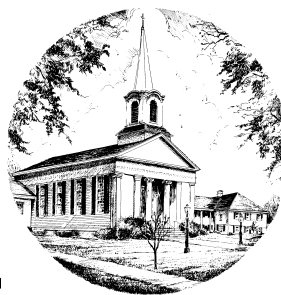




# CONTACT



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**sbrchurch**

## FROM THE PASTOR...

It has been a busy time for celebrations at SBRC the past two months and there is one more coming!

First, many thanks for the surprise during worship as well as at the dinner I hosted for the congregation for my 50th birthday! It was definitely a surprise and I was glad that I was able to celebrate with the SBRC family. The Sunday School gets the award for surprising me during the last hymn.

Second, many thanks for celebrating the 20th Anniversary of my pastorate at SBRC. This too was a surprise and the gift you gave was truly generous - please know that it has already been put to use!!

As I look back over the last 20 years, we have been through a lot together. We have seen the church go through membership changes, we have initiated new programs, we have started different fellowship opportunities, we have made numerous building repairs and upgrades, we have cleaned up after two major floods, and we have pushed through a pandemic. In all of this, we have remained faithful to our shared calling & ministry by seeking to be the hands and feet of Jesus to our fellow members and friends. I pray that you all will continue to participate in this important work as we seek to glorify God in all that we do and say!

The next big celebration is quickly approaching and it is a week long!! On Sunday, April 2nd we will gather as God's children for Palm Sunday to sing our praises to Jesus, our King and then gather in the Dining Room for our annual tradition of Hot Cross Buns! On Thursday, April 6th, we will gather at 8:00pm to mark Maundy Thursday in the Tenebrae Service. This all culminates to a grand celebration on Sunday, April 9th, where there will be two opportunities to gather in praise and worship celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus - Easter Dawn at 6:30am and Easter Celebration at 10:00am. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated at each of these services.

As we come into the Easter season, I pray that the time we shared in Lent provided an opportunity to draw closer to God. I pray that, for each of us, the celebration of Easter will renew our commitment to God and to SBRC!

*Pastor St*



### April Birthdays:

- 6 Mariel Gulla
- 9 Anthony DePace
- 10 Luca Franco  
Kimberly Kazar
- 11 Nancy Murray  
Tony Stramaglia
- 12 Robyn Friedlander
- 13 Carmen Munro
- 15 Jacob Davenport
- 16 Emmalee Pantel
- 18 Kate Sarles
- 25 Nick Speciale
- 27 Danielle Bowden  
Irene Foley  
Richard Sarles III
- 30 Catherine Burt



### April Anniversaries

- 12 Gil & Pam  
Warner
- 20 Jim & Hedley  
Wendover
- 25 Jeffrey & Nancy  
Murray

## FROM THE TREASURER

Spring is approaching. There is evidence of rebirth and renewal all around us. Observe the daffodils pushing up through the barren earth. Look closely at the naked tree limbs and spy tiny buds. Hear the sounds of birds returning to our area. Witness our church coming alive with activities, fun and fellowship.



Your love and support for SBRC shines forth in my financial report to you. We began February, \$3,139 in the black. A feat we have not witnessed in many years. Pledges remain steady but could be better. Classis dues are coming in, but are slightly down from last year. Fortunately, there were no unexpected expenses or quarterly payments due this month. And thanks to a mild winter, we received no outrageous plowing and salting bills. This being said, I am happy to report, we ended February, \$3,770 in the black.

Way to go South Branch. Let's keep this momentum going. Continue to send in your pledges, even if you don't join us on Sunday morning. Pay your share of the classis assessment (\$100 per member). Support our fund raisers. We can stay in the black if we all do our part.

May God continue to bless our church and its people.

.... Robyn Friedlander

## TAKEOUT ROAST BEEF DINNER

SBRC will be holding a Roast Beef Dinner on Saturday, April 29th from 4:00 to 6:30 PM with Chef Tyson presiding over the kitchen. All tickets are \$20.

Call (908) 369-4956 for tickets or make your reservations by visiting: [app.gopassage.com/events/roast-beef3](http://app.gopassage.com/events/roast-beef3)

**Important! Please remember to bring a bag if you are taking out your dinner!**

### Menu

Roast Beef with Gravy  
Mashed Potatoes  
Peas & Carrots  
Cole Slaw  
Pickled Beets  
Cottage Cheese  
Dinner Rolls  
Assorted Desserts  
Coffee, Hot Tea,  
Lemonade & Iced Tea

## HOLY WEEK & EASTER AT SBRC

### **April 2<sup>th</sup>:**

Palm Sunday at 10am in the Sanctuary & via Zoom.  
There will be hot cross buns following the worship service.

### **April 6<sup>th</sup>:**

Tenebrae Service with the Sacrament of Communion at 8pm in the Sanctuary and via Zoom.

### **April 9<sup>th</sup>:**

Easter Sunrise Service with the Sacrament of Communion at 6:30am by the Cemetery (in-person only).  
Easter Service with the Sacrament of Communion at 10am in the Sanctuary and via Zoom.



