



First Presbyterian Church of Sussex
PRESBYTERIAN
PRESS

21 Unionville Avenue, Sussex, NJ 07461

December 2020/January 2021

Session Highlights



Session met on November 17th. The following items were discussed:

- Sunday School has been approved for re-opening purposes as of November 22, 2020.
- The first reading of the 2021 Budget was approved. The second reading will be completed at the next Session meeting on **December 15, 2020**.
- Please continue to support our church through your gifting and hopefully your volunteering for the different committees. Let's stay together as a family.
- New technology for our church will be discussed this month between Clerk to Session Charles Bates and Tom Alheidt.
- Ruling Elder Jason Touw is working with Presbytery, our Moderator Rev. David Harvey, and the First Presbyterian Church of Sussex's Session to develop a covenant agreement for the use of the manse while there is no pastor for our church.
- Clerk to Session Charles Bates, Ruling Elder Penny Bates, and Ruling Elder Mike Kosco attended the Presbytery Meeting via ZOOM on November 10, 2020. The issues discussed were budgeting and Per Capita charges for each Presbyterian church. The Per Capita charge for 2021 is \$40/person.
- Flowers were given from the congregation as a gift to our Administrative Assistant, Sharon Bove, who has been with us for 29 years.
- The next Session meeting will be held online on **Tuesday, December 15, 2020**, at 6:30 p.m.



Congregation

The Session believes we have an excellent candidate for ministry. We have invited Rev. Katherine Scott-Kirschner to preach on Sunday, January 3, 2021. Please plan to join us either in person or on ZOOM.

- Charles Bates, Clerk to Session



Mark Your Calendars

The next regular Deacons' will be held on **Tuesday, February 2nd**, 7:00 p.m., online; the next regular Session meeting will be held on **Tuesday, December 15th**, 6:30 p.m., online.



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.

Christmas Pageant

Please join us on **Sunday, December 20th**, when the children will present their Christmas Pageant during our worship service. The pageant was recorded earlier and will be shown in church and on ZOOM. Don't miss it!



Cookie & Bread Sale



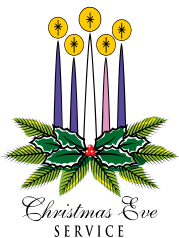
The Presbyterian Women's Group thanks everyone for their support of our Cookie & Bread Sale. It looks to be a very successful event! Hope to see you either on **Sunday, December 13th**, or **Friday, December 18th**. Stay well and safe!

Christmas Joy Offering

"God is with us." – Matthew 1:23. During this Advent Season, we celebrate leadership: past, present and future, through support of the Christmas Joy Offering. Please give generously to this offering, which will be collected **Sunday, December 20th**. Special envelopes will be in our Sunday bulletins **December 13th and 20th**. If you won't be worshipping in person, you can mail your offering in to our Depositing Treasurer, Janet Hayzler, 96 Holland Road, Wantage, NJ 07461. Please make your check payable to *"First Presbyterian Church of Sussex"* and mark *"Christmas Joy"* on the memo line.



Christmas Eve Service

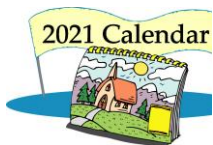
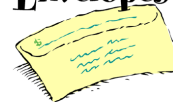


Join us on **Thursday, December 24th**, as we celebrate the birth of Christ at our service starting at 7:30 p.m., in person and on ZOOM.

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.

Offering Envelopes

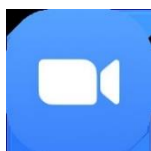


2021 Calendars

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.

Congratulations To...

Owen Demeter for making the High Honor Roll; and Eloise Demeter for making Honor Roll at Hardyston Middle School.



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**.

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation will be held on **Sunday, January 24th**, at 11:30 a.m., in the church sanctuary (snow date: **January 31st**). Please mark your calendars, and plan to attend this important meeting.



