



THE TOWER

*First Presbyterian Church
37 Church Mall
Springfield, NJ 07081*

VOL. 80 NO. 10

JUNE 2022

WELCOME NEW OFFICERS

In May, we celebrated the Ordination and Installation of the new class of officers. Joseph Sarno was ordained and installed, and Heather Francis was installed as Ruling Elders and Angela Ruebling-Jass, Lynn Doll and Carol Kaiser were installed as Deacons for the classes of 2024.

We thank Roberta Ares, Dawn Clarke, Lynn Doll, Carol Kaiser and Angela Ruebling-Jass for serving the church this past term, and through all the added challenges of the pandemic.

JUNE 5, 2022 – PENTECOST SUNDAY



According to Christian tradition, the Day of Pentecost commemorates the day when the Holy Spirit was poured out on the disciples in Jerusalem after the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Many Christians mark this date as the beginning of the Christian Church as we know it.

The wearing of red clothing on this day symbolizes the Holy Spirit within each one of us. Please consider wearing something red when you attend the worship service on June 5th.

NEWS FROM THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Greetings from the Scholarship Committee. The committee has been busy revising the application for scholarships for members and employees of the church. These scholarships are available to aid in all forms of education including full or part time 2- and 4-year colleges or trade schools, certification courses, Graduate school etc. We know that the last few years have been tough, and we are here to help those that need support. Please reach out to a committee member or let the church office if you have any questions. We hope to soon have the application available online on our website.

We are pleased to announce that we will be presenting 4 \$2000 scholarships to the 2022 graduating class of Jonathan Dayton High School. The applicants again showed a broad range of volunteer work and involvement in their communities. We will be able to present the scholarships in person on June 2nd. Stay tuned for whom the talented recipients are later this summer as this will be published prior to the awards ceremony. A donation of \$15,000 is also being given to the Irvington High School Alumni Scholarship fund in honor of Art Biber. Art has been an active member of our church for 35 years serving in many capacities. He served the Irvington community as fire fighter for 37 years retiring as a Deputy Chief. With this donation we want to continue Art's and the Irvington High School's Alumni Scholarship vision to help the young people in the community achieve their potentials

In other news, on June 19th we will be honoring graduating Seniors from High School this year and the current/recent member scholarship recipients since due to Covid restrictions we haven't been able to do so in person. So please come and join us in celebrating these individuals. We are truly blessed that we are able to offer support for educational growth.

Gratefully, Kristin Ruebling-Jass Chair of the Scholarship Committee.





FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR LINDSEY

Eternal God, you have called us to be members of one body. Join us with those who in all times and places have praised your name, that, with one heart and mind, we may show the unity of your church, and bring honor to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

When you think of the month of June, what immediately comes to your mind? Let us see. Wait a minute. It is Father's Day. Happy Father's Day to all the Fathers.

Father's Day began in 1910, two years after the first official celebration of Mother's Day in the U.S. The holiday began thanks to a woman named Sonora Smart Dodd, who had been raised with her siblings by her widower father, Civil War veteran William Jackson Smart. Inspired by how her father rose to the challenge of parenting alone, Sonora Smart Dodd thought there should be a special day to recognize dads as well as moms.

But isn't there a Father that we worship and praise everyday as Christians. That would be our Heavenly Father. God the Father. 1 Corinthians 8:6, "But for us, there is only one God, the Father. Everything came from Him, and we live for Him. There is only one Lord, Jesus Christ. Everything came into being through Him, and we live because of Him.

He also works in us through His blessings and sanctification anointing us so that we can grow more and more into the image of Christ. God accomplishes every good thing that we do. We cannot do anything good apart from His power working through us.

As we celebrate our earthly fathers, let us not forget the Father that created us. If it were not for that Father, none of us would be celebrating anything at all. But the best gift we can give on Father's Day is the gift of love.

