



First Presbyterian Church of Sussex
PRESBYTERIAN
PRESS

21 Unionville Avenue, Sussex, NJ 07461

April 2023

From the Pastor's Desk....

Dear Members and Friends,

This is my last pastor's note until I return from Maternity Leave. And since I'll be missing the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) special offering, I wanted to include information about this offering here.

We're slowly coming out of a fog—not only arising from the shadow of a global pandemic, but also emerging out of the haze of our own wilderness journey through Lent. What began on Ash Wednesday ends on Easter Day. Through personal reflection and repentance, Lent brings us to our knees; but the glory of the resurrection lifts us up into the welcoming arms of a Savior, who sees our failings, but loves us unconditionally, nonetheless. Thanks be to God!

In Isaiah 58, the prophet exclaims, "Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in" (Isaiah 58:12). As the people of Israel returned from the cloud of exile and struggled to rebuild their lives, Isaiah questioned their efforts: [Are you not called] "to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them?" (Isaiah 58:7).

Then in Matthew 25, we hear Jesus calling to us, "For I was hungry and you gave me food ...I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing. ...As you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me" (Matthew 25:35-40).

Isaiah and Jesus are making an important theological point: Faithfulness to God leads to fixing things that are broken—broken lives, broken spirits, broken hearts, broken relationships, and broken breaches of faith and trust.

When we give to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering, we are helping repair peoples' lives—people who are hurting, broken, oppressed, lost or in need. The people about whom Isaiah and Jesus spoke. The people we are invited to connect with, today.

I invite you to visit the OGHS website (pcusa.org/oghs) to find out more information on how your gift helps people all over the world, and offer prayers for the people and projects who receive this support. And I prayerfully challenge each of you to mindfully give your gift to the OGHS offering—especially in light of the challenges we have witnessed over the past few years. You'll see how giving opens your heart to God's work in your own life. I hope that you'll join us on **Sunday, April 2nd, and April 9th** (Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday) as we collect our offering, and that you'll join Christians all across the country in opening their hearts to witness tangibly to the repairing love of God in Jesus Christ through One Great Hour of Sharing.

In Christ,

Pastor Katherine Scott-Kirschner



Session Highlights

Session met on March 21, 2023. The following items were discussed:



- Pastor Katherine shared that her sermons for Lent have been based on the book, “A Time to Grow.”
- Active membership is recorded at 102. Our goal is to encourage those who have not attended to be a part of our church on a continuous basis.
- Pastor Katherine and the Deacons are continuing to visit the shut-ins.
- Maundy Thursday service will be held on **April 6, 2023**, at the Sussex United Methodist Church at 7:00 p.m. and on their Facebook Live; Good Friday Service will be held at the Beemerville Presbyterian Church on **April 7, 2023**, at 7:00 p.m. and on their Facebook Live; Easter Sunrise Service will be held on **April 9, 2023**, at the Beemerville Cemetery at 6:00 a.m.; Easter Service on April 9, 2023, at the First Presbyterian Church of Sussex at 10:30 a.m., followed by an Easter Egg Hunt for the children.
- Ruling Elder Charles Bates continues to attend Presbytery Meetings as the Commissioner participating in updating the Book of Order.
- A new acrylic covering for the front window of our church will be installed soon.
- The One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be taken on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. Please be as generous as possible.
- Our congregation will have the opportunity to respond to whether or not we want to return to the “actual” passing of the peace and communion by intinction.
- The Tech Task Force is in the process of updating our ZOOM programming.
- The Home School Coop students will be presenting “The Wizard of Oz” in the church sanctuary on **May 22, 2023**, from 5-7 p.m.
- The next regular Session meeting will be held on **Tuesday, May 16, 2023**, at 6:30 p.m., on the ZOOM platform.

Respectfully submitted,
Charles Bates, Clerk to Session



Ecumenical Maundy Thursday Service: Thursday, April 6th at 7:00 p.m., at the Sussex United Methodist Church or on their Facebook Live.

Good Friday Service: Friday, April 7th at 7:00 p.m., at the Beemerville Presbyterian Church or on their Facebook Live.

Easter Sunrise Service: Sunday, April 9th at 6:00 a.m., at the Beemerville Cemetery.

