



THE TOWER

First Presbyterian Church
37 Church Mall, Springfield, NJ 07081
www.SpringfieldPresbyterian.org
973-379-4320

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SEPTEMBER 2023



Always
give
yourselves
fully to
the work
of the
Lord ...



1 Corinthians 15:58

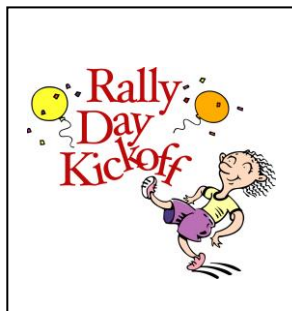
Ecclesiastes 5:19 (NLT) says,
"To enjoy your work ...
is indeed a gift from God."



RALLY DAY SUNDAY, SEPT. 17th

Sunday School Welcome Back Celebration

We will "kick-off" our fall season with a joyful worship service on Sunday, September 17th. There are special celebration plans following the worship service for the whole congregation, including plenty of food, so please plan to be part of the grand day. Details to follow!



PASTORS' CONTACT INFORMATION

Rev. Jen can be reached at her office email address:

Pastor@springfieldpresbyterian.org.

She can also be reached (by voice or by text) on her cell phone at: 609-468-4988.

Pastor Roberto can be reached at his office email address:

RFois@springfieldpresbyterian.org or his cell, 908-240-6000.

Office hours and schedules vary weekly, so please contact the Pastors to arrange your visit.



CHOIR RESUMES- SEPTEMBER 7TH

The adult choir rehearsals resume on Thursday, September 7th in the Chapel at 7:30 p.m. Come and join our Choir Director, Liliya Khabotkova, as she begins a new season of music at our church. Liliya invites anyone interested to come to rehearsal. There are no auditions! All that is needed is a willing heart and a love of singing. If you've been thinking of joining the choir, now is a great time—everyone is beginning new music together!

MEMBER NEWS



The sacrament of Baptism is such a special celebration in our Christian lives! Not only is this a blessing for the child and parents but also for all who are present.

In this service, the congregation vows to be an example, and to encourage the child to know and follow Christ.

We will celebrate Baptism during the September 10th worship service, and look forward to surrounding the Priest family with the love and support of this Congregation as Charlotte is joined with Christ.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

A few weeks ago, I was getting gas at my local QuickChek when I hear this racket. I turned off the radio to see where the noise was coming from. A car, at my '12 o'clock' was pulling into the parking lot. A substantial car part had dropped from its rightful place underneath the car and was now dragging and scraping the macadam. He pulled into the very first parking spot so he could get out and find the culprit. It looked to me like the engine under cover had fallen down, and so did his face. He started making phone calls. I was hoping he had AAA.

A few hours later, I was driving on the highway to my book group and saw another car, this time a small pickup truck which also had a part dangling from the back of his undercarriage, although thankfully it wasn't scraping the ground. Weird!

Three hours later, upon leaving my book group, I saw and heard car in front of me, which was pulling a small trailer and the connecting chains were dragging and scraping the pavement making sparks all the way down the road. Three times in one day? What was the message?

I chewed on it for a couple of days and thought well, when we don't pay attention to car maintenance, things go wrong. It's the same for our prayer life. When we are not consistently attuned to God and what God wants for our lives, we can miss all sorts of clues and lessons that God wants to show us and share with us. We can even find ourselves adrift or sidelined with no clear direction because we've let our prayer life somewhere in the rearview mirror.

As we've been talking about throughout August in worship, the first step to getting our prayer life back on track is paying attention, especially to signs that may be hints or invitations from God. The second step to growing our prayer life is by doing 'regular maintenance' by turning to scripture. The Psalms are particularly helpful for this. The third step is learning to "listen" to and for God. Just like we do when we bring our car in for maintenance or repair. The mechanic's first question always is: "*What does the problem SOUND like?*" It's the same when we listen for God's voice. The last step in strengthening our prayer life is to learn to STOP and BE Still. Psalm 46 says "*Be Still and know that I am God*".

Knowing that God is WITH us and wants to keep us up and running is both comforting but also very helpful. When difficulties come, we are then prepared and able to handle whatever comes because prayer will give us peace, insight and patience in life's unexpected and crazy moments. May you seek to continue to deepen your prayer life we move into Fall and begin to explore our monthly theme of Discipleship.

'See you in September...'!

Grace and Peace,

Rev Jen



A CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UPDATE

Beginning September 24th, students will begin sitting with their family in church for the 10:15am service. They will participate with the "Time for Children and Youth" portion of the service, and then be excused to Sunday School. They will reunite with their family in the gathering room (Chapel) after worship.

If you are interested in registering your child for our Sunday School program, please see Mrs. Guida on or before Rally Day, September 17th after the worship service, or call 908-447-7399.

In Memoriam...

It is with sympathy of the Congregation that we report the death of our Church Member and Friend:

Marilyn Madison, who died on August 11th, 2023 at Sunrise Assisted Living in Morris Plains, NJ.

Marilyn joined this church in December 2002 and was an active member of the Presbyterian Women's group. She was predeceased by her husband, Frank, and survived by her daughter, Cynthia J. Madison (Michael Curtis) and son, John D. Madison (Mary Ann). Notes of sympathy may be sent to the family c/o Cynthia J. Madison, 232 Springbrook Trail, Sparta, NJ 07871.



