



First Presbyterian Church of Sussex
PRESBYTERIAN
PRESS

21 Unionville Avenue, Sussex, NJ 07461

September 2022

From the Pastor's Desk....

Hello Everyone!

We've made it through the summer months, and now we're getting back into the swing of the academic year—the pencils have been on sale and sharpened, the backpacks have been found or purchased. The classrooms have been set up and are ready for kids to enjoy for this school year.

Summer isn't over yet—not until the end of this month, but the hottest time of the year is behind us... thanks be to God! That being said, I had a lot of fun things happen this summer. I went to General Assembly in Louisville, Kentucky. My in-laws visited us from Texas for Fourth of July. I attended General Assembly virtually in early July (I've written up information about my experience of GA, and you can read about it on Page 6 in this newsletter). Donald and I went to California to visit my family at the end of July/early August, and we had a wonderful time.

And now that we're settling back into the swing of things since the calendar is turning to September, I'm hoping not only for cooler weather, but for routines of my own, bringing Christ into the front and center of my daily life. In the heat of the summer, I definitely find it harder to focus and be fully engaged with my spiritual health.

Maybe you find yourself in the same boat. Or maybe, you find things in the opposite way—it's easier on you in the summer. Either way, you can work on finding a renewed balance with your quiet time and your routine to focus on Christ's guidance for you through prayer, Scripture, and service.

One thing I'm putting into practice is starting my day in song—and not just any kind of song—but with Christian songs. I use Spotify or YouTube to search for Christian music. They both have all kinds of options for you—from traditional hymn arrangements to Contemporary Christian Music to choirs. And so many things in between. If you have satellite radio, you could listen to the Christian station provided through that platform. I haven't been able to find the Christian station for regular radio around here, so if you know, please tell me. I'd appreciate it immensely.

The Psalms are all about praising God in song. And Psalm 150 (the last one) says this rejoicingly: *"Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp! Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe! Praise him with clanging cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals. Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!"* (Psalm 150:3-6)

I hope and pray that as you continue to feel the cooler morning breezes, that you become more and more aware of the Holy Spirit's presence with you and guiding you on your way. Many blessings on the end of your summer and beginning of your fall!

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



Session Highlights



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

- Rev. Dr. Rose Niles, a member of the Presbyterian Foundation, presented a verbal program of assisting our church co-develop an endowment fund for the future. More information to be shared.
- Active membership is now recorded at 102, with the death of Ralph Miller on July 5th.
- The Presbyterian Women's Group will hold their Indoor Yard Sale **October 21-22, 2022**. Donations can be left starting on **October 16, 2022**.
- We are still accepting monies (any donation) for paving the parking lot. We are now awaiting a beginning date. Thanks for your donations so far!
- Sunday school will start on **September 11th**.
- More people need to help supply food products for fellowship hour after worship.
- Our income from January-May has been recorded at \$44,405.25, not \$72,877.25 as was reported in the Summer 2022 Newsletter. Parking Lot Fund monies (\$28,472.00) were not removed from the total income received.
- Efforts were discussed to clean up the front picture window of the church.
- Worship will begin at 10:30 a.m. beginning September 4th.
- 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).
- The next regular Session meeting will be held on **Tuesday, September 20, 2022**, at 6:30 p.m., on the ZOOM platform.
- The Annual Joint Meeting of Elders and Deacons will be held on **Sunday, September 25, 2022**, at 11:30 a.m., at the church.

Respectfully submitted,
Charles Bates, Clerk to Session

Mark Your Calendars



The next regular Session meeting will be held on **Tuesday, September 20th**, 6:30 p.m., on ZOOM; the next Deacons' meeting will be held at the Annual Joint Meeting of Elders and Deacons on **Sunday, September 25th**, 11:30 a.m., at the church.

Joint Elders and Deacons Meeting (NOTE NEW DATE): The 2022 Annual Joint Meeting of Elders and Deacons will take place on **Sunday, September 25th**, after church (in person). If you're currently on the Session or Deacon Board, please save the date. More details to follow.

Fall Worship Schedule

Beginning **Sunday, September 4th**, our worship service returns to 10:30 a.m. Please mark your calendar so you won't miss it!!



