



First Presbyterian Church of Sussex
PRESBYTERIAN
PRESS

21 Unionville Avenue, Sussex, NJ 07461

November 2021

From the Pastor's Desk...

Many blessings to you and your loved ones!

We've made it to November! The second-to-last month of the year. The month where I begin to reflect and reminisce on the year and the ways I've seen God's abundant goodness at play within it.

Some years, the list seems to go on forever and ever. Other years, my list seems very short. The reason I do this in November is because my family has a tradition during Thanksgiving dinner: we go around the table and share things we're thankful for.

When I was younger, I thought very much in the moment during this thankfulness sharing. As I got older, I started thinking through the scope of the whole year. And now, I think about it in the days and weeks leading up to Thanksgiving Day.

I certainly know that becoming your pastor is going to be at the top of my "thankful" list for 2021. When my family and I are sitting around our Thanksgiving meal, this wonderful fact will be one of the first I share.

I'm incredibly grateful that God brought us together in this pastoral relationship. I've come to love this wonderful group of people—and I hope you've come to put up with me and my antics without finding them completely annoying (all the time).

For me, music has always been another love of mine and something I'm also grateful to God to have access to. And so, I wanted us to reflect on the words of this hymn: "Let All Things Now Living." If you have access to a computer or smart phone, I suggest playing a recording of it too, so that you have an immersive experience. In our hymnal, it's No. 554.

"Let all things now living A song of thanksgiving To God our Creator triumphantly raise; Who fashioned and made us, Protected and stayed us, By guiding us on to the end of our days. God's banners are o'er us, Pure light goes before us, A pillar of fire shining forth in the night: Till shadows have vanished, All fearfulness banished, As forward we travel from light into Light.

"By law God enforces. The stars in their courses, The sun in its orbit obediently shine; The hills and the mountains, The rivers and fountains, The depths of the ocean proclaim God divine. We, too, should be voicing Our love and rejoicing With glad adoration, a song let us raise: Till all things now living Unite in thanksgiving, To God in the highest, hosanna and praise."

This hymn's lyricist is named Katherine K. Davis, and, to me, she captures the idea of how grateful the created world is for God, and how much we are called to be grateful, too.

Friends, as we look to and through our November calendars, may you remember lots and lots of things to be grateful for since Thanksgiving 2020. May you find happiness with loved ones near or far. And if you're struggling to find any joy, please reach out to me. It would be an honor to be present with you in your sorrow, stress, or depression. I'm always a call or text away.



Happy Thanksgiving! I'm grateful for you—more than you even know. As James 1:17-18 reads in the Message Version of the Bible, *“So, my very dear friends, don't get thrown off course. Every desirable and beneficial gift comes out of heaven. The gifts are rivers of light cascading down from the Father of Light. There is nothing deceitful in God, nothing two-faced, nothing fickle. He brought us to life using the true Word, showing us off as the crown of all his creatures.”* May God's gifts connect you to your loved ones during this time of the year (and always).

Gratefully and In Christ's Peace,

Pastor Katherine

(973) 771-4721 (cell)

Session Highlights

Session met on October 12th. The following items were discussed:



- October 10th was Pastor Appreciation Day. Ruling Elder Penny Bates read a brief note of how thankful and appreciative we are of Pastor Katherine's ministry.
- College Care Packages will be put together on November 2nd for our students in college.
- Pastor Katherine is scheduling an Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service on **Tuesday, November 27th**, at 7:00 p.m., via the ZOOM platform.
- During Advent, Bible study will occur on **December 1, 8, 15, and 22, 2021**, via ZOOM.
- The Cookie & Bread Walk is scheduled for **Saturday, December 18, 2021**. All cookies and breads will be individually wrapped.
- Pastor Katherine's mother, Julie Jordan-Scott, is now residing at the manse.
- Sunday school has started as of October 3, 2021.
- Fellowship hour will be moved indoors as the cold weather dictates.
- The Stewardship letter has been mailed as of October 12, 2021. Consider graciously your gifting of 2022. This will be due on Commitment Sunday, **November 7, 2021**.
- The next regular Session meeting will be held on **Tuesday, November 16, 2021**, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Bates, Clerk to Session

Can You Help?



Our parking lots need work (repaving, striping). 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.



NOVEMBER 11TH

Fall Back

Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour **this Saturday, November 6th**, before you go to bed so you won't miss worship (or show up early). Daylight Saving Time ends **Sunday, November 7th**.



Commitment Sunday



COMMITMENT SUNDAY is **this Sunday, November 7th**. Our theme for this year's STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN is "**INSPIRING STEWARDSHIP, COLLABORATION AND LEADERSHIP**". On **Sunday, October 17th, 24th, and 31st**, our worship service included a "**Moment of Inspiration**" to underscore our theme. Please bring your pledge cards to worship **this Sunday**, and place them into the collection plate; or mail them to our Depositing Treasurer, Janet Hayzler, at 96 Holland Road,

Wantage, NJ 07461. Please prayerfully consider increasing your pledge for 2022. Thank you!

Advent Bible Study

A **four-week Advent Bible Study** will take place on the four Wednesday evenings leading up to Christmas. Join Pastor Katherine **on December 1, 8, 15, and 22**, at 7:00 p.m., on ZOOM, to discuss the Advent Bible Study theme of *Waiting for the Lord*. This Bible Study will correspond with the Advent worship series. If you'd like a book to go along with the discussion, please let Sharon in the office or Pastor Katherine know **by November 23rd or November 28th**, respectively.



