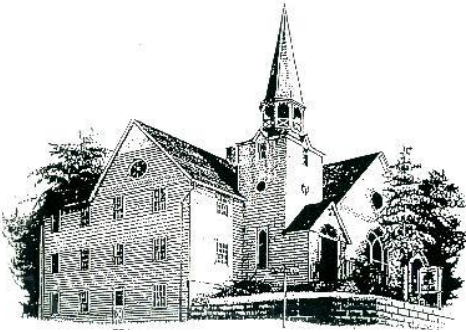


First Presbyterian Church of Sussex
PRESBYTERIAN
PRESS



21 Unionville Avenue, Sussex, NJ 07461

November 2022

From the Pastor's Desk....

Hello Friends and Members!

As I announced in the middle of October in worship, I'm pregnant with my first child. Donald and I are delighted over this next chapter in our lives. Our sixth year of marriage is going to be one wild ride! We're also incredibly touched by the positive response and care we've received since sharing our exciting news with you all. The baby is due in early April, so I will continue to outline what you all may expect for my absence while I take family leave.



That being said, there's still plenty happening in and around the church for the next five months! Take this list as a preview of what else is going on in the newsletter:

1. Commitment Sunday on **November 6th**, during worship
2. Advent Wreath Making Workshop on **November 20th**, after worship
3. "Hanging of the Green's", aka putting up the Christmas tree and decorating the sanctuary, on **November 20th**, after worship
4. The Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service on **Wednesday, November 23rd**, at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd (on Route 23 in Wantage next to the Dunkin' Donuts) at 7:00 p.m.
5. The 1st Sunday of Advent on **November 27th**

That's right folks, Advent starts this month, which means we're gearing up for the end of the year! We know that November means this year is coming to an end, and it's time to be extra grateful for the ways we've been blessed throughout this year.

Maybe this year has been much harder than years past for you. I know this is the case for many people with the ups and downs of the economy, with health issues, with an air of uncertainty still around, with the election season turning all commercial breaks into times of misery. I know that last one is a joke, but I also know that it's been a hard year for many.

And even in the hardest of years, we still have things to be thankful for. The Psalmist in Psalm 40 says it like this, "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." (Psalm 40:1-2)

One of my hopes is that no matter how difficult things are, or will become, in your life that you'll always place your hope in our merciful and loving God. During this Thanksgiving season, I challenge you to list out something you're grateful for every day, and then to share this list with someone on a regular basis as a way of spreading gratitude.

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

Session Highlights

Session met on October 18th. The following items were discussed:



- The Deacons and Pastor Katherine praised the results of the Wantage Day festivities.
- Active membership is recorded at 102.
- The Presbyterian Women's Group will hold their Indoor Yard Sale **October 21-22, 2022**.
- Pastor Katherine announced that she is pregnant, and that the baby is due in early April 2023.
- The Per Capita for 2023 has been established by Presbytery at \$42.50 per member.
- The Sussex Help Center will start to meet again at our church beginning **November 3, 2022**, at 1:00 p.m.
- Pastor Katherine will be away on Study Leave from **October 25, 2022 through October 31st**; and on vacation from **November 8th through November 14th**, and **December 26, 2022 through January 1, 2023**.
- An Advent Wreath Workshop and Hanging of the Greens will take place on **Sunday, November 20, 2022**.
- The children's Christmas Pageant will take place on **Sunday, December 11, 2022**, during the worship service.
- A local cleaning service/person is still needed to clean our church. If you know of a person or company, please call Charles Bates (201-787-1308).
- Fellowship hour keeps going well. Please continue to volunteer.
- Commitment Sunday will be held on **Sunday, November 6, 2022**. Please prayerfully consider pledging.
- Worship & Sacraments Committee is looking for ordained Elders and Deacons to serve communion on a rotational basis. Communion preparers are also needed. Please let Mike Kosco or the church know if you are interested.
- Rev. Casey Carbone visited our church recently to help make suggestions on updating our technology. A grant from Presbytery has been applied for.
- The next regular Session meeting will be held on **Tuesday, November 22, 2022**, at 6:30 p.m., on the ZOOM platform.

Respectfully submitted,
Charles Bates, Clerk to Session

Commitment Sunday

COMMITMENT SUNDAY is **this Sunday, November 6th**. 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 2023. Thank you!



Mark Your Calendars

The next regular Deacons' meeting will be held on **Tuesday, November 1st**, 6:00 p.m., at the church; the next regular Session meeting will be held on **Tuesday, November 22nd**, 6:30 p.m., on ZOOM.



Minister's New Hours/Pastoral Care



Starting **November 1st**, Pastor Katherine will be the office/the Sussex area on **Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays**. Her Sabbath time is now **Mondays**. On days when she's not in Sussex, she's only a phone call or text away!

Advent Study

Pastor Katherine will be leading an Advent Study again this year. The class will be four weeks: **November 30th, December 7th, 14th, and 21st**. She plans to have two timing/location options: one will be at 2:00 p.m. at the church, and the other will be at 7:00 p.m. on ZOOM. Please let Pastor Katherine know if you're interested. And stay tuned for more information coming your way!



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.



