



First Presbyterian Church of Sussex
PRESBYTERIAN
PRESS

21 Unionville Avenue, Sussex, NJ 07461

Summer 2021

From the Pastor's Desk...

First off, I wanted to say congratulations to all our graduates! You've made it through another milestone in your life! May God continue to bless your path, wherever it leads next, through more schooling or into the work force. God is always with you and so is the love from your church family. Congratulations!

A few months ago, I was given a little book called *God is a wonder: bedside inspirations to nourish your spirit* by Gwendolyn Hayes. I must admit that I haven't spent a whole lot of time with this small, yellow, shiny book. But what I have read has been simple and thought provoking.

It's not a book I would have picked up on my own, but I'm happy to have it now that I do. Perhaps you have something like this book in your life. A gift that you wouldn't have selected yourself but has become something meaningful to you.

And when we think about it, we have a gift that we didn't work to receive or put on our birthday/Christmas lists. We have the gift of God's never-ending love. This love is so powerful and so worthwhile, that God came down to earth as a fragile and tiny baby for us. Jesus Christ came into this world and changed the way we humans related to our Creator.

This summer, as we enjoy time outside (hopefully) and longer days, I hope you make time to develop your relationship with God. One of the ways you can do this is through the various spiritual disciplines: these include prayer, Scripture reading, meditation, generosity, fasting, and worship. There are others, too, of course. But this list is a good starting point.

Perhaps find a small book like the one given to me to read through and pray over during these summer months. It wouldn't have to replace your beach read, but instead, could add to your time reading each day.

The church has daily devotionals available if you'd like to start with that—each book holds three months' worth of daily devotionals. They're a great way to get started with regular, daily biblically-based devotionals.

Whatever you decide to do, I hope this summer is a great one for your relationship with God and your community. I leave you now with Romans 12:9-18:

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

May you find a deeper connection with God this summer. And may that deeper connection to our loving savior bring you a new sense of peace and trust.

In Christ,
Pastor Katherine Scott-Kirschner



Session Highlights



Session met on June 15th. The following items were discussed:

- The Deacons remained active in sending cards to recent graduates, as well as supporting the Sussex Health Center.
- Visitations continue with Pastor Katherine and others visiting our members.
- Pastor Katherine has begun a series of sermons on the Parables of Christ. In July, sermons will center on the women of the Bible.
- ZOOM platform meetings on Wednesdays will now be canceled. Consideration to schedule them at a later time of the year if there is an interest.
- As your Clerk to Session, I am proud to announce that the 2019/2020 Session Minutes have been approved by Presbytery.
- Ruling Elder Richard L. Hayzler will be working with Paster Katherine on ways to motivate our congregation to be Elders and/or Deacons.
- A rain storm on Wednesday, June 9, 2021, caused a tree limb to fall, resulting in the loss of our electricity, phone, and internet. Thanks to our electrician, Steve Snook, all has been restored.
- Pastor Katherine has now started her occupancy of the manse.
- Sunday school is scheduled for June 20, 2021, at 9:15 a.m.
- Ruling Elder Sharon Alheidt will be away for the month of June. Help is needed to set up refreshments after worship.
- Ruling Elder Mike Kosco is in need of liturgists for July and August. If you are able, please volunteer.
- The CDC requirements appear to be changing rapidly. Session has voted that masks for those vaccinated are optional, with a strong recommendation to those who are not vaccinated to continue wearing a mask. Please help us defeat this dreaded disease.
- The next regular Session meeting will be held online on **Tuesday, July 20, 2021**, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Charles Bates, Clerk to Session

Can You Help?

The tree that fell on the wires to the church cost the church \$2,000.00 for its removal. We have a deductible of \$1,000.00 on our insurance policy. Therefore, donations would be appreciated to help cover the deductible. Please make your check payable to *First Presbyterian Church of Sussex*, and mark *Tree Removal* 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.



In Loving Memory

Suzanne Hunt passed away on June 20th. Suzanne was a member of our church for 48 years. Pastor Katherine conducted the funeral on June 25th.

Mark Your Calendars

The next regular Session meeting will be held on **Tuesday, July 20th**, 6:30 p.m., at the church; the next regular Deacons' meeting will be held on **Tuesday, September 7th**, 6:30 p.m., at the church.



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. Note: There will be no child care in the nursery until September.

Summer Worship Schedule

Beginning **Sunday, July 4th**, our worship service starts at 9:30 a.m. **through August 29th**. Please mark your calendar so you won't miss it!!



