



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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MARCH/APRIL 2023



Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 2nd at 10:15 am. Communion Service with distribution of palms.



Maundy Thursday

April 6th at 6:00pm. A celebration of the memorial of the Last Supper in the Chapel.

Roast with unleavened bread, hummus, olive oil, olives, tree nuts, and figs will be served to recount and interpret the Passover from a Christian perspective. After the meal the congregation will move to the Sanctuary for a service of **washing of the feet, readings, communion, and Tenebrae**. We are dismissed in silence.



Good Friday

The Sanctuary will be open from 1:00pm-3:00pm for meditation, prayer, and music. Rev. Fois will lead occasional prayers as well as the passion narrative during this time.

Anyone is welcome to attend at any time during these two hours. At 3:00pm, the Christ candle will be extinguished with the words, "It is Finished". The Sanctuary will remain in darkness until Easter morning.



Easter Sunday APRIL 9TH

8:00am Sunrise prayers and canticles by the Memory Garden.

9:00am Sunday School Children enjoy an Easter Egg hunt on the Parish House front lawn followed by a light breakfast.

10:15am Resurrection Celebration with communion and brass ensemble followed by a light breakfast.



Soup & Bread Wednesday is Back at FPC!

Starting on Ash Wednesday – February 22nd – we will meet every Wednesday of Lent for Soup & Bread, Prayers, and a short Bible Study.

Meal at 6:00 pm

Service/Bible Study at 7:00 pm

Participation is free, but you need to sign up to participate and receive the Bible Study material.

Sign up sheet is in the chapel or call the church office at 973.379.4320



**The First Presbyterian Church in Springfield
210 Morris Ave., Springfield, NJ 07081**

The Lenten Soup and Bread Suppers and Bible Study have been very well-received, and we invite all to attend the remaining Wednesdays in March! Soup & Bread begins at 6pm followed by prayers. At 7pm, we enjoy the bible study based on the Devotional, “The Desert of Compassion” by Rachel M. Scrubas. Registration for each week is helpful to our Outreach Committee in their preparation.

Please sign-up in the chapel or call the office at 973-379-4320 to reserve your seat!



MARCH 3 - LESLIE RICCIE
MARCH 4 - ROBBIE SMITH
MARCH 6- KEASHA BLAKE
MARCH 9 - STEVE KITSKO
MARCH 14 -ALIVIA CLARK
KAREN CLARKE

MARCH 18- EUNICE AMARABE
MARCH 21 - RICHARD DAMBRES
MARCH 27 - DELETA BLAKE
MARCH 29- CHARLES RUEBLING-JASS



MEMBERS: IF YOU DON'T SEE YOUR BIRTHDAY LISTED, PLEASE PROVIDE MONTH AND DATE TO THE OFFICE. WE ARE HAPPY TO CELEBRATE WITH ALL OF OUR MEMBERS!

A Message From Pastor Roberto

“ALREADY BUT NOT YET”

It has been said, time and again, that the only constant is change, but I believe that this statement is of little comfort when we find ourselves in the middle of a transition.

Well, here we are again! Pastor Madelynne left, we don't know yet who is coming next, and – even more tiresome to some – we don't know how long before a full-time installed pastor is called to serve our church.

True, the Pastor Nominating Committee is in place and a committee is working with the Presbytery to find a full-time interim, but we are in what anthropology calls “*a Liminal Space*.” A place where ambiguity, ambivalence, and even disorientation can occur. Our community is no longer what it was but is not yet what it will be, and the uncertainty is hard to take.

For some in our midst, the temptation is to look back and wax nostalgic. “*Why can't we have the church we had 30 or 20 years ago?*” Others have taken a “*wait and see*” approach and resist getting involved until things settle down. Others still are optimistic and hopeful that we will overcome the present circumstance and emerge strengthened and more determined than ever sometime in the future.

Lent presents us with a wonderful opportunity to journey this transition faithfully. If you think about it, Lent is a bit odd. We know that Jesus was raised from death into life - over two thousand years ago - and yet, we take forty days of preparation for an event that has already taken place. We are no longer at Ash Wednesday, but we are not yet at Easter.

We are no longer the church we were fifty or even ten years ago, but we are the church that God is calling us to be right now. We are not able, perhaps, to do everything we did thirty years ago, but we are capable of doing something. We may not be as numerous, as strong, as young, or as fast as we were forty years ago, but we are more mature, more experienced, and more diverse than ever before.

There is no reason to remain paralyzed in the transition. We are not at the finish line, but we are on our way, and in the power of God, the possibilities are infinite.

This is my invitation to our church community; let us act as if the future of the church depended on us, because it does, and pray as if the future of the church depended on God, because it most definitely does.

Have a blessed Lenten Season and Holy Week and a Joyous Easter.

Rev. Roberto Fois

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS

A reminder to set your clocks ahead one hour before you retire for the evening on Saturday, March 11th.



Pastor Madelynn Lindsey concluded her contract as Interim Pastor in Springfield with a busy day of worship, Congregational meeting and then a farewell reception.

We thank Pastor Madelynn for her service to this church and wish her well in her next assignment.

Many thanks to our Outreach Committee for organizing the reception.

