

First Presbyterian Church of Sussex
PRESBYTERIAN
PRESS



21 Unionville Avenue, Sussex, NJ 07461

November 2023

From the Pastor's Desk

Hello lovely Sussex Presbyterian folks!

As it is November, I wanted to begin this note from me to you to say how grateful I am to be part of this worshipping community. It is such a blessing to be your pastor and to be a witness to the ministry of this congregation.

At the end of my vacation week last month, Donald and I were talking about how fast and full the end of the year is. November and December are going to fly by faster than we can blink. We already know it just with the things currently on our calendars. And we're certain more things will be added.

I'm guessing the same is true for many of you—as you look toward the end of 2023, you probably also have lots of things already dotting your calendar: perhaps it's travel for Thanksgiving or Christmas or New Year's. Perhaps it's some kind of medical procedure. Perhaps it's tasks to get done before this year ends.

2023 has gone remarkably quickly for me with all the transitions that've occurred for myself personally. Frankly, it's shocking how quickly this year has gone! And how fast the seasons change and shift. So much has happened near and far—war continuing and war breaking out. Unnecessary violence and bickering in all corners.

And this is why, in November, I take time to really be grateful. December is my second favorite month, but my focus isn't on gratitude in the last month of the year—it's on the countdown to the celebration of Christ's birth: our greatest gift.

November, however, with Thanksgiving thrown into the mix, is the month I really try to take time to think back over my many, many blessings. For they are so numerous. Psalm 65:9-13 showcases some of these blessings that will likely resonate with you, too: *"You visit the earth and water it; you greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water; you provide the people with grain, for so you have prepared it. You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth. You crown the year with your bounty; your wagon tracks overflow with richness. The pastures of the wilderness overflow; the hills gird themselves with joy; the meadows clothe themselves with flocks; the valleys deck themselves with grain; they shout and sing together for joy."*

May we all be grateful for the ways God provides for us, especially in the busyness of the last couple months of the year! That's my prayer for all of us this November.

And, finally, as a plug for upcoming church events (to add to your already filling-up calendar):

1. **Tuesday, November 21st**, at 7:00 p.m. at our church, the Ecumenical Clergy Group will be having the Annual Thanksgiving Eve Service.
2. **Sunday, November 26th**, after worship, we will have an Advent Wreath Workshop (a light lunch will be served). See Ashley for more information,
3. **Sunday, December 3rd**, after worship (12 noon to 2:00 p.m.), there will be a one-day-only Advent Bible Study. See more about it elsewhere in this newsletter.

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



Session Highlights

Session met on October 17th. The following items were discussed:



- The Deacons have been busy with cards sent to shut-ins and on birthdays.
- The Deacons are planning a potluck luncheon on Sunday, October 22nd, following the worship service.
- Pastor Katherine and her family hosted an Applepalooza at the manse on September 22nd.
- A Fall Clean-up Day is scheduled for Saturday, October 21st.
- An Advent wreath workshop will be held on **Sunday, November 26th**.
- The Children's Christmas Pageant will be held on **Sunday, December 10th**, during the worship service.
- The Presbyterian Women's Group will hold their annual Cookie Walk on **Sunday, December 17th**, before and after the worship service.
- An average of 39 people have been attending church services in church and on ZOOM.
- Our Stewardship Campaign will conclude **Sunday, November 5th**.
- The Sunday School purchased a new curriculum.
- Thank you for your continued giving to our church. Please prayerfully consider increasing your pledges for this year's Stewardship Campaign.
- The next regular Session meeting will be held on **Thursday, November 16, 2023**, at 6:30 p.m., on the ZOOM platform.

Respectfully submitted,
Charles Bates, Clerk of Session

Fall Sermon Series

Pastor Katherine continues with her Fall Sermon Series on the Fruits of the Spirit. Join us for this interesting series! If you happen to miss any of the sermon series, please check out past services on YouTube.



Stewardship Sunday



STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY is **this Sunday, November 5th**. Please bring your pledge cards to worship **this Sunday**, and place them in the collection plate; or mail them to our Depositing Treasurer, Janet Hayzler, at 96 Holland Road, Wantage, NJ 07461, if you won't be worshipping in church. Please prayerfully consider increasing your pledge for 2023.

