

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SAYREVILLE

**Rev. Jessica Malek
Interim Minister**



**172 Main Street, Sayreville, NJ
(732) 257-6353**

**Email: Churchoffice172@optimum.net
Website: www.FPCSayreville.org**

**Fifth Sunday in Lent
Blanket Sunday**

Interim Pastor: Rev. Jessica Malek

Organist: Sandy Albano

Worship Assistant: Lou Mastro

Audio & Visual Support: Alannah Bailey/Dona Lewandowski

 **Prelude**

 **Welcome & Announcements**

Called by God

Call to Worship (*Worship Assistant*) Psalm 130

Leader: Out of the depths we call to you, O Lord.

People: Let your ears hear our supplication.

Leader: We wait for you, O God. In your word is our hope.

People: We wait for you, O Lord, for with you there is mercy.

Leader: Come. Let us worship God.

 **Hymn 409**

“God Is Here!”

Forgiven by God

 **Call to Confession** (*Worship Assistant*)

The proof of God’s amazing love is this: While we were sinners, Christ died for us. Because we have faith in him, we dare to approach God with confidence. In faith and penitence, let us confess our sin before God and one another.



Prayer of Confession

God, we are a busy people. We become pre-occupied with the demands of work, our relationships, and our communities. We tend to focus on our own needs and fail to see the needs of those around us. We do that which we should not and fail to do that which we should. We ask for your forgiveness and for your guidance in following the path you have set before us. Hear us now as we humbly come before you silently and privately to confess our sin.



Silent Confession *(A time of silence will be observed for personal confession.)*



Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news! Who is in the position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. Amen.



Gloria Patri Hymn 577 (All)

Avery & Marsh

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. A-men. A-men. A-men. A-men. A-men. A-men. Amen.

Upheld by Christ



Prayers of the People - *Sharing Joys, Concerns and Thanksgivings*



Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer (debts & debtors)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.



Gospel Reading: John 11:1-45

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. ⁷Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." ¹¹After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." ¹²The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." ¹³Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." ¹⁷When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." ²⁸When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." ²⁹And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha

had met him. ³¹The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³²When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵Jesus began to weep. ³⁶So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" ³⁸Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." ⁴⁵Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God



Sermon

"Lazarus"



Hymn 286

"Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

Responding to the Word



Affirmation of Faith

Apostle's Creed (Modern English)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived**

by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.



Committing Our Lives, Gifts and Talents



Offertory



Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessing flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above the heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**



Prayer of Dedication

Holy God, we offer these gifts to you, fruits of our labors and a token of our appreciation for everything that you have done for us and given to us. We pray that you guide their use for the welfare of your people. Amen.



Sharing the Peace of God

Pastor: Be kind to one another, and tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

(You are invited to remain in your pew and wave to those around you as a sign of peace and reconciliation.)

(Please remain standing for the Closing Hymn)

Sent Out by The Spirit



Hymn 300

"We are One in the Spirit"



Charge and Benediction



Congregational Response *"Surely the Presence"*

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place, I can feel His mighty power and His grace. I can hear the brush of angel's wings. I see glory on each face. Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.



Postlude

*** Welcome ***

We welcome you in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior! We want to know you were here! Guests and visitors are invited to sign our Vestibule Guest Book or fill out the Welcome Card in the pew and put it in the collection plate. If you are interested in becoming a member of this Church, please call (732) 257-6353 and speak with the church secretary for further information. Make sure to "like" our page at www.facebook.com/FPCSayreville, and check out our website at FPCSayreville.org. Donations can be made to the website.

Weekly Attendance: 3/15/26 – 41

Weekly Giving: 3/15/26 – \$527.00

*** Prayer List ***

Manona Smith
Special Friends in Need
Howard Merritt
Prudy DeLap
Beth DePinto
Kim Barone
Becca & Hazel Laikowski
Joe & Marilyn Zakrzewski
David Zito
Stacia Drotar
The Haney Family
The Magee Family
Barbara Busch
Christine Brower
Kathy Walker

Martha Saltzman
Frank Martino
Vincent Prestigiacommo
Roxanne Parks
Ken Adams
The Boley Family
The Laikowski Clan
Russell Hayek
Charles Gilke
Gary & Diane Spychalski
Jennifer Martin
Jorge Barreiro & Family
Keith Carney
Timothy Newsome
Dona Lewandowski

