

From the Pastor's Desk....

Hello dear friends!

We've made it through the changing of the seasons—from winter into spring. As we get closer to Easter Sunday, this year on **April 17th**, more and more signs of spring are coming, bursting forth into our world. The trees are budding, the flowers are blooming, the smell of mulch is in the air.

With how late Easter is this year, the physical world's transformation aligns with the transformation of the world in Christ's death and resurrection. Everything about our world changed in an almost-imperceptible way. It changed because of God's willing sacrifice for us to reconnect with God forever. We're living in a changed world, even when it doesn't look like it immediately.

Friends, there are so many things for us to be praying about right now—from the people in Ukraine to the people in our own country who struggle to provide for themselves and their families. And yet, the truth of the cross and the empty tomb still rings true. We can only see God's glory dimly, and we can trust that God's Spirit is always present with us.

As we prepare to meet Christ at the foot of the cross, I invite you to the various Holy Week services and activities. On **Palm Sunday, April 10th**, we will celebrate Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem with Palm fronds and a baptism. On **Maundy Thursday, April 14th**, we will host the ecumenical service here at our church at 7:00 p.m. This service will feature handwashing/footwashing and communion. On **Good Friday, April 15th**, at 7:00 p.m., we will have a solemn service to revisit the cross. These will both be on ZOOM as well.

On **Easter Sunday, April 17th**, we will have two services: The first will be a Joint Sunrise Service with Beemerville Presbyterian Church at 6:00 a.m., at the Beemerville Cemetery. The second will be our 10:30 a.m. worship service where we will celebrate Christ's resurrection as a community. After the service, we will have an Easter egg hunt for the children of our church.

We will surely rejoice together at life renewed and restored in Jesus Christ. We will worship our Living Lord and proclaim God's never-ending love for us. As Romans 5:6-11 tells us, *"For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation."*

I hope to see you for our special services during Holy Week, as well as at our normal Sunday worship services. Only God knows what's truly in store for us and the world during this tumultuous time, and so we pray for God's grace and peace to be felt and expressed throughout this world.

Finally, mark **Friday, May 13th**, on your calendar for an Ice Cream Social hosted by me to sweeten your Friday the Thirteenth! We'll have ice cream, conversation, and perhaps, even a couple of board games!



In Christ, *Pastor Katherine Scott-Kirschner* (973) 771-4721 (cell)

Session Highlights

Session met on March 15th. The following items were discussed:



- The baptism of Isabella Morales, great-granddaughter of Judy Clark, and great-great-granddaughter of Madeline Coykendall, will be held during our worship service on April 10th.
- Services are planned for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.
- Pastor Katheirne has been appointed to a committee for the General Assembly.
- Fundraisers by the Presbyterian Women's Group are scheduled: Indoor Yard Sale **October 21, 22, 2022**; Cookie & Bread Sale **December 17, 18, 2022**; Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast **May 2023**.
- Fellowship after worship continues each Sunday.
- The Parking Lot Paving Fund has grown to \$10,000. Thanks, and please keep up the giving!
- An Easter egg hunt is scheduled for **April 17th**, after worship.
- Please remember your gifting to the church. It is prayerfully important we meet our obligations.
- "Normal" fellowship hour will begin on **April 3rd**.
- Anyone interested in taking pictures of our congregation, please see Charles Bates, Clerk to Session, or call him at 201-787-1308.
- The next regular Session meeting will be held on **Tuesday, April 19, 2022**, at 6:30 p.m., on the ZOOM platform.

Respectfully submitted,
Charles Bates, Clerk to Session

Mark Your Calendars



The next Deacons' meeting will be held on **Tuesday, April 5th**, on ZOOM; the next regular Session meeting will be held on **Tuesday, April 19th**, 6:30 p.m., on ZOOM.

Can You Help?

