



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.org

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MAY 2024



We are having an International Night

Saturday May 4th 6-9PM

Parish House Auditorium

**Foods from all over the world,
with live music performances, poetry with a DJ and dancing!**

**Bring a dish to share from your own
country of origin.**

Wear clothes from your homeland!

Invite your neighbors and friends.

Open to people of all ages!

Please sign up at the info table or call/email the office!

Info needed: Household name, # attending, name of dish you will bring to share,
country your dish originates from, and is it sweet or savory.

Session and Deacon News:

Thanks to Elders David Ares, Patrice Sarno and Amy Smith and Deacon Linda Amiano all who are serving a 2nd term, all Class of 2026.

Congratulations to newly installed Deacon Tom Hale, also Class of 2026.

Thanks to Russell A. Werner for serving a 3-year term on the board of Deacons!

Please continue to pray and support our Deacons and Elders as they lead the church in the present and the future!



Mother's Day is Sunday, May 12th

Please come celebrate all mothers, grandmothers, aunts, sisters and all women in our lives!

There's special surprise for ALL women of the church that you won't want to miss!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Today, I was at the car dealership waiting for my car to be serviced. This is generally not one of my favorite things to do but it was also a chance to catch up with my car salesman, Ingram. Every time I see Ingram, I learn something about his life and his family and we always, always talk about food. Last time I saw him, he told me how he made Jerk Turkey for Thanksgiving! Today, he told me how to prepare plantains and salmon. When the car service was complete, I drove away from the dealership with an oil change and tire rotation and a much-needed car wash. But more importantly, I drove away with new eyes and a fresh perspective. Why? Because Ingram is from Guyana (evidently the only English-speaking country in South America) and ...his wife is from Suriname where the national language is Dutch, just like Holland where my ancestors are from! I never knew that. Cool!

That's what's possible when we meet and talk with people from other cultures and other parts of the world. That's the whole point behind the **International Night on Saturday May 4th**. A LOT of planning has gone into this by the Outreach committee and there are a number of surprises in store! I hope and pray you're planning on attending and that you'll bring a few friends and/or a dish from your country of origin. Not only will it be delicious and fun, but it can open our eyes to new faces, new cultures and new ways of understanding how to be God's messengers of connection and community. It can also show the greater Springfield Community that this church is as diverse as God intends the church and the world to be!

I know this time of year starts to get super-busy so if you can't make International Night, please come to worship on **Mother's Day, Sunday May 12th** when we will celebrate ALL women. Whether you are a mother, (past, present or future) or you are a mother figure for a person or an organization, you will be honored in worship. (We have a few surprises in store!)

If you can't come **Sunday May 12th**, then mark your calendars for **Pentecost, May 19th** when we will commemorate the movement of the Holy Spirit and the beginning of the church. We will also celebrate everyone who has been a member of this church for 50 years or longer. (See page 6 for a full list of names; a number of whom are still local and active!) This is another special and important service with more surprises that you won't want to miss!

Friends, there are LOTS of reasons to participate in and celebrate the life, mission and ministry of this community! Come and see how the Lord is inviting you to the present and the future of this wonderful, diverse, vibrant and faithful-filled community of believers!

Grace and Peace,

Rev Jen

It Takes Courage

As my tenure comes to an end, I would like to offer the following farewell.

“Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:9)

It takes courage to do what you did. To draw outside the lines and engage someone to extend the reach of the church outside the walls of the sanctuary. It takes courage to follow that lead and capture a vision of a church that is preoccupied and occupied with following Jesus in the mission of healing a broken and hurting world.

Through your actions and your presence, you demonstrate that this church, that has stood for centuries at the center of life in the town of Springfield, can be one that is outward oriented towards the task of making disciples, pursuing justice, leveraging its considerable resources into being of service to others, especially those at the margins of society.

It takes courage. It takes energy. It takes commitment.