## LECTIONARY READINGS FOR APRIL



### **April 2:**

Isaiah 50:4-9a  
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29  
Philippians 23:5-11  
Matthew 27:11-54

### **April 6:**

#### **Maundy Thursday**

Exodus 12:1-14  
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19  
1 Corinthians 11:23-26  
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

### **April 7:**

#### **Good Friday**

Isaiah 52:13-53:12  
Psalm 22  
Hebrews 4:14-16  
John 18:1-19:42

### **April 9:**

#### **Easter Sunday**

Acts 10:34-43  
Jeremiah 31:1-6  
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
Colossians 3:1-4  
Acts 10:34-43  
Matthew 28:1-10

### **April 16:**

Acts 2:14a, 22-32  
Psalm 16  
1 Peter 1:3-9  
John 20:19-31

### **April 23:**

Acts 5:27-32  
Psalm 118:14-29  
Psalm 150  
Revelation 1:4-8  
John 20:19-31

### **April 30:**

Acts 2:42-47  
Psalm 23  
1 Peter 2:19-25  
John 10:1-10

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The Sunday School students and staff are enjoying their time together each Sunday.

Palm Sunday, April 2 is a busy day for the Sunday School. During Church, students and staff will gather in the kitchen to make pretzels at our annual Lenten Pretzel Activity. While the pretzels are baking, we will participate in a school-wide Easter event. Following Coffee Hour we will head out to the playground for our Easter Egg Hunt. All children, preschool through 7<sup>th</sup> grade are invited and encouraged to join us for a really fun day.



Thank you to all who have donated candy for our Easter Egg Hunt. Any additional candy donations would be greatly appreciated and may be left in the Church office.



There will be no class on Easter Sunday, and our regular schedule will resume on April 16<sup>th</sup>.

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

Tracy Davenport

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## BOOK CLUB

This is a group that enjoys each other's company and values each other's opinions! We are always looking for more to join us in our discussions! We meet once on the last Sunday of every month. If you would like more information or have questions or would like to join the email list, please speak with Mary Nunn.

Upcoming selections are:

April 30: Diamond Doris: The True Story of the World's Most Notorious Jewel Thief by Doris Pane

May 28: Black Cake: A Novel by Charmaine Wilkerson

June 25: Someone Else's Shoes by Jojo Moyes

Happy Reading!!!



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## WOMEN'S GROUP

The Women's Group met February 19th during Coffee Hour after church to clip and sort 424 stamps to send to the Stamp Alliance in Fort Meyers, Florida. This organization raises money by selling used stamps in order to print Sunday School materials in Spanish for both the United States and abroad. As of the end of February, the Stamp Alliance has raised \$3,000 for this purpose. Our thanks to the faithful members of the congregation who remember to drop stamps into the basket in the church office. Stamps are becoming harder to find, and we appreciate each one that is given.

The River Blindness container had \$15 in coins for March. Please continue to remember to drop your coins (or dollars) into the container at the bottom of the steps at the entrance to the sanctuary. Coins are also becoming less used, so all that are given are gratefully received, as are the services of medicine and surgeries that these coins help to provide in Africa. Try to think of those people and how grateful they must feel that you can spare a few coins in order to help them.

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## DEMI-SEMI, WHAT??

We've all heard of centennials and bicentennials, right? Has anyone ever heard of *Demisemiseptcentennial*? Well, that's what the South Branch Reformed Church will be celebrating in two years. That's 175 years of existence!!

A team of 15 members of our church met on Monday evening to form a committee to begin planning our celebration of 175 years and it's not too late to join the fun. We welcome any creative new ideas that will not only celebrate our church but draw interest in our ministries. There are lots of great ideas on the table and other ideas are certain to surface. We have two years to plan and execute. This is just the beginning. But time moves quickly! If anyone has some thoughts on celebratory ideas, please contact our Chair people, Jim Wendover or Joanne Powell.

Additionally, we have sub-committees:

Fundraising Committee – Gillian Green, Debbie Norz, Nancy Murray and Irene Foley

Historic Committee – Steve Hubscher, Mike Powell and Irene Foley

Events Committee – Judy Coates, Tracy Davenport, Robyn Friedlander, Tyson Stramaglia, Holly Kowalenko

Public Relations – Debbie Norz, Mike Powell and Jan Hubscher

We welcome all members of the South Branch Reformed Church to join us not only in the celebration but the planning!

# April 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Palm Sunday Communion Sunday School Pretzel Activity Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt	3	4	5	6 Maundy Thursday  Tenebrae Service with Communion at 8pm	7 Good Friday	8 Holy Saturday  Easter flowers arrive & set up at 10am
9 Communion Easter Sunrise Service at 6:30am Easter Worship at 10am No Sunday School	10	11	12  Knit, Pray, Crochet at 7pm at Stockman home	13  Choir Rehearsal at 7:30pm in Parlor	14	15
16  Sunday School resumes  Newsletter Items Due!!	17	18	19  Consistory at 7pm in Parlor	20  Choir Rehearsal at 7:30pm in Parlor	21	22
23  Spring Fling at 12pm	24	25	26  Knit, Pray, Crochet at 7pm at Stockman home	27  Choir Rehearsal at 7:30pm in Parlor	28  Dinner set-up at 7pm	29  Roast Beef Dinner 4:30-6:00pm
30  Book Club at 7pm via Zoom						

South Branch Reformed Church  
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Hillsborough, NJ 08844



*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

## **Spring Fling!!**

Join us on Sunday, April 23rd at 12:00pm as we gather to show the church building and grounds some TLC with a Spring Fling clean-up! A sign-up sheet has been posted on the bulletin.

Many hands  
make for light  
work! Come out  
to join your  
SBRC family  
and let's make our building &  
grounds shine!

