



First Presbyterian Church of Sussex
PRESBYTERIAN
PRESS

21 Unionville Avenue, Sussex, NJ 07461

September 2023

From the Pastor's Desk....

Hello Friends and Members of Sussex Presbyterian!

We've made it back to September. And if I was the singer in Green Day's "Wake Me Up When September Ends" I'd be heading to bed now and wouldn't get up until September 30th. But I'm not. And, since I'm a mom now, there's no sleeping in ever!

In all seriousness, September is an exciting month because it's when things start really getting into a flow. School is back in session. The weather cools down. People are around more and on vacation less. You look around and realize... oh my goodness! Where has this calendar year gone!

There's added stress for many with the fall upon us, but hopefully that stress is manageable. Stress over the upcoming holidays (and the spending associated with them). Stress over realizing you never worked on your goals for the year. Stress over schoolwork. Stress over the harvest season. Stress based on how early it gets dark. Stress over the weather and how you'll make it through heating your home in the winter.

I'm sure there are lots of other stressors you can and do feel. And those stress points are very real and very impactful. They're also not the final say in your life. As a follower of Jesus Christ, He has the final say. In Matthew 11:28-30, Jesus says, "*Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*"

Jesus is with you and wants to remove those added stressors from your life. He wants you to be filled with a peace that only comes from him. A peace you can't really understand. For we know things will come up that cause our bodies to react in anxious ways. This is part of the body's alarm system to keep us safe and alive.

But there are plenty of things that we dwell on that don't serve this system. And instead, they wear us down and down and down. Jesus doesn't want this for us. Instead, he wants us to find rest for our souls. To be at peace and connected to our God, our Savior, our Lord.

In September, we're finishing up our sermon series on the 12 PC(USA) Confessions in the *Book of Confessions*; and then in October, we'll begin a series on The Fruits of the Spirit. And a marker of the fruits of the Spirit is this peace that comes only from God at work in our lives.

Friends, as September brings crisp mornings, earlier evenings, and vibrant trees, may you find the peace that comes only from God. A peace that can't be explained, for this is what your Lord and Savior desires for you, for all of us. Lives centered on following Him and releasing the things that cause us extra emotional and physical stress. It's my prayer that you find this peace and space for Christ to move within and around you.

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

P.S. You're invited to the Apple Palooza on September 22, 2023, at the manse, from 5:30-7:30 p.m.! I Hope to see you there!



Session Highlights



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

- We welcomed Pastor Katherine back as our minister and moderator after her maternity leave.
- The Deacons reported the continuing need to send cards for birthdays and joys and concerns.
- The Deacons are planning a potluck dinner and a game night in September 2023.
- Pastor Katherine will be on Study Leave from **September 24th-30th**. She will be vacation from **December 25, 2023 to January 3, 2024**.
- Pastors Donald Kirschner and Katherine Scott-Kirschner will be having their daughter, Marlena Abigail Kirschner, baptized at our church on July 23, 2023.
- Our Session minutes for 2022 have been accepted by Presbytery without exceptions.
- We are looking for companies to give us estimates on power washing the church.
- Blue Diamond Disposal services will take over for Ayers Sanitation. All refuse needs to be bagged.
- An average of 41 people have been attending church services in church and on ZOOM.
- Intinction and Passing of the Peace will begin on **September 3, 2023**.
- Church services starting **September 3rd** will begin at 10:30 a.m.
- Our church's oil tank has a leak. Although our insurance will cover removal and mediation, it will cost \$4,000 for a replacement Roth tank.
- Weeds and other growth need to be controlled. Please help.
- Vacation Bible School will run from July 31st to August 4th at our church. We are working with the Sussex United Methodist Church again.
- Sunday school will begin on Sunday, September 10, 2023.
- Please help during our fellow hour by volunteering.
- The next regular Session meeting will be held on **Tuesday, September 19, 2023**, at 6:30 p.m., on the ZOOM platform. There will be no meeting in August.

Respectfully submitted,
Charles Bates, Clerk of Session

Worship Schedule

Beginning **Sunday, September 3rd**, our worship service returns to 10:30 a.m.

Please mark your calendar so you won't miss it!!



