



First Presbyterian Church of Sussex
PRESBYTERIAN
PRESS

21 Unionville Avenue, Sussex, NJ 07461

February 2023

From the Pastor's Desk....

Hello Dear Church!

February is a transition month—you may not think that right away, and yet I assure you it is! **February 1st** marks the beginning of my third year as your pastor (which is a dear joy to me). It also marks the transition into the church season of Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday on **February 22, 2023**.

We'll also be transitioning from our first sermon series of 2023 to our second. Our first series, "A New Vision," ends on **Sunday, February 12th**; our next series begins on Ash Wednesday and is called, "A Time to Grow."

I'll be following a book by the same name, *A Time to Grow: Lenten Lessons from the Garden to the Table* by Kara Eidson—a United Methodist pastor in the greater Kansas City area. The series will connect not just the growth of food (garden to table), but also how cultivating our faith makes for a richer life of following Christ. The book has all kinds of lovely devotions that you can do each day, if you'd like to purchase the book.

Here's a quote I loved from the introduction to *A Time to Grow*: "Within this culture, we have lost one of the uniting factors of what makes us human: the simple act of breaking bread together. Journeying through the season of Lent with this in mind, we can slow down, move through the painstaking process of growth, and end together with great feasting and celebration of the resurrection on Easter morning" (Edison, 4).

Since February is a month of transition, here's a quick look at some of the special things happening in February:

1. **Sunday, February 12th**, after church—The Annual Soup Sale is happening, and it's back to its pre-COVID form. Find more details in the newsletter! Thank you to all our volunteers who are preparing the yummy soup for this wonderful event!
2. **Thursday, February 16th**, at 6:30 p.m., at The Presbyterian Church of Morristown: A special lecture with author Lisa Miller, who will be speaking about her book, *The Spiritual Child*. You can attend the lecture in person OR via livestream. Find more information in the newsletter.
3. **Wednesday, February 22nd**, at 7:00 p.m.—Our Ash Wednesday Service; in the sanctuary and on ZOOM. Mark the beginning of your Lenten season with this service, which will be focused on "soil" and will end with bestowing the ash cross for those who'd like to participate.
4. Ordination/Installation of the new officers (Elders and Deacons) will also take place on a Sunday in February, but I'm not sure which one at this time. Be on the lookout to support our new class of leaders for the church.

May you all find peace and love in your lives as we move through February! And welcome to our third year of ministry together! I'm thrilled to see what God has in store for us during this year of ministry together.

With Christ's Love,
Pastor Katherine Scott-Kirschner
(973) 771-4721 (cell)



Session Highlights



Session met on December 20th. The following items were discussed:

- Hope all had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
- Active membership is recorded at 102.
- Pastor Katherine reported that her sermon series starting on January 8th and ending on February 12th will present a “new vision.” Come and hear.
- The Per Capita for 2023 has been established by Presbytery at \$42.50 per member.
- The Presbyterian Women’s Group’s Cookie and Bread Walk was a success. They collected \$738.
- We need an electrician on an available basis per Presbytery. If you know of someone, please let Charles Bates know.
- The Session has approved the hiring of a new custodial person. We hope she can start in January 2023.
- The 2023 Communion Sundays will be **January 8th, February 5th, March 5th, April 2nd, May 7th, June 4th, July 2nd, August 6th, September 3rd, October 1st, November 5th, and December 3rd.**
- The next regular Session meeting will be held on **Tuesday, January 17, 2023**, at 6:30 p.m., on the ZOOM platform.

Session met on January 17, 2023. The following items were discussed:

- The Deacons continue to visit shut-ins and provide communion.
- Pastor Katherine is utilizing a “New Vision as her sermon series.
- An Ash Wednesday Service will be held at 7:00 p.m. on **February 22, 2023**.
- The Presbyterian Women’s Group will hold their Annual Soup Sale in person on **February 12th** following the worship service. See the article elsewhere in this newsletter.
- The 2023 Budget has been formulated and will be voted on at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation on January 22, 2023.
- Pastor Katherine’s Terms of Call have been updated and will be presented at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation on January 22, 2023.
- People to preach during Pastor Katherine’s maternity leave are being set up.
- The Phone and Text Chains are being updated.
- The Tech Task Force is attempting to update our sound equipment for better quality.
- Our new church custodian will be cleaning our church twice a month.
- The next regular Session meeting will be held on **Tuesday, February 21, 2023**, 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, February 7th**, 7:00 p.m., on ZOOM; the next regular Session meeting will be held on **Tuesday, February 21st**, 6:30 p.m., on ZOOM.



Lent



The season of Lent begins on **February 22nd**. 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 Service – The 2023 Ash Wednesday Service is taking place at 7:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, February 22nd**, in the church and on ZOOM. You're invited to begin the season of Lent by attending this service of reflection and confession. Pastor Katherine and the choir hope to see you there!



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

On Ash Wednesday, **February 22nd**, Pastor Katherine will be starting a new sermon series called: *A Time to Grow*. See more information on the front page of this newsletter.



