

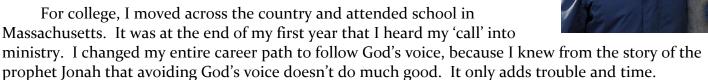
PRESBYTERIAN PRESBYTERIAN

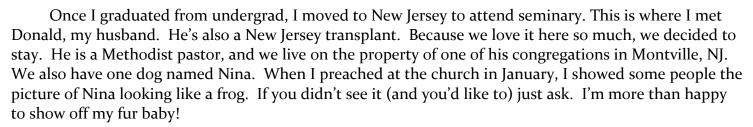
21 Unionville Avenue, Sussex, NJ 07461

February 2021

From the Pastor's Desk....

Hello Everyone! It's with lots of excitement that I wish you all "hello." My name is Katherine, and I'm overjoyed to be your new pastor. I officially begin on February 1, 2021, and I can't wait to get to know you all. Since I'm new, I figured I'd start with a little bit about me: I'm originally from the Central Valley of California. Lots of people ask me if I miss California. Truthfully, the only thing I miss is my family.





I was ordained in June 2018 in Montclair, NJ. In September 2020, I left my first call, and I'm thrilled to now serve with you here at Sussex. I've said for years that I'm paid to go to church, which is the best job ever! I've always felt very connected to worship, and I thank the Session for giving me the opportunity to lead First Presbyterian in worship for the next year (at least).

Now that you know a bit about myself and my family, I want to share three goals of mine for this year of ministry. I'm sure others will pop up as I get to know you, the congregation, and the community. These three are my starting points:

- 1. **Get to know you**: I want to chat with the people and families in the congregation. This will be different than other years because of the ongoing pandemic. But know you can expect a ZOOM invitation to coffee and chit-chat with me in the coming months. And, hopefully by the summer, we can do some informal gatherings in person.
- 2. **Get to know the community**: I want to form bonds with other pastors in the surrounding area, as well as community groups and initiatives to get to know the community and its needs. At this time, my husband and I don't plan to move to the manse full-time, so this goal needs to be intentional on my part. I also love school plays, concerts, games, and

- recitals—I hope to attend those for the area, too. Feel free to invite me to whatever your child(ren) (or children connected to you) are doing or showcasing.
- 3. **Expand congregational service opportunities**: One aspect of following Christ that's incredibly important to me is service or mission work. I believe there are folks who need us, as Christ's hands and feet, to assist them in and through difficult situations wherever we are. Sussex already has some awesome service opportunities for the congregation to engage in, and this goal of mine is to utilize those as a base and seek opportunities to foster new relationships to serve our community in needed ways.

As I wrap up this note, I wanted to leave you with a Scripture verse I've been reciting recently from Proverbs 3:5—"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight." Even as things still seem uncertain or unwanted in the world, it's important to remember we don't hold the weight of the world on our shoulders. God has it. We need to trust God has it.

In Christ,

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



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.

Pastoral Care

Pastor Katherine started on February 1st. 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.



Why Per Capita?

From the Stewardship Committee

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.

Session Highlights

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

- Charles Nagy, member, passed away on December 1, 2020.
- The Newton Presbytery will be interwoven into a new Presbytery. The name being used is Northwestern Presbytery, which will change sometime in March 2021.
- The Deacons and Session continue to appeal for volunteers.
- Our manse is now inhabited by the John Kuperus family.
- The Sunday School will present a Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 20th, via video.
- The 2021 Budget remains an ongoing project. Please remember to send in your pledges.
- A Christmas Eve Service will be held on December 24th at 7:30 p.m., and will include songs of Christmas.
- A skit by Walter Houck and Mike Kosco entitled, "The Innkeeper's Dream," will be presented during our worship service on Sunday, December 27th.
- Rev. Katherine Scott-Kirschner will preach and do communion on January 3, 2021.
- The next regular Session meeting will be held online on Tuesday, January 19, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.

