

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

Be Thankful
Be Grateful
Be Blessed



October

OCTOBER 2026

October

"O hushed October morning mild,
Thy leaves have ripened to the fall;
Tomorrow's wind, if it be wild,
Should waste them all." —Robert Frost

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 10:30am Worship/ Communion 11:30am Coffee Hour	5 6pm Scouts	6	7	8	9	10
11 10:30am Worship	12 Columbus Day office closed	13	14	15	16	17
18 10:30am Worship	19 6pm Scouts	20 Food Delivery 8am Open Door Articles due	21	22	23	24
25 10:30am Worship	26 6pm Scouts	27	28	29	30	31 Halloween

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

CELEBRATING



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

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	Larry Wallace
Lori Ryan	

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	

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

First of all, Vitality prayers are important - "Pray without ceasing," 1 Thessaloniki 5:17, says. After energizing comes action. There could be a number of ideas, tricks and efforts available out there.

First of all, how to start? It starts with me first. Somebody has said. "No idea is an idea if it is not dangerous (risky)." We may pursue this after clarifying our purpose and our mission. These are my personal ideas, disregard if not practical. We may only do whatever is useful and feasible, and have it tailormade to our purpose.

We may visit to study a couple of churches and see how they did it. Ask a few members what they like in their church most and why they are there. And learn how to give new members what they want. We may give them a tough super divine message with a contemporary touch, which they could digest easily. Find out what their difficulties are. Social media, we already have -- maybe we can enhance with directional maps, parking location and highlights of coming meetings and whatever is necessary.

A warm greeting by trained ushers with a smile would impress and make them feel welcome and at home. Coffee hour, food pantry, clothing drive, picnics, and community lunch. We already are doing these and more. We can have more membership participate in service. For example, reading scripture, leading in prayer, singing or playing a duet hymn in front. Standing up and being counted could help.

Once a year we may have all community church gospel music contests by inviting nearby churches through available media. Have outside referees. Occasionally, we may have a group Bible Bee contest for all churches in cities around us. Give them small modest prizes. Some churches have monthly an evening of viewing social religious video and discussion. Finally, it would be the best idea to follow up a new visitor with a phone call or a card.

This is just a list of ideas coming from a lifelong Presbyterian. All could step up and contribute their more feasible ideas. "Talk is cheap; **deeds are priceless.**" With prayers.

Madhu Solanki.

Sunday Worship Flowers

I have many openings for Sunday Worship flowers in **October, November & December**. They are \$25.00 for two urns. 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

October Birthdays

Wishing a very Happy Birthday to:



Oct. 2 Ashley Mottley

Oct. 29 Rev. Suzanne Schafer-Coates

Bible Verses

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

"Glory to God, who is able, through His mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think." Ephesians 3:20

"From the fullness of His grace we have all received one blessing after another." John 1:16

"Be strong and do not give up, for your work will be rewarded." 2 Chronicles 15:7

"May our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word."
2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

Submitted by Molly Solanki

The Old Timers of Troop 91 and The Camp Dill Foundation



Scouts Fish Dinner
November 3
4:45pm - 6:45pm
Drive thru, Take out
Only
Tickets are \$20

All tickets must be purchased prior to the event. Please see Ruth or Joe to purchase tickets. Make checks out to

“The Camp Dill Foundation”



RECYCLE
INK CARTRIDGES

Betty Pinella collected 15 used ink cartridges from friends and family. Thank you Betty! I added five more from our collection and delivered them (20) to Staples. Currently, this adds up to \$40.00 in Rewards for our next order. Thanks to you for listening to my nagging about bringing in used ink cartridges. It helps so much. 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!!!!

Quotes

“Listen! the wind is rising, and the air is wild with leaves, We have had our summer evenings, now for October eves!”--Humbert Wolfe, 'Autumn Resignation'

“Bittersweet October. The mellow, messy, leaf-kicking, perfect pause between the opposing miseries of summer and winter.” --Carol Bishop Hippos

“In October any wonderful unexpected thing might be possible.” --Elizabeth George Speare

“October is a fallen leaf, but it is also the wider horizon more clearly seen.” --Hal Borlan, 'This Hill, This Valley'

"The trees are in their autumn beauty, The woodland paths are dry, Under the October twilight the water Mirrors a still sky." --William Butler Yeats

“God is the only one who can make the valley of trouble a door of hope.” --Catherine Marshall

