

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 10:30 am



March

March 2026

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 2nd Sunday of Lent 10:30am Worship/Communion Scouts Blue and Gold Dinner	2 6pm Scouts	3	4	5	6	7
8 3rd Sunday of Lent Daylight Saving time begins 10:30am Worship 11:30 am Annual Meeting	9 6pm Scouts	10	11	12	13	14
15 4th Sunday of Lent 10:30am Worship 2pm St. Patrick's day Parade	16 6pm Scouts	17 St. Patrick's Day Food Delivery	18	19	20 1st Day of Spring	21
22 5th Sunday of Lent 10:30am Worship	23 6pm Scouts	24 8am Open Door Articles due	25	26	27	28
29 Palm Sunday 10:30am Worship 11:30 am Annual Easter Luncheon	30 6pm Scouts	31				

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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	

Board of Deacons

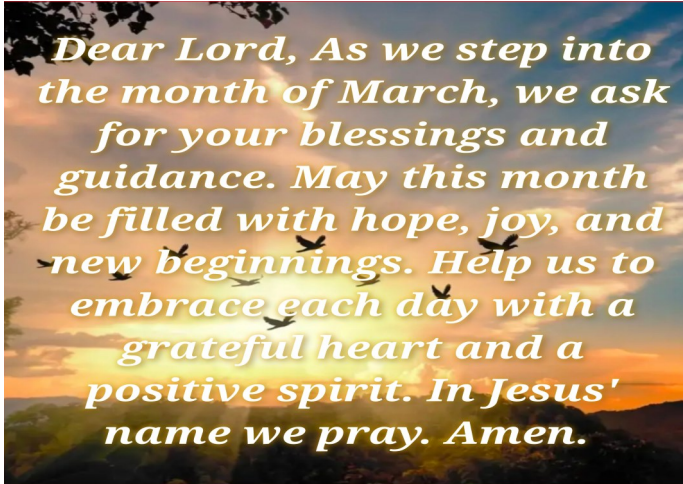
The Deacons invite everyone to join us for the St. Patrick's Parade on March 15th.

We will have a refreshment table set up and seats to watch the parade.

Mark your calendars for March 29th, the deacons will have our Easter Luncheon on Palm Sunday after service.

The deacons will be resuming home communion visits in April. If anyone is interested in a home visit, please contact one of the deacons.

~ Betty Pinella



March Bible Verses

"The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame." Isaiah 58:11

"He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul." Psalm 23:2-3

"I will refresh the weary and satisfy the faint." Jeremiah 31:25

"Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength." Isaiah 40:30-31

"My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." Exodus 33:14

Submitted by Molly Solanki



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



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

INK CARTRIDGES RECYCLE



I am happy to report my monthly nagging worked again. Another generous Mystery Person tip toed into my back yard and left 42 used ink cartridges in my shed. What a surprise! Of course I packed up 20 (our monthly limit) and immediately brought them to Staples for \$40.00 worth of credit. Last week Shirley and I ordered 108.00 of office needs. We had \$49.00 of Rewards waiting for us, so we paid \$59.00 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

Boy Scout Sunday

On February 1, 2026, our local Boy Scouts in Troop 91 joined us for service. Following service, the scouts hosted our coffee hour with donuts and pastries.



Scout Sunday - Feb. 1, 2026



Ash Wednesday

Ecumenical Ash Wednesday Service hosted at Messiah Lutheran Church on Feb. 18, 2026. Five local churches came together and Pastors John Mottley, Vincent Frunzi, and Daniel Fields did a wonderful job.

March Quotes

“Our life is March weather, savage and serene in one hour.” — Ralph Waldo Emerson

“By March, the worst of the winter would be over. The snow would thaw, the rivers begin to run and the world would wake into itself again.” — Neil Gaiman

“Daffodils, That come before the swallow dares, and take The winds of March with beauty.” — William Shakespeare

“Springtime is the land awakening. The March winds are the morning yawn.” — Lewis Grizzard

“March, when days are getting long, Let thy growing hours be strong to set right some wintry wrong.” — Caroline May

Submitted by Molly Solanki

NEW DATE for Our Annual Meeting

March 8, 2026

11:30 am (after service)

Members are expected to attend.



