



First Presbyterian Church of Sussex
PRESBYTERIAN
PRESS

21 Unionville Avenue, Sussex, NJ 07461

April 2024

From the Pastor's Desk....

Hello Friends!

Christ is Risen! He is Risen, Indeed! What a joy to be sharing this message with you post-Easter. We're now in the time of the church year called "Eastertide." This is the longest official season of the church, clocking in at 50 days. (For any church nerds or just interested people, the actual longest period of time is "Ordinary Time," which begins after Pentecost Sunday and continues until Christ the King Sunday—which is May through November. Eastertide is all about rejoicing and celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ, as well as focusing on the very early church. In those first few years after Christ's resurrection, the church grew exponentially as the Gospel message was shared.

This year, from now until Pentecost—on May 19, 2024—I will be following the lectionary so I won't be doing a sermon series. Instead, we'll be seeing where the apostles go and where the early church gets its beginnings. We'll have one reading from Acts and then another reading, normally from one of the Gospels.

The Book of Acts is a fascinating book because it fills in the gap between the end of the four Gospels and the letters (fancy church word is epistles) written by the apostles, mainly Paul and his direct followers. Think of Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians, 1 and 2 Timothy, Galatians, 1, 2, and 3 John.

Interestingly enough, Luke and Acts were written by the same person and were written to go hand-in-hand. Acts tells us what was going on while the letters that we now have as part of our Bible were being written. As a history buff, I love that Acts is part of our canon because it sets the rest of the New Testament in a context. Because otherwise, we're just reading people's mail without understanding anything that was happening between the various churches.

Here's a snapshot from Acts so you can see what I mean: *"Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a member of the court of Herod the ruler, and Saul. While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.' Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off. So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia; and from there they sailed to Cyprus."* (Acts 13:1-4).

We get from these verses that people are worshiping Jesus in Antioch which is modern day Turkey. And then, two of the leaders in Antioch were sent farther away to Cyprus, which is part of Greece. The message of Jesus Christ is spreading through the Mediterranean. As a refresher, Saul is also known as Paul. His name is changed later in Chapter 13.

Hopefully, you're able to join worship to find out more about the early church, as well as the ways we can incorporate this into our worshiping lives today. Only God knows what's in store, so we'll pray for the very best!

In Christ,

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



Session Highlights

Session met on March 19th. The following items were discussed:



- Pastor Katherine has offered to pursue more information about Planet Networks to possibly switch our internet/phone provider.
- The Deacons are sponsoring a potluck luncheon and bingo after worship on **Sunday, April 28, 2024**.
- Pastor Katherine has been selected by Presbytery to be on the “steam” at Blair Academy.
- Ruling Elder Charles Bates reported that Dynamic Mechanicals has cleaned the furnaces at the church and the manse.
- Ruling Elder Ashley Ziccardi reported that the Sunday school classes have been studying the celebration of communion.
- An Easter egg hunt will take place after worship on Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024.
- The baptism of Reagan Josephine Ziccardi will take place on **Sunday, April 21, 2024**, during the worship service.
- The next regular Session meeting will be held on **Tuesday, May 7, 2024**, at 6:30 p.m., on the ZOOM platform.

Respectfully submitted,
Charles Bates, Clerk of Session

Mark Your Calendars



The next regular Deacons’ meeting will be held on **Sunday, April 14th**, 11:30 a.m., at the church; the next regular Session meeting will be held on **Tuesday, May 7th**, 6:30 p.m., on ZOOM.

Potluck Luncheon With Bingo



The Deacons invite everyone to join us for a potluck luncheon on **Sunday, April 28th**, after the worship service. The meal will be followed by a friendly game of BINGO, with small prizes for the winners. If you are able to bring a main dish, side dish, or dessert for the meal, please sign up in the fellowship room, or contact Nancy Barta at 973-875-9156. All are welcome to join in the fun and fellowship whether you bring a dish or not. Please join us!

