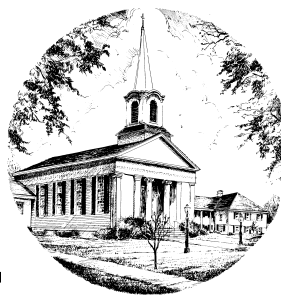




# CONTACT



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**South Branch  
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## FROM THE PASTOR



First, a big thank you to the Sunday School staff & students for the surprise during the worship service on February 12th wishing me a "Happy 50th Birthday"! I wasn't anticipating it, but I truly appreciated that you thought of me. Thank you all for making it a special day!!

Second, I want to thank all those who "signed-up & showed-up" for the SBRC Dinner that I hosted on February 18th in the Dining Room. Over 60 people attended and it was a great time of food, fellowship, and conversation! I hope that this is a start to us all returning to the Sanctuary for worship and the church for fellowship opportunities. It proved that SBRC is better when we are together!

Third, thank you to all who attended to the annual Ash Wednesday Prayer Service. This has become one of my favorite services as it is a time to begin the Season of Lent in reflection and prayer. I pray that we will use the next forty days as an opportunity to grow in a deeper relationship with God and our neighbors.



For those who are interested, you are invited to join members of the RCA Restructuring Team for an in-person roundtable event on March 4, 2023 beginning at 9am in the Gardner Sage Library at NBTS. Those attending will hear what the Restructuring Team has been working on and the outcomes around which they feel called to restructure, after much discernment. Time for questions and feedback will be allowed on what is presented. No RSVP is needed to attend.



We are always looking for new and different ways to gather SBRC together in fellowship & worship. If you have an idea, please don't hesitate to let someone know and we can explore the possibilities of getting it started.

*Pastor Steve*



### March Birthdays:

- 2 Joe Bogdan  
Lynne Lothian
- 6 Carol Rzczkowski
- 10 Phyllis Zeban
- 12 Christina Sarles
- 17 Jeffrey Murray
- 22 Christina Corleto
- 23 Jim Wendover
- 26 Isobel Green  
James Paterno
- 30 Steve Hubscher



### March Anniversaries

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

## TREASURER'S NOTES

Happy New Year! As stated in my December report, we miraculously ended 2022, \$2,789 in the black after having been in the red for the entire year. As it is our practice to start each new year with a zero balance in current expenses, the \$2,789 was transferred into a general fund, a sort of rainy day line item in the budget. I am happy to report that we are off to a good start in 2023. The pledges and plate for January totaled over \$11,000. Several classis dues have already been received. The pork dinner yielded a profit of nearly \$2,800. Fortunately, we did not experience any large, expected, or unexpected expenses this month. Therefore, I am happy to report we ended January \$3,139 in the black.



Let's keep this momentum going. Stay current with your weekly pledges. Pay your share of the Classis assessment which is \$100 per member. Support our fund raisers. Come to church. Get involved.

May God continue to bless SBRC and its people..

~ Robyn Friedlander

## CORNEB BEEF DINNER

SBRC will be holding a Corned Beef Dinner on Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 to 6:30 PM with Chef Tyson presiding over the kitchen. All tickets are now \$20 and you can dine-in or take out! Bring a bag if you are doing take out.

Call (908) 369-4956 for tickets or make your reservations by visiting: [app.gopassage.com/events/corned-beef1](http://app.gopassage.com/events/corned-beef1)

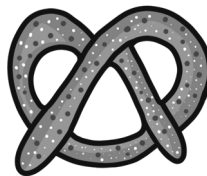
### Menu

Corned Beef  
Boiled Cabbage  
Parsley Potatoes  
Glazed Carrots  
Cole Slaw  
Irish Soda and Rye Breads  
Assorted Desserts  
Coffee, Tea,  
Lemonade or Iced Tea

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

On February 12<sup>th</sup> the Sunday School celebrated Valentine's Day making cards for our Church family, those who are with us and those who are unable to join us in person. We also "crashed" Church with surprise birthday wishes for Pastor Steve.

We will spend March learning about Jesus' journey to the cross. On Palm Sunday, April 2, the students will participate in our Annual Lenten Pretzel Activity during Church and celebrate Easter with our school-wide Easter Egg Hunt following Coffee Hour. All children Preschool-aged through 7<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome to join us! Donations of wrapped candy for the Egg Hunt would be greatly appreciated and may be left in the Church office.



We are looking ahead to next school year already and are looking for at least two volunteers to teach. Please reach out to Tracy Davenport if you would be interested in teaching, co-teaching, or substituting.

We have a lot of fun planned for the rest of the school year, which will wrap up on Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to spending our Sunday mornings together.