Our parking lot needs to be repaved. The cost will be approximately \$32,800, barring an increase in materials. There is a budget line for donations to this effort. We know this is another expense, but we need to keep our facilities in good condition; we have been fortunate so far. Each ton costs the church \$100. Can you give a ton? We would appreciate it if you would consider donating to the church for this purpose. No donation is too small! Please make your check payable to *First Presbyterian Church of Sussex*, and mark *Parking Lots* on the memo line. Donations may be placed in the offering plate on Sundays, or you can mail it to our Depositing Treasurer, Janet Hayzler, at 96 Holland Road, Wantage, NJ 07461. Thank you in advance for your help in this matter.



Congratulations To...

Kevin Scymanski and Adam Vanderwiele for making the Fall Dean's List at Sussex County Community College.



Lent



The season of Lent began on **March 2nd**. The six weeks or 40 days of Lent prepare us for Holy Week and Easter by calling us to focus deeply and intentionally on our relationship with God.

Lenten Schedule

Community Choir Performances: **Saturday, April 9th** at 3:00 p.m.; and **Sunday, April 10th** at 1:00 p.m.

Palm Sunday: **Sunday, April 10th** at 10:30 a.m., worship service at our church.

Ecumenical Maundy Thursday Service: **Thursday, April 14th** at 7:00 p.m., at our church and ZOOM.

Good Friday Service: **Friday, April 15th** at 7:00 p.m., at our church and ZOOM.

Joint Easter Sunrise Service: **Sunday, April 17th** at 6:00 a.m., at the Beemerville Cemetery.

Easter Sunday: **Sunday, April 17th** at 10:30 a.m., worship service at our church. There will be no Sunday school. An Easter egg hunt will be held following the worship service.

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 March (including Ash Wednesday)

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

Average Weekly Attendance	30
Monthly Offering	\$ 7,535.50

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.



Easter Egg Hunt



We will be having an Easter egg hunt for the children immediately after worship on Easter **Sunday, April 17th**. Don't forget to have the children bring their Easter baskets to collect the eggs!

We are collecting candy donations for the Easter egg hunt—small, individually wrapped candies. There is a box for the candy in the narthex. Please bring candy by **April 10th**.

Presbyterian Women's Group

Soup Sale: We are so very pleased to announce that we received a total of \$848.00 for our Soup Etc. Sale. We once again want to thank the members and friends of our church who helped us to achieve that goal.



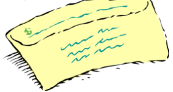
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Fund: We are so very thankful to be able to send \$500.00 to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Fund for the emergency response to the war in Ukraine.

Parking Lot Repaving Fund: We are so very appreciative to all our members and friends of our church over the years for their support to make it possible for us to be able to give a total of \$4,000.00 to the Parking Lot Repaving Fund--\$2,000.00 now, and \$2,000.00 at the time of the repaving being accomplished.

Fellowship Hour: Starting **Sunday, April 3rd**, we are asking for help supplying one or two items of food to be available to members and friends of our church at our fellowship hour each Sunday. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex. If you are not presently attending church in-person, you could still offer to provide items. They can be brought to the church on the Friday before the Sunday you are signed up for between 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Please call Sharon Bove in the church office (973-875-4760) before bringing the items. If no one is signed up for a specific Sunday, pre-packaged items will be used. Please help us to bring back our normal fellowship hour.

Ladies' Luncheon: We are planning a Ladies' Luncheon on **Tuesday, April 26th**, at 12:00 noon, at the Sit N Chat on Route 23. We would love to see you at this event. If you are planning to attend, please call Penny at 973-764-3781 or 201-452-5082 by **Wednesday, April 20th**, so we will know how many will be in attendance.

Offering Envelopes



2022 Church Envelopes

The 2022 church offering envelopes are available on the table in the narthex. 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.

2022 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.



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.

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 2022, 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.



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.

Worshiping In Person Update

The church leadership voted that masks will be optional for those vaccinated; for those not vaccinated, it is strongly recommended that masks continue to be worn. Child care in the nursery has resumed.





Refreshments After Worship

Refreshments are served in the fellowship room. We've purchased an air purifier to help keep us all safe during our time together. See the Presbyterian Women's Group article for more information.

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Please pray for **Frank Del Sardo Jr., Bob & Donna Gibson, Evelyn Haggard, Betty Martin, Rev. Tim Marvil, Ralph Miller, Ron Ostrander, Ken Scott** (Pastor Katherine's dad), **Joan Thomas, and Jeff Thomas**. 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.