Vacation Bible School 2022

For VBS 2022, our church joined with the Sussex United Methodist Church for Sonrise National Park, held August 15th-19th, at the Sussex United Methodist Church. Thanks to everyone who helped out in any way to make this an unforgettable experience for the attendees! More pics on our Facebook page.



Can You Help?



Update: Thank you for your patience while we wait for Richard Cosh to set the date to begin the repaving of our parking lot. We are still short of the total needed. The cost will be approximately \$37,800, barring an increase in materials. There is a budget line for donations to this effort. We know this is another expense, but we need to keep our facilities in good condition; we have been fortunate so far. Each ton costs the church \$100. Can you give a ton? 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.

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.

Sunday School for 2022-2023 will start on **Sunday, September 11th**.



Indoor Yard Sale



The Presbyterian Women's Group of the First Presbyterian Church of Sussex is happy to announce that they are planning to have our Indoor Yard Sale on **Friday and Saturday, October 21st and 22nd**. We will not be able to accept anything towards this sale until **Sunday, October 16th**. We are not able to accept any clothing, furniture, appliances (no TVs, microwave ovens, etc.). If you cannot pack it in a box, we are really not able to accept it. Please remember our sale as you go through things in your home this summer. Please mark the dates on your calendar. We will need helpers. Don't forget.... "*Many hands make light work.*"

Church Cleaners Needed

The Session is in need of person/persons to clean the church before **Sunday, September 11th**. The bathrooms need to be cleaned, and the fellowship room and church sanctuary need to be vacuumed and dusted. Everything necessary to clean the bathrooms is available in the bathroom closet or hall closet. There are two vacuums: one in the hall closet and one just inside the back room by the bathrooms. No one person needs to do all dates (maybe two people could work together) ...just be willing to sign up for one date. For further information, contact Sheila Stormes (973-702-1548) or Penny Bates (201-452-5082). Please let either Sheila or Penny know if you are available and for what date/s. You will be a blessing to our church!



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.



Church Directory

An updated Church Directory is available at the church for pick up. If you are not attending in person, please let the church know and we can email one to you or mail you one.

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.



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.

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.



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.

How Are We Doing???

For the Months of June & July

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

Average Weekly Attendance:	35
Monthly Offering (June):	\$ 9,333.50
Monthly Offering (July):	\$ 9,401.50



Anniversaries

Mike and Karen Kosco celebrated their 3rd wedding anniversary on July 27th;
Linda and Dennis DeGroat celebrated their 48th wedding anniversary on August 17th;
Rich & Janet Hayzler celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on August 19th.
Congratulations!



Dear Church Office and Pastor Katherine,

Thank you so much for the "God's Grace for Graduates" book. I really appreciate it. I am thankful to have such an amazing church family to support me!

Thank you again,
Lydia Alheidt



Peace & Global Witness Offering

Our next special offering will be the Peace & Global Witness Offering, which will be received on World Communion Sunday, **October 2nd**. We will get to keep 25% of this offering for our congregation's peacemaking ministries. Please give generously!



Pastor Katherine's Thoughts on GA 225

I had the pleasure of being one of our Presbytery's Teaching Elder Commissioners at the 225th General Assembly. This GA was different than all others in the denomination's past. It was a hybrid event – and it took over three weeks of the summer (in June and July). All the committees met in person in Louisville, KY at the PC(USA) headquarters over two weeks.

I was assigned to the Bills and Overtures Committee, which assists the Stated Clerks with producing the docket for each plenary (group) session. I was in Louisville for the beginning of the assembly, and being in person was a great joy for me. I'm so glad there was an in-person component to this year's GA. This was my first time attending GA, so I had nothing to compare it to; but I can tell a full in-person GA would be a very exhausting and exhilarating time.

Plenary sessions 4-17 (from July 5th through July 9th) were all done virtually over Zoom and using a voting system created for the General Assembly. This virtual existence worked but left some room for improvement. Overall, I would say the Assembly did a great job working through some heavy topics for consideration. And there will be several overtures (items of business) that will be sent to the Presbyteries for their approval. And if two thirds of the Presbyteries approve any of the overtures, they'll become part of the Book of Order (BoO).

