

First Presbyterian Church of Sussex  
**PRESBYTERIAN**  
**PRESS**

21 Unionville Avenue, Sussex, NJ 07461

March 2024

## From the Pastor's Desk....

Hello Church!

This month is a big month in the church calendar. We make it to Easter Sunday on **March 31<sup>st</sup>**. We barely make it, but we do. March ends with a blast of triumphant joy that our Lord and Savior has risen from the grave. The tomb is empty. Christ's victory over death is complete.

And while we know and trust this great gift from God, this gift greater than we can ever imagine, when we look around at this world, we definitely seem to live in a Lenten world. A world that needs to repent, to take stock of itself, and then, change its behaviors to spend more time with God.

We trust that Christ has begun the process of bringing the new heaven and the new earth to this world, but it's not complete yet. We still have brutal, unnecessary war and civilian death. As I'm writing this, there's the war in Ukraine, the war in Gaza where so many civilian Gazans are starving, the conflict in Sudan that can't seem to end, the fighting in Iran. The list can go on I'm sure.

And this is the truth of our faith—we trust in things we can't see. Hebrews 11:1 says, *"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."* And I'm certain we all hope for so many things to be different in our world right now.

As we journey through Holy Week and discover the empty tomb on Sunday, we also journey through the truth that we hope for things to be different. That we sit in the muck and mire of our realities so that the overflowing joy of Christ's resurrection shines even clearer in our minds and spirits.

This year, you're invited to join in these Holy Week services:

1. Ecumenical Maundy Thursday Service on **March 28<sup>th</sup>** at 7:00 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Sussex (4 E. Main St.). We'll be marking this important day by partaking in both foot/hand washing and communion.
2. Good Friday Service on **March 29<sup>th</sup>** at 7:00 p.m. in our sanctuary and on ZOOM. This service marks Christ's journey to the cross and then his body's journey to the tomb. It's a somber service that sets the tone for Holy Saturday, as well as a juxtaposition for Easter Sunday.
3. Sunrise Easter Sunday Service on **March 31<sup>st</sup>** at 6:15 a.m. at the Beemerville Cemetery on Route 519 in Wantage.
4. Easter Sunday Service on **March 31<sup>st</sup>** at 10:30 a.m., in our sanctuary and on ZOOM. Celebrate the joy of Christ's resurrection! There will be an Easter Egg Hunt for children following the service.

Wherever your Lenten journey has taken you, I pray it's brought you closer to God and to God's loving embrace. And may this new reality continue to blossom and grow, just as the spring flowers and trees will do in the coming weeks.

In Christ's Resurrection Hope,

*Pastor Katherine Scott-Kirschner*

(973) 771-4721 (cell)



## Session Highlights

Session met on February 20<sup>th</sup>. The following items were discussed:



- Pastor Katherine has begun her fourth year with us. We must have done something good!!
- Pastor Katherine will present a Lenten sermon series entitled, “The Gifts of Christ,” through **March 31<sup>st</sup>**.
- A successful Soup(er) Sale was held on February 11<sup>th</sup>. Total earnings to date for the Presbyterian Women’s Group was \$738.00.
- Ruling Elder Charles Bates thanked Ruling Elder Eric Sives for the installation of two new toilets in the church.
- The cost for a new door to replace the old, handicapped door will be sought.
- Pastor Katherine shared the VBS has been scheduled for **July 29<sup>th</sup>-August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024**.
- The Session is requesting that all members keep their financial giving up to date.
- Ruling Elder Penny Bates indicated that continued sign-ups to supply refreshments for Fellowship Hour after worship are so appreciated!
- Advertising for contemporary musicians is being sought in an effort to enhance our worship services.
- The Presbytery is suggesting a possible “scramble”, where pastors and some elders will exchange pulpits for a Sunday.
- The next regular Session meeting will be held on **Tuesday, March 19, 2024**, at 6:30 p.m., on the ZOOM platform.

Respectfully submitted,  
Charles Bates, Clerk of Session

## Spring Ahead



Don’t forget to set your clocks ahead one hour on **Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>**, before you go to bed so you won’t miss Sunday school or worship. Daylight Saving Time begins **Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup>**.

## Mark Your Calendars

The next regular Session meeting will be held on **Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>**, 6:30 p.m., on ZOOM; the next regular Deacons’ meeting will be held on **Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>**, 11:30 a.m., at the church.