Our Calendar of Events can be found on our website FPCSayreville.org

Monday, 3/23	5:30pm	Office Open
Tuesday, 3/24	7:00pm	Troop 777 (Sunday School Area)
Wednesday, 3/25	7:00pm	AA (Hall)
Thursday, 3/26	7:00pm	Troop 96 (Sunday School area)
Friday, 3/27	5-6:30pm	Fish & Chicken Dinner Fundraiser
Sunday, 3/29	9:30am	Sunday School
		Office Open
	10:30am	Palm Sunday Worship Service
	1:00pm	Ghana Church (Sanctuary)

**** Announcements ****

Per Capita \$42: You may have noticed in your box of pledge envelopes an envelope marked "Per Capita." In Paul's letter to the Philippians, he praises the church at Philippi for supporting his ministry throughout the Mediterranean World. He was able to spread the good news of Jesus Christ in places where many were unable to go. Among Presbyterians, our per capita assessment is akin to supporting Paul. The per capita offering supports the mission of the higher governing bodies of the Presbyterian Church (USA), which includes The Presbytery of the Coastlands, the Synod of the Northeast, and the General Assembly.

You may ask, "Why should I care about 'higher governing bodies'?" As Presbyterians, we are a connectional church. On a local level, a particular church may make a significant impact on the life of its people and the community. However, when we join forces as a denomination, we have the potential to reach millions. The per capita pays administrative costs for most of the national and worldwide missions of the PCUSA so that when we donate to special offerings, those offerings go specifically for program.

The per capita assessment this year is \$42 per active member. In a family of four confirmed members that would be \$168 for that family. Children baptized but not yet confirmed are not assessed. Whether you attend church every week or only occasionally, you are considered an active member of First Presbyterian and are on our active rolls. Your annual pledges and offerings help maintain First Presbyterian and its ministries. Your Session has adopted a policy that only funds received as Per Capita money will be paid out for First Presbyterian's assessment. We encourage members to pay their per capita over and above their annual giving, and we do keep confidential records of families who have paid their per capita.

When we support 'Paul' - our higher governing bodies - we help 'the greater church' to more effectively spread the good news of Jesus Christ. Please prayerfully consider contributing your family's per capita assessment over and above your usual giving as this will not only support the ministry here in Sayreville but will also help to reach people in this country and around the globe. God's Blessings, Greg Braun, Treasurer

Fundraiser: We have a fundraising initiative called Spiral through Amboy Bank. You can now donate to First Presbyterian Church of Sayreville by using a digital banking account, you can access the Giving Center, locate the church's name and make a donation. If you are not an Amboy Bank account holder, check with your bank and see if they are associated with Spiral. All donations are tax deductible and you will be able to get a statement of your contributions.

Food Pantry: We have a separate phone and email address for the Deacons Food Pantry. The phone number is (848) 280-1927 and the email is FPCShelpinghand@gmail.com. If you or someone you know is in need, please contact the Deacons to arrange assistance. Our food pantry is available throughout the year for any community member in need.

****We are in need of hams for our Easter food baskets****

Headphones: There are headphones available for anyone wishing to enhance hearing during worship services. Please see Gary Spychalski or the Pastor for more info.

Join the Choir! Choir rehearsals are held on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am in the sanctuary. No experience is necessary, and training will be provided. Not only will you build long-lasting friendships with other choir members, but you also build your relationship with God through worship music.

Pastoral Care Emergencies: If you have a pastoral care emergency, please call (732) 403-4160. This is a dedicated phone line for emergencies. You can also contact Rev. Malek by emailing her at revjessicamalek@gmail.com. This is a confidential email that is read only by the pastor.

We ask that ALL FOOD PANTRY requests be made by contacting FPCShelpinghand@gmail.com or (848) 280-1927 only.

General Church Information: The office is generally open Mondays & Fridays at 5:30pm and Sunday mornings from 9:30-11:30am. PLEASE CALL before you stop to verify if someone is here. Emails and phones will be checked on Wednesdays when the office is closed. You can reach the office by using the church's email churchoffice172@optimum.net, or by calling the office at (732) 257-6353.

**** Online Giving ****

We have online giving available through the Presbyterian Foundation and Vanco Giving Solutions, on our website FPCSayreville.org! Simply click on the "Give Now" button, and you will be directed to our giving page. Once there, create a profile and you can then make a one-time donation or schedule auto-payments monthly, weekly, etc. to major church accounts.