Here are some of the overture highlights (from my perspective – and not in any specific order):

1. It was decided that GA 226 in 2024 will be the opposite of this one: the committee work will be online, and the plenary will be in person (in Salt Lake City, UT).
2. An overture mandating Family Medical Leave was approved to be sent to the Presbyteries to add a provision for at least 12 weeks paid leave in Minister of Word and Sacrament's Terms of Call. Our Presbytery already mandates this. There were additional overtures that added more specific trainings to keep Ministers of Word and Sacrament in good standing – such as anti-racism, sexual misconduct, and domestic violence trainings.
3. Several task forces were created to look at specific issues and topics, including adding another Confession to the Book of Confessions.
4. There was an overture that approved an apology on behalf of the denomination to African Americans and the Sin of Slavery.
5. There was also an overture that denounced antisemitism and Islamophobia.
6. One of the sections in the BoO is currently called "Rules of Discipline (ROD)", and a previous GA had created a ROD task force to rethink this portion of the BoO. Their work was presented and was approved (after a few amendments) to replace this entire portion of the BoO. The presbyteries will make the final decision for this replacement to take effect.
7. It was approved to create a Commission with the express power of unifying the Presbyterian Mission Agency (PMA) and the Office of General Assembly (OGA). This was a very big topic of conversation for people employed by these two entities. This overture was introduced by a special committee that clearly articulated the need for a commission to be able to move and change things without waiting another two years. This commission will have a large amount of work ahead of them to provide a more stable financial future for the denominational leadership of our church.
8. Alongside the Commission to unify, there is also going to be a special committee to create a new funding model to move away from Per Capita. Our Presbytery Leader, Rev. Jeanne Radak has been instrumental to this process already.
9. There were other overtures that rocked the boat politically– such as an overture to denounce the harmful treatment of Palestinians in the West Bank; an overture about reproductive justice; and an overture about gun violence.

If you have any questions about any of these overtures or want to read them yourself, I'm more than happy to talk to you about them and show you where to find them. If enough people are interested, I'll include a "step-by-step" how-to guide in next month's newsletter.

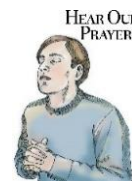
In Our Thoughts & Prayers



Please pray **Frank Del Sardo Jr., Bob & Donna Gibson, Evelyn Haggard, Betty Martin, Rev. Tim Marvil, and Kenneth Van Wageninge** (Carolyn's brother); and the **family of Ralph Miller**. 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 People Help of Sussex County, our Deacons' Fund recipient for July, and to Local Share, our Deacons Fund recipient for August.

Our Deacons' Fund for September will go to the Ginnie's House. Ginnie's House Children's Advocacy Center was opened in the spring of 1998 and is situated in the center of the Town of Newton. The Center is in the historic Park Building, located near the Sussex County Prosecutor's Office, Sussex District Office of the New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services, Sussex County Judicial Complex, Sussex County Sheriff's Office, and other human services agencies. The building was made available and is maintained by the Sussex County Board of Chosen Freeholders. The Center is available to children in Sussex County who may have been sexually or physically abused, assaulted, or witnessed a violent crime, including domestic violence. It provides a safe, child-friendly environment for child abuse investigations and treatment. It also provides a multi-disciplinary team response to child abuse allegations, working with child abuse victims and other community service providers that include: law enforcement, child protective services, medical & mental health professionals, victim advocates, and social service providers, to enhance services to child abuse victims and their families. 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 September – Sheryl Dekmar.



Care Package Ministry



Please e-mail the church through September 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. Any questions, please see Janet Hayzler.

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.



Old Clove Church

Route 23, Wantage, New Jersey

Annual Worship Service

Sunday, September 18th - 2:00 p.m.

