



# *THE TOWER*

*First Presbyterian Church  
37 Church Mall  
Springfield, NJ 07081  
[www.SpringfieldPresbyterian.org](http://www.SpringfieldPresbyterian.org)*

VOL. 72 NO. 07

MARCH 2020

## **2019 ANNUAL REPORT BOOKS AVAILABLE MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup>**

The 2019 Annual Report books are available in church and in the office for all member households as of March 1st.

## **ANNUAL CONGREGATION AND CORPORATION MEETING**

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of the First Congregation of the Presbyterian Church at Springfield will be held in the Church Sanctuary on **Sunday, March 8, 2020**, immediately following the 10:15am Morning Worship Service.

The purpose of this meeting is to receive annual reports and any other business which may properly come before the meeting.

s/Linda Amiano, Clerk of Session

## **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS – SUNDAY, MARCH 8<sup>TH</sup>**



Reminder: before you retire for the evening on Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, set your clocks **AHEAD** one hour.

We'd hate for you to be late to church!

“Follow” us at Springfield Presbyterian Church



## LENTEN SOUP & BREAD

The Lenten Soup & Bread suppers are held at 6pm on Wednesdays from February 26th through April 1<sup>st</sup> in the Chapel.

The Outreach Committee requests that you sign up for these suppers during coffee hour each Sunday morning, or by calling the church office (973-379-4320) so that we can adequately prepare the food each Wednesday. Note: Each week has its own sign- up sheet.



### **Lenten Supper Set-Up Schedule**

**Each group leader listed below has instructions for the set –up.**

3/4/20	Choir	Carol Kaiser
3/11/20	Session	Loretta Werner
3/18/20	Presbyterian Women	Gloria Southward
3/25/20	Trustees/Men's Fellowship	Russ Werner
4/01/20	Membership/Outreach	Mary Pat Deane & Carol K.

## BIBLE STUDY FOR LENT

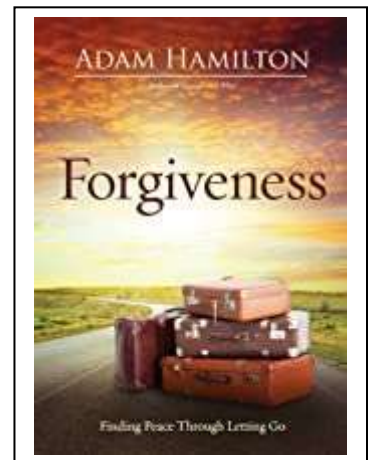
Each Wednesday evening from March 4<sup>th</sup> through April 1<sup>st</sup>, Pastor Rhonda will lead a Lenten Bible Study entitled, *Forgiveness – Finding Peace Through Letting Go*, by Adam Hamilton. From the publisher:

“In the passionate and life-changing book *Forgiveness: Finding Peace Though Letting Go*, bestselling author Adam Hamilton brings the same insight that he applied in the bestseller "Why?" to the challenge of forgiveness. Hamilton argues that revelation comes

when we realize that forgiveness is a gift we give ourselves rather than to someone else. He also contends that only when we learn to forgive others and ourselves can we truly receive forgiveness from God.”

You may purchase a copy of the book for \$8, (payable to First Presbyterian Church) from the designated box in the Chapel by the info table. While not a requirement to participate in the weekly discussions, many find it helpful.

The bible study will be held in the Chapel. There is plenty of parking in the church lot – bring a friend!



## FAITH MATTERS

“You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my fortress; **my God, in whom I trust.**” (*Psalms 91:1-2*)

“Come...inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” (*Matthew 25:34b-36*)

Dear Friends in Christ,

Last fall, the Oscar-nominated biopic, “Harriet,” was released. It told the story of Harriet Tubman, a 19<sup>th</sup> century slave who is ready to flee her home and master for the first time. She goes to her church, where her pastor counsels her, saying: “You remember, fear is the enemy. Trust God.”

Harriet finds freedom from slavery up North. But that freedom is not easily come by. She is faced with fear, including the fear of getting caught, beaten and re-enslaved. Such fear could have made her buckle at the knee. But she trusted her God and found the courage she needed to persevere.