Advent Wreath Workshop

The Annual Advent Wreath Workshop will be held after church on **November 20th**. All are welcome! Join us to make an Advent wreath to take home and use throughout the Advent season. Please let Ashley know if you are coming by **Sunday, November 13th**, so she can plan accordingly.



Hanging of the Greens

Hanging of the Greens will be held **Sunday, November 20th**, after the worship service. There will be a sign-up sheet in the fellowship room. You may also call the church at 973-875-4760 to sign up. Please join us for a fun time!!



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.



Indoor Yard Sale



The Presbyterian Women's Group of the First Presbyterian Church of Sussex would like to thank all the people who gave us items for the sale. A big thank you to all who helped during the week taking in items, those who worked the sale days, and all the people who helped pack up the leftover items. A thank you to Walter Houck and Nancy Barta for taking items to our local library, and to John Wetzel for taking items to be sold at other locations. Our total earnings were \$1,400.85. We are a church that is truly blessed!

Cookie & Bread Walk

The Presbyterian Women's Group of the First Presbyterian Church of Sussex is planning to hold its annual Cookie & Bread Sale on **Saturday, December 17th** and **Sunday, December 18th**. Please start planning on how you can help us. Further details will be coming over the next weeks. *"Many hands make light work."*



Church Choir Uplifts

The church choir went to Lois Wright's home and treated her and Barbara Young to many songs. Thank you!



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.

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.

How Are We Doing???

For the Month of October

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

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Average Weekly Attendance: | 37 |
| Monthly Offering: | \$ 8,588.50 |



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.



NOVEMBER 11TH

Anniversaries

Sheila & Allan Stormes celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary on October 10th; Ken & Beth-Ann Enhoffer celebrated their 49th wedding anniversary on October 14th; and Pastor Katherine and her husband Donald celebrated their 5th wedding anniversary on October 21st. Congratulations!



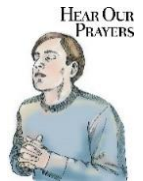
In Our Thoughts & Prayers



Please pray for **Cherry Bina** (Pat Walker's niece), **Frank Del Sardo, Jr., Pam Fielding, Bob & Donna Gibson, Evelyn Haggard, Charlie & Dodi Lain, Betty Martin, Rev. Tim Marvil, Kenneth Van Wageninge** (Carolyn's brother), and **Barbara 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 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.



Care Package Ministry



The Deacons would like to thank everyone who contributed with "goodies" or money for shipping of the College Care Packages. We know that the students really appreciate them. We sent five very full packages this year to Natalie and Lydia Alheidt, Sam Touw, Jacob Vanderwiele, and Alex Edwards.

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?**

What ARE You Thankful for?

Mark Your Calendars

The Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Service will be held on **Wednesday, November 23rd**, 7:00 p.m., at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd. Please mark your calendars. More information will be coming.



November Birthdays

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



Lectionary for the Lord's Day

November 2022

- 6** *22nd Sunday after Pentecost*
Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21; Luke 20:27-38
- 13** *23rd Sunday after Pentecost*
Psalm 98; Luke 21:5-19
- 20** *Christ the King Sunday*
Psalm 46; Luke 23:33-43
- 27** *1st Sunday of Advent*
Psalm 122; Matthew 24:36-44



December 2022

- 4** *2nd Sunday of Advent*
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Matthew 3:1-12
- 11** *3rd Sunday of Advent*
Psalm 146:5-10; Matthew 11:2-11



Can You Help?



Worship Committee

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 December 11th*) of liturgists and ushers 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 6th
November 13th
November 20th
November 27th
December 4th
December 11th

Mike Kosco
Janet Hayzler
Charles Bates
Betsy Sives
Walter Houck
Sheryl Dekmar



Schedule of Ushers

November 6th
November 13th
November 20th
November 27th
December 4th
December 11th

Niki Lapes & Paulette Touw
Betsy Sives & Ashley Ziccardi
Kathy Carey & Pat Walker
Joanne Cosh & Kyle DeGroat
Sheryl Dekmar & Janet Hayzler
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 especially need stuffing, gravy, and baked beans. Please let Walter Houck know if there is a family in need.



For everything there is a season, a time for every matter under heaven:

**a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to throw away...**

Ecclesiastes 3:1-2, 3b, 4, 5a, 6

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.

Grief and the Holidays

Experiencing the holidays and special seasons without a loved one can increase the pain and sorrow that one may already go through in times of grief. Join an experienced grief counselor and others who are on this journey to acknowledge your individual experiences. Learn new ways to cope, and discover new ideas and options to help you carry on, while remembering your loved ones. Join us on **Wednesday, November 16th**, from 7-8 p.m., on a virtual ZOOM meeting presented by Lorri Opitz, MA, Quinlan Bereavement Center. Pre-registration is required. To register: https://atlanticealth.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_yqsU7RgXRbqAvp-S4KNicQ. This event is sponsored by Atlantic Health System's Spiritual Care Committee, Community Health, Behavioral Health and Faith Community Health Partnerships. For more information, call Randy Parks at 973-579-8625 or email Randolph.Parks@atlanticealth.org.



Our Church Sign

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

