



First Presbyterian Church of Sussex
PRESBYTERIAN
PRESS

21 Unionville Avenue, Sussex, NJ 07461

May 2024

From the Pastor's Desk....

Hello Everyone!

Welcome to May! May 1st is our church's birthday, and this year it's a big one: 185 years! Can you even believe that the 175th anniversary was already a decade ago? Time moves so quickly, as you know and have experienced!

May is a beautiful month and it's also a great month in the lives of pastors. It's a month of taking a breath—after the two busy seasons of Advent and then Lent, May is a month where we celebrate the birth of the church in Pentecost, but it's still less heavy than other months of the year.

This year, Easter was on March 31st, so April was less impacted by the church calendar than it typically is; but it took time to decompress over the great things the church experiences during Advent, Christmas, the buildup to Lent, Lent, Holy Week, and then Easter.

Perhaps your career had similar times of the year that always seemed to be heavier with activities or expectations. And if so, then I'm sure you can relate. And now that we're into May, pastors everywhere can take a deep breath and think about "Okay, God, where are You leading me in my leadership. And where are you leading the church?"

I've found this reflective time to be a key aspect of staying inspired and excited for the things coming up in the church community through the summer and into the fall, when the church is in "ordinary time."

And this time of reflection, of thoughtful planning, comes from Scripture. Proverbs 16:9 says, "*The human mind plans the way, but the Lord directs the steps.*" We think and we give space for where the Lord leads us, and God will guide us every step of the way.

What a joy to be in ministry together and to all think about where God is leading us, individually and as a congregation. One thing I'm thinking about is how to be more hands on in our support of the greater community. We lost a critical piece of that puzzle when Family Promise stopped using churches for emergency housing.

So now, since we're past the setbacks of the past, the question becomes: where is God leading us moving forward? In what ways can we continue to be Christ's hands and feet with the realities of our church now?

I invite you to think about this, pray about this, consider this, and then share with a member of Session what comes to mind (if anything). One of the beautiful things of our polity (church structure) is that everyone has the same connection to God, which means God can and does use us all for God's glory!

Enjoy your springtime—now that it's well established—and I'm excited to hear what God has brought forth from amongst us!

In Christ,

Pastor Katherine Scott-Kirschner
(973) 771-4721 (cell)



Mark Your Calendars

The next regular Deacons' meeting will be held on **Sunday, June 9th**, 11:30 a.m., at the church; the next regular Session meeting will be held on **Tuesday, June 18th**, 6:30 p.m., on ZOOM.



Pentecost Offering



This offering will be collected **Pentecost Sunday, May 19th**. This special offering is used for children at risk, youth, and young adults. Forty percent of this offering is retained by our church to be used for a ministry that serves children at risk. If you are not attending in-person worship, please mail your donation to our Depositing Treasurer, Janet Hayzler, 96 Holland Rd., Wantage, NJ 07461. Please put *Pentecost Offering* on the memo line.

Dinner Fundraiser

The Presbyterian Women's Group would like to thank everyone who participated in The Green Olive Fundraiser on April 18th. A check for \$335 was received from The Green Olive. We are so blessed to have a restaurant in Sussex willing to have a fundraiser for us. The total amount now in the Fund For Flooring is \$413!



Spring Clean Up

There will be a Church Clean-Up Day on **Saturday, May 18th**, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. As the saying goes, “Many hands make light work.” Please try and come to help us. Many thanks.
– Buildings & Grounds Committee



Sunday School News

Sunday school runs from 9:30 – 10:15 a.m., for Pre-K through Adult, September through June. Please see Ashley Ziccardi if you have any questions.



Pastoral Care

Pastor Katherine aims to be in the office on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays. She is available at her cell phone number (973-771-4721) the rest of the days and for longer conversations in the evenings. She sets aside Friday evening through Saturday evening as her Sabbath (around 5:00 – 5:00 p.m.) most weeks. If you have a pastoral emergency during this time, please still reach out.



How Are We Doing???

