

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



# January



# January 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 New Year's Day	2	3
4 10:30am Worship/Communion	5 6pm Scouts	6	7	8	9	10
11 10:30am Worship 11:30pm Welcome to the EPC Party	12 6pm Scouts	13	14	15	16	17
18 10:30am Worship	19 6pm Scouts	20 Food Delivery	21	22	23	24
25 10:30am Worship	26 6pm Scouts	27 8am Open Door Articles due	28	29	30	31

# NEW CREATION Home Improvements

Fully  
Licensed  
& Insured

All work  
Supervised  
By Owner

All Phases

**732-486-6488**



**South Amboy**  
100 North Broadway  
South Amboy, NJ 08879  
(732) 721-0187

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

CELEBRATING



**VERITAS**  
RECOVERY CENTER

540 Bordentown Ave.

South Amboy, New Jersey 08879

Phone: 732-721-1000 - Fax: 732-952-3355

[www.veritasrecoverycenter.com](http://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

**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	





## 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.*

## 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 Thought for today

I wanted to share a little reflection with you today.

#### Hope Amid Struggle

Even though evil is real, we can trust in the “God of hope” (Romans 15:13). I love Reformer Martin Luther’s words: “*If I knew tomorrow the world would end, I would still plant an apple tree today.*” It’s a reminder that hope keeps us moving forward, even when the world feels broken. God’s love will restore both humanity and creation.

#### Reflection

The Bible tells us not to worry about our future and predicting the end times, but instead to live faithfully—loving God and loving our neighbors. Jesus said, “*Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.*” (Matthew 24:42)

Let’s let this hope shape how we live today: with courage, in justice, compassion, and a commitment to God’s purposes until Jesus makes all things new.

Merry Christmas and have a blessed and safe New Year!  
~ Linwood B.

## Attention All Committees



All reports for the Annual Congregational Meeting on January 25, 2026, **must be given to the office by January 4, 2026.** Please have all reports clearly written, or printed or email them to the office.  
~ Shirley Weaver

## Save the Date for Our Annual Meeting

Jan. 25 - 11:30 am (after service)  
Members are expected to attend.

## Citations from the Westminster Shorter Catechism

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

### Q16: Did all mankind fall in Adam’s first disobedience?

**A:** Since the covenant was made not only for Adam but also for his natural descendants, all mankind sinned in him and fell with him in his first disobedience.

**Comment from Pastor John:** Adam did not sin merely as a private individual, but as the representative head of the human race. When he disobeyed, the consequences of that sin—guilt, corruption, and death—spread to all his descendants, which helps us understand why sin and brokenness are universal realities. Have you ever met someone who has never sinned? This is why. Yet this hard truth also prepares us to rejoice in the good news: just as Adam’s fall affected many, so Christ’s obedience brings life to all who are united to Him by faith. Jesus is the “true and greater Adam” in this sense, as he kept the covenant that Adam could not. Thanks be to God!

**For more see:** Acts 17:26, Gn 2:16-17, Rom 5:12-20, 1 Cor 15:21-22

Submitted by Pastor John Mottley

The LORD bless thee,  
and keep thee:  
The LORD make his face  
shine upon thee,  
and be gracious unto thee:  
The LORD lift up his  
countenance upon thee,  
and give thee peace.  
Numbers 6:24-26

**Have a Blessed & Happy New Year**

## Bible Verses

Fear not, for I *am* with you;  
Be not dismayed, for I *am* your God.  
I will strengthen you,  
Yes, I will help you,  
I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.  
Isaiah 41:10

You were taught, with regard to your former way of life,  
to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its  
deceitful desires; To be made new in the attitude of your  
minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God  
in true righteousness and holiness.  
Ephesians 4:22-24

There is surely a future hope for you, and your hope will  
not be cut off.  
Proverbs 23:18

Love the LORD, all his faithful people! The LORD pre-  
serves those who are true to him, but the proud he pays  
back in full. Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in  
the LORD.

Psalms 31:23-24

But as for me, I watch in hope for the LORD, I wait for  
God my Savior; my God will hear me.

Micah 7:7

He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making eve-  
rything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these  
words are trustworthy and true."

Revelation 21:5

Submitted by Molly Solanki

## TOP 10 NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

1. Lose weight-Diet-Exercise-Physical health
2. Save money - Buy a new car - Home
3. Learn something new
4. Have a hobby
5. Read more
6. Spend more time with family
7. Travel - See the world
8. Get organized - Declutter
9. Quit bad habit - smoke - drinks
10. Give back, Volunteer, donate, mentor

Submitted by Madhu Solanki

## INK CARTRIDGES RECYCLE

You did it again!!! You brought in 20 used ink cartridges  
in December. This will give us a value of \$50.00 in  
Rewards to use on our next order. We ordered 2 Cannon  
ink cartridges, cost \$83.98. Using the Rewards the total  
charge was ONLY \$33.98. Thanks to you. Lets add to  
this amount by bringing in more used ink cartridges. I  
know you have them so bring them in. Keep this  
wonderful program working by bringing in all your and  
your friends used ink cartridges.