Church Directory

An updated Church Directory will be available by **July 18th**. They will be available at the church for pick up. If you are not attending in person, please let the church know.

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.



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 2021, each member's contribution is \$40.00.

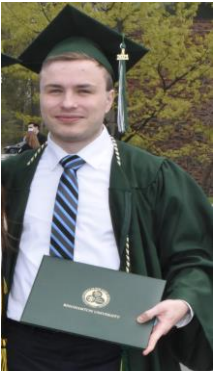
Per Capita is part of the glue that holds Presbyterians together. It exists to allow the whole church to share equitably in those things that make us Presbyterian: our theological identity, our connectedness as communities of faith, our core structures that keep us together as a church, and our call to work for full participation in decision making.



Joseph Barta graduated Farleigh Dickinson University, Madison Campus, with a degree in Computer Science. He is home, planning on earning some certifications in computer science, and then he hopes to start a career in IT.



Amanda Dwornikoski graduated from Montclair State University. She is currently working for SCARC.



Will Smisko graduated Binghamton University. He will be going to graduate school in the fall.

Adam Vanderwiele graduated from Albright College with a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting. He played varsity football and graduated with a 3.2 GPA. He is studying to become a CPA.



Eric Van Houten, grandson of Art & Carolyn Van Houten, graduated from Centenary College with a Bachelor of Science degree.

Riley Edwards, grandson of Charles & Penny Bates, graduated from Kutztown High School.



Owen Demeter graduated from Hardyston Middle School. He will be attending Sussex County Technical School in the fall.



Kiera Lewis graduated from Sussex Middle School with high honors. She will be attending High Point Regional High School in the fall.

Bailie Touw graduated from Minisink Valley Middle School. She will be attending Minisink High School in the fall.



Brooke Hayzler completed 5th Grade and will be moving up to middle school in Pompton Plains.

Madison Hayzler graduated pre-school, and she will be attending kindergarten at the Clifton E. Lawrence School in Wantage in the fall.



Heath Ziccardi graduated pre-school, and he will be attending kindergarten at the Clifton E. Lawrence School in Wantage in the fall.



A Prayer For Graduates

Eternal God, in your will our lives are lived, and by your wisdom truth is found. We pray for graduates who finish a course of study, and move on to something new. Take away anxiety or confusion of purpose, and give them confidence in the future you plan, where energies may be gathered up and given to neighbors in love; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Sunday School News

Sunday school met on June 20th for their last class before the summer. 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.

Happy Anniversary

Bob & Donna Gibson celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary on June 25th. Congratulations!



Happy Anniversary!



From the Finance Committee



Be a Faithful
Steward

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 June

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

Average Weekly Attendance: 37
Monthly Offering: \$ 12,708.00



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.



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 Nancy (973-875-9156) 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.

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Please pray for **Linda DeGroat, Frank Del Sardo Jr., Keri Demeter & Family, Enhoffer Family, Bob & Donna Gibson, Rev. Bruce Gillette & his family, Phil Hardin, Mary Alice Hosking, Kara & Patti Jacobs, Betty Martin, and Ralph Miller; and the family of Suzanne Hunt.** 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 Camp Johnsonburg, our Deacons' Fund recipient for June.

Our Deacons' Fund for July will go to the Samaritan Inn. The Samaritan Inn is a community based, non-profit, non-sectarian organization that provides a 24-hour hotline, food bank, community case management, and temporary shelter to homeless and "at risk" residents of Sussex County.

For August, it will go to Local Share. Food is grown by local farmers who allow volunteers to glean the food leftover in the fields. This food is then delivered by volunteers to pantries, soup kitchens, and other social services. Please give generously!



Deacons of the Month

When Pastor Katherine is not available or needs assistance, the following Deacons will be on call for the following months: July – Janet Hayzler, August – Sheryl Dekmar, and September – Phil Hardin.



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?**



To My Brother & Sisters of 1st Presbyterian Church,

On behalf of myself and children, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for the very generous gift cards you sent. I am so blessed that you think of us and send us prayers.

Thank you for always thinking of us. God bless you all!



Liturgists Needed



Mike Kosco, chair of the Worship & Sacrament 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 (Mike will train newbies!), please contact him at 973-600-2386, or see him after worship on Sundays.



