

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

“Father,  
into your hands  
I commit my spirit”  
LUKE 23:46

# April

# APRIL 2026

*April Fools' Day*  
 This is the day upon which we are  
 reminded of what we are on the other  
 three hundred and sixty-four.  
 ~Mark Twain

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 <b>Maundy Thursday</b> 7 pm Service at Trinity Methodist	3 <b>Good Friday</b> 7 pm Service at Grace Lutheran	4
5 <b>Easter</b> 10:30am Worship/Communion	6 Office Closed	7	8	9	10	11
12 10:30am Worship	13 6pm Scouts	14	15	16	17	18
19 10:30am Worship	20 6pm Scouts	21 Food Delivery 8am Open Door Articles due	22 <b>Earth Day</b>	23	24	25
26 10:30am Worship	27 6pm Scouts	28 5pm Scouts Fish Dinner	29	30		

**NEW CREATION**  
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All Phases

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**AMBOY**  
Bank

South Amboy  
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South Amboy, NJ 08879  
(732) 721-0187  
www.amboybank.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**

**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 0885

**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 March 2026**

**OFFICER NOMINATING COMMITTEE**  
Madhu Solanki Elaine Lopez  
Joan Downes 1 Elder TBD  
1 Deacon TBD

**YOUR ELDERS / THE SESSION**  
*(Responsible for governing our church affairs)*  
Ruth Beselinoff Christina Vella  
Larry Wallace

**YOUR DEACONS**  
*(Responsible for assisting our church and community in times of need)*  
Michelle Herman Betty Pinella  
Lori Ryan

# Our Deacons table at the St. Patrick's Day Parade



## Deacons' Monthly Update

Dear Lord, We are grateful for your mercy, grace, love, and kindness. Through Jesus Christ you have given us the promise of eternal life. We pray that the Holy Spirit will renew our hearts and guide us to live a life that reflects your goodness and honors you. Let us remember that our worth is rooted in you, Lord, and not worldly accomplishments. May we trust in you during moments of struggle and praise you in moments of joy. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

The deacons will meet, Thursday April 16<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. We will be doing home visitation/communion on Saturday April 11<sup>th</sup>. Please contact us if you would like to be on our list.

~Betty Pinella

Because of his grace he declared us righteous and gave us confidence that we will inherit eternal life.

- Titus 3:4-7 NLT -



## INK CARTRIDGES RECYCLE

I am happy to report my monthly nagging worked again. Here is what YOU accomplished this past month. We placed a Staples order totaling \$121.46. Because YOU have been so faithful bringing used ink cartridges, we had \$94.00 in Rewards Credit built up, so we paid \$27.46 for that statement. WOW! As a Team we are doing great job of saving our Church money. I know you have more, so please bring them in. We all really appreciate your generous time and help with this program. Keep this wonderful program working by bringing in all your and your friends used ink cartridges. God is good and supplies all our needs. Thank you!!!!

