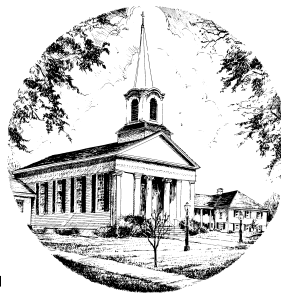


CONTACT



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***South Branch
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SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

April was an exciting month for our Sunday School.

On Palm Sunday, April 2 we held our annual school-wide Lenten Pretzel and Easter activity. The children twisted pretzels, made some Easter crafts and decorated bags for the Egg Hunt. After sharing and enjoying our delicious pretzels and other goodies, 18 children hunted the brightly colored eggs in the playground. Even the Easter Bunny hopped in for a visit! It was a great time for the kids and those who were able to watch. Thank you to all who helped and donated to make this day possible for our students and friends, especially the Burt Family for leading us with the pretzels, our High School students who helped the children with their projects, our egg-hiders, and those that stuffed eggs during coffee hour on March 26. It truly was a special time for our Church.



The month of May will bring more fun as we continue our time together each Sunday morning listening to and learning God's Word. Our Sunday School year will wrap up our year on Sunday, June 4th with our year-end ceremony, Summer Kick off Carnival, and Congregational Ice Cream Social. All children Preschool and up are invited. We hope you'll be able to join us!

The search continues for teachers, co-teachers and substitutes for our next school year, September 2023-June 2024. If you are interested in sharing the Word of God with our students and learning some along the way, please reach out. Any amount you are willing to help would be appreciated.

~ Tracy Davenport

May Birthdays:

- 2 Karen Messineo
- 7 Danielle Marshall
- 9 Jillian Burt
Giovanni Franco
- 10 Dan Davenport
- 11 Marc Gulla
Kirsten Stockman
- 12 Cade Zeban
- 14 Thomas Marshall
- 20 Isabel Bowden
Aiden Stabile
Ryan Stabile
- 24 Rich Norz
- 29 Daniel Kazar
Marion Lachowski
Michael Murray
- 30 Albert Bowden
- 31 Haven Sarles



May Anniversaries

- 2 Dominick & Karen
Abbatiello
- 16 Tom & Beth
Bernard
- 19 William & Carmen
Munro
- 21 Everett & Lisa
Heider
- 26 Joe & Irene
Foley
- 29 John & Kim
Colaiacono

FROM THE PASTOR...

As the Spring season is upon us, our thoughts are turning to warmer weather, flowers blooming, and leaves returning to the trees. The sound of the birds singing lightens our spirits and the warmth of the sun touches our souls.

It has been a busy few months at SBRC! During the winter months we kept busy with gathering for several worship services, hosting church dinners, and seeing a number of property projects completed. We are so close to closing the file on Hurricane Ida as we wait for parts to arrive to complete the last remaining repair.

Many thanks to all who were able to help out at "Spring Fling" where we gave the building & grounds some much needed TLC. SBRC is sparkling and your help made it possible!

The month of May brings it's own level of exciting opportunities and events:

- + Fire Pit Fellowship returns on Sunday, May 7th at 5pm
- + New Members Class is set to begin on Sunday, May 14th
- + Pentecost Sunday Surprise on May 28th (all are encouraged to wear red)

See you in worship & fellowship!

TREASURER'S NOTES

Spring is here. We got through the winter with scarcely any snow. In fact, the only bill we paid was \$650 for some salting. Except for replacing the main electrical panel, all repairs from the damage caused by Ida have been completed. It is amazing what we can do when we work together.

We started March, \$3,770 in the black. Your pledges continue to flow in at a steady pace. Many of you have already submitted your classis assessment of \$100 per member. Our Corn Beef dinner was a huge success. Thanks to your support, our receipts for March totaled over \$20,000.

However, March is the month when many huge quarterly payments must be made in addition to our usual monthly obligations. Unfortunately, our expenses totaled \$25,950. We ended March, \$1,423 in the red.

But we got this. April is a time of renewal. We look forward to seeing the church filled on Easter Sunday with old friends and new faces. Support our upcoming roast beef dinner. Keep those pledges coming in. As I stated earlier. When we work together, amazing things happen.

May God continue to bless SBRC and its people.

~ Robyn Friedlander

PRESCHOOL NEWS

Spring has sprung at South Branch!

We recently wrapped up our Simple Machines study. The students loved learning all about the simple machines all around us. Did you know a slide is a simple machine? We ended our study with a STEM Enrichment night. Students along with their parents participated in all kinds of hand on activities including making 3-d sculptures, a 50 cup challenge, sink or float, building with boxes and even tried coding.

We also celebrated Easter with our Easter Egg Hunts and learned about why Jesus died and rose from the dead.

The school year is flying by, and we are looking forward to our Mother's Day Tea, Father's Field Day and our Year End Celebrations. Of course, with spring comes the nicer weather and the children love to be spending more time outside.

Our Early Beginnings class which is our Mommy & Me 2-year-old program is learning all about our typical preschool routine and focusing on different shapes each week.

As the school year comes to an end on June 2nd we will now focus on our Summer Camp which will run from June 26th through July 20th. Our themes this year are all about "Summertime Fun" including down by the sea, fun and fantasy, creepy crawlies and down on the farm.

On Wednesday June 7th at 6:00 pm we will be hosting a park play date at White Oak park . We invite you to come out and join us and treat yourself to some Kona Ice. All proceeds from the purchase of the ice will support the preschool.

We do still have some limited openings available for September 2023. If there is anything you would like to find out more about, please feel free to call or email the Preschool, at (908) 369-7885, Preschool@SBRChurch.org.

- Jenn Feaster

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will be meeting on Sunday, April 30th at 7pm via Zoom to discuss "Diamond Doris: The True Story of the World's Most Notorious Jewel Thief" by Doris Payne. In May, the Book Club will be reading "Black Cake: A Novel" by Charmaine Wilkerson.



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! So, pick up a copy and join in the fun. If you would like more information or have questions or would like to join the email list, please speak with Mary Nunn. Happy Reading!!!

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MAY

May 7:

Acts 7:55-60

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

1 Peter 2:2-10

John 14:1-14

May 14:

Acts 17:22-31

Psalm 66:8-20

1 Peter 3:13-22

John 14:15-21

May 21:

Acts 1:6-14

Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35

1 Peter 5:6-11

John 17:1-11

May 28:

Acts 2:1-21

Numbers 11:24-30

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

Acts 2:1-21

John 20:19-23



WOMEN'S GROUP

Stamps are becoming harder and harder to come by, for a variety of reasons. In March, the Women's Group clipped and sorted 145 stamps. And in April, we did 167 stamps. But that pales in comparison to May of last year (2022) when we sent 1,100 stamps! When you bring in your mail, please check for stamps. Spanish-speaking children