



# *THE TOWER*

*First Presbyterian Church  
37 Church Mall  
Springfield, NJ 07081  
[www.SpringfieldPresbyterian.com](http://www.SpringfieldPresbyterian.com)*

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FEBRUARY 2019



## *Introducing The Rev. Dr. Rhonda Myers*

### **WORDS OF THANKS**

The Interim Pastor Search Committee took on the task of not only interviewing potential Interim Ministers, but also finding pulpit supply for November through January Sundays. Needless to say, this was not an easy task, especially during the Advent season.

The Congregation is beyond grateful to Dawn Clarke, Chair, and committee members, Linda Amiano, Roberta Ares, Art Biber, and Janice Bongiovanni. They persevered while dealing with their own personal responsibilities, jobs, illnesses, family emergencies, and Christmas holiday. They are true leaders, and we thank them for their time and talent.

The Rev. Dr. Rhonda Meyers will be moving back to NJ from Michigan and will begin her pastoral duties on February 1<sup>st</sup>. Please plan to attend the February 3<sup>rd</sup> Communion Worship Service, as we welcome her to Springfield and the church family!

You can read more information about Rev. Meyers in this edition of the *Tower*.

## **Introducing Pastor Rhonda Myers (A brief biography)**

Pastor Rhonda grew up in the small town of Haworth in Bergen County, NJ. She attended the public school there through 8<sup>th</sup> grade, went on to a regional high school in Demarest, and then pursued a Liberal Arts degree, with a minor in communications, from Ramapo College of NJ. She is married to Pastor Dave Myers, who has been a wonderful life partner to her.

Rhonda and Dave have three sons, one daughter-in-law and two adorable grandsons—all of whom live 30 to 40 minutes from the Springfield church (on a good travel day).

Rhonda has been involved in the church since the days that her mother carted her off in diapers to play in the church nursery while mom taught Sunday School. Having met Dave as a teenager in Church Youth Group, they dated a few times, became good friends, became more than good friends, then got married. Fortunately, by God's grace, they remain good friends.

Dave pursued a Master of Divinity degree first, graduating from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1984, and has made a career of being an Interim Pastor. Dave is currently serving his 13<sup>th</sup> congregation.

Rhonda entered Seminary quite a few years later than Dave, after starting a family. She graduated from Princeton Seminary in 1995 with a Master of Divinity degree, and then from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (affectionately known as PTS West) with a Doctor of Ministry degree in 2009.

Rhonda has served as pastor to two NJ Presbyterian Churches, one in Wood-Ridge and one in Franklin, and is currently serving as pastor at Chapel Lane Presbyterian Church in Midland, Michigan. Coming back to NJ, and being near her growing family, brings her real joy.

Rhonda has led churches in transition. She has served at the Presbytery level as chair of several committees, including: Presbytery Council, a Church Development & Redevelopment Committee, and a Committee on Preparation for Ministry. She has served on Presbytery Listening Teams, Presbytery Mission Coordination Teams, and has been a mentor to several Candidates for Ministry. She was a reader of PC(USA) Ordination Exams for about 10 years and has contributed to the greater community through leadership on such Boards as Habitat for Humanity and the Samaritan Counseling Center.

Rhonda loves to teach, preach and lead worship. She enjoys the daily events of ministry, as well as the celebratory moments of weddings,

baptisms, ordinations, and anniversary celebrations. She has been with church families in the NICU and in the Nursing Home, and she has been blessed to be a part of the lives of many faithful Presbyterians through all the occasions of life. She has led mission trips and Presbyterian Women's retreats. She has been a team leader for Summer Camp and Confirmation Class retreats. She has written articles for PC(USA) publications. She has led studies on nearly every book of the Bible. And she enjoys program planning and creating opportunities for hospitality.

Rhonda's hobbies include reading, sewing and—upon rare occasion—baking. She also loves Crossword Puzzles and Jigsaw Puzzles and—if her husband is correct—she tends to be somewhat competitive at Scrabble.