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

- The Presbyterian Women's Group will be holding a Soup and Bread Sale on **February 6 or 7**, **2021**. Please fill out the order form. You can pick up your order on the dates indicated.
- A Sunday School room is presently being converted to an office for our new pastor, Rev. Katherine Scott-Kirschner.
- Karen Plaza, our Treasurer, is retiring. If our members know of someone who can fill this role, please contact Ruling Elder Penny Bates or Charles Bates, Clerk to Session.
- Communion is set for the first Sunday of each month in 2021 as follows: February 7th, March 7th, April 4th, May 2nd, June 6th, July 4th, August 1st, September 5th, October 3rd, November 7th, and December 5th.
- New technology has been purchased to enhance our worship service.
- The 2021 Budget has been approved by the Session. It will be presented to the congregation at the Congregational meeting on January 24, 2021.
- The next regular Session meeting will be held online on **Tuesday**, **February 16**, **2021**, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Charles Bates, Clerk to Session

HICHLIC.

Mark Your Calendars



The next regular Deacons' meeting will be held on **Tuesday**, **February** 9th, 7:00 p.m., online; the next regular Session meeting will be held on **Tuesday**, **February** 16th, 6:30 p.m., online.

Lent

The season of Lent begins on **February 17th**. 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.



Ash Wednesday



The Lenten journey from the ashes of death to resurrected life begins on the first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday. On Ash Wednesday we are reminded that unless we are willing to die to our old selves, we cannot be raised to new life with Christ. We are planning to have an evening Ash Wednesday Service on **February 17**th, 7:00 p.m., on ZOOM.

2021 Church Envelopes



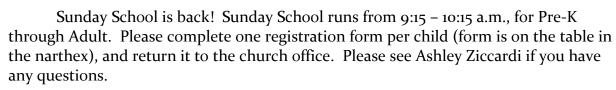
The 2021 church offering envelopes will available by **December 27**th. Please take yours home with you when you come to church. Also, if you see a neighbor's envelopes, please take them and drop them off.

2021 Calendar

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.

Sunday School News







How Are We Doing???

For the Month of December

(Computers Connected During ZOOM + People Attending Worship)

Average Weekly Attendance: 34

Monthly Offering: \$ 10,391

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.

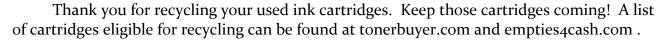
Donate to Your Church by Shopping at Smile.Amazon



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.

Ink Cartridge Recycling





PresbySeniors News



The PresbySeniors (Seasoned Singers) had put our activities, luncheons, social etc. on hold in 2020, BUT we're not giving up on 2021! Keep alert in bulletins and newsletters for coming attractions as the year progresses towards safe and approved get-togethers. Surely there will be more of us on the "invite list" as our members "mature." Be thinking

of new venues, places to go, and things to do! Keep safe!!

Lois and Barbara



In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Please pray for **Bill Davis** (John Davis' brother), **Marlene Decker**, **Sheryl Dekmar**, **Enhoffer Family**, **Bob & Donna Gibson**, **Rev. Bruce Gillette & his family**, **Phil Hardin**, **Mary Alice Hosking**, **Ralph Miller**, **Shirley Prall** (Ivy Diorio's friend); and the families of **Charles Nagy and Tonhild Schanstra** (**Betty Scymanski**'



friend); and the families of **Charles Nagy and Tonhild Schanstra (Betty Scymanski's mom)**. 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.

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 Father John's Animal House in Lafayette for December and the Church of the Good Shepherd's food pantry in January.



Our Deacons' Fund recipient for February is the Sussex Help Center, our local food pantry. Please give generously!

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.





Dear Congregation,

I am so thankful for your gifts this Christmas season: of support, encouragement, and your generous gifts. You don't know how much I count as a blessing to serve this church and our Savior.

I miss seeing you in person, and especially miss choir members and bell ringers! I can't wait till we can meet again to proclaim God's love in music together.