As a main feature of this year's stewardship campaign, the committee shared the various giving trends in our congregation. To do this, the chair of the Committee, Ruling Elder Richard L. Hayzler, created the following chart. This two-part chart combines different levels of giving for the church. There are 7 different levels and they are broken up by weekly giving amounts. Some math is involved for you to place yourself on the chart if you give less frequently than each week. The chart shows how many giving units (individual or family) are in each level, as well as the total contributions given by that specific level. For example, the middle level has five giving units and is made up of those people giving \$38-46 weekly (aka \$152-\$184 in a four-week month). These people pledged a combined total of \$11,068 for the year, which makes up 11% of the church's total revenue budget. If you'd like more information about this chart, please reach out to Richard Hayzler or Pastor Katherine.

FINANCIAL \$ STEWARDSHIP \$

GIVING UNITS	WEEKLY OFFERING	BUDGET CONTRIBUTION	BUDGET PERCENTAGE	% OF TOTAL BUDGET
5	92-150	31,580	32%	
5	60-85	18,040	18%	
6	50-58	16,876	17%	

GIVING UNITS	WEEKLY OFFERING	BUDGET CONTRIBUTION	BUDGET PERCENTAGE	% OF TOTAL BUDGET
5	38-46	11,068	11%	
6	23-35	8920	9%	
6	12-20	5880	6%	
3	4-15	1500	2%	
NON-PLEDGE / LOOSE CHANGE			5%	

Advent Bible Study

You are warmly invited to join Pastor Katherine in this year's Advent Bible Study, which will be a one-time event, on **Sunday, December 3rd**, from 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm.; we will begin in the sanctuary. Please bring a brown bag lunch if that's something you'd like to have after coffee fellowship. The theme of this year's study is "Our Greatest Gift a Wonderful Life in Christ," and it is based around scenes and themes from the classic movie, "It's a Wonderful Life." We will not be watching the movie together, but we will be discussing themes that point to Advent and the time of waiting we celebrate and explore in Advent. The two hours will include large group and small group discussions.



Advent Wreath Workshop



The annual Advent Wreath Workshop will be held after church on **November 26th**. 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 19th**, so she can plan accordingly.

Hanging of the Greens

Hanging of the Greens will be held **Sunday, November 26th**, 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!!



Presbyterian Women's Group



The Presbyterian Women's Group will be having a meeting **this Thursday, November 2nd**, at 1:30 p.m., in the fellowship room. This meeting is to plan for our Cookie & Bread Walk that will be held on **Sunday, December 17th**, before and after church. All are invited to attend! Hope to see you there!

Peace & Global Witness Offering

The Peace & Global Witness Offering was received on World Communion Sunday, October 1st. We collected a total of \$355.00; \$88.75 our congregation keeps for our peacemaking ministries. Thank you to everyone who donated to this special offering.



NOVEMBER 11TH

How Are We Doing???



For the Month of October

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

Average Weekly Attendance: 39
Monthly Offering: \$ 9,593.50

Fall Clean-Up Day

Thank you to everyone who showed up on October 21st to help clean up the church and manse grounds!



Pastoral Care



From the
MINISTER

during this time, please still reach out.

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

In Loving Memory

Ann Cosh passed away on October 29th, at the age of 94. Ann was a member of our church for 71 years. Our prayers go out to her family.



Anniversary

Ken & Beth-Ann Enhoffer celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on October 14th. Congratulations!



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.



Refreshments After Worship

Refreshments are served in the fellowship room. 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 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



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.



But the fruit of spirit is, love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, temperance. Against such there is no law. They that are Christ's, have crucified the flesh with the appetites and lusts: If we live in the spirit, let us walk in the spirit. Let us not be vainglorious, provoking one another, and envying one another.

