



First Presbyterian Church of Sussex
PRESBYTERIAN
PRESS

21 Unionville Avenue, Sussex, NJ 07461

February 2022

From the Pastor's Desk...

Happy first anniversary! We made it through our first year of ministry together! So many exciting things happened, and I'm still so grateful to be your pastor. It's my deepest prayer that you are thankful that I'm here, too.

With our first year behind us, it's important to look at my goals from my very first pastor's note. I included three:

1. **To Get to Know You** I've met many of you, though I still have plenty of people to get to know in a deeper way. If we didn't connect in this first year of ministry—believe me, I want to get to know you more!
2. **To Get to Know the Community** I met with the other pastors in the area for our two virtual services, and I introduced myself to some of the other non-profits in Sussex and into Newton. I still want to do better with the greater Sussex community. If you have any ideas of events where the church can be present, please let me know!
3. **Expand Congregational Service Opportunities** This goal of mine was the least practiced—and I hope to change that this year. COVID colored this goal, since various service opportunities for group service didn't restart in a safe way during 2021. I'm going to continue to be on the lookout for chances to expand this year.

Those were my goals and how I did on them. For this coming year, my goals are to continue to expand on these same parameters. We have a foundation built together—built upon rock as Christ suggests for us as believers to build our lives upon.

The rock we're built upon is a shared desire to grow as followers of Jesus Christ for our own spiritual benefit and for the benefit of the entire community where we find ourselves. It's through Christ alone that we can strive to have this spiritual growth.

Part of the growth is discovery (and rediscovery) of our foundations of ministry—and we're doing this in the current sermon series that will continue through February 20, 2022. Come learn about Christ's seven foundations of ministry and to think about your own/our own. The four covered in January were: baptism, the miracle of hospitality, how things can seem great...until they don't. And the three in February look at finding friends in ministry, figuring out your elevator pitch, and teaching the foundations of your faith.

As a preview to Jesus' elevator pitch, I'm going to leave you with a portion of Luke's version of the beatitudes: "Then [Jesus] looked up at his disciples and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the Kingdom of God. Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh." (Luke 6:20-21)

May you all be blessed for the ways you live into God's callings in your life, and may you be a beacon of light and love into this world that so desperately needs God's love and light.

In Christ,

Pastor Katherine

(973) 771-4721 (cell)



Session Highlights



Session met on December 21st. The following items were discussed:

- Ruling Elder Richard L. Hayzler, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented a slate of candidates for Ruling Elders and Deacons, which will be voted on at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation on January 23, 2022.
- The Per Capita amount due per member will remain at \$40.00 for 2022.
- The Presbyterian Women's Group made over \$700 at their Cookie & Bread Walk on December 18th.
- The Presbyterian Women's Group will hold their Annual Soup Sale by pre-order only.
- Ruling Elder Jason Touw and Clerk to Session Charles Bates presented options on repaving the parking lot. This will be discussed at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation on January 23rd.
- The 2022 Budget continues to need tweaks. We are close to presenting the Budget to our congregation.
- Stewardship is never over. We need your financial support.
- Ruling Elder Sharon Alheidt reported that Fellowship after worship will continue as it is presently being done.
- Pastor Katherine's Terms of Call have been approved for 2022.
- Ruling Elder Mike Kosco reported an average of 41 people attending church, with an average of eight on the ZOOM platform. He wants to work with Ruling Elder Ashley Ziccardi on scheduling Acolytes starting, hopefully, in January.
- The membership rolls are being worked on.
- The next regular Session meeting will be held on **Tuesday, January 18, 2022**, at 6:30 p.m., on the ZOOM platform.

Session met on January 18, 2022. The following items were discussed:

- The 2022 Budget was approved. It will be presented at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation on January 23, 2022.
- Pastor Katherine will begin a seven-week sermon series entitled, "Foundations of Ministry."
- A plan has been put together to repave the parking lot. Let's help support this need.
- The Presbyterian Women's Group will hold their Annual Soup Sale on **February 12th and 13th**, by pre-order only. See the article elsewhere in this newsletter.
- Karen Plaza has agreed to remain as our Treasurer through 2022.
- Communion will be held on the first Sunday of each month in 2022. Attendance on Sundays has remained at an average of 41.
- The next regular Session meeting will be held on **Tuesday, February 15, 2022**, at 6:30 p.m., on the ZOOM platform.

