



THE TOWER

First Presbyterian Church
37 Church Mall
Springfield, NJ 07081
www.SpringfieldPresbyterian.com
973-379-4320

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NOVEMBER 2017

THANKSGIVING/STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19th

About two weeks ago, you received a letter from me asking you to consider how you can commit—or re-commit—yourself to the life and ministries of our congregation. It is a time to carefully and prayerfully reflect on ways you can put gratitude to God into action! While it's true that your commitment of treasure will help church committees be good stewards of available resources for the programs of the coming church year, your time and talent are equally important for the continued life and ministry of this historic beacon of God's love in this community.

Whatever we do for the Lord should be a response of gratitude for all that has been given to us personally by our Heavenly Father and for what has been done for us in Christ Jesus. Then, as we are blessed by God, we fulfill one of our purposes in life by being a blessing to others.

We will praise God together on Thanksgiving Sunday (November 19th) by giving thanks for all God's blessings and dedicating our "pledges" (These pledges are really our "estimates" of what we think we can commit to God's work.)

May God bless you as you respond to God's grace in your life.

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE – NOVEMBER 20th

The annual Springfield Community Thanksgiving Service, will be held on Monday, November 20th at 7 p.m., hosted by Temple Beth Ahm Yisrael. The Rev. Nova Vitug-Thomas, Pastor of Springfield Emanuel United Methodist Church will be the preacher. Leslie Adler and Springfield Children's Community Chorus will perform along with members of adult choirs from various churches and synagogues. Please join with our whole Springfield community in giving thanks.

As is the tradition, donations of non-perishable food will be delivered to the local food bank and the free-will offering will be donated to the Springfield Volunteer First Aid Squad.





LUNCH AND A MOVIE NOVEMBER 8TH

Our popular series of Lunch and a Movie, sponsored by the Outreach Committee, will continue this month on Wednesday, November 8th at noon in the Parish House Auditorium. Our feature this month will be the recent movie “Meagan Leavey”, starring Kate Mara. This movie is based on the true life story of a young Marine corporal whose unique discipline and bond with her military combat dog saved many lives during their deployment in Iraq. When she is assigned to clean up the K9 unit after a disciplinary hearing, Leavey identifies with a particularly aggressive dog, Rex, and is given the chance to train him. Over the course of their service, Megan and Rex completed more than 100 missions until an IED explosion injures them, putting their fate in jeopardy. (Spoiler alert! It has a happy ending!)

Our relaxed group always enjoys a great lunch together, fellowship of wonderful folks and a pleasant afternoon that is sure to raise your spirits.

Please call the church office (973-379-4320) to let us know you’ll be with us. Feel free to invite your friends or neighbors—there’s always room for everyone—but **we need the call to make sure we have enough food!**

NOTE: THE NOVEMBER LUNCH AND MOVIE WILL BE HELD IN THE CHAPEL.



CHAT AND CHEW BIBLE STUDY CONTINUES

Please join us for our final Bible Study sessions of the Fall Season on Wednesday, November 1st and 8th at 6 p.m. in the Chapel (the building next to the Church Sanctuary). The short movie and discussion begin at 6:30 p.m.

We have been discussing the life and story of Moses, the reluctant prophet. While it’s true that most of us remember some of the stories of Moses’ life, stories that are definitely an important part of Sacred Scripture, we are also looking at how Moses’ life speaks to our lives and stories today and what it reveals about God, about ourselves, and about God’s will for our lives.

Even if you missed the study times in October, you can still join us for these last two. All ages are invited to attend. As always, sign up during Coffee Hour after church or call the church office (973-379-4320) so we know how many folks to expect and have enough pizza!!



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

During the month of November it's common for us to think about giving thanks (although it IS an all-year activity!) So let me ask you: Do you spend more time asking God for things or thanking and praising God for what He has done already and for who God is? Psalm 92 clearly states that it is good to give thanks to God. I wonder what the Psalm writer knew that we need to remember. Here are a few of my thoughts on that subject:

- Thanksgiving readjusts our focus from ourselves back to God.
- Giving thanks reminds us of our dependence on God for everything.
- Heartfelt gratitude releases us from our anxieties.
- It refreshes our relationship with God.
- Offering thanks reinforces our faith by reminding us of past blessings.
- Showing appreciation strengthens us for what God might want us to do in the future.
- It makes our spirits happy (Who can be thankful and miserable at the same time?!)

