



First Presbyterian Church of Sussex
PRESBYTERIAN
PRESS

21 Unionville Avenue, Sussex, NJ 07461

May 2021

From the Pastor's Desk....

Friends, our congregation is a faithfully giving congregation that supports all four of the special offerings offered by our denomination, the Presbyterian Church (USA). Each of these four offerings has a special focus and designation. The current special offering is for the Pentecost Offering, which focuses on children, youth, and young adults. The main scripture for this offering is Psalm 71:17, "*God, from my youth you have taught me.*"



Friends, the truth is God's vision for the world is that everyone finds a place within God's kingdom—God's house. What we celebrate at Pentecost (this year on **May 23rd**) is God's pouring out of the Holy Spirit so that people of every identity and language can hear a word of welcome into God's household. All belong in God's household, and we get to live together, and learn together, and celebrate together.

At Pentecost, we look especially to the children, youth and young adults with whom God has called us to live. The psalmist reminds us of the importance of faith being established during our earliest years, saying, "*God from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.*" Our youngest family members need support to build their full potential in both faith and life, and all of us have a role to play. And sometimes, these young ones teach us more about faith in Jesus Christ and how the Holy Spirit is moving in our world. The Pentecost Offering lets us support the development of children, youth, and young adults in our community and throughout the country.

Forty percent of this offering stays within our community because we want to build the household of God together, in this place. This year, we plan to use our 40% to benefit young adults going through mental health crises by donating to Newton Medical Center. The remainder is sent on to our denomination so that young adults can lay a foundation for their lives through a year of service as part of the Young Adult Volunteer program. It is also used to support ministries with youth, through experiences of worship and formation like the Presbyterian Youth Triennium, which gathers nearly 5,000 young people every three years to learn and grow together; the next time this wonderful event happens is the summer of 2022, and we could send our youth to learn and grow their faith in a big community of Presbyterian youth. There is also a portion of this offering that supports the education of every child in this country through the *Educate a Child, Transform the World* initiative.

During this Pentecost season, I want us to celebrate the fact that we are building a life of faith and building the household of God with our children, youth, and young adults. Please give generously, just as you did the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, to support our local youth and young people around the country.

In Christ's Love, Peace and Community,

Pastor Katherine Scott-Kirschner

(973) 771-4721 (cell)

Session Highlights



Session met on April 20th. The following items were discussed:

- Sheila Stormes was installed as a Deacon on April 18th.
- We used to participate with the Presbytery of the Highlands' Nairobi Partnership. Consideration will be given to rejoining this unit.
- Ruling Elders Penny Bates and Mike Kosco will be our Commissioners at the next Presbytery meeting on **May 11th** on ZOOM.
- Ruling Elder Jason Touw, Chair of the Buildings & Grounds Committee, set May 1st as our Spring Spruce-up Day.
- Active membership in our congregation is 122. Please join in and serve.
- Our Chair of the Nominating Committee, Ruling Elder Richard L. Hayzler, is looking for candidates to serve as Elders. Please take this under prayer advisement.
- The Kuperus family left the manse on April 5th. Pastor Katherine is now able to use it as she wishes.
- Our church services are open to the ZOOM platform and to in-person attendance. Refreshments and fellowship are offered outside after church, weather permitting.
- More liturgists are needed. Please see Ruling Elder Mike Kosco if you can assist, whether in-person or on the ZOOM platform.
- Sunday worship will start at 9:30 a.m. during the months of July and August.
- Pastor Katherine's grandfather recently passed away. Please pray for her and her family. Pastor Katherine will be away from **May 15th through May 18th** for her grandfather's funeral and memorial service. Please let the office know of any pastoral concerns during that time.
- Forty percent of the Pentecost Offering, which will be collected on **May 23rd**, will be sent to the counseling center at Newton Medical Center for youth dealing with mental health crises.
- The next regular Session meeting will be held online on **Thursday, May 20, 2021**, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Charles Bates, Clerk to Session

Mark Your Calendars



The next regular Deacons' meeting will be held on **Tuesday, May 4th**, 7:00 p.m., online; the next regular Session meeting will be held on **Thursday, May 20th**, 6:30 p.m., online.

