

First Presbyterian Church of Sussex
PRESBYTERIAN
PRESS



21 Unionville Avenue, Sussex, NJ 07461

June 2020

From Pastor Amy's Desk....

He said therefore, "What is the kingdom of God like? And to what should I compare it? It is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in the garden; it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches."
(Luke 13:18-19 – NRSV)



I have been thinking about the article since I informed Session I had accepted a new call to the Manokin Presbyterian Church in Princess Anne, Maryland. (My last Sunday at FPC of Sussex will be June 28th). Then a picture on Facebook came up from a church hike to Tillman Ravine and Buttermilk Falls in 2014 that nudged me down memory lane.

In my six years united with you in God's love and service, we have done a lot together. We have:

- Celebrated the church's 175th Anniversary in grand style
- Organized a mission trip that 17 youths and adults went on
- Rejoiced with the Rev. Casey Carbone, a child of the church, when he was ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in 2017
- Had fun together on hikes, canoe and rafting trips down the Delaware River, snow tubing, baseball games, and senior gatherings and outings
- Continued and deepened our relationship with Presbyterian Mission partners from Iraq
- Entered a partnership with NORWESCAP, where our parking lot is used as a bus stop for the Head Start program
- Developed a Manual of Operations and Handbook for Ministry Groups
- Baptized 12 infants and two adults
- Conducted three confirmation classes and confirmed 17 youth
- Strengthened our relationship with Family Promise as we continue to be a key church in this ministry
- Helped Session and the church know and understand our financial assets and challenges
- Continued our involvement in our community through the Sussex Help Center and the Just Plain Change Ministry

As I look back over the years and memories, it's not so much the big events I will remember the most. It will be the quiet and ordinary moments of ministry together. It will be the home communion visits with the deacons, meeting with the children before Sunday School, collaborating for worship, the hospital and hospice visits, the moment in worship when we share the joys and concerns of our hearts with each other, the meals we have shared together that will rise up in my heart and mind.

It's the small, ordinary things that the larger events of our life sit upon. You did the small, ordinary things well before I got here, and you will continue to do them well when I leave. It is these small, faithful things that God uses to make a big difference in our lives and in the world. It is these small, faithful disciplines and practices that have helped us navigate well this season of COVID-19 and will allow you to navigate a change in pastors as well.

Your Partner in Christ's Service,

Pastor Amy

Session Highlights

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



- We currently have an active membership of 122.
- Our church continues to hold church services on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. via the ZOOM platform. Please call Pastor Amy for the “invitation” if you don’t already get one.
- A request from Buildings & Grounds to acquire bids to paint the nursery, ceiling pipes in the nursery, and the back stairwell, was approved.
- Chair of the Nominating Committee, Rob Hayzler, continues the search for volunteers for open elder and deacon positions. This process is postponed at this time due to COVID-19, since we will need a Congregational Meeting to elect new elders and deacons.
- It is encouraging to see how many people are keeping up with their pledges by sending in the money or using our new online option. Regarding our 2020 Budget (which is a deficit budget), we are almost on pace for where we, as a Session, though we would be.
- Session discussed questions regarding the re-opening of our building for gatherings. At the time of the Session meeting, it was decided to hold a separate meeting when guidelines from the Presbytery and State were made available. The Presbytery is starting to hold regional meetings for churches to collectively work through the questions of gathering in a safe and caring manner.
- Pastor Amy announced that she has accepted a call and informed Session her last day would be June 30, 2020. God bless and good luck to Pastor Amy. Session approved a week of vacation (June 9-15, 2020), as Pastor Amy’s previously-approved vacation in April was cancelled due to COVID-19. Pastor Amy set up a meeting for Tuesday, May 26, 2020, for Session to meet with our COM Liaison, the Rev. Pat Sileo, online, to discuss next steps.
- The next Session meeting will be held online on Tuesday, June 16, 2020, at 6:30 p.m.

From the Finance Committee



Even though we are not having worship here at the church, bills still need to be paid. 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 now 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. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Amy.

Mark Your Calendars

The next Deacons’ meeting will be held on **Tuesday, June 2nd**, 7:00 p.m., online; the next regular Session meeting will be held on **Tuesday, June 16th**, 6:30 p.m., online.



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**. We will have a Kids Gathering at 4:00 on Wednesdays. There will be a story and an activity with Pastor Amy.



Sunday School News



Sunday School at the church has been operating through ZOOM. Ashley Ziccardi, the Sunday School Superintendent, has been reaching out to families regarding our plans moving forward.

End-of-Year Program

The last day of Sunday School will be **June 7th**, and we will have a special end-of-the-year program online during our worship service.



