

# CONTACT

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## TREASURER'S NOTE

Good-bye and good riddance 2020! A year which invoked fear, isolation, despair, financial insecurity, illness, and death to many. But COVID-19 could not destroy the SBRC family. Through technology we stayed in touch. We continued to worship together. We loved and encouraged each other. We shared our joys, our sorrows, and our supplies. We uplifted each other emotionally and physically so no one would feel alone. We reached out to our community to provide what was needed. We supported the church to keep it strong. Despite all the challenges we faced, we ended 2020 in the black.



Now we welcome 2021! We hope things will improve as the vaccine is administered. We pray for some type of normal to return to our lives. We long to gather in person, see smiling faces without a mask, give hugs, and even belt out a song or two. Unfortunately, we are not at that point yet. But in true South Branch form, we persevere!! We continue to comfort each other, support the needs of our church, and reach out and spread love to our neighbors.



As it is our tradition, we start January with a zero balance in our current expense budget. Thanks to your generosity, we received \$9,200 in pledges so far. I posted the classis assessment per member is \$89 and so far, received \$1,750. Our pork dinner was a huge success despite being take out only and patrons had to stand in a long, cold line to pick it up. We made a profit of \$1,800. Since our expenses this month were low, I am happy to report we ended January \$3,323 in the black.

We are off to a great start. Let's keep up the momentum. May God continue to bless our church and its people.

~ Robyn Friedlander

PS - We are looking for help on the Finance Committee, and especially with the investments of the Church. The commitment is rather light, but there is important work to be accomplished. If interested, please speak with me or with Pastor Steve.

**March Birthdays:**

- 1 Alex Norz
- 2 Joe Bogdan  
Lynne Diehl
- 6 Carol Rzczkowski
- 10 Phyllis Zeban
- 12 Christina Sarles
- 17 Jeffrey Murray
- 20 Vicki Wendover
- 22 Christina Corleto
- 23 Rayna Davidson  
Jim Wendover
- 26 Isobel Green  
James Paterno
- 28 Judy Kreeger
- 30 Steve Hubscher



**March Anniversaries**

- 6 Al & Susan  
Rohner
- 26 Jim & Linda  
Ruocco
- 30 Fred & Jennette  
Neske

**FROM THE PASTOR...**

Can you believe it?? March 15th will mark the one year anniversary that we were last able to gather as a church family in the Sanctuary to worship & fellowship!

This past year has shown that SBRC is a community that can handle any adversity or challenge that is placed in our way. We have maintained our ability to worship via technology; we have continued to fellowship with our weekly Coffee Talk sessions & our virtual fellowship time following worship; we have continued to provide Christian Education opportunities through Zoom for our Sunday School & Bible Study; we responded to the needs of our community by continuing to support the Hillsborough Food Pantry; our Youth Group continued to be an example of living and loving like Christ; our Church Dinners adapted to the new restrictions; and we even were able to transact business by holding our Consistory & Annual Meetings via Zoom.

As I look over the work that we have been able to accomplish, I am so proud to serve as the Pastor of this congregation! We are showing our neighbors and friends that this is a place of love for all in our church and community. We are being the very hands and feet of Jesus! Thank you, thank you, thank you!!

Let's not get complacent with the promises of vaccines before us because our work will not end, but will only increase as we continue to share the Good News!

**SANCTUARY FLOWERS**

Sanctuary flowers returned for our Sunday worship services! It is so nice to see them bring beauty to the Sanctuary and lifted our spirits as we continue to meet via Zoom. SBRC is now using Scott's Florist in Raritan for our Sunday flowers and he is doing an outstanding job!



If you would like to have flowers in the Sanctuary on Sunday, please reach out to the Church Office at (908) 369-4956 or office@sbrchurch.org. We will let you know which dates are available and take down the information to be included in the Sunday bulletin. Cost is \$40.00 for the flowers on Sunday.

