

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

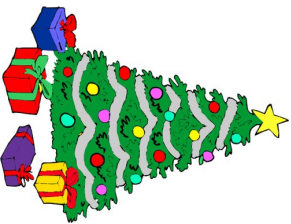
Facebook page: [fpcsamboy](https://www.facebook.com/fpcsamboy)

Phone: 732-721-4516

Fax: 732-721-9208

Sunday Worship 10:30am





December 2025

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 6pm Scouts	2	3 7pm Com. Advent Series at Grace Lutheran	4	5	6
7 10:30am Worship/Communion	8 6pm Scouts	9	10 7pm Com. Advent Series at Grace Lutheran	11	12	13
14 10:30am Worship 11:30pm Happy Birthday Jesus Luncheon	15 6pm Scouts	16 Food Delivery	17 7pm Com. Advent Series at Trinity Methodist	18	19	20
21 10:30am Worship 4:00pm Blue Christmas Service	22 6pm Scouts	23 8am Open Door Articles due	24 4:00pm Christmas Eve Service	25 Merry Christmas	26	27
28 10:30am Worship	29 6pm Scouts	30	31 New Year's Eve			

NEW CREATION
Home Improvements

Fully Licensed & Insured

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All Phases

732-486-6488

AMBOY
Bank

South Amboy
100 North Broadway
South Amboy, NJ 08879
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www.amboybank.com

CELEBRATING
125
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VERITAS
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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

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

George Schaefer, Reformed Church Home, 1990 Rt 18 Apt. 380, Old Bridge, NJ 08857

Judy Scharff, 201 Wyckoff Rd, Apt. 339, Eatontown, NJ 07724

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

As of Feb. 2025

OFFICER NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Ruth Beselinoff	Joan Downes
Elaine Lopez	Lori Ryan
Molly Solanki	

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	

Attention All Committees



All reports for the Annual Congregational Meeting in January 2026 **must be given to the office by January 4, 2026.** Please have all reports typed, clearly written, or clearly printed on 8 1/2" x 11" unlined paper, on one page if possible.

~ Shirley

December Birthdays

Wishing a very Happy Birthday to:

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. 29th

Rev. Jeffrey & Rev. Cynthia Carney



December

Be present.

Let the day flow with grace.

Expect joy. Be positive.

Serve with compassion.

Speak only kindness.

Impart only love.

Never forget you're not alone.

Give thanks for everything.

See goodness in others.

mary davis

*EveryDaySpirit

TIME TO ORDER YOUR CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

\$6.50 each. Poinsettia orders will be taken until December 14.

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

"What is Christmas? It is tenderness for the past, courage for the present, and hope for the future."

– Agnes M. Pahro

"The joy of brightening other lives becomes for us the magic of the holidays." – W.C. Jones

"Joy is not in things; it is in us." – Charles Wagner

"The light in winter is a poetry of patience." – Unknown

"May your days be merry and bright." – Irving Berlin

"When snow falls, nature listens." – Antoinette van Kleeff

"That's the thing about December: it goes by you in a flash. If you just close your eyes, it's gone. And it's like you were never there." – Donal Ryan

"Happy, happy Christmas, that can win us back to the delusions of our childhood days, recall to the old man the pleasures of his youth, and transport the traveler back to his own fireside and quiet home!" – Charles Dickens

"To the American People: Christmas is not a time or a season but a state of mind. To cherish peace and good will, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas. If we think on these things, there will be born in us a Savior and over us will shine a star sending its gleam of hope to the world." ~ Calvin Coolidge (1872-1933), American president. Presidential message (December 25, 1927).

Submitted by Molly Solanki



Happy Birthday

Jesus Breakfast

Dec. 14, 2025

After Service

The Deacons are hosting their Happy Birthday Jesus breakfast after service on Sunday, Dec. 14.



Blue Christmas Service

A service of comfort and hope.

Dec. 21, 2025

At 4:00 pm



A Walk to Bethlehem Dec. 07, 2025, 2pm Starts at Sacred Heart Church

The Mission Committee

Ruth Beselinoff

Ruth will send in Something



Special guest singer Michael,
sung Amazing Grace during
service on Nov.9th.