Confirmation Class

Our Confirmation Class (Lydia Alheidt, Abigail Eckert, and Brian Lewis) will join our church through Profession of Faith on **Sunday, June 7th**, during the worship service. Join us online for this special worship service!

How Are We Doing???

For the Month of May

(includes Worship online)

Average Weekly Attendance:	33
Monthly Offering:	\$ 9,871.00
April Income	\$ 7,563.75
April Expenses	\$ 7,749.01
Total (Loss)	(185.26)



Presbyterian Women's Group

We are hoping to have an Indoor Yard Sale in October. Please, as you are cleaning out and sorting during the upcoming months, put aside items that would be appropriate for our sale. Once we are able to have more than ten people gathered indoors (hopefully soon), we can have a meeting to set up our schedule for the rest of 2020. Hoping that all are safe and well. See you soon!



Calling All Graduates!!!



We are compiling a list of those members and children/grandchildren of members who are graduating or have graduated from various schools from pre-school on up. Please submit the following information to the church office by **June 15th**: name, school attended, degree, awards, or grade completed, and where they are off to next (school, job, etc.). Also, we would like to put a photo of your graduate in the newsletter. You can email your picture to the church at sussexpresbyterian@embarqmail.com. Congratulations to all our graduates!

From Pastor Amy

Please reach out to me with your spiritual and pastoral concerns. My cell number is 973-534-7479, and my email address is pastoramy@embarqmail.com. My work week is Sunday-Wednesday, but, as always, I am available for pastoral emergencies.



Sermons



Sunday's sermons can be found on the church's webpage: www.sussexpresbyterian.org.

Church Website

Check out our church's website at www.sussexpresbyterian.org ! You will be able to see current and past newsletters, Pastor Amy's sermons, church events, and more! Thank you to Sheryl Dekmar for setting up our new and improved website!



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

Thank you for recycling your used ink cartridges. Keep those cartridges coming! A list of cartridges eligible for recycling can be found at tonerbuyer.com and empties4cash.com.



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 DASI, our Deacons' Fund recipient for May. The money that was given will be used to provide free, confidential services to victims of domestic and sexual abuse and their families throughout Sussex County. On behalf of all those who are served by DASI, thank you!

Our Deacons' Fund for June will go to Camp Johnsonburg. The Johnsonburg Presbyterian Center is a year-round camp and conference center in northwestern New Jersey. In operation since 1959, Johnsonburg is "a place apart" where people get away from the hustle and bustle of daily life to grow closer to God. Whether you're a youth who attends their summer camp program or weekend youth retreats, an adult participating in spiritual sanctuary events, or a group (church, school, corporate, or other) hosting an event utilizing their facilities, Johnsonburg welcomes you and has a place for you. Please give generously!

**O Lord, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!
What are human beings that you are
mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them?**

- Psalm 8:1a, 4

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, give it to Pastor Amy, or contact any Deacon. **You can also mail in your donation to Janet Hayzler.**

Yes, your quarters, dimes, and pennies do make a difference in the lives of those around us!

Small Change Suggestion (The suggested amount limit is \$50.)

Recipient/situation: _____

Contact information (name, address, phone #): _____

Your name (optional): _____

How do you want to have the "gift" delivered? (By yourself or by a member of the committee? Or other suggestion?): _____

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

NOTE: We were able to help another person in need. More funds are available. Do you know of someone who needs a little boost?



Dear 1st Presbyterian Church of Sussex,

There aren't enough words for me to express how grateful I am that we are loved everywhere. The gift card to Quick Check will 100% come in handy with two kids. Thank you for your kindness and thoughtfulness. God bless you all.

Love,
The Watsons

To Our Church Family,

We wanted to send a note of thanks for the lovely card and generous gift card. Even during challenging times, we know we are so blessed to have you all in our lives to always help us see the light.

With Love,
Amy, Shane, Molly & Aven

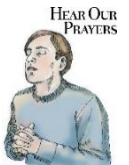
Prayer Shawl Ministry



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.

Prayers of the People E-mail

Pastor Amy 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 or Pastor Amy.



In Our Thoughts & Prayers



Please pray for **Charles Bates**, **Bill Davis** (John Davis' brother), **Marlene Decker**, **Beth-Ann Enhoffer**, **Bob Gibson**, **Rev. Bruce Gillette & his family**, **Phil Hardin**, **Mary Alice Hosking**, **Shirley Prall** (Ivy Diorio's friend), **Tonhild Schanstra** (Betty Scymanski's mom), **Ken Van Wageninge** (Carolyn Van Houten's brother), **and the families of Ernie Elder**, **Tommy Emma** (Lisa Emma's husband), **& Betty Pluymers**. Please let the Deacons or the office know who to add and who to remove. **Thank you!**