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.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

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 Pass It Along, our Deacons' Fund recipient for March.

Our Deacons' Fund recipient for April is Harvest House. Harvest House is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. 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 midday 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 to our monthly Deacons' Funds!

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



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

April 2022

- 3 **5th Sunday in Lent**
Psalm 126; John 12:1-8
- 10 **Palm/Passion Sunday**
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Luke 22:14—23:56
- 17 **Easter Sunday**
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Luke 24:1-12
- 24 **2nd Sunday of Easter**
Psalm 118:14-29; John 20:19-31



May 2022

- 1 **3rd Sunday after Easter**
Psalm 30; John 21:1-19
- 8 **4th Sunday after Easter**
Psalm 23; John 10:22-30



Liturgists Needed

Mike Kosco, Chair of the Worship & Sacraments Committee, is looking for people to serve as liturgists. 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. A schedule (through June 12th) of liturgists 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!**



Worship Committee

Schedule of Liturgists



April 3 rd	Mike Kosco
April 10 th	Sheryl Dekmar
April 17 th (Easter Sunday)	Richard L. Hayzler
April 24 th	Charles Bates
May 1 st	Mike Kosco
May 8 th	Betsy Sives
May 15 th	Penny Bates
May 22 nd	Janet Hayzler
May 29 th	Mike Kosco
June 5 th	Sheryl Dekmar
June 12 th (Pentecost Sunday)	Betsy Sives



Clean Communities Sunday

A big thank you to Ashley Ziccardi for setting up our “Clean Community Sunday” on March 27th. It was wonderful to have so many participate! We had a total of 27 people help clean up Lott Road in Wantge (kids and adults)! We picked up a lot of garbage/recycling too. (We actually found and rescued six tires, a bench, TV, and garbage can!) We did two good deeds in one: first, we cleaned up roadside garbage in Wantage Township; and second, we were able to obtain \$12/hour/person to raise money for our church’s Parking Lot Repaving Fund. Thanks again, Ashley! It was a great church activity!



August Ziccardi, Molly Swartz, Aven Swartz, Abby Gulick, Emily Gulick, Heath Ziccardi, Emeline Demeter, Keira Lewis, Own Demeter, Natalie Lewis, Robert Demeter, Joanne Cosh, Sheila Stormes, Pastor Katherine, Amy Mills, Paulette Touw, Janet Hayzler, Eloise Demeter, Charlie Bates, Penny Bates, Katie McCrea, Richard L. Hayzler, Nancy Barta, and Keri Demeter.

Not Pictured: Greg Lewis, Jason Touw, and Ashley Ziccardi.





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 canned tuna. Please let Walter Houck know if there is a family in need.



Women's Retreat



Camp Johnsonburg, right in the heart of Highlands Presbytery, is sponsoring its Annual Women's Retreat on **Friday April 22nd – Sunday, April 24th**. The theme is “We Are Created to Be Creative!”, and will be led by the Rev. Dr. Debra J. K. Bronkema, Pastor of the Pleasantville PC in New York. You can attend all three days or Saturday only. For additional information, contact Camp J'Burg at office@campjburg.org or call 908-852-2349, or go on their website www.campjburg.org/women/.

Camp Johnsonburg News

Camp Johnsonburg is hosting a three-day Social Justice Summit on **Sunday, July 24th – Wednesday, July 27th**. The Presbytery will be subsidizing the cost for 40 youth (which makes the price \$100)! Find out more information at www.campjburg.org/summit.



Sussex Elks



Dinners: Dinners are back at Sussex Elks Lodge! All dinners are \$10/person and includes salad and dessert. Dinners all 5-7 p.m. You can dine in or take out. Questions? Please contact us via private message to Facebook or via SussexElks2288@gmail.com (Please do not call the lodge building to reserve). Please

check our Facebook page for the most up-to-date information.

April 16th – Lemon Chicken

May 7th – Pasta & Meatballs

May 21st – Meatloaf & Mashed Potatoes

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.



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

Our Church Sign

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