Baby
Dedication
11/16/25
Malachi
Joseph
Mottley

Board of Deacons



*Glory to God in the
highest heaven, and
on earth peace to
those on whom his
favor rest. — Luke
2:14 (NIV)*

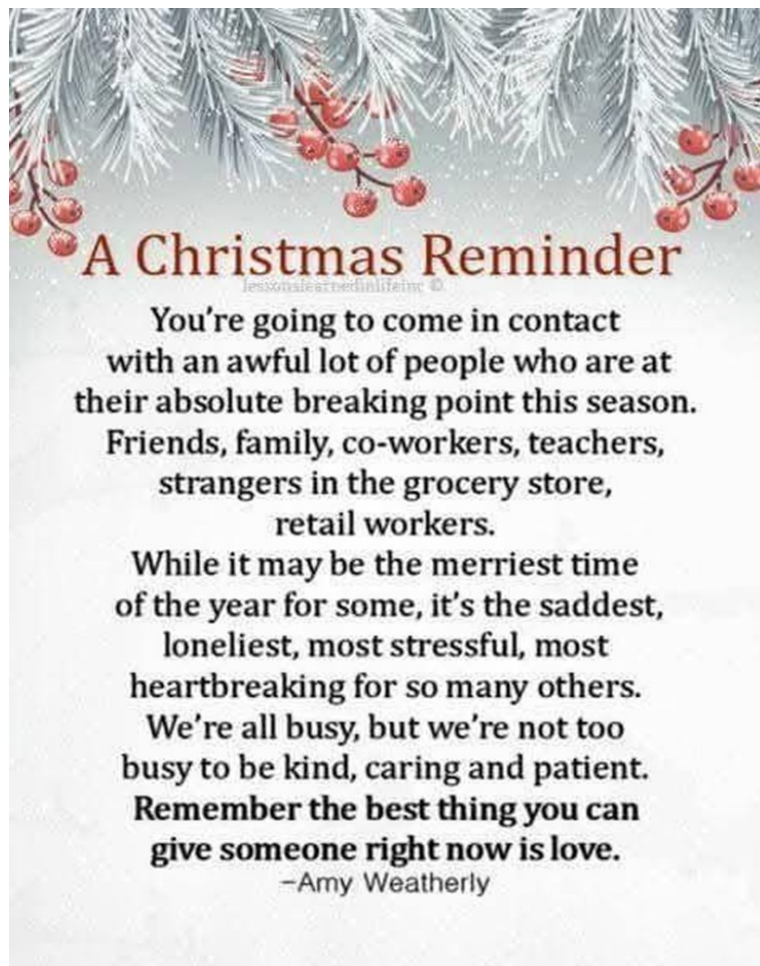
Deacons will be serving
refreshments during the
Walk to Bethlehem on Dec
7th.

Deacons invite everyone to
the annual Happy Birthday
Jesus luncheon on Dec.
12th after service.

Our next meeting will be
Jan 4th after service. If you
need a home visit or
communion, contact one of
the deacons.

*Dear Lord, please
be with us during
this holiday
season; help us to
remember the true
meaning of
Christmas, as we
prepare to
celebrate the birth
of Jesus. Guide
our steps and give
us strength to get
through all our
endeavors and
any mishaps that
come along. Amen*

~ Betty Pinella



A Christmas Reminder

You're going to come in contact
with an awful lot of people who are at
their absolute breaking point this season.
Friends, family, co-workers, teachers,
strangers in the grocery store,
retail workers.

While it may be the merriest time
of the year for some, it's the saddest,
loneliest, most stressful, most
heartbreaking for so many others.

We're all busy, but we're not too
busy to be kind, caring and patient.
Remember the best thing you can
give someone right now is love.

