



First Presbyterian Church of Sussex
PRESBYTERIAN
PRESS

21 Unionville Avenue, Sussex, NJ 07461

April 2021

From the Pastor's Desk....

We've made it to April. The month of Easter celebrations. Of warmer weather (and rain). Of tending to gardens. Of life restored in the plants around us. I've always been a "fall" person. But the spring in New Jersey is stunning. Since I don't suffer from seasonal allergies, spring is a joyous time for me.

Last April, this joy was hampered by the growing concern and uncertainty about the COVID-19 virus and pandemic. That feeling of uncertainty remains with me into this April; but the hope of increased vaccinations helps me to rejoice in the ways the physical world reflects our theological view of resurrection.

With Christ's life, ministry, death, and resurrection, the world and all within it are given a chance of rebirth. Our horticultural friends remind us of this year in and year out. Trees begin to bud and flowers begin to bloom. The world outside my window goes from shades of brown and grey to a whole brightly colored array.

Christ's resurrection does the same for us. It reminds us of what's always there beneath the surface—life and life abundantly, as Jesus says in John 10:10b (*"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly"*). The empty tomb on Easter morning shows us that with God, life flourishes!

I always love when Easter and April align because of the way spring brings vibrancy to the world again for our New Jersey context. This year is the same—we have things growing and hope growing, too.

In our church community, we have all different levels of comfort regarding the virus and the vaccines being distributed to protect against it. I want to affirm that this is okay. As we start to incorporate outdoor fellowship after worship (weather permitting, of course), and as we look to having more events in person, it's okay to be hesitant to come in person because of the virus variants or not receiving the vaccine. And it's okay to rejoice in these opportunities.

Your church family is here and supports you in whatever way we can. These next few months may still test our understanding of living life abundantly in light of COVID-19, but we can place our hope in the resurrection. We can trust in our God who tore down all barriers between us to be in full relationship with humanity. We are connected by the Holy Spirit, even when we're separated by space.



Friends, enjoy your April. Enjoy the warmer weather and the hope early spring brings. Know that the promise of life and life abundant made clear in the resurrection of Christ still rings true today—no matter what the world around us looks like. Enjoy one another's company in the safest ways possible and comfortable.

I look forward to continuing to grow relationships with you all, just as the flowers are growing outside my window. Christ's blessings and peace be with you.

In Christ,

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

Mark Your Calendars



The next regular Session meeting will be held on **Tuesday, April 20th**, 6:30 p.m., online; the next regular Deacons' meeting will be held on **Tuesday, May 4th**, 7:00 p.m., online.

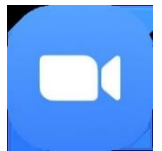
Pastoral Care



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.

Individual Gatherings with ZOOM

Every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., there will be space on ZOOM to gather with each other. Sharon Bove will send out the invite/reminder every **Tuesday**.



Ask the Pastor Anything: Mark your calendars for **Wednesday, April 14th**, at 7:30 p.m., for a half-hour "Ask the Pastor Anything." Pastor Katherine has decided to put herself in the hot seat in April, May, and June. On the second Wednesday of the month, at the Wednesday Night Gathering ZOOM link, Pastor Katherine will take your questions and answer them to the best of her ability. If you stump her, maybe you'll even receive a prize! Hope you will join us!



Session Highlights



Session met on March 23rd. The following items were discussed:

- Janet Hayzler has agreed to become the Moderator of the Board of Deacons.
- Pastor Katherine will be having a Wednesday evening ZOOM meeting at 7:30 p.m. once a month for the next three months called “Ask the Pastor Anything.”
- Maundy Thursday Service will be held at 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM; Good Friday service will be held at 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM and in-person; Easter Sunday service will be held at 10:30 a.m. via ZOOM and in-person.
- The Kuperus family will be leaving the manse before Easter. We, as a church family, are very thankful for their help and their support to our church.
- Refreshments after worship will be starting April 11, 2021, outdoors (weather permitting).
- Linda Carbone has requested that her membership be transferred to the First Presbyterian Church of Mahopac.
- The next regular Session meeting will be held online on **Tuesday, April 20, 2021**, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Charles Bates, Clerk to Session

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 2021, each member's contribution is \$40.00.