For the Month of April

(Computers Connected During ZOOM + People Attending In-Person Worship)

Average Weekly Attendance: 42
Monthly Offering: \$ 6,437.20



May Birthdays

- (1) Ken Enhoffer
- (5) Sheryl Dekmar
- (9) Allan Stormes
- (10) Rebecca Johnson
- (12) Samuel Touw
- (13) Brian Lewis
- (21) Evelyn Haggard
- (22) Tom Alheidt
- (23) Randy Stormes
- (29) Emmett Touw



Potluck Luncheon With Bingo



The Deacons would like to thank everyone who stayed after worship on April 28th for our potluck luncheon and bingo. Great food and fellowship was had by all who participated!



May

New Sermon Series



Starting June 2nd and ending July 29th, Pastor Katherine will be leading the congregation on a trip back in time to see the original (“OG”) family of the Old Testament. That’s right, we’ll be focusing on the book of Genesis and how God chose to stay connected to humanity through one family, then one people group, and then the whole world. This will surely be a trip to remember!

From the Finance Committee

If you pay your bills using online banking, consider scheduling your weekly or monthly giving like other regular payments. This will greatly assist with our cash flow. Thank you! **We have online giving!** There is a 'donate here' link on our website, www.sussexpresbyterian.org or you can download the GivePlus Mobile App (Vanco) to your smart phone. Our online giving program is provided by the Presbyterian Foundation in partnership with Vanco Services, LLC. Both the Presbyterian Foundation and Vanco Services have very good reputations, and this online giving program came highly recommended by other churches.



Why Per Capita?



Per Capita exists as a way for all Presbyterians to share costs that belong to the whole church and to give meaning to the interdependent nature of Presbyterian polity. For 2024, each member’s contribution is \$42.50

Per Capita is part of the glue that holds Presbyterians together. It exists to allow the whole church to share equitably in those things that make us Presbyterian: our theological identity, our connectedness as communities of faith, our core structures that keep us together as a church, and our call to work for full participation in decision making.

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Please pray for **Teresa Belcher** (friend of the Batemans), **Madelyn Coykendall**, **George Clark**, **Frank Del Sardo, Jr.**, **Beth-Ann Enhoffer**, **Bob & Donna Gibson**, **Rev. Bruce Gillette & Family**, **Walter Houck**, **Charlie & Dodi Lain**, **Lorraine, Betty Martin**, **Rev. Tim Marvil**, **Carol Mullen** (Donna Gibson’s friend), **Art & Carolyn Van Houten**, **Pat Walker**, **Lois Wright**, and **Barbara Young**. Please let the Deacons or the office know who to add and who to remove. **Thank you!**



Prayers of the People E-mail

Pastor Katherine sends out a weekly email with the prayer requests lifted up in worship. If you would like to receive this e-mail, please contact the church office.



Need Help?

The Deacons are here to support and help our church family. If you have difficulty getting something done around your home, inside or out, we would like to help. If we can be of assistance, please speak to a deacon, or call Nancy Barta.



Deacon of the Month

When Pastor Katherine is not available or needs assistance, the following Deacon will be on call for the month of May – Phil Hardin.



Deacons' Fund Offering

A part of the Deacons' ministry is our monthly Deacons' Fund Offering, which assists charitable, nonprofit organizations. The Board of Deacons would like to thank all those who donated to Camp Johnsonburg, our Deacons' Fund recipient for April.



Our Deacons' Fund recipient for May is DASI (Domestic Abuse Services Inc.).

DASI is a 501(c)3 private, nonprofit organization, established in 1984, providing comprehensive services to survivors of domestic and sexual violence and their families in Sussex County. Services are free and confidential. Services for: Domestic Violence Victims/Survivors, Children Exposed to Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault/Abuse Survivors, Teens, and helping those concerned about someone they know. Please give generously!

Prayer Shawl Ministry



Our Prayer Shawl Ministry has been sending prayers and love in the form of beautiful knitted, crocheted, or quilted shawls to people in need of physical, emotional, or spiritual comfort. The shawl maker begins with prayers and blessings for the recipient and keeps these thoughts in mind throughout the creative process. Our shawls are delivered with a message expressing the feelings of love and comfort with which they were made. If you know anyone who could benefit from a prayer shawl, please call Janet (973-875-9252) or see her after worship. If you would like to create these beautiful shawls, a 20 x 60-inch rectangular shawl requires five skeins of yarn. If you don't knit, crochet, or sew, or don't have the time, you can purchase yarn or donate funds for materials.