Till we meet again, Linda

Dear First Presbyterian Parishioners,

I would just like to thank you all so very much for the very generous monetary gift and the very delicious tin of specialty cookies, which you gave me for Christmas.

They both came at the most perfect time, and I cannot thank you enough for your thoughtfulness and appreciation towards me.

I wish you all a very happy and healthy New Year.

Love, Kathy

Dear Friends,

Thank you very much for the very generous monetary gift and delicious cookie tin you gave me for Christmas. It is nice to be remembered at this special time of year by such a special congregation!

Your thoughtfulness is very much appreciated!

Sincerely, Sharon

To the Congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of Sussex:

The gifting on Christmas Eve came as a complete surprise to me. I appreciate your thoughtfulness so much. I want you to know how thankful I am to have all of you as members of my church family.

My hope for all of you is that you have a happy, healthy, and safe New Year.

My hope for all of you is that you have a happy, healthy, and safe New Year.

Thank you, Charlie Bates





To My Friends in the First Sussex Presbyterian Church,

Well, here I am in the old folks' home, otherwise known as the Sentinel of Port Jervis. It isn't bad as such places go, but I'm finding it hard to think of myself as an old man, even though I'll be 80 in two months.

Thank you for the cards and good wishes I received. When our quarantine is lifted, I'll try and make an appearance at our church to see my friends in the church.

Yours in Church, Ralph (Jeff) Miller

(Ralph's address is: The Sentinal of Port Jervis, 2249 Greenville Tpke., Port Jervis, NY 12771)

To the Presbyterian Church Congregation,

Just about a month ago your church helped our family tremendously. In more ways than you may even know. As many of you may know, we sold our house and what we were counting on to move into fell through, and because of the craziness of the market, nothing else came through as a rental.

Your church has been such a blessing to our family for letting us take care of the manse over the winter months and prayerfully until housing becomes available.

We cannot thank you enough. May this Christmas season be joyous to you and your families and you receive a blessing as we did from you.

With many thanks, The Kuperus Family

February Birthdays

- (2) Abigail Higgins
- (13) Jennifer Mirro
- (14) Charles Lain, Sr.
- (15) Wilma Elder
- (18) Nancy Barta Rachel (Stormes) Sullivan
- (21) Savannah Losey
- (22) Joanne Cosh
- (24) Lindsey Hardin
- (27) Charles Bates
 Amanda Dwornikoski



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.)

Contact information (name, address, phone #): Your name (optional):	ipient/situation:	
	tact information (name, address, phone #):	
How do you want to have the "gift" delivered? (By yourself or by a member of the committee? Or other	r name (optional):	
suggestion?):	w do you want to have the "gift" delivered? (By yourself or by a member of the committee? Or other gestion?):	

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

February 2021

- 7 5th Sunday after Epiphany Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; Mark 1:29-39
- 14 Transfiguration of the Lord Psalm 50:1-6; Mark 9:2-9
- **21** *1st Sunday in Lent* Psalm 25:1-10; Mark 19:9-15
- **28 2**nd **Sunday in Lent**Psalm 22:23-31; Mark 8:31-38

March 2021

- 7 3rd Sunday in Lent Psalm 19; John 2:13-22
- 14 4th Sunday in Lent Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; John 3:14-21



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). **Thank you for your support!**

Praise the Lord!
How good it is to sing praises to our God;
For He is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.
The Lord builds up Jerusalem;
He gathers the outcasts of Israel.
He heals the brokenhearted,
And binds up their wounds.

Psalm 147:1-3

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.

Vandalism: On January 28th, the Sussex Elks Lodge #2288 was vandalized. Thankfully, no one was hurt; however, the property damage is extensive. Everything will need full replacement, with estimates totaling close to \$15,000. While we do have insurance, which should cover some of it, we will still need to meet our deductible, and any uncovered costs. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the lodge has been essentially closed with almost no income since March 2020. Since that time, we have been reaching into our limited savings funds to continue our building operations until we can fully reopen.