You can also donate through the app "Give Plus". Download the app, enter the church zip code of 08872, and click on our church. You can make either a onetime donation or set up recurring donations, depending on which you prefer.

You can also scan the following code with your smartphone camera to be connected to our giving page.



PENDING CHURCH IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

CAPITAL PROJECT

	Estimated Cost
1.Kitchen Dishwasher	7,000 10/25 \$6,000 Completed
2.Church AC Units 2@\$6,000 each Then replacement schedule of 1 new unit each year for the next six years	\$12,000 10/25 \$9650 Completed
3.AC for CE Hall	\$20,000
4.Steeple Refinish	<u>\$60,000</u>
	\$80,000

OPERATIONS MAINTENANCE PROJECTS

1.Replace church altar lights	\$1,500 funded, awaiting installation
2.Replace parking lot light on CE Hall	\$2,500 funded, awaiting installation
3.Replace door and frame to church office	\$7,000
4.Seal area along back wall of church	<u>1,500</u> 8/25 donated
	\$12,500

GRAND TOTAL \$92,500

The above list is revised from our prior posting since a number of its projects have been completed. Thank you one and all for your ongoing and continuing support of our church. Without you, none of this would be possible.

As you can see, we have a number of costly projects left that we need to fund. If you or anyone you know would be willing to support any of these important items, please let the Pastor or any of the church officers know.

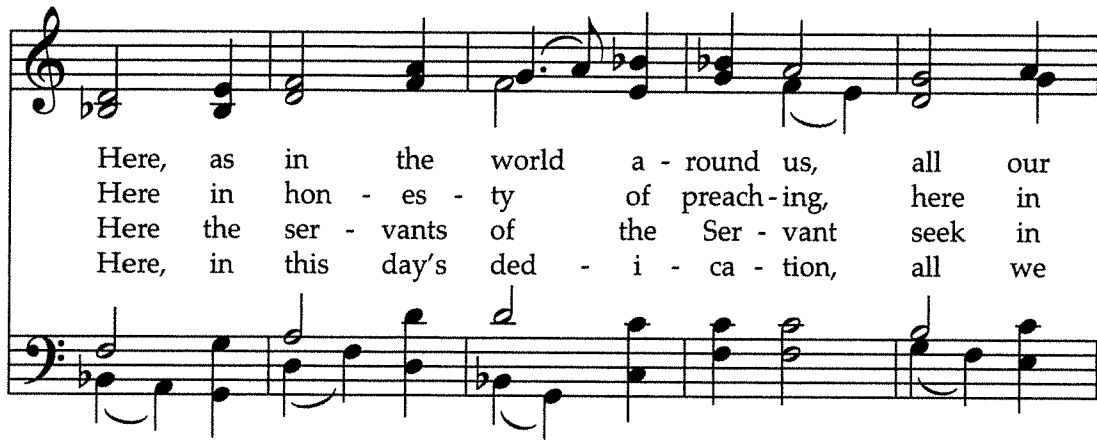
God Is Here!

1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to
 2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our
 3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the
 4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an

of - fer praise and prayer, may we find in
 life - long need of grace; here are ta - ble,
 Shep - herd's flock and fold; here as bread and
 age of change and doubt keep us faith - ful

full - er mea - sure what it is in Christ we share.
 font, and pul - pit; here the cross has cen - tral place.
 wine are tak - en, Christ sus - tains us as of old.
 to the gos - pel; help us work your pur - pose out.