Calling All Graduates!!!

We are compiling a list of those members and children/grandchildren of members who are graduating or have graduated from various schools from pre-school on up. Please submit the following information to the church office by **June 21st**: name, school attended, degree, awards, or grade completed, and where they are off to next (school, job, etc.). Also, we would like to put a photo of your graduate in the newsletter. You can email your picture to the church at sussexpresbyterian@embarqmail.com. Congratulations to all our graduates!





Refreshments After Worship

Refreshments are served in the fellowship room. Please sign up to bring in goodies on the sign-up sheet in the narthex. Please call Penny Bates if you have any questions.

Just Plain Change Ministry

I give you a new commandment: Love one another; as I have loved you, so you are to love one another. If there is love among you, then all will know that you are my disciples. - John 13:34-35



Please remember to empty your pockets/ purses to help our neighbors in need. Listen to your neighbor, your co-workers, your friends, cashiers at the places where you eat or shop and/or the waitresses where you eat. If you find a need to cheer or support, write down your suggestion on a slip of paper. Put it in the jar in the back of the sanctuary or contact any Deacon. **You can also mail in your donation to Janet Hayzler.**

Yes, your quarters, dimes, and pennies do make a difference in the lives of those around us!

Small Change Suggestion (The suggested amount limit is \$50.)

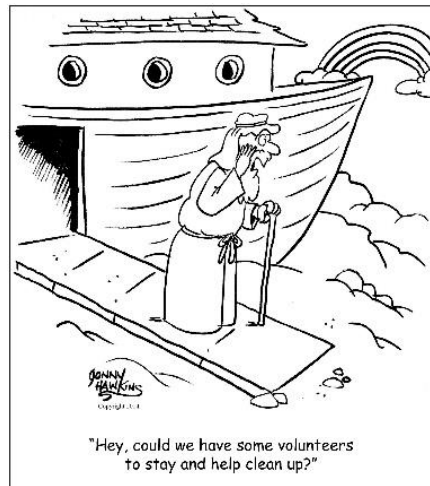
Recipient/situation: _____

Contact information (name, address, phone #): _____

Your name (optional): _____

How do you want to have the "gift" delivered? (By yourself or by a member of the committee? Or other suggestion?): _____

Please continue to listen to your neighbor, classmate, and community members, as each has a story to tell. If we at the First Presbyterian Church of Sussex can help, let someone on the Board of Deacons or Sharon Bove or Pastor Katherine know. There are also papers on the back table in the sanctuary that can be filled out and placed in the glass jar. **Do you know of someone who needs a little boost?**



Lectionary for the Lord's Day

May 2024

- 5 **6th Sunday of Easter**
Psalm 98; John 15:9-17
- 12 **7th Sunday of Easter**
Psalm 1; John 17:6-19
- 19 **Day of Pentecost**
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15
- 26 **Trinity Sunday**
Psalm 29; John 3:1-17



June 2024

- 2 **2nd Sunday after Pentecost**
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; Mark 2:23—3:6
- 9 **3rd Sunday after Pentecost**
Psalm 138; Mark 3:20-35

Can You Help?



Mike Kosco, Chair of the Worship & Sacraments Committee, is looking for people to serve as liturgists and ushers. You can be liturgist in church or at home on the ZOOM platform. If you have done it before, or even if you haven't, please contact him at 973-875-7412, or see him after worship on Sundays. Communion preparers and servers are also needed. A schedule (*through March*) of liturgists, ushers, communion preparer, and communion servers is listed below. **If you cannot volunteer on your scheduled date, please "swap" a date with someone else and notify Sharon Bove at 875-4760. Thank you!**

Schedule of Liturgists

May 5 th	Richard L. Hayzler
May 12 th	Penny Bates
May 19 th	Janet Hayzler
May 26 th	Mike Kosco
June 2 nd	Betsy Sives
June 9 th	Walter Houck



Schedule of Communion Preparers and Servers

Preparers

May 5th – Penny Bates
June 2nd – Nancy Barta

Servers

May 5th – Charles & Penny Bates
June 2nd – Paulette Touw (Intinction)



