



THE TOWER

First Presbyterian Church
Sanctuary: 210 Morris Avenue
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Phone: 973-379-4320 www.SpringfieldPresbyterian.org

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January 2025

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I pray your Christmas and New Year's Celebrations were blessed and life-giving!

For every family there are many special traditions for both holidays, including when to put up and when to take down all the decorations. For many, this takes a while because each time we pull out and then put back the decorations, there are often memories, people and events attached to them. Each one has a story all its own and a reason for keeping the decoration or...perhaps updating them. Some of course, we can't remember where we got them and some need replacing because they broke or are no longer useful.

This is very similar to church traditions, routines, special services and events that each individual church holds dear. Some things, events, traditions are hallmarks of the life of the church. Some events are beloved traditions that are sacred, while other traditions, habits and ways of doing mission and ministry may need updating, rejuvenating or even replacing.

As we begin our first full year together, this is the perfect time to gather and start to explore what things you want to keep as part of your traditions, what things you'd like to re-start and what things you'd like to refine and/or modernize as we seek to grow the church.

I'd like to do this in small groups in what I've been calling "manse meetings". I am happy to have you come to the manse to gather and discuss what's important to you; to hear your ideas as well as your personal story so that together we can explore and then develop plans that give greater meaning and hope for the future.

I'll be sending out dates shortly for a variety of times/days of the week so that everyone can be included. What I need from you is to commit to one of these meetings and I'll need a few of you to 'host' the meeting, similar to hosting coffee hour. Some meetings will be in the late morning or afternoon where coffee/cake will be helpful, some meetings will be later in the day where wine, cheese, snacks might be in order. Some meetings will be in the evening where something like Chinese take out or Pizza might be best. Ultimately, I don't care what the fare is, only that we can gather, have some fellowship and explore your past and where you want to go in the future.

Please be in touch with me to let me know if you can host one of these events so we can start to set some dates. You will also be reimbursed for any expenses you incur for the food and beverages.

I pray this will be a fun, meaningful and joy-filled time for us to plan for the future with hope!

Grace and Peace,

Rev Jen

SAVE THE DATES:

January 19th Confirmation of Robbie Smith, Reunion Band

February 2nd-Communion/Stewardship Sunday

February 16th Annual, Congregational and Meeting of the Corporation (after worship)

March 5th Ash Wednesday

OUTREACH COMMITTEE -Heather Francis, Chair



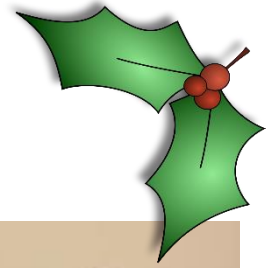
On December 3rd, the Outreach Committee organized a table at the town tree lighting event. Sweet treats and a thermal cup were distributed to the delight of all who received them.

More than 70 visitors attended the Family Movie Night on December 6th. Everyone enjoyed the food, the fun movie, the fabulous gifts, and the fellowship. Thank you, Outreach Committee!



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – Lisa Guida, Director

Santa's Workshop was enjoyed by all; from the littlest elves...







...to the elves who are tall!

Many thanks to Lisa Guida and all the wonderful volunteers who help to make this annual event a fun family Advent tradition!

2025 Stewardship Campaign:

Relax! You haven't missed the 2025 Stewardship campaign! While most churches run their stewardship campaign in the fall to plan/budget for the new year, we're doing it in real-time as we plan for a new year and a new era of ministry which coincides with our Manse Meetings. Stay tuned for more details and keep an eye for the new 2025 campaign letter soon!

Presbyterian Church (USA) Per Capita

Each year, our congregation is assessed a fee to cover some of the administrative fees for Presbytery and for PC(USA). We ask our members to reimburse the church for their share, if means allow. This year, the assessment has remained at **\$38 per member (adults and confirmed young adults)**. You may use a pew envelope and note "Per Capita" on the memo line of the check, as well as your envelope number, if you have one.

Per Capita giving makes it possible for:

- Churches to connect with individuals seeking a call to ministry
- Presbytery and synod leaders to gather for training and discernment
- Counsel and support for churches in crisis (misconduct, legal matters)
- Staff support for General Assembly committees and commissions and GA gatherings
- The denomination to build connections with ecumenical partners around the world
- Presbyterian history to be cataloged, preserved, and utilized by future generations

2025 Offering Envelopes are available to all who request them. Please speak to Linda Amiano if you would like a set for this year. **2024 Year-end statements** will be sent out in the next two weeks. Please review your statement, and if you have any questions, please contact Linda Amiano, Financial Secretary, in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays, or leave a message for her on the office voicemail. 1-973-379-4320.



Birthday Blessings to our church family and friends who celebrate in January!

2-Jay Mullen

6-Aiden Jimdar

7-Akachukwu Ihekwoaba Obiako

15-Chad Jimdar

21-Dawn Hartman

23 Daniel Donnelly

26- Virginia Meringer

29- Eugene Schramm

(We are happy to include you on our monthly list. If you would like to be added, please contact the office!)



January 2025

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|-----------|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|  | Sunday School Schedule: <i>Ted Talks</i> 9:15am-PH each Sunday <i>Hide & Seek:</i> 10:15am-1st&3rd Sunday | | 1 New Year's Day Office closed | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 <i>Ted Talks</i> 9:15am-PH <i>Hide & Seek:</i> 10:15am Communion Worship Service 10:15am | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 <i>Ted Talks</i> 9:15am-PH Worship Service 10:15am | 13 Session 7pm (Budget approval) | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 <i>Ted Talks</i> 9:15am-PH <i>Hide & Seek:</i> 10:15am Worship Service 10:15am With Confirmation of R. Smith Reunion Band | 20 MLK Jr. Day Office Closed | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 <i>Ted Talks</i> 9:15am-PH Worship Service 10:15am | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |

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