—Amy Weatherly

Santa's Christmas Prayer

*On Christmas Eve the other night
I saw the most amazing sight,
for there beneath the Christmas tree
was Santa kneeling on his knee.
His countenance was different than
that all-familiar, jolly grin;
his head was bowed, with hand to breast,
and slightly tucked into his vest.
For there in a nativity
was Jesus and His family,
and as I heard him start to pray
I listened close to what he'd say.
"Lord, You know that You're the reason
I take pleasure in the season
I don't want to take Your place,
but just reflect Your wondrous grace.
I hope You'll help them understand
I'm just an ordinary man,
who found a way to do Your will
by finding kids with needs to fill.
But all those centuries ago,
there was no way for me to know
that they would make so much of me,
and all the gifts beneath the tree
they think I have some hidden power
granted at the midnight hour,
but it is my love for You
inspiring the things I do.
And so when they begin to open
the gifts for which they have been hoping,
may they give you all the glory,
for You're the One True Christmas story."*

CHRISTMAS GREETING IN WORLD LANGUAGES

English (US)	Merry Christmas
English (UK)	Happy Christmas
Spanish	Feliz Navidad
French	Joyeux Noel
German	Frohe Weihnachten
Italian	Buon Natale
Portuguese	Feliz Natal
Russian	S Rozhdestvom
Chinese	Shengdan Kuiele
Gujarati	Natalni Salaam

Submitted by Madhu Solanki

Upcoming Church Events

Community Advent Series

Wed. Dec. 3, 7pm

Grace Lutheran Church



Walk to Bethlehem

Sun. Dec. 7, 2 pm

Community Advent Series

Wed. Dec. 10, 7pm

Grace Lutheran Church



Happy Birthday Jesus

Sun. Dec. 14, 11:30 am

Community Advent Series

Wed. Dec. 17, 7pm

Trinity Methodist Church



Blue Christmas Service

Sat. Dec. 21 at 4 pm

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



The Story of the Christmas Guest

by Helen Steiner Rice

It happened one day at the year's white end. Two neighbors called on an old-time friend, And they found his shop so meager and mean, made gay with a thousand boughs of green, and Conrad was sitting with face a-shine, when he suddenly stopped as he stitched a twine and said, "Old friends, at dawn today, when the cock was crowing the night away, The Lord appeared in a dream to me And said, 'I am coming your guest to be'. So I've been busy with feet astir, Strewing my shop with branches of fir, The table is spread and the kettle is shined And over the rafters the holly is twined, And now I will wait for my Lord to appear And listen closely so I will hear, His step as He nears my humble place, And I open the door and look in His face. . ." So his friends went home and left Conrad alone, For this was the happiest day he had known, For, long since, his family had passed away and Conrad has spent a sad Christmas Day. But he knew with the Lord as his Christmas guest this Christmas would be the dearest and best, And he listened with only joy in his heart. And with every sound he would rise with a start and look for the Lord to be standing there In answer to his earnest prayer so he ran to the window after hearing a sound, But all that he saw on the snow-covered ground was a shabby beggar whose shoes were torn And all of his clothes were ragged and worn. So Conrad was touched and went to the door and he said, "Your feet must be frozen and sore, and I have some shoes in my shop for you and a coat that will keep you warmer, too." So with grateful heart the man went away, But as Conrad noticed the time of day He wondered what made the dear Lord so late, and how much longer he'd have to wait, When he heard a knock and ran to the door, But it was only a stranger once more, A bent, old crone with a shawl of black, A bundle of faggots piled on her back. She asked for only a place to rest, But that was reserved for Conrad's Great Guest. But her voice seemed to plead, "Don't send me away Let me rest awhile on Christmas day." So Conrad brewed her a steaming cup And told her to sit at the table and sup. But after she left he was filled with dismay For he saw that the hours were passing away And the Lord had not come as He said He would, and Conrad felt sure he had misunderstood. When out of the stillness he heard a cry, "Please help me and tell me where am I." So again he opened his friendly door And stood disappointed as twice before, It was only a child who had wandered away And was lost from her family on Christmas Day. Again Conrad's heart was heavy and sad, But he knew he should make this little child glad, So he called her in and wiped her tears And quieted her childish fears. Then he led her back to her home once more But as he entered his own darkened door, He knew that the Lord was not coming today For the hours of Christmas had passed away. So he went to his room and knelt down to pray And he said, "Dear Lord, why did you delay, What kept You from coming to call on me, For I wanted so much Your face to see. . ." When soft in the silence a voice he heard, "Lift up your head for I kept My word- Three times My shadow crossed your floor- Three times I came to your lonely door- For I was the beggar with bruised, cold feet, I was the woman you gave to eat, And I was the child on the homeless street."