Annual Report

The end of the year is drawing near, so it's time to put together your reports for the 2020 Annual Report, which should be ready for the congregation on **Sunday, January 17th**. Please have your report in to Sharon Bove by **Tuesday, January 5th**, so that she will have plenty of time to put the report together (in case we have bad weather to work around). **Thank you!**



Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers you gave me for my 29th Anniversary here at the First Presbyterian Church of Sussex. I can remember Penny Langsdorf (who was my next door neighbor at the time) asking me if I would like to take over for her and work part-time for her church, since she was going to be getting a full-time job. Since I was out of work at the time, I said I'd go in for an interview with the pastor. After my interview with Rev. Bruce Gillete, I accepted the position.

Over the years I have met such wonderful people here at FPC of Sussex. Sadly, some have passed on; but I have such nice memories of them. This church is made up of wonderful, caring people, who make coming to work an enjoyable experience. I really like everyone here!

Since I came to work here, we have had several ministers and interim ministers serving this church. I have enjoyed working with all of them. And everyone here always pulls together to do what's best for this church, stepping up when things need to be done. I look forward to the next interim/minister destined to be here over the next few years.

Again, thank you for your kindness and appreciation of the work I do here.

Fondly,
Sharon Bove



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.



How Are We Doing???



For the Month of October

(Computers Connected During ZOOM + People Attending Worship)

Average Weekly Attendance: 34

Monthly Offering: \$12,286

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.

Pastoral Care

The church office is open Tuesdays and Fridays, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. If you are looking for pastoral care when the office is closed, please call Janet Hayzler at 1-201-787-3536, or Charles Bates at 1-201-7887-1308.



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.

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 Skylands Outreach Depot in November.

Our Deacons' Fund for December is Father John's Animal House in Lafayette. Father John's is a nonprofit 501c(3) organization which is supported entirely by donations, grants and fundraising events. This special place provides love, companionship, shelter, food, socialization and medical care for many homeless animals waiting for a permanent loving home. It is a no-kill center, ensuring that the animals housed there will continue to receive the best of care for as long as it is needed.

For January, it will go to the Church of the Good Shepherd Episcopal Church's Food Bank. Please give generously!



Care Package Ministry



Thirteen care packages were cheerfully packed and sent on their way to our hard-working college students. The boxes were stuffed with all kinds of snack foods, health care items such as tissues, bandages, and cough drops, along with some school supplies. Also included were words of wisdom and encouragement, along with a card reminding these students that they are being prayed for and thought about by our church family. Regardless of their status (full-time or part-time), regardless of where they rest their head (home or dorm), regardless of what degree they are pursuing, our students remain connected to their home church through the various donations and reminders we have sent them. Whether they are nibbling on a granola bar between classes, sharing a candy bar with a friend, or loaning a pen to a fellow student, this small item will be a big reminder that their church stands behind and supports them. We want to thank all who contributed to this very important ministry! The 2020 recipients were: Natalie Alheidt, Joe Barta, Amanda Dwornikoski, Alex Edwards, Emma Klein, Reyes Madera, Ryan Scymanski, Jacob Sives, Will Smisko, Sam Touw, Adam Vanderwiele, Jacob Vanderwiele, and Kate Vanderwiele. Don't forget to read their "thank you" notes below and on the bulletin board in the fellowship room!



First Presbyterian Church,

Thank you so much for the gift box. I appreciate the encouraging slips of paper that were in the box along with the snacks. I hope that everyone is staying healthy, and God Bless to everyone!

Sincerely, Alex Edwards

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for my care package and for thinking of me. Although school is a little different this year, I still appreciate and look forward to the care package.

Thank you Again! Amanda Dwornikoski

Dear Church Family,

Thanks so much for the awesome care package! It was a great surprise and much appreciated!

Ryan Scymanski

My Church Family,

Thank you so much for the thoughtful care package! With everything going on it was great to receive such a thoughtful piece of home! I can't wait to get a hot coffee after practice and to be back at church.

Sincerely, Natalie Alheidt

Dear Church Family,

I want to thank you for the college care package. It's nice that you remember the college students, and it did help me get through exams.