The Deacons are hosting a potluck and bingo after worship on **Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>**. More information will be coming!



# Lent



The season of Lent began on February 14<sup>th</sup>. 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.

## Holy Week Schedule

**Palm Sunday Service:** Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m., in our sanctuary and on ZOOM.

**Ecumenical Maundy Thursday Service:** Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m., at the First Baptist Church of Sussex.

**Good Friday Service:** Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m., in our sanctuary and on ZOOM.

**Easter Sunrise Service:** Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:15 a.m., at the Beemerville Cemetery.

**Easter Sunday:** Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at 10:30 a.m., worship service in our sanctuary and on ZOOM. There will be no Sunday School.

**Easter Egg Hunt:** Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at 11:30 a.m., after worship.



## 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 bulletins on **March 17<sup>th</sup>, March 24<sup>th</sup>, and March 31<sup>st</sup>**. This offering will be collected during the worship service on **Easter Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup>**. Please plan to contribute to this worthwhile cause.

## Lenten Book Discussion Group

The pastors in Sussex and Wantage joined together to offer a community-wide Lenten Book Group Discussion. The discussion is based around Kate Bowler's brand-new book, *Have a Beautiful, Terrible Day*, and will meet weekly on ZOOM and in person. You do not need to purchase or read the book to be part of the discussion group, but it is likely to be helpful to frame the discussion overall. The group will look at what it means to follow Jesus through the ups and downs of our days, which will hopefully help us to share all aspects of our lives, not just the picture-perfect sides. The ZOOM group meets on **Wednesdays at 12 noon through March 20<sup>th</sup>**. The in-person group meets on **Thursdays at 12 noon at the First Presbyterian Church of Sussex through March 21<sup>st</sup>**. The groups will be doing the same discussion questions for the week, so for example: if you want to mostly meet in person but one week you meet on ZOOM instead, you'll get the same questions but with a different group. Please bring your own lunch to the in-person discussion group. If you would like the ZOOM link, please let Pastor Katherine know so she can send it to you.



# Church Directory



A new Church Directory will be available shortly. If your information has changed since the last directory, please email your information (name, address, telephone number, cell phone number(s), email address) to the church office at [sussexpresbyterian@embarqmail.com](mailto:sussexpresbyterian@embarqmail.com), or mail it to the church at 21 Unionville Avenue, Sussex, NJ 0461, or call the church office at 973-875-4760. Please have your information in to the church office by **March 12<sup>th</sup>**.

## 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.



## Easter Egg Hunt



We will be having an Easter Egg Hunt for the children immediately after worship on **Easter Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup>**. Don't forget to have the children bring their Easter baskets to collect the eggs!

We are collecting candy donations for the Easter Egg Hunt—small, individually wrapped candies. There will be a box for the candy in the narthex. Please bring candy by **March 24<sup>th</sup>**.

## Presbyterian Women's Group

The Presbyterian Women's Group wants to extend a BIG Thank You to all who cooked, bought, and ate at our Super Soup Sale on February 11<sup>th</sup>! We were so thrilled to have so many different kinds of soups! We even had a gluten-free soup. Thank you to all the helpers. We could not have fundraisers without the members of our church participating. God is good, all the time! Our total raised was \$858.00.



Please mark your calendars for our upcoming meeting on **Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup>**, 9:30 a.m., in the fellowship room. All are welcome. Hope to see you there!

## How Are We Doing???

### For the Month of February

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

Average Weekly Attendance: 45

Monthly Offering: \$ 9,020.76



# 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.



## 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 2024, each member's contribution is \$42.50

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.



### March Birthdays

- (1) Donald Kirschner
- (10) John Smisko
- (12) Lois Capobianco
- (19) Caroline Jacobs
- (27) Niki Lepes
- (31) Marlena Kirschner



## From the Finance Committee



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](http://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.





## In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Please pray for **Teresa Belcher** (friend of the Batemans), **Madelyn Coykendall**, **George Clark**, **Rob Contrada** (father of Amy Mills' daughter's friend), **Frank Del Sardo, Jr.**, **Bob & Donna Gibson**, **Rev. Bruce Gillette & Family**, **Charlie & Dodi Lain**, **Lorraine, Betty Martin**, **Rev. Tim Marvil**, **Carol Mullen** (Donna Gibson's friend), **Art & Carolyn Van Houten**, **Pat Walker**, **Lois Wright**, and **Barbara Young**; and the families of **Joan Klein** (Richard Klein's mom) and **Brian Young**. 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.