Elaine Lopez

## KNOCK KNOCK

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

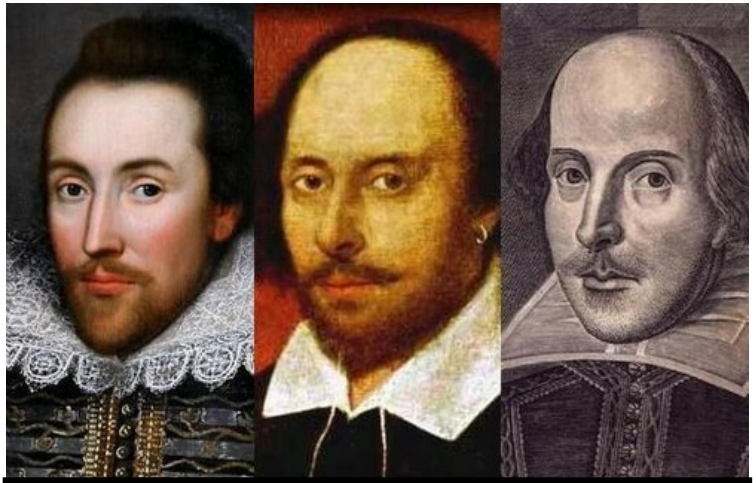
- MATTHEW 7:7 NIV

## ECUMENICAL HOLY WEEK 2026



SUNDAY, MARCH 29	
PALM SUNDAY	EACH CHURCH
THURSDAY, APRIL 2 AT 7:00PM	
MAUNDY THURSDAY	TRINITY UNITED METHODIST 815 BORDENTOWN AVE SOUTH AMBOY
FRIDAY, APRIL 3 AT 7:00PM	
GOOD FRIDAY	GRACE LUTHERAN 600 NEW BRUNSWICK AVE PERTH AMBOY
SUNDAY, APRIL 5	
EASTER SUNDAY	EACH CHURCH





Happy Birthday to William Shakespeare, born on April 23, 1564 and died April 23, 1616. According to Bob Hostetler, author of *The Bard and the Bible*, William Shakespeare's favorite bible verse may be I Corinthians 2:9: "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, nor entered into the heart of man what God has in store for those who love Him." This verse in paraphrased forms appears four times in three of Shakespeare's plays.

<https://cbn.com/article/christian-life/how-bible-influenced-william-shakespeare>

Submitted by Molly Solanki

Our weekly Ecumenical Lenten Bible Study has been going really well. It is nice to come together with other Christian churches in our area for fellowship and to share in our joint faith. Pictured above is the first one at Grace Lutheran in Perth Amboy, the second at Sayreville United Methodist and the third, here at 1st Presbyterian South Amboy.

## Citations from the Westminster Shorter Catechism

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

### Q18: What is sinful about man's fallen condition?

A: The sinfulness of that fallen condition is twofold. First, in what is commonly called original sin, there is guilt of Adam's first sin with its lack of original righteousness and the corruption of his whole nature. Second are all the specific acts of disobedience that come from original sin.

**Comment from Pastor John:** In short, our problem of sin has two parts: 1) We are all born as sinners, with sin affecting every area of our lives. (Thanks Adam!!) And 2) That inherited sinful nature produces the sinful choices we make every day. We sin because we are sinners, and this problem goes all the way back to our first parents (Genesis 3). The concept of "Original Sin" is a biblically accurate doctrine that makes sense why our world is so broken.

**For more see:** Rom 5:6, 12, 19. Eph 2:1-3, Rom 8:7-8, Gn 6:5, Rom 3:10-20, Ps 51:5, James 1:14-15, Matthew 15:19.

Submitted by Pastor John Mottley

## April Bible Verses

Let us acknowledge the Lord; let us press on to acknowledge Him. As surely as the sun rises, He will appear; He will come to us like the winter rains, like the spring rains that water the earth. —*Hosea 6:3*

All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field. —*Isaiah 40:6*

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. —*Romans 12:12*

Ask the Lord for rain in the springtime; it is the Lord who sends the thunderstorms. He gives showers of rain to all people, and plants of the field to everyone. —*Zechariah 10:1*

Submitted by Molly Solanki

*Pray about it as much  
as you think about it.*

## The Mission Committee

The Missions Committee wishes all a blessed Easter season, as we remember Jesus, our Lord and Savior who died so that we could have everlasting life.

Missions is thrilled with our new beginning with EPC. We have begun quarterly giving to the EPC domestic emergency relief fund, replacing the previous PCUSA disaster relief support.

Stay tuned for news on a Missions July 4th event being planned to celebrate our faith freedom along with our nation's 250th birthday!!

~Ruth Beselinoff



Registration forms are in the mailroom if you want to sign up or volunteer for **C.V.B.S.**  
**July 13– 17, 2026**  
**9am-12:15pm**

at St. Bernadette Church,  
Lourdes Center in Parlin

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Closing Program is Friday, July 17, 2026 @ 7pm

## April Quotes

“Spring is the time of plans and projects.”  
– Leo Tolstoy

“April is a moment of joy for those who have survived the winter.”  
— Samuel Johnson

“April hath put a spirit of youth in everything.”  
— William Shakespeare, Sonnet XCVIII

“Our spring has come at last with the soft laughter of April suns and shadow of April showers.”  
— Byron Caldwell Smith

“Where flowers bloom so does hope.”  
– Lady Bird Johnson

Submitted by Molly Solanki



## Don't Forget!

**National Day of Prayer is May 1st**

“It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible”  
- George Washington

God is your source.