Feb. 20, 2026

Spaghetti Dinner

Spring forward!
March 8th
Don't Forget





The Board of Deacons
 Welcome you to their
**Annual
 Easter Luncheon
 on Palm Sunday
 March 29**
 following worship.

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.



A Note from Missions

Everyone remembers with thanksgiving the Sundays that Linwood Bagby preached, served communion and worshipped with our congregation. You may also remember how your Mission Committee has been contributing to Restore Ministry for years. Linwood is the Founder and Executive Director of this great youth ministry in Elizabeth. He has reached out and asked us to share this update and prayer request with you. Please keep Restore in your prayers and if possible, your charitable giving.

Ruth, Missions Chair

Prayers for Restore Ministry

Partner with us in prayer as we serve our community and youth.

- For Our Staff: Pray for spiritual endurance and wisdom. Ask God to protect our team from burnout and fill them with discernment as they navigate complex situations with students and families.
 - For the Philly Mission Trip (Aug 7-14): Pray for safety and service. As our team heads to Philadelphia, pray for a spirit of unity and for the hearts of those they will serve to be open to the love of Christ.
 - For Student Growth: Pray for academic persistence. Ask that our students would find the confidence to pursue their education and that our high schoolers would find clear direction for their futures.
- For Family Restoration: Pray for stability in the home. Lift up the families we serve, asking for economic provision and for homes to be environments of peace, hope, and spiritual vitality.

Thank you so much!
 Linwood

LENT, a journey of faith



Ecumenical bible studies at 6:00pm

DATE	HOSTING CHURCH
February 25	Grace Lutheran 600 New Brunswick Ave Perth Amboy
March 4	Sayreville United Methodist 406 Main Street Sayreville
March 11	First Presbyterian 150 North Broadway South Amboy
March 18	Trinity United Methodist 815 Bordentown Ave South Amboy
March 25	Sayreville United Methodist 406 Main Street Sayreville

Each evening will include a simple meal of soup, bread and water, followed by a time of reflection and conversation.

Prayer For March

Dear Lord,

As we welcome March, I come to You with hope and gratitude. In this season of renewal, guide my steps and fill my heart with Your light.

Bless this month, Lord. Help me embrace its changes and find peace in Your wisdom.

Watch over my family and loved ones, providing for our needs and strengthening our bonds.

Give me strength to face challenges with courage, trusting in Your goodness. Be with those who are struggling, offering them comfort and healing.

As nature awakens, fill me with joy and a thankful spirit. Let me appreciate daily blessings and find beauty in simplicity. Guide me to be kind and supportive to those around me.

Draw me closer to You, Lord, renewing my spirit and deepening my understanding of Your word.

In Your name, I pray,
 Amen.

Upcoming Events

Lenten Series
 Say. United Methodist
 March 4, at 6:00pm



Our Annual Meeting
 March 8, 2026
 After Worship Service



Lenten Series
 1st Presbyterian So. Amboy
 March 11, at 6:00pm



St. Patrick's Day Parade
 March 15, at 2:00pm



Lenten Series
 Trinity Methodist
 March 18, at 6:00pm



Lenten Series
 Say. United Methodist
 March 25, at 6:00pm



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



PRAYER FOR A HEART OF GENEROSITY

Dear Lord,

You have blessed me in so many ways, and I am truly grateful. Today, I ask for a heart that responds to Your blessings with generosity. Help me to see the needs of others and to be willing to share the resources, time, and love that You have given me.

Lord, teach me to give with a cheerful heart, knowing that in doing so, I am reflecting Your love to the world. Let my generosity be an overflow of the gratitude I have for all that You have done in my life. Show me how I can use what I have to bless others, whether it's through financial support, acts of service, or simply offering a listening ear.

Remind me that everything I have comes from You, and that I am called to be a steward of these gifts. Help me to trust that as I give, You will continue to provide for my needs.