O Lord our God, you are always more ready to bestow your good gifts upon us than we are to seek them. You are more willing to give than we desire or deserve. Help us so to seek that we may truly find, so to ask that we may joyfully receive, so to knock that the door of your mercy may be opened for us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Madelynne Lindsey

SESSION MEETING: Monday, June 6th at 7pm via Zoom.

SUMMER HOLIDAYS

Our staff holidays for the summer season include Monday, July 4th (Independence Day) and Monday, September 5th (Labor Day). The answering machine is always on, and emergency contact information is in the message.

PASTOR'S CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor Madelynne Lindsey can be reached at her personal email address: madelynne_lindsey@yahoo.com . She can also be reached (by voice or by text) on her cell phone at: 732-227-0017. She is happy to speak to you throughout the week via phone, or in her office on Wednesdays. Please feel free to contact Pastor directly for any reason. If she is unable to answer your call, please leave your contact information on her voice mail and she will return your call.

Pastor Roberto Fois can be reached at the church office Mondays-Thursdays, or any time via e-mail: RFois@springfieldpresbyterian.org or phone: 908-240-6000. Pastor Roberto has been actively getting to know the Congregation and the Community. He has created a welcome environment in his newly fashioned office in the former conference room in the Parish House, and he hopes members and friends will make an appointment to meet with him so he can get to know you!



FATHER'S DAY IS JUNE 19th

To all the fathers and father-figures in our lives, we thank you for your love, protection, and guidance. For the fathers that have gone before us, we hold the memory of them close to heart.

May God our Father, continue to bless us all and surround us with His love, each and every day!

In Memoriam – Wilma Brenn

The sympathy of the Congregation is extended to the family and friends of Wilma Brenn who passed away on May 19th at the age of 103. Wilma joined this church in 1962, was a past longtime President of the Ladies Benevolent Society (now Presbyterian Women) and stayed connected to the church once she moved to Hackettstown in 2001. A full obituary can be found at cochranfuneral.com.

According to her daughter, Judi, Wilma's lasting memory of this church was the loving friendship she felt when she walked in on Sunday and was greeted warmly.



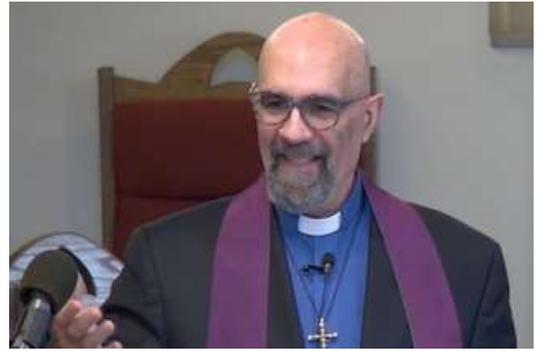
A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ROBERTO

(Rev. Fois' reprinted introduction from May)

Where Do We Go From Here?

"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." Isaiah 43:19



As you no doubt have heard already, my assignment as **Associate Pastor of Outreach and Community Engagement** has begun as of May 1st. I was fortunate to meet some of you at our first worship service together and the little reception that followed this past Sunday (thank you for the cake) and I look forward to meeting all of you very soon.

My first, in a long list of priorities, is to get to know you, learn your story and listen to your dreams for this church community, one that you hold so dear. Whether you are a member or a friend of the congregation, I want to hear from you.

You can reply to this email address (RFois@springfieldpresbyterian.org) with your contact information and your availability. If you would rather call me, please dial the office number (973.379.4320) during office hours and ask for me. I am sure we will find a suitable time to meet. The church has provided me with a beautiful space, so if at all possible, I would love to meet with you here at the Parish House. Alternatively, we can meet at your residence, or if you are still a bit apprehensive about COVID, via Zoom.

Going forward I plan to be at the Parish House Monday through Thursday during the day, but if evenings suite you better, I will be happy to make time.