Not people, not your job, not your connections. Everything else is simply a resource He provides. Trust Him to supply all you need.

## Upcoming Events

**Palm Sunday Worship**  
March 29, at 10:30am



**Annual Easter Luncheon**  
March 29  
After Worship Service



**Maundy Thursday Service**  
Trinity Methodist  
April 2, 7:00pm



**Good Friday Service**  
Grace Lutheran  
April 3, at 7:00



**Easter Sunday Service**  
April 5, at 10:30 am





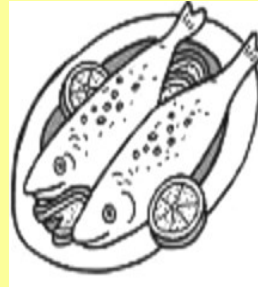
# April Birthdays

Wishing a very Happy Birthday to:

- Apr. 3 Ervant Mansfield*
- Apr. 6 Jean Greene*
- Apr. 6 Travis Risley*
- Apr. 9 Jill Berwick*
- Apr. 9 Shirley Weaver*
- Apr. 11 Angie Vella*
- Apr. 26 Norma Moretti*
- Apr. 29 Anna Lauro*

The Camp Dill Foundation and the Old Timers of Troop 91

**Scouts Fish Dinner - April 28**  
**5:00 pm - 6:45 pm**  
**Drive thru/Take out Only**  
**Tickets are \$20**



All tickets must be purchased in advance.

To purchase tickets, please see Ruth. You can pay with cash or a check to "The Camp Dill Foundation."



**E** is for Easter, a Joyful day.  
**A** is for Angels, bringing good news.  
**S** is for Savior, Jesus our Lord.  
**T** is for Tomb, found empty.  
**E** is for Endless Love, from God.  
**R** is for Rejoice, Sing, Smile.

Submitted by Madhu Solanki

## Sunday Worship Flowers

Flowers for Sunday Worship are \$25.00 for two urns. I have 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.

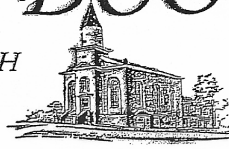
Please make checks payable to "Cash". To place an order or if you have any questions please contact me. - Jean Greene



# the OPEN DOOR

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

150 North Broadway  
South Amboy, NJ 08879



## What lies ahead...

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"Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:12-14 (ESV)

I have been reflecting on this passage a lot recently. As Christians we are not fully mature and perfect yet, nor are we what we used to be. Yet we are called not to focus on what we were, but to "press on" towards becoming more like Jesus every single day. That is our calling as Christians. Forgetting what is behind, and pressing forward towards Jesus Christ.

The same is true of our church.

At our recent "EPC Commissioning Service" we heard a great word from Pastor Omar Villacres where we were encouraged to "let the past be the past, what is our vision and what is God calling us to be *today*?" Much like our personal testimonies, we are no longer who we used to be. Praise the Lord! Yet, are we pressing forward toward's Jesus Christ the way we are called to be? It is not enough to just "no longer be what we were", we must step into who God has called us to be *today*.

For that reason we are glad to be working now to implement what we heard from Pastor Stefan at the Refocus Seminar back in 2024. That day we were given permission to dream again. To think about what our church could be like. To think of the best days ahead for our church possibly being "ahead" of us rather than behind us. What a hopeful time! This is the season we are hoping to implement much of what we dreamed about back then.

Therefore keep an eye open for updates as we seek to become that church. We're going to be updating our website and our social media presence to reflect who we are. Expect to see more outreaches, more evangelism, new ministries, and new positions within the church as we pursue this vision.

Join me in prayer for our Session, our deacons, and our various other ministries as we seek to become the church God is calling us to be *today*. It's going to take work, it's going to take some "forgetting what lies behind", it's going to get us out of our comfort zones, but when Jesus calls you to step out of the boat and walk on water we ought not choose to stay dry!

*Pastor John Mottley*