

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)

**Website:** [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



# May



# 2026

Let your face shine on your servant;  
save me in your unfailing love.

Psalms 31:16

| Sun                                   | Mon                | Tue                                 | Wed | Thu                            | Fri | Sat |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|-----|--------------------------------|-----|-----|
|                                       |                    |                                     |     |                                | 1   | 2   |
| 3<br>10:30am Worship/<br>Communion    | 4<br>6pm Scouts    | 5                                   | 6   | 7<br>National Day of<br>Prayer | 8   | 9   |
| 10<br>Mother's Day<br>10:30am Worship | 11<br>6pm Scouts   | 12                                  | 13  | 14                             | 15  | 16  |
| 17<br>10:30am Worship                 | 18<br>6pm Scouts   | 19<br>Food Delivery                 | 20  | 21                             | 22  | 23  |
| 24<br>10:30am Worship                 | 25<br>Memorial Day | 26<br>8am Open Door Articles<br>due | 27  | 28                             | 29  | 30  |
| 31<br>10:30am Worship                 |                    |                                     |     |                                |     |     |

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**VERITAS**  
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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



# MOTHER'S DAY PRAYER

DEAR LORD, WE THANK YOU FOR THE GIFT OF MOTHERHOOD. TODAY, WE CELEBRATE THE LOVING SACRIFICE OF MOTHERS, BOTH BIOLOGICAL AND SPIRITUAL, WHO NURTURE AND GUIDE US IN YOUR WAYS. BLESS THEM WITH JOY, STRENGTH, AND LOVE TO CONTINUE THEIR SELFLESS DEVOTION. MAY THEY FEEL DEEPLY APPRECIATED AND HONORED NOT JUST TODAY, BUT EVERY DAY. AMEN.

## PATIENT HEN

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



www.joyfultoons.com © 2007 Michael D. Waters

We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.

— HEBREWS 6:12 NIV

## STAY FREE

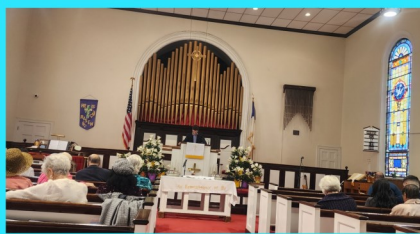
A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



www.joyfultoons.com © 2013 Michael D. Waters

You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.

— GALATIANS 5:13 NIV



## ~ May Quotes ~

"Horticulturally, the month of May is opening night, homecoming, and graduation day all rolled into one." —Tam Mossman

"When you're at the end of your rope, tie a knot and hold on." —Theodore Roosevelt

"As full of spirit as the month of May, and as gorgeous as the sun in Midsummer." —William Shakespeare

"No matter what people tell you, words and ideas can change the world." —Robin Williams

"May, queen of blossoms, and fulfilling flowers, what pretty music shall we charm the hours?" —Lord Edward Thurlow

"The world's favorite season is the spring. All things seem possible in May." —Edwin Way Teale

"Nothing is impossible. The word itself says 'I'm possible!'" —Audrey Hepburn

Submitted by Molly Solanki



## May Bible Verses

“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” – Joshua 1:9

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.” – Romans 15:13

“The Lord says, ‘I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you.’” – Psalm 32:8

“God arms me with strength, and He makes my way perfect.” – Psalm 18:32

“Let’s not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing.” – Galatians 6:9

Submitted by Molly Solanki

## 5 Prayers for Hope

### Starter prayer

I want to believe you can make all things good. Help my unbelief.

1. God, You are infinitely good. You are all around me, and you have never stopped loving me. I choose to look for your goodness today.
2. Lord, I don’t know how you will do it, but I thank you that you will make all things work for my good.
3. God, I choose to believe that you will even work this out for good.
4. God, I thank You for giving me hope, the confident expectation that good things will come to me.
5. I know You sent Jesus to die so I may experience every good thing. Nothing was held back at the cross for me, so nothing can hinder me from experiencing those good things. I believe every obstacle to that goodness will give way.

source: <https://prayer-coach.com/prayers-to-build-your-hope/>



## Good Friday Worship Service

## The Deacons

Dear Lord, our loving creator. As we celebrate Mother's Day, let us thank you for our families. Let us pray for all women and their families. Please bless all of us with peace, unity and joy. Let us abide by your will to provide for our needs. Give us wisdom to manage our resources and generosity to share with others. Let your presence dwell among us and guide our steps daily. Help us to remove worry and faithfully trust in you. In Jesus' name, Amen

