

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 10:30 am

Sunday School Oct—June 9:00 am



# March

# March 2025

See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone.  
 Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has  
 come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land.  
 The fig tree forms its early fruit; the blossoming vines  
 spread their fragrance. Arise, come, my darling; my  
 beautiful one, come with me. *Song of Song 2:11-13*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9am Sunday School 10:30am Worship/Communion Boy Scouts Blue & Gold	3 6pm Scouts	4	5 <b>Ash Wednesday</b> Service at Messiah Lutheran 6:00pm	6	7 <b>World Day of Prayer</b> 3pm Pathway to Success	8
9 <b>1st Sunday of Lent</b> 9am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 11:30 am Deacon	10 6pm Scouts	11	12 Lenten Series Grace Lutheran 6:30pm	13	14 3pm Pathway to Success	15
16 <b>2nd Sunday of Lent</b> 9am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 2pm St. Patrick's Day Parade	17 <b>St. Patrick's Day</b> 6pm Scouts	18 Food Delivery	19 Lenten Series Messiah Lutheran 6:30pm	20 <b>Spring Begins</b>	21 3pm Pathway to Success	22
23 <b>3rd Sunday of Lent</b> 9am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 11:30 am Special Congregational Meeting	24 6pm Scouts	25 8am Open Door Articles due	26 Lenten Series Trinity Methodist 6:30pm	27	28 3pm Pathway to Success	29
30 <b>4th Sunday of Lent</b> 9am Sunday School 10:30am Worship	31 6pm Scouts					

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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**

*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	

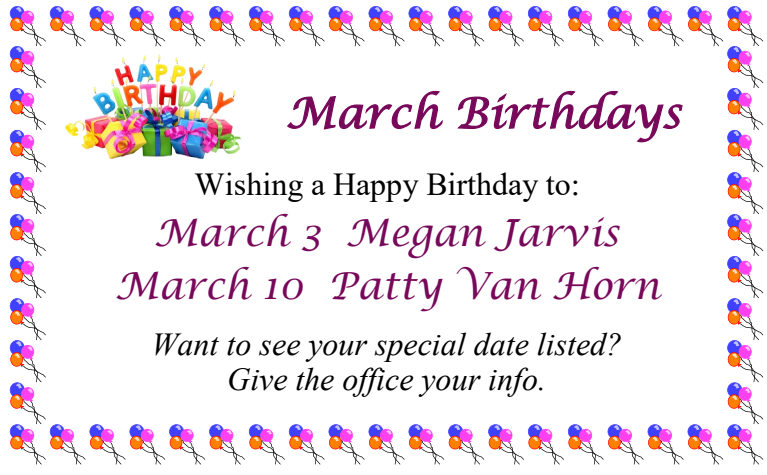
**YOUR ELDERS / THE SESSION**  
*(Responsible for governing our church affairs)*

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	





## March Birthdays

Wishing a Happy Birthday to:

*March 3 Megan Jarvis*

*March 10 Patty Van Horn*

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

## Board of Deacons

**The Deacons are happy to welcome the reinstallation of Joyce, George, and Betty to actively serving on the committee.**

Any member (within the South Amboy area) who cannot make it to church on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday for communion, due to illness or injury, can leave a message before Friday (Feb 28) and someone will make arrangements to bring you the communion during the following week.



**We invite all to join us for the St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 16 in front of the church.**

Next Deacon's meeting Sat. March 15, 2025 at 9:30am  
~ Betty Pinella

## 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

## Sunday School



In February, we learned lessons "Fisher of People" and "You are Blessed" both from Growing in Grace and Gratitude. The kids are doing well in classes. ~Miss Shirley

# Ash

# Wednesday

Join us for an ecumenical service

**Wednesday,  
March 5**

6 PM Fellowship  
7 PM Service

Messiah Lutheran Church  
3091 Bordentown Ave.  
Parlin, NJ 08859

# The Season of Lent

Join us each Wednesday

6:30 PM Simple Supper  
7 PM Devotional Study

March 12 - Grace Lutheran

March 19 - Messiah Lutheran

March 26 - Trinity Methodist

April 2 - Sayreville Methodist

April 9 - First Presbyterian So. Amboy



## INK CARTRIDGES RECYCLE



This month we needed some office supplies and I submitted the order totaling \$42.06.

