



THE TOWER

*First Presbyterian Church
37 Church Mall
Springfield, NJ 07081
www.SpringfieldPresbyterian.com*

VOL. 70 NO. 07

MARCH 2018

LENTEN SOUP AND BREAD SUPPERS AND BIBLE STUDIES

As the Lenten season continues through March, we are continuing our Soup and Bread Suppers and Bible Study in the Chapel (large room next to our sanctuary) every Wednesday evening (March 7, 14, 21), Soup and bread supper begins at 6 p.m. followed by a Bible Study from 6:30-7:30 pm. led by Pastor Vicky.

Our Bible Study this Lent is entitled “The Way—Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus.” We are exploring the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. The writer of the series, Adam Hamilton, takes us to the places where Jesus lived, taught, ministered to and healed so many people. And then we’ll visit Jerusalem where he spent his final days. Each session begins with a video of the places we will discuss in the study. We’ll walk among the ruins of Capernaum, where Jesus made his home during his three years of public ministry. We’ll climb the mountain where Jesus gave his most famous sermon. We’ll take a boat onto the Sea of Galilee. We’ll see Jacob’s Well, where Jesus offered an outcast woman a drink of living water. And we’ll visit Jerusalem where our Savior laid down his life for us.

This study during Lent will, hopefully, deepen our understanding of Jesus’ life while at the same time deepen our faith and love for him.

Each week’s study is self-contained, so that if it’s impossible to be with us for the entire series, you can come when you can. During these chilly days of winter, we hope that you will come and enjoy the warmth of good soup and fellowship while you feed your spirit during the Lenten season. All suppers are free (free will offering is available). Everyone—church members, friends, neighbors—are invited to participate.

The Outreach Committee requests that you sign up for these suppers during coffee hour each Sunday morning, or by calling the church office (973-379-4320) so that we can adequately prepare the food each Wednesday.



Lenten Supper Set-Up Schedule

Each group leader listed below has instructions for the set –up.

3/7/18	Outreach/Membership	Mary Pat Deane
3/14/18	Session	Lynn Doll
3/21/17	PW	Gloria Southward

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP - MARCH 10th

The Men's Fellowship will meet on Saturday, March 10th at 10:00am at the Huck Finn Diner in Union, NJ.

Please mark your calendars: There will be a special speaker at our April 14th meeting. Rev. Brooks Smith, a retired Pastor of the Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church in North Plainfield, will share information on his mission work in Nicaragua. This meeting will be open to all church members and friends.



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS – SUNDAY, MARCH 11TH



Reminder: before you retire for the evening on Saturday, March 10th, set your clocks AHEAD one hour.

We'd hate for you to be late to church!

NEW MEMBERS ON PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 25

We are delighted that so many prospective new members attended our New Members Get Together on Sunday, February 11th. They will be officially received into membership by the Session on Sunday, March 25 before our worship service and we will be able to welcome them during the service. Please be on hand to greet our newest members of the church.



The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family and friends of our dear member, Marilyn Sinclair, who died on February 22nd. A funeral was conducted in our sanctuary on February 28th.

Marilyn transferred to this church in 2010, was ordained a Ruling Elder in 2014, and was an active member of the Presbyterian Women and the Outreach Committee.

Marilyn is survived by her companion, Frank Herd, her children, Don, Laurie and Heather, and six grandchildren. Notes of sympathy may be sent to her son, Donald Sinclair, 10 Nelson Place, Springfield, NJ 07081.



Most of you know by now that I love things that have to do with the seashore. I have a suspicion that Jesus also loved it since there are so many stories of Jesus with his disciples by the Sea of Galilee.

One story in Luke's Gospel (Luke 5:1-11) re-caught my eye the other day. The disciples had been fishing all night but caught no fish. They were tired and discouraged. Then Jesus said they should go out in deeper water and try again. You can almost hear the "oh, all right..." kind of exasperation in Peter's voice as a sort of mild protest, but then he does as Jesus asks. The tired fishermen go back out into the water and throw out their nets one more time. This time the nets are full of fish—almost to the breaking point!

I believe Jesus was trying to take Peter and the other disciples from their superficial, half-hearted attention and turn that into a deeper, more personal commitment to God.

Like Peter, we might argue with Jesus saying, "Lord, I've already been there and done that. I've already tried reading the Bible. I've already tried praying." Hopefully, like Peter, we can also say, "But if that is what you want me to do, I'll do it again."