“The strength of a man consists in finding out the way in which God is going, and going in that way too.” --Henry Ward Beecher

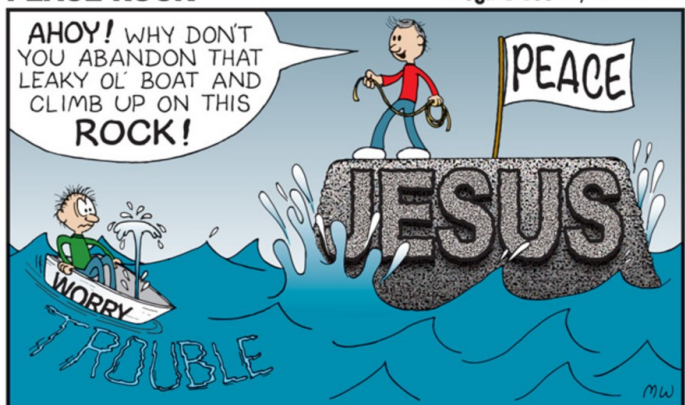
“Walk boldly and wisely... There is a hand above that will help you on.” --Philip James Bailey

“Hope is one of the principle springs that keep mankind in motion.” --Thomas Fuller

Submitted by Molly Solanki

PEACE ROCK

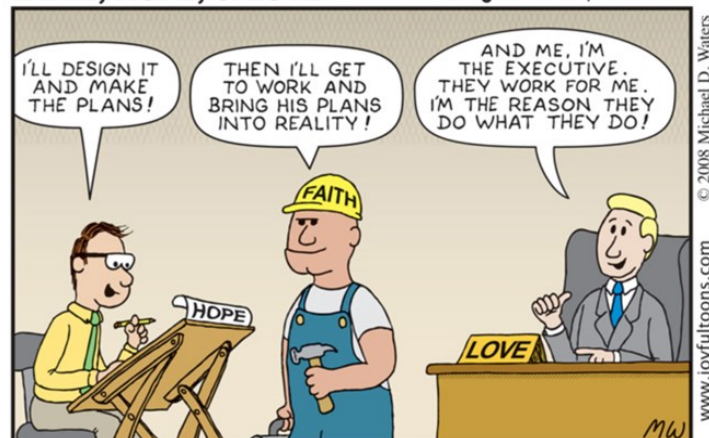
A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.
- JOHN 16:33 NIV

FAITH, HOPE, & LOVE

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



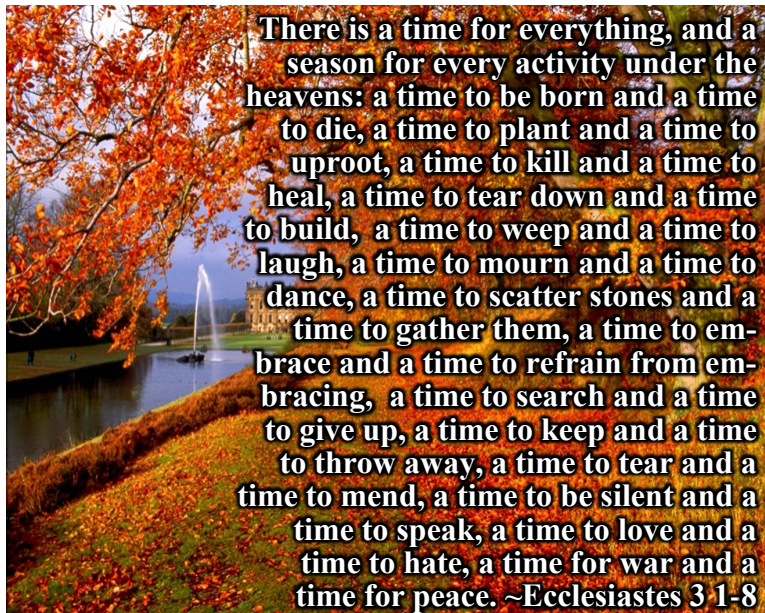
And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.
- 1 CORINTHIANS 13:13 NIV

Board of Deacons

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you for autumn. As the seasons change and cooler weather approaches, let us slow down and appreciate your wonder as the harvests are gathered and the trees change color. Let us pray for your guidance and wisdom in our careers and daily tasks. Let us lift our worries to you and ask for your mercy for any of our short comings. Guide our steps and let our lives bring glory to your name. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

The deacons' next meeting will be Oct 18th, after church. We will be contacting home bound members for home communion and visitation. If anyone has a need we can fill, please contact one of us.

