



First Presbyterian Church of Sussex
PRESBYTERIAN
PRESS

21 Unionville Avenue, Sussex, NJ 07461

May 2022

From the Pastor's Desk....

Hello friends!

Welcome to May! The season of longer days and nice weather... before the mosquitoes come out in full force. I tell you, when I get to heaven, one of the questions I'm going to ask God is, "Why mosquitoes?"

I want to invite you to an Ice Cream Social that my mom and I are hosting on **Friday, May 13th**, starting at 6:30 p.m. and ending around 8:30 p.m., at the manse. Feel free to drop by any time for ice cream sundaes during that two-hour window of time. I figured, is there a better way to spend your Friday the 13th than with ice cream and fellowship? I think not! We plan to have this event be both inside and outside around the manse.

This will be a great way to celebrate spring and kick off the summer, which is just around the corner. This year is speeding by, and I'm so grateful that I get to spend it with you all as my church community. Even with the time flying by, I know and trust that God is with me through all the ups and downs, through the tough moments and the easy ones.

And as part of this speeding through the year, Easter has passed and now we're looking towards the next church holiday—Pentecost. This year, Pentecost is **June 5th**, and we'll be celebrating our Confirmands during that worship service.

We'll also be taking up the Pentecost Offering; this is the offering that benefits children, youth, and young adults. And in this offering, 60% of the donations go to the national body, while 40% is given to a specific cause in our area. Last year, the Session gave the money to Newton Medical Center for young people in mental health crises. If you have a suggestion for this year's donations, please let a member of Session know.

This means that supporting this special donation not only impacts various PC(USA) programs like the Young Adult Volunteer program and Youth Triennium, it also impacts our local community. Once the Session decides where to donate the gifts, they'll let the whole congregation know. I hope you will join me in supporting this important special offering that provides Christian education and support around our country and locally.

Throughout this month of spring, may you see and feel God's presence among and around you. The gift of Easter is still fresh on our minds, and the truth of Easter's gift continuously flows to us, just as Psalm 23 tells us. Our cups overflow with God's love and Christ's grace. Let us hold fast to this truth through all things. That's my prayer for all of us during this tumultuous time in the world.

God's peace be with you!

In Christ,
Pastor Katherine Scott-Kirschner
(973) 771-4721 (cell)



Session Highlights

Session met on April 19th. The following items were discussed:



- We are updating the phone chain.
- The Deacons are looking for ideas on how to attract new members. Please contact Janet Hayzler if you have any suggestions.
- The Parking Lot Paving Fund has grown to \$17,275. Thank you to those who have donated.
- The end-of-the-year program for Sunday School will be held in June.
- Please sign up to provide refreshments for our fellowship hour.
- Session continues to review the membership rolls.
- Ruling Elder Richard Hayzler indicated we have received \$450 for the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering.
- Discussions centered on when and how the church will return to “normal” operations.
- The next regular Session meeting will be held on **Tuesday, May 17, 2022**, at 6:30 p.m., on the ZOOM platform.

Respectfully submitted,
Charles Bates, Clerk to Session

Mark Your Calendars



The next Deacons' meeting will be held on **Tuesday, May 3rd**, on ZOOM; the next regular Session meeting will be held on **Tuesday, May 17th**, 6:30 p.m., on ZOOM.

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 April (including Good Friday)

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

Average Weekly Attendance	46
Monthly Offering	\$ 9,722.50



Phone Chain Update and More



Pastor Katherine and the Session are rebuilding the phone chain and considering restarting passing the plate during offering and having pre-COVID-style communion. Please let us know how you'd like to be contacted for the phone chain and your interest in assisting in worship in these ways (if willing).

Please let Pastor Katherine or Sharon know your preferences to these questions:

Would you like a phone call or text? What number, and is it home or cell?

Are you willing to be an usher during worship? (yes, no, maybe)

Are you willing to set up communion before worship? (yes, no, maybe)

You can leave the answers on the church answering machine if no one is in the office when you call.

Thank you for your help in rebuilding the phone chain and willingness to assist in worship!