Dinner Fundraiser



The Presbyterian Women’s Group is sponsoring a fundraiser at The Green Olive, 1 Libertyville Road, Sussex 973-702-1011, on **Thursday, April 18th**, any time between 12:00 noon and 9:00 p.m. We hope that as many as possible of our congregation and friends will be able to attend this fundraiser. The money raised is to help put new flooring in our narthex, hallway, fellowship room, and our back hallway. We will be receiving 20% of all restaurant sales. This promotion is for dine-in only. The Green Olive would appreciate reservations so as to help alleviate waiting time and help them to be prepared for all of us. When arriving, please mention that you are there for the church fundraiser. We are so appreciative of the Green Olive for supporting our church. If you have any further questions, please contact Penny at 201-452-5082 or 973-764-3781.



up!

Church Directory

A new Church Directory is available in the narthex. Don't forget to pick yours

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.



How Are We Doing???

For the Month of March

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

Average Weekly Attendance: 46

Monthly Offering: \$ 9,922



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.



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.

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, which was collected on Easter Sunday. Because of your generosity, we collected a total of \$500.00 to date! If you haven't done so already, you can still contribute. Please put *OGHS* on the memo line and drop it into the collection plate on Sunday or mail to Janet Hayzler, our Depositing Treasurer.



April Birthdays

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



Birthdays



From the Finance Committee



Be a Faithful
Steward

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.

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Please pray for **Teresa Belcher** (friend of the Batemans), **Madelyn Coykendall**, **George Clark**, **Rob Contrada** (father of Amy Mills' daughter's friend), **Frank Del Sardo, Jr.**, **Bob & Donna Gibson**, **Rev. Bruce Gillette & Family**, **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!**



HEAR OUR
PRAYERS



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.



Recipe

Pastor Katherine made this dip for coffee hour, and several people requested that it be shared in the newsletter:

Garlicky White Bean Dip (from *The Daniel Plan*)

Ingredients

- 1 (15 oz.) can cannellini or great northern white beans, rinsed
- 1 Tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 Tablespoons water
- 4 small garlic cloves, crushed
- Juice of 1 lemon
- 1 teaspoon paprika

Directions

In a food processor, pulse beans with olive oil and water until smooth. Add crushed garlic, lemon juice, and paprika and pulse until creamy texture is achieved. Serve with your favorite raw vegetables (or crackers).



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!



Deacon of the Month

When Pastor Katherine is not available or needs assistance, the following Deacon will be on call for the month of April – Paulette Touw.



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.



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?**

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.



Lectionary for the Lord's Day

April 2024

- 14 **3rd Sunday of Easter**
Psalm 40:1-5; Luke 24:36b-48
- 21 **4th Sunday of Easter**
Psalm 23; John 10:11-18
- 28 **5th Sunday of Easter**
Psalm 22:25-31; John 15:1-8



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

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

April 14 th	Betsy Sives
April 21 st	Walter Houck
April 28 th	Sheryl Dekmar
May 5 th	Richard L. Hayzler
May 12 th	Penny Bates
May 19 th	Janet Hayzler
May 26 th	Mike Kosco



Schedule of Communion Preparers and Servers

Preparers

May 5th – Penny Bates

Servers

May 5th – Charles & Penny Bates



Schedule of Ushers



April 14th
April 21st
April 28th
May 5th
May 12th
May 19th
May 26th

Joanne Cosh & Paulette Touw
Richard L. & Janet Hayzler
Charles & Penny Bates
Sheryl Dekmar & Phil Hardin
Mary Alice Hosking & Niki Lepes
Chris & Chuck Sarno
Sheila Stormes & Paulette Touw

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, bottled water, and detergent. For the Help Center itself, they need detergent (laundry and dish), pet food (canned and dry), diapers, and cleaning supplies. 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.