~Betty Pinella



AUTUMN IS GOD'S WAY OF
SHOWING US HOW BEAUTIFUL
—change can be—

Prayer For Financial Stability In The Home

Heavenly Father,
I lift up the financial needs of our household to You.
Please provide for us in every way we need, and help us to trust in Your provision. I ask for wisdom in managing our resources, so that we can use what we have wisely and in a way that honors You.
Help us to be good stewards of the finances You have entrusted to us. Guide us in making responsible decisions, and guard us against worry or anxiety about money. Teach us to rely on You, knowing that You are our ultimate provider.
I pray for stability and peace in our finances, Lord. Where there is financial strain, I ask for relief. Where there is uncertainty, I ask for Your guidance. Please bless the work of our hands and open doors for new opportunities if needed. May we experience Your faithfulness in meeting every need of our household.
In Jesus' name, I pray.
Amen.

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Citations from the Westminster Shorter Catechism

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

Q: 23. How is Christ our redeemer?

A. As our redeemer, Christ is a prophet, priest, and king in both his humiliation and his exaltation.

Comment from Pastor John: Jesus exclusively holds all three major biblical offices of prophet, priest, and king. Saul for instance was a king, but was forbidden from doing priestly duties (1 Samuel 13:8-15). To be our redeemer and fulfill all that the law requires for our salvation, Jesus *needed* to be all three. How he holds each office individually is unpacked in the next three questions.

For more see: Acts 3.21-22, Lk 4.18,21, Heb 12.25 compared with 2 Cor 13.3. Heb 5.5-7, 4.14-15, 7.25. Rv 19.16, Is 9.6-7, My 21.5, Ps 2.6,8-11

Submitted by John Mottley

BIBLE SCAVENGER HUNT

This is an “active” scavenger hunt. Look up the Bible verses to find the missing word and complete each action checking them off as you do. Compete with others, time yourself, or just have fun! 😊

1. Cover your _____ & bow to the nearest tree. Psalm 40:3
2. Look in a _____ for 30 seconds. 1 Corinthians 13:12
3. Turn on a _____, do five jumping jacks and then turn it off again.
John 8:12
4. Wash a dirty _____. Luke 22:42
5. Stand on a _____ reach as high as you can. Psalm 18:2
6. Open a _____, touch your toes 10 times, then close it. John 10:7-9
7. Put a _____ around your waist. Ephesians 6:14
8. See if you can find an _____. (But don't kill it!) Proverbs 6:6
9. Toss a _____ in the air and catch it. 3 John 1:13
10. Hold your _____ for 30 seconds. Acts 2:26
11. Crawl under a _____ and count to fifty. Psalm 23:5
12. Turn your _____ around backwards. Luke 6:29

the OPEN DOOR

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
150 North Broadway
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Refocused for Mission

We are about to wrap up our Nehemiah sermon series, and it has truly been a blessing to walk through this book together. Who would have thought that an Old Testament book about rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem would have so much practical help to offer our church today?

I have been especially encouraged to hear that God has been using this series to encourage and “refocus” many of you as well. I have had the blessing of hearing some of you already sharing ideas for outreaches, inviting people to church, looking for opportunities to share the gospel, and even thinking about how we can change the trajectory of our ministries to become more missional.

We want to orient ourselves not only toward caring well for our members, but also toward seeking and saving the lost, following the mission of Jesus in Luke 19:10. In many ways, we are making a transition from “stay and be comfortable” to “go and make disciples.” That is not an easy transition, but I believe we are beginning to see it take place. I am grateful to celebrate that with you and encourage all of us to continue moving in this direction.

Please continue to pray for our Refocus Team as we build on the momentum God has begun. We are praying and seeking God’s guidance as we discern where He is leading us in this new season. May He show us who He is calling us to reach and how He is calling us to reach them. Will that mean outreaches? Community events? New ministries? Or perhaps some other step of faith that we have not yet considered?

Whatever the next step may be, may God give us the wisdom to recognize it and the boldness to take it.

As I write this, I am preparing to attend the fall meeting of the Presbytery of the East (EPC). May the Lord continue to bless the work He has begun in our congregation, and may He continue to bless both First Presbyterian Church of South Amboy and the EPC as we seek to faithfully serve Christ and make disciples.

The walls may be rebuilt, but the work is not finished. **Let’s keep moving forward together!**

Pastor John Mottley