



# THE TOWER

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

VOL. 69 NO. 07

MARCH 2016

## **ASH WEDNESDAY, LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS AND BIBLE STUDY SERIES**

We will begin our Lenten season with our annual Soup and Bread Supper on March 1. This evening we will observe Ash Wednesday with a communion service around the tables in the Chapel (large room behind the church sanctuary.) Supper will begin at 6:00 p.m. with the service starting at 6:45 p.m. Ashes will be available if you so desire after the service.

The following Wednesdays in March (8, 15, 22, 29, and April 5, we will continue with our Soup and Bread suppers at 6 p.m. and follow them with a Bible study beginning at 6:30 p.m. Our study this year is entitled “Creed: What Christians Believe and Why by Adam Hamilton.” The series will help us explore the Apostle’s Creed and the reasons why the ancient Church Fathers felt the contents were important for Christians of every time and place. We will begin each study time with a short video presented by Adam Hamilton followed by scripture reading and discussion. We will, of course, be looking at the entire Apostles’ Creed but each lesson is self-contained—so don’t be concerned if you can’t be with us every Wednesday evening.

Please remember to sign up each week or to call the office (973-379-4320) so that we will have adequate food prepared.



### **Lenten Supper Set-Up Schedule**

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

3/1/17	Deacons	Dawn Clarke
3/8/17	Trustees & Men’s Fellowship	Russ Werner & Don Rathjens
3/15/17	Presbyterian Women	Gloria Southward
3/22/17	Session	Lynn Doll
3/29/17	Outreach/Membership	Mary Pat Deane
4/5/17	Choir	Carol Kaiser

## **CONFIRMATION CLASS NEWS**

During the month of March, our confirmation class will be attending a synagogue Sabbath service and a mass at a Roman Catholic Church to explore our “roots” as Christians. We will also spend an evening serving food at a soup kitchen in Elizabeth as part of a mission project. Please continue to keep our Confirmands in your prayers as they approach their Confirmation on Palm Sunday, April 9.



## **LENT SERMON SERIES**

During the Sundays of March and the first in April, Pastor Vicky will be preaching a sermon series entitled “At the End of the Day, How Will You Be Remembered?” When all is said and done, what will be your lasting legacy? For instance, will you be remembered as someone who knew Christ’s healing love? The power of compassion? The importance of prayer? Right from wrong? The power of words?

We will be looking at the kinds of things that will be here after we’ve gone, things that outlast us and exert an influence for good in this life—ones that live on long after our days here are done.

Please plan to be with us each Sunday for some thought provoking sermons.

## **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS – SUNDAY, MARCH 12<sup>TH</sup>**



*Reminder: before you retire for the evening on Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, set your clocks AHEAD one hour.*

*We’d hate for you to be late to church!*



## **A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR**

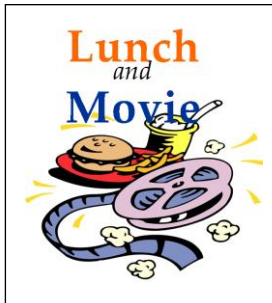
In preparation for the Lenten season that begins on the first day of March, I was going through a devotional book edited by Richard Foster and Emilie Griffin. Throughout this devotion book, there are a number of different contributors that focus on various spiritual disciplines that Christians may practice on a regular basis, but ones they might want to try during a season such as Lent. One, in particular, that stood out to me was a devotion on fasting by Catherine Marshall. Her devotion on fasting got me to thinking in a different path than what we usually think of when it comes to this particular discipline. When most Christians hear the word “fasting,” they think of food. I remember that I had some friends in seminary who really felt as though fasting enabled them to feel closer to God and gave them clarity on difficulties they were going through. I have to be honest here and tell you that fasting is not something I do. I get a headache if I miss lunch, so I don’t think that one is for me!

But what if we were to think of fasting in a bigger way? Marshall challenges us to not only fast from food, but also fast from things that may prevent us from hearing God’s voice. Her example to this was that she fasted from criticalness and a short temper. What would happen, if we as Christians fasted from the things that drew us away from God? How would we be changed? How would the world around us be changed? How would our relationships with others be changed? This can be a small thing...complimenting people more, deliberately “biting our tongue,” or watching less TV, Netflix, computer games—or even Facebook! What would happen if these distractions were fasted from and we took that time to focus on the things that bring us close to God’s heart? I’m thinking that we might be different people and that the world would take notice of that change.

This Lent, I challenge you to fast from those things that draw you away from hearing the voice of God and begin to seek and pray for the best that God has for you, individually and as a community. Let’s make our Lenten journey to Easter one that could transform us into the people God really intends us to be.

In Christ’s Service,  
*Pastor Vicky*

## **LUNCH AND MOVIE - MARCH 8<sup>TH</sup>**

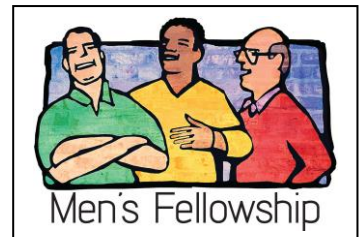


The weather may be cold but there's a warm welcome waiting for you at our March Lunch and Movie event. On Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at noon in the Parish House Auditorium plan to enjoy a delicious lunch, friendly conversation, and the wonderful new movie "Sully," starring Tom Hanks. This movie is, of course, the story of Captain Chesley Sullenberger who miraculously landed his passenger jet in the icy Hudson River a couple of years ago. The film lets us relive that moment with him and his passengers and then tells the story of the events that took place after that fateful day.