## 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 the Sussex Help Center, 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!

## Deacon of the Month

When Pastor Katherine is not available or needs assistance, the following Deacon will be on call for the month of March – Frank Del Sardo; for April – Paulette Touw.



## 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.



# 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?**

## Refreshments After Worship

Refreshments are served in the fellowship room. Please sign up to bring in goodies on the sign-up sheet in the narthex. Please call Penny Bates if you have any questions.



**I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry. He drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord. Happy are those who make the Lord their trust, who do not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after false gods.**

**Psalm 40:1-4**

# Lectionary for the Lord's Day

## March 2024

- 3 **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent**  
Psalm 19; John 2:13-22
- 10 **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent**  
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; John 3:14-21
- 17 **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent**  
Psalm 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16; John 12:20-33
- 24 **Palm Sunday**  
Psalm 118:1-2, 9-16; Mark 14:1—15:47 or Mark 15:1-39 (40-47)
- 31 **Easter Sunday**  
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8



## April 2024

- 7 **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Easter**  
Psalm 133; John 20:19-31
- 14 **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Easter**  
Psalm 40:1-5; Luke 24:36b-48

## 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 preparer, 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

March 10 <sup>th</sup>	Richard L. Hayzler
March 17 <sup>th</sup>	Penny Bates
March 24 <sup>th</sup>	Mike Kosco
March 31 <sup>st</sup>	Janet Hayzler
April 7 <sup>th</sup>	Charles Bates
April 14 <sup>th</sup>	Betsy Sives
April 21 <sup>st</sup>	Walter Houck
April 28 <sup>th</sup>	Sheryl Dekmar



## Schedule of Communion Preparers and Servers

### Preparers

April 7<sup>th</sup> – Chris Sarno

### Servers

April 7<sup>th</sup> – Joanne Cosh



## Schedule of Ushers



March 10 <sup>th</sup>	Joanne Cosh & Kyle DeGroat
March 17 <sup>th</sup>	Mary Alice Hosking & Niki Lepes
March 24 <sup>th</sup>	Chris & Chuck Sarno
March 31 <sup>st</sup>	Charles & Penny Bates
April 7 <sup>th</sup>	Ken Enhoffer & Sheila Stormes
April 14 <sup>th</sup>	Joanne Cosh & Paulette Touw
April 21 <sup>st</sup>	Richard L. & Janet Hayzler
April 28 <sup>th</sup>	Charles & Penny Bates

## 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 thank everyone who donated gloves, mittens, and scarves. Currently, they are in need of tea bags, boxed mashed potatoes, and soups. 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.

## Fundraiser

The Beemerville Presbyterian Church is having a fundraiser at the Green Olive Restaurant, 1 Libertyville Rd., Sussex, on **Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>**, any time from 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. The church will receive a portion of all restaurant sales (dine-in only) during that time frame. Call 9973-702-1011 to make a reservation! Thank you!



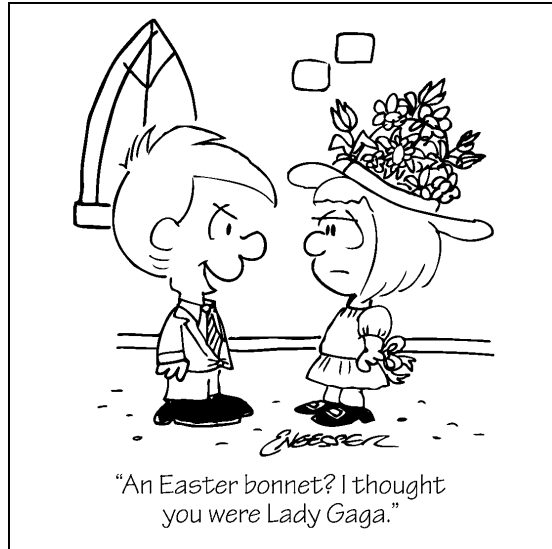
*Worship With Us  
This Easter*



# Free Tax Preparation Program



United Way of Northern NJ and its partners are offering FREE tax preparation services for low- and moderate-income households. At no cost to you, our IRS tax-law certified preparer will help you claim all the credits you are eligible for and get what you are owed. Visit [uwnnj.org/freetaxprep](http://uwnnj.org/freetaxprep).



*Hosanna  
in the  
Highest*