Easter Sunday: Sunday, April 9th at 10:30 a.m., worship service at our church. There will be no Sunday school.

Easter Egg Hunt: Sunday, April 9th at 11:30 a.m., at our church.



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. A special envelope will be included in the Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday bulletins. This offering will be collected during the worship service on **Palm Sunday, April 2nd**, and on **Easter Sunday, April 2nd**. Please plan to contribute to this worthwhile cause.

Pastoral Care

Pastor Katherine will be on Maternity Leave **April 1st through June 30th**. Please call the church office or Nancy Barta with any pastoral concerns.



How Are We Doing???

For the Month of March

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

Average Weekly Attendance: 45

Monthly Offering: \$ 8,377.50



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. There will be no Sunday school on Easter Sunday, **April 9th**.



Easter Egg Hunt



We will be having an Easter egg hunt for the children immediately after worship on Easter **Sunday, April 9th**. Don't forget to have the children bring their Easter baskets to collect the eggs!

Wills and Estate Planning

It has been brought to my attention, as Stewardship Chairperson, that there may be an interest within our congregation to have a guest speaker come to our church and offer a presentation on "Wills and Estate Planning." Before I attempt to secure someone from Presbytery or a private presenter, I would like to assess the interest and specific topic you would like addressed. Please let me know either during worship, phone call, or email. If there is enough interest, I will set something up for the fall. Thank you for your attention and consideration regarding this endeavor.



– Richard L. Hayzler



Congratulations!

Mike Kosco and his wife, Karen, are the proud grandparents of Penelope Paige Kosco, born on March 27th. She was 7 lbs. 1 oz. at birth. Her parents are Mike's son, Daniel, and his wife, Samantha, Kosco. Congratulations!



Pastor Katherine and her husband, Donald, are the proud parents of Marlena Abigail Kirschner, born on March 31st. She was 8 lbs. 13 oz. at birth. Congratulations!

Marlena's Nursery



Presbyterian Women's Group

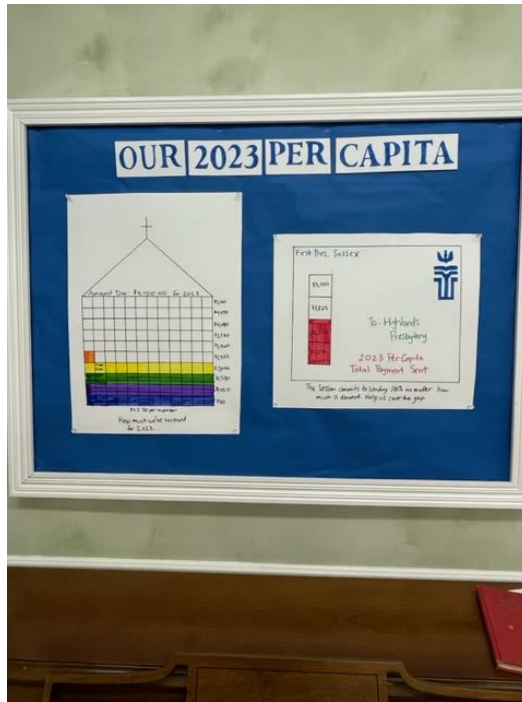


Update on Soup & Bread Sale: Our final total for the Soup & Bread sale is \$814. We appreciate our church family and friends who helped us to reach this amount! Thank you!

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 \$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. See the bulletin board display in the fellowship room.



Spring Clean-Up Day



The Buildings & Grounds Committee invites you to the annual Church Clean-up Day at 9:00 a.m. on **Saturday, May 6th**. There will be mulch to lay, so please bring your rakes and gloves to help spread the mulch after the general clean-up and weed pulling. Remember, many hands make light the work!



April 22nd

Phone/Text Chain

We are announcing the reinstating of the Phone/Text Chain. If you are in need of prayers, or wish to let all members of the church family know of an event or a happening, starting April 1st, you should call Barbara Young (845-506-3358). You should tell her what your need is to implement the phone chain. At that point, she will call the people who will be calling or texting our church family. We hope that our church family will find this a useful tool to keep everyone updated and to request prayers.



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.

