



First Presbyterian Church of Sussex
PRESBYTERIAN
PRESS

21 Unionville Avenue, Sussex, NJ 07461

March 2021

From the Pastor's Desk....

This year all of March is included in the church season of Lent, which begins with Ash Wednesday and ends with Easter Sunday. This church season moves around our normal yearly calendar. In 2018, Easter Sunday was on April 1st. And in 2016, Easter was in March (which is very rare).

It moves around our normal calendar because it's based around the lunar calendar. Unlike Christmas, which is always on December 25th, the early church decided to have Easter Sunday, and therefore all of Lent, move around the calendar. They did this for a few reasons, including making sure Easter was always on a Sunday and to follow the change in the dates of the Passover (a Jewish holiday that happens right around the same time as Easter most years).

For this year's observance of Lent, we started with a virtual Ash Wednesday service. This meant no worries about driving in the dark, which we can all be thankful for. We've also been walking through a sermon series called, "The Eight 'R's' of Lent", where each week is a different "R" word. My aim with this sermon series is to help all of us be more imaginative about our Lenten journeys as we walk with Jesus to the cross on Good Friday.

When many of us think of Lent, we think of giving something up. Perhaps chocolate, sweets, soda, or meat on Fridays ring a bell. Lent can also be a time to add something into our routines to boost our spiritual lives, like book groups, Bible studies, or journaling. I wanted us, as a church family, to add this imaginative aspect to our Lenten worship services as a way of seeing our Scriptures with fresh eyes.

I find that poetry can do that sometimes, so I now close my note with a poem from Madeleine L'Engle, author of *A Wrinkle in Time*:

*It is my Lent to break my Lent,
To eat when I would fast,
To know when slender strength is spent,
Take shelter from the blast
When I would run with wind and rain,
To sleep when I would watch.
It is my Lent to smile at pain
But not ignore its touch.
It is my Lent to listen well*



*When I would be alone,
To talk when I would rather dwell
In silence, turn from none
Who call on me, to try to see
That what is truly meant
Is not my choice. If Christ's I'd be
It's thus I'll keep my Lent.*

It's my prayer that you will meet God in this season of Lent. We don't know where the Holy Spirit will lead us, but we do know, we can walk through it together.

In Christ,

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



Mark Your Calendars



The next regular Deacons' meeting will be held on **Tuesday, March 2nd**, 7:00 p.m., online; the next regular Session meeting will be held on **Tuesday, March 23rd**, 6:30 p.m., online.

Special Meeting of the Congregation

There will be a Special Meeting of the Congregation on **Sunday, March 7, 2021**, 11:30 a.m., in-person and on ZOOM. The purpose of the meeting is to vote for two Elders and one Deacon. Please plan to attend this important meeting in-person or online. The time for Sunday worship on ZOOM will be extended for the meeting.



Pastoral Care

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.



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**.



Session Highlights



Session met on February 16th. The following items were discussed:

- Pastor Katherine Scott-Kirschner has started her ministry as of February 1, 2021.
- There are 123 active members in our congregation. Please call someone you have not seen in a while and encourage their participation.
- An Ash Wednesday service will be held on February 17, 2021 via ZOOM.
- A Special Meeting of the Congregation will be held on **Sunday, March 7, 2021**, after worship, to vote on two Elders and one Deacon.
- The Presbyterian Women's Group made over \$70 on the Soup(er) Sale. Way to go!
- The Hospitality Committee is working on holding the fellowship time outside on good Sundays. Remember: we still have to follow the Governor's mandates.
- The annual statistical report that shows the demographics of our church make-up has been sent to the Newton Presbytery.
- The next regular Session meeting will be held online on **Tuesday, March 23, 2021**, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Charles Bates, Clerk to Session

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 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.

2021 Church Envelopes



The 2021 church offering envelopes will be available by **December 27th**. 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 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.

Spring Ahead

Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour on **Saturday, March 13th**, before you go to bed so you won't miss Sunday school or worship. Daylight Saving Time begins **Sunday, March 14th**.



How Are We Doing???



For the Months of January and February

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

January Average Weekly Attendance:	44
January Monthly Offering:	\$ 9,992.00
February Average Weekly Attendance:	49
February Monthly Offering:	\$ 7,200.00

Sunday School News

Sunday school is back! Sunday school runs from 9:15 – 10:15 a.m., for Pre-K through Adult. Please complete one registration form per child (form is on the table in the narthex), and return it to the church office. Please see Ashley Ziccardi if you have any questions.



From the Finance Committee



Be a Faithful Steward

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.

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.



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.

One Great Hour of Sharing

During the season of Lent, members are asked to give generously to this special offering, which goes to support relief efforts in our country and throughout the world. A special envelope will be included in the Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday bulletins. This offering will be collected during the worship service on **Easter Sunday, April 4th**. Or if you are not attending in person, you can mail your offering to our Depositing Treasurer, Janet Hayzler, at 96 Holland Road, Wantage, NJ 07461. You can write "OGHS" on the memo line of your check. Please plan to contribute to this worthwhile cause.



