

# The Church Mouse Newsletter

The First Presbyterian Church of Maywood  
401 Maywood Ave, Maywood, NJ 07607



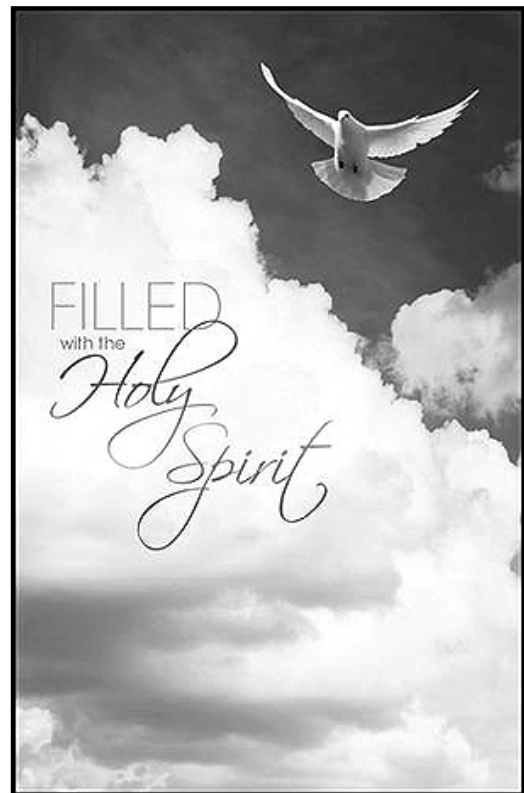
**March 2023**

## March Message:

Are you old enough to remember the old saying “if March comes in like a lion, it will go out like a lamb” or vice versa? Meaning mostly the weather is unpredictable.

March is known for several dates, St. Patrick’s Day (17<sup>th</sup>), The Ides of March (15<sup>th</sup>), Ramadan begins this year on the 22<sup>nd</sup>; Girl Scout Sunday, the date varies. Spring begins on the 20<sup>th</sup> this year but that does not *guarantee* that the winter weather is *over*. Also, let’s not forget that we probably have our own special occasions and dates in March.

Now with all this ruminating about dates, let us focus on the fact that each day is God’s gift to us, however, what we *do* with that day is our gift to God. Think and even meditate on the words of **Micah 6:8**, “**what does the Lord require of you, to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God**”. Now if we turn to **2 John vs. 6**, “**And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love**”.



Jesus says, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.” John 8:12

Let’s take this command *very seriously* so that we will walk in love so that others will know *we are children of our loving God*.

**To God be the Glory...**

With love and prayers,

**Betty**



## The Clerk's Corner

Hello Everyone,

Lent is upon us. What are you thinking about during this sacred season? I usually try to spend some extra time **reading the Bible**, reflecting upon **Jesus' life** and **sacrifices for us**, and trying to think of ways to live a better life. Do you give up anything for Lent, or do anything of a sacrificial nature? I have not officially given up anything for Lent since my parents "suggested" (ha-ha, read "forced") us to do so as children. I do, though, try to cut down on some items such as sweets, and use the money I save to buy additional food for the food pantry. You all know by now how much **I love the food pantry!** I also enjoy playing the **Lenten hymns**. They are **beautiful in their solemnity**.

As Music Director, this is also the time that I am planning the music for Palm Sunday and Easter. Does anyone have a **favorite hymn** that they would like us to **sing**? We usually do the standard few, but is there a less common one that you would like me to look up for you? If so, **please let me know soon**, so I have some time to research. I want our music to reflect who we are and what we like. Please reach out. We will have some **extra excellent music this year**. Come to church to find out why!

With hugs and prayers,

*Sheryl*

## Member Updates



**Daylight Saving Time** begins on **Sunday, March 12th** at **2:00 am**. On Saturday night, clocks are set forward one hour (i.e., losing one hour) to "*spring forward*."

We have received a **thank you note** from the congregation of the **First Presbyterian Church of Elmwood Park**, thanking us for our hospitality when their congregation joined us in worship and a special coffee hour in late January. **We are intending to do the same and visit their church for worship** in the near future! Car pooling will be available. The note is pinned on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall if you'd like to read it!

Our Church **SouperBowl** Fellowship hour was a delicious success! Thank you to those who made the **Soups** to share and to all who brought side dishes to go with! And we saw a very nice collection of canned soup for the Center for Food Action. We surely scored a **Touch Down!**



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY to:**

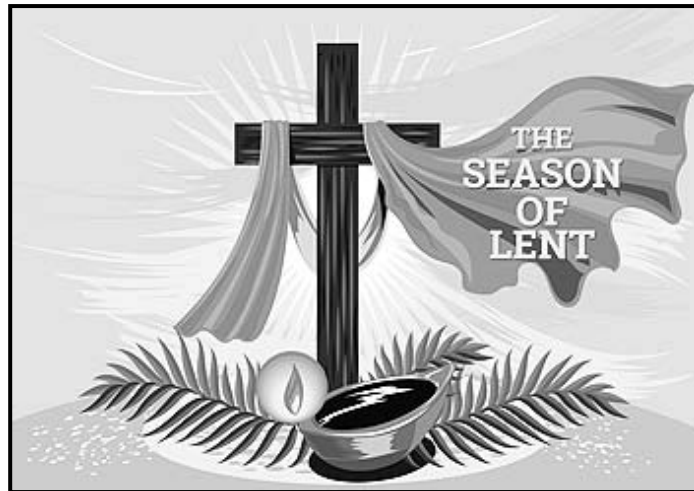
**Nancy Gasper – March 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Steve Alletti – March 30<sup>th</sup>**

**Wishing you both a great day and year ahead!**



Sheryl, R.V. and Tom recently received the **Luminary Award** at the **Old Library Theatre** annual gala. This award is to celebrate the contributions (onstage or behind the scenes) made to the group by the recipients, and it is the first time that the award was given for the **contributions of one family!** How wonderful it must be to have so many talents in one family. Heartfelt congratulations to Sheryl, Tom and R.V. for being recognized not only for their God given talents, but for all of the hard work behind it!



Soon, winter will give way to the renewing season of spring. The first **little flowers** are already **springing forth!** As you know, this time of year we find ourselves in the season of Lent. **The Lenten season** is an **important time** in the **life of our church**. Lent is a time of personal reflection, fasting and doing unto others. It invites us to prepare ourselves for the Resurrection on Easter morning. As we pray during the season of Lent, we can **grow closer to God**. Lent is observed from February 22nd (Ash Wednesday) to April 8th, marking the 40 days that Jesus spent fasting in the desert. Easter morning is on April 9th. During Lent we can encourage our own **spiritual growth**, and work on **doing things for others, self sacrifice** and praying for **friends** and the **world**, which can lead to our **own personal growth**. What a wonderful season it truly is! We know **prayer** is an **important part of Lent**. May these weeks leading up to the sadness of Good Friday and the wonder of the Resurrection remind us of who Jesus is, how he loves us, and who he created us to be...





**Question:** What happens when you ask a *wise* man for help with your *herb garden*?

**Answer:** You get some *sage* advice!

**Thought for the month:**

*"Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant."*

... Robert Louis Stevenson



**!HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!**

**!HAPPY SPRING!**

