

First Presbyterian Church of Sussex
PRESBYTERIAN
PRESS



21 Unionville Avenue, Sussex, NJ 07461

October 2023

From the Pastor's Desk

Hello Friends and Members of Sussex Presbyterian!

It's already October. It's already the fourth quarter of the year. The leaves are already turning beautiful colors. This year has been a whirlwind for me, with all the changes that have occurred in my life.

I'm not sure if your year has gone as quickly as mine, but I look around and I'm shocked at everything that's happened and everything that's still to come for 2023. The end of the year is my favorite time—I love the fall. I love October (it's my favorite month). I love Thanksgiving and the reminder to be grateful for everything we've been given. I love Christmas and the gift it reminds us we have (the gift of life in Christ).



This month is also another jam-packed month in the life of the church. On October 1st, it was World Communion Sunday, and we collected the special offering that focuses on Peace throughout the world.

On **October 21st**, there's a church clean-up day in the morning. The Deacons are hosting a potluck lunch on **October 22nd** after worship—you are welcome to attend. And if you can bring something to share, great! If not, you're invited to join no matter what! On **October 29th**, the Elders and Deacons are having their annual joint meeting after worship.

Plus, throughout the second half of October and culminating on **Sunday, November 5th**, the congregation will be urged to think over their pledged giving for 2024. Yes, that right. Stewardship is upon us too.

Our current sermon series is on the Fruits of the Spirit (in Galatians 5). And one of those fruits is the fruit of generosity. Many things are foundational to our faith life, both individually and as a group. Yet generosity is a key component of how the church as a whole operates,

Your faithful giving gives us the opportunity to meet together on Sunday mornings for worship. It ensures that the children of our church community have Sunday School and can learn the important things of their faith. It provides the church with talented staff: Sharon, Linda, Kathy, and myself.

Your faithful generosity also supports the needs of our greater community—through Just Plain Change, of course, but also through your weekly/monthly/yearly contributions. The Session is immensely thankful for the ways this congregation continues to give what you all can to support the ministry of this congregation.

Thank you for your faithfulness, and I pray that whatever is offered to God in the coming year, will be stewarded well and will help to further tend to the garden of our collective faiths. I cannot wait to see what God will do for us as we continue to do ministry together.

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

Session Highlights



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

- The Deacons will host a potluck luncheon on **Sunday, October 22nd**.
- A Bible study is scheduled for **December 3rd**, after worship, in alignment with Advent.
- The Presbyterian Women's Group have paid for the painting of the porches on the church and the manse.
- 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.
- An average of 39 people have been attending church services in church and on ZOOM.
- We have paid the second installment of the Per Capita for our church for 2023.
- Our Stewardship Campaign will conclude **Sunday, November 5th**.
- A total of \$100 will be sent to the Callison Missionary Group.
- The Annual Joint Meeting of Elders and Deacons will be held on **Sunday, October 29th**, following the worship service.
- The next regular Session meeting will be held on **Tuesday, October 17, 2023**, at 6:30 p.m., on the ZOOM platform.

Respectfully submitted,
Charles Bates, Clerk of Session

Fall Back

Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour on **Saturday, November 4th**, before you go to bed so you won't miss worship. Daylight Saving Time ends **Sunday, November 5th**.



New Sermon Series



Pastor Katherine started a new Sermon Series on October 1st, 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.

Potluck Luncheon

The Deacons will be hosting a potluck luncheon after worship on **Sunday, October 22nd**. We hope you can join us! Please sign up in the fellowship room to bring a main dish, side dish, or dessert. Beverages will be provided. If you have any questions, please see Nancy Barta.



Mark Your Calendars



The next regular Deacons' meeting will be held on **Sunday, October 15th, 10:30 a.m.**, at the church; the next regular Session meeting will be held on **Tuesday, October 17th, 6:30 p.m.**, on ZOOM; the Annual Elder/Deacons Meeting will be held **Sunday, October 29th, 11:30 a.m.**, at the church, following the worship service.

Fall Clean-Up Day

There will be a Fall Clean-up on **Saturday, October 21st**. Bring your rakes and gloves to clean up the grounds of our church and manse. Questions? See Charles Bates.



How Are We Doing???



For the Months of August & September

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

Average Weekly Attendance (August):	36
Average Weekly Attendance (September):	39
Monthly Offering (August):	\$ 7,490.50
Monthly Offering (September):	\$ 8,087.50

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.