Lectionary for the Lord's Day

June 2020

- 7 **Trinity Sunday**
Psalm 8; Matthew 28:16-20
- 14 **2nd Sunday after Pentecost**
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; Matthew 9:35—10:8 (9-23)
- 21 **3rd Sunday after Pentecost**
Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17; Matthew 10:24-39
- 28 **4th Sunday after Pentecost**
Psalm 13; Matthew 10:40-42



July 2020

- 5 **5th Sunday after Pentecost**
Psalm 45:10-17; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30
- 12 **6th Sunday after Pentecost**
Psalm 119:105-112; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

June Birthdays

- (1) Frank Del Sardo, Sr.
- (2) Ava Bilney
- (4) Robert Gibson
- (6) Jacob Vanderwiele
Katie Vanderwiele
- (10) Gary Scymanski
Molly Swarts
- (11) Kathy Carey
- (12) Heath Ziccardi
- (15) Mary Alice Hosking
- (17) Tracy Dekmar
- (20) Joe Barta
- (24) Richard L. Hayzler
- (26) Aven Swarts
- (27) Richard Dekmar
- (28) Madelyn Coykendall
- (30) Shawn Davis



Local Food Pantry News

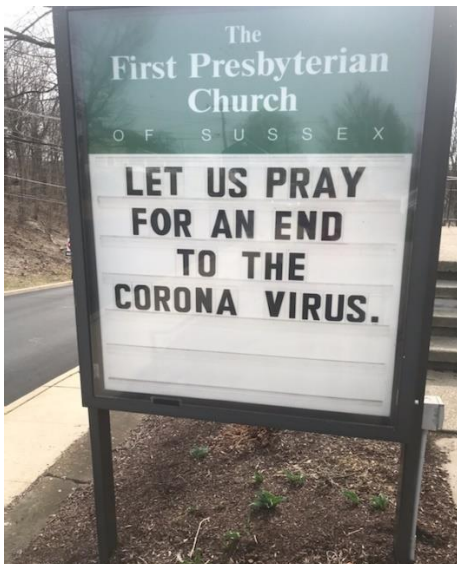


The Sussex Help Center is open from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Fridays. They need eggs. The Church of the Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in Wantage needs food donations. Right now they especially need cereals (like Wheaties, Cheerios, and Raisin Bran), pasta and sauces, canned vegetables and fruits, and soups. They are open for drop-offs between 9:00 a.m. and 11 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. They are currently serving about 200 families. If you know of a family in need, please contact Walter Houck ([973-875-7412](tel:973-875-7412)). **Thank you for your support!**

Family Promise: Despite the shelter being closed, Family Promise of Sussex County has remained open to serve those experiencing homelessness in our community. Currently, their biggest need is food for clients. They would like: canned fruits and vegetables, beans, cereal, peanut butter and jelly, bread, pasta and sauce, macaroni and cheese, applesauce, snacks, soup, rice, toilet paper, paper towels, soap (body, dish, laundry), lotion, shampoo and conditioner. They also have some clients with special dietary needs (diabetic, allergies, etc.). Donations of food can be dropped off at the Family Promise office (19 Church Street, Newton). They are also in need of drivers to drop food off at client's homes (contact-less, of course!). Please call ([973-579-1180](tel:973-579-1180)) for more information.

From Our Church Sign

Thank you to Phil Hardin!



If you cannot volunteer on your scheduled date, please “swap” a date with someone else and notify Sharon Bove at 875-4760. Thank you!

Please Note: Due to the Covid-19 virus, we will conduct services online through at least June 14th.

Schedule of Liturgists

June 21 st	Richard M. Hayzler
June 28 th	Phil Hardin
July 5 th	Jason Touw
July 12 th	Janet Hayzler



Schedule of Ushers



June 21 st	Bob & Donna Gibson
June 28 th	Betty Martin & Lorraine Ricci
July 5 th	Sheila Stormes & Pat Walker
July 12 th	Rob Hayzler & Eric Sives

Communion Preparers & Servers

Preparers

July 5 th	Ivy Diorio
August 2 nd	Nancy Barta

Servers

July 5 th	Marion Kopec
August 2 nd	Sharon Alheidt, Joanne Cosh, Betty Martin, & Evelyn Haggard



GREETERS SCHEDULE

June 21 st	Walter Houck
June 28 th	Phil Hardin
July 5 th	Mary Alice Hosking
July 12 th	Barbara Young

Acolytes

June 21 st	--	August Ziccardi
June 28 th	--	Kiera Lewis
July 5 th	--	Molly Swarts
July 12 th	--	Ryan Hayzler



Refreshments After Worship Service



Since we are holding worship on Sundays via ZOOM, our refreshments have been suspended until further notice. Please call Sheila Stormes (973-702-1548) or Lois Wright (973-875-3555) if you have any questions.

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

– Matthew 9:35-38