**TAKEOUT CORNED BEEF DINNER**

SBRC will be holding a **takeout only** Corned Beef Dinner on Saturday, March 13<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 to 7:00 PM with Chef Tyson presiding over the kitchen. Adults are \$16.00 and children 10 & under are \$7.00

Call (908) 369-4956 for tickets or make your reservations by visiting: [app.gopassage.com/events/take-out-corned-beef-dinner](http://app.gopassage.com/events/take-out-corned-beef-dinner)

**Menu**

- Honey Glazed Corned Beef
- Boiled Cabbage
- Parsley Potatoes
- Glazed Carrots
- Horseradish Sauce
- Cole Slaw
- Irish Soda and Rye Breads
- Assorted Desserts

# LENTEN CHALLENGE

Lent is a time to observe and commemorate the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In some Christian traditions, Lent includes fasting on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday with only one simple meal without meat as well as refraining from eating meat every Friday during Lent, substituting with fish. In the past, Christians eliminated fatty foods or food groups and saved them for an Easter feast.



This year's Lenten season begins on February 17<sup>th</sup>. Today's Christians across the globe are still thinking of creative things to give up for the 40 days of Lent – giving up fast food, chocolate, social media, video gaming. As a challenge South Branch Reformed Church asks that you to take just one item out of your closet that you don't wear or use and put it into a large garbage bag each day for forty days. At the end of the forty days, donate these items to a charity who could share them with someone who could really use them! (Don't bring them to the church!)



# HOLY WEEK AT SBRC

## Palm Sunday ~ March 28, 2021

Worship in Sanctuary & via Zoom at 10am

## Maundy Thursday ~ April 1, 2021

Tenebrae Service with Communion in Sanctuary & via Zoom at 8pm

## Easter Sunday ~ April 4, 2021

Dawn Service at 6:30am in Cemetery  
Easter Celebration in Sanctuary & via Zoom at 10am



# YOUTH GROUP WILL EGG YOUR HOUSE

Would you like to spend an afternoon with your kids " Seeking some Easter Love?" Let the Youth Group EGG YOUR HOUSE!

Make some memories and find some cleverly hidden Easter Eggs in your own yard, courtesy of the Youth Group. Register your home, and we will set up an appointment and hide eggs filled with treats for your family.

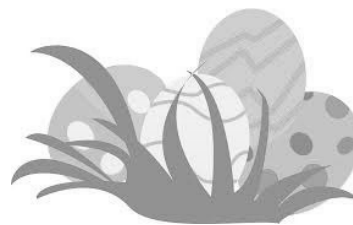
Our egg hiding rates are:

\$10 for 12 eggs

\$20 for 24 eggs

\$25 for 36 eggs

Please watch the weekly email, as well as Facebook and Instagram for more details. Questions? Please contact Joanne Powell.



# LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MARCH

## March 7:

- Exodus 20:1-17
- Psalm 19
- 1 Corinthians 1:18-25
- John 2:13-22

## March 14:

- Numbers 21:4-9
- Psalm 107:1-3,17-22
- Ephesians 2:1-10
- John 3:14-21

## March 21:

- Jeremiah 31:31-34
- Psalm 51:1-12
- Hebrews 5:5-10
- John 12:20-33

## March 28:

- Isaiah 50:4-9a
- Psalm 31:9-16
- Philippians 2:5-11
- Mark 15:1-39



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## DAYLIGHT SAVINGS—SPRING AHEAD



*Live & Love Like Jesus*

Rev. Stephen Eckert ~ Pastor  
Mr. John Colaiacovo ~ Music Director  
Mrs. Karen Abbatiello ~ Church Secretary  
Mrs. Maureen DeMarco ~ Preschool Director  
Mrs. Maritza Acosta ~ Sexton

**Daylight Savings Time  
begins on March 14<sup>th</sup>!!**

Be sure to turn your clocks

**AHEAD** one

hour on

Saturday night

or you'll get to

church an hour

late on Sunday

morning.



Time to  
Spring Ahead