~ Tracy Davenport

## LENT & EASTER AT SBRC

### Ash Wednesday Prayer Service ~ February 22<sup>nd</sup>

In Sanctuary & via Zoom at 8pm

### Palm Sunday ~ April 2<sup>nd</sup>

Worship in Sanctuary & via Zoom at 10am

### Maundy Thursday ~ April 6<sup>th</sup>

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

### Easter Sunday ~ April 9<sup>th</sup>

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



## LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MARCH

### March 5:

Genesis 12:1-4a  
Psalm 121  
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17  
John 3:1-17  
Matthew 17:1-9

### March 12:

Exodus 17:1-7  
Psalm 95  
Romans 5:1-11  
John 4:5-42

### March 19:

1 Samuel 16:1-13  
Psalm 23  
Ephesians 5:8-14  
John 9:1-41

### March 26:

Ezekiel 37:1-14  
Psalm 130  
Romans 8:6-11  
John 11:1-45



## TREX CHALLENGE UPDATE - MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!

**Our goal:** Collect 500 lbs of plastic within 6 months to receive 1 Trex Composite Park Bench.

**Our Stats:** November 2022 - 86 lbs  
 December 2022 - 108 lbs  
 January 2023 - 181 lbs  
 February 2023 - 117 lbs



**Collection will end of Friday, February 24th (*please do not bring plastic after this date*)! We will store the collection bins until we resume in the Fall of 2023.**

We would like to thank everyone who helped us reach this goal in only 4 months! Thank you to the families of the SBRC Preschool and the members & friends of SBRC! Also, big thanks to those who helped pick up and deliver the plastic to collection points.

## WOMEN'S GROUP

Several members of the Women's Group enjoyed a Sunday afternoon outing to see the very humorous Somerset Valley Players production of the play, "The Butler Did It." Future outings will be planned for plays and movies.



Stamps are in great need. Fewer stamps are coming into people's homes for a variety of reasons such as communication by email or using metered stamps instead of regular ones. Please be vigilant as you go through your mail and save any stamps for us to send to the Stamp Alliance in Florida. They have buyers for these stamps and use the money to publish Sunday School materials in Spanish, a great area for mission work at this time. Place your stamps in the basket in the church office. As always, thank you to the members of the congregation who donate stamps. Even a few can make a difference.

Mission for River Blindness raised \$21 this past month. Again, like stamps, coins are not as common as they used to be. Please consider dropping your coins into the plastic container at the foot of the steps going into the sanctuary. This money is used to deliver medicine to people in Africa to prevent river blindness and to also perform cataract surgeries. If you wonder how you can serve as a missionary, you can be one by simply dropping your coins into the container and having the Lord bless it and its uses. If you would like to read more about this mission, a pamphlet is posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. Many thanks to all who contribute.

## BOOK CLUB

The Book Club continues to meet and is a great time to join! They have continued their lively discussions each month. You can join in the fun at any time! The group meets the last Sunday of the month at 7:00pm via Zoom. The list below contains the upcoming titles. They hope to see YOU next time.



March 26: "The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo" by Taylor Jenkins Reid

April 23: "Diamonds in the Dirt: The True Story of The World's Most Notorious Jewel Thief" by Doris Payne

# March 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2  <i>SVP at 7pm in Fireside Room</i> Choir 7:30pm in Parlor	3	4  RCA Restructuring Meeting at NBTS at 9am
5 Communion	6  <i>SVP at 7pm in Fireside Room</i>	7  <i>SVP at 7pm in Fireside Room</i>	8  Knit, Pray, Crochet at 7pm at Stockman Home	9  <i>SVP at 7pm in Fireside Room</i> Choir at 7:30pm in Parlor	10  Dinner Set-up at 7:00pm	11  Corned Beef Dinner 4:00pm to 6:30pm
12 Daylight Saving Time Begins!	13  <i>SVP at 7pm in Fireside Room</i>	14  <i>Preschool Enrichment Night 6pm to 8pm</i>	15  Consistory at 7:30pm in Parlor	16  April Newsletter Items due!  Choir at 7:30pm in Parlor	17	18
19 Baptism  Women's Group following Worship in Dining Room	20	21	22  Knit, Pray, Crochet at 7pm at Stockman Home	23  Choir at 7:30pm in Parlor	24	25
26  Book Club at 7pm via Zoom	27	28	29	30  Choir at 7:30pm in Parlor	31	

South Branch Reformed Church  
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*Live & Love Like Jesus*

Rev. Stephen Eckert ~ Pastor

Mr. John Colaiacovo ~ Music Director

Mrs. Karen Abbatiello ~ Church Secretary

Mrs. Jennifer Feaster ~ Preschool Director

Mrs. Maritza Acosta ~ Sexton

## DAYLIGHT SAVINGS—SPRING AHEAD

**Daylight Savings Time  
begins on March 12<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