



THE TOWER

First Presbyterian Church
37 Church Mall
Springfield, NJ 07081

VOL. 81 NO. 1

SEPTEMBER 2022



GREETINGS FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR LINDSEY

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

“You shall go out with joy and be led forth in peace.” (Isaiah 55:12)

The Presbytery has designated the month of September as the Season of Peace. It is a four-week pilgrimage designed to deepen the pursuit of peace for congregations. Each week will have a theme beginning with:

Week 1 September 4-10: Climate Change

Week 2 September 11-17: Non-Violence

Week 3 September 18-24: The Intersection Between Race and Poverty

Week 4 September 24-October 2: Immigration and Migration

If you look at all these themes, you will realize that we are currently facing changes that have been gradually creating despair and interruption in our lives for years. For instance, climate change. We are beginning to see signs of climate change that is very troubling and dangerous. If we do not begin to take measures now to secure our safe environment which God so ingeniously created, we shall soon find ourselves in perilous conditions.

Of course, it would be great if we all took care of our planet because God calls us to and because we want to leave the earth better than we found it for the generations that come after us. Life during the last two years have been particularly hard for us to dwell on anything but surviving a pandemic, and it is hard enough just to get from week to week without being responsible for stuff that happens in the future. But we must heed these calls and make care for our planet a priority.

Then God said, “Let us make humanity in our image to resemble us so that they may take charge of the fish of the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the earth, and all the crawling things on earth.” Genesis 1:26 (CEB)

God created humankind as his most loved creation, and we must do everything to live up to his expectation! As the weeks go by, I will be praying for climate change, non-violence, relationships between races and immigration and migration and I implore you pray with me pertaining to the themes that has been outlined by the Presbytery as a daily devotion.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Madelynne Lindsey

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

1 Frank Spital (100th Birthday!)
8 Debra Kensicki
10 Kris Ruebling-Jass
17 Andrew Guida
18 Barbara Reifsnyder
19 Russell A. Werner, Jr. (RJ)
21 Kyle Doremus
24 Monica Skolnick
26 Raffaella Conetta



IF YOUR BIRTHDAY IS NOT LISTED IN THE TOWER, WE DO NOT HAVE IT IN OUR RECORDS. WE ARE HAPPY TO CELEBRATE ALL !

ADDRESS UPDATES:

Please be sure to send a note to the office if you have had a change to your address, phone number, cell phone or e-mail. Thank you!

SESSION will meet on the second Monday of September, due to the holiday.

Monday, 9/12/2021 at 7:00pm via zoom. Please contact Linda Amiano if you have any problems with attending the meeting. Reports should be e-mailed in advance.

REGULAR OFFICE HOURS RESUME:

Beginning Tuesday, September 6, 2022, the front office will be staffed 9am-Noon & 1-3pm M-F. If staff is out of the office, please leave a message on the answering machine. Please contact Pastor Lindsey directly via her cell (call or text) 973-714-0741 or e-mail: madelynne_lindsey@yahoo.com or Rev. Roberto Fois at 908-240-6000 or RFois@springfieldpresbyterian.org

Staff schedules vary, so it may be helpful to call ahead of your visit 973-379-4320. Please leave a message and it will be returned as soon as possible.



Sunday, 9/11/2022 marks the 21st anniversary of the terrorist attacks upon our country, now known as Patriot Day. We are eternally grateful to all armed forces and first responders.

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ROBERTO



“From Squishy to Solid”

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: “Come, go down to the potter’s house, and there I will let you hear my words.” So I went down to the potter’s house, and there he was working at his wheel. The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter’s hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him. Then the word of the Lord came to me: Can I not do with you, just as this potter has done? says the Lord. Just like the clay in the potter’s hand, so are you in my hand. (Jeremiah 18:1-6 – edited)

Over the years I’ve used a variety of materials to build all kinds of things. Papier-mache to make puppets, wood to build furniture, and clay to make vessels. While I am pretty good with wood and papier-mache, my skill at the potter’s wheel is not impressive at all. Things just keep collapsing and often I find myself having to start from scratch.

This is why I find the parable of God as the potter so relevant. I can imagine God making and remaking me as a servant of the realm of God. I can imagine collapsing upon myself (as it often happens with clay) and I can imagine being reshaped in a way I didn’t even think possible.

What is so striking is that the potter uses very common clay (basically dirt) mixed with water, to create useful recipients to provide water to the thirsty, to preserve wine (yum...) to store food items for the hungry, to share. In the process, the potter goes from a squishy, slimy, collapsible material to a solid vessel capable of holding its own. I may fancy myself as a fine porcelain, but perhaps the potter is making a rough bowl out of me to serve a basic purpose.

What a lesson... God shaping and reshaping us for ministry, changing us from squishy, wet dirt into a tool to suit the needs of God’s people right here, right now. As we start a new season, we are faced with the opportunity to be useful, to be a vessel to feed the hungry through our S.H.A.R.E. Alliance ministry (more about that on Rally Sunday,) a container of care for our A.S.H. (After School Home) program (more about that on Rally Sunday as well,) or a jug of joy to support one of the committees in our church.

Whether you are comfortable with papier-mache, wood, or clay, the Almighty has a plan to use your material to do on earth the will of God as it is done in heaven. Let yourself go from squishy to solid in the hands of the Maker.

Prayer: Divine potter, make me, carve me, mold me, use me. For your glory and the edification of your Creation. Amen.

September 2022

First Presbyterian Church of Springfield

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 10:15pm Communion Worship Service	5 <i>Labor Day</i> Office closed	6	7	8	9	10
11 10:15pm Worship Service Rally Day brunch, Sundaes and presentation	12 <i>Session 7pm</i>	13	14	15	16	17
18 10:15pm Worship Service FH: Celebrating Frank S's 100th birthday 12-5: Church Info Table at Dave Mitchell Day @Town Hall	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 10:15pm Worship Service	26	27	28	29	30	

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
37 Church Mall
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September Notable Dates:

- ❖ Monday, 9/5/2022 – Labor Day – office closed
- ❖ Sunday, 9/11/2022 – Rally Sunday!- Brunch! Sundaes! Presentation!
- ❖ Sunday, 9/11/2022- Patriot Day and Grandparents' Day
- ❖ Sunday, 9/18/2022 – Dave Mitchell Day at Town Hall -church info table 12-5
- ❖ Wednesday, 9/21/2022 – International Day of Peace
- ❖ Thursday, 9/22/2022 – First day of Autumn