



# *THE TOWER*

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

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## **Meet Interim Pastor Madelynne Lindsey**

***COMMISSIONED RULING ELDER MADELYNNE B. LINDSEY***



Madelynne Lindsey is a graduate from Montclair High School and attended courses at Rutgers University in Newark, NJ and graduated from Weichert Real Estate School, Morris Plains, NJ. She successfully attended and completed theological studies at the New Brunswick Theological Seminary from 2005 through 2007 and received a Certificate for Reformed Worship and Sacrament and Presbyterian Polity courses online in the 2014 Fall Semester at The University of Dubuque Theological Seminary in Iowa.

She applied to the Committee on Preparation of Ministry (CPM) to become a Commissioned Ruling Elder/Commissioned Lay Pastor and was accepted.

She was baptized and confirmed an Episcopalian but became a Presbyterian at the Hillside and Valley Presbyterian Church, Orange, New Jersey on November 23, 1997, where she was also ordained a Deacon. Later she was elected to be the recording secretary for the National Black Presbyterian Caucus, Newark, New Jersey Chapter for three years.

After relocating to Morris Plains, New Jersey, she transferred her membership to the Morris Plains Presbyterian Church, Morris Plains, New Jersey where she continued to be a Deacon for three years.

In 2007, she relocated to Highland Park and transferred her membership to Oak Tree Presbyterian Church, Edison, where she was a Ruling Elder and Chairperson for the Fellowship Outreach Ministry; was a counselor for Jeremiah Journey and Vision Panel, conducted Bible studies for Jeremiah's Journey and the series called Bad Girls and Bad Boys of the Bible.

She was a member of the choir, the Multi-cultural Initiative Committee, Worship Committee, and the Gathering group. She wrote and directed plays for the Christmas Worship Service and took part in the worship service for Ash Wednesday in 2015 which included two Baptist Congregations and the Metuchen Presbyterian Church and Community Presbyterian Church, Edison.

She served on the Committee of Ministry (COM) for the Elizabeth Presbytery for three years and was the Chair for COM for a year and four months. She is currently back on COM. She also was the moderator and Pulpit Supply Pastor for the Middlesex Presbyterian Church and Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church for several months. She became the Commissioned Ruling Elder serving as Pastor for the Siloam Hope Presbyterian Church, Elizabeth from Feb. 1, 2016 through Aug. 1, 2017. She recently chaired the Leadership Pastoral Nominating Search Committee for the General Presbyter's position.

Madelynne was placed on the Pulpit Supply List for the Elizabeth Presbytery by COM and has preached at several Presbyterian Churches upon request. She was Vice Moderator for the Elizabeth Presbytery and became the Moderator in September of 2018-2019.

She has been the Commissioned Pastor for the Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church since October 1, 2018 until January 31, 2021 and was instrumental in aiding the transition of WAPC with the Nuevas Fronteras Church presently residing at United Presbyterian Church in Plainfield. The transition has been completed.

As Pastor to WAPC, she sat on the North Plainfield Forum and the North Plainfield Planning Committee for their annual Community Fair. Spearheaded Operation Backpack, a mission feeding 25 middle and high school indigent students providing food and drinks for weekend consumption every week. Provided pastoral care for parishioners at residential and nursing homes, hospitals, care facilities throughout the Somerset County Area every Tuesday. She has done funerals at gravesites, residential home yards and funeral homes during covid-19, using all the precautions established and outlined for covid-19. Some people have referred to Madelynne as a prayer warrior and a very spiritual, energized preacher and teacher of the Gospel.

She moderated session meetings monthly and moderated annual congregational meeting and planned all aspects of the worship service including selecting hymns. She has been recording services via YouTube on the WAPC website and She has been live streaming with Rev. Dr. Victor Aloyo for the last two months.

She retired from the Office of the Public Defenders as an Administrative Assistant after 34 years of employment and later worked part-time for a Chiropractor and a Bankruptcy Lawyer.

She is a trained coloratura soprano soloist and has sung solos at funerals, weddings, and worship services on several occasions. She crochets and has crocheted prayer shawls and numerous other crocheted items for craft fairs. She is single and has two sons.