God has provided us with incredible resources, and the privilege of being partners in the marvelous work of restoration and reconciliation that God has in mind for the world. We are constantly assaulted by news of terrible violence, enmity, and environmental degradation. But that is not all that there is. God has equipped us to see the positive, to discover the seed of goodness and grace in each other and to look with faith at the possibilities before us.

God's message is clear. God is doing a new thing, even if all we can see is a desert before us. God will bring forth a way where there is no way, and God will make spiritual waters spring forth to give life to a world thirsty for the good news of salvation.

May God bless us all as we endeavor to follow the shepherd.

Yours in Christ

Pastor Roberto

IMAGINE

Of this wisdom it is written, "Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, nor has anyone imagined what God has prepared for those who love God." (1 Cor 2:9. Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible. Sheed & Ward.)

"Papa, do you think our dog has an imagination?" That was a legit question that one of my children posed to me at the tender age of seven. We were playing a game that's quite popular in my household, called IMAGINE. It's quite simple really; we sit around and make up things. The more outlandish, the more bizarre, the better.

I believe human imagination is a divine attribute. God imagined the cosmos, and it was so. God imagined fantastical creatures, and it was so. God imagined humans, with our complexities and contradictions, and it was so.

If you visit the Parish House and look for my office, you will see a sign above my door that reads: IMAGINE. That is what I invite you to do. Imagine a church community active and engaged. Imagine children running around, making noise, full of joy and laughter. Imagine teenagers debating the finer points of relationships, loudly and passionately. Imagine the congregation responding vocally to Pastor Madelynne's moving sermons; dancing in the pews, clapping and singing along to Liliya's excellent music.

Image a place where everyone is welcomed, whoever they are and wherever they find themselves in their life journey. Imagine families of all sorts, mingling about seeking ways to assist each other, to lift those who are not as fortunate as we are, to affirm our value.

Now pause. Just imagine what God has in store, and realize that there is more, much more than what you and I (or my dog?) can imagine. With the help of God, we can be what we were created to be and do what we are called to do, together.

Blessings of peace.

Pastor Roberto

IMAGINE
WVGINE

June 2022

First Presbyterian Church of Springfield

Sanctuary/Chapel: 210 Morris Avenue
Office/Parish House: 37 Church Mall
Springfield, NJ 07081

Phone: 973-379-4300
Fax: 973-379-8883
E-mail: FirstPCOffice@verizon.net

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 <i>Day of Pentecost</i> 10:15am <i>Communion Worship</i>	6 <i>Session 7pm</i>	7	8	9	10	11
12 <i>10:15am Worship</i>	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 <i>Father's Day Scholarship Sunday</i> 10:15am Worship	20	21	22 <u><i>Vacation 9am-Noon</i></u>	23 <u><i>Bible 9am-Noon</i></u> <small>242nd anniversary of the Battle of Springfield "Give 'em Waltz, boys!"</small>	24 <u><i>School 9am-Noon</i></u>	25
26 10:15am Worship	27	28	29	30		

A Welcoming Church for 277 Years...

A MOMENT FOR HISTORY

June 23, 2022 is the 242nd anniversary of the Battle of Springfield which was literally fought on the church's front lawn! As we recall each year, 1500 Continental Soldiers and local militia thwarted the 5000 British and Hessian Soldiers who were attempting to reach Washington's Army in Morristown. The resistance was unexpected by the British Commander and orders to retreat to Staten Island kept the enemy from reaching their objective. Unfortunately, as was their practice, the British burned what they could as they retreated, leaving only 4 homes standing in Springfield. They attempted to torch the Parsonage, but the flaming furniture was thrown from the home and extinguished. The church, which was used to store supplies for the army, was burned down to its stone foundation. Worship was moved to the barn behind the parsonage prior to the battle, and continued there until the church was rebuilt in 1791.

Most local residents are familiar with the historic recounting of the battle, which includes Rev. James Caldwell of Elizabethtown, who was a Chaplain and Quartermaster in Washington's Army, collecting the Isaac Watts Hymnals from the church, tossing them to the soldiers to use for musket wadding, shouting, "Give 'em Watts, boys! Put Watts into them!"

