



First Presbyterian Church of Sussex
PRESBYTERIAN
PRESS

21 Unionville Avenue, Sussex, NJ 07461

December 2022-January 2023

From the Pastor's Desk....

Happy Advent, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year!

Welcome to December, dear friends and members of First Pres Sussex! I hope you had a lovely celebration of Thanksgiving and even if things didn't go to plan, that you were able to feel the connection and gratitude of that special day.

Each December means we're in the thick of Advent and this year, of course, is no different. On November 20th, the pre-advent activities began with decorating the church and creating Advent Wreaths. Then, on November 27th, Advent began in earnest. Plus, the Advent Book Study began (with two session times) on Wednesday, November 30th.



And now that December's here, we have several special things happening around the church:

1. The Advent Book Study is continuing for four sessions (until **Wednesday, December 21st**). If you're interested in coming, let me know and I'd be happy to send you more information!
2. The Christmas Pageant is on **December 11th** during worship.
3. The Advent/Christmas Hymn Sing with the High Point Regional High School Chamber Singers is happening on **December 14th** at 7:00 p.m. Invite your friends!
4. The Annual Ladies' Cookie Walk is on **December 18th** before and after worship.
5. Christmas Day At-Home Worship Bags will be available for pickup for those unable to join in worship on **December 25th**, on **December 18th** and the whole week following.
6. Christmas Caroling will be on **December 18th** after worship—see Linda for more information—you're invited to sing along!
7. Christmas Eve worship will be on **December 24th** at 7:30 p.m.
8. Christmas Day worship will be on **December 25th** at 10:30 a.m.—our normal worship time but not our normal worship service. This will be more relaxed, and we'll be sharing favorite Christmas memories in lieu of a sermon.

I truly hope to see you at one or more of these events! If you'd like a Christmas At-Home Worship bag but aren't able to come by on **December 18th through December 24th**, please let Sharon Bove or me know so we can make sure you get one.

We will also be taking the Christmas Joy Offering on **December 18th and Christmas Eve**—this offering benefits the mission of the PC(USA) by funding the Pastor's Emergency Assistance Fund, providing money for the various Presbyterian schools and colleges, and providing leadership opportunities within the church. I hope you'll be as generous as you can be with this special offering.

Finally, be sure to read the Christmas story at some point between now and Christmas Day, as well as remember the true reason we celebrate at this special time of year. You can find the classic Christmas story in Matthew 1:18-25 and 2:1-12, as well as Luke 2:1-20.

May our God of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love be with you and your loved ones during this special time of year—and throughout your entire lives! Let's rejoice in the birth of our Lord and Savior together!

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



Christmas Day At-Home Worship Bags

Christmas Joy Offering

“And the Word became flesh and lived among us...” – John 1:14. 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 **Christmas Eve, December 24th**. Special envelopes will be in our Sunday bulletins on **December 18th and December 24th**. 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.



Advent Hymn Sing

Give yourself a gift this Advent and come to the church on **Wednesday, December 14th**, at 7:00 p.m., to hear the High Point Regional High School Chamber Singers. You will be glad you did...and bring a friend!



Christmas Caroling

Join us on **Sunday, December 18th**, when we will bring some Christmas music to our shut-ins after our worship service.



Christmas Eve Service



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

Session Highlights

Session met on November 22nd. The following items were discussed:



- It is with great pleasure that I indicate payment in full for the parking lot bill. A big thank you to the congregation!
- Active membership is recorded at 102.
- The Sussex Christian School is offering a \$1,000 scholarship to any student in our church who would be interested.
- The Per Capita for 2023 has been established by Presbytery at \$42.50 per member.
- Pastor Katherine has asked to keep Carolyn Van Houten and Lois Wright in our prayers.
- Camp Johnsonburg continues to request donations to refurbish their facilities.
- Our sidewalks will be cleared and salted this winter by L&S Contracting Services.
- Elder Penny Bates shared that the Cookie & Bread Walk will be held on **December 18, 2022**, before and after church.
- The Christmas Pageant will be held on **December 11, 2022**, during the worship service.
- Fellowship hour keeps going well. Please continue to volunteer.
- Communion is scheduled for **January 8, 2023**.
- Worship & Sacraments Committee is looking for ordained Elders and Deacons to serve communion on a rotational basis. Communion preparers are also needed. Please let Mike Kosco or the church know if you are interested.
- Our church continues to look for a reputable cleaning service. This is an ongoing service.
- The next regular Session meeting will be held on **Tuesday, December 20, 2022**, at 6:30 p.m., on the ZOOM platform.

Respectfully submitted,
Charles Bates, Clerk to Session

Mark Your Calendars



The next regular Deacons' meeting will be held on **Tuesday, January 11th**, 6:00 p.m., at the church; the next regular Session meeting will be held on **Tuesday, December 20th**, 6:30 p.m., on ZOOM.

Minister's New Hours/Pastoral Care

Pastor Katherine will be the office/the Sussex area on **Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays**. Her Sabbath time is now **Mondays**. On days when she's not in Sussex, she's only a phone call or text away!



Sermon Series



In January, Pastor Katherine will be starting a sermon series called: A New Vision. This series will take place from **January 8th through February 12th**. With the start of each new year comes the chance to cast a new vision for yourself and for your spiritual life!

