



## From Pastor Amy's Desk....

*Even when I must walk through the darkest valley, I fear no danger, for you are with me;*

(Psalm 23:4a – New English Translation)



So much has happened since my last newsletter article. It is dizzying how fast our world has pivoted in a whole new direction. This is a scary time. The abrupt disturbance to our work, school, and social lives, and the uncertainty moving forward, is distressing. When the foundations of our lives shake and crumble, we reach out grasping for something to stabilize us. We reach for Christ. We lean on our faith.

I have been falling upon God and leaning into my faith through all the changes and uncertainties of this pandemic. When all my schedules and routines are being reconfigured, I have found myself turning to the church's calendar, which has not been disrupted. In Liturgical time, we are smack in the middle of Lent on our way to Good Friday and then Easter morning. I am not the only one taking cues in this unsettling time from the church's season of Lent. I saw several Facebook posts saying, "I didn't intend to give up this much for Lent." I have also seen and heard people talking about how they can use this unexpected situation as a gift by adding a spiritual discipline into their daily routine.

During this time of uncertainty, I am glad I have the certainty of God and the Liturgical calendar to ground me. The scripture passages of this season point us to the core of our faith—life that comes out of death. However deep our fear and anxiety and suffering and isolation, Jesus has gone deeper. We believe that God, through Jesus Christ, conquered death, not only for the person of Christ, but for all who believe in God's name. We might just see death and uncertainty around us right now, but God is redeeming us and offering us life. Paul writes to the Romans, "If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's." (Romans 14:8) I don't know what tomorrow will bring, but I know that we belong to the Lord, and our Lord will guide us through this season. Friends, Easter is coming!

Your Partner in Christ's Service,

*Pastor Amy*



## Mark Your Calendars

The next regular Session meeting will be held on **Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>**, 6:30 p.m., at the church; the next regular Deacons' Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>**, 7:00 p.m., at the church.

## Session Highlights

Session met on March 17<sup>th</sup>. The following items were discussed:



- Session did not cover the items presented on the Docket for March 17, 2020, because of the issues regarding the coronavirus. Thus, the following:

### COVID-19 Announcement:

In keeping with the recommendations from the Governor of New Jersey and the President of the United States regarding limiting gatherings and the number of people congregating (an effort to decrease the opportunity for the spread of virus), the First Presbyterian Church of Sussex will be moving to virtual services effective March 22, 2020. The church will be using Facebook Live streaming. Please know this will be a trial run for all of us, including most of you as observers and for the church leaders. Service will begin on Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Please join in a little before the service to ensure all is working well electronically for you.

\*Please continue your donations to the church. All donations can be sent via mail to the attention of Janet Hayzler, 96 Holland Road, Wantage, NJ 07461, or to the church – First Presbyterian Church of Sussex, 21 Unionville Avenue, Sussex, NJ 07461.

- Issues regarding online giving were discussed. This will need further assessment.
- In order to continue maintaining and supporting our church “family ties,” each Elder and Deacon will be responsible for connecting with assigned members and friends of the church.
- The next Session meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 21, 2020, at 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by Charles Bates – Clerk to Session

## Remember the Church



Even though we are not having worship here at the church, bills still need to be paid. Please remember to keep up with your weekly contribution. 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!

## Ecumenical Lenten Study

The last two Monday evening Lenten Study lessons will be held **Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>** and **Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>**, online through Zoom. Join us at 7:00 p.m.



## Holy Week Services



We will be holding Holy Week services. Due to the current situation, the details of when, where, and how are still being figured out. We will send a church-wide email when these details are set. Please also check the church's website and the church's Facebook page for updates.

## Individual Gatherings With ZOOM

The inaugural worship service with ZOOM meeting was received very well. In fact, it has people reaching out to me asking for more opportunities to gather that way. If you would like to 'host' a gathering for a small group, or just an informal time to check in with each other, please contact Pastor Amy.



## Sunday School News



Sunday School at the church has been suspended due to COVID-19 guidelines. We are looking into holding Sunday School through ZOOM meeting. Ashley Ziccardi, the Sunday School Superintendent, will be reaching out to families regarding our plans moving forward.

## How Are We Doing???

**For the Month of March** (March 1<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>)

(includes Worship & Sunday School)

Average Weekly Attendance: 50

Monthly Offering: \$6,829



## New Hours



Pastor Amy began her new hours, as were voted and approved by the congregation at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation/ Corporation. She will now be working 32 hours per week instead of 40 hours. Her work schedule will be Sunday-Wednesday each week. Also, Sharon Bove will be working 10 hours per week instead of 13, so her hours will be Tuesdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thank you for your understanding and flexibility as we all adjust to these new hours.



## 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 2019, each member's contribution is \$39.00.

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.



