



# 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](http://www.SpringfieldPresbyterian.org)*

VOL. 75 NO. 06

February 2023

## **ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION/CORPORATION**

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, February 26, 2023, 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/Rysonia (Dawn) Clarke, Clerk of Session

Elder David Ares, President



The Season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday (February 22<sup>nd</sup>) and continues for 40 days to Palm Sunday on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. The following week is referred to as *Holy Week*, leading to the Resurrection of the Lord on Easter Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. We encourage all to participate in the many opportunities offered during lent to enrich your faith.

Event details can be found throughout this newsletter.



## VALENTINE BINGO – FEBRUARY 5<sup>TH</sup>

Join us for this fun event which includes lunch and “white elephant” prizes for the winners. Please call the office by Noon on Friday to register. The event begins following the Sunday worship service.

## Soup & Bread Wednesday is Back at FPC!

Starting on Ash Wednesday – February 22<sup>nd</sup> – we will meet every Wednesday of Lent for Soup & Bread, Prayers, and a short Bible Study.

**Meal at 6:00 pm**

**Service/Bible Study at 7:00 pm**

Participation is free, but you need to sign up to participate and receive the Bible Study material.

Sign up sheet is in the chapel or call the church office at 973.379.4320



**The First Presbyterian Church in Springfield**  
210 Morris Ave., Springfield, NJ 07081

As we approach the season of Lent, we are bringing back a wonderful tradition of Wednesday Soup & Bread. Starting on Ash Wednesday – February 22<sup>nd</sup> – we will meet every Wednesday at 6:00 for Soup & Bread, Prayers, and a short Bible Study. The meeting will continue every Wednesday of March until Holy Week. Volunteers are needed to prepare the soup (two varieties every Wednesday) and to help with the setup and cleanup. Volunteers can contact Gloria Southward via email at [Butterfli\\_gs@verizon.com](mailto:Butterfli_gs@verizon.com). Please register so that we can have an accurate count for food and study preparation.

**Sign-up in the chapel or call the office at 973-379-4320.**

## FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR LINDSEY

Eternal God, you have called us to be members of one body. Join us with those who in all times and places have praised your name, that with one heart and mind, we may show the unity of your church, and bring honor to our Lord Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

This prayer really resonates because February is designated as Black History month. And I often refer to Galatians 3:28 New International Version (NIV):

<sup>28</sup> There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Yes, God has truly called us to be members of one body. He sent his beloved son, Jesus Christ to let us know that his love is shared with everyone. But, in today's climate of recent attacks on immigrants and other minorities, I wonder how God and Jesus must be feeling about what they see and hear.

It reminds me of the famous "**I Have a Dream**" public speech that was delivered by American civil rights activist Martin Luther King Jr. during the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom on August 28, 1963, in which he called for civil and economic rights and an end to racism in the United States.

Has his speech been lost especially in the recent attacks on Asian Americans and other people which reflects the diversity always embraced in our country? What can we do to relive Martin Luther King's words? I say it is to love one another. It is just that simple.

My time with you will soon be coming to an end, but always remember I love each and every one of you and I am truly grateful for the time the Lord has allowed me to be your Interim Pastor. - 😊

*Humbly submitted,*

*Pastor Madefynne*





**THANK YOU, PASTOR LINDSEY!**

**Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>-Farewell Reception**

Pastor Madelynne Lindsey's last Sunday with the Congregation is February 26<sup>th</sup>. A special Fellowship Hour is planned so that all can wish her well in her next assignment and thank her for serving this church as Interim Pastor for the past two years.

Please plan to join us for worship at 10:15am followed by the Congregational Meeting and reception.

**Presbyterian Church (USA) Per Capita**

Each year, our congregation is assessed a fee to cover administrative fees for Presbytery and for PC(USA). We ask our members to reimburse the church for their share, if means allow. The assessment is \$40 per member (adults and confirmed young adults). You may use the envelope provided in this mailing or use a pew envelope and note "Per Capita" on the memo line.