There are quite a few ways to show our thanks to God. We can do that in our quiet time in prayer (a whisper of thanks when we wake up in the morning is a great way to start the day), in our public worship in church, living lives that are pleasing to God, and by showing generosity to others by being a blessing to them (and giving them a reason to be thankful!).

I Thessalonians 5:18 says to “give thanks in all circumstances.” That’s a challenging invitation and one that certainly lets us know that thanksgiving is not a one day happening—but a daily activity for 365 days a year!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Vicky

A Prayer for this Time of Year (with thanks to Rev. Dave Fleming)

With thankful hearts, we turn to you, O God,
mindful of the way creation reflects the wonder of your presence,
always amazed at the ever different beauty of each sunset,
and thankful for those moments when we felt you to be near.

We come into your presence with praise, wonder and joy in our hearts.
For the gift of personality, we are deeply grateful;
Teach us to show our gratitude
in deeds of kindness and respect for each other.

For each hour of fellowship
From which we receive strength and courage we give you thanks.
For the friendships that mark our journey through life,
Both past and present, help us to honor them
And cherish them for the special gift they are and have been,
and to hold close those moment of laughter, love, and peace that have blessed us.

Gracious Spirit of light and life and love,
be with us in such a way as to be in us.
Grant us an understanding of your truth,
and make us good servants of your intentions for goodness and life for all.

Blend us with your radiant kindness
and so lead us to live in the spirit of life and love
that we have seen in our Savior Jesus, the Christ.

With thanksgiving and praise.

Amen.





We are a grateful congregation, within a grateful community and we hope you will join in on the celebration of the veterans most dear to us. God Bless America!

The Springfield Community holds a Veterans Day ceremony each year on November 11th at 11am at Veteran's Park on the corner of Shunpike Road and Mountain Avenue. If you are able and willing to attend, you will not be disappointed with the reverence our community shows to our veterans. If you served or are currently serving our country in the armed services – THANK YOU!

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The next Men's Fellowship meeting will be a Dutch-Treat breakfast at the Huck Finn Diner on Morris Avenue in Union, on Saturday, November 11th at 10am. Please let Pastor Vicky know if you plan to attend, so that enough seating can be arranged together.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

We thank all our members and friends who participated in the 9th Annual Indoor Flea Market on Oct. 28th. From donating items for the sales tables, to renting a table of your own, to working in the kitchen or helping at the sales tables, to providing a watchful eye – everyone's help is appreciated, and we could not have conducted the event without you!



As always, special thanks to Gloria and Gary Southward who organized the event. Without their knowledge and expertise in the pricing and management, we'd be lost. The proceeds from the event will support long-standing PW missions. Our next meeting will be **November 15th** at 1pm in the Parish House for Flea Market fundraising results and Christmas party planning.

CHRISTMAS AT LIBERTY HALL – NOVEMBER 29TH-2PM

The Membership/Outreach Committee has organized a group tour of Liberty Hall on Wednesday, November 29th at 2pm. This special exhibit is on the first floor only, and the staff of Kean University will have each period room decorated for Christmas.



The tour cost is \$8 per Senior Citizen, and payment must be received by Carol Kaiser by November 15th. Forms are on the information table in the Chapel. Please make your check payable to *Springfield Presbyterian Church*.

Please let Carol know if you are interested in a Dutch-Treat lunch at the Huck Finn diner at Noon, or if you plan to drive directly to Liberty Hall for the 2pm tour. Visitors are responsible for their own transportation – please speak to Carol if you wish to carpool.