Mark Your Calendars

The next regular Deacons' Meeting will be held on **Sunday, September 10th**, 11:30 a.m., at the church; the next regular Session meeting will be held on **Tuesday, September 19th**, 6:30 p.m., on ZOOM.



You're Invited

Pastor Katherine and her family invite you to stop by for an Apple Palooza at the manse (23 Unionville Ave.) on **Friday, September 22nd**, any time between 5:30-7:30 p.m. There will be yummy apple treats to enjoy together!



Welcome Back

We held a “Welcome Back” fellowship time on July 2nd, when Pastor Katherine returned from her maternity leave. People got to meet Marlena, Pastor Katherine’s baby daughter.



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

Our next special offering will be the Peace & Global Witness Offering, which will be received on World Communion Sunday, **October 1st**. We will get to keep 25% of this offering for our congregation's peacemaking ministries. Please give generously!



How Are We Doing???



For the Month of July

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

Average Weekly Attendance: 38
Monthly Offering: \$ 13,198.50

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.



Anniversaries



Mike and Karen Kosco celebrated their 4th wedding anniversary on July 27th; Art and Carolyn Van Houten celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on August 2nd; Linda and Dennis DeGroat celebrated their 49th wedding anniversary on August 17th; Rich & Janet Hayzler celebrated their 51st wedding anniversary on August 19th; and Phil & Pat Hardin celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary. 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.

Sunday School for 2023-2024 will start on **Sunday, September 10th**.



Vacation Bible School 2023



Our church partnered with the Sussex United Methodist Church to host Vacation Bible School from July 31st-August 4th, at our church. The theme for the week was Knights of the North Castle, and the children had fun throughout the week playing games, doing crafts and science experiments, learning songs, and learning Bible stories. Thanks so much to Pastor Katherine, Linda DeGroat, Eloise Demeter, Julie Jordan Scott, and Paulette Touw from our church, for volunteering to help. We would also like to thank the many helpers from the Sussex United Methodist Church, including Pastor Tim. Check out the pictures on the following pages and our Facebook page.



The black & white picture from 1946 and the color picture from 2023 show the kids from our church and the United Methodist Church at VBS! (Picture on left.)