Per Capita giving makes it possible for:

- Presbyterians to discern and live out God's call in their lives
- Churches to connect with individuals seeking a call to ministry
- Staff support for General Assembly committees and commissions
- Management and coordination of General Assembly gatherings
- Presbytery and synod leaders to gather for training and discernment
- Counsel and support for churches in crisis (misconduct, legal matters)
- Presbyteries to address matters of inclusion, participation, and representation at all levels of church leadership and decision-making
- The denomination to build connections with ecumenical partners around the world
- Presbyteries and pastors to receive support on immigration issues
- Presbyterian history to be cataloged, preserved, and utilized by future generations



Feb 1 - Lynn Doll  
 Feb 2 - Clarence Davis  
 Feb 3 - Linda Amiano  
           Ken Guida  
           Jean Sim  
 Feb 5 - Eileen Clark  
           Heather Hecking  
 Feb 6 - Chase Werner

Feb 7 - Ryan Doremus  
 Feb 14 - Donald Hartman  
 Feb 15 - Pat Gahm  
 Feb 16 - Alyssa Williams  
 Feb 26 - Melissa Guida Bliss  
 Feb 28 - Walter Peterson



*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!*

## SHARE Alliance Update

As you probably know already, the SHARE Alliance is a consortium of congregations and civic organizations dedicated to the proposition that ***no one in our community should go to sleep hungry or wonder where their next meal would come from.***

Currently seven congregations and organizations (including our Presbyterian Church, Springfield's two Jewish synagogues, Antioch Baptist, Renaissance, Rotary Club International and Springfield Unity Project) are supporting the effort, contributing volunteers and resources, all under the expert direction of Kristin Ruebling-Jass and Carol Kaiser (co-president and secretary of SHARE respectively) who share leadership responsibilities with other volunteers.

Recently activities include:

- We organized a board of directors, wrote bylaws, and applied for tax-exempt status.
- Applied – and received – various grants and donations, (\$19,000 from the Presbytery of the Northeast, \$5,000 from Renaissance Church, and \$3,000 from the Atlantic Federal Credit Union.)

Coming up soon:

- We are in the process of repairing the floor of the dining room at the Parish House, allowing us to open the **Community Kitchen and Community Pantry**, hopefully by the end of the first quarter.



Everyone at SHARE is grateful for the work that David Ares and the staff of our church is putting in, to finally make this idea a reality and begin contributing to food justice in our community.

Volunteers are very much needed to help with administrative tasks and helping patrons once we open to the public. Speak to Kristin, Carol, or Pastor Roberto if you are interested in serving.

From left to right, **Rev. Roberto Fois** - Associated Pastor of Outreach & Community Engagement, **Andrea Holley-Blair**, Co-President of the SHARE Alliance and a leader of the Springfield Unity Project (SUP), **Russell Hovland**, Treasurer of the SHARE Alliance and a member of Renaissance Church, **Rev. Reginald Harris**, member of the Board of Director of SHARE Alliance and

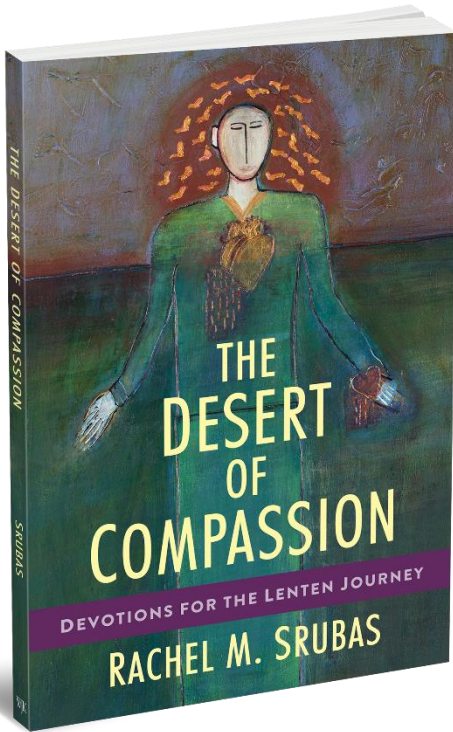
Associate Pastor at Antioch Baptist Church, **Jim Bover**, member of the Board of Director of SHARE Alliance and Director of Ren Cares at Renaissance Church, our very own **Carol Kaiser**, Secretary of the SHARE Alliance and a deacon at our Church, **Anthony Mero**, CEO Atlantic Federal Credit Union, **Carla White-Garrett**, Community Engagement Representative, Atlantic Federal Credit Union. Absent from the picture **Kristin Ruebling-Jass**, Co-President of the SHARE Alliance and a member of Session and **Mary Odusanya**, member of the Board of Director of SHARE Alliance and representing the Rotary International Springfield Chapter.

