

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



21 Unionville Avenue, Sussex, NJ 07461

May 2020

## From Pastor Amy's Desk....

*"Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel,"*

(Philippians 1:27 – NRSV)



I am flooded with so many different emotions as I sit down to write this month's newsletter article. I am worried and concerned for our healthcare providers, grocery and store employees, funeral directors, and delivery persons. I am worried and concerned for children and people in abusive situations where home is not a safe space. I am worried and concerned for people that struggle with addictions and how the stress and disruption of routines can jeopardize their sobriety. I am worried and concerned for people that struggle with anxiety and depression. I am worried and concerned for our families that are confined to their homes and yet are expected to work and go to school at the same level of productivity as before. I am worried and concerned for people that have been furloughed and fervently pray they will have a job to go back to after this pandemic.

My heart breaks for all the things this pandemic has robbed from us. My heart breaks for the people that cannot visit their loved ones. My heart breaks for the people who cannot be at the bedside of a loved one who is ill or dying. My heart breaks for all the graduates who will not be able to celebrate this life milestone with family and friends. My heart breaks for the people who put so much work and time into all the spring plays and musicals, concerts, sports, and dance recitals that have been cancelled this year.

My heart is also filled with joy and hope. The fact that so many people are complying with the stay-at-home guidelines shows a concern and love for our neighbor. Yes, we are staying home for our own health, but we are also staying home for the health of our neighbor. I am filled with hope seeing how many people have looked around and have shared from their surplus. Many people have pulled out sewing machines and made fabric masks for people. Others have used their surplus of time to call and check in on each other. Others have chosen to use everything in their pantry and freezer so that they don't have to go to the store as often. My heart is filled with joy at seeing the pictures of our planet experiencing healing while our former ways of being have been halted. My heart is filled with joy hearing people express a new appreciation for things they used to take for granted. My heart is filled with joy by how many people have transitioned and encouraged others to come along as our church has temporarily moved to ZOOM-land.

I think Paul's heart was filled with all the things our hearts are filled with when he wrote to the church in Philippi encouraging them to *"stand firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel."* It is normal and okay for our hearts to be filled with so many emotions. But this pandemic does not give us permission to toss away the gospel of Christ. In this crisis it is more important than ever to live a life in a manner worthy of the gospel. As you learn and experiment with what living a life worthy of the gospel of Christ means for you at this time, know that you are not alone. Your brothers and sisters in Christ are standing with you as we all strive to live in a way that is worthy of the gospel of Christ.

Your Partner in Christ's Service,

*Pastor Amy*



## Mark Your Calendars

The next Deacons' Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>**, 7:00 p.m., online; the next regular Session meeting will be held on **Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>**, 6:30 p.m., online.

## Session Highlights



Session met on April 21<sup>st</sup>. The following items were discussed:

- 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.
- Pastor Amy has requested that her clergy renewal (Sabbatical) be deferred to 2021.
- Sunday School continues to operate via the ZOOM platform. Pastor Amy continues to meet with students on Wednesdays at 4:00 p.m.
- The Presbyterian Foundation has approved our church for online giving. A fee of 2% will be assessed on your giving amount. The congregation will still have the option of sending their giving to the church or to our Depositing Treasurer, Janet Hayzler.
- The telephone chain is being updated.
- Communion will continue on May 3, 2020, via the ZOOM platform.
- Session members will be reviewing steps on the re-opening of our church. Session will share this with our congregation when the review has been completed.
- The next Session meeting will be held online on Tuesday, May 19, 2020, at 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by Charles Bates – Clerk to Session

## 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!

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



## Postponed



Pastor Amy's Clergy Renewal Leave will be deferred for a year. The global pandemic has cancelled her planned trip and seminary course. With the uncertainty of when the shelter-in-place restrictions will open back up, it would be easier and less stressful to wait a year.

## How Are We Doing???

### For the Month of April (includes March 29<sup>th</sup>)

(includes Worship online)

Average Weekly Attendance:	44
Monthly Offering:	\$10,261.00
March Income	\$10,671.97
March Expenses	\$10,906.82
Total (Loss)	( 234.85)



## Remember the Church



When you are making plans for your estate, please keep the First Presbyterian Church in mind. Your bequests and endowments play a very important role in funding the work of our church. Please see Pastor Amy for further information or for help with any questions.

## 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 2019, each member's contribution is \$39.00.

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.



## Pentecost Offering



This offering will be collected **Pentecost Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup>**. 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. You can mail your donation to Janet Hayzler, 96 Holland Road, Wantage, NJ 07461.

Please put "Pentecost Offering" on the memo line. Thank you!

## Sunday School News

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



## Sermons



Sunday's sermon will be on the side table as you enter the church. Past sermons can be found in the magazine rack in the fellowship room. Sermons can also now be found on the church's webpage.

## 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](mailto:pastoramy@embarqmail.com). My work week is Sunday-Wednesday, but, as always, I am available for pastoral emergencies.



## Church Website



Check out our church's website at [www.sussexpresbyterian.org](http://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](http://tonerbuyer.com) and [empties4cash.com](http://empties4cash.com) .

## In Loving Memory

Long-time church member (71 years) Betty Pluymers passed away April 16<sup>th</sup>. Betty was an active member of our church over the years...she was an Elder, served on pastor nominating committees, ran the Afternoon Women's Group's yard sale for many years, was a long-time member of the choir, started the Lead Prevention Program, Health Ministry, and Prayer Shawl Ministry, among others. She will be missed! A graveside service was held on April 20<sup>th</sup> with local family members. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Cards can be sent to her family at: The Pluymers Family, 36 Scenic Drive, Hamburg, NJ 07419.