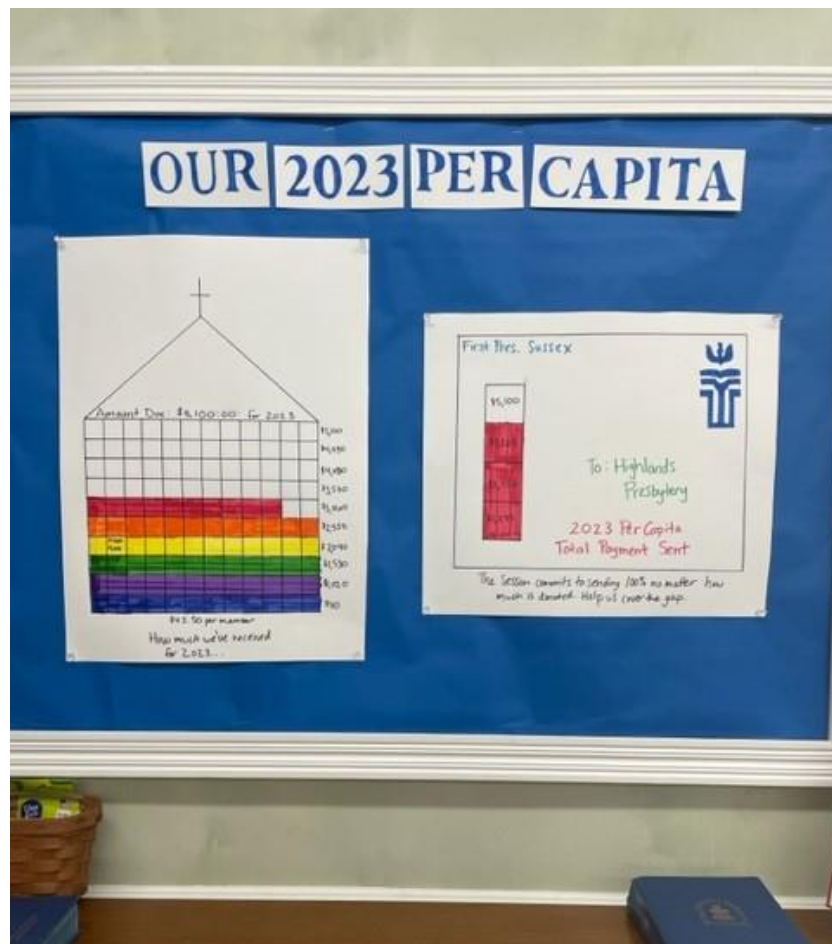
Galatians 5 :22-26 (translated from the Greek by William Tyndale, 1534)

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 2023, each member's contribution is \$42.50. **Thank you to everyone who paid their "dues" for 2023!**



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. See the bulletin board display below and in the fellowship room.



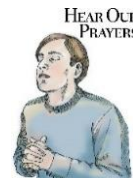
In Our Thoughts & Prayers



Please pray for **Teresa Belcher** (friend of The Batemans), **Madelyn Coykendall**, **George Clark**, **Frank Del Sardo, Jr.**, **Bob & Donna Gibson**, **Rev. Bruce Gillette & Family**, **Charlie & Dodi Lain**, **Lorraine, Betty Martin**, **Rev. Tim Marvil**, **Art & Carolyn Van Houten**, **Pat Walker**, **Lois Wright**, **Barbara Young**, and **Brian Young**; and the family of **Ann Cosh**. 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.



How Can We Help?

The Deacons are here to support and help our church family. If you have difficulty getting something done around your home, inside or out, we would like to help. If we can be of assistance, please speak to a deacon, or call Nancy Barta.



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 recipient for November is 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 – Joanne Cosh.



**O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever.**

Psalm 107:1

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?**



Dear Church Family,

Thanks! People like you, who show they care...Are very special and very rare! Thank you all for your help given to us—it helps so much and means so much!

Most Sincerely,

Judy & George Clark



What
ARE You
Thankful
for?

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 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.

Care Package Ministry

Please e-mail the church ASAP at sussexpresbyterian@embarqmail.com with names and addresses, even if it's the same as last year, of our college students (full-time, part-time, away or local, degree, undergrad, or advanced, etc.), using "Care Package Ministry" in the subject line. We will be collecting items to be sent to our college students. Regardless of home or away, we want to show them our support. Suggested items include: cookies, candies, mints, gum, chips, popcorn, flashlights, toothbrush/ paste, post-its, etc. If you don't have time to shop, cash donations are appreciated as well, and the items will be bought for you. Also, monetary donations will help with the cost for mailing the boxes. Please send your check payable to "First Presbyterian Church of Sussex" to Janet Hayzler, 96 Holland Road, Wantage, NJ 07461, with "Care Package" on the memo line. Thank you for your help with this project. Any questions, please see Nancy Barta. (If students are distance learning from home, please let us know.)