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## JOIN US FOR A LENTEN STUDY SERIES BASED ON

*The Desert of Compassion*, by Rachel M. Srubas

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Each Wednesday in March, after the Lenten Soup and Bread Supper and prayers, we will explore the study of *“The Desert of Compassion”* by Rachel M. Srubas. Rev. Roberto Fois will provide a study guide each week to follow. It would be helpful to have your own copy of the book, but it’s not mandatory. See the link below if you would like to purchase your own copy. The supper begins at 6pm followed by prayers, and the study begins at 7pm. Both are conducted in the Chapel gathering area and all are welcome to attend.

Registration is appreciated for proper food and study guide preparation.

Each week’s study is not dependent upon the others, so if you have to miss a week, you can still participate easily

in the others.

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Jesus experienced forty days of testing and transformation in the rugged Judean desert. Whether disease, social injustice, personal loss, or other challenges have led you to the spiritual desert, it may seem doubtful that any good can come from hardship. Yet it was the arid wilderness of physical deprivation and soul-deep testing that prepared Jesus to live a life of devotion, courage, and merciful service to others. *The Desert of Compassion* provides daily Lenten sustenance inspired by sacred Scripture, present-day teachings, and personal experience.

This year our church will use the season of Lent to facilitate conversation in order to navigate our own trials with trust in God and compassion for ourselves.

[Amazon link to purchase.](#) Also available at Westminster Knox Press, Barnes & Noble and other book sellers.

## A Message from Rev. Fois

### **Soup & Bread as Worship**

*“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ instructions and the communal life, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. They met in the Temple, and they broke bread together in their homes every day. With joyful and sincere hearts, they took their meals in common, praising God and winning the approval of all the people.”*

*Acts 2:42, 46 Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible. Sheed & Ward.*

As a young student, I developed a circle of close friends. There was Girolamo, twins Micky and Giovanni, Andrea, and a jolly fellow by the nickname of Cicci (Chi-chi) which means chubby. They came to our home every Wednesday to study together and often stayed for supper. My grandmother (the cook of the house) would be heard mumbling under her breath: “I guess you are all staying for dinner. I’ll add water to the soup.” Soup and bread on Wednesday. What a great idea.

Sharing food together and often was at the foundation of the ancient church. Bread (*artos* in Greek) and a stew of vegetables and meats (somewhat like our thick soups of today) were the most common food items (sorry, cream of mushroom was not a thing back then) and bread came to symbolize all food, nourishment, including the spiritual kind that Jesus talked about so often. As you surely remember, Jesus described himself as “the bread (*artos*) of heaven” and gave the apostles the bread as his body at the last supper.

As we enter the season of Lent, we are bringing back the wonderful tradition of Wednesday Soup & Bread. Starting on Ash Wednesday – February 22<sup>nd</sup> – we will meet every Wednesday at 6:00 pm for Soup & Bread, Prayers, and a short Bible Study. The meeting will be held every Wednesday of March until Holy Week.

There is much to be gained in the breaking of bread and the sharing of a meal together. Besides delighting in some delicious varieties of soups that our volunteers will prepare, we will have the opportunity to share in each other’s company in an informal and friendly environment, to discuss the discipline of Lent in preparation for Holy Week and to just be together as the community that God intended for us to be.