The worship service will be led by the Rev. Kendall Everett of the Sussex Christian Reformed Church. Special Music: The Church Choir



September Birthdays

- (3) Jim Barta
Julie Tremont
- (4) William Smisko
- (8) Patti Jacobs
Owen Touw
- (9) Chuck Sarno
- (11) Richard Klein
- (20) Gerry VanderHart
- (23) Betty Scymanski
- (24) Carolyn Van Houten
- (25) Sheila Stormes
- (26) Beth-Ann Enhoffer
- (28) Dale Boyd



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?**

Lectionary for the Lord's Day

September 2022

- 4 **13th Sunday after Pentecost**
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; Luke 14:25-33
- 11 **14th Sunday after Pentecost**
Psalm 14; Luke 15:1-10
- 18 **15th Sunday after Pentecost**
Psalm 79:1-9; Luke 16:1-13
- 25 **16th Sunday after Pentecost**
Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16; Luke 16:19-31



October 2022

- 2 **17th Sunday after Pentecost – World Communion Sunday**
Psalm 137; Luke 17:5-10
- 9 **18th Sunday after Pentecost**
Psalm 66:1-12; Luke 17:11-19

SEPTEMBER

Liturgists Needed



Mike Kosco, Chair of the Worship & Sacraments Committee, is looking for people to serve as liturgists. 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. A schedule (*through October 2nd*) 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

August 28th
September 4th
September 11th
September 18th
September 25th
October 2nd

Mike Kosco
Mike Kosco
Sheryl Dekmar

Janet Hayzler
Mike Kosco



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 everything. Please let Walter Houck know if there is a family in need.

Tricky Tray

The Beemerville Presbyterian Church's Annual Tricky Tray will be held on **Friday, October 7th**, at the Beemerville Firehouse. Doors open at 6:00 p.m.; drawing begins at 7:30 p.m. They will also hold their raffle for a \$1,000.00 gift card for Shop-Rite. Tickets are \$5/each. Please see Sharon Bove in the church office if you are interested in purchasing a raffle ticket.



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.

Father John's Animal House

"Happy Tails" Italian Dinner (penne vodka, sausage & meatballs, chicken piccata, and antipasto salad) will be held on **Saturday, September 24th**, at Pope John XXIII Regional High School in Sparta. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Dinner \$70 (includes wine and beer). Tickets available online or at the shelter. Tickets will not be sold at the door. All donations will be matched! Even if you can't come to the dinner, you can still donate and have double the impact to help the animals! There will also be a Tricky Tray and a 50/50 Raffle. Raffle tickets are \$25 (winner need not be present). Music by DJ Sebastian Monte. Please join us! Reserve your spot online (janet@fatherjohns.org.)



Thursdays @ the Amp



The Friends of the Sussex-Wantage Library present: Thursdays @ the Amp, a free summer evening concert series at the Sussex-Wantage Library Amphitheater. All shows start at 6:30 p.m.

August 25th – Mike Lawlor (guitarist—a self-described “fretwrecker”)

September 1st – Acoustic Wolves (vocals with acoustic sounds)

September 8th – R.E.N.O (a fun, happy band! Let's smile, sing, and dance!)

Special Saturday Concert: Sunrise Mountain Revival, **August 27th**

Please bring your own chairs and blankets. Picnickers are welcome, but no alcohol. Tickets are not necessary. In case of bad weather, the programs will be held indoors, on a “first-come, first-served” basis. For further information, please call the library at 973-875-3940 or visit our website: friendsofswlibrary.org.

Presbyterian Women News

Fall Gathering: The Fall Gathering of the Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of The Highlands of New Jersey will be held on **Saturday, October 1st**, at the Stanhope Presbyterian Church. Registration – 9:30 a.m. Join us for Bible study, Coin Challenge, business meeting, resource table, and worship. Offering during worship – 50% to PDA for Ukraine, 50% to the Thank Offering. Please bring the Thank Offering that your group may have collected. RSVP to Jane MacDonald JKMAC3536@GMAIL.COM. A \$5.00 Gathering Registration will be collected at the door.



Presbytery of the Highlands' Presbyterian Women's Fall Retreat will be held on **Saturday, November 5th**, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at the Shrine of St. Joseph in Stirling, NJ. The Retreat will be led by Amy Clarkson and Lorelei Oelschlager. Coffee and lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to Jane MacDonald JKMAC3536@GMAIL.COM by **November 1st**. Cost: \$40 – send a non-refundable check payable to PW in the Presbytery of the Highlands to Jane MacDonald, 35 Hillside Avenue, Newton, NJ 07860. Scholarships are available upon request—send to Jane MacDonald (email above) for the form. Hope you can join us!



Our Church Sign

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



Look who stopped to read our sign....