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



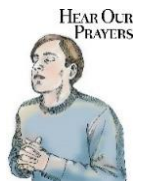
In Our Thoughts & Prayers



Please pray for **Josephine Bonanno** (Evelyn Haggard's friend), **Madelyn Coykendall, Judy & George Clark, Frank Del Sardo, Jr., Pam Fielding, Bob & Donna Gibson, Rev. Bruce Gillette & Family, Evelyn Haggard, Charlie & Dodi Lain, Betty Martin, Rev. Tim Marvil, Kenneth Van Wageninge** (Carolyn's brother), **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.



Deacon of the Month



While Pastor Katherine is on Maternity Leave, the following Deacon(s) will be on call for the month of April – Frank Del Sardo; for May, Phil Hardin and Paulette Touw.

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 for April will go to Camp Johnsonburg. The Johnsonburg Presbyterian Center is a year-round camp and conference center in northwestern New Jersey. In operation since 1959, Johnsonburg is "a place apart" where people get away from the hustle and bustle of daily life to grow closer to God. Whether you're a youth who attends their summer camp program or weekend youth retreats, an adult participating in spiritual sanctuary events, or a group (church, school, corporate, or other) hosting an event utilizing their facilities, Johnsonburg welcomes you and has a place for you. 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 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.

New Address

Jennifer Kovach, Adam Vanderwiele, Jacob Vanderwiele, Katie Vanderwiele, and Reyes Madera have a new address: 30 Woodland Road, Franklin, NJ 07416. Please make the change in your copy of the church directory.



Spring

And the Spring arose on the garden fair,
Like the Spirit of Love felt everywhere;
And each flower and herb on Earth's dark breast
Rose from the dreams of its wintry rest.

- Percy B. Shelley



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 2023

- 2 **Palm Sunday**
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Matthew 21:1-11
- 9 **Resurrection of the Lord**
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Matthew 28:1-10
- 16 **2nd Sunday of Easter**
Psalm 16; John 20:19-31
- 23 **3rd Sunday of Easter**
Psalm 116:1-4,, 12-19; Luke 24:13-35
- 30 **4th Sunday of Easter**
Psalm 23; John 19:1-10



May 2023

- 7 **5th Sunday of Easter**
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; John 14:1-14
- 14 **6th Sunday of Easter**
Psalm 66:8-20; John 14:15-21
- 21 **7th Sunday of Easter**
Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35; John 17:1-11

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 May*) of liturgists, ushers, communion preparers, 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

April 9 th	Penny Bates
April 16 th	Mike Kosco
April 23 rd	Janet Hayzler
April 30 th	Charles Bates
May 7 th	Betsy Sives
May 14 th	Walter Houck
May 21 st	Richard L. Hayzler
May 28 th	Mike Kosco



Schedule of Communion Preparers and Servers

Preparers

May 7th – Chris Sarno

Servers

May 7th – Sheryl Dekmar & Paulette Touw

Schedule of Ushers



April 9th
April 16th
April 23rd
April 30th
May 7th
May 14th
May 21st
May 28th

Kathy Carey & Phil Hardin
Sheryl Dekmar & Ken Enhoffer
Richard L. & Janet Hayzler
Penny Bates & _____
Paulette Touw & Ashley Ziccardi
Mary Alice Hosking & Niki Lepes
Kyle DeGroat & Betsy Sives
Kathy Carey & Joanne Cosh

Mother's Day Tea

You're invited to a Mother's Day Tea on **Saturday, May 6th**, 12:30 p.m., at the Rev. Elias Van Bunschooten Museum. Cost: \$30/person. Reservations are required: Joanne 973-903-3152. Make checks payable to Chinkchewunsk Chapter, NSDAR and send it to Joanne Cosh, One Walnut Street, Sussex, NJ 07461.



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

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.



Ultimate Youth Nights



Ultimate Youth Night is a monthly offering of fun and faith put on by the Johnsonburg staff in the chapel at First Presbyterian Hackettstown Church (291 Main Street, Hackettstown) for 5th-8th graders. Every UYN, we'll play games, do fun activities like crafts, and have a devotion. The next ones scheduled are for **April 30th** and **May 21st**. This is an inclusive, affirming Christian-based program. All are welcome, especially individuals.

RSVPs are appreciated, but not required, and can be found at <https://www.campjburg.org/uyn/>.

Our Church Sign

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

