



First Presbyterian Church of Sussex
PRESBYTERIAN
PRESS

21 Unionville Avenue, Sussex, NJ 07461

October 2021

From the Pastor's Desk...

Autumn is in the air! The crisp, cool mornings. The pumpkin spice lattes. The fall décor taking over every shelf at so many stores. I've always loved the fall—it's by far my favorite season. I truly fell in love with the fall when I moved to Massachusetts for college. The colors in New England this time of year are spectacular.

For me, there's also something theological about this time of year. We know that hibernation of the natural world is around the corner. We can't stop it from coming no matter how much we might like to avoid the winter months. What's theological about it for me is that we all must pass through "in between" periods in our faith life. And fall represents that in our world's journey around the sun.

We see this reflected in many stories in our Scriptures: Paul on the Damascus Road with his instantaneous blindness; Peter when he betrays Jesus three times in the early morning hours of that first Good Friday; Abraham and Sarah when they doubt they'll have a child and so they bring Hagar onto the scene. The person I want to focus on in this note is Elijah.

Elijah is a prophet in the Northern Kingdom, and you can read his story in the book of 1 Kings. He goes through many ups and downs, primarily as he fights for his life and livelihood when King Ahab and Queen Jezebel turn to Ba'al and require the people to worship Ba'al instead of YHWH (God).

Elijah never doubts God—but Elijah does doubt God's protection of him. He goes on the run from Jezebel and heads into the wilderness. He asks God to let him die there (1 Kings 19:4). God doesn't have this happen; instead, an angel appears to Elijah and tells him to take a nap and eat before heading off to the mountain to meet God.

This journey is like the fall season. We can see, feel, and (sometimes) smell that there is a change coming. There is a time of darkness coming. And just when we aren't quite sure what's going to happen, God's love breaks through in Advent and Christmas. Elijah had given up. He was on the run, and he was so tired. Nothing, in his mind, could keep him safe. God sent a messenger to him and provided for his needs. And this gave Elijah the motivation and sustenance to keep moving and to stay connected with God.

Friends, as fall continues to settle in around us—as the leaves turn vibrant shade of red, yellow, and orange and then are followed up by bleak shades of brown—know that, through it all, God is with you. In movements of great joy and great despair, God is with you. God is with all of us.

May you find the warmth of God's love surrounding you like a hug on these upcoming chilly, fall nights. Remember, God is with you always and wants to make sure you take care of yourself in all the tough moments in your life.



In Christ,

Pastor Katherine Scott-Kirschner
(973) 771-4721 (cell)

Session Highlights

Session met on September 21st. The following items were discussed:



- The Deacons will begin the College Care Package Ministry.
- Pastor Katherine is working on a curriculum (“Big God, Big Questions”) for the confirmation class.
- Pastor Katherine has conducted a memorial service on September 18th and a baptism on September 19th.
- Members are needed for open slots in the ranks of elders and deacons. Please consider volunteering.
- Our parking lot needs work. Please consider gifting toward this repair.
- Sunday school needs volunteer teachings. Please consider filling these positions.
- Please remember your Per Capita of \$40.00 per person for 2021.
- Stewardship is near. It is your support of the church, and our 2022 budget depends on it. Please give from your heart.
- The next regular Session meeting will be held on **Tuesday, October 12, 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.

Fall Back

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



Commitment Sunday



COMMITMENT SUNDAY will be **November 7th**. Our theme for this year's STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN will be “**INSPIRING STEWARDSHIP, COLLABORATION AND LEADERSHIP**”. On **Sunday, October 17th, 24th, and 31st**, our worship service will include a “**Moment of Inspiration**” to underscore our theme. Please plan to attend in person or on ZOOM or YouTube each of those Sundays!



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.



Mark Your Calendars



The next regular Deacons' meeting will be held on **Tuesday, October 5th**, 6:30 p.m., at the church; the next regular Session meeting will be held on **Tuesday, October 12th**, 6:30 p.m., on ZOOM.

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.

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 September

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

Average Weekly Attendance: 47

Monthly Offering: \$ 9,060.00



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 this church. Please see Richard L. Hayzler, our Memorial Treasurer, for further information or for help with any questions.

Sunday School News

Sunday school runs from 9:15 – 10:15 a.m., for Pre-K through Adult, September through June. 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.





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., Keri Demeter & Family, Bob & Donna Gibson, Rev. Bruce Gillette & his family, Phil Hardin, Rev. Charles Holm, Kara & Patti Jacobs, Betty Martin, Ralph Miller, Jeff Thomas, and Paulette Touw.** Please let the Deacons or the office know who to add and who to remove. **Thank you!**



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.

