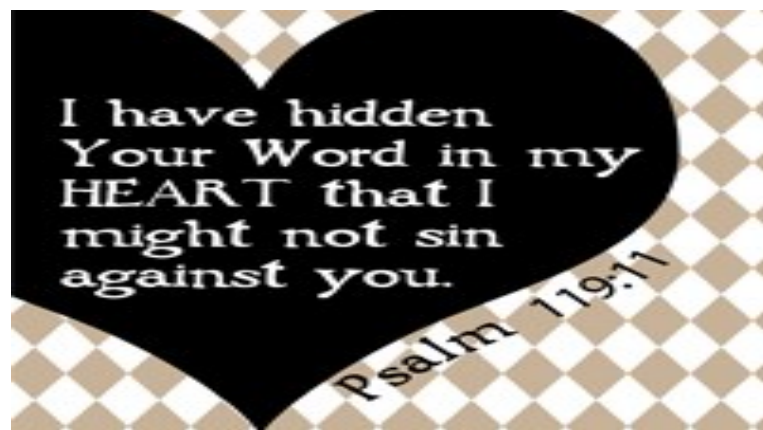


### Sunday Worship Flowers

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



## A Prayer for America

Father in Heaven,  
We, the people, in the  
land of the free and  
the home of the brave,  
desperately need You.

Oh that we would leave our ways  
of seeking to be blessed  
and instead seek to bless others.  
We beg for Your guidance and wisdom  
for our leaders.

We ask You to protect our land  
from enemies, both within and without.  
And we praise you for the freedom  
we have through the blood of Your Son.  
May Your plan be the desire of our nation.

Amen

rachelwojo.com



## Bible Verses for February

*"Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life."* ~ Proverbs 4:23

*"Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the heart."* ~ Proverbs 21:2

*"And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all."*

~ 1 Thessalonians 5:14

*"Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins."* ~ 1 Peter 4:8

*"Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law."*

~ Romans 13:8

Submitted by Molly Solanki

## What is the origin of Valentine's Day, and should Christians celebrate it?

The first Valentine was posted around 1806. Almost one billion Valentine's Day cards are sent each year on or near February 14 with females purchasing 85% of the cards. This is second only to the number of Christmas cards sent. The history is somewhat murky as to how Valentine's Day has come to be what we now know and celebrate. Saint Valentine served in third-century Rome. Emperor Claudius decided that single men made better soldiers. Therefore, Claudius banned soldiers from being married. One version of the story is that Valentine continued to perform the weddings of young soldiers who were in love, and Claudius had Valentine imprisoned. While imprisoned, Valentine reportedly fell in love with the jailer's daughter. Valentine sent her a card and signed it, "Love, your Valentine." Another version is that Valentine defied Claudius by helping Christians escape the torture of the Romans.

Valentine died in approximately A.D. 270. Others claim the church may have decided to celebrate in mid February to "Christianize" the pagan Roman celebration Lupercalia. The first Valentine sent in the United States was in the 1840's by Esther Howgald. Most of us enjoy "spoiling" a loved one on Valentine's Day. Sending gifts and cards conveys love, affection, and friendship.

There is no biblical reason why Christians should not celebrate Valentine's Day by giving their loved ones flowers, candy and/or cards. As with celebrating any holiday, the decision should be between the individual and God. Some people feel very strongly that observing any secular holiday is wrong, while others see it as harmless. The important thing to remember is that celebrating or not celebrating holidays should not be a cause for pride or division among Christians.

<https://www.gotquestions.org/Valentines-Day.html>  
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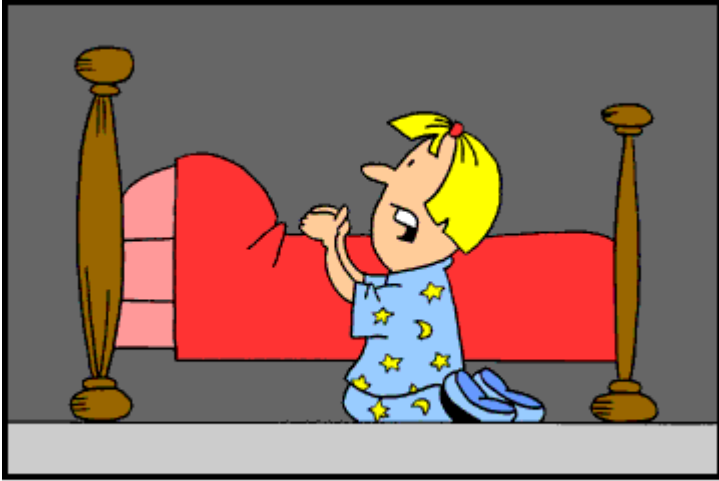


### The Legend of the Icicle

One beautiful night very long ago, The Savior was born in a winter snow. The angels in heaven looked down on His birth, as their tears of happiness fell to the earth. God wanted a reminder of the love He brings and the joyful tears at the birth of Our King. So He caught their tears in His powerful hands, and spread them as crystals across the land. So as a special reminder for all to see, we see icicles form for you and me.