May 27th

Schedule of Ushers



May 5th
May 12th
May 19th
May 26th
June 2nd
June 9th

Sheryl Dekmar & Phil Hardin
Mary Alice Hosking & Niki Lepes
Chris & Chuck Sarno
Sheila Stormes & Paulette Touw
Kyle DeGroat & Ken Enhoffer
Sheryl Dekmar & Phil Hardin

Local Food Pantry News

The Sussex Help Center is open from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on Wednesdays, and from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. on Mondays/Fridays. The Help Center is working the Market Street Mission and they are looking for gently-used men's clothing: tee's, boxer shorts, and sweat pants. For the Help Center itself, they need bottled water, detergent (laundry and dish), pet food (canned and dry), baby items (diapers, lotion, soaps), and cleaning supplies. Please let Walter Houck know if there is a family in need.



Spring Yard Sale

The Beemerville Presbyterian Church will hold its Spring Yard Sale on **Friday, May 17th and Saturday, May 19th**, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Sussex Elks

Veterans: The Sussex Elks are still collecting needed items for our Veterans, as well as DASI. The Veterans need: body wash, shampoo/conditioner, and toothpaste/toothbrushes. DASI needs: toilet paper, paper towels, tissues, napkins, laundry detergent, Dreft (baby detergent), cleaning products, dish soap, female hygiene products, deodorant, soap, hair-care products, shampoo and conditioner (full size), cereal, canned tuna/chicken, individual snacks, juice boxes, mac & cheese, and soup. Also, small and medium dog/cat food bags, and gift cards for Walmart, Shoprite, and gas in \$10 increments. The following new items are also needed: pillows, twin-size bed sheets, hand towels, larger size women's pajamas, children's pajamas (boys and girls), sweatshirts and sweatpants (XXL), socks, and slippers. Drop-off location: Sussex Elks Lodge #2288. Please leave by the door.

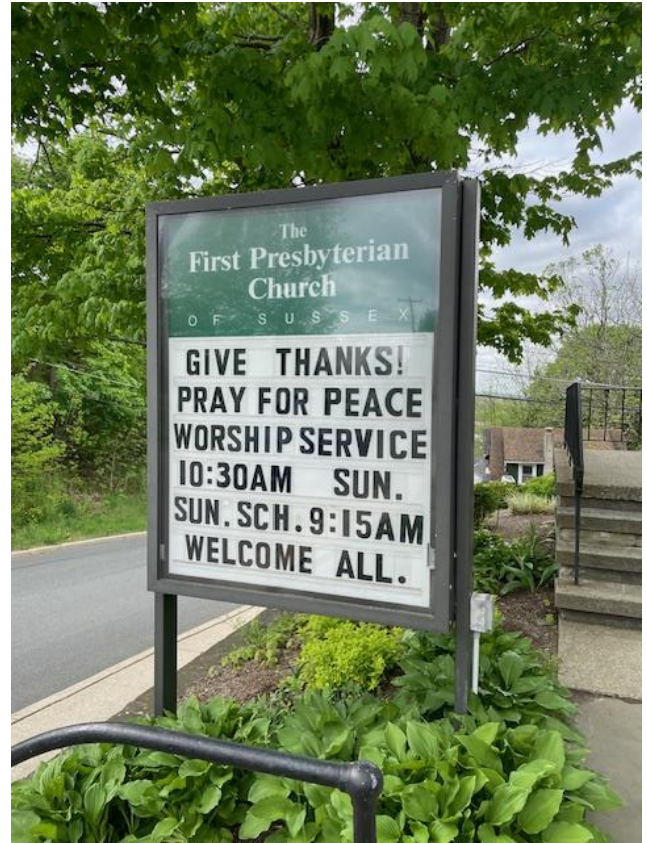


Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises. Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody. With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD. – Psalm 98:4-6



Our Church Sign

(Thank You Phil Hardin, with help from Richard L. Hayzler)



I give you thanks, O LORD, with my
whole heart;
before the gods I sing your praise;
I bow down toward your holy temple
and give thanks to your name for your
steadfast love and your faithfulness;
for you have exalted your name and
your word
above everything.
On the day I called, you answered me,
you increased my strength of soul.
All the kings of the earth shall praise
you, O LORD,
for they have heard the words of your mouth.
They shall sing of the ways of the LORD,
for great is the glory of the LORD.

- Psalm 138:1-5