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.

2021 Church Envelopes



The 2021 church offering envelopes will be available by **December 27th**. Please take yours home with you when you come to church. Also, if you see a neighbor's envelopes, please take them and drop them off.



2021 Calendars

Pinkel Funeral Home has generously donated scenic calendars with our church's information on it. Please feel free to take home as many as you'd like. They are located in the narthex.

How Are We Doing???

For the Month of March

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

Average Weekly Attendance: 45

Monthly Offering: \$ 9,090



Sunday School News



Sunday school is back! Sunday school runs from 9:15 – 10:15 a.m., for Pre-K through Adult. Please complete one registration form per child (form is on the table in the narthex), and return it to the church office. Please see Ashley Ziccardi if you have any questions.

From the Finance Committee

Even though we re-opened the church, not everyone is ready for in-person worship. Our bills still need to be paid. For those of you who are not returning to in-person worship, 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!



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.



Dear Parishioners of the First Presbyterian Church,

I would just like to thank you all very much for your kindness, comfort, concern, and compassion, especially during the last few weeks. Your support has been so helpful and very much appreciated and so heartwarming. It is true that your faith and those around you truly help to move along the healing process.

Thank you also for your generous gift. It was so unexpected but truly helpful at the particular time it was presented.

Thank you all again for everything. Your kindness and support is so appreciated and means so very much at this time.

Love, Kathy Dyer

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 and empties4cash.com.



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.

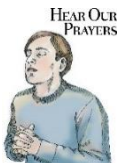
In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Please pray for **Marlene Decker, Frank Del Sardo Sr., Frank Del Sardo Jr., Kathy Dyer, the Enhoffer Family, Bob & Donna Gibson, Rev. Bruce Gillette & his family, Phil Hardin, Mary Alice Hosking, Kara & Patti Jacobs, Ralph Miller, Shirley Prall** (Ivy Diorio's friend). 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.



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 The Center for Prevention and Counseling.

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!



Prayer Shawl Ministry



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.

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?**

April Birthdays

- (1) Pat Walker
- (5) Richard Cosh
 - Kathy Dyer
 - Emma Klein
- (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



Birthdays



Lectionary for the Lord's Day

April 2021

- 4 ***Easter Sunday***
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8
- 11 ***2nd Sunday of Easter***
Psalm 133; John 20:19-31
- 18 ***3rd Sunday of Easter***
Psalm 4; Luke 36b-48
- 25 ***4th Sunday of Easter***
Psalm 23; John 10:11-18



May 2021

- 2 ***5th Sunday of Easter***
Psalm 22:25-31; John 15:1-8
- 9 ***6th Sunday of Easter***
Psalm 98; John 15:9-17
- 16 ***7th Sunday of Easter***
Psalm 1; John 17:6-19
- 23 ***Day of Pentecost***
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15
- 30 ***Trinity Sunday***
Psalm 29; John 3:1-17



Refreshments After Worship

Refreshments are served outdoors only, weather permitting. Please plan to stay after worship and visit with your friends!

Pentecost Offering

This offering will be collected **Pentecost Sunday, May 23rd**. 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.



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. They appreciate all donations, and they especially need cleaning supplies (like Pine Sol) and laundry detergent.

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.



Upcoming Events:

- **April 25th** - Motorcycle run to benefit bringing The Moving Wall to Sussex County for the first time! Registration is open!
- **May 23rd** - 9th Annual a Salute to Veterans at High Point Monument. Seating for dinner is by reservation only.
- **September 9-13th** - The Moving Wall at Woodbourne Park.

Contact the Sussex Elks Lodge 2288 at SussexElks2288@gmail.com or they can be found on the Facebook page (Facebook.com/SussexLodge2288).