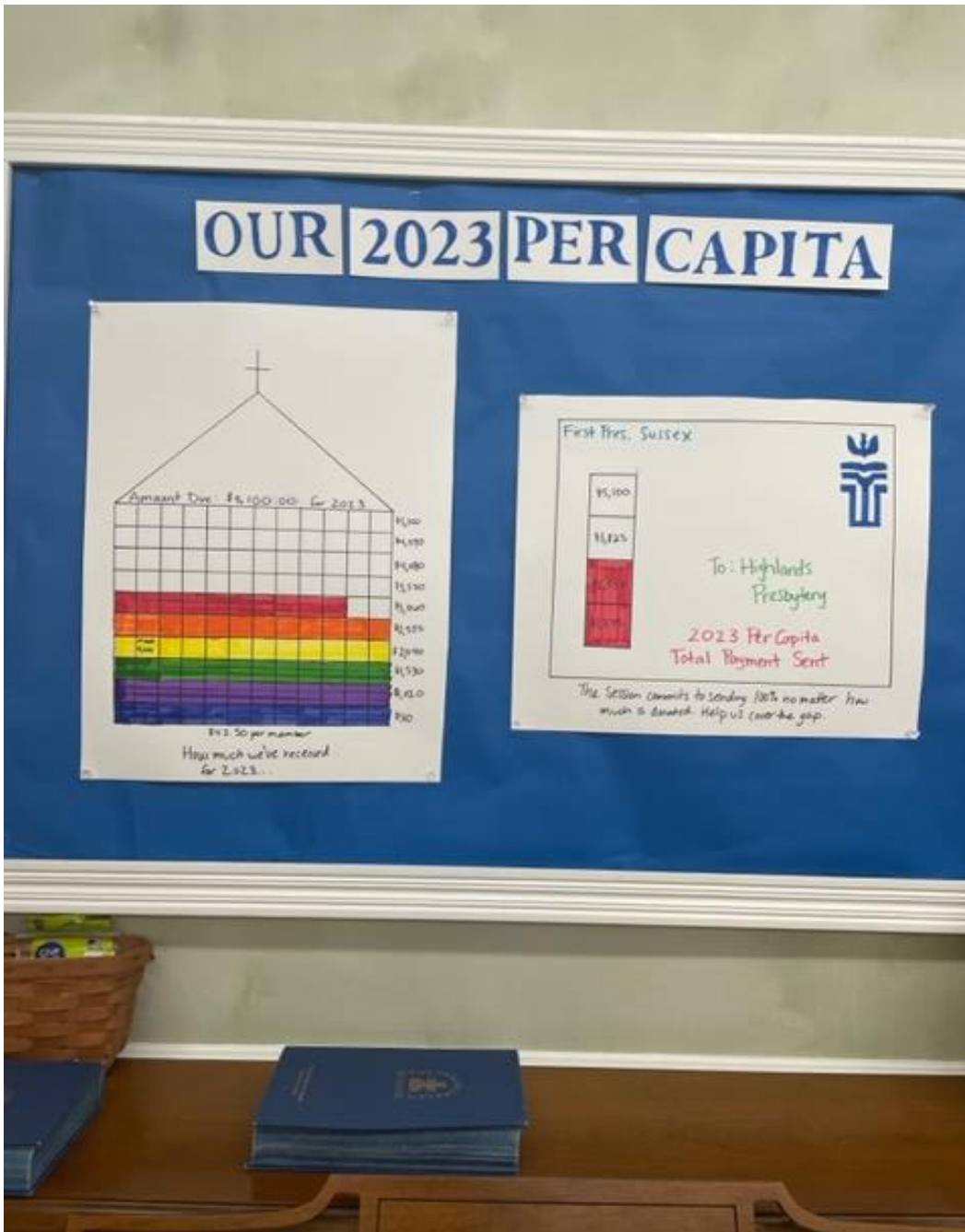


Why Per Capita?

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 in the fellowship room.



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.



September Birthdays

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



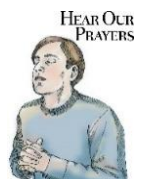
In Our Thoughts & Prayers



Please pray for **Nancy Barta, Teresa Belcher** (a friend of The Batemans), **Madelyn Coykendall, Frank Del Sardo, Jr., Bob & Donna Gibson, Rev. Bruce Gillette & Family, Charlie & Dodi Lain, Betty Martin, Art & Carolyn Van Houten, Kenneth Van Wageninge** (Carolyn's brother), **Pat Walker, Lois Wright, Barbara Young, and Brian 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.



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 Project Self-Sufficiency, our Deacons' Fund recipient for July, and Local Share, our Deacons' Fund recipient for August.



Our Deacons' Fund recipient for September is 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!

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.

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the very special shawl! It is beautiful and cozy, and I used it already and can feel the love and prayers.

At this upsetting time, I especially appreciate knowing our friends are there for us!

*Hugs,
Barbara Young*

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?**



Thank You!

Dear 1st Presbyterian Church of Sussex,

Thank you for the blessing you are to our family. We appreciate your prayers and support as we rebuild and recover. The Lord is carrying us, and we continue to be blessed. Thank you for your generous gift. It helped with food and gas costs for our children's traveling to come home and help us.

Thank you for the blessing you are!
Mike & Lisa Kuperus & Family



O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.

Psalm 105:1

Dear Congregation,

Thank you for thinking of me on my last day of worship before moving to a retirement community in Massachusetts, near my youngest son. I love the picture of the church, and when I hang it in my new place, I will think of everyone.

The cake was delicious, thanks for everything!

*Blessings,
Kathy Carey*



At the NJ State Fair

Jason Swarts and Molly and Aven Swarts competed in this year's NJ State Fair with their Holstein cows and calves. They were very successful! Here are their results:



Molly 4-H 2023: March Calf – 1st; Fall Calf – 2nd; Jr. Championship – prize – honorable mention & Pumpkin 2nd honorable mention; Summer Jr. 2-year-old – Dahlia 2nd; Sr. Champion – Dahlia Reserved Champion; Reserved Grand Champion – Dahlia; Best Bred Holstein – Molly & Prize; Best Bred all Breeds – Molly & Prize; Showmanship Novice – 2nd; Showmanship overall – Reserved (2nd).