Worship can take many forms. Getting together to share a simple meal, to pray together and to study the Word, is one of the easiest and most satisfying ways of worshipping our God, our Creator, and the giver of all good things.

I hope you will prayerfully consider participating in this ministry. I promise not to add too much water to the soup. I also hope you will consider volunteering to prepare the soup (two varieties every Wednesday) and to help with the setup and cleanup. Have a blessed Lenten Season.

Pastor Roberto

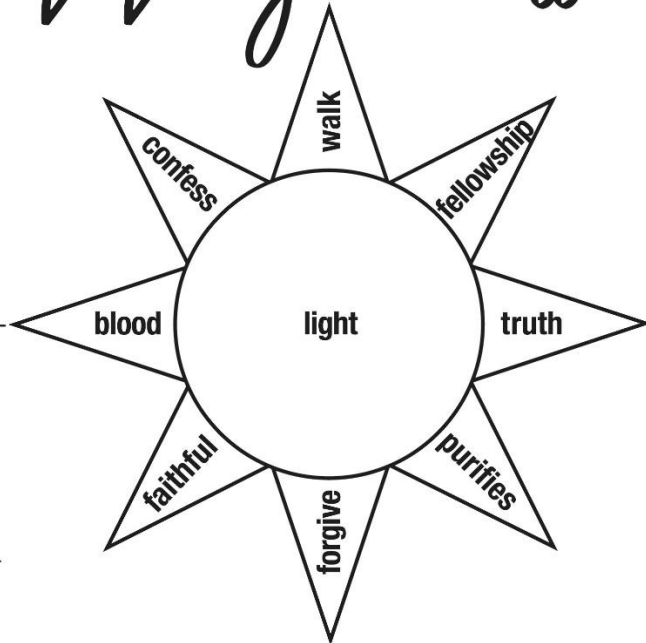


## The light of forgiveness

The Lord is full of mercy and light. What happens when we confess our sins to God?

### Directions:

Use the coded shapes to fill in the blanks and complete 1 John 1:7-9, NIV.



But if we \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_, as he is in the \_\_\_\_\_,  
 we have \_\_\_\_\_ with one another, and the \_\_\_\_\_  
 of Jesus, his Son, \_\_\_\_\_ us from all sin. If we claim to be  
 without sin, we deceive ourselves and the \_\_\_\_\_ is not in us.  
 If we \_\_\_\_\_ our sins, he is \_\_\_\_\_ and just and will  
 \_\_\_\_\_ us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

**1 JOHN 1:7-9, NIV**



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AT SPRINGFIELD, NJ

## February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Office/Parish House: 37 Church Mall, Springfield, NJ 07081 Phone: 1-973-379-4320 Email: office@springfieldpresbyterian.org Interim Pastor Lindsey: Madelynnelindsey@yahoo.com Assoc. Pastor Rev. Fois: rfois@springfieldpresbyterian.org Treasurer: skitsko@springfieldpresbyterian.org Christian Education: medusa12558@msn.com			1	2	3	4
Choir 9:30am <b>Communion Worship Service</b> 10:15am <b>BINGO &amp; lunch</b> —11:30am in chapel	5	6	7	8	9	10
Choir 9:30am <b>Worship Service</b> 10:15am Linwood Bagby, guest preacher	12	13	14	15	16	17
Choir 9:30am <b>Worship Service</b> 10:15am Rev. Betty Tom, guest preacher Distortion Band	19	20	21	22	23	24
Choir 9:30am <b>Worship Service</b> 10:15am <b>Annual Meeting</b> 11:15am <b>Farewell Reception for Pastor Lindsey</b>	26	27	28	Ash Wednesday 6pm Soup & Bread 7pm Service In Chapel	23	24
						

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

stamp

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PLACE LABEL HERE

**No matter who you are,  
or where you are in your life's journey,  
you are welcome here.**



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PRAYS** - We meet via Zoom for 20-30 min 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 Monday 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>**