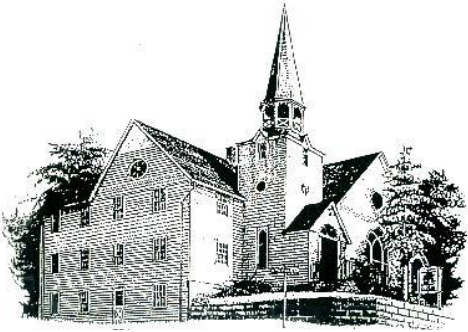


First Presbyterian Church of Sussex
PRESBYTERIAN
PRESS



21 Unionville Avenue, Sussex, NJ 07461

June 2022

From the Pastor's Desk....

Happy almost summer everyone!

First off, I wanted to say thank you to all of you who could make it to the Ice Cream Social I hosted in May. I had a great time; and for those of you who couldn't make it, I know you were with us in spirit, AND I hope to have another event in the future...perhaps in the fall or winter?

Now that we're in June and the unofficial, official start of the summer has come and gone—I hope this newsletter finds you well, and that you're enjoying the longer days and warmer weather. One of my jobs keeps me inside for many hours a day, so I don't spend as much time in the outdoors as much as I'd like; but I'm happy to step outside and spend a few minutes enjoying the sunshine and feeling the warmth...before heading back inside to the air conditioning and appropriate humidity.

All joking aside, summertime is a time when the church community seems farther apart—we have folks vacationing throughout the summer. Our attendance, generally, lowers in these warmer months. And having church at 9:30 a.m. in July and August, while necessary to keep the sanctuary from being unbearably hot, can also make it more difficult for folks to make it out of their houses for worship.

I want you to understand that I understand. The coming and going of the late spring through early fall, with travel and other exciting things happening in our lives, is a joy. It feels so normal to see other people and to travel around. In fact, I'll be doing some traveling myself this summer.

This month, I'm heading to Louisville, Kentucky, as one of the four Presbytery of the Highlands of NJ General Assembly (GA) commissioners. This means I'll be missing June 19th (so Happy Father's Day to all you fathers and father-figures out there!). And then at the end of July-beginning of August, Donald and I will be heading to California to see my family and to attend my high school reunion (which was postponed due to COVID-19 in 2020). See, not even the pastor is immune to summer travel!

Through it all, I want you to remember that Christ's love is with you no matter where you go. No one can hide from God's presence. Psalm 139:7-10 says this clearly when the psalmist writes, *"Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there. If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast."*

So, beloved friends, know that wherever this summer takes you—God is with you. And so is your church community. We're brought together in Christ and by the Holy Spirit. And we'll celebrate this on **June 5th** during Confirmation Sunday! Whenever you're around, I hope to see you in worship (on ZOOM or in the sanctuary).

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



Session Highlights

Session met on May 17th. The following items were discussed:



- An Ice Cream Social was held on May 14th at the manse. A great time was had by all who attended.
- Our congregation has raised \$23,700 so far for our repaving of the parking lot.
- The Deacons will have a table at Wantage Day on October 8th to promote our church.
- Our church has joined the Sussex United Methodist Church to hold a joint Vacation Bible School at the Sussex United Methodist Church from **August 15th to August 19th**.
- The following is the 2022 vacation/study leave schedule for Pastor Katherine:
 - Vacation – **Thursday, July 28th to Wednesday, August 3rd**.
 - Study Leave – General Assembly Commissioner in Louisville, Kentucky, **Friday, June 17th to Monday, June 20th**.
 - Part of Ordination Vows – **Thursday, June 23rd to Saturday, June 25th; Tuesday, July 5th to Saturday, July 9th**, in New Jersey.
- Confirmation will be held on **June 5th**, Pentecost Sunday. We will also have the Sunday School end-of-the-year program that Sunday.
- We need donations of food for our fellowship hour.
- Ruling Elders Mike Kosco and Walter Houck will share the pulpit when Pastor Katherine is away for study leave/vacation.
- The phone tree is being updated.
- The next regular Session meeting will be held on **Tuesday, June 21st, 2022**, at 6:30 p.m., on the ZOOM platform.

Respectfully submitted,
Charles Bates, Clerk to Session

Mark Your Calendars



The next Deacons' meeting will be held on **Tuesday, June 7th**, 6:00 p.m., at Green Valley Farms; the next regular Session meeting will be held on **Tuesday, June 21st**, 6:30 p.m., on ZOOM.

Can You Help?

Our parking lot needs to be repaved. The cost will be approximately \$37,800, 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. Each ton costs the church \$100. Can you give a ton? 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.



Pentecost Offering



This offering will be collected **Pentecost Sunday, June 5th**. This special offering is used for children at risk, youth, and young adults. Forty percent of this offering is retained by our church to be used for a ministry that serves children at risk. See Pastor Katherine's article to see where it went last year. If you will not be at church, please mail your donation to our Depositing Treasurer, Janet Hayzler, 96 Holland Rd., Wantage, NJ 07461. Please put *Pentecost Offering* on the memo line.

Confirmation

Our confirmands, Owen Demeter, Keira Lewis, and Baylie Touw, will be confirmed and become members of the church during our worship service on **June 5th**. Join us for this special worship service!



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. Our end of the year program will be held on **June 5th**.

Summer Worship Schedule

Beginning **Sunday, July 3rd**, our worship service starts at 9:30 a.m. **through August 28th**. Please mark your calendar so you won't miss it!!