Among what was vandalized were two Eagle Scout Projects. This alone is devastating to our lodge. These scouts put much time, effort, and heart into these projects, and they were destroyed by a senseless, selfish act. Our flagpole has been demolished; and as an organization which values patriotism and assisting veterans, this is a deep blow to our hearts.

The Elks has been called "Silent Angels" and "The Best Kept Secret" in our community for many years. The Sussex Elks Lodge #2288 is one of the lodges of the nationwide Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. As a not-for-profit organization, Sussex Elks lodge assists our community in a variety of ways, including through Veteran services, scholarships, drug awareness programs, special children and other youth activities, assisting with and donating to other local nonprofit and not-for-profit organizations, assisting local first responders, and much more.

As a 100% volunteer, not-for-profit organization, the Sussex Elks Lodge #2288 has been ineligible for any financial assistance throughout the COVID-19 pandemic; and we are now reaching out to the community for help. Like many other local services, we have been forced to cancel many events and fundraisers.

Despite these challenges, our incredible members have still stepped up during this time, donating their time to continue the charitable work of the lodge. We are reaching out to the community we help behind the scenes, asking for your aide. Your generosity and support will allow our lodge to continue to assist those in need, and will help us be able to survive this extended suspension of fundraising and events, as well as repair the damages to our building and property. With your support, we will be able to recover and rebuild from this act of vandalism.

We sincerely thank our entire community for all your support now and always. We look forward to the day we can fully open our doors to everyone again, and until that time, are committed to being there for our community, as we always have been.

No donation is too small, and all proceeds from this donation drive will go toward restoring the building and grounds of Sussex Elks Lodge. Any additional funds will go toward our charitable endeavors in our community. Donations can be made through our GoFundMe link (https://www.gofundme.com/f/ga7ke?utm_source=customer&utm_medium=copy_link&utm_campaign=p_cf+share-flow-1), Venmo (Venmo.com/Sussex-Elks), or direct donation to the lodge (152 County Route 565, Wantage, NJ 07461).

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ... Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

Mark 9:1-5, 7-8

The Bible in Translation

The Bible has been translated numerous times and into many languages, including about 900 times into English alone. Translations have been done by committees and by individuals, and no two are exactly alike.

Below you will see Old Testament passages from Genesis and Psalms in four different translations. The first in each group is the King James Version, probably the most famous Bible translation. A committee of scholars and clergymen worked on a translation for King James I of England, and in 1611 this Bible was published.

The second translation is by an individual scholar, Robert Alter, who translated the Old Testament (Hebrew Bible) and also provided commentary along with his translation. The third translation is the popular New International Version. And the fourth version is from the New Revised Standard Version, which we use in our church.

Genesis 1:1-3

- <u>KIV</u> 1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.
 - 2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.
 - 3 And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.
- Robert Alter 1 When God began to create heaven and earth,
 - 2 and the earth then was welter and waste and darkness over the deep and God's breath hovering over the waters,
 - 3 God said, "Let there be light." And there was light.
- NIV 1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
 - 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.
 - 3 And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.
- NRSV 1 In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth,
 - 2 the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.
 - 3 Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

Psalm 23 Psalms are poems, and usually they are published in poetic form. For space considerations, the translations here are printed in a prose format.

<u>KJV</u> 1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

- 2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.
- 3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
- 4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
- 5 Thou preparest a_table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
- 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Robert Alter 1 A David Psalm. The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

- 2 In grass meadows He makes me lie down, by quiet waters He guides me.
- 3 My life He brings back. He leads me on pathways of justice for His name's sake.
- 4 Though I walk in the vale of death's shadow, I fear no harm, for You are with me. Your rod and Your staff it is they that console me.
- 5 You set out a table before me in the face of my foes. You moisten my head with oil, my cup overflows.
- 6 Let but goodness and kindness pursue me all the days of my life. And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for many long days.

NIV 1 The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters,
- 3 he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.
- 4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
- 6 Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

NRSV 1 The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;
- 3 he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.
- 4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me.
- 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
- 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.