Respectfully submitted,
Charles Bates, Clerk to Session

Mark Your Calendars



The Deacons' met on February 1st, on ZOOM; the next regular Session meeting will be held on **Tuesday, February 15th**, 6:30 p.m., on ZOOM.

Can You Help?

The Building & Grounds Committee presented the need to repave our parking lot at the Congregational Meeting on January 23rd. The cost will be approximately \$32,800, barring an increase in materials. There is a budget line for donations to this effort. We know this is another expense, but we need to keep our facilities in good condition; we have been fortunate so far. We would appreciate it if you would consider donating to the church for this purpose. No donation is too small! Please make your check payable to *First Presbyterian Church of Sussex*, and mark *Parking Lots* on the memo line. Donations may be placed in the offering plate on Sundays, or you can mail it to our Depositing Treasurer, Janet Hayzler, at 96 Holland Road, Wantage, NJ 07461. Thank you in advance for your help in this matter.



Presbyterian Women's Group



The Presbyterian Women's Group had a very successful Cookie and Bread Sale. We wish to thank the following women who baked for us: Donna Gibson, Barbara Young, Sheryl Dekmar, Nancy Barta, Sharon Alheidt, Joanne Cosh, Janet Hayzler, and Penny Bates. We made a total of \$1,005. Thank you to all who helped to make this possible!

Our Soup Sale is being planned for **February 12th and 13th**. It will be a pre-ordering sale. Janet Hayzler, Joanne Cosh, Sharon Alheidt, and Penny Bates will be the soup makers. An order form has been emailed to all members and friends of the church. We thank everyone so much for their orders!



Church Leadership

Installation of Church Officers

Our worship service on **Sunday, February 13th**, will include the installation of our new Ruling Elders (Penny Bates, Walter Houck, and Mike Kosco) and Deacons (Nancy Barta and Paulette Touw). We thank Sharon Alheidt and Joanne Cosh for their service to our church!

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.



February 21st

Triennium 2022



Calling all youth and young adults! Registration for Triennium 2022 will be opening in March. Triennium is a once-every-three-years event for youth to come together and worship our living God. This year, the theme is “When Did We See You? Matthew 25:31-46”, and it’s **July 24th-27th** in Indianapolis. You can find more information at <https://presbyterianyouthtriennium.org> . Registration details and cost to come soon! Let Pastor Katherine know if you’re interested (for yourself or a loved one).

How Are We Doing???

For the Months of December & January

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

Average Weekly Attendance (Dec.):	48
Monthly Offering (Dec.):	\$ 8,800
Average Weekly Attendance (Jan.)	30
Monthly Offering (Jan.)	\$ 9,387



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

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.



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.

2022 Church Envelopes

The 2022 church offering envelopes will be available by **December 19th**. 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.



2022 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.

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 \$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.



In Our Thoughts & Prayers



Please pray for **Frank Del Sardo Jr., Bob & Donna Gibson, Evelyn Haggard, Betty Martin, Rev. Tim Marvil, Ralph Miller, Joan Thomas, and Jeff Thomas.** Please let the Deacons or the office know who to add and who to remove. **Thank you!**



Prayers of the People E-mail

HEAR OUR PRAYERS



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 Father John's Animal House, our Deacons' Fund recipient for December; and the Center for Prevention and Counseling, our Deacons' Fund recipient for January.

Our Deacons' Fund recipient for February is Free Clinic Newton. It is a 501(c)(3) charity which provides free medical services to people who are low-income, uninsured, or unable to afford health care elsewhere. Staffed by physicians and nurses with a wide range of medical skills who volunteer their time and talents, Free Clinic Newton provides basic eye care, urgent and chronic care, minor procedures, triage assessments, diagnostic testing, and referral for some surgical procedures. Low-cost or free medications (never narcotics) are also made available to patients. The Clinic is also an additional way for the poor and homeless to access community social services, food and clothing banks, and recovery opportunities. Because the health care is offered at no cost, Free Clinic Newton relies on community donations and volunteer doctors, nurses, and citizens to make this important service possible. For more information, go to <http://freeclinicnewton.org>. Please give generously to our monthly Deacons Funds!