Indoor Yard Sale



The Presbyterian Women's Group of the First Presbyterian Church of Sussex is happy to announce that they are planning to have our Indoor Yard Sale on **Friday and Saturday, October 21st and 22nd**. We will not be able to accept anything towards this sale until **Sunday, October 16th**. We are not able to accept any clothing, furniture, appliances (no TVs, microwave ovens, etc.). If you cannot pack it in a box, we are really not able to accept it. Please remember our sale as you go through things in your home this summer. Please mark the dates on your calendar. We will need helpers. Don't forget.... *"Many hands make light work."*



Church Cleaners Needed

The Session is in need of person/persons to clean the church before **Sunday, July 10th, Sunday, August 14th, and Sunday, September 11th**. The bathrooms need to be cleaned, and the fellowship room and church sanctuary need to be vacuumed and dusted. Everything necessary to clean the bathrooms is available in the bathroom closet or hall closet. There are two vacuums: one in the hall closet and one just inside the back room by the bathrooms. No one person needs to do all dates (maybe two people could work together)...just be willing to sign up for one date. For further information, contact Sheila Stormes (973-702-1548) or Penny Bates (201-452-5082). Please let either Sheila or Penny know if you are available and for what date/s. You will be a blessing to our church!



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 24th**: 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!

How Are We Doing???

For the Month of May

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

Average Weekly Attendance	36
Monthly Offering	\$ 8,703



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.



Church Directory

We are working on updating our Church Directory...please email your information (name, address, telephone number, cell phone number(s), email address) to the church office at sussexpresbyterian@embarqmail.com, or mail it to the church at 21 Unionville Avenue, Sussex, NJ 07461, or call the church office at 973-875-4760. Please have your information in to the church office by **June 30th**.



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.

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.



From the Finance Committee

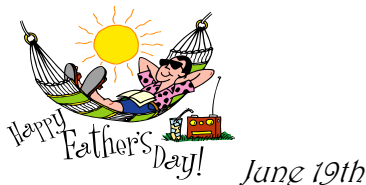


Even though we re-opened the church, not everyone is ready for in-person worship. Our bills still need to be paid. For those of you who are not returning to in-person worship, please remember to keep up with your weekly contribution. If you pay your bills using online banking, consider scheduling your 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.

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.



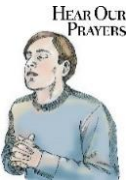
Refreshments After Worship



Refreshments are served in the fellowship room. We've purchased an air purifier to help keep us all safe during our time together. Please 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 **Joanne Cosh and Family, Frank Del Sardo Jr., Bob & Donna Gibson, Evelyn Haggard, Betty Martin, Rev. Tim Marvel, Ralph Miller, Ken Scott** (Pastor Katherine's dad), **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

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.

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.



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.



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!

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
- (28) Madelyn Coykendall (103)

This
Month's
Birthdays



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

June 2022

- 5 **Day of Pentecost**
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; John 14:8-17 (25-27)
- 12 **Trinity Sunday**
Psalm 8; John 16:12-15
- 19 **2nd Sunday after Pentecost**
Psalm 42 and 43; Luke 8:26-39
- 26 **3rd Sunday after Pentecost**
Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20; Luke 9:51-62



July 2022

- 3 **4th Sunday after Pentecost**
Psalm 30; Luke 10:1-11, 16-20
- 10 **5th Sunday after Pentecost**
Psalm 82; Luke 10:25-37

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, please contact him at 973-875-7412, or see him after worship on Sundays. A schedule (*through July*) 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

June 5 th	Sheryl Dekmar
June 12 th	Mike Kosco
June 19 th	Betsy Sives
June 26 th	Richard L. Hayzler
July 3 rd	Mike Kosco
July 10 th	Sheryl Dekmar
July 17 th	Betsy Sives
July 24 th	Janet Hayzler
July 31 st	Mike Kosco



Local Food Pantry News



The Sussex Help Center is open from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on Wednesdays, and from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. on Mondays/Fridays. They appreciate all donations, and they especially need everything. Please let Walter Houck know if there is a family in need.

Camp Johnsonburg News

Camp Johnsonburg is hosting a three-day Social Justice Summit on **Sunday, July 24th – Wednesday, July 27th**. The Presbytery will be subsidizing the cost for 40 youth (which makes the price \$100)! Find out more information at www.campjburg.org/summit.



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.

Prayer for Victims of Gun Violence

God of Peace and Compassion, we pray for the families impacted by gun violence in our beloved country. We pray for the ways that the impact of senseless violence is felt near and far. We pray for change to the response of all people, including our country’s leadership, to put the lives of children at the forefront of their minds. God, we know that you’re the God of making the impossible, possible and so we pray for an end to gun violence. We pray for adequate mental health services and evaluations. We pray for community support and safe gun ownership. May the words of the prophets (Isaiah, Joel, and Micah) come to fruition: that swords may become ploughshares and spears into pruning hooks. God, we lay these and the other prayers at your feet. In Christ’s name, we pray, Amen.



Calling the NJ Senators



If you want to call to your representatives at the national level, here’s a script of what you can say: “Hello, my name is _____. I’m a constituent from New Jersey, zip code _____. I don’t need a response. I am concerned about the lack of Senate vote on The Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2021, H.R. 8, and the Enhanced Background Checks Act of 2021, H.R. 1446. I strongly encourage Senator Menendez/Booker to please support a vote and the passage of these two acts.

Thank you for your hard work!” You can call Senator Menendez’s office at 202-224-4744, and you can call Senator Booker’s office at 202-224-3224.



Our Church Sign

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

