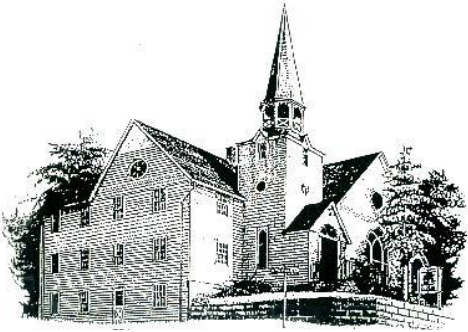


First Presbyterian Church of Sussex
PRESBYTERIAN
PRESS



21 Unionville Avenue, Sussex, NJ 07461

March 2022

From the Pastor's Desk...

Happy almost spring, everyone!

It's March once again. And it's Lent once again. With Lent comes the first of four special offerings offered by the Presbyterian Church (USA). This special offering is the One Great Hour of Sharing, which provides 'relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed.'

One of the organizations that's supported by this offering is the Presbyterian Disaster Relief (also known as PDA). When I picture the PDA, I picture their blue shirts. If you've ever worked with PDA for any kind of disaster relief, those blue shirts will stand out to you, too.

This organization does work all around the world for communities that are hard hit by crises or catastrophic events. Just like everyone else, they had to pivot their programs due to COVID, and one of the things they did instead was produce a documentary called *Flint: The Poisoning of an American City*, which can be found on Amazon Prime Video. They also gave out \$3.5 million mission grants for COVID-19 needs.

Their impact goes beyond anything a single congregation or presbytery could do. And that's why it's so important for us to support them in whatever way we can—including giving to the One Great Hour of Sharing. According to the denomination, this offering is "the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world."

As with years past, we will be collecting this offering on Easter Sunday, **April 17, 2022**. We will also be having several "Minute for Mission" presentations in the weeks leading up to Easter Sunday. You can be certain that whatever you do give will be used by those who desperately need those resources to survive and to thrive.

Our choice to give is based on how God wants us to live and flourish—which is by being generous with our whole selves. In the NRSV translation, Proverbs 11:25 says, "A generous person will be enriched, and one who gives water will get water." The Message version says the same verse this way, "The one who blesses others is abundantly blessed; those who help others are helped."

This is true for us as humans and especially for us as followers of Jesus Christ. Our generosity enriches our lives and helps us to see the world as God sees it. God's generosity inspires our own—and no matter how much that generosity adds up to, your heart is changed when you give of yourself in whatever ways you can and do.

This congregation is a very generous one, and I thank God for your giving heart. Let's continue to share from our abundant life in Christ with the world—through the One Great Hour of Sharing and beyond. May you be filled with God's generous Spirit as spring begins to bloom.

In Christ,

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



Session Highlights

Session met on February 15th. The following items were discussed:



- Our parking lot needs repaving. It will cost approximately \$32,000. Please feel the need!
- “Plain Change” has been sent to needy families this winter.
- The Presbyterian Women’s Group made a profit of more than \$700 for their Soup, Etc. Sale.
- Sunday school continues each Sunday morning. Please do your best to transport your children to church. This is important for their Christian development.
- Fellowship after worship continues each Sunday.
- One Great Hour of Sharing will occur during Lent, and will be collected on Easter Sunday, **April 17, 2022.**
- Ash Wednesday is March 2, 2022. A contemplative service will be held at the church. The church will be open from 5-8 p.m. Pastor Katherine will be at the church during that time to distribute ashes.
- Fundraisers are being researched in order to raise money for the repaving of the parking lot.
- The next regular Session meeting will be held on **Tuesday, March 15, 2022**, at 6:30 p.m., on the ZOOM platform.

Respectfully submitted,
Charles Bates, Clerk to Session

Mark Your Calendars



The next regular Session meeting will be held on **Tuesday, March 15th**, 6:30 p.m., on ZOOM; the next Deacons’ meeting will be held on **Tuesday, April 5th**, on ZOOM.

Spring Ahead

Don’t forget to set your clocks ahead one hour on **Saturday, March 12th**, before you go to bed so you won’t miss Sunday school or worship. Daylight Saving Time begins **Sunday, March 13th**.



Clean Communities Sunday



Join us to help make our community cleaner and raise some funds for our church! On **Sunday, March 27th**, we will be doing a roadside garbage clean-up, sponsored by the NJ Clean Communities Program. Lunch will be provided after worship for those who are helping with the road clean-up, which will begin right after lunch. Through the NJ Clean Communities program, our church will receive \$12/hour/person, so the more people we have the more money we can raise for the church. So please wear your jeans and sneakers to church on **March 27th**, and join us to help our community and our church! Funds raised will go towards repaving our church parking lot. Please speak to Jason or Ashley if you have any questions.

Can You Help?

Our parking lot needs to be repaved. 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. 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.



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.



How Are We Doing???