Peace & Global Witness Offering



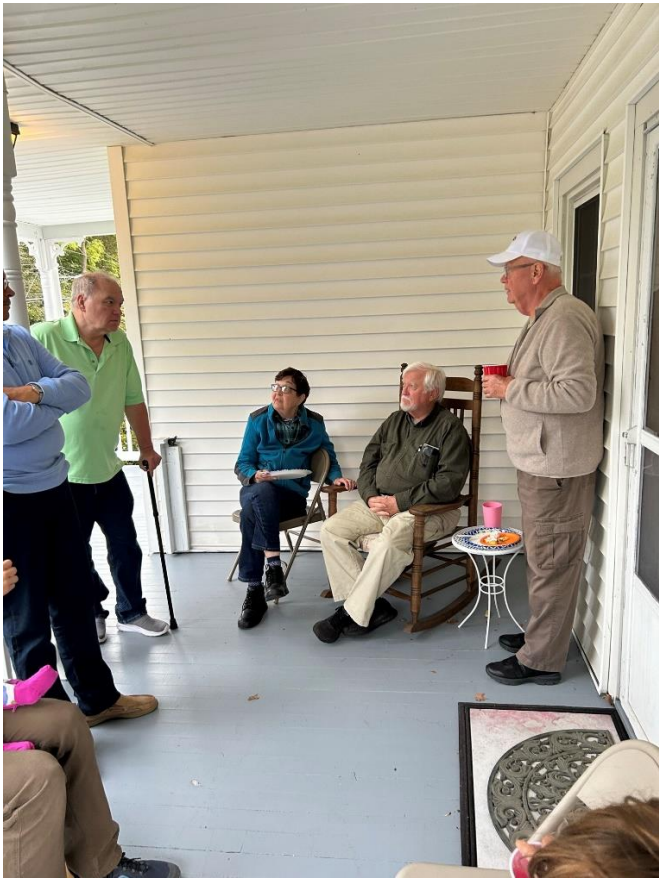
The Peace & Global Witness Offering was received on World Communion Sunday, October 1st. Please donate if you haven't already done so. You can put in the collection plate on Sunday or mail it Janet Hayzler, 96 Holland Road, Wantage, NJ 07461, with "P&G Witness Offering" on the memo line. We will get to keep 25% of this offering for our congregation's peacemaking ministries. Please give generously!

Anniversaries

Jason & Kristin Touw celebrated their 7th wedding anniversary on October 1st; Eric & Betsy Sives celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary on October 2nd; Charles & Penny Bates celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary on October 3rd, and Pastor Katherine and Donald will celebrate their 6th wedding anniversary on October 21st. Congratulations!



Applepalooza 2023









October Birthdays

- (16) Paulette Touw
- (18) Madison Hayzler
- (20) Sharon Alheidt
- (23) Kara Jacobs
- (31) David Wright



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.



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.

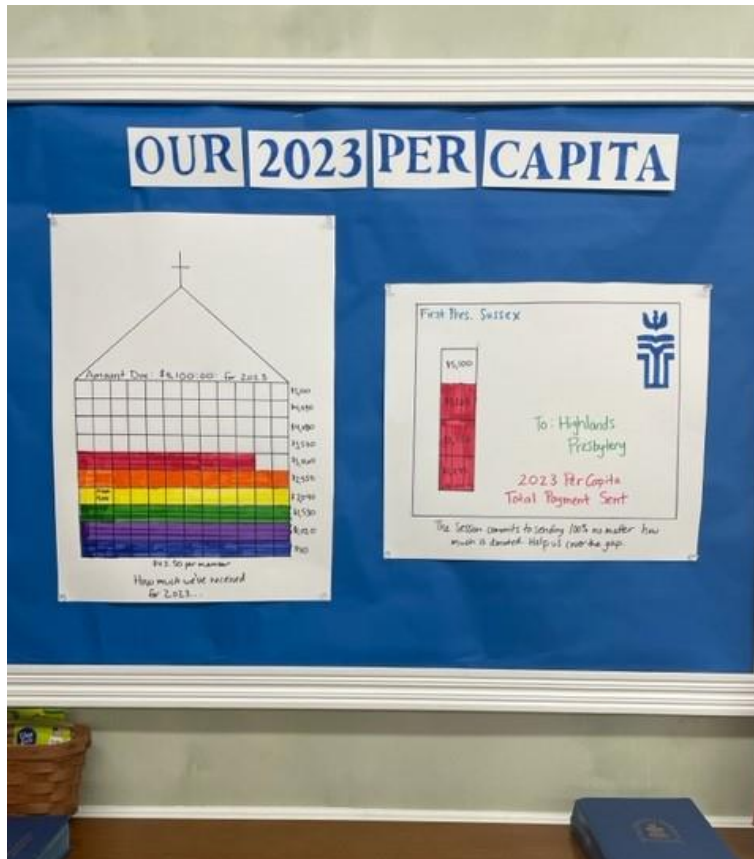


Why Per Capita?