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.



Christmas Pageant



Please join us on **Sunday, December 11th**, when the children will present their Christmas Pageant "Toooooooo Busy Christmas Pageant" during our worship service. Please plan to attend this special presentation!

Cookie & Bread Walk

The Presbyterian Women's Group of the First Presbyterian Church of Sussex is planning to hold its annual Cookie & Bread Sale on **Sunday, December 18th**, before and after worship. We will once again fill our coffee cans. If you are a cookie and/or bread baker, we would love to have you participate. Looking forward to all the goodies! Any questions, contact Penny at 973-764-3781 or 200-452-5082.



How Are We Doing???

For the Month of November

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

Average Weekly Attendance:	42
Monthly Offering:	\$ 8,631.50



Advent Wreath Workshop

The Annual Advent Wreath Workshop was held after church on November 20th.



*(Standing) Aven, Molly, Emily, Abby, Joline, Owen T., Owen D., Heath, Eloise, Emeline, Adriana
(Seated) August and Liam)*



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.

Peace Love JOY Peace Love JOY

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation will be held on **Sunday, January 22nd** at 11:30 a.m., in the church sanctuary and on ZOOM (snow date: **January 29th**). 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 2022 Annual Report, which should be ready for the congregation on **Sunday, January 15th**. Please have your report in to Sharon Bove by **Tuesday, January 3rd**, so that she will have plenty of time to put the report together (in case we have bad weather to work around). **Thank you!**



2023 Church Envelopes

The 2023 church offering envelopes will be available by **December 18th**. 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.



2023 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 will be located in the narthex by Christmas Eve.



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 that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flocks 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.

- Luke 2:8-11

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

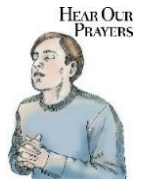


Please pray for **Cherry Bina** (Pat Walker's niece), **George Clark**, **Madelyn Coykendall**, **Frank Del Sardo, Jr.**, **Pam Fielding**, **Bob & Donna Gibson**, **Evelyn Haggard**, **Charlie & Dodi Lain**, **Betty Martin**, **Rev. Tim Marvil**, **Caroline Van Houten**, **Kenneth Van Wageninge** (Carolyn's 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.



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 Skylands Outreach Depot, our Deacons' Fund recipient for 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 Center for Prevention and Counseling. 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 December – Frank Del Sardo.

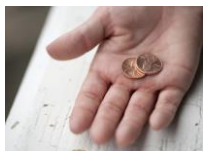


Prayer Shawl Ministry

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?**



My Church Family,

Thank you all so much for the generous gifts in my care package! It means so much to me and they are all super helpful gifts! I can't wait to be home and back at church!

Lydia

Dear First Presbyterian Church of Sussex,

Thank you for the gift box with the snacks and chocolate items, along with the devotional booklet and words of encouragement. I am looking forward to hopefully coming to a church service. It's been a while since I've visited my grandparents at their house. When my grandparents visited me recently here in Williamsport, PA, they showed me pictures of the freshly-paved parking lot. I hope that the church members enjoy having that done as it looked well overdue from the before pictures. Hope everyone is doing well!!

Peace & Blessings for All!!

Alex Edwards



December Birthdays

- (8) Karen Hardin
 - (13) Christine Sarno
 - (21) Carol Tomasula
 - (24) Amy Mills
 - (25) Jesus Christ
- Pastor Katherine Scott-Kirschner



January Birthdays

- (1) 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
 - (29) Julie Jordan Scott



Lectionary for the Lord's Day

December 2022

- 4 **2nd Sunday of Advent**
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Matthew 3:1-12
- 11 **3rd Sunday of Advent**
Psalm 146:5-10; Matthew 11:2-11
- 18 **4th Sunday of Advent**
Psalm 80:5-7, 17-19; Matthew 1:18-25
- 24 **Christmas Eve**
Psalm 146:5-10; Matthew 11:2-11
- 25 **Christmas Day**
Psalm 98; John 1:1-14



January 2023

- 1 **1st Sunday of Christmas**
Psalm 148; Matthew 2:13-
- 8 **Baptism of the Lord**
Psalm 29; Matthew 3:13-17
- 15 **2nd Sunday after Epiphany**
Psalm 40:1-11; John 1:29-42
- 22 **3rd Sunday after Epiphany**
Psalm 27:1, 4-9; Matthew 4:12-23
- 29 **4th Sunday after Epiphany**
Psalm 15; Matthew 5:1-12

Can You Help?



Worship Committee

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 December 25th*) of liturgists and ushers 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

December 4 th	Walter Houck
December 11 th	Sheryl Dekmar
December 18 th	Penny Bates
December 24 th (Christmas Eve)	Richard L. Hayzler
December 25 th (Christmas Day)	Mike Kosco



Schedule of Ushers

December 4 th	Joanne Cosh & Sheryl Dekmar
December 11 th	Charles & Penny Bates
December 18 th	Phil Hardin & Niki Lepes
December 24 th (Christmas Eve)	Paulette Touw & Ashley Ziccardi
December 25 th (Christmas Day)	Kyle DeGroat & Betsy Sives



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 everything. 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.

Our Church Sign

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