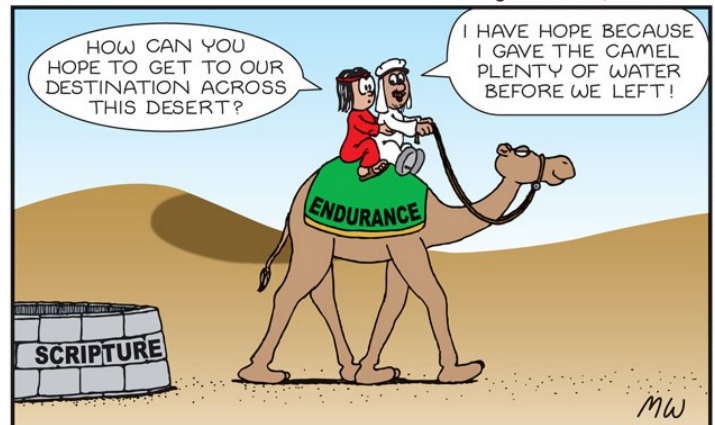
Thank You for the privilege of being able to give, and for the joy that comes from sharing Your blessings with others. In Jesus' name, I pray.

Amen.

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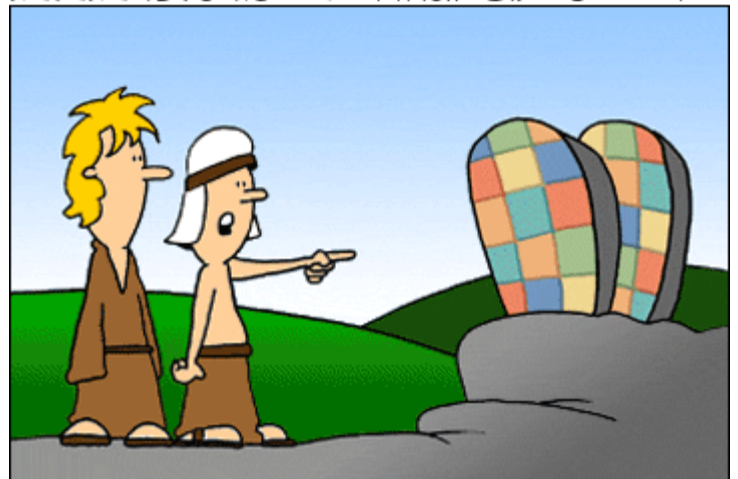
CAMEL

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. — ROMANS 15:4 NIV

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Thanks to Dad Hengeveld

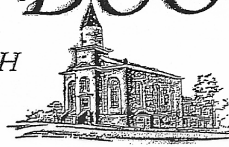
HEY, LOOK ... MOSAIC LAW

04-10-2003

the OPEN DOOR

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

150 North Broadway
South Amboy, NJ 08879



Winter, Winter Go Away!

“Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.”

Isaiah 1:18 ESV

Anyone else ready for winter to be over? I can't remember one this harsh. Brutally cold temperatures, several major snowstorms, and a regretful number of them being on a Sunday! I don't ever remember having so many snowstorms on a Sunday before? What on earth is going on?

Regretfully it seems we canceled during the last one prematurely. By the time service would have been over it was still mostly rain and didn't turn over to snow until around 1 or 2pm. Sometimes we are going to make the wrong call, and for that I apologize. The forecast was just so unpredictable and we couldn't rule out the possibility of us coming in to worship at 10:30 and leaving during absolute blizzard conditions when we left. We thank you for your grace as we continue to learn how to make these difficult calls.

We are grateful that weather did not stop our Spaghetti dinner fundraiser - sponsored by Carmen Spezzi. Through ticket sales, take outs, and donations our church was able to raise over \$2800 in a single evening! Praise God from whom all blessings flow! Carmen has already expressed interest in doing one of these again so I hope you liked the food!

If you are like me, all these cancellations can make upcoming events sneak up on us, so don't forget about the Annual Congregational Meeting coming up March 8th. The EPC “Commissioning Service” is in the process of being rescheduled and will be announced as soon as possible.

In the meantime, be safe out there, love one another, take care of one another, and may the love of Christ warm your hearts through the end of this season.

Pastor John Mottley