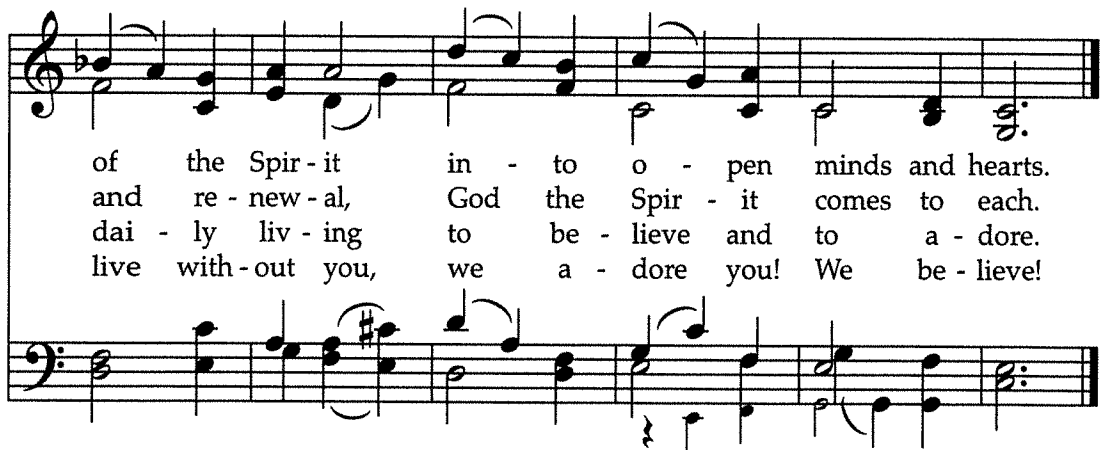
Commissioned for the dedication of a renovated worship space in Austin, Texas, this text is one of the few to devote attention to how customary church features facilitate worship. The tune was composed in wartime Britain to replace a Haydn tune tainted by Nazi associations.



Here, as in the world a - round us, all our
 Here in hon - es - ty of preach - ing, here in
 Here the ser - vants of the Ser - vant seek in
 Here, in this day's ded - i - ca - tion, all we



var - ied skills and arts wait the com - ing
 si - lence, as in speech, here, in new - ness
 wor - ship to ex - plore what it means in
 have to give, re - ceive: we, who can - not

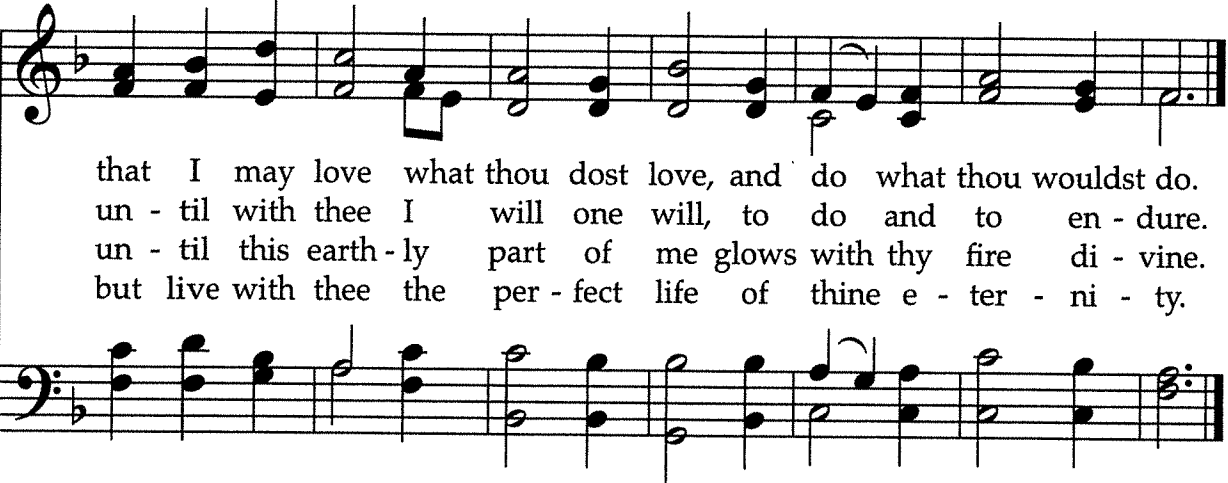


of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
 and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
 dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.
 live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

Breathe on Me, Breath of God 286



1 Breathe on me, Breath of God; fill me with life a - new,
2 Breathe on me, Breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,
3 Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am whol - ly thine,
4 Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I nev - er die,



that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.
un - til with thee I will one will, to do and to en - dure.
un - til this earth - ly part of me glows with thy fire di - vine.
but live with thee the per - fect life of thine e - ter - ni - ty.

In both Hebrew and Greek, the words for "spirit" can equally well be translated as "breath" or "wind," so it is very appropriate to address the Holy Spirit as the "Breath of God." This tune by an English organist has become the customary one in North American hymnals.

We Are One in the Spirit 300

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

Capo 1: (Em) (Bm) (Em)
Fm Cm Fm

1 We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord;
2 We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand;
3 We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side;
4 All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come,

(Am) (Em)
B^bm Fm

we are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord,
we will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand,
we will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side,
and all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's on - ly Son,

(Am) (Em)
B^bm Fm

and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:
and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
and we'll guard hu - man dig - ni - ty and save hu - man pride:
and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:

Refrain (C) (Em)
D^b Fm

And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love, by our

(Am) (Em) (Am) (Bm) (Em) (Am/E) (Em)
B^bm Fm B^bm Cm Fm B^bm/F Fm

love; yes, they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love.