There is a famous painting by John Ward Dunsmore in Fraunces Tavern in NY that depicts this scene. A copy of it, along with an Isaac Watts Hymnal (author of "Joy to the World" and many other familiar hymns) and original key to the church is on display in the case behind our AV equipment in the sanctuary.

We recount this story each year, not only because of the historic value, but also because this community and this congregation showed resilience and persevered to rebuild their homes, community and house of worship instead of giving up and moving away. This church is the icon of the community! She stands tall to welcome all!



Photo courtesy of Fraunce's Tavern

SUMMER BIRTHDAYS TO CELEBRATE!

JUNE 2-Ken Bogden, Sue Bogden; 5- Angela Ruebling-Jass
6- Gladys Gieser; 14- Deborah Biber 15- Helmut Grimm;
20- Jack Bliss; 21- Theresa Werner;

JULY 1-Avery Sarno; 2-Linda Jurczak; 4-Philip Gallardo; 7-Ken Bogden Jr.;
9-Danielle Priest; 10-Karon Williams; 12-Amy Donnelly;
26-Carol Johannsen; 29-Gloria Southward, Pastor Lindsey

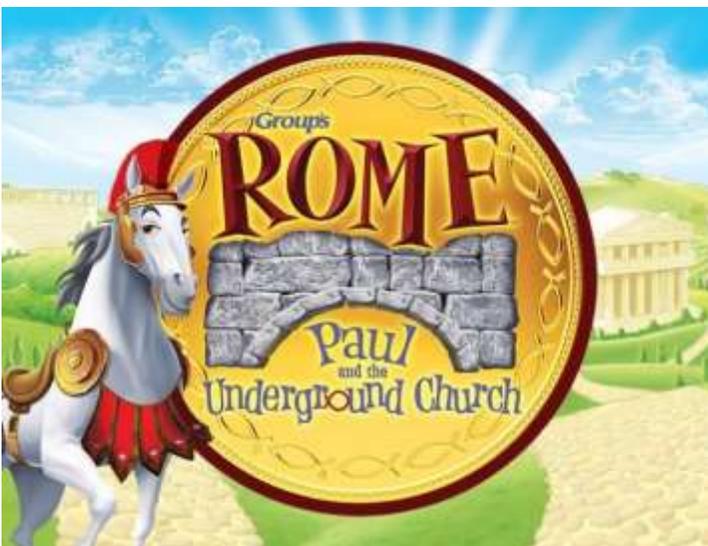
AUGUST 3-Lauren Guida; 7-Tory Smith; 10-Dawn Clarke; 13-Linda Maas;
18-Brian Donnelly; 19-Russ Werner; 22-Olivia DiGirolamo;
26-Robert Stefany; 31-Jenna Guida, Joan Stefany.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – JUNE 22ND – JUNE 24TH 9AM – NOON

We are delighted to resume Vacation Bible School to all members and friends of the church! See Mrs. Lisa Guida on Sundays or call her (908) 447-7399 or the church office (973)379-4320 to register your child(ren). VBS is free to all church members and \$25 per child for non-members. Bible stories, activities and snacks are included. Pre-Registration is required and children of all ages are welcome! All activities are held at the Parish House.

This year's theme is "ROME- Paul and the Underground Church"



Travel back in time to relive the book of Acts side by side with the Apostle, Paul! With "Rome, Paul and the Underground Church, your kids will find themselves living as an ancient Roman witnessing some of the early church's historic moments which laid a foundation for our faith today!"



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

PLACE ADDRESS
LABEL HERE

"Let There Be Peace on Earth"

by Jill Jackson and Sy Miller

Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth
The peace that was meant to be.
With God as our father
Brothers all are we.
Let me walk with my brother
In perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me
Let this be the moment now.
With every step I take
Let this be my solemn vow.
To take each moment
And live each moment
With peace eternally.

Let there be peace on earth,
And let it begin with me.
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