Guess what happened? For the first time ever we did not have any Rewards saved up.

This happened because we did not receive used ink cartridges for the last month. Please remember to bring in your used ink cartridges for future orders.

Keep this wonderful program going and THANK YOU. God is good and supplies all our needs.

Thank you!!!

Elaine Lopez



## Boy Scout Sunday

On February 2, 2025, our local Boy Scouts in Troop 91 joined us for service. Following service, the scouts hosted our coffee hour with donuts and pastries.



VOLUNTEERS  
DO NOT  
NECESSARILY  
HAVE THE TIME;  
THEY HAVE  
THE HEART

## Installation of Officers

On Feb. 16, 2025, Lawrence Wallace was ordained and installed as an Elder and Ruth Beselinoff was reinstated into active service as an Elder. Elizabeth Pinella, George Schaefer, and Joyce Solanki were all reinstated into active service as Deacons.

Wishing you a  
RAINBOW

For sunlight after showers -

Miles and miles of

IRISH smiles

For golden happy hours -

Shamrocks

at your doorway

For luck and laughter too,

And a host of

friends

that never ends

Each day your

whole life through!

[www.footsweet4two.com](http://www.footsweet4two.com)



Ordination and Installation  
of Officers Feb. 16, 2025



an IRISH  
Prayer

May God give you...

For every storm, a rainbow,  
For every tear, a smile,

For every care, a promise,

AND A BLESSING IN EACH TRIAL.

FOR EVERY PROBLEM LIFE SENDS,

**A faithful friend to share,**

For every sigh, a sweet song,

And an answer for each prayer.



## Bible Verses

**Mark 1:1-3** –

The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: “I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way” — “a voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’”

**Isaiah 6:8** – “Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here am I. Send me!’”

**Romans 15:4** – “For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.”

**Luke 5:32** – “I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.”

Submitted by Molly Solanki

## Short Prayer for Calm in Daily Challenges

Dear Lord, in the midst of today’s challenges, grant me a moment of serenity. Help me to focus on Your presence and peace, knowing that no matter what the day brings, You are with me.

Calm my thoughts and steady my heart as I handle the tasks at hand. Let Your tranquility permeate my mind, guiding me in peace throughout the day. Amen.

From [www.graceandprayers.com](http://www.graceandprayers.com)

Submitted by Molly Solanki

## Citations from the Westminster Shorter Catechism

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

**Q8:** How does God carry out his decrees?

**A:** God carries out his decrees in creation and providence.

**Comments:** It’s been said that God’s providence is the greatest display of his power and majesty in all the earth. The fact that God can carry out extraordinary things through seemingly ordinary means will leave you awestruck at the wisdom, power, and glory of God. Just read the account of Joseph in Genesis 37-50 along with Romans 8:28.

**For more:** Rv 4:11, Eph 1:11

Submitted by John Mottley



**March 9th**  
**Don't Forget**



**May your days be many  
and your troubles few,  
May all God’s blessings  
descend upon you,  
May peace be within you  
and your heart be  
strong, May you find  
what you’re seeking  
wherever you roam.**



There will be a special called congregational meeting March 23rd after service to vote to be dismissed from the PC (USA) denomination to the EPC (Evangelical Presbyterian Church). All members are required to attend.

## March Quotes

"Ash Wednesday is full of joy... The sources of all sorrow is the illusion that of ourselves we are anything but dust." - **Father Thomas Merton**

"Lent is a time of going very deeply into ourselves... What is it that stands between us and God? Between us and our brothers and sisters? Between us and life, the life of the Spirit? Whatever it is, let us relentlessly tear it out, without a moment's hesitation." - **Catherine Doherty**

"What if we view this desert time of Lent as not just a time to reflect or to lament or to confess or to fast, but a time where we learn to be free." - **Megan Westra**