Molly & Aven Open Show: March Calf – Aven 4th Jr. 3rd Pumpkin/Molly 12th Binoceri; Winter Calf – Aven 4th Jr. 4th Sweetpea; Molly 13th Daffodil; Fall Calf – Molly 6th Jr. 4th Prize; Jr. Best 3 Females – 3rd Place with Pumpkin, Sweetpea, & Prize; Summer – Jr. 2-year-old – Molly 1st Jr. 1st & Best Udder Award Dahlia; Was pulled out 4th for Jr. Champion with Dahlia; Best Bred by Exhibitor – 2nd with Pumpkin; Produce of Dam – 4th Dahlia & Daffodil.

Jason Swarts won 1st place with a fall yearling.



Lectionary for the Lord's Day

September 2023

- 3 14th Sunday after Pentecost
Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26; Matthew 16:21-28
- 10 15th Sunday after Pentecost
Psalm 119:33-40; Matthew 18:15-20
- 17 16th Sunday after Pentecost
Psalm 114; Matthew 18:21-35
- 24 17th Sunday after Pentecost
Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45; Matthew 20:1-16



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

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 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

September 3 rd	Mike Kosco
September 10 th	Sheryl Dekmar
September 17 th	Betsy Sives
September 24 th	Walter Houck
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



Schedule of Communion Preparers and Servers

Preparers

September 3rd – Ashley Ziccardi
October 1st – Nancy Barta

Servers

September 3rd – Joanne Cosh
October 1st – Charles & Penny Bates

Schedule of Ushers



September 3rd
September 10th
September 17th
September 24th
October 1st
October 8th
October 15th
October 22nd
October 29th

Sheryl Dekmar & Paulette Touw
Mary Alice Hosking & Niki Lepes
Richard L. & Janet Hayzler
Charles & Penny Bates
Chris & Chuck Sarno
Kyle DeGroat & Betsy Sives
Sheryl Dekmar & Phil Hardin
Ken Enhoffer & Paulette Touw
Richard L. & Janet Hayzler

Local Food Pantry News

Donations have slowed! 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. Please let Walter Houck know if there is a family in need.



Old Clove Church

Route 23, Wantage, New Jersey

Annual Worship Service

Sunday, September 17th - 2:00 p.m.

The worship service will be led by the Rev. Doug Douma of the Unionville Presbyterian Church. Not able to make it in person? Follow the service live on Facebook. Refreshments will be served. (oldclovechurch.org)

Tricky Tray

The Beemerville Presbyterian Church's Annual Tricky Tray will be held on **Friday, October 6th**, 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.



SEPTEMBER 4TH

Father John's Animal House



“Happy Tails” Italian Dinner (catered by Mattar’s Bistro) will be held on **Saturday, September 23rd**, at Pope John XXIII Regional High School in Sparta. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Dinner \$75 (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, auction, 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.)

Sussex Elks

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.



Ezekiel 37: 1-11, 14 The Prophet Ezekiel and the Valley of Dry Bones

The hand of the Lord was upon me, and He took me out by the wind of the Lord and set me down in the valley, and it was filled with bones. And He made me pass by them all around, and, look, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and, look, they were very dry. And he said to me, “Man, can these bones live?” And I said, “O Master, Lord, it is You who knows.” And He said, “Prophecy to these bones and say to them, ‘O dry bones, listen to the word of the Lord. Thus said the Master, the Lord to the dry bones: I am about to bring breath into you and you shall live. And I will lay sinews over you and bring up flesh over you and stretch over you skin. And I will put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord.’” And I prophesied as I was charged, and there was a sound as I prophesied and, look, a clatter and the bones came together, one bone to another. And I saw, and, look, upon them were sinews, and flesh came up, and skin stretched out over them from above, but there was no breath in them. And He said to me: “Prophecy to the wind, prophecy, man, and say to the wind, ‘Thus said the Master, the Lord: From the four winds, come, wind, and blow into these slain that they may live.’” And I prophesied as He had charged me, and the breath came into them and they lived, and they stood up on their feet, a very very great legion. And He said to me, “Man, these bones are all the house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dry and our hope is lost. We have been cut off.’ And I will put my breath in you, and you shall live, and I will set you on your soil, and you shall know that I the Lord have spoken and have done it,” said the Lord. (translation by Robert Alter)

Our Church Sign

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