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.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Congratulations!!!



On January 23rd, the congregation celebrated membership anniversaries for the following during the worship service: **65 Years:** Mary Alice Hosking & Pamela (Niki) Lepes; **40 Years:** Paulette Touw; **35 Years:** Howard Bateman & Pat Hardin; **30 Years:** Janet Eagles; **25 Years:** Beth-Ann Enhoffer, Ken Enhoffer, Beverly Johnson, & Richard Johnson; **20 Years:** Walter Houck & Betty Martin; **15 Years:** Carly Hayzler, Nicole Sarno, & Julie Tremont; **10 Years:** Patricia Walker; **5 Years:** Ralph Miller & Amy Mills.





Dear Congregation and Friends!

Donald and I are so grateful for your generosity to our family this Christmas season. Your gifts were unexpected, and words cannot fully express our thanks. I feel honored to be part of this congregation and to be your pastor. Thank you!

*Christ's Peace and Love,
Pastor Katherine*

Dear Congregation,

Thank you all for the generous Christmas gift. I am blessed to be part of this church, and I look forward to sharing music with you as we worship together in person and through ZOOM.

*God Bless you all!
Linda*

Dear First Presbyterian Parishioners,

I would just like to thank you so very much for your very generous monetary gift that you gave me for Christmas, especially now that I am semi-retired from my teaching position.

Thank you also for the wonderful tin of European Chocolate Cookies. They are truly such a delicious treat at the end of a busy day.

Hope all your holidays were happy and restful. Best wishes for a healthy and brighter 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! I would also like to thank the Presbyterian Women's Group for the delicious tray of cookies.

Your thoughtfulness is very much appreciated!

*Sincerely,
Sharon Bove*

Friends at the FPC of Sussex,

I so much appreciate the lovely bouquet of flowers that Joanne "dropped off"--such a nice surprise!

*Thank you so very much!
Betty Martin*



Christmas Greetings

My love for Jesus grows stronger every year! Merry Christmas!

*Blessings,
Dolores Voris (Marion's mom)*

*To the Staff & Congregation of First Presbyterian Church of Sussex,
Wishing you a comfy, cozy, bright and beautiful, warm and wonderful, holiday!*

*Merry Christmas!
Blessings,
The Staff of Family Promise of SC*



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.

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 plan to stay after worship and visit with your friends!



February Birthdays

- (2) Abigail Higgins
- (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.)

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?**

Liturgists Needed

Mike Kosco, chair of the Worship & Sacraments Committee, is looking for people to serve as liturgists. 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 (Mike will train newbies!), please contact him at 973-600-2386, or see him after worship on Sundays. A schedule (*through March*) of liturgists 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



February 13 th	Sheryl Dekmar
February 20 th	Richard L. Hayzler
February 27 th	Charles Bates
March 6 th	Mike Kosco
March 13 th	Betsy Sives
March 20 th	Janet Hayzler
March 27 th	Penny Bates

Lectionary for the Lord's Day

February 2022

- 6 *5th Sunday after Epiphany*
Psalm 138; Luke 5:1-11
- 13 *6th Sunday after Epiphany*
Psalm 1; Luke 6:17-26
- 20 *7th Sunday after Epiphany*
Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40; Luke 6:27-38
- 27 *Transfiguration of the Lord*
Psalm 99; Luke 9:28-36 (37-43a)



March 2022

- 6 *1st Sunday in Lent*
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Luke 4:1-13
- 13 *2nd Sunday in Lent*
Psalm 27 Luke 13:31-35



Contemplative Ash Wednesday Service

The church will be open between 5:00-8:00 p.m. for a self-guided, reflective time to prepare yourself for Lent. Pastor Katherine will be present to administer ashes. There will be several activities to assist in your reflections. You are invited!

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 canned tuna. 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.

Contact the Sussex Elks Lodge 2288 at SussexElks2288@gmail.com or they can be found on the Facebook page (www.facebook.com/SussexLodge2288).

Our Church Sign

(Thank You Phil Hardin)