Pentecost Offering

This offering will be collected **Pentecost Sunday, May 23rd**. 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 "Session Highlights" to see where it will go. If you are not attending in-person worship, please mail your donation to our Depositing Treasurer, Janet Hayzler, 96 Holland Rd., Wantage, NJ 07461. Please put *Pentecost Offering* on the memo line.

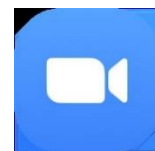


Pastoral Care



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.

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**.

Ask the Pastor Anything: Mark your calendars for _____, at 7:30 p.m., for a half-hour “Ask the Pastor Anything.” Pastor Katherine has decided to put herself in the hot seat in April, May, and June. On the second Wednesday of the month, at the Wednesday Night Gathering ZOOM link, Pastor Katherine will take your questions and answer them to the best of her ability. If you stump her, maybe you’ll even receive a prize! Hope you will join us!

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.

How Are We Doing???

For the Month of April

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

Average Weekly Attendance: 46

Monthly Offering: \$ 8,324



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.

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.

Sunday School News



Sunday school is back! We will meet on **May 23rd** and **June 20th**, outdoors or in the fellowship room if the weather is bad. Sunday school runs from 9:15 – 10:15 a.m., for Pre-K through Adult. Please see Ashley Ziccardi if you have any questions.

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.



Congratulations To...

Eloise Demeter and Owen Demeter for making Honor Roll at Hardyston Middle School.



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 15th**: 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!

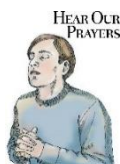
In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Please pray for **Linda DeGroat, Marlene Decker, Frank Del Sardo Sr., Frank Del Sardo Jr., Kathy Dyer, the Enhoffer Family, Bob & Donna Gibson, Rev. Bruce Gillette & his family, Phil Hardin, Janet Hayzler, Mary Alice Hosking, Kara & Patti Jacobs, Ralph Miller, and Shirley Prall** (Ivy Diorio's friend). 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 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!



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?**



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
(29) Ryan Scymanski
Emmett Touw
(30) Kevin Scymanski

This
Month's
Birthdays



Lectionary for the Lord's Day

May 2021

- 2 **5th Sunday of Easter**
Psalm 22:25-31; John 15:1-8
9 **6th Sunday of Easter**
Psalm 98; John 15:9-17
16 **7th Sunday of Easter**
Psalm 1; John 17:6-19
23 **Day of Pentecost**
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15
30 **Trinity Sunday**
Psalm 29; John 3:1-17



June 2021

- 6 **2nd Sunday after Pentecost**
Psalm 130; Mark 3:20-35
13 **3rd Sunday after Pentecost**
Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15; Mark 4:26-34



May 31st



Refreshments After Worship

Refreshments are served outdoors only, weather permitting. Please plan to stay after worship and visit with your friends!

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 cleaning supplies (like Pine Sol) and laundry detergent. 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.

Upcoming Events:

- **May 23rd** - 9th Annual a Salute to Veterans at High Point Monument. Seating for dinner is by reservation only.
- **September 9-13th** - The Moving Wall at Woodbourne Park.

Contact the Sussex Elks Lodge 2288 at SussexElks2288@gmail.com or they can be found on the Facebook page ([Facebook.com/SussexLodge2288](https://www.facebook.com/SussexLodge2288)).



Spring...

The trees are dressed in green again, and glistening in the breeze;
It is that time of year again when Spring is here to please...
The trees are dressed in green again, and flowers are blooming bright –
It is that season of the year that fills us with delight...
The trees are dressed in green again, and we give thanks to God
For the lovely things that grow and flourish in the sod!

- Hope C. Oberhelman

Our Church Sign



Spring Spruce Up Day

We would like to thank everyone who participated in our Spring Spruce-Up Day on Saturday, May 1st. Everyone did a great job in making our church grounds look so nice! Thanks to Jennifer Kovach for provided the pictures!