Presbyterian Women's Group



great fundraiser!

Thank you to all the people who participated in our Soup Sale by ordering soup or by giving a donation. We also want to thank Sharon Alheidt, Penny Bates, Joanne Cosh, and Janet Hayzler for making the delicious soups that were ordered. The Presbyterian Women's Group made \$708.50. The Soup Sale was definitely another

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Please pray for **Bill Davis** (John Davis' brother), **Marlene Decker**, **Frank Del Sardo Sr.**, **Frank Del Sardo Jr.**, **the 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'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 the Sussex Help Center for February.

Our Deacons' Fund recipient for March is The Center for Prevention and Counseling. Located in Newton, The Center is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, which was begun in 1974 as the Alcohol Information Center of Sussex County. Over the years, the agency has expanded its mission to include other drugs, as well as to address the disease of addiction, by dedicating itself to the prevention of substance abuse and dependency through education, information dissemination, referrals, advocacy, and counseling. In 2005, The Center became licensed to provide out-patient and intensive out-patient counseling to people with substance abuse and mental health issues. The agency's mission has continued to expand, as it focuses on building stronger families and healthy adolescents, helping to reduce poverty, reducing child abuse, promoting mental health and substance abuse recovery, and presenting violence, suicide, and bullying in Sussex County. The mission of The Center of Prevention and Counseling is "to promote health, hope, and recovery among all people by fostering a community in which individuals and families thrive." You can find out more about his organization at <http://centerforprevention.org> . Please give generously!



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 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.



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?***



March Birthdays

- (3) Lorraine Ricci
- (9) Ann Cosh
- (10) John Smisko
- (14) Ralph Miller (will be 80)
- (16) Marion Kopec
- (19) Caroline Jacobs
- (27) Niki Lepas



Lectionary for the Lord's Day

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

21 **5th Sunday in Lent**

Psalm 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16; John 12:20-33

28 **Palm Sunday**

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:2-16



April 2021

1 **Maundy Thursday**

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; John 13:1-17, 31b-35

2 **Good Friday**

Psalm 22; John 18:1—19:42

4 **Easter Sunday**

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8

11 **2nd Sunday of Easter**

Psalm 133; John 20:19-31

Refreshments After Worship

We are looking to restart refreshments after church services the week after Easter Sunday, **April 11th**. Refreshments will be served outdoors only, weather permitting...more information to come!



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 small jars of peanut butter.

Consider how many times we have heard the following Bible verse before a sermon. It comes from the Psalms.

Let the words of my mouth and the
meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you,
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

Psalm 19:14

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: 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 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).

The Bible in Translation -- New Testament

The New Testament has been translated into English many times, and sometimes the translator, at least centuries ago, was threatened with death. This was the case with William Tyndale, whose 1534 translation of the New Testament led to his eventual execution by burning at the stake (after first being strangled).

Tyndale's translation did have a major impact on Bible translation, though. The scholars and clergy who produced the King James Bible in 1611 used Tyndale's translation as a foundation for their own.

Below are four translations from the New Testament. The first is from Tyndale's version, followed by one from the King James Version. The third and fourth translations are from the same Bibles used last month, the New International Version and the New Revised Standard Version, the Bible our church uses. On the next page you will find two other translated passages from these same four Bibles.

Mark 14:35-36

Tyndale 35 And he went forth a little and fell down on the ground and prayed: that if it were possible the hour might pass from him. 36 And he said: Abba father, all things are possible unto thee, take away this cup from me. Nevertheless not that I will, but that thou wilt, be done.

KJV 35 And he went forward a little, and fell on the ground, and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. 36 And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt.

NIV 35 Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. 36 "Abba, Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."

NRSV 35 And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. 36 He said, "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want."

Here are two other brief passages from the same Bibles.

Acts 2:43-45

Tyndale 43 And fear came over every soul. And many wonders and signs were showed by the apostles. 44 And all that believed kept themselves together, and had all things in common, 45 and sold their possessions and goods, and departed them to all men, as every man had need.

KJV 43 And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. 44 And all that believed were together, and had all things common; 45 And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.

NIV 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.

NRSV 43 Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. 44 All who believed were together and had all things in common; 45 they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need.

Matthew 7:1-2

Tyndale 1 Judge not, that ye be not judged. 2 For as ye judge so shall ye be judged. And with what measure ye mete, with the same shall it be measured to you again.

KJV 1 Judge not, that ye be not judged. 2 For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.

NIV 1 “Do not judge, or you too will be judged. 2 For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

NRSV 1 “Do not judge, so that you may not be judged. 2 For with the judgment you make you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get.