Lectionary for the Lord's Day

November 2023

- 5 **23rd Sunday after Pentecost**
Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37; Matthew 23:1-12
- 12 **24th Sunday after Pentecost**
Psalm 78:1-7; Matthew 15:1-13
- 19 **25th Sunday after Pentecost**
Psalm 123; Matthew 25:14-30
- 26 **Christ the King Sunday**
Psalm 100; Matthew 25:31-46



December 2023

- 3 **1st Sunday of Advent**
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Mark 13:24-37
- 10 **2nd Sunday of Advent**
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; Mark 1:1-8
- 17 **3rd Sunday of Advent**
Psalm 126; John 1:6-8, 19-28
- 24 **4th Sunday of Advent**
Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; Luke 1:26-38

Can You Help?



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*) of liturgists, ushers, communion preparers, and communion servers 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 5 th	Charles Bates
November 12 th	Betsy Sives
November 19 th	Walter Houck
November 26 th	Sheryl Dekmar
December 3 rd	Charles Bates
December 10 th	Penny Bates
December 17 th	Mike Kosco
December 24 th (a.m.)	Janet Hayzler
December 24 th (p.m.)	Richard L. Hayzler
December 31 st	Betsy Sives



Schedule of Communion Preparers and Servers

Preparers

November 5th – Palette Touw
December 3rd – Chris Sarno

Servers

November 5th – Richard L. Hayzler
December 3rd – Janet Hayzler & Walter Houck

Schedule of Ushers



November 5 th	Sheryl Dekmar & Phil Hardin
November 12 th	Mary Alice Hosking & Niki Lepes
November 19 th	Chris & Chuck Sarno
November 26 th	Kyle DeGroat & Ken Enhoffer
December 3 rd	Sheryl Dekmar & Paulette Touw
December 10 th	Paulette Touw & Pat Walker
December 17 th	Mary Alice Hosking & Niki Lepes
December 24 th (a.m.)	Richard L. Hayzler & Betsy Sives
December 24 th (p.m.)	Kyle DeGroat & Janet Hayzler
December 31 st	Chris & Chuck Sarno



Local Food Pantry News

The Sussex Help Center is open from 10:00-11:00 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays; and 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on Fridays. They appreciate all donations. They are collecting new gloves, mittens, and scarves. Please let Walter Houck know if there is a family in need.



Holiday Food Drive



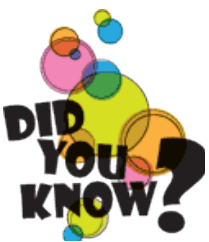
Wantage United Methodist Church is hosting a food drive to supplement the annual Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners. They are accepting donations of stuffing, mashed potatoes, canned corn and green beans, cranberry sauce, frozen pies, and turkey gravy. The food drive will run **from now until November 11th**. Drop-off times at the church are Saturdays from noon until 3 p.m., or Sundays from 9:30-11:00 a.m. Monetary donations are also accepted and can be mailed to: Wantage United Methodist Church, 199 Libertyville Road, Wantage, NJ 07461, Attention: Melissa Fortuna. For more information, Melissa can be reached by text or cell (973) 997-1822 or by phoning the church office (973) 875-4488. Thank you for your generosity and willingness to make the holidays special for the community.

Turkey Dinner

The Sussex United Methodist Church will be having a Turkey Dinner on **Saturday, November 18th**. Takeout orders will be given out from 4-5 p.m.; sit down dinner seating will be from 5-7 p.m. Tickets: \$15/per person. Dinner includes: turkey with gravy, mashed potatoes, veggie, stuffing, green bean casserole, candied carrots, cranberry sauce, dinner rolls w/butter, and dessert. RSVP before tickets run out! Call or text 862-275-1494.



Ecumenical Council News



Ecumenical Thanksgiving Worship Service: The Sussex-Wantage Clergy invite you to the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Worship Service on **Tuesday, November 21st**, 7:00 p.m., at the First Presbyterian Church of Sussex. Join pastors from Sussex-Wantage for this special worship service. All donations support the Lay-Ecumenical Council.

Sussex Christian Reformed Church has a Compassion Program and a Crop Swap.

Sussex United Methodist Church has a free sandwich hour on Saturdays. In the winter, volunteers knit and crochet hats and mittens for all ages, which are given out at the Sussex Help Center.

Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd has a food pantry, which is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Our Church Sign

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



Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? Do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? Do not even the publicans so? Be ye therefore perfect even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

Matthew 5:43-48 (King James Version)