## Choir Rehearsal

Once we are back having church services, our choir rehearsals are held each Sunday at 9:20 a.m. in the choir loft. New members will be joyfully received. Please join us!

Hope to see you there!

Linda



## From the Deacons

If anyone knows of a person in need of rides to church or elsewhere, please contact one of the Deacons. **Also, volunteers to help with transportation needs** would be appreciated!



## Deacons' Fund Offering

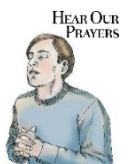
A part of the Deacons' ministry is our monthly Deacons' Fund Offering, which assists charitable, nonprofit organizations. The Board of Deacons would like to thank everyone who donated to our April Deacons' Fund recipient, Harvest House.



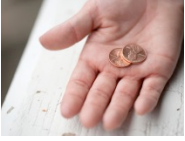
Our Deacons' Fund for May will go to DASI (Domestic Abuse Services Inc.). DASI is a 501(c)3 private, nonprofit organization, established in 1984, providing comprehensive services to survivors of domestic and sexual violence and their families in Sussex County. Services are free and confidential. Services for: Domestic Violence Victims/Survivors, Children Exposed to Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault/Abuse Survivors, Teens, and helping those concerned about someone they know. Please give generously!

## 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.



# 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.

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?***



To Our Church Family,

Thank you so much for the gift card. It was very thoughtful of you to think of us. We are safe and well. We are praying for everyone to be safe and well.

Love,  
The Dwornikoski Family

Friends of the 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church,

Thank you for keeping me in your prayers through this difficult time.

Frank E. Burnett, Jr.

What a surprise I received in the mail! Thank you for the Quick Check gift card while I am unemployed. My gas tank is filled to the brim and I look forward to trips out of the house! Thank you again for caring.

With much appreciation,  
Cindy

## 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.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

## In Our Thoughts & Prayers



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

## Family Promise

Due to COVID-19, the Family Promise emergency shelter is closed until it is safe for the clients, staff, and volunteers. We were scheduled to host **May 12-19, 2020**, but the Emergency Shelter will still be closed at that time. Family Promise is looking for non-perishable food during this time of need.



### May Birthdays

- (1) Brandon Del Sardo  
Ken Enhoffer
- (5) Sheryl Dekmar
- (10) Rebecca Johnson
- (12) Samuel Touw
- (13) Brian Lewis
- (21) Evelyn Haggard
- (22) Tom Alheidt
- (23) Randy Stormes  
Irene (Pat) Gilman
- (29) Ryan Scymanski  
Emmett Touw
- (30) Kevin Scymanski





## PresbySenior News

The PresbySeniors are holding off on their Spring event until further notice. Any questions, please call Barbara Young (973-875-7864).

### Lectionary For the Lord's Day

#### May 2020

- 3 **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**  
Psalm 23; John 10:1-10
- 10 **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**  
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; John 14:1-14
- 17 **6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**  
Psalm 66:8-20; John 14:15-24
- 24 **7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**  
Psalm 47; Acts 1:1-11
- 31 **Day of Pentecost**  
Acts 2:1-21; John 7:37-39



#### June 2020

- 7 **Trinity Sunday**  
Psalm 8; Matthew 28:16-20
- 14 **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; Matthew 9:35—10:8 (9-23)

### Local Food Pantry News



The Sussex Help Center is not collecting food at this time. The Church of the Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in Wantage has been giving out a lot of food, and they are out! They need food badly. They are asking for all kinds of nonperishable food items. Please place your items in the blue bin in the narthex, or drop them off at the Church of the Good Shepherd on Route 23 in Wantage. If you know of a family in need, please contact Walter Houck (973-875-7412). **Thank you for your support!**

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**"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."**

**– John 14:1-7**

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***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 outbreak, we will conduct services online through at least May 15<sup>th</sup>.***

## Schedule of Liturgists

May 17 <sup>th</sup>	Janet Hayzler
May 24 <sup>th</sup>	Marion Kopec
May 31 <sup>st</sup>	Richard L. Hayzler
June 7 <sup>th</sup>	Mike Kosco
June 14 <sup>th</sup>	Betty Martin



## Schedule of Ushers



May 17 <sup>th</sup>	Kristen Hayzler & Sheila Stormes
May 24 <sup>th</sup>	Rob Hayzler & Eric Sives
May 31 <sup>st</sup>	John & Giselle Smisko
June 7 <sup>th</sup>	Janet Hayzler & Ryan Hayzler
June 14 <sup>th</sup>	Mary Alice Hosking & Niki Lepes

## Communion Preparers & Servers

### Preparers

June 7 <sup>th</sup>	Beverly Johnson
July 5 <sup>th</sup>	Ivy Diorio

### Servers

June 7 <sup>th</sup>	Sharon Alheidt, Joanne Cosh, Betty Martin, & Evelyn Haggard
July 5 <sup>th</sup>	Marion Kopec



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## GREETERS SCHEDULE

May 17 <sup>th</sup>	Janet Hayzler
May 24 <sup>th</sup>	Sheila Stormes
May 31 <sup>st</sup>	Niki Lepas
June 7 <sup>th</sup>	Lisa Emma
June 14 <sup>th</sup>	Pat Walker

## Acolytes

May 17 <sup>th</sup>	--	Ryan Hayzler
May 24 <sup>th</sup>	--	Brooke Hayzler
May 31 <sup>st</sup>	--	Nathan 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.

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**The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters;  
he restores my soul.  
He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.  
Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I fear no evil;  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff—they comfort me.  
You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord  
my whole life long.**

**- Psalm 23**

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