A parish priest at St. Brendan's on the South Side of Chicago in the 1960s was very involved in the local Civil Rights movement and needed something for his youth choir to sing at ecumenical, interracial events. Finding nothing, he wrote this song in a single day.

EASTER FLOWERS

ORDERS DUE NO LATER THAN MARCH 29, 2026

# OF TUPLIPS	_____	\$10.00 EACH
# OF HYACINTH	_____	\$10.00 EACH
# OF LILIES	_____	\$10.00 EACH
TOTAL	_____	\$_____

CONTACT: JILL THAISZ
(732) 841-0468
JTHAISZ78@YAHOO.COM

CHECKS MADE PAYABLE TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SAYREVILLE

PLEASE PRINT

NAME: _____

IN MEMORY OF: _____

IN HONOR OF: _____



**SAYREVILLE LIONS CLUB
PRESENTS**

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

WITH THE EASTER BUNNY



Great Food / Face Painting / Games for the Children

Pictures with the EASTER BUNNY

EGG HUNT and Chocolate Bunnies for the Children

Bring your Children – Lots of Fun

SUNDAY MARCH 29 8AM – 11:30AM

SAYREVILLE WAR MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL

ENTER THROUGH REAR OF BUILDING

BUY YOUR TICKETS AT THE DOOR

ADULTS: \$10.00 CHILDREN 5-12: \$5.00 (FREE FOR UNDER 5)

PROCEEDS

WILL SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS

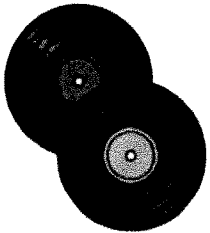
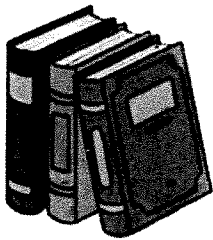
Sayreville BIC - Sayreville Care & Share Food Bank


Sayreville Feeds – and Lions Sight & Hearing Projects

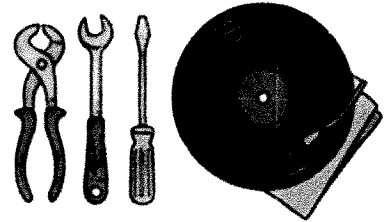
First Presbyterian Church of Sayreville


16th ANNUAL
Flea Market

 172 Main St. Sayreville



 **Date:**
June 6, 2026




 **Time:**
8am - 2pm



**VENDORS SPACE
AVAILABLE**

 churchoffice172@optimum.net

 732-257-6353



First Presbyterian Church of Sayreville

Annual Flea Market

Space Rental Agreement

e-mail churchoffice172@optimum.net call 732-257-6353

Saturday June 6th, 2026 8am-2pm

Rain Date 6/13/2026

Rain out will be determined on Thursday by 7pm prior to flea market.

Date ___/___/___

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ cell phone _____

E-Mail _____

Please make checks payable to **First Presbyterian Church of Sayreville**

#of spaces (____) space \$25 or 2for \$40 Total \$_____

#of table's (____) \$8ea limited to one per/space depending on availability Total \$_____

Payment Check _____ or Cash _____ Total payment \$_____

What type of items are you selling _____

I _____ have received and accepted the rules and regulations from the First Presbyterian Church of Sayreville as outlined on attached page.

Signature _____ Rental fees are not refundable after May 22, 2026



Sing a New Song!

“Glory to God” hymnals have been placed back in the pews, thanks to a very generous donation from the Plainsboro Presbyterian Church.

The Worship Committee would like to invite you to help us obtain additional hymnals which you can dedicate in memory or honor of a special loved one.

The cost of each hymnal will be \$30.00, covering the purchase cost of the hymnal as well as shipping and handling.

If you are interested in donating a hymnal or hymnals, please fill out the form below and place it in the offering plate. Checks may be made out to First Presbyterian Church, Sayreville for the total amount of your order. Any questions may be directed to John or Mary Beckhusen at 732-651-5952.

Name: _____

Contact information (email or phone #): _____

In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____