For the Month of February

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

Average Weekly Attendance	36
Monthly Offering	\$ 9,077.50



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.



Presbyterian Women's Group

We would like to thank all the members and friends of our church who participated in our Soup, Etc. Sale on February 12th and 13th. A big thank you to our soup, bread, charcuterie, gloves and bowl makers, Sharon Alheidt, Joanne Cosh, Janet Hayzler, and Penny Bates. Our total profits are \$783.00.



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.

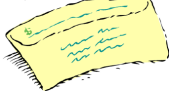


Donate to Your Church by Shopping at Smile.Amazon

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.



Offering Envelopes



2022 Church Envelopes

The 2022 church offering envelopes are available on the table in the narthex. 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.

Lent



The season of Lent began on **March 2nd**. 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.

Lenten Schedule

Palm Sunday: Sunday, April 10th at 10:30 a.m., worship service at our church.

Ecumenical Maundy Thursday Service: Thursday, April 14th at 7:00 p.m. (location TBD).

Good Friday Service: Friday, April 15th at 7:00 p.m. our church.

Joint Easter Sunrise Service: Sunday, April 17th at 6:00 a.m., at the Beemerville Cemetery.

Easter Sunday: Sunday, April 17th at 10:30 a.m., worship service at our church. There will be no Sunday school.



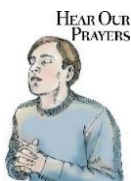
In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Please pray for **Frank Del Sardo Jr., Bob & Donna Gibson, Evelyn Haggard, Betty Martin, Rev. Tim Marvil, 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.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

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 Free Clinic Newton, our Deacons' Fund recipient for February.

Our Deacons' Fund recipient for March is Pass It Along. Pass It Along (PIA) works outside the realm of traditional youth development programs. Through a service-learning model, we mobilize sustainable change to the community. Most importantly, we offer youth resources to TAKE ACTION for the issues they are most passionate about. Focusing on Service in Action, Leadership, and Self-Discovery, we offer a comprehensive approach to service for all of our participants. The mission of Pass It Along is to awaken, validate, and nourish the innate desire to give back by mobilizing youth as community partners. Please give generously to our monthly Deacons' Funds!



March Birthdays

- (1) Donald Kirschner
- (3) Lorraine Ricci
- (9) Ann Cosh
- (10) John Smisko
- (12) Lois Capobianco
- (14) Ralph Miller
- (16) Marion Kopec
- (19) Caroline Jacobs
- (27) Niki Lepas



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!



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

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

20 3rd Sunday in Lent

Psalm 63:1-8; Luke 13:1-9

27 4th Sunday in Lent

Psalm 32; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32



April 2022

3 5th Sunday in Lent

Psalm 126; John 12:1-8

10 Palm/Passion Sunday

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Luke 22:14—23:56

Liturgists Needed

Walter Houck, 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 May) 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



March 6 th	Mike Kosco
March 13 th	Betsy Sives
March 20 th	Janet Hayzler
March 27 th	Penny Bates
April 3 rd	Mike Kosco
April 10 th	Sheryl Dekmar
April 17 th (Easter Sunday)	Richard L. Hayzler
April 24 th	Charles Bates
May 1 st	Mike Kosco
May 8 th	Betsy Sives
May 15 th	Penny Bates
May 22 nd	Janet Hayzler
May 29 th	Mike Kosco



First Presbyterian Church of Sussex,

Thank you for your kindness and thinking of us during our time of loss.

Heidi & Steve Riker and Family

Thank you for your kindness and sympathy at a time when it is greatly appreciated. We are forever grateful.

Love,

Ryan, Melanie, Evan & Kaitlyn Poust



Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." So he told them this parable: "Which of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it?"

- Luke 15:1-4

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.



Women's Retreats



Spring Gathering: On **Saturday, April 2nd**, the Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of the Highlands of New Jersey will host their Spring Gathering at the Taiwanese/American Fellowship Presbyterian Church, 770 Route 206 South, Hillsborough Township, NJ. Registration is at 9:30 a.m.; program starts at 10:00 a.m. The program is titled "How Do We Have Christian, Courageous Conversations About 'Sticky Wicket' Issues?" Worship will be led by Rev. Amy Lincoln, Pastor of the Flemington Presbyterian Church.

Sussex Elks

Dinners: Dinners are back at Sussex Elks Lodge! All dinners are \$10/person and includes salad and dessert. Dinners all 5-7 p.m. You can dine in or take out. Questions? Please contact us via private message to Facebook or via SussexElks2288@gmail.com (Please do not call the lodge building to reserve). Please check our Facebook page for the most up-to-date information.



March 19th – Corned Beef and Cabbage

April 16th – Lemon Chicken

May 7th – Pasta & Meatballs

May 21st – Meatloaf & Mashed Potatoes



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).



So I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on your name.
My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me. - Psalm 63:4, 8

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)! Findout more information at www.campjburg.org/summit .



Our Church Sign

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

