



THE TOWER

First Presbyterian Church

Sanctuary: 210 Morris Avenue

Office/Parish House: 37 Church Mall, Springfield, NJ 07081

Phone: 973-379-4320 Fax: 973-379-8883 website: www.SpringfieldPresbyterian.com

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December 2018- January 2019

HANGING OF THE GREENS – DECEMBER 2nd

The Hanging of the Greens service will be celebrated on December 2nd at 10:15am to welcome the season of Advent. Members and friends will take part in presenting some of the natural symbols of the season which we will continue to enjoy all month.

CHRISTMAS CHOIR CANTATA

This year, our choir, under the direction of our own Liliya Khobotkova, will present the Christmas Cantata, “Let the Whole World Sing” by Joel Raney during the worship service on Sunday, December 23rd. You won’t want to miss this special event with beautiful Christmas music.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

As we do every year, all children, teens, young people, and even parents are invited to be part of our Christmas Eve Pageant, that will be held this year at the 4:00pm worship service on December 24th. Costumes will be available the week before Christmas in the Chapel. Please see Lisa Guida about taking part and see for a costume!



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Two services 4:00pm. and 11:00 pm on Monday.

- **4:00pm** Family service with Christmas Pageant, and special choir music
- **11:00 pm** Candlelight Communion Service





PARENTS' NIGHT OUT AND SANTA WORKSHOP-DEC. 14th

Our annual Parents' Night Out and Santa's Workshop will be held on Friday December 14th from 6-9 p.m. in the Parish House. Pizza, movies, and our Santa's Workshop (under the direction of Lisa Guida) will be the activities for the children. (Santa's Workshop—from 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.—provides the children with the opportunity to make Christmas gifts for family members without their parents present). There will be certified teachers on hand to supervise the children that evening, allowing parents some free time out while the children are busy having fun. Youth members, grandchildren and friends of the church are welcome to participate. Pre-registration is required by Dec. 9th! Member cost is \$10 per child and non- members are \$15 per child, paid at the door. Please call the office (973) 379-4320 to let us know your child/children will participate in the fun.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The Presbyterian Women will be conducting their annual **Christmas Boutique** after the worship service on **December 2nd and 9th** in the Chapel. **Homemade baked goods and jams will be available while supplies last!** A display of new and gently used giftware will be in the Chapel. Members will sell these items during Fellowship Hour.



The PW Christmas luncheon and grab-bag gift exchange will be held in the CHAPEL on **Monday, December 10th at 12 Noon**. All women of the church (PW members or not) are invited to attend and should RSVP to Janice Bongiovanni. The cost for the lunch is \$10 per lady. If you have not already done so, please send your payment to Janice Bongiovanni as soon as possible.

All ladies who choose to participate in the Grab-Bag gift exchange should bring their \$20 wrapped gift to the luncheon. Whoever brings a gift, will receive a gift.

The PW wishes to thank all the members and friends who have supported their 2018 programs and mission projects so generously. **Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**

(Please note: there will be no meetings in January or February 2019.)



A WORD FROM THE INTERIM SEARCH COMMITTEE

At this time when we look forward to Advent, a season so filled with anticipation, blessings and joy, we want to stop and recognize that though we are in transition, with God's help we are reassured and our church continues to go forward. The Interim Search Committee has been busy during this transition; we want to share with the congregation the work in which we've been engaged.

In a joint effort with the Presbytery and our worship committee we have been planning our worship services and obtaining pastors to preach throughout the advent season. Meanwhile the Amiano and Werner Elves have been out and about the sanctuary setting up candles and hanging greens to enhance our worship.

The ISC is hopeful: we have reviewed several resumes of candidates for the interim pastor position, narrowed the list down, interviewed by phone and in person and believe we may have a potential candidate. However, there still is a way to go, so we ask all of you for your prayers and support.

Dawn Clarke
ISC Chair



**A special "thank you" to our office helpers, aka "Office Angels"
who assist the staff throughout the year in countless ways:**

**May Smith, Janice Bongiovanni, Linda Amiano,
Raffaella Conetta, Jen Werner and Loretta Werner.**

**To those of you not listed by name, who have stepped in to help with answering the phones,
Tower newsletter and bulletin assembly, setting up tables and chairs for events,
decorating our buildings and just being there when we needed the extra hands,**

We thank you, most sincerely.

The entire church staff wishes you all a very Blessed and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Linda Jurczak, Office Administrator

Steve Kitsko, Treasurer & Heather Francis, Assistant Treasurer

Lisa Guida, Christian Education Assistant

Liliya Khobotkova, Music Director

Steve Wichik, Sexton & Dorothy Torres, Custodian

OUTREACH/MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE



The next meeting of the Outreach/Membership Committee will be held on **Tuesday, December 4th at 1:30pm** in the Parish House.

The Committee will be organizing the Christmas Feast and Concert on the 16th and the January Lunch and Movie on January 9th . All current members as well as anyone who is willing to help with these events is asked to attend the meeting. Many hands make light work!



