



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 2025

Dear Brother and Sisters in Christ,

I want to thank you for the tremendous outpouring of love and support over these last few months and especially the last 4 weeks when my surgery was expedited and then through my recovery and the passing of my mom. Thanks too for your quiet understanding of being without a February edition of the Tower to keep everyone connected and informed.

In the midst of my grief and healing I had a lot of time to ponder would be a hopeful and enriching Lenten theme. My spiritual director has often said to me, when you can sense God's presence, look first in nature.

For the first 5 days that I was home from surgery I had a live-in aide. She was the aunt of one of the aides who had cared for my parents and she was a great help and blessing. "Candy" was not only helpful but filled with energy and did not like to sit still even when I was resting. She kept asking me "What else can I do? What else do you need help with??" After about 3 days, I was running out of basic tasks and she begged me for more projects. "I am strong and can do anything you need. Just tell me!" By this time, she had cleaned everything except the inside of the washing machine and dish washer (kidding) so I said, "well...the winds have taken down dozens of tiny branches, if you feel like going outside and cleaning up the driveway and yard, by all means!"

"I'll do it!", she said. And she did. She picked up every branch and twig she could find and neatly piled them at the base of the big tree in the front yard for Bill Phillips to remove during Spring Clean-up. I marveled at her dedication, her commitment and her organization to clear away all that was making the yard messy! The pile is still there, and as I get stronger, I too will add to that pile with more twigs over the next few weeks.

As I was pondering a Lenten theme for this year, I came across a beloved Lenten book I had used before: "A Clearing Season" By Sarah Parsons. I re-read her introduction. She

writes “ *Lent is not all about penitence, misdeeds, guilt and sacrifice. It’s also about introspection...and invitation to come closer to God*” BOOM! Yes, that’s it.

So...this year I will be using Sarah Parson’s book “ A Clearing Season” as our guide for our weekly Lenten devotions after our yummy soup/bread nights each Wednesday in Lent, beginning March 12th.

Ash Wednesday which is this coming week, March 5th, we will also have a special service at 7 PM. I hope and pray you have the courage and commitment to set aside that time to start your ‘clearing season’; a season of clearing away what no longer serves you or pleases God, roadblocks to faithfulness and a season for clearing away all the dead wood that is littering your lives and your heart.

There’s an old quote that says “ *Remove the rock from your shoe, rather than learn to limp with it, comfortably*”

I hope to see you on Wednesdays in the clearing season,

Grace and peace,

Rev Jen

THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.
7TH DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

WASHINGTON D.C. OFFICE
251 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-5361

BERNARDSVILLE DISTRICT OFFICE
75 CLAREMONT ROAD, SUITE 206
BERNARDSVILLE, NJ 07924
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COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

December 18, 2024

Reverend Jen Van Zandt
First Presbyterian Church of Springfield
210 Morris Ave
Springfield, NJ 07081

Dear Reverend Zandt,

I am writing to extend my best wishes to you and the members of First Presbyterian Church of Springfield during this holiday season. Christmas is a good time to reflect on the strength of the Seventh Congressional District's faith community and I commend First Presbyterian Church for demonstrating the values of faith which bring all of us together.

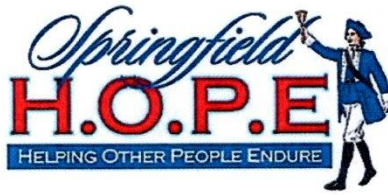
Your efforts to provide spiritual support as well as outreach, resources, and services that ensure the physical wellbeing of your members and those in need in the greater community are deeply appreciated. First Presbyterian Church of Springfield is a cornerstone of Springfield's faith community offering all a welcoming place to celebrate their beliefs.

I wish you, your loved ones and your congregation the blessings of the Christmas season and a wonderful year ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. H. K. Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

Tom Kean Jr.
Member of Congress



1 Cornell Parkway
Springfield, NJ 07081

February 11, 2025

Congregation
First Presbyterian Church of Springfield
c/o Reverend Jen Van Zandt
37 Church Mall
Springfield, NJ 07081

Dear Rev. Van Zandt and Congregation,

Thank you for your generous donation of \$2000.00 to Springfield HOPE, a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code (20-8556464). Your contribution is tax deductible to the full extent permitted by law. Please retain this letter for your tax records.