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 Ginnie's House, our Deacons' Fund recipient for September.



Our Deacons' Fund for October will go to Family Promise of Sussex County. Through Family Promise, a network of volunteers from local congregations provides shelter, meals, and support services to families and single women who are homeless. Homeless families can stay together where they feel safe, and receive assistance in finding affordable, permanent housing. Our church is one of many in the area that hosts these families and makes them feel welcome and cared for during a difficult time. Please give generously!

Deacon of the Month



BOARD of DEACONS

When Pastor Katherine is not available or needs assistance, the following Deacon will be on call for the month of October – Joanne Cosh.



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, in quantities of 20, 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 you're your check 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 Janet Hayzler. (If students are distance learning from home, please let us know.)



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?**



Welcome

The ladies of the church welcomed Pastor Katherine's mom, Julie Jordan Scott, with a gift card and a bouquet. Julie will be staying in the manse for the next year. We all look forward to meeting her in person!



Thank You

Thank you to the congregation and friends for donating toiletries. The toiletries collected will be going to Family Promise. This is an ongoing need. Please consider donating at any time.



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



October 3 rd	Richard L. Hayzler
October 10 th	Betsy Sives
October 17 th	Penny Bates
October 24 th	Mike Kosco
October 31 st	Janet Hayzler
November 7 th	Jason Touw
November 14 th	Betsy Sives
November 21 st	Charlie Bates
November 28 th	Richard L. Hayzler



October Birthdays

- (5) Shari (Wejsa) Camp
- (15) Lisa Emma
- (16) Paulette Touw
- (18) Madison Hayzler
- (20) Sharon Alheidt
- (23) Kara Jacobs
- (31) David Wright



Refreshments After Worship

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

Happy Anniversary

Charlie and Penny Bates celebrated their 57th Wedding Anniversary on October 3rd. Congratulations!



Lectionary for the Lord's Day

October 2021

- 10 **20th Sunday after Pentecost**
Psalm 22:1-15; Mark 10:17-31
- 17 **21st Sunday after Pentecost**
Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c; Mark 10:35-45
- 24 **22nd Sunday after Pentecost**
Psalm 34:1-8 (19-22); Mark 10:46-52
- 31 **23rd Sunday after Pentecost**
Psalm 146; Mark 12:28-34



November 2021

- 7 **24th Sunday after Pentecost**
Psalm 127; Mark 12:38-44
- 14 **25th Sunday after Pentecost**
Psalm 16; Mark 13:1-8

Congratulations



On October 2nd, the Annual Fireman's Inspection Parade was held in Sussex. Pochuck Valley Fire Department won four trophies. One of the trophies was for best overall appearing company. Our church members, Ann Cosh and Richard Cosh, are long-time members of Pochuck Valley Fire Department. Congratulations on your hard work! Thank you for your dedication to the community!



Congratulations!

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.



Head Start Bus Stop



Our parking lot will once again be used as the Sussex Bus Stop for the NORWESCAP Head Start program. The bus will pick-up the children around 8:35 a.m., and will drop them off around 4:00 p.m. Please be extra aware of small children and people in our parking lot. It is a privilege and a joy for our church to be able to offer a safe place for these children to be picked up by the bus.

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 canned tuna fish and peanut butter (15 oz.). 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.

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

St. Monica's Church News

St. Monica's Church will have a free showing of the film classic, "The Phantom of the Opera" on **Sunday, October 17th**, 3:00 p.m., in the church. The film will be accompanied with music by organist John Baratta. There will be free refreshments at the conclusion of the movie. A Free-Will Offering will be gratefully accepted. Please call their church office at 973-875-4521 to sign up.



Presbyterian Women's Retreat



Presbytery of the Highlands' Presbyterian Women's Retreat, "Beyond Words: Expanding Our Awareness and Practice of Prayer," will be held on **Saturday, October 16th**, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at the Shrine of St. Joseph in Stirling, NJ. Come and join in exploring a variety of prayer and meditative practices. We will spend time considering how prayer moves us toward a deepened relationship with God, with other people, and within ourselves as we walk on in our faith journeys amidst life's challenges and uncertainties. The Retreat will be led by Amy Clarkson and Lorelei Oelschlager. Please RSVP to Nancy Lack (NWLack@verison.net or 973-822-2776) by **October 8th**. As we form the new PW in Highlands, all of the cost of the Retreat is being covered by a scholarship fund. It's a great time to come together and get to know each other in a beautiful setting. Hope you can join us!

Our Church Sign

(Thank You Phil Hardin)