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!

## **MEN'S FELLOWSHIP - MARCH 11<sup>TH</sup>**

The Men's Fellowship will meet on Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am in the Parish House conference room. Our program will be announced in the bulletin, as our scheduled speaker was double-booked at the time of this writing.



## **"SNAP TAB" COLLECTION**

Various groups in our church are collecting the snap tabs from soda cans, etc. These can be exchanged for cash by the Shriners as they work with children who are in need of medical care. We have two collection points; one in the Fireplace Room and one at the Parish House. We will deliver them to the Shriners when we have an accumulation. Thank you for your ongoing support of this project!



## **OUTREACH/MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

The Outreach/Membership Committee will meet on Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm in the Parish House.



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The next meeting of the Presbyterian Women will be on Wednesday, **March 15<sup>th</sup>** 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.

### *Birthday Blessings to.....*

MARCH 1 -SHIRLEY GILBERT KENNETH HENDRIX	MARCH 14 - ALIVIA CLARK JULIET MULLAN KAREN CLARKE REV. VICKY NEY
MARCH 2 – EMMA GEHBAUER	MARCH 18- EUNICE AMARABE
MARCH 3 - LESLIE RICCIE	MARCH 21 - RICHARD DAMBRES
MARCH 4 - ROBBIE SMITH	MARCH 25 – JOAN LYONS
MARCH 6 - KEASHA BLAKE	MARCH 27 - DELETA BLAKE
MARCH 9- STEVE KITSKO LONDON DOHERTY	MARCH 28 - JENNIFER WERNER
<b>MEMBERS:</b> 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!	
	

## APRIL DATES TO REMEMBER

**Palm Sunday** April 9. Palm Sunday and Presentation of Confirmation Class

**Holy Thursday** April 13, Tenebrae Service with communion -7pm

**Good Friday** April 14 The church sanctuary will be open for personal meditation from Noon until 3 pm

**Easter Sunday** April 16

7:30 am Sunrise Service (outside by the Memory Garden).  
Continental breakfast to follow.

9:00 am Family Easter light breakfast in the Parish House and  
Easter Egg Hunt.

10:15am Easter Festival Sunday Service with Communion with  
special music.





# March 2017

## First Presbyterian Church of Springfield

A Welcoming Church for 272 Years...

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>SS=Sunday School LDYAG= Learning Disabled Young Adult Group                      PH= Parish House Aud= Parish House Auditorium CH= Chapel                      SCCC= Springfield Community Children's Chorus                      PW=Presbyterian Women's Group</i>			1 <b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b> SCCC—4:30pm-Aud. Soup & Bread Supper 6pm -CH Ash Wednesday service 6:45pm-CH	2	3	4  LDYAG: 11a-3p-DR
5 9AM- Jr./Sr. High SS 10:15am Communion Worship Service 11:15am-Fellowship Hour Celebrating Rev. Ney's 10th anniversary as our Pastor!	6 JOINT MTG OF SESSION AND TRUSTEES 7:30PM IN AUD.	7	8 NOON-AUD LUNCH AND MOVIE  (NO SCCC) SOUP&BREAD 6PM- LENTEN BIBLE STUDY 6:30PM-CH	9  Choir 7:30pm	10	11 9:30am Men's Filwshp  LDYAG: 11a-3p-DR 
12 Daylight Savings begins 9AM- Jr./Sr. High SS 10:15am Worship Service 11:15am-Fellowship Hour  Annual Books distributed	13	14	15 PW 4PM SET UP AND MEETING IN CHAPEL SCCC-4:30PM SOUP&BREAD 6PM- LENTEN BIBLE STUDY 6:30PM-CHAPEL	16  Choir 7:30pm	17  	18  LDYAG: 11a-3p-DR
19 9AM- Jr./Sr. High SS 10:15am Worship Service <b>Annual Meeting of the Congregation/Corporation</b> 11:30am Fellowship Hour	20	21  LIONS CLUB EVENT-DR	22  <b>SCCC-4:30PM</b>  SOUP&BREAD 6PM- LENTEN BIBLE STUDY 6:30PM-CHAPEL	23  Choir 7:30pm	24	25  LDYAG: 11a-3p-DR
26 9AM- Jr./Sr. High SS 10:15am Worship Service 11:15am-Fellowship Hour	27	28  OUTREACH 1:30PM-PH	29  <b>SCCC-4:30PM</b>  SOUP&BREAD 6PM- LENTEN BIBLE STUDY 6:30PM-CHAPEL	30  Choir 7:30pm	31	

Office/Parish House: 37 Church Mall Sanctuary/Chapel: 210 Morris Avenue  
 Springfield, NJ 07081  
 Phone: 973-379-4320 Fax: 973-379-8883 E-mail: FirstPCoffice@verizon.net





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, April 7, 2017. 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 19, 2017**

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 19, 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