SPECIAL ADVENT LUNCH AND CHRISTMAS CONCERT – DEC. 16th

You are invited to attend an Advent Lunch in the Parish House on Sunday December 16th. No need to rush out of our morning worship service—Lunch begins at noon. The menu will include baked ham, mashed and sweet potatoes, mixed vegetables, and salad, with apple and pumpkin pies for dessert. There is NO CHARGE for this delicious meal—it is a gift from our Outreach Committee to our members and friends—but RESERVATIONS ARE A MUST! Please call the church office or sign up at coffee hour after church on Sunday. Following the luncheon, we will enjoy the a capella musical talents of the ensemble, “Epiphany”, who will present a holiday concert in 4part harmony. There will be song sheets available for the audience to sing along some favorite songs throughout the program. If you want to get into the Christmas spirit—here’s your chance!

LESSONS AND CAROLS - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30TH

The 10:15 a.m. Service of Lessons and Carols combines scripture passages with carols, providing the perfect way to keep Christ in Christmas. If you plan to attend this most enjoyable Sunday service, and would like to participate by reading one of the lessons, please speak with Dawn Clarke or Lynn Doll.



POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

Our CHRISTMAS SUNDAY POINSETTIA display will be
on December 23rd

The cost is \$15.00/plant.

Please place your orders with payment to the Church as
soon as possible and no later than the 19th so your name will
be on the dedication list.

YOUR NAME _____

IN MEMORY/HONOR OF _____

_____ I will be leaving my plant

_____ I will be taking my plant after the Christmas Eve service.

If at all possible, we would like to keep as many of the plants in the sanctuary until after the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.

Number of plants _____ x \$15.00= _____

Check # _____

Envelope # _____
(if available)

Please mail this form with your check payable to *First Presbyterian Church* to the church office: 37 Church Mall, Springfield, NJ 07081 or put it in an envelope and place it in the offering plate on Sunday. Thank you.



First Presbyterian Church of Springfield

*A Welcoming Church
for 273 Years..*

December 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
PH= Parish House Aud. = Parish House Auditorium DR = Parish House Dining Room (lower level) PW= Presbyterian Women LDYAG= Learning Disabled Young Adult Group Church Office Hours: Weekdays 9am-3pm							1 No LDYAG
2 Hangin' of the Greens First week of advent "Hope" 10:15am- Communion Service 11:15am-Fellowship Hour Christmas Boutique, Jam and Bake Sale during Fellowship Hour	3 Session 7:30pm	4 Outreach 1:30pm	5 SCCC 4-6:30pm- Aud.	6 Choir 7:30pm	7	8 LDYAG-DR Holiday Party Today Only! Movie Musical "Buttons" at Rialto Theater in Westfield 12:55pm star- ring Alivia Clark	
9 Second Week of Advent "Peace" 10:15am-worship service 11:15am-Fellowship Hour	10 PW Christmas Luncheon-Chapel- Noon	11	12 No SCCC	13 Choir 7:30pm	14 Parents' Night Out & Santa's Helpers Workshop 6-9pm Auditorium	15 LDYAG @PaperMill Playhouse	
16 Third Week of Advent "Joy" 10:15am-Worship Service Noon- Christmas Luncheon and concert-PH	17	18	19 Poinsettia orders due today-noon SCCC 4-6:30pm- Aud.	20 Choir 7:30pm	21	22 No LDYAG	
23 Fourth Week of Advent "Love" 10:15am Worship with Cantata "Let the Whole World Sing" 11:15am Fellowship Hour	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 4pm Pageant 11pm Candlelight Communion	25 CHRISTMAS 	26 Office Closed No SCCC	27 No choir	28	29 No LDYAG	
30 10:15am-Service of Lessons and Carols 11:15am-Fellowship Hour	31	Phone: 973-379-4320 Fax: 973-379-8883 E-mail: FirstPCOffice@verizon.net www.SpringfieldPresbyterian.com Sanctuary/Chapel: 210 Morris Avenue Office/Parish House: 37 Church Mall Springfield, NJ 07081					

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

stamp

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PLACE LABEL HERE

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Sunday, December 2nd & 9th – PW Christmas Boutique and Bake and Jam Sale
- Monday, Dec. 10th, Presbyterian Women's Christmas Lunch at the Chapel-Noon.
- Friday, December 14th Parents' Night Out and Santa's Workshop. 6-9 pm, Parish House –
Pre-Registration is required by 12/9. \$10 per member child \$15 per non-member child
- Sunday, December 16th , Christmas Luncheon, -Noon in the Aud. – Free-reservations are necessary.
- Sunday, December 23rd Christmas Cantata, "Let the Whole World Sing" at 10:15am
- Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24th , 4:00pm Family Service with Pageant
- Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24th , 11 pm Candlelight Communion Service
- Service of Lessons and Carols – Sunday, December 30th, 10:15am



- Lunch and Movie – Wednesday, January 9th.
Springfield Community Children's Chorus Winter Concert - Sunday, January 27th , 3pm-Auditorium