Churches must learn to trust their God as well. We may not fret over captivity. But we do fret over the life and well-being of our congregation. We fret over what the unchurched think of us. We fret over attendance at worship, the songs we sing, how communion is served. So, we do well to heed the words of Harriet’s pastor, and the Psalmist before him: “**Trust God.**”

Fear is the enemy of the church. Fear about the future. Fear about change. Fear over speaking the truth in love. Fear over doing justice work. Fear over living fully into Christ’s vision of the Kingdom of God.

There is an initiative afoot in the PCUSA to bring new vitality to our churches. It is called the Matthew 25 Initiative and it focuses on 3 areas of church life as lifted up in that chapter of Matthew’s gospel: Building Congregational Vitality, Dismantling Structural Racism and Eradicating Systemic Poverty.

Looking at these 3 is too much for one pastor’s letter. But the one area which is most pressing on us today is that of Building Congregational Vitality. Congregations which prayerfully choose to be Matthew 25 Churches are inviting the Spirit of God to lead them into change and a new vital life together. Trusting that Christ is doing a new thing in and through them, they see their job as the people of God to receive Christ’s new thing together and be a part of it. And they give evidence of the 7 Marks of Vital Congregations: lifelong discipleship formation, intentional evangelism, an outward incarnational focus, an empowered servant leadership, Spirit-inspired worship, caring relationships and ecclesial health.

Vital Congregations believe that when the community sees evidence of Christ among them—just as Thomas needed to see the marks of Jesus and feel them in order to believe that he was the Risen Christ—their neighbors will come forward, too, to know and believe that their Lord and Savior is Jesus Christ.

Congregational Vitality is not about buildings, budgets or, a bit crassly, “butts” in the seats. In the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Congregational Vitality is about spiritual faithfulness and following where Christ leads us.

The thing that stands in the way of Congregational Vitality is fear. Thus, we welcome the counsel of our ancestors in faith. We remember to trust God, be open to change, set aside the inertia of tradition and the comfort of what we’ve always “known” and “done,” stepping out into areas of ministry that can be fraught with the fears of failure, rejection and the unknown.

Yes, fear is the enemy. But when we trust God, we are Spirit-led to believe that God will work God’s purposes out and that the church of Jesus Christ will go on—even if it looks different than it once did.

With thanksgiving for our shared ministry,  
Pastor Rhonda

## FROM PC(USA)



"It is a comfort to know that my little granddaughter will never have to face the threat of disease and death from contaminated water."

Diego Salvador  
Maya Balam, Mexico

Dear First Presbyterian Church,

I invite you to raise awareness of the world's water crisis and what Presbyterians are doing in response by participating in **Clean Water Sunday**, lifting up the work of **Living Waters for the World** as part of the United Nations' World Water Day observance **March 22** or other Sunday of your choice.

Begun by Presbyterians 27 years ago within the Synod of Living Waters, Living Waters for the World has trained churches throughout the PC(USA) and beyond to install more than 1,000 water systems across 26 nations and provide ongoing support for their community partners. The

impact has been immediate and life-changing.

This tangible expression of Matthew 25 is one where, through deep and abiding relationships, God's love transforms us all.

As we seek to serve our sisters and brothers still waiting for the gift of clean water, we ask for your help. Thank you for joining with other Presbyterians on your Clean Water Sunday so that more clean water may flow!

Steve  
Steve Young  
Executive Director  
[Living Waters for the World](http://LivingWatersfortheWorld.org)

## **LENTEN DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS**

Pastor Rhonda would like to thank everyone who contributed something for the Lenten Devotionals. The Booklets are now available on Sundays at the Church and weekdays at the Parish House. You will notice that there are no entries for most Sundays in Lent—we hope your devotion that day will be lived out in your worship of God.

## **BY-LAW REVIEW**

The Session is recommending new By-Laws be approved by the congregation at our Annual Congregational Meeting on March 8<sup>th</sup>. These proposed By-Laws came about as a result of several outdated provisions in the current By-Laws, as well as some changes in how we practice ministry as a congregation. Consistency and transparency are key to the proposed new By-Laws. Pastor Rhonda would like everyone to have a chance to ask questions about the proposed new By-Laws ahead of the congregational meeting so that we feel prepared to vote on the motion to adopt them. If you have questions or want to be part of a discussion regarding the proposed new By-Laws, please remain in the Sanctuary after worship on March 1<sup>st</sup> and the Pastor will be on hand to lead that discussion.