It takes courage to overcome the limitations that age imposes on many of us and show up for church, even when your knees hurt, even when it’s cold and damp out. It takes energy and commitment.

It takes courage to embark on another pastoral search and diligently read profiles, meet to discuss, and try to decipher who God would have in mind to lead this congregation pastorally, compassionately, and courageously.

Above all, it takes courage to embrace an attitude of radical hospitality and be able to say in one voice, ***“whoever you are; wherever you are in your life’s journey, you are welcome here at Springfield Presbyterian.”*** It takes commitment.

So, as I depart, I invite you to be courageous and continue to foster a flexible attitude towards change in the congregation. The church of 20 or 30 years ago is not coming back but a new church is being built within the current reality, and it will be great, because our awesome God is with you.

Lastly, I invite you to remain grace-filled, compassionate, and forgiving of each other. Have the courage to embrace the selfless love of Christ, and may the blessings of the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer God be with you and remain with you forevermore.

In Christ.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John P.", written in a cursive style.

Wear Red (or other colors of fire) Pentecost– May 19, 2024



Pentecost commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles and other disciples following the Crucifixion, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus Christ (Acts of the Apostles, chapter 2), and it marks the beginning of the Christian church’s mission to the world. Please consider wearing something red (or other colors of fire) to church on the 19th.



WE ARE HAPPY TO CELEBRATE THE BIRTHDAYS OF ALL OUR CHURCH FAMILY! IF YOUR BIRTHDAY IS NOT INCLUDED IN OUR BIRTHDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS, PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE AND PROVIDE MONTH AND DAY, AND WE’LL ADD YOU TO OUR LIST!

May 10 Loretta Werner	May 24 Betsy Mullan
May 13 Amy Smith	May 25 Liliya Khobotkova
May 14 Emilia Bliss	May 27 Nylah-Rose Sarno
May 16 Nancy Hennessey	May 29 Linda Donnelly
May 22 Mary Pat Deane	

Celebrating 50 Year + Members

There's no better time than Pentecost to honor and celebrate members of 50+ years. They will be recognized in worship and in coffee hour for their faithfulness and service!

51 Year Member (1972)

Walter Peterson

52 Year Member (1971)

Joan Doscher

53 Year Member (1970)

Linda Maas

57 Year Members (1966)

Debra Kensicki

58 Year Members (1965)

Jean Sim, Ronald Dubiel,
Gloria and Gary Southward

61 Year Members (1962)

Linda Carlson Amiano

62 Year Members (1961)

Helmut Grimm

63 Year Members (1960)

Lois Peterson

66 Year Members (1957)

Mary Pat Deane

67 Year Members (1956)

Carol Johannsen

68 Year Members (1955)

Gene Schramm

69 Year Members (1954)

Joan Stefany Robert Stefany





Scholarship Committee Update

For all inquiries and correspondences please use the following email address:

Scholarship@springfieldpresbyterian.org. Current scholarship recipients should send their transcripts for the semester to this address for our records and let us know their plans for next year. All potential new and returning scholarship recipients will need to fill out the application for our records. The applications should be turned in by July 1st. This aids in coordinating the

award distributions to the schools.

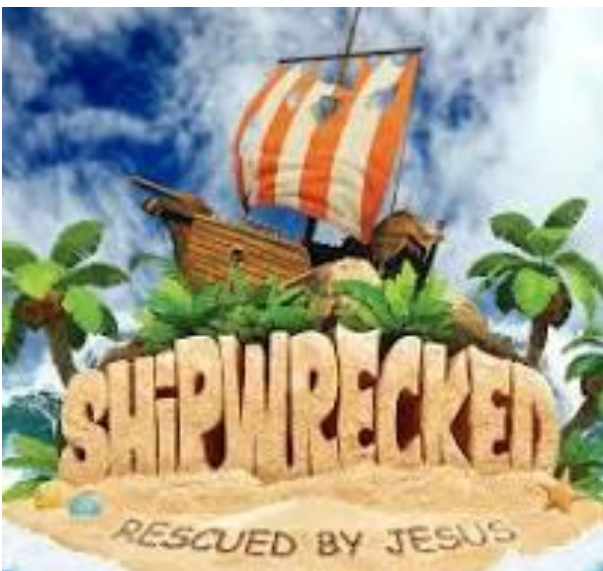
If any student is interested in attending Camp Johnsonburg, please check out their website: <https://www.campjburg.org> for the different camper experiences available. Grants from the Scholarship committee are available for this opportunity. Their brochure is on the information table in the Chapel.