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

Elaine Lopez

## THOUGHT SORTING

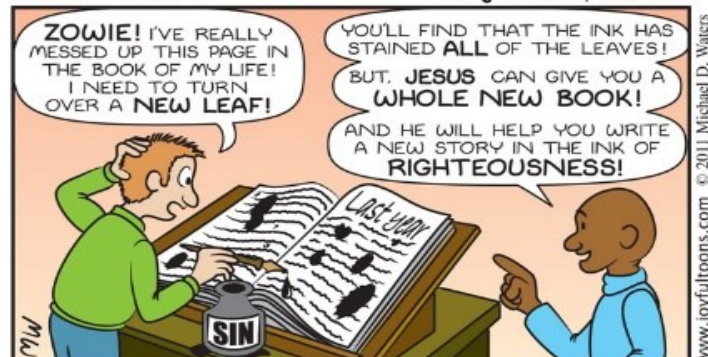
A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble,  
whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever  
is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think  
about such things.  
— PHILIPPIANS 4:8 NIV

## A NEW LEAF?

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



We were therefore buried with him through baptism into  
death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead  
through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.  
— ROMANS 6:4 NIV



## 2025 FAMILY WALK TO BETHLEHEM

On December 07, 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 Sacred Heart Church and stops along the way included St. Mary's Star of the Sea Church, First Presbyterian Church, Christ Episcopal Church, and Sacred Heart Church. Then we ended back at the at the Sacred Heart Hall for hot soup and sweet treats and fellowship. Approximately 40 people participated in this year's walk/drive.

~ Shirley W.



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





*First Presbyterian Church of  
South Amboy's 2nd  
Winter Annual Tricky Tray*

*Sunday, January 25, 2026*

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

Come join us for a fun-filled tricky tray sponsored by Rotary Club 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

**\$40 Pre-Sale Admission**

**\$45 at the door**

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



Contact  
Lisa Barbarino at [Lisabarbarino1@gmail.com](mailto:Lisabarbarino1@gmail.com)  
or 908-216-1155

ACCEPTABLE PAYMENTS:  
Cash or Check

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

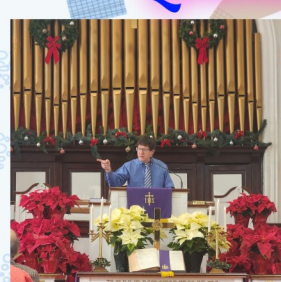


**50/50 Raffle**

FREE Dessert &  
Coffee

Pre-Sale General Admission  
Encouraged and due by January 10,  
2026. We sold out last year by the 1st of  
January!!!

Made with PosterMyWall.com



## January Quotes

"January moved dark and quick, and erased December." — Eliza Moss, *What It's Like in Words*

"JANUARY, The first month of the year,  
A perfect time to start all over again,  
Changing energies and deserting old moods,  
New beginnings, new attitudes"  
— Charmaine J Forde

"Winter is the time for comfort, for good  
food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly  
hand and for a talk beside the fire: it is the  
time for home." — Edith Sitwell

"Every man should be born again on the first  
day of January. Start with a fresh page." —  
Henry Ward Beecher

"Today expect something good to happen to  
you no matter what occurred yesterday.  
Realize the past no longer holds you captive.  
It can only continue to hurt you if you hold  
on to it. Let the past go. A simply abundant  
world awaits." — Sarah Ban Breathnach

"Ring out the old, ring in the new, Ring,  
happy bells, across the snow: The year is  
going, let him go; Ring out the false, ring in  
the true." — Alfred Lord Tennyson

Submitted by Molly Solanki

## From the Deacons

Dear Lord,

As the New Year begins, we ask for your blessing. We pray you  
would help us to bring peace and spread your love to one another.  
We thank you in advance for the plans you have ahead for us. In  
Jesus' name we pray, AMEN.

*"For I know the plans I have for you,"  
declares the LORD, "plans to prosper  
you and not to harm you, plans to  
give you hope and a future."  
— Jeremiah 29\*:11 (NIV)*

We hoped everyone enjoyed the Christmas luncheon even though we  
had to move the date.

Our next meeting will be Jan 4<sup>th</sup> after service.

If you need a home visit or communion, contact one of the deacons.

~ Betty Pinella

# *the OPEN DOOR*

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
150 North Broadway  
South Amboy, NJ 08879



## Stepping Into the Future

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Much has happened in the life of our church in 2025—more than can be summarized in a few sentences—but one development stands out in particular: our transition into the EPC. Yet as important as 2025 has been, I want to be very clear this is not a finish line, it was the start of a new race.

Looking ahead, I believe 2026 will be a truly transformational year for our church—not because everything will suddenly be easy or perfect, but because we are intentionally stepping into what we have been striving toward. You will see more outreach, more community events, greater focus, and a renewed sense of purpose in how we do ministry together. At the same time, our heart remains unchanged: to glorify God in all that we do and to make Christ fully known in the hearts and lives of the people in South Amboy.

As we begin a new year together, I also want to gently encourage each of you to reflect personally, not just corporately. January often invites resolutions, but I want to ask a different kind of question—one that goes deeper than habits or schedules:

Who do you want to be spiritually by the end of this year?

Not what do you want to accomplish, but who do you want to become. What would it look like for your trust in the Lord to be deeper? For your understanding of Scripture to be richer? For your prayer life to be more honest, more consistent, more shaped by God's Word?

One simple, powerful way to pursue that growth is by committing to read through the Bible in a year. It only takes about 15 minutes a day to read through all of God's written revelation in one year. Even if you never picked up the bible for yourself before, by this time next year you'll have read through the foundational chapters of Genesis, learned the history of Israel, seen the amazing prophecies of Isaiah, read the powerful words of the apostle Paul, and much, much more. Resources and reading plans will be made available soon to help support you in the journey.

My prayer for the year ahead is that we would move forward together with humility, courage, and joy, trusting that the Lord who has brought us this far will continue to lead us faithfully into what comes next.

Grace and peace to you as we begin this new year together.

*Pastor John Mottley*