Along with Dave, who is currently seeking an Interim Pastor position not too far from Springfield, Rhonda is looking forward to returning to her "Jersey roots" and serving the wonderful congregation that is the First Presbyterian Church of Springfield.

What is it "they say"? You can take the girl out of Jersey, but you can't take the Jersey out of the girl.

May God bless our time together in the next 18 months.

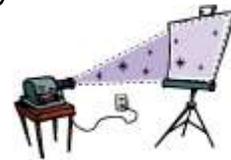


## SOUPER BOWL OF CARING –BEGINS FEB. 3<sup>RD</sup>



Let us be mindful that while many of us are enjoying the “Big Game” and enjoying plenty of food, there are some who can’t even enjoy a bowl of hearty soup... We will be collecting cans of soup and any non-perishable food item you’d like to donate. (canned tuna, chicken, beans and hearty soups). There is a particular need for lower-sodium items. The “kick-off” is Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> and will continue through the month. Please place your items in the care closet boxes in the fireside room or in the Parish House.

Thank you for your generosity! Whatever is not used for our neighbors and friends, will be donated to a local food pantry.



## LUNCH AND MOVIE - FEBRUARY 13<sup>TH</sup>

After taking a little break, the Outreach Committee will resume the Lunch and Movie event on Wednesday, February 13th at noon in the Parish House Auditorium. While it may be cold outside, you’ll be warmly greeted with a hearty lunch, friendly conversation, and a delightful movie.

Please call the office (973) 379-4320 or sign up during coffee hour after church so that we may have an accurate count to prepare the food. Bring a friend! There’s room for everyone! (Note: in the event of hazardous ice or snow, we will postpone the event- please call that morning to be sure)



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The next meeting of the Presbyterian Women will be on Wednesday, **March 20<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. (be sure to sign up at info table!)

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.

## **ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE!**

If you are a leader of a group within the congregation, your 2018 Annual report is due immediately. The annual reports are combined into a book and distributed to the membership one week before the Annual Congregational Meeting and Election of Officers.

Since Rev. Myers is first arriving in February, our joint meeting of Session and Trustees is a bit delayed. When the financial reports are accepted at the Joint Meeting, the annual report booklets can be printed and distributed.

Until the installation of new officers for the class of 2021 is completed, the class of 2018 remains active. Please watch for the announcement of all these important meetings in the Sunday bulletin insert. They will be set as quickly as possible.

## **NOMINATION OF OFFICERS**

**Thank you** to the following members who have accepted the nomination to serve .

- **Elder Class of 2021:** Roberta Ares\*, Mary Pat Deane\*, Dawn Clarke
- **Elder Class of 2019** (completing a one year term) Art Biber
- **Trustees Class of 2021:** Ken Bogden\*, Ted Doll, David Ares
- **Deacon Class of 2021:** Carol Kaiser\*, David Ares III (1yr)  
(\* indicates second three-year term)

We thank the following outgoing Officers who will complete their term once the new officers are installed: Deacon Dawn Clarke; Trustees: Bill Phillips & Russ Werner; Elder Lynn Doll

 <p>Feb 1 - Lynn Doll Feb 2 - Clarence Davis Feb 3 - Linda Amiano Ken Guida Jean Sim Feb 5 - Eileen Clark Heather Hecking Feb 6 - Chase Werner Feb 7 - Ryan Doremus</p>	<p>Feb11 - Megan Dauser Bickel Feb 14 - Donald Hartman Lore Ullrich Feb 15 - Patricia Gahm Feb 16 - Alyssa Williams Feb 20 - Yolanda Rueda Feb 23 - Mekenzie Doherty Feb 24 - Scott Jones Feb 26 - Melissa Guida Bliss Feb 28 - John Bunnell Walter Peterson 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!</p>
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**In Memoriam** - *The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family and friends of Shirley Gilbert, who died on January 26<sup>th</sup> at the age of 91. Shirley was a friend of the church and active with the women's groups prior to moving out of state to be closer to her son.*

**PUZZLE**

**WITH LOVE FROM ABOVE**

The Bible is full of special words from our loving God.