How Are We Doing???

For the Month of January

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

Average Weekly Attendance: 44

Monthly Offering: \$ 8,539



Presbyterian Women's Group

Our Soup Sale is being planned for **Sunday, February 12th**, in the church kitchen area. To make this sale a success, we will need help from our church family to make their favorite soup/soups. There is a sign-up sheet in the fellowship room on the food table for anyone who is willing to make a soup. We will be going back to having soup for sale in pints and quarts and also bowls to sit and have together as a church group. Joanne Cosh has agreed to make charcuterie trays. These are the only items to be pre-ordered (price: \$25). We are excited to return to our former way of handling the Soup Sale. Please look up your soup recipes, and mark your calendars!





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.

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.



The Spiritual Child



Pastor Katherine is thrilled to extend the invitation on behalf of the Presbytery team she's part of to the lecture by Dr. Lisa Miller about her book *The Spiritual Child*. Dr. Miller is Professor and Founder of the Spirituality Mind Body Institute at Teachers College, Columbia University. A graduate of Yale and University of Pennsylvania, she is a leading national expert in spirituality, health and thriving in development.

The Presbyterian Church of Morristown is hosting Dr. Miller on **Thursday, February 16, 2023** at 6:30 p.m. to delve into the importance of faith in a child's life. Her book, *The Spiritual Child*, presents the next big idea in psychology: the science and the power of spirituality. She explains the clear, scientific link between spirituality and health and shows that children who have a positive, active relationship to spirituality:

- are 40% less likely to use and abuse substances
- are 60% less likely to be depressed as teenagers
- are 80% less likely to have dangerous or unprotected sex
- have significantly more positive markers for thriving including an increased sense of meaning and purpose, and high levels of academic success.

Everyone is invited to attend this lecture, either in Morristown or via livestream. Please register at <https://www.pcmorristown.org/2023/01/03/lisa-miller-the-spiritual-child-in-morristown/> for either attendance option. The event is free; however, the congregation is asking for a \$5 donation if attending via the livestream. Pastor Katherine is joyfully attending this event and hopes to see you there!

Phone/Text Chain Update

The Hospitality Committee wants to rebuild the Phone/Text Chain before Pastor Katherine goes on maternity leave to better be able to contact our congregation. To make this work, we need at least two people (possibly three) willing to make phone calls. Please tell us which form of communication you would prefer (phone call or text), and send your name and phone/cell phone number to the church,



sussexpresbyterian@embarqmail.com, or let Penny Bates know (973-764-3781). Or you can fill out a form that will be included in the Sunday bulletins for the next few Sundays, or will be on the table in the back of the sanctuary. Thank you!



Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation was held on **Sunday, January 22nd** at 11:30 a.m., in the church sanctuary and on ZOOM. The 2023 Annual Report is available at the church, along with the 2023 Budget.

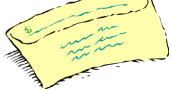
Installation of Church Officers

Our worship service on **Sunday, February 12th**, will include the installation of our new Ruling Elders (Charles Bates, Richard L. Hayzler, Jennifer Kovach, and Eric Sives) and Deacons (Joanne Cosh, Stanley Kotowicz, and Christine Sarno). We thank Jason Touw as Ruling Elder and Janet Hayzler as Deacon for their service to our church!



Church Leadership

Offering Envelopes



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.



February Birthdays

- (14) Charles Lain, Sr.
- (18) Nancy Barta
Rachel (Stormes) Sullivan
- (22) Joanne Cosh
- (24) Lindsey Hardin
- (27) Charles Bates
Amanda Dwornikoski





Dear Members and Friends!

Thank you so much for your generous Christmas gift. Donald and I are slowly... or maybe not so slowly... making our way through the delicious cookies, and we're incredibly grateful for the monetary gift as well. These first two years of ministry together have flown by, and I'm incredibly blessed and honored to work with you. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for your individual and collective generosity. As Psalm 138 says, "I give thanks to you with all my heart, Lord." I do give thanks to God for our ministry together. Thank you for welcoming me into this community of faith and fellowship.

*Blessings,
Pastor Katherine*

Dear Friends,

As another year has ended, let me thank you for all the privilege to serve at this church. Your generous Christmas gift is such a blessing to me.

I humbly accept and hope to continue as the Lord leads the wonderful faithful choir and congregation praising His name with music.

*Blessings to you all!
Linda*

Dear First Presbyterian Parishioners,

I just wanted to thank you all so very much for thinking of me over the holidays and presenting me with the delicious bin of Belgian cookies and your generous monetary gift.

I feel truly blessed to be accepted into your parish to care for your children, and how welcome you have made me feel since the very first day. Thank you all for your generosity and your kindness.

Hope your holidays were joyous ones, and I wish you all a 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!

I am blessed to be able to work here at the First Presbyterian Church of Sussex for all these years.

Your thoughtfulness is very much appreciated!