The Scholarship committee is grateful to be able to serve this community.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact us through our email: Scholarship@springfieldpresbyterian.org or speak with us directly.

-Kris Ruebling-Jass, Chair

VBS! VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – SAVE THE DATE!



VBS is coming to the Parish House June 25, 26 and 27th (Tues-Thurs) from 9am to Noon. Bible stories, activities, music and snacks will be provided.

This year's theme is "Shipwrecked- Rescued by Jesus" and it is open to any child in the community ages 4-10.

For all information and to register students, please contact Lisa Guida, Christian Education Director, at

ChristianEd@springfieldpresbyterian.org
or cell: 1-908-447-7399.



May 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sanctuary/Chapel: 210 Morris Avenue Office/Parish House: 37 Church Mall Springfield, NJ 07081 973-379-4320 office@springfieldpresbyterian.org			1	2	3	4 International Day 6-9pm-Aud.
5 Communion Worship Service 10:15am	6 Session 7pm	7	8	9	10	11
12 Mother's Day Worship 10:15am	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 Pentecost Sunday "Wear Red" Worship- 10:15am 50yr+ member celebration	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 Worship 10:15am	27 Memorial Day Office Closed	28	29	30	31	



**No matter who you are,
or where you are in your life's journey,
you are welcome here.**



The Office will be closed on Monday, May 27th in observance of Memorial Day .

The Township of Springfield commemorates this day to honor all who served this country and made the ultimate sacrifice, with a service at Veteran's Memorial Park, on the corner of Mountain Avenue and Shunpike Road, followed by a parade, weather permitting. Look for details in the town newspaper and website later in May.

Puzzle!

Fill in the horizontal rows using the clues. Then, using the number codes, complete the squares below to read three Beatitudes from Luke 6:20-21, NIV.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
16	17	18	19				
20	21	22	23	24	25		
26	27	28	29				
30	31	32	33	34			
35	36	37	38	39	40		
41	42	43	44	45	46		
47	48	49	50	51			
52	53	54	55	56			
57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64
65	66	67	68	69	70	71	
72	73	74	75	76	77	78	

- Grassy area behind a house
- Blooms that have petals
- Spring precipitation
- Puffy and white in the sky
- Soil
- Lawn
- Must be weeded and tended
- Tiptoe through these
- Baby sheep
- We need food and this
- God made this from nothing
- A sign of God's promise
- These, in April, bring May flowers

1	10	13	15	25	39	38	2	7	13	5	22	23	12	73	11
17	31	39	45	22	63	7	9	70	56	5	22	23	58	46	
	27	15	61	73	13		4	18	19	30	26	22	49	22	9
30	63	26	1	47	55	72	78	39	26	60	77	59	5	74	23
	12	73	70	73	23	40	35	13	56	64	70	75	9	11	65
5	63	23	75	18	10	47		1	76	72	48	61	27	34	9
26		1	43	55	72	78	76	24	2	7	13	5	22	23	75
22	12	59	39	45	64	63	52	9	22	58			5	70	42
52	44	10	47	10	2	23	35	73							

Answers: backyard, flowers, rain, clouds, dirt, grass, garden, tulips, lambs, water, creation, rainbow, showers; "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh."

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

stamp

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PLACE LABEL HERE

**No matter who you are,
or where you are in your life's journey,
you are welcome here.**