We continue our Lenten journey toward Easter throughout the month of March (Easter is April 1). Lent is a great time to follow the Master's call and go out into deeper water spiritually. Our Lord is calling us to go from a shallow faith to a deeper one. The Christian church teaches that the path to spiritual maturity involves developing good habits of paying attention to the still small voice of God, Christian friends, and our inner selves (which is where God's Spirit moves us). Among these good habits are: reading the Bible, Bible study, (there is one going on each Wednesday evening in Lent), coming to church on a more regular basis, practicing works of kindness, and prayer. Important as each of these is for drawing us nearer to God, perhaps none is more important than prayer.

People often talk about prayer as if it only involves making requests of God. Supplication (praying for ourselves) and intercession (praying for others) are important parts of prayer, but a mature prayer life includes other elements of adoration, thanksgiving, and confession. The great theologian Simone Weil once said, "Prayer consists chiefly of attention...and the quality of attention accounts for much of the quality of prayer." The "attention" part of prayer often takes practice.

This Lenten season, I am asking that each one of us spend more time with the Lord. In one of my sermons a couple of weeks ago, I suggested that even time spent in the car talking to God, is drawing near to Him. Whatever time you have, I know that it will strengthen your relationship with God and help you see beneath the surface of things to the spiritual depths of our lives.

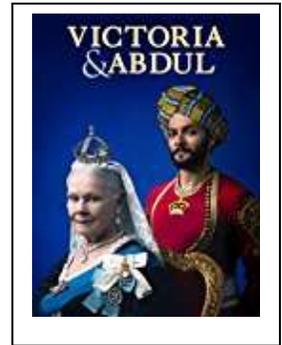
May God bless you as you search for Him more deeply in your life.

In Christ's Service,
Pastor Vicky



LUNCH AND MOVIE - MARCH 14TH

Please join us for another of our wonderful Lunch and Movie programs on Wednesday, March 14th at noon in the Parish House Auditorium. As usual, our Outreach committee will provide a delicious lunch and wonderful movie entitled "Victoria and Abdul," starring Judy Dench, Ali Fazal, Michael Gambon and Tim Pigott-Smith. This British biographical comedy-drama is about the real-life wonderful relationship between Queen Victoria and her Indian Muslim servant. This film has two Academy Award nominations (we'll know if they won when we see the movie!) and was nominated for Best Actress at the Golden Globes. You won't want to miss this delightful film!



During these gloomy winter months, this is a great way to liven up your day and enjoy the fellowship of wonderful people, a good meal, and a fun afternoon. These Lunch and Movie events are always open not only to church members but also friends and neighbors of our community. Lunch and movies events are free. The afternoon experience is priceless!

Please call the office (973) 379-4320 or sign up in coffee hour after church so that we may have an accurate count to prepare the food. Bring a friend! There's room for everyone!

OUTREACH/MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Outreach/Membership Committee will meet on Tuesday, March 6th at 1pm in the Parish House. The Committee welcomes all church members and friends to join the committee – "Many hands make light work"!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



The next meeting of the Presbyterian Women will be on Wednesday, **March 21st** at **4:00pm in the Chapel** for our business meeting, then set up for the Lenten Soup & Bread supper, for which we are hosts.

Annual Dues of \$3 can be brought to this meeting, or mailed to Janice Bongiovanni, 133 Short Hills Avenue, Springfield, NJ 07081. All program ideas are welcome and appreciated, and all women of the church are welcome to attend/join.

APRIL TOWER ARTICLES DUE EARLY

All articles for the April Tower Newsletter are due no later than Monday, April 12th. With Holy Week falling on the last week of March, we'll need to produce it one week earlier. Thank you for your cooperation!

Birthday Blessings to.....

MARCH 1 -KENNETH HENDRIX MARCH 2 – EMMA GEHBAUER MARCH 3 - LESLIE RICCIE MARCH 4 - ROBBIE SMITH MARCH 6 - KEASHA BLAKE MARCH 9- LONDON DOHERTY STEVE KITSKO		MARCH 14 - ALIVIA CLARK KAREN CLARKE JULIET MULLAN REV. VICKY NEY MARCH 18- EUNICE AMARABE MARCH 21 - RICHARD DAMBRES MARCH 25 – JOAN LYONS MARCH 27 - DELETA BLAKE MARCH 28 - JENNIFER WERNER
MEMBERS: IF YOU DON'T SEE YOUR BIRTHDAY LISTED, PLEASE PROVIDE MONTH AND DATE TO THE OFFICE. WE ARE HAPPY TO CELEBRATE WITH ALL OF OUR MEMBERS!		



IT'S A BOY!

We are happy to announce the birth of **Lucas Peter Gutin**, son of Jessica Lau and her husband, Daniel Gutin, on January 19, 2018 in New York. Lucas is the grandson of Lisa Lau and nephew of Allison Lau. Congratulations to the whole family!