*And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.  
Philippians 4:19*

The deacons will meet again on Thursday May 14, 2026 at 6pm. We will be setting a date for home communion again in June, if you would like to be included, please contact one of the deacons.  
~Betty Pinella

## A Prayer For May:

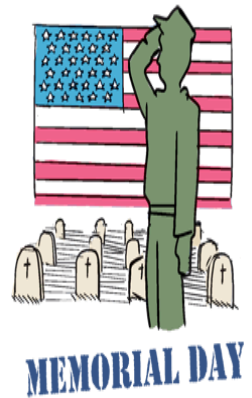
**May** you be happy.  
**May** you stay healthy.  
**May** you feel safe.  
**May** you find comfort.  
**May** you sense peace.  
**May** you give love.  
**May** you possess courage.  
**May** you have faith.  
**May** you spread joy.  
**May** you be kind.



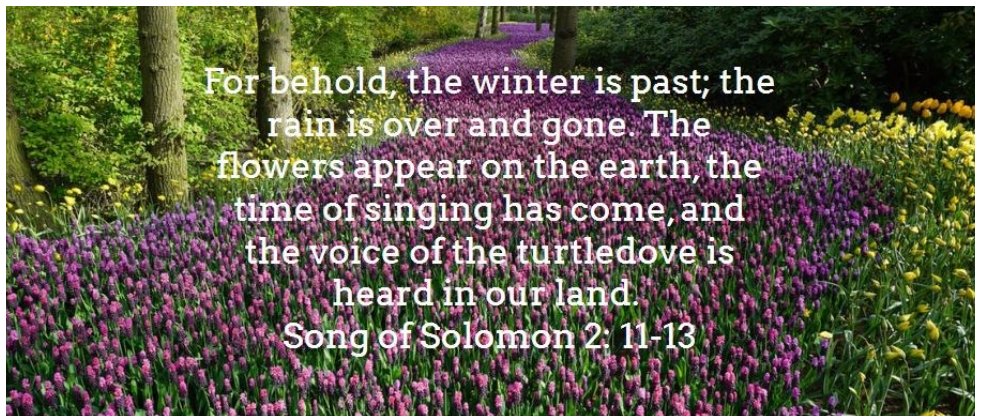
## Memorial Day Prayer

Held in our hearts always,  
For the sacrifices you made,  
Served our country well,  
So our freedom never fell,  
God Bless you on this  
and everyday,  
Thank you for keeping us safe,  
This Memorial Day I pray,  
Honor, Respect,  
May We Never Forget

- Shirley W.



For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.  
Song of Solomon 2: 11-13



# the OPEN DOOR

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
150 North Broadway  
South Amboy, NJ 08879



## Focused & Moving Forward

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"...I am writing these things to you so that, if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God..." 1 Timothy 3:14-15 (ESV)

We are excited to have finally begun a new verse-by-verse series through the book of 1 Timothy. This is a book written by the Apostle Paul to his young protege Timothy as he provides leadership to a church facing all kinds of difficulties and trials. As we've seen already, there is so much we can relate to. Going through a book with these themes is going to challenge us. It will confront our complacencies, reveal our weaknesses, and encourage our growth as individuals and as a congregation. I hope you are as excited about this book as I am.

The timing of this book is perfect as we have begun the process of starting the Refocus program through our presbytery's Church Health Coordinator - Omar Villacres. Members of our congregation will be meeting to pray, and seek the Lord's guidance and wisdom as to what the Lord's will is for the future of this church. We'll be taking a hard assessment as to where our church is at currently, discern what kind of church God is calling us to be today, and begin diligently seeking to implement that vision.

I encourage everyone to keep us in prayer. This will not be a "Session thing" or a "Deacons thing", it will require all of us being engaged to step into the future God has for us.

With that, please be on the lookout for announcements regarding outreaches and events. As the weather gets warmer we'll have more opportunities to do events on the lawn, and show the city that there's a church in town that loves them and loves the Lord!

But remember - everyone is empowered to do outreach and evangelism at our church. I frequently refer to Central Jersey as our "Missions Field", and we are empowered to act like it! Don't wait for Session to organize something! Brainstorm an idea and let us know how we can help! Let our new EPC affiliation give us permission to start acting like a newly planted church that is free to try new things without the expectation of yesterday!

As I write this I am also preparing to go to a Presbytery meeting in Bethesda, Maryland for a Presbytery meeting. Pray that the Lord blesses this meeting and guides us as a region of faithful churches to do His will, and that we would have the wisdom and diligence to implement what we discuss upon our return.

~ John Mottley