## **UPDATE ON PASTORAL SEARCH PROCESS**

The Session has appointed a 4-person Mission Study Team to oversee the work of preparing a Mission Study for approval by the Presbytery of Elizabeth. These 4 members of the congregation are: Heather Francis, Rod Shinnars, Dawn Clarke and Angela Ruebling-Jass. Once the Mission Study is completed and approved by Elizabeth Presbytery's Committee on Ministry, a Pastor Nominating Committee can be elected by the congregation and a Ministry Information Form can be prepared for uploading to the PC(USA)'s Church Leadership Connection Opportunity Search List. The Mission Study Team will be looking for your input. So when the call or tap you on the shoulder and say, "Help" or "Share your thoughts," please be kind and do so!

### **MONTHLY OFFICER MEETINGS:**

**Session: Monday, March 2, 2020 at 7:00pm in the Parish House**

Session matters should be directed to Linda Amiano, Clerk

**Deacons: March 8, 2020 following worship in the Sanctuary**

Deacon matters should be directed to Russell A. Werner, Moderator

**Trustees: Wednesday, March 18th at 7:30 in the Parish House**

Trustee matters should be addressed to Ken Bogden, President

## **MEMBERSHIP/OUTREACH COMMITTEE-MARCH 17th**

Beginning in March, the Membership/Outreach Committee will meet on the third Tuesday of each month at 1:30pm in the Parish House. The Committee welcomes all church members and friends to join in the planning of the yearlong social and community outreach events sponsored by the church. "Many hands make light work"!

## **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN -MEETINGS RESUME MARCH 18<sup>TH</sup>**



After a two-month winter break, we're ready to get back to business! The Presbyterian Women (PW) will meet at 4pm in the Chapel on Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>. After the meeting, the PW will set up for that evening's Soup & Bread Supper. PW members who plan to attend the supper should make sure they sign up at the info table the Sunday

before, so that we know how many to plan for. Annual dues of \$3.00 will be collected at this meeting. All program ideas are welcome and appreciated, and all women of the church are welcome to attend/join. Any questions, please speak with Gloria Southward.

MARCH 1 - KENNETH HENDRIX  
MARCH 2 - EMMA GEHBAUER  
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 25 - JOAN LYONS  
MARCH 27 - DELETA BLAKE  
MARCH 28 - JENNIFER WERNER  
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!

## **PER CAPITA REMINDER**

Each of the Presbyterian Churches of the Presbytery of Elizabeth are assessed a **Per Capita** charge to fund expenses and Mission of the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly. Our apportionment for the year 2020 is \$45.00 for each member. We ask that you consider reimbursing your church for this added expense. When you do, please note "Per Capita" on your check. Thank you, to those members who have already done so.

## **IN MEMORIAM**

*The sympathy of the Congregation is extended to the family and friends of 70 year member, Frederick Danneman, who died in his sleep on February 17<sup>th</sup> at the age of 97. He is survived by his wife, Estelle, and the Knudsen family. Funeral arrangements are planned for the Spring.*



**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 or put it in the Offering Plate on Sunday. (Please do not combine with other giving) All orders must be received in the office/collection plate no later than Sunday, April 5, 2020. 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)

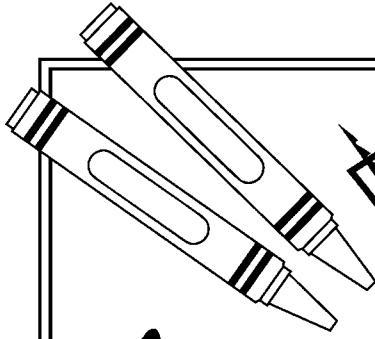
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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 \_\_\_\_\_



# PUZZLE

## MAKE MUSIC TO THE LORD



People of the Bible used many different instruments to worship God through music.