"What is more important than the practices we take on is the heart attitude behind them. If there’s anything we should give up this time of year, it’s our sense of superiority either to those outside the church or those inside the church who do things differently than we do. The cross levels us all. And that’s true whether or not you practice Lent." - **Trevin Wax**

"O Lord, make this Lenten season different from the other ones. Let me find you again. Amen." - **Henri Nouwen**

Submitted by Molly Solanki

# Upcoming Events

Ash Wednesday Service  
Messiah Lutheran  
March 5, at 6:00pm



Lenten Series  
Grace Lutheran  
March 12, at 6:30pm



St. Patrick's Day Parade  
March 16, at 2pm



Lenten Series  
Messiah Lutheran  
March 19, at 6:30pm



Lenten Series  
Trinity Methodist  
March 26, at 6:30pm



Lenten Series  
Say. United Methodist  
April 2, at 6:30pm



Lenten Series  
1st Presbyterian So. Am.  
April 9, at 6:30pm



Palm Sunday  
Children's Program  
April 13, during service



Maundy Thursday Service  
April 17  
more info. to come



Good Friday Service  
April 18  
more info. to come



Easter Sunday Service  
April 20, at 10:30 am



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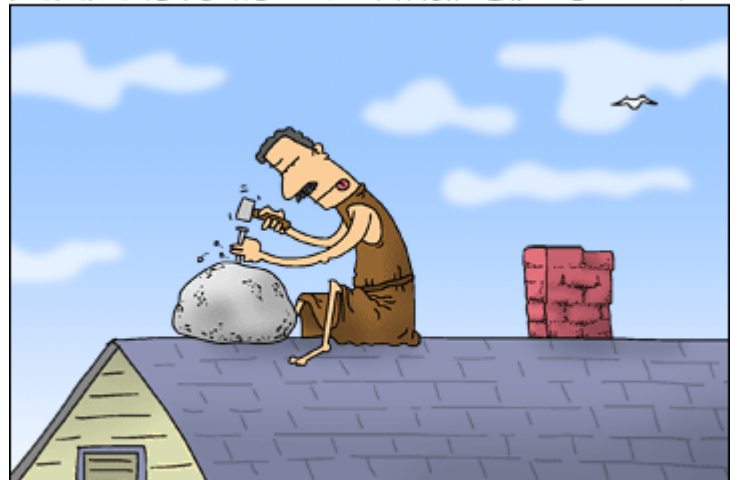
(See Genesis 37:3-36)

05-05-2014

JOSEPH!!!

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(See Matthew 7:24-27)

05-30-2014

THE WISE BUT CONFUSED MAN BUILDS HIS  
ROCK UPON A HOUSE

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# *the* OPEN DOOR

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

150 North Broadway  
South Amboy, NJ 08879



## **Wait...on the Lord!**

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“...but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.”  
Isaiah 40:31 ESV

I'm not a fan of winter. No one likes being cold, and snow stopped being fun as soon as I had to shovel it. This particular time of year is tough because in New Jersey we are ready to “move on” to spring, but the occasional cold days will still come. We just have to be patient and wait on God's timing.

I feel like this is a parable of this season of waiting for our denomination affiliation to change. It's been a long and difficult season, it's been unpleasant, many of us are also “over it” and “ready to move on”. I regularly get asked by our members, and even friends of the church who do not attend: when is this finally going to happen?

We are grateful to finally have a date for the next step. Please make sure your calendar has March 23rd blocked off for a special congregational meeting where we will have a final vote from our members regarding our dismissal after the service. All members are strongly encouraged to attend as only members can vote. All other friends of our church are welcome to attend the service of course as well and show their support.

As the seasons change and the weather gets nicer, we have plenty of other things to look forward to as well. From our joint worship services with neighboring churches beginning on Ash Wednesday, the Saint Patrick's Day Outreach the Deacons are planning, the next multicultural outreach the Missions committee is planning, and plenty more things to be announced.

As we wait for these good things to come, let us remember the verse above. We are not just “waiting around” aimlessly, we are waiting upon the Lord. Let us always be seeking him, trusting him, and being encouraged by him while we wait - and we trust he will renew our strength as we enter into this next season together!

*John Mottley*