## Faith Matters—March 2021

**May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. (Romans 15:13)**

Dear Friends in Christ,

Grace to you and peace in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Letter writing is not nearly the art it once was. In the days of the Apostle Paul, sending letters to fellow believers was a way to connect with others and build relationships. Through letters, faith among Christians was shared and the promise of hope flourished. Paul almost always began his letters with a greeting and ended his letters with a benediction. In between those bookends was the substance of his teaching and caring.

Romans is the longest of Paul's letters. While he never met the Christians in Rome, he valued their devotion to Christ. In Romans, he spoke of the role of faith in people's lives. He spoke of the necessity to build bridges among diverse people, of declaring the power of Christ's resurrection glory, of sharing the love and peace of God through the Holy Spirit, and of the universality of a Christian faith which offers salvation to all who believe.

Embedded in Paul's letter to the Romans are calls for: hospitality, sacrifice in the manner of Christ, devoting our talents and energy to serving the community, making a difference in the world through love, working for peace, and promoting the new covenant in Christ. This new covenant doesn't deny the value of the old covenant between God and the Hebrew people; rather, it reveals a blessed relationship with our Lord as the One who liberates us from the holdovers of our former days to embrace the call of repurposed lives for a new day and for the sake of the gospel. This is truly a blessing for the church in today's world. And Romans is as valuable in the 21<sup>st</sup> century as it was in the 1<sup>st</sup> century.

Just as the Roman church fought over issues of justice, faithfulness and inclusion, the church today wrestles with many of the same issues. And just as the leadership defined the direction of the church in Paul's day, it does so still. If the church is to have vitality and purpose, it must have strong leaders who share a common vision and sense of purpose that can, with God's help, design a path forward into a new future.

Your church leaders are hard at work creating a mission plan they believe will move the church in a promising direction of re-engaging the community of Springfield. The Session and Pastor Nominating Committee will call a designated (temporary) pastor for Outreach and that pastor will work on helping the church fulfill its newly formed mission of:

**Building UP, Building OUT, Building WIDE**

Once this designated pastor is in place and doing good work bridging the church with a changing community, the Pastor Nominating Committee will go to "step two" of their process and search for a permanent Head-of-Staff Pastor.

Before signing off on my last letter to you, may I say that it has been my joy and honor to serve as your Interim Pastor these past two years. I thank you for your support. And now,

Dear friends, may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope,

*Pastor Rhonda Myers*



# **First Presbyterian Church of Springfield**

## **Mission Statement**

### **Purpose:**

In the face of great change all around, our purpose is to be builders of a community that is inclusive, spiritual, hospitable, encouraging, connectional, and supportive.

Inspired by Scripture, our purpose is to open our spiritual hearts to the Lord as we share broadly the gospel of Jesus Christ through word and deed, reflecting the love and welcome of God.

Encouraged by a common faith and the movement of the Holy Spirit, our purpose is to offer ourselves in sacred worship to God through prayer, praise, and thanksgiving and to draw our neighbors alongside us in joyful expressions of faith.

Convicted by the Word preached, our purpose is to serve as the Lord's disciples by serving others with grace, hope and joy in a diverse but joint community.

Emboldened by the Sacraments, our purpose is to offer seeking hearts many and varied opportunities for connection to the Lord, renewal by grace, unity in a shared peace, and a soul awareness that prompts action in the Way of Christ.

Empowered by Prayer, our purpose is to be a mission field in the community of Springfield by offering opportunities for spiritual growth as we connect need with care.

Created for Community, our calling is to be builders:

**Building UP in Faith, Building OUT for Community, Building WIDE with Care.**

### **Values:**

Guided by Scripture and prayer, we seek to be a place of welcome which embodies our purpose to be an inclusive, connectional, joyful community that gives its all in our love of God and neighbor. Warmed and challenged by Worship and the Word, we seek to be disciples of Christ as we respond to the call to Build Up, Build Out and Build Wide our congregation.