Thank you, Joe Barta



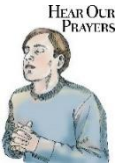
In Our Thoughts & Prayers



Please pray for **George Clark, Marlene Decker, Enhoffer Family, Bob Gibson, Rev. Bruce Gillette & his family, Phil Hardin, Mary Alice Hosking, Ralph Miller, Shirley Prall** (Ivy Diorio's friend), **Tonhild Schanstra** (Betty Scymanski's mom), **and Eric, Betsy, & Jake Sives**. Please let the Deacons or the office know who to add and who to remove. **Thank you!**

Prayers of the People E-mail

Janet Hayzler 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



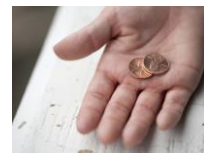
Prayer Shawl Ministry

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?): _____

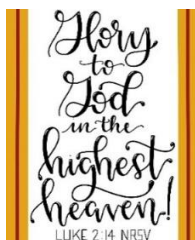
Please continue to listen to your neighbor, classmate, and community members, as each has a story to tell. If we at the First Presbyterian Church of Sussex can help, let someone on the Board of Deacons or Sharon Bove or Pastor Amy know. There are also papers on the back table in the sanctuary that can be filled out and placed in the glass jar.

Do you know of someone who needs a little boost?

Local Food Pantry News



The Sussex Help Center is open from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Fridays, and from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. on Mondays and Saturdays. They appreciate all donations, and they especially need canned soups. The Church of the Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in Wantage is looking for cereals (especially those small serving sizes that you can add hot water to). They are open for drop-offs between 9:00 a.m. and 11 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. If you know of a family in need, please contact Walter Houck ([973-875-7412](tel:973-875-7412)). **Thank you for your support!**



December Birthdays

- (1) Gavin LiTrenta
 Brandon Dwornikoski
- (5) Victoria Johnson
- (8) Karen Hardin
- (13) Christine Sarno
- (15) Tara Madsen
- (16) Linda Carbone
- (20) Sarah Fairweather
- (21) Carol Tomasula
- (23) Janet Eagles
- (24) Amy Mills
- (25) Jesus Christ
 Elizabeth Davis
- (31) Danielle LiTrenta



January Birthdays

- (1) Alicia Bilney
 Ryan Hayzler
 Betsy Sives
- (5) Reyes Madera
- (10) Betty Martin
- (11) Barbara Madsen
- (16) Kristen Hayzler
- (18) Owen Demeter
- (22) Melanie LiTrenta
 Lois Wright
- (24) Dawn Klein
- (25) Justin Smisko
- (28) Krista Kotowicz



an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins. When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife.

- Matthew 1:20b-21, 24

Lectionary for the Lord's Day

December 2020

- 6 **2nd Sunday of Advent**
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; Mark 1:1-8
- 13 **3rd Sunday of Advent**
Psalm 126; John 1:6-8, 19-28
- 20 **4th Sunday of Advent**
Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; Luke 1:26-38
- 24 **Christmas Eve**
Psalm 96; Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)
- 27 **1st Sunday of Christmas**
Psalm 148; Luke 2:22-40



January 2021

- 3 **2nd Sunday of Christmas**
Psalm 147:12-20; John 1(1-9) 10-18
- 10 **Baptism of the Lord**
Psalm 29; Mark 1:4-11

Sussex Elks

Visit with Santa: Mr. & Mrs. Claus will be visiting Sussex Elks Lodge #2288 on **Saturday, December 12th**, from 2-5 pm. Santa will be available during this time to visit with children who would like to share their wish list with him. This will be done by appointment only. No sitting on Santa's lap, but you will be able to speak with Santa while being socially distant. To schedule a visit with Santa, go to the following link to sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10CoD45A5A5A62BABFFC70-santa> or through our Facebook page at Facebook.com/SussexLodge2288.



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.

Peace Love JOY Peace Love JOY

The Birth of Jesus

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

”Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those
whom he favors!”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

- Luke 2:1-20