July Birthdays

- (2) Eric Sives
- (9) Thomas Clark
- (10) Natalie Alheidt
- (11) Jason Touw
- (13) Jim Hardin
Kiera Lewis
- (18) Emeline Demeter
- (19) Brooke Hayzler
- (21) August Ziccardi
- (24) Donna Gibson
Adam Hardin
Janet Hayzler
- (28) Phil Hardin



August Birthdays

- (4) David Tomasula
- (5) Judy Clark
- (7) Natalie Lewis
Baylie Touw
- (8) Jane Clark
- (10) Elizabeth Meloskie
Adam Vanderwiele
- (11) Ed Sives
- (13) Barbara Young
- (14) Susan Vanden Heuvel
- (24) Samantha Fairweather
- (25) Robert Demeter, Jr.
- (28) Liam Klein
- (29) Michele Higgins



Lectionary for the Lord's Day

July 2021

- 4 **6th Sunday after Pentecost**
Psalm 48; Mark 6:1-13
- 11 **7th Sunday after Pentecost**
Psalm 24; Mark 6:14-29
- 18 **8th Sunday after Pentecost**
Psalm 89:20-37; Mark 6: 30-34, 53-56
- 25 **9th Sunday after Pentecost**
Psalm 14; John 6:1-21

August 2021

- 1 **10th Sunday after Pentecost**
Psalm 51:1-12; John 6:24-35
- 8 **11th Sunday after Pentecost**
Psalm 130; John 6:35, 41-51
- 15 **12th Sunday after Pentecost**
Psalm 111; John 6:51-58
- 22 **13th Sunday after Pentecost**
Psalm 84; John 6:56-69
- 29 **14th Sunday after Pentecost**
Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

September 2021

- 5 **15th Sunday after Pentecost**
Psalm 125; Mark 7:24-37
- 12 **16th Sunday after Pentecost**
Psalm 19; Mark 8:27-38





Refreshments After Worship

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

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 fruit, applesauce, Campbell's pork and beans, canned beets (sliced or whole), and peanut butter (15 oz.). Please let Walter Houck know if there is a family in need.



Sussex Elks

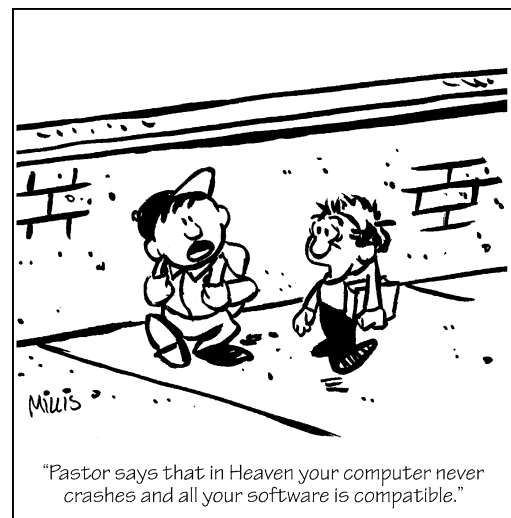
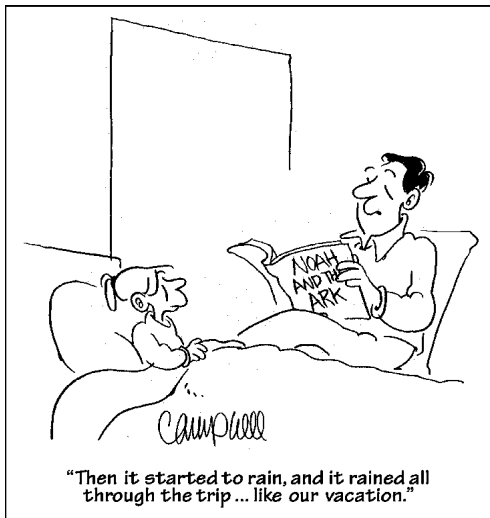


Veterans: The Sussex Elks are still collecting needed items for our Veterans, as well as DASI. The Veterans need: body wash, shampoo/conditioner, and toothpaste/toothbrushes. DASI needs: toilet paper, paper towels, tissues, napkins, laundry detergent, Dreft (baby detergent), cleaning products, dish soap, 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.

Upcoming Event:

- o **September 9-13th** – The Moving Wall at Woodbourne Park.

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



Thank You

As you know, we had a tree limb come down during a storm which took down the wires to the church for our electricity, phone, and internet. We would like to thank Steve Snook, who took care of putting the wires back onto the church and getting our electricity working again, with the help of JCP&L, and CenturyLink for getting our phone and internet back. We also would like to thank Trees Plus for removing the tree limb from our property.



Our Church Sign

(Thank You Phil Hardin)