### **Vision:**

Outstretched toward the future, we pray for God's empowering Spirit to guide us in being a church that gives real evidence of both purpose and mission, a church that is creative and fluid in worship, open to moments of the holy, welcoming of every child of God's creating, and purposeful in hands-on mission. To this end, we seek to be open to the Spirit's urgings even when they call us to support new ways of being the church as we learn from scripture and one another how Christ calls us to be and do as his ambassadors in the world. We believe fulfillment of this vision will be evidenced in changing patterns of worship, education, mission, discipleship and stewardship. And while this vision is challenging for an historic congregation steeped in tradition, we believe that, with God's help, we can Build Up, Build Out and Build Wide our congregation so that Christ's presence is fully known in and beyond Springfield.

### **Mission Statement:**

More than a landmark and, with God's help, never a museum, we are evidence of God's loving Spirit in the center of Springfield. Comforted and challenged by the gospel of Jesus Christ, we strive to be a welcoming community that serves Christ by serving others with grace, hope and joy. At the intersection of faith and life, church and culture, Morris Avenue and Church Mall, we share God's love through worship, education and ministries of healing, reconciliation and peace. We affirm the worth of all God's children and seek to nurture each individual along the Way of Christ. Inspired by our heritage, we approach our future with hope and trust in the fulfillment of God's purpose for this congregation.

*Approved 21Feb2021*

## **SUMMARY OF THE 2020 ANNUAL MEETING**

Due to the ongoing Corona-19 virus and NJ State guidelines a virtual Annual Congregation/Corporation Meeting was held on Sunday, February 21, 2021 at 1pm. Annual reports of the boards and committees and a summary of the Mission Study Team's report were received. Amended by-laws were approved that merged the Board of Trustees with the Session. This change from a bicameral to a unicameral board will reduce the number of leaders to fill the board.

The Mission Study Team, Dawn Clarke, Angela Ruebling-Jass, Heather Francis and Pastor Rhonda have been meeting since spring 2020. Pastor Rhonda introduced the structure of the Mission Study Report, which the Presbytery Committee on Ministry enthusiastically approved. In response to some key elements of the report, they recommended we consider calling a Designated Pastor for Outreach prior to calling a Senior Pastor. Creating this temporary position would serve as a pilot program for intentionally and energetically reaching out in the community. The Mission Study Team discussed this proposal with Session and all agreed this was a good path to follow. Once this Designated Pastor is in place and work of outreach has begun, the Pastor Nominating Committee will shift gears to part two of the calling and seek an installed Senior Pastor. Those attending the virtual meeting were in favor of moving in this direction. Pastor Nominating Committee members were presented and approved. The slate for PNC is: Elders; Roberta Ares and Dawn Clarke, Deacons; Angela Ruebling-Jass, Art Biber and Carol Kaiser.

Treasurer, Steve Kitsko, reported that despite this year being an unusual year due to the pandemic we did okay financially. He stressed that growth and income are needed to keep the church self-sustaining.

In closing, Pastor Rhonda was thanked for her service as Interim Pastor for the past two years.

Linda Amiano  
Clerk of Session

## **LENTEN DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS**

Lenten Devotional booklets were distributed via e-mail in February to all active members and friends that have e-mail. Those without e-mail were mailed a hard copy. Anyone wishing a hard copy may call the office to arrange pick-up or mail.

## **MONTHLY OFFICER MEETINGS:**

**Session: Monday, March 1, 2021 at 7:00pm via Zoom**

Session matters should be directed to Linda Amiano, Clerk

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 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 the Northeast are assessed a **Per Capita** charge to fund expenses and Mission of the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly. Our apportionment for the year 2021 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. If you have not yet picked up your offering envelopes, they are available in the office. Call ahead to make arrangements for pick-up.



## **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS**

*A reminder to set your clocks ahead one hour before you retire for the evening on Saturday, March 13<sup>th</sup>.*



**Palm Sunday is March 28<sup>th</sup>-**

*Palms will be available after the worship service for those wishing to pick them up.*



**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 24th. 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

Place  
Stamp  
here

PLACE ADDRESS  
LABEL HERE

Worship is live-streamed each Sunday at 10:15am on Facebook.  
Find and "like" our page!

Recordings can be found on YouTube. Look for our iconic picture.



facebook

Springfield Presbyterian Church

