



THE TOWER

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

VOL.76 NO. 03

NOVEMBER 2023



Members who died in the past year are remembered each All Saints Day. This year, on Sunday, November 5th, members and active friends who died from November 2022 through October 2023 will be remembered during the worship service. This year, members were encouraged to submit a photo of anyone they have lost in the past year, to be included in a photo montage which will be part of the service.

List of Mortality November 2022 -October 2023

Donald S. Auer - 1Feb2023

Marilyn Madison - 11Aug2023

Marion Briggs - 2023

Barbara Reifsnyder 2Oct2023

Frank Spital - 24Oct2023

May they rest in peace.



The Springfield Community holds a Veterans Day ceremony each year. The American Legion Post 228 will lead the observance on **Saturday, November 11th at 11am at Veteran's Park** on the corner of Shunpike Road and Mountain Avenue.

To all veterans, especially our church members and friends - THANK YOU!
God Bless America!

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS – SUNDAY, NOV. 5, 2023



A reminder to turn back your clocks one hour before you retire for the evening on Saturday, November 4th to end Daylight Savings Time. One extra hour of sleep on Sunday is a blessing!

PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING!

Join the weekly on-line prayer meetings on Monday mornings at 8am and Friday afternoons at 4pm.

The Zoom link is:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86941297429?pwd=bkxBTzNSVk1yT09TdWZxTXFSS0dGdz09>



SANTA'S HELPERS WORKSHOP – SAVE THE DATE!

Mrs. Guida has organized a fun evening on Friday, December 15th from 6:30pm-9pm in the Parish House Auditorium.

Registration is free to active members and \$20 per child for non-members. Children create a shopping bag full of gifts to surprise their family and friends in a fun and supervised space. Registration forms will soon be on the information table, or you may contact Mrs. Guida at 908-447-7399. Adult volunteers are needed to make this event the annual success it has grown to be!



Pastor's Post

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As I write this, it is a an unusually warm and sunny day and honestly... the minute I get home from the church office, I plan to put my flip flops on. Then I will likely dismantle the last vestiges of my window box flowers and harvest the very last, albeit scrawny, basil pots and prep for the colder weather and turning the clocks back.

For many of us, this is a difficult time of year for a variety of reasons including shorter days and colder nights, bare trees, more frequent gray days and both anticipation and anxiety of the holiday season.

But invariably, these next few months always deliver surprises, unexpected joys, and new insights. I often struggle to trust that, but the writer of Hebrews reminds us: "*Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.*" That is my hope for all of us.

To that end, Pastor Roberto and I will be leading a month-long bible study exploring "Walking by Faith" in chapters 11 and 12 in the book of Hebrews. There's no homework and we will also be preaching through those texts weekly as fodder for our time together. I hope you will consider participating in this endeavor, each week immediately after worship where we will have fellowship and food for the body and soul.

We will also be honoring those we've lost in the last year, at a special All Soul's service on Nov 5th, which will also include communion. If you're unable to attend, you can worship remotely or find our recorded service on our website.

There are a few more opportunities coming your way to actively **walk by faith**, but you'll have to wait for those special announcements and just have faith that although the light may be dimming God is guiding us into new life, blessings, and hope of things yet unseen!

Grace and Peace,

Rev Jen



Walk by FAITH

When? Sundays in November after worship 11:30-12:45PM

What's the Topic? How to Walk by Faith through Hebrews Chapters 11 and 12

Where? The Chapel

Will I be fed? Yes! Both physically and spiritually!

Are there materials or homework?

No, but attending worship and listening to the sermon will be a big help!

Questions? Contact Rev Jen: pastor@springfieldpresbyterian.org

or Pastor Roberto: RFois@springfieldpresbyterian.org



The Annual Springfield Community Thanksgiving Service led by the Springfield Clergy Association, will be held at **7pm on Monday, November 20, 2023.**

Location and Details will be forthcoming.

"YOU ARE THE GIFT" PROJECT PHOTOS:





A Message from Pastor Roberto

You're a Gift!