*Directions: Using the messages on the candy hearts, complete the Bible verses (all NIV) below:*

ALWAYS REFUGE  
 PERFECT LOVE  
 PEACE  
 CHRIST JESUS  
 STRENGTH

God is our \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
 an ever-present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1

“Surely I am with you \_\_\_\_\_.” Matthew 28:20

And the \_\_\_\_\_ of God ... will guard  
 your hearts and your minds in  
 \_\_\_\_\_ . Philippians 4:7

Whoever lives in \_\_\_\_\_ lives in God,  
 and God in them. 1 John 4:16

\_\_\_\_\_ love drives out fear. 1 John 4:18

Answer: refuge, strength, always, peace, Christ Jesus, love, Perfect

## NEIGHBORLY LOVE

As an ordained minister, Fred Rogers harnessed the power of television to tell children they were loved — and to show them how to love others. In *You Are Special*, he writes, “When we love a person, we accept him or her exactly as is: the lovely with the unlovely, the strong along with the fearful, the true mixed in with the façade, and of course, the only way we can do it is by accepting ourselves that way.”

In a review of the touching documentary *Won't You Be My Neighbor?* a writer for *Variety* notes: “Rogers’ real secret was ... that the call to love your neighbor as yourself isn’t a slogan to hang in your kitchen with flowers around it — it’s a decision you make at every moment, to view every man, woman and child on earth as your neighbor. If you don’t see and feel that, and act on it, then you’re just another narcissist with a kitchen slogan.”

Last October, when a synagogue shooting shattered the peace of Rogers’ real-life former neighborhood, residents of all religions embraced one another as neighbors. Afterward, the Fred Rogers Center stated, “We long for a day when there is no more tragedy born from hatred.”

A Welcoming Church for 274Years...

# February 2019



## First Presbyterian Church of Springfield

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
Sanctuary/Chapel: 210 Morris Avenue Office/Parish House: 37 Church Mall Springfield, NJ 07081				Phone 973-579-4920 Fax: 973-579-8863 E-mail: FirstPCOffice@verizon.net www.SpringfieldPresbyterian.com		1	2 LDYAG 11-3
3 Super Bowl of Caring  10:15am-Communion Worship Service 11:15am- Welcome Reception For Rev. Myers	4  Session- 7:30pm	5  Membership/ Outreach 1:30pm	6  SCCC-Aud. 4-6:30pm	7  Choir 7:30pm	8	9 No LDYAG	
10 10:15am- Worship Service 11:15am- Fellowship Hour	11	12	13 Lunch & Movie Noon-Aud. SCCC-Aud. 4-6:30pm 6:30pm Investment cabinet	14  Choir-7:30pm	15	16 LDYAG 11-3	
17 10:15am- Worship Service 11:15am- Fellowship Hour	18 Presidents' Day Office Closed	19	20  SCCC-Aud. 4-6:30pm	21  Choir-7:30pm	22	23 No LDYAG	
24 10:15am- Worship Service 11:15am- Fellowship Hour	25	26	27  SCCC-Aud. 4-6:30pm  Trustees 7:30pm	28  Choir-7:30pm	PH= Parish House Aud = P H Auditorium DR = PH Dining Room (lower ) PW= Presbyterian Women LDYAG= Learning Disabled Young Adult Group SCCC-Springfield Community Children's Chorus Church Office Hours: Weekdays 9am-3pm		

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

Place  
Stamp  
here

PLACE ADDRESS  
LABEL HERE

### **MARCH DATES TO REMEMBER**

- March 6 – Ash Wednesday service 6:45pm immediately following the 6pm Soup & Bread Supper
- March 13, 20, 27– Lenten Soup & Bread Supper and Bible Study
- March 13<sup>th</sup> – Lunch and Movie – Noon in Chapel
- Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup> – Daylight Savings time begins. (turn clocks **ahead** one hour Saturday night, March 9<sup>th</sup>, so you won't be late for church!)

Note: The Annual Joint Meeting of Session and Trustees, along with the Annual Congregational Meeting, the Election of Officers and the Installation of Officers will be announced in early February. Details will be in the church bulletin insert beginning February 10<sup>th</sup>.