DATES TO REMEMBER

Palm Sunday, March 25th and meeting our new members.

Maundy Thursday, March 29th Communion and Tenebrae Service

Easter Sunday— April 1st

7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service (outside by Memory Garden if weather permits) & light breakfast

9:15 a.m. Easter Egg hunt and light breakfast for our children and their families

10:15 a.m. Festival Easter Service with special music including brass and choir & light breakfast

PER CAPITA REMINDER

Each of the Presbyterian Churches of the Presbytery of Elizabeth are assessed a **Per Capita** charge to fund expenses and Mission of the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly. Our apportionment for the year 2018 is \$38.50 for each member. We ask that you consider reimbursing your church for this added expense. When you do, please note "Per Capita" on your check. Thank you, to those members who have already done so.

A Welcoming Church
for 272 Years...

First Presbyterian Church of Springfield

Sanctuary/Chapel: 210 Morris Avenue
Office/Parish House: 37 Church Mall
Springfield, NJ 07081



▶ March 2018

PH-Parish House Aud.-Parish House
auditorium
DR- Parish House Dining Room (lower level)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
PH-Parish House DR- Parish House Dining Room (lower level) SCCC-Springfield Community Children's Chorus LDYAG- Learning Disabled Young Adult Group	Aud.- Parish House auditorium			1 CHOIR 7:30PM	2	3 LDYAG 11-3-DR
4 10:15am Communion Worship Service 11:15am Fellowship	5 SESSION 7:30PM-PH	6 OUTREACH 1PM-PH	7 SCCChorus 4-6pm—Aud Soup & Bread 6pm-Chapel (hosts-Outreach) Bible Study 6:30pm—Chapel Joint Meeting of Session & Trustees 7:30pm—Aud.	8 CHOIR 7:30PM	9	10 NO LDYAG Men's Fellowship 10am—Huck Finn Diner
11 Daylight Savings Time Begins 10:15am Worship 11:15am Fellowship	12	13	14 Lunch & Movie Noon—Aud SCCChorus 4-6pm—Aud Soup & Bread 6pm-Chapel (hosts-Session) Bible Study 6:30pm—Chapel	15 CHOIR 7:30PM	16	17 LDYAG 11-3-DR
18 10:15am Worship with Installation of Officers and Congregational Meeting 11:45am Fellowship Trustee Organization Meeting in Sanctuary	19	20	21 SCCChorus 4-6pm—Aud PW meet in Chapel-4pm Soup & Bread 6pm-Chapel (hosts-PW) Bible Study 6:30pm—Chapel	22 CHOIR 7:30PM	23	24 NO LDYAG
25 10:15am—Worship With Reception of New Members 11:30am—Fellowship 	26	27	28 SCCChorus 4-6pm—Aud TRUSTEES 7:30PM-PH	29 MAUNDY THURSDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE WITH COMMUNION 7PM	30 GOOD FRIDAY Sanctuary Open for personal Meditation Noon-3pm	31 NO LDYAG



Each Easter Sunday, we enjoy the beautiful site of Easter Lilies displayed in the front of the church. In order to behold this beautiful site, our members and friends are invited to donate one or more plants at a cost of \$15.00 each. You may elect to take your plant after the Easter Worship Service, or donate it to our homebound friends. Please fill out the form below and return it with your check made payable to the church and send it to the Church Office or put it in the Offering Plate on Sunday. All orders must be received in the office no later than Friday, March 23, 2018. We look forward to another glorious display to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ!



NAME: _____

PHONE #: _____

IN MEMORY or HONOR OF (please circle one)

I will leave my plant(s) _____ I will take my plant(s) _____

Envelope # (if avail.) _____

Additional information _____

I am available to assist the Deacons with delivery of plants _____

THE FIRST CONGREGATION OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AT SPRINGFIELD
37 CHURCH MALL
SPRINGFIELD, NJ 07081

Place
Stamp
here

PLACE ADDRESS
LABEL HERE

ANNUAL MEETING of the CONGREGATION & CORPORATION

March 18, 2018

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation/Corporation of the First Presbyterian Church of Springfield will be held immediately following the 10:15 a.m. Worship Service on Sunday, March 18, for the purpose of receiving annual reports of the boards and committees of this church and any other business which might properly come before this meeting.

s/Linda Amiano,
Clerk of Session

s/Ruth Ammerman
Sec. Board of Trustees

The 2017 Annual Report Book will be available on Sunday, March 11th.
Please see a Deacon. One copy per household, please.