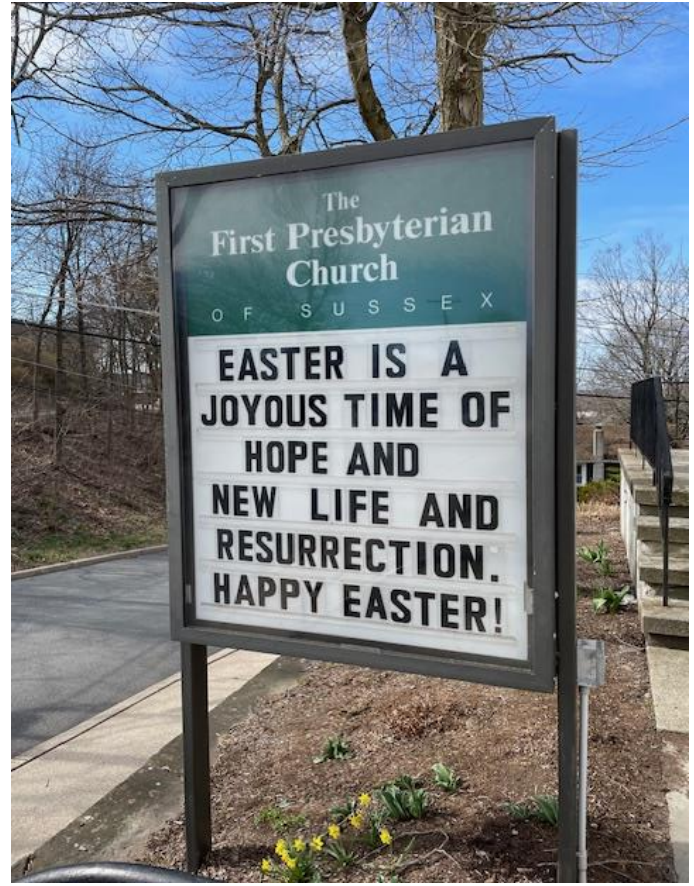
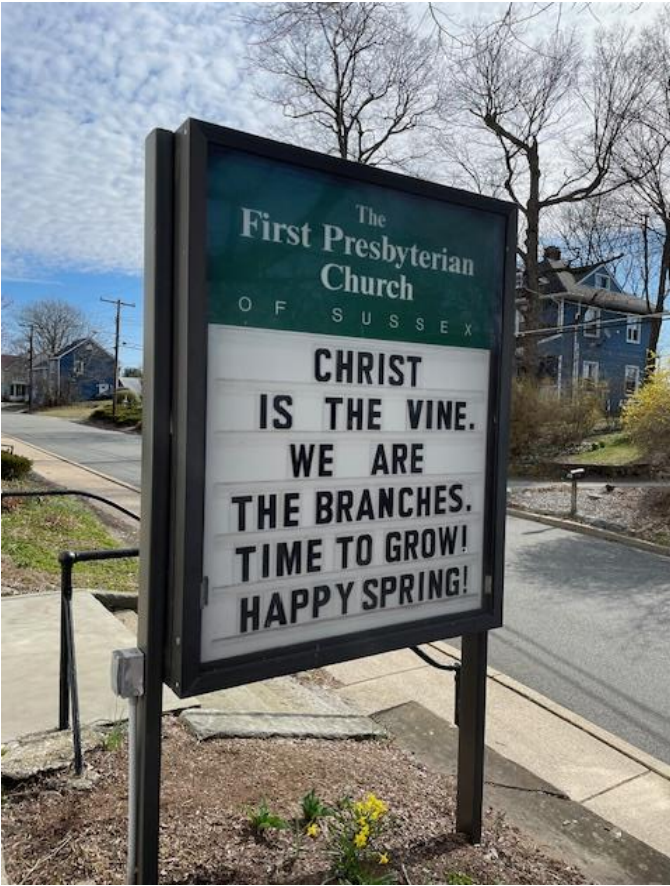
How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity! It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes. It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion. For there the Lord ordained his blessing, life forevermore. - Psalm 133



April 22nd

Our Church Sign

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



Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. There was a Levite, a native of Cyprus, Joseph, to whom the apostles gave the name Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement"). He sold a field that belonged to him, then brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

But a man named Ananias, with the consent of his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property; with his wife's knowledge, he kept back some of the proceeds, and brought only a part and laid it at the apostles' feet. "Ananias," Peter asked, "why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back part of the proceeds of the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, were not the proceeds at your disposal? How is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You did not lie to us but to God." Now when Ananias heard these words, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard of it.

- Acts 4:32-37, 5:1-5