Mark Your Calendars



The Deacons' met on Tuesday, November 2nd, at the church; the next regular Session meeting will be held on **Tuesday, November 16th**, 6:30 p.m., on ZOOM.

Presbyterian Women's Group

The Presbyterian Women's Group of the First Presbyterian Church of Sussex is planning to hold its annual Cookie & Bread Sale again this year. We are asking anyone who wants to bake cookies and/or breads to contribute. Cookies are to be packaged in a sandwich-size baggie (4 cookies to a bag). Breads are to be packaged separately. The sale will take place on **Saturday, December 18th**, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. There will be no pre-ordering this year. For any questions, please contact Joanne Cosh (973-903-3152) or Penny Bates (201-452-5082). All moneys raised will go into the Presbyterian Women's Group's account.





Congratulations

Annalies Cosh has a new great-grandson! Jack Matthew Cosh was born October 20, 2021. He is the son of Matthew and Olhae Cosh, and he joins his sisters, Elsa and Annalies, at their home in Poughkeepsie, NY! Congratulations to all!

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.



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.

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.



Have You Paid Your 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 October

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

Average Weekly Attendance: 35

Monthly Offering: \$ 10,774.50



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.

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.



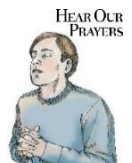
Donate to Your Church by Shopping at Smile.Amazon



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.

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.



In Our Thoughts & Prayers



Please pray for **Frank Del Sardo Jr., Bob & Donna Gibson, Rev. Bruce Gillette & his family, Evelyn Haggard, Rev. Charles Holm, Betty Martin, Ralph Miller, Jeff Thomas, and Paulette Touw;** and the **Kovach Family**. Please let the Deacons or the office know who to add and who to remove. **Thank you!**

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 family Promise of Sussex County, our Deacons' Fund recipient for October.

Our Deacons' Fund for November will go to Skylands Outreach Depot. Located in Franklin, this is a collaborative and ecumenical organization of the people and churches of Sussex Country, with the mission statement, "To Help Others." Through the Depot, people of all ages and backgrounds have the opportunity to work together toward the goal of providing support and relief to those in need in local communities, our nation, and around the world. Please give generously!

Deacon of the Month

When Pastor Katherine is not available or needs assistance, the following Deacon will be on call for the month of November – Janet Hayzler.



BOARD OF DEACONS



Dear Presbyterian Women,

Thank you so much for the flowers, balloons, and gift card that welcomed me when I first arrived at the manse. I felt so welcomed and grateful. I used the gift card to purchase household essentials—the manse is so beautiful and I'm so enjoying my time here, even after only a few days!

I've been involved with Presbyterian Women before and would be happy to help and/or be a part of things.

With Love,
Julie



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?**

Liturgists Needed

Mike Kosco, chair of the Worship & Sacrament Committee, is looking for people to serve as liturgists for December 2021 through February 2022. 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 (Mike will train newbies!), please contact him at 973-600-2386, or see him after worship on Sundays. A schedule (*through November*) 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



November 7th
November 14th
November 21st
November 28th

Jason Touw
Charles Bates
Betsy Sives
Richard L. Hayzler



November Birthdays

- (1) Anna Marie Bateman
Matthew Higgins
Stephen Kacmar
- (3) James Hardin
Richard M. Hayzler
- (6) Jacob Sives
- (9) Lydia Alheidt
- (10) Carly Hayzler
- (11) Gregory Lewis
- (15) Nicole Sarno
- (18) Howard Bateman, Jr.
- (19) Jennifer Kovach
- (20) Sarah Dwornikoski
- (22) Nathan Hayzler
- (25) Pat Hardin
- (27) Dodi Lain



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!

Lectionary for the Lord's Day

November 2021

- 7 **24th Sunday after Pentecost**
Psalm 127; Mark 12:38-44
- 14 **25th Sunday after Pentecost**
Psalm 16; Mark 13:1-8
- 21 **Christ the King Sunday**
Psalm 132:1-12 (13-18); John 18:33-37
- 28 **1st Sunday of Advent**
Psalm 25:1-10; Luke 21:25-36



December 2021

- 5 **2nd Sunday of Advent**
Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6
- 12 **3rd Sunday of Advent**
Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18



Mark Your Calendars

The Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service will be held on **Tuesday, November 23rd**, 7:00 p.m., via the ZOOM platform. Please note the change of day of the service. Please mark your calendars. More information will be coming.

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 jams and jellies. Please let Walter Houck know if there is a family in need.



The Sussex Help Center will **NOT** be doing the gift tree this year. Instead, they will be collecting items for parents to “shop.” Our church has been asked to donate new gloves and mittens. If anyone is interested, toys can also be donated. There is a special need for toys for older children, but all toys (gift cards) are appreciated. Please bring your items to the church before/on **November 21st**. They can be placed in the Help Center box in the narthex or given to Walter or Joanne.

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.

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

Family Promise of Sussex County

Family Promise of Sussex County is collecting NEW winter coats for men experiencing a housing crisis. To participate: Purchase a man’s coat in size XL, 2XL, or 3XL from your favorite online retailer and have it shipped to our office at 19 Church Street, Newton, NJ 07860. Please include your name, email address, and mailing address if the retailer you choose has an option for a gift message so that we can send you a thank you and a receipt for your tax-deductible donation! As always, we truly appreciate ALL of your help and support! We couldn’t do what we do without help from all of you!



Our Church Sign

(Thank You Phil Hardin)