1-Frank Spital; 8-Debra Kensicki; 10-Kris Ruebling-Jass; 12-James Wills
17-Andrew Guida; 18-Barbara Reifsnyder; 19-Russell A. Werner, Jr. (RJ);
21- Kyle Doremus; 26-Raffaela Conetta

PLEASE NOTE: BIRTHDAYS ARE PROVIDED FROM OUR MEMBER DATA BASE. (MONTH AND DAY ONLY) IF YOUR BIRTHDAY IS MISSING FROM OUR NEWSLETTER, AND YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE INCLUDED, PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE WITH YOUR INFO

A message from Pastor Roberto

Peace Be with You!

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. (John 14:27 NRSVUE)

Every Sunday we share the Peace of Christ. Besides the joy of embracing and welcoming each other, we share something special. The Peace of Christ is not just the absence of conflict, but a guiding principle to organize our lives as a community and our view of the world. This month of September we have a unique opportunity, not only to wish peace to each other, but to actively participate in the work of peace.

Every year for the past 40 years, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) sponsors the Peacemaking Program, helping congregations engage in active peacemaking in their own communities while also participating in peacemaking around the world. We will be collecting a special offering every week until World Communion Sunday – which is October 1st. Twenty five percent of the special offering will be used to support a local peace initiative of our choosing, 25% will go to a regional fund and 50% will go to sustain the work of peace around the world. Initiatives include addressing social unrest, political violence and persecution, issues of refugee resettlement and gun violence and bullying among others. When giving to these causes please be generous.

Since 1984 more than 350 International Peacemakers from 60 countries have been hosted through the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Peacemaking Program from partner denominations and organizations around the world. They visit Presbyteries each year to interpret issues of peace and justice. These visits inform, open hearts and minds, touch lives, establish relationships, inspire new ministries, help us understand peace and justice concerns around the world, and provide insights that can inspire us to greater faithfulness.

One of the ten 2023 Peacemakers will spend almost a week in our Presbytery September 15 through September 21. She is Magdalena Łuczak, a humanitarian activist working in Poland. Professionally associated with the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, she works with a focus on the rights of minorities at the Polish-Belarusian border.

Magdalena's humanitarian activism history includes working on a rescue team in the Greek Island of Lesbos and in refugee centers in Berlin, Germany.

Her schedule will include a presentation at Presbytery, on the morning of September 17th at First Presbyterian Church Tenafly; **engaging in a time of sharing and conversation FOR ALL that afternoon 4:00 pm at our church in Springfield**; presenting through a zoom FOR ALL on Tuesday night, September 19 and visits to various mission and ministry sites. We hope that you will decide to participate, both with your financial contribution and with your presence on September 17th at 4:00 pm.

Peace is only possible when we commit to working for it, defending it and contributing to spreading it far and wide. When we do that, the **peace** of God, which surpasses all **understanding**, will guard our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus.

Rev. Roberto Fois

CONTACT information



HAS YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION CHANGED?

In this age of technology, most of us have e-mail and cell phones. If you have changed your e-mail address in the past year, or would like Pastor to have a cell phone contact number for you in the office files, please send an e-mail to the office, or leave a message on Linda J's voicemail, so we can update our records.

Also, if you would like us to have an emergency contact in our records (children or friend to call if you become incapacitated), please provide that, as well.

We do not share this information with other members without your permission.

Past storms have affected town-wide power. Having an emergency cell phone number for these occasions would allow us to reach out to you.

Please use the form below if you prefer to send it in the mail or through the collection basket:

Name _____

Please update my contact information:

Address: _____

Home Phone # _____ cell # _____

e-mail _____

Send the Tower Newsletter and announcements to my e-mail address -
yes/no

Emergency contact & relationship to you:

Please place a * next to information you do not wish to be shared outside of office.

Please call the office (973) 379-4320 or e-mail office@springfieldpresbyterian.org should any of your contact information change throughout the year. Thank you!



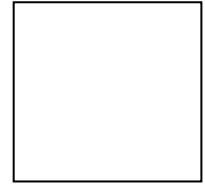
September 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PRAYS! JOIN PASTOR ROBERTO VIA ZOOM FOR 20-30 MINUTES 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 Momday 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</p>					1	2
3 Worship Service 10:15am PC(USA)PEACEMAKING PROGRAM BEGINS	4 LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED	5 FRONT OFFICE RE-SUMES REGULAR HOURS OF 9-12 & 1-3PM	6	7 CHOIR REHEARSALS RESUME 7:30PM	8	9
10 CHOIR 9:30AM Worship Service 10:15am With Baptism No Fellowship today	11 PATRIOT DAY SESSION MTG 7PM-HYBRID	12	13	14 CHOIR REHEARSAL 7:30PM	15	16
17 CHOIR 9:30AM Communion Worship Service 10:15am Rally Day Fellowship 4PM –PEACEMAKING PRESENTATION IN PARISH HOUSE	18 PNC-7PM	19	20	21 CHOIR REHEARSAL 7:30PM	22	23
24 CHOIR 9:30AM Worship Service 10:15am	25	26	27	28 CHOIR REHEARSAL 7:30PM	29	30

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SPRINGFIELD

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 SPRINGFIELD, NJ 07081 973-379-4320
 OFFICE@SPRINGFIELDPRESBYTERIAN.ORG

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



PLACE LABEL HERE

October

SAVE THE DATES FOR OCTOBER EVENTS!

- Pastor Appreciation Month
- Peacemaking/World Communion Sunday, *October 1, 2023*
- Columbus Day, *October 9, 2023*
- Indigenous Peoples Day, *October 9, 2023*
- Reformation Sunday, *October 29, 2023*
- Reformation Day, *October 31, 2023*

OctoberTower Newsletter Deadline: All articles for the October edition are due in the office by September 15th. E-mail is preferred: office@springfieldpresbyterian.org.