There is a variety of gifts, but always the same Spirit. There is a variety of ministries, but we serve the same One. There is a variety of outcomes, but the same God is working in all of them. To each person is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

1 Corinthians 12:4-7

If you were attending church in person this past Sunday, Oct 22nd, you might have participated in a little exercise we did after the sermon. We asked everyone to write down on a post-it note, their gifts in three categories:

- Gifts of the hand – making, building, putting together. Skills like baking, crafts, sowing, or construction, playing an instrument, or anything else that involves some physical skill.
- Gifts of the heart – empathy, listening skills, compassion, prayers, etc.
- Gifts of the head – teaching, accounting of financial knowledge, languages, organizing things, etc. connecting people of different cultures.

At the end of the service, we placed all the post-it notes on a board (take a look at the pictures) and we were **amazed** at the abundance of gifts we have in our midst.

We have people who can cook, sow and sing. We have multilingual people, accountants and people gifted in providing counselling, offering a compassionate word and listen. We have gifts of friendship, encouragement, fixers, leaders and even the gift of humor.

Rather than operating out of a mentality of scarcity, perhaps focusing on our problems, on what we do not have, on the ABSENCE of gifts, this little exercise reminded us that we have a congregation that is tremendously gifted and ready to put those gifts to work for the common good. I think that these are the key words in the passage above: common good.

So, here's an invitation for each and every one of us. Contemplate how fortunate we are to have a gifted congregation and embrace the opportunity to put your gifts to good use. Go ahead and bake a cake for our fellowship hour. Go ahead and join the work of the deacons and put your gift of compassion and your listening skills to good use. Go ahead and join the liturgists and help the church worship in spirit and in truth. Go ahead and volunteer for the After School Home program and put your gift of teaching and patience and organization to work for the common good. You are a gift to this community and your presence makes us better.

Prayer: Gracious God. Thank you for the gifts you have given us. Help us make good use of them. Amen.



7-Russell A. Werner, Sr.	14-Heather Francis
11-Dale Doremus	21-Arthur Biber
12-Diane Mauriello	26-Greg Clarke
13-Ted Doll	26-Rev. Roberto Fois
13-Leo Shapiro	28- Margaret Doremus

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.

SESSION MEETING

The next Session meeting is Monday, November 6th at 7pm in the Parish House.



Barbara Reifsnnyder grew up in this church and was a devoted member of the choir. When she moved to Florida in 1986, she stayed in contact with her church friends and attended worship each time she returned to New Jersey. Barbara passed away on October 2nd in Virginia and will be interred in her family plot in the Presbyterian Cemetery.

Frank Spital and his wife, Barbara (dec. 2018) transferred to this church in 2010 and immediately became involved with every activity available. Frank was an accomplished woodworker, and stayed busy throughout the year in his workshop, creating toys and gifts for family, friends, and for the occasional craft fair. He was an active member of the Men's Fellowship Group and Outreach/Membership Committee. Frank moved with his daughter's family to Brick a few years ago, and celebrated his 100th birthday last year in grand style. Frank passed away on October 24th at the age of 101. Notes of sympathy may be sent to his family c/o Leslie Riccio. Contact the office for her address.

IN OUR
Thoughts and Prayers

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SPRINGFIELD

November 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
PH= Parish House Chapel is the gathering room behind the sanctuary	Office Hours are M-F, 9am-Noon, 1-3pm		1	2	3	4 Turn clocks BACK one hour before retiring.
Daylight Savings time ends 5 All Souls Day Communion Service 10:15am Walk by Faith Bible Study—11:30am in the Chapel	6 Session Meeting 7pm-PH	7	8	9	10	11 Veteran's Day
12 Worship Service 10:15am Walk by Faith Bible Study—11:30am in the Chapel	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 "Thanksgiving Sunday" Worship Service 10:15am Walk by Faith Bible Study—11:30am in the Chapel	20 Community Thanksgiving Service 7pm (details to follow)	21	22	23 THANKSGIVING DAY OFFICE CLOSED	24 OFFICE CLOSED	25
26 Worship Service 10:15am Walk by Faith Bible Study—11:30am in the Chapel	27	28	29	30		

Sanctuary/Chape: 210 Morris Avenue
Office/Parish House: 37 Church Mall
Springfield, NJ 07081
973-379-4320
office@springfieldpresbyterian.org



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

stamp

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PLACE LABEL HERE



**Worship each Sunday at 10:15am
In-person and live-streamed on YouTube:
FirstPresbyterianChurchSpringfield
Or find the link on our website: www.SpringfieldPresbyterianChurch.org**