Submitted by Molly Solanki

Citations from the Westminster Shorter Catechism

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

Q15: By what sin did our first parents fall from their original condition?

A: Our first parents' sin was eating the forbidden fruit.

Comment from Pastor John: The first sin was not *accidentally* taking fruit from the wrong tree, but knowing that God forbid it – and they partook of it anyway. The first sin was not some small negligible offense - it was rebellion against God, rejection of His ways, and questioning His inerrant word. Once we understand this we understand why original sin was such a big deal, and why it's a big deal today when we sin as well.

CHRISTMAS MORNING

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters

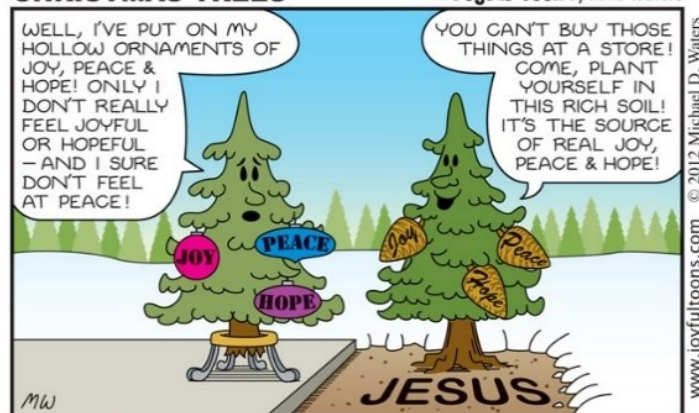


However, as it is written: "What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived" — the things God has prepared for those who love him — these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit.

— 1 CORINTHIANS 2:9-10 NIV

CHRISTMAS TREES

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

— ROMANS 15:13 NIV

Please join us on
Christmas Eve for our
Candle Light Service
Sun. Dec. 24th 4pm

the OPEN DOOR

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

150 North Broadway
South Amboy, NJ 08879



The EPC's Newest Church!

It is finally official, the First Presbyterian Church of South Amboy is no longer a PC(USA) church, but has officially joined the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC). We cannot say enough how grateful we are to see this day come, nor express what this means to us. Thanks be to God!

A common question I have been receiving is "*now what?*" Are we going to change our name? Do I have to write out my check for the offering differently? What changes will I notice? - To which I can proudly say we are not changing our name, financials and giving will be exactly the same, and other than some minor plans to incorporate EPC's logos onto our website and banners very little will change aesthetically. We have not fundamentally changed who we are, we have simply joined a denomination who reflects who we are. The biggest change we are hoping to see in the months ahead is what can happen when the Presbytery wants to partner with us and help us become the best version of ourselves we can be. We have been the "black sheep" within our denomination for so long that I think it's going to be beautiful to rediscover what being in an "interconnected" family of churches is like.

I want to extend a very heartfelt thanks to our current and former Session members who have walked with us during this journey! This has been one of the most trying times for our church and they have walked through it with such determination, resolve, unity, loyalty, and commitment that they deserve recognition. Thank you for the late nights, the early mornings, the long meetings, the hours and hours of research conducted, and your unwavering support to me personally when it was not easy. When the history of this time is written your names will be remembered.

A special thank you also to members of our former Presbytery who helped us, especially within our Administrative Commission. Some of you really proved to be friends of our church and are grateful for your labor towards this goal.

Thank you also to our new Presbytery (The Presbytery of the East) who have welcomed us and supported us since day one! Many of you went out of your way to support us, encourage us, guide us, and made us feel like we were *already* an EPC church for years now. We sincerely look forward to our partnership in the gospel!

There is so much more to say and so many more to thank, but time does not permit.

In addition to all that is going on with this change, December is a super busy month for the church. Be sure to mark your calendar for the Advent series we are doing with various churches in the area, the Walk to Bethlehem, Blue Christmas, Christmas Eve and more! So much to be excited for this season!

Pastor John Mottley