Pentecost Offering

This offering will be collected **Pentecost Sunday, June 5th**. 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 Pastor Katherine's article to see where it went last year. 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.



Confirmation



Join us on **Sunday, June 5th**, when Owen Demeter, Brian Lewis, and Baylie Touw will be confirmed during our worship service and be received as new members of our congregation. Mark your calendars and don't miss this special worship service!

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.

Our end of the year program will be held in June.

A fun time was had by all the children who participated in our Easter Egg Hunt after worship on Easter Sunday! Check out the pictures:





One Great Hour of Sharing

Thank you to all who contributed to the One Great Hour of Sharing Campaign! We have collected \$475 to date. For those who still wish to contribute, please forward your contributions to Richard Hayzler, 96 Holland Road, Wantage, NJ 07461.



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.

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.



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.



Worshipping 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 sign up to bring in goodies on the sign-up sheet in the narthex. Please call Penny Bates if you have any questions.

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



A Mother's Love

I have not found the word, I cannot find one single phrase to satisfy my mind, or any synonym that might express a mother's love—that love with power to bless the love of any child within her care, an expended love, and yet enough to share with other children if there be a need... Elastic, tender is that love, indeed. It is spent, yet saved; it is emptied, yet filled up, as steady rain will brim an upheld cup. It is gentle and yet tiger-fierce when harm threatens her young through any quick alarm. It is selfless as the love of Christ for humans. It is holy, it is beautiful, but when the seeking heart strives to define its worth...There is no word for it in heaven or earth!
- Grace Noll Crowell

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 Harvest House, our Deacons' Fund recipient for April.



Our Deacons' Fund recipient for May is 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!

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 30th

May Birthdays

- (1) Brandon Del Sardo
Ken Enhoffer
- (5) Sheryl Dekmar
Joanne Fairweather
- (9) Allan Stormes
- (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



Lectionary for the Lord's Day

May 2022

- 1 **3rd Sunday after Easter**
Psalm 30; John 21:1-19
- 8 **4th Sunday after Easter**
Psalm 23; John 10:22-30
- 15 **5th Sunday after Easter**
Psalm 148; John 13:31-35
- 22 **6th Sunday after Easter**
Psalm 67; John 14:23-29
- 29 **7th Sunday after Easter**
Psalm 97; John 17:20-26



June 2022

- 5 **Day of Pentecost**
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; John 14:8-17 (25-27)
- 12 **Trinity Sunday**
Psalm 8; John 16:12-15



Liturgists Needed

Mike Kosco, 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 June 12th) 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



May 1 st	Mike Kosco
May 8 th	Janet Hayzler
May 15 th	Penny Bates
May 22 nd	Betsy Sives
May 29 th	Mike Kosco
June 5 th (Pentecost Sunday)	Sheryl Dekmar
June 12 th	Betsy Sives

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 24th**: 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!



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 everything. Please let Walter Houck know if there is a family in need.

Flea Market Day

The First Presbyterian church of Branchville (3 Wantage Ave., Branchville) will be holding the Daisey Roe 24th Annual Spring Flea Market on **Saturday, May 14th**, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Vendors will be selling antiques, crafts, jewelry, and flea market items. Please stop by to shop!





Blessing of Animals

The Beemerville Presbyterian Church will be hosting a Blessing of the Animals on **Sunday, May 15th**, 10:30 a.m. until 12:00 Noon, outside the church. All pets must be on a leash or in a crate. All are welcome!

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)! Find out more information at www.campjburg.org/summit.



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.

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).



Pentecost

Pentecost, also called the Feast of Weeks in the Bible, was a Jewish festival marking the harvest. The word Pentecost means "50 days," named for the fact that the festival fell seven weeks after the beginning of the harvest season. The most important Pentecost for Christians was the one that occurred 50 days after Jesus' resurrection, when the Holy Spirit entered the lives of the believers in the Upper Room in Jerusalem. Since that time, Pentecost has been an important day in Christian worship. It is often referred to as "the birthday of the church."

Our Church Sign

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