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.

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.



Happy Halloween

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.

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

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



Blessed are the pure in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Matthew 5:3-5

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?**

Deacon of the Month



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

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 recipient for October is 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. Please give generously!



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

October 2023

- 1 **18th Sunday after Pentecost**
Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16; Matthew 21:23-32
- 8 **19th Sunday after Pentecost**
Psalm 19; Matthew 21:33-46
- 15 **20th Sunday after Pentecost**
Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23; Matthew 22:1-14
- 22 **21st Sunday after Pentecost**
Psalm 99; Matthew 22:15-22
- 29 **22nd Sunday after Pentecost**
Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17; Matthew 22:34-36



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

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 October*) 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

October 1 st	Sheryl Dekmar
October 8 th	Richard L. Hayzler
October 15 th	Penny Bates
October 22 nd	Mike Kosco
October 29 th	Janet Hayzler
November 5 th	Charles Bates
November 12 th	Betsy Sives
November 19 th	Walter Houck
November 26 th	Sheryl Dekmar



Schedule of Communion Preparers and Servers

Preparers

October 1st – Nancy Barta
November 5th – Palette Touw
December 3rd – Chris Sarno

Servers

October 1st – Charles & Penny Bates
November 5th – Richard L. Hayzler
December 3rd – Janet Hayzler & Walter Houck

Schedule of Ushers



October 1 st	Richard L. & Janet Hayzler
October 8 th	Kyle DeGroat & Betsy Sives
October 15 th	Chris & Chuck Sarno
October 22 nd	Charles & Penny Bates
October 29 th	Ken Enhoffer & Paulette Touw
November 5 th	Sheryl Dekmar & Phil Hardin
November 12 th	Mary Alice Hosking & Niki Lepas
November 19 th	Chris & Chuck Sarno
November 26 th	Kyle DeGroat & Ken Enhoffer

Blessed are those that hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

Matthew 5:6-7

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.



Tricky Tray



The Beemerville Presbyterian Church will hold their Annual Tricky Tray on **Friday, October 6th**, at the Beemerville Firehouse. Doors open at 6:00 p.m.; drawing begins at 7:30 p.m. Refreshments will be available.

Living With Grief

A four-week lecture series explores the normal, natural and unavoidable reactions to loss. Participants will gain a deeper understanding of the effect grief has on our lives, our loved ones, and our relationships. The program will be held **Tuesdays, October 3, 10, 17, and 24**, from 6:30-8 p.m., in person or virtually via ZOOM. Pre-registration is required. ZOOM registration:

https://atlanticealth.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_4h-6APnORIGaFQlh8jsPwQ

In-person registration: call 908-522-2844 or email: raul.caddavid@atlanticealth.org

In-person program will be held at the Romano Center, 175 High Street, Newton. Please arrive at 6 p.m.; a box dinner will be available. **Note: On Tuesday, 10/10 only**, the program will take place in the Newton Medical Center Lobby Coffee Shop. This program is offered by Newton Medical Center, Spiritual Care Department, Newton Medical Center Faith Community Health Partnerships and Community Health – Atlantic Health System. For more information, call Randy Parks at 973-579-8625.



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.



Come To the Table

The Synod of the Northeast is collecting essential items to be distributed to local shelters during our “Come to the Table” event in October. Join us in sharing kindness, care, and necessities for those who are in need. Donations being accepted: toothpaste, toothbrushes, mouthwash, gloves, scarfs, hats, socks, hand warmers, soap, body wash, wash cloths, loofas, shampoo/conditioner, shaving cream, sanitary pads/tampons, razors, band-aids, water bottles, wet wipes, Q-Tips, deodorant, lotion, tissues, granola/protein bars. Please send donations to the Synod office no later than **October 10th**: 5811 Heritage Landing Dr., East Syracuse, NY 13057. If you order items from Amazon, you can have them shipped directly to the Synod office.



Our Church Sign

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



Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Matthew 5:8-12