PLEASE NOTE: BIRTHDAYS ARE PROVIDED FROM OUR DATA BASE. (MONTH AND DAY ONLY) IF YOUR BIRTHDAY IS MISSING FROM OUR NEWSLETTER, PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE WITH YOUR INFO SO THAT IT WILL BE INCLUDED NEXT TIME.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3-Linda Chelis	13-Ted Doll
3-Marilyn Sinclair	13-Leo Shapiro
6-Kathleen Dubiel	13-Barbara Spital
6-Ronald Dubiel	14-Heather Francis
6-Jessica Maas	14-David Maas
7-Russell A. Werner, Sr.	16-Kayleigh Scott
9-Christian Finnerty	21-Arthur Biber
11-Dale Doremus	24-Harrison Jones
12-Diane Mauriello	26-Greg Clarke
13-Robin Forman	28- Margaret Doremus



On a beautiful October 1st, members from church and community and their "fur babies" attended the Blessing of the Animals service lead by Pastor Vicky and "Lola". Each animal was given a special blessing at the conclusion of the service. Special treats were enjoyed by all, with thanks to Linda Amiano and "Muppy"..

THE VALUE OF VOLUNTEERS FROM PASTOR VICKY

The late Erma Bombeck wrote about the value of volunteers: “Volunteers are like yachts. No matter where they are, they arouse your curiosity. Who are they? Where do they come from? Why are they here?

They could stay moored where it is safe and still justify their being but they choose to cut through the rough waters, ride out in storms and take chances. They have style. They’re fiercely independent....They ARE civilization....at least the part worth talking about. They are the only human beings on the face of this earth who reflect compassion, unselfishness, caring, patience and just plain loving one another. Like yachts, volunteers are luxuries and like certain luxuries, they are too often taken for granted. One has to wonder, did we remember to say thanks to them? Even if it’s just ‘thanks for being!’”

Thank you to all the Volunteers in our church—especially to Gary & Gloria Southward who make our annual Flea Market possible. And thanks to all who helped make the event another success! Many thanks to office workers and volunteers, coffee makers, fellowship hour hosts and hostesses, cleaner-uppers, repairers, greeters, singers and players, liturgists, deacons and church officers, card writers, phone callers, everyone who makes our church congregation into a wonderful caring church family. I continually give thanks to you and for you--you know who you are!!!



November 2017



First Presbyterian Church of Springfield

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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 SCCC 4-6:30PM-PH CHAT&CHEW 6PM-Chapel	2 Choir 7:30pm	3	4 LDYAG 11-3pm Turn clocks back one hour tonight.
5 Daylight Saving time ends Communion Worship 10:15am Fellowship 11:15am	6 SESSION 7:30PM	7 Election Day	8 Lunch & Movie Noon in CHAPEL SCCC-4-6:30pm Chat & Chew 6pm-Chapel	9 Choir 7:30pm	10	11 VETERANS DAY No LDYAG Men's Fellowship 10am-Huck Finn diner.
12 Worship 10:15am Fellowship 11:15am	13	14	15 PW Meeting 1pm-PH SCCC-4-6:30pm	16 Choir 7:30pm	17	18 Great Shepherd 10-Noon- Aud. LDYAG 11-3-DR
19 Pledge Sunday Worship 10:15am Fellowship 11:15am	20 Community Thanksgiving Service At Temple Beth Ahn 7pm	21	22 No SCCC	23  Office closed	24 Office Closed	25 No LDYAG
26 Worship 10:15am Fellowship 11:15am	27	28	29 SCCC-4-6:30pm Liberty Hall Tour 2pm TRUSTEES 7:30pm	30 Choir 7:30pm		

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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PLACE LABEL HERE

SAVE THE DATES FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS!

- Sunday, December 3rd - Advent Begins – Hanging of the Greens during 10:15am service
- Friday December 8th -Santa’s Workshop and Parents’ Night Out 6-9pm
- Saturday, December 9th -Men’s Fellowship Breakfast at Pastor Vicky and Richard Ney’s house
- Wednesday, December 12th -Women’s Group luncheon in the Chapel. Noon
- Wednesday, December 13th – Lunch & Movie
- Sunday, December 17th -Noon-Christmas Feast plus Carole Sing
- Sunday, December 24- 10:15am. Family service with children’s Pageant
11:00 pm Candlelight Communion service