*Directions: Using the clues, unscramble the names of instruments found in Psalm 150. Then write the circled letters in order in the spaces below to complete verse 6.*



A type of horn

\_\_\_ \_ \_ \_ \_

MURTETP

Played by King David

\_ \_ \_ \_

PRHA

Plucked to make sound

\_\_\_  \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

IGSNSTR

Similar to a tambourine

\_\_\_ \_ \_  \_ \_ \_ \_

MRBELIT

A type of harp

\_\_\_ \_ \_

ELRY

Blown through to make sound

\_\_\_ \_  \_ \_

EPPI

A percussion instrument

\_\_\_ \_ \_ \_ \_  \_

YBLACMS

Le\_ everyt\_ing tha\_ has \_r\_ath  
\_raise the \_ORD. Psalm 150:6, NIV




Answer: trumpet, harp, strings, timbrel, lyre, pipe, cymbals; Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Psalm 150:6, NIV



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SPRINGFIELD

A Welcoming Church for 275 Years..

**March 2020**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>1</b> Communion Worship 10:15pm Fellowship Hour 11:15am By-law changes review with Pastor Annual books available</p>	<p><b>2</b> Confirmation Class 4-5pm—PH SCCC 4-5pm—Aud. Session—7:00pm</p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b> SCCC 4-6PM Soup &amp; Bread 6pm- Chapel Bible Study 6:30pm - Chapel</p>	<p><b>5</b> Choir 7:30pm</p>	<p><b>6</b> World Day of Prayer</p>	<p><b>7</b> </p>
<p><b>DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS</b> <b>8</b> Worship Service 10:15am Congregational Meeting immediately follows worship</p>	<p><b>9</b> Confirmation Class 4-5pm—PH SCCC 4-5pm—Aud.</p>	<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>11</b> SCCC 4-6PM Soup &amp; Bread 6pm- Chapel Bible Study 6:30pm -</p>	<p><b>12</b> Choir 7:30pm</p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p>
<p><b>15</b> Worship Service 10:15am Fellowship Hour 11:15am</p>	<p><b>16</b> Confirmation Class 4-5pm—PH SCCC 4-5pm—Aud.</p>	<p> <b>17</b> Outreach 1:30pm  Trustees 7:30pm</p>	<p><b>18</b> SCCC 4-6PM Soup &amp; Bread 6pm- Chapel Bible Study 6:30pm - Chapel Investment Cabinet 7:30pm</p>	<p><b>19</b> Choir 7:30pm</p>	<p><b>20</b> First Full Day of </p>	<p><b>21</b></p>
<p><b>22</b> Worship Service 10:15am Fellowship Hour 11:15am</p>	<p><b>23</b> Confirmation Class 4-5pm—PH SCCC 4-5pm—Aud.</p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>25</b> SCCC 4-6PM Soup &amp; Bread 6pm- Chapel Bible Study 6:30pm -</p>	<p><b>26</b> Choir 7:30pm</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b> Presbytery Stated Meeting (place/time TBD)</p>
<p><b>29</b> Worship Service with Baptism 10:15am Fellowship Hour 11:15am</p>	<p><b>30</b> Confirmation Class 4-5pm—PH SCCC 4-5pm—Aud.</p>	<p><b>31</b></p>	<p>PH= Parish House Aud = Auditorium of Parish House Chapel= rear of church building SCCC= Springfield Community Children's Chorus All meetings are held in the Parish House unless otherwise noted. Choir rehearsals are in the Chapel</p>			

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

Phone: 973-379-4320  
Fax: 973-379-8883  
E-mail: [FirstPCOffice@verizon.net](mailto:FirstPCOffice@verizon.net)  
website:  
[springfieldpresbyterian.org](http://springfieldpresbyterian.org)



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

Place  
Stamp  
here

PLACE ADDRESS  
LABEL HERE

**APRIL EVENTS:**

- ❖ 5 - Palm Sunday worship service at 10:15am
- ❖ 9 – Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service at 7pm
- ❖ 10 – Good Friday- Sanctuary open for private meditation Noon-3pm
- ❖ 12 – Easter Sunday – 7:30am Sunrise Service
  - 9:00am Easter Egg Hunt at Parish House
  - 10:15am Easter Festival Service with brass
- ❖ 19 – BINGO & Pizza – 2-4pm in the Chapel