- 7th - Rodney Shinnars
- 9th - Colleen Scott
- 13th - Doreen DeRenzo
- 21st - Daniel Priest
- 23rd - Jean Zabelski
- 24th - Douglas Leite
- 25th - Seamus Priest
- 26th - Beatrice Roth
- 28th - Thomas Clark
- 29th - Carissa Clark



For Reflection

“SCARS IN HEAVEN”

²⁵ So the other disciples told Thomas, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.” ²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” (John 20:25-27)

There are many difficult passages about the death and resurrection of the Christ, but the story of Thomas wanting physical proof of Jesus’ identity is perhaps one of the most problematic ones. The story suggests, in no uncertain terms, that the resurrected body of Christ, the one that ascended into heaven, the very body the disciples saw transfigured in dazzling light, THAT body, is still scarred and mutilated. Amazingly, Jesus bears the marks of the crucifixion in his resurrected body.

Why, one wonders, was the body not restored to its perfection? Doesn’t resurrection bring an end to tears and suffering? How come there are still open wounds afflicting Jesus? Does that mean that at our own resurrection, we will still carry our scars in heaven?

Much has been discussed about this conundrum, without a satisfying explanation emerging, but I think it’s safe to say that the scars, the wounds that Jesus bears in his resurrected state, are the bridge that connects Christ and creation. A sinew of love linking our existence with the everlasting life of the Anointed One.

I don’t pretend to understand what resurrection means exactly, let alone what it means in the case of Jesus of Nazareth, but I can embrace the notion of the divine presence of God revealed in a still-wounded Christ. Easter does not cancel Good Friday, but it certainly changes everything, even if the scars of the Christ are still very much visible.

This season, let us reflect and contemplate the possibility of our own daily rebirth. Being born anew every day may not cancel the suffering of the past, but it changes everything, even if the scars are still felt in our flesh, our heart, our soul. Let us contemplate a love so deep and so complete that overcame death for our sake and let us then offer ourselves, wounds and all, to the one that reconciles the human with the divine.

Blessings of Easter

Rev. Roberto Fois

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
March 2023			1 Soup and Bread 6pm Bible Study 7pm	2 Choir 7:30pm	3 Online prayer 4pm	4
5 Communion Worship 10:15am	6 Online prayer 8am	7	8 Soup and Bread 6pm Bible Study 7pm	9 Choir 7:30pm	10 Online prayer 4pm	11 Turn clocks ahead one hour before retiring
Daylight saving time begins 12 Worship 10:15am	13 Online prayer 8am	14	15 Soup and Bread 6pm Bible Study 7pm	16 Choir 7:30pm	17 Online prayer 4pm	18
19 Worship 10:15am Linwood Bagby, guest preacher	20 Online prayer 8am	21	22 Soup and Bread 6pm Bible Study 7pm	23 Choir 7:30pm	24 Online prayer 4pm	25
26 Worship 10:15am Rev. Dr. Betty Tom, guest preacher	27 Online prayer 8am	28	29 Soup and Bread 6pm Bible Study 7pm Lily orders due by noon today.	30 Choir 7:30pm	31 Online prayer 4pm	

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
APRIL 2023						1
2 Palm Sunday Communion Worship 10:15am with Confirmation	3 Online prayer 8am	4	5	6 Maundy Thursday Last Supper memorial 6pm- Chapel Service 7pm- Church	7 Good Friday Sanctuary open for meditation Noon-3pm Online prayer 4pm	8
9 Easter Sunday 8am Sunrise service 9am Egg Hunt-PH 10:15 Communion Service	10 Online prayer 8am Office closed	11	12	13	14 Online prayer 4pm	15
16	17 Online prayer 8am	18	19	20 Choir 7:30pm	21 Online prayer 4pm	22
23	24 Online prayer 8am	25	26	27 Choir 7:30pm	28 Online prayer 4pm	29
30	Front Office hours 9am-Noon, 1-3pm office@springfieldpresbyterian.org 973-379-4320 website: springfieldpresbyterian.org					



EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM

Each Easter Sunday, we enjoy the beautiful site of Easter Lilies displayed in the front of the church. In order to behold this beautiful site, our members and friends are invited to donate one or more plants at a cost of \$15.00 each. You may elect to take your plant after the Easter Worship Service, or donate it to our homebound friends. Please fill out the form below and return it with your check made payable to the church and send it to the Church Office. 37 Church Mall, Springfield, NJ 07081. (Please do not combine with other giving) All orders must be received in the office no later than Wednesday, March 29th. We look forward to another glorious display to celebrate the

resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ!



NAME: _____

PHONE #: _____

IN MEMORY or HONOR OF (please circle one)

I will leave my plant(s)_____ I will take my plant(s)_____

Envelope # (if avail.)_____

Additional information_____

I am available to assist the Deacons with delivery of plants_____

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.**



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PRAYS - We meet via Zoom for 20-30 min to pray for each other, the needs of the world, our country, state, county and town and for any other good reason. Meeting ID: 869 4129 7429 Passcode: 411879 One tap mobile +13092053325,,86941297429#,,,,*411879# US Please join us via video or phone **each Monday at 8:00am and Friday at 4:00pm.**

Prayer Works!

The link for the meeting is as follows:

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