## Let's Do Brunch

Our brunch outing is on the second Sunday of each month. Hopefully, we will be able to resume this opportunity for wonderful fellowship after worship in May. Our next get-together will be on **Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>**, so mark your calendars, and plan to join us!



## Choir Rehearsal

Once we are back having church services, our choir rehearsals are held each Sunday at 9:20 a.m. in the choir loft. New members will be joyfully received. Please join us!

Hope to see you there!

Linda



## Sermons

Sunday's sermon will be on the side table as you enter the church. Past sermons can be found in the magazine rack in the fellowship room. Sermons can also now be found on the church's webpage. Thank you, Sheryl Dekmar, for making this option possible.



## From Pastor Amy

Please reach out to me with your spiritual and pastoral concerns. My cell number is 973-534-7479, and my email address is [pastoramy@embarqmail.com](mailto:pastoramy@embarqmail.com). My work week is Sunday-Wednesday, but, as always, I am available for pastoral emergencies.



## E-mail Address Correction

Thomas and Jane Clark's email address is [jsclark45@gmail.com](mailto:jsclark45@gmail.com). Please update your directories.



## Donate To Your Church By Shopping At Smile.Amazon

You can increase donations for First Presbyterian Church of Sussex by shopping at <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/22-2422961>. You shop as you normally would on the site, at no extra cost to you, and you don't need to make a separate account. AmazonSmile is a program that donates 0.5% of your eligible purchases on Amazon to a charity of your choice. **IT IS EASY.** Your selection of items will not be limited by using smile.amazon when you shop. Though 0.5% is not a large donation, and it isn't intended to replace your regular charitable activities, AmazonSmile is still a great way to take advantage of a service you're using anyway. Thank you for considering this simple way to help our church. Every little bit helps.



## Ink Cartridge Recycling

Thank you for recycling your used ink cartridges. Keep those cartridges coming! A list of cartridges eligible for recycling can be found at [tonerbuyer.com](http://tonerbuyer.com) and [empties4cash.com](http://empties4cash.com).



## From the Deacons

If anyone knows of a person in need of rides to church or elsewhere, please contact one of the Deacons. **Also, volunteers to help with transportation needs** would be appreciated!



## Deacons' Fund Offering

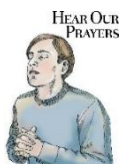
A part of the Deacons' ministry is our monthly Deacons' Fund Offering, which assists charitable, nonprofit organizations. The Board of Deacons would like to thank everyone who donated to our March Deacons' Fund recipient, Pass It Along. This money will be used to offer resources to youth in our community who wish to lead and become involved in many service projects about which they are passionate. Through the programs offered by Pass It Along, youth learn the value of giving back to the community while developing important life skills within themselves.

Our Deacons' Fund for April will go to Harvest House. Harvest House is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation located in the SCARC building on Route 206 in Augusta. Harvest House employs one part-time kitchen manager who, with the help of volunteers, serves 40-50 meals per day. Their mission is to provide a nourishing mid-day meal to fill the physical and emotional needs of an underserved population in the northern section of Sussex County. Harvest House provides a clean, safe, and welcoming environment which is easily accessible to those they serve. Please give generously!



## Prayers of the People E-mail

Pastor Amy 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 or Pastor Amy.



## 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, give it to Pastor Amy, or contact any Deacon.

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 Amy know. There are also papers on the back table in the sanctuary that can be filled out and placed in the glass jar.

***NOTE:*** *We were able to help another person in need. More funds are available. Do you know of someone who needs a little boost?*

## 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 Nancy (973-875-9156) 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.



## In Our Thoughts & Prayers



Please pray for **Bill Davis** (John Davis' brother), **Marlene Decker**, **Tommy Emma** (Lisa Emma's husband), **Beth-Ann Enhoffer**, **Rev. Bruce Gillette & his family**, **Phil Hardin**, **Mary Alice Hosking**, **Betty Pluymers**, **Tonhild Schanstra** (Betty Scymanski's mom), **Ken Van Wageninge** (Carolyn Van Houten's brother), **and the families of Ernie Elder & Kathy Little**. Please let the Deacons or the office know who to add and who to remove. **Thank you!**

## Lectionary For the Lord's Day

### April 2020

- 5 Palm Sunday**  
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Matthew 26:14—27:66 or Matthew 27:11-54
- 12 Resurrection of the Lord/Easter Sunday**  
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10
- 19 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter**  
Psalm 16; John 20:19-31
- 26 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter**  
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; Luke 24:13-35



### May 2020

- 3 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**  
Psalm 23; John 10:1-10
- 10 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**  
Psalm 31:1-05, 15-16; John 14:1-14

## One Great Hour of Sharing



During the season of Lent, members are asked to give generously to this special offering, which goes to support relief efforts in our country and throughout the world. This offering will be collected on **Easter Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>**. Please plan to contribute to this worthwhile cause. You can send a check by **April 15<sup>th</sup>**, payable to "First Presbyterian Church of Sussex" with the words "OGHS Donation" on the memo line, to Janet Hayzler, 96 Holland Road, Wantage, NJ 07461. Thank you!