Your donation allows us to continue our mission to assist residents in their time of need. Springfield HOPE operates solely through donations and your generous gift will go a long way. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Paula J. Kaiser
Trustee



Springfield First Aid Squad, Inc.

10 North Trivett Avenue • Springfield, NJ 07081

February 13, 2025

Rev. Jen Van Zandt
Pastor, First Presbyterian Church of Springfield
37 Church Mall
Springfield, New Jersey 07081

Dear Rev. Van Zandt,

Thank you so much for the generous donation of \$500.00 to the Springfield First Aid Squad.

We rely on generous contributions such as yours to our organization.

The Springfield First Aid Squad is the primary emergency medical services provider for the Township of Springfield celebrating 75+ years. We appreciate your continued support of our organization.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth J. Fritzen
President

EJF/

The Springfield First Aid Squad is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing emergency medical treatment & ambulance transportation to those that live, work or just pass through our town. New volunteers are always in need; no prior experience is required as the Squad will provide the training. Donations are equally welcome as, without the community's support, the Squad would not be able to operate.

In an emergency, always Call 9-1-1

Non-emergency: 973-908-8EMS or www.SpringfieldFAS.org



Lenten Soup & Bread Suppers

Throughout Lent, we will meet every Wednesday from 6:30 – 8pm for Soup & Bread, Prayers, and a short Bible Study through Holy Week. The bible study is based on the devotional guide, “A Clearing Season” by Sarah Parsons.

Participation is free, but we ask that you sign up to participate so we can calculate how much soup to make.

Volunteers are needed to prepare the soup (two varieties every Wednesday) and to help with the setup and cleanup.

Looking forward to sharing this time with you.

The Outreach committee,
Heather Francis, Chair
Rev. Jen





MARCH 4 - ROBBIE SMITH
MARCH 6- KEASHA BLAKE
MARCH 9 - STEVE KITSKO
MARCH 14 -ALIVIA CLARK

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!

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS

A reminder to set your clocks ahead one hour before you retire for the evening on Saturday, March 8th.



The sympathy of the Congregations is extended to the family and friends of Helen Gladys Gieser, who died on December 23th and Jean Sim, who died on February 28, 2025.

There will be a memorial service in our sanctuary for Jean on Saturday, March 15th at 11am and a memorial service for Gladys on Saturday, March 22nd at 1pm.

Both ladies loved this church and they are already missed...



March 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday School groups: "Hide and Seek" - 1st & 3rd Sundays. Begin in Sanctuary at 10:15am "Ted Talks" - 9:15-10am in Parish House Conference Room each Sunday unless noted otherwise. Fellowship Hour follows worship—sign-up sheet is in the Chapel r for weekly hosts.						1
2 No Ted Talks Hide and Seek SS Communion Worship 10:15am	3	4	5 Ash Wednesday Service 7pm	6	7	8 Turn clocks forward 1 hour before retiring tonight!
9 <i>Daylight Savings Time begins</i> Worship 10:15am <i>Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation following service.</i>	10	11	12 Lenten Soup and Bread Supper and Bible Study 6:30 in Chapel.	13	14	15 Jean Sim Memorial Service 11am—Sanctuary
16 Hide & Seek SS Worship Service with Reunion Band 10:15am	17 	18	19 Lenten Soup and Bread Supper and Bible Study 6:30 in Chapel.	20 SPRING BEGINS!	21 	22 Helen Gladys Geiser Memorial Service - 1pm Sanctuary
23 Worship service 10:15am	24	25	26 Lenten Soup and Bread Supper and Bible Study 6:30 in Chapel.	27	28	29
30 Worship Service 10:15am	31					

First Presbyterian Church of Springfield

Primary Business Address
37 Church Mall
Springfield, NJ 07081-1208

Phone: 973-379-4320
Fax: 973-379-8883
Email: office@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, April 9th. 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

**THE 280TH MEETING OF THE
CONGREGATION AND CORPORATION**

The 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 9, 2025,
following the 10:15am Morning Worship Service.

The purpose of this meeting is to receive annual reports and vote on the
Pastor's Terms of Call for 2025.