02-13-1998

WILL YOU BE MY VALENTINE?

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Thanks to Daniel Goodman (See Exodus 14) 03-07-2011

MOSES PARTS HIS HAIR

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Thanks to Kevin Adelsberger (See 1+Corinthians 13:1-10&26-2013

LOVE IS NOT SHELLASH

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**Poinsettia Fertilizer Requirements:**

**How And When To Fertilize Poinsettias**

Poinsettias are striking tropical plants appreciated for the bright color they provide during the winter holidays. With proper care, poinsettias can retain their beauty for two to three months and if you're dedicated, you can even get poinsettias to rebloom the following year. Let's learn about a very important aspect of poinsettia care: fertilizing poinsettias.

**Best Fertilizer for Poinsettia Plants**

Poinsettias do fine with any good quality, all-purpose fertilizer. A water-soluble fertilizer is easiest to apply, but a dry fertilizer will also satisfy poinsettia fertilizer requirements. Be sure to water the plant thoroughly after fertilizing poinsettias, especially if you use dry fertilizer. Otherwise, the fertilizer may scorch the roots and damage the plant. Don't bother fertilizing your poinsettia while it's blooming- it isn't necessary. Similarly, if you don't intend to keep the plant and your goal is to simply enjoy it as a holiday decoration, no fertilizer is needed. However, be sure to keep the plant well-watered, but never soggy. Place the plant in a bright, cool location away from heat and drafts.

**When to Fertilize Poinsettias**

Knowing how to fertilize a poinsettia is as important as when. If you're saving your poinsettia for reblooming, the plant will benefit from a dose of all-purpose, water-soluble fertilizer in late March or early April. This is also time to give the plant a good pruning too. As a general rule, continue to fertilize the poinsettia regularly- about once every month during spring and summer, using the same fertilizer diluted to half strength. If you live in a mild climate and you're able to take your poinsettia outdoors during the summer months, be sure to keep the plant well-watered and fertilized. Bring the plant indoors before the first frost. A well-cared-for and well-fed poinsettia will produce those abundant colorful flower bracts again and again, or at least as long as you intend on keeping the plant. By Mary H. Dyer  
Submitted by Nova LaCross



Despite the bitter cold and some illness. We were still able to have our classes in January. We learnt lessons *Welcome Zacchaeus* and *John Baptizes Jesus*. The children are all doing well in their classes. ~ Miss Shirley

# *the* OPEN DOOR

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



## Defining Love

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“We love because he first loved us.” 1 John 4:19 (ESV) Before we know it our culture will be surrounded by hearts with pink and red colors everywhere. The season of showing people how much we love them is soon upon us. Yet what exactly is love? Like so many other things, our culture is confused. I think too often in our culture we confuse love with infatuation, especially in our youth. We think bold and intense feelings are love, and we tell our significant others we love them with every fiber in our beings. Love however is not a feeling, it is a choice. Love is choosing to prioritize the needs of someone above your own. Love is choosing to bless someone when it’s easier to just relax. Love is doing a chore around the house that typically is done by someone else just to make their life easier. Love is taking your child to the doctors office despite their many (and perhaps loud) protests! Love is waking up early every morning and going to work to provide for your family. Love is delaying pursuit of your own dreams to help your loved one achieve theirs. Love by its very nature is sacrificial. This is not easy or intuitive to do, but we can love others “because he first loved us.” Jesus is our model of how to love others. Who while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8). This is the greatest model of sacrificial love, himself saying “greater love has none one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.” (John 15:13). As we grow in our love and knowledge of Him, over time the *choice* to love will get easier. Since love is not an intense emotion but a choice, it’s something we can always choose. This is why the Bible commands us to love God and to love my neighbors (Matthew 22:37-39). I cannot always choose to feel positive emotions towards someone, but I can choose my actions towards that person. When someone mistreats me, I may not have positive feelings towards them, but 1 Corinthians 4 says “When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we entreat.” How can you show the love of Christ to someone today? Is there someone in your life you have not been choosing to love, but choosing to act on “less holy” emotions? Let’s strive as a community of faith to be who God has called us to be when our Lord said, “By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:35)

*John Mottley*