## Congratulations To...

Ryan Scymanski for making the Dean's List for the fall 2019 semester at Sussex County Community College.



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## April Birthdays

- (1) Pat Walker
- (5) Richard Cosh
  - Kathy Dyer
  - Emma Klein
- (13) Betty Pluymers
- (15) Arthur Van Houten
- (16) Robert Hayzler
  - Ashley Ziccardi
- (17) Mike Kosco
- (18) Walter Houck
- (19) Penny Bates
- (24) Giselle Smisko
- (26) Keri Demeter
- (28) Eloise Demeter
  - Abigail Eckert



## PresbySenior News

The PresbySeniors are holding off on their Spring event until further notice. Any questions, please call Barbara Young (973-875-7864).

## Sussex Help Center

The Sussex Help Center needs jello, applesauce, and pasta. Please place your items in the blue bin in the narthex. If you know of a family in need, please contact Walter Houck (973-875-7412). **Thank you for your support!**



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Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been moved from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciples, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in.

– John 20:1-5



If you cannot volunteer on your scheduled date, please “swap” a date with someone else and notify Sharon Bove at 875-4760. Thank you!

Please Note: Due to the Covid-19 virus outbreak, we will conduct services online through April 19<sup>th</sup>.

## Schedule of Liturgists

|                        |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| April 26 <sup>th</sup> | Richard M. Hayzler |
| May 3 <sup>rd</sup>    | Phil Hardin        |
| May 10 <sup>th</sup>   | Jason Touw         |
| May 17 <sup>th</sup>   | Janet Hayzler      |
| May 24 <sup>th</sup>   | Marion Kopec       |
| May 31 <sup>st</sup>   | Richard L. Hayzler |



## Schedule of Ushers

|   |                        |                                  |
|---|------------------------|----------------------------------|
|  | April 26 <sup>th</sup> | Mary Alice Hosking & Niki Lepes  |
|   | May 3 <sup>rd</sup>    | Janet Hayzler & Ryan Hayzler     |
|   | May 10 <sup>th</sup>   | Lorraine Ricci & Pat Walker      |
|   | May 17 <sup>th</sup>   | Kristen Hayzler & Sheila Stormes |
|   | May 24 <sup>th</sup>   | Rob Hayzler & Eric Sives         |
|   | May 31 <sup>st</sup>   | John & Giselle Smisko            |

## Communion Preparers & Servers

### Preparers

|                      |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| May 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | Judy Clark      |
| June 7 <sup>th</sup> | Beverly Johnson |

### Servers

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| May 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | Richard L. Hayzler   |
| June 7 <sup>th</sup> | Sharon Alheidt, Joanne Cosh,<br>Betty Martin, & Evelyn Haggard |



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## GREETERS SCHEDULE

|                        |                |
|------------------------|----------------|
| April 26 <sup>th</sup> | Amy Mills      |
| May 3 <sup>rd</sup>    | Lois Wright    |
| May 10 <sup>th</sup>   | Judy Clark     |
| May 17 <sup>th</sup>   | Janet Hayzler  |
| May 24 <sup>th</sup>   | Sheila Stormes |
| May 31 <sup>st</sup>   | Niki Lepes     |

### Acolytes

|                        |    |                 |
|------------------------|----|-----------------|
| April 26 <sup>th</sup> | -- | August Ziccardi |
| May 3 <sup>rd</sup>    | -- | Keira Lewis     |
| May 10 <sup>th</sup>   | -- | Molly Swarts    |
| May 17 <sup>th</sup>   | -- | Ryan Hayzler    |
| May 24 <sup>th</sup>   | -- | Brooke Hayzler  |
| May 31 <sup>st</sup>   | -- | Nathan Hayzler  |



### Refreshments After Worship Service



Please keep this list as a reminder. A list is also on the bulletin board in the narthex.  
**If there is a problem with the date, please call Sheila Stormes (973-702-1548) or Lois Wright (973-875-3555) or see them after worship.**

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| April 26 <sup>th</sup> | Pat Hardin & Kristen Hayzler                                |
| May 3 <sup>rd</sup>    | Sharon Alheidt & Giselle Smisko                             |
| May 10 <sup>th</sup>   | Janet Eagles & Sue Vanden Heuvel<br>( <i>Mother's Day</i> ) |

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What shall I return to the Lord  
for all his bounty to me?  
I will lift up the cup of salvation  
and call on the name of the Lord.

- Psalm 116:12-13

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