*Love,
Sharon*

Members of the Sussex Presbyterian Church, Choir and Linda DeGroat, and Pastor Katherine,

Thank you for all the cards and well wishes, the beautiful Christmas Service, and Christmas music.

Bless our church and members. I miss you all.

*Love,
Lois Wright*

Church Membership Anniversaries Celebrated

On January 22nd, the congregation celebrated membership anniversaries for the following during the worship service: **70 Years:** Ann Cosh; **65 Years:** Judy Clark & Thomas Clark; **55 Years:** Joanne Cosh, Richard Cosh, & David Wright; **40 Years:** Kathy Carey; **35 Years:** Bob Demeter; **30 Years:** Dodi Lain, Alan Stormes, Sheila Stormes, & Susan Vanden Heuvel; **25 Years:** Lois Capobianco, Rob Hayzler, & Ashley Ziccardi; **20 Years:** Jennifer Kovach; **15 Years:** Justin Smisko, Rachel Sullivan, Stephen Kacmar, Giselle Smisko, John Smisko, & Gerald VanderHart; **10 Years:** Joe Barta, Caroline Jacobs, & Sophia Tremont; **5 Years:** Natalie Alheidt, Rayes Madera, Kevin Scymanski, Ryan Scymanski, Sam Touw, Jacob Vanderwiele, Katie Vanderwiele, Brandon Del Sardo, Frank DelSardo, & Lorraine Ricci.



Front – Ann Cosh; Rear – Ashley Ziccardi, Joanne Cosh, Rachel Sullivan, Sheila Stormes, Kathy Carey, Bob Demeter, Steve Kacmar, and Frank Del Sardo



Congratulations



Baylie Touw will have a photograph on display at the Mall to represent the photo program at Minisink Valley as part of the Orange County Art Council's "The Arts Build Confidence" at Crystal Run Galleria Mall in Middletown, NY. This showcase will take place on **February 11th**, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the J.C. Penney square.

Email Updates

Betty Martin's new email address is: bet1957mart@gmail.com ; Gerry VanderHart's email address is gbvdhart@gmail.com ; Howard Bateman's email address is hcbjr14@yahoo.com . Please update your church directories.



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), **Josephine Bonanno** (Evelyn Haggard's friend), **Madelyn Coykendall**, **George Clark** (Judy's husband), **Frank Del Sardo, Jr.**, **Pam Fielding**, **Bob & Donna Gibson**, **Rev. Bruce Gillette & Family**, **Evelyn Haggard**, **Charlie & Dodi Lain**, **Betty Martin**, **Rev. Tim Marvil**, **Kenneth Van Wageninge** (Carolyn's brother), **Lois Wright**, and **Barbara Young**; and the families of **Rev. Charles Holm and the Ricci Family**. Please let the Deacons or the office know who to add and who to remove. **Thank you!**

Note: Rev. Bruce Gillette was recently in the hospital. They are thankful for your prayers on this journey since Bruce was diagnosed with acute leukemia, had a bone marrow transplant, and has been recovering with a weakened immune system.



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 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 the Sussex Help Center, our local food pantry. Please give generously to our monthly Deacons Funds!

Deacon of the Month

When Pastor Katherine is not available or needs assistance, the following Deacon will be on call for the month of February – Janet Hayzler.



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 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.

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

- Matthew 17:1-9

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?**

Lectionary for the Lord's Day

February 2023

- 5 **5th Sunday after Christmas**
Psalm 112:1-9 (10); Matthew 5:13-20
- 12 **6th Sunday after Epiphany**
Psalm 119:1-8; Matthew 5:21-37
- 19 **Transfiguration of the Lord**
Psalm 2 or 99; Matthew 17:1-9
- 26 **1st Sunday in Lent**
Psalm 32; Matthew 4:1-11



March 2023

- 5 **2nd Sunday in Lent**
Psalm 121; John 3:1-17
- 12 **3rd Sunday in Lent**
Psalm 95; John 4:5-42



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 preparers, 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

February 5 th	Richard L. Hayzler
February 12 th	Penny Bates
February 19 th	Mike Kosco
February 26 th	Janet Hayzler
March 5 th	Charles Bates
March 12 th	Walter Houck
March 19 th	Betsy Sives
March 26 th	Sheryl Dekmar



Schedule of Ushers



February 5 th	Kyle DeGroat & Betsy Sives
February 12 th	Mary Alice Hosking & Niki Lepes
February 19 th	Kathy Carey & Pat Walker
February 26 th	Joanne Cosh & Paulette Touw
March 5 th	Sheryl Dekmar & Janet Hayzler
March 12 th	Charles & Penny Bates
March 19 th	Mary Alice Hosking & Niki Lepes
March 26 th	Paulette Touw & Ashley Ziccardi

Schedule of Communion Preparers and Servers

Preparers

February 5th – Paulette Touw
March 5th – Penny Bates

Servers

February 5th – Joanne Cosh & Charles Bates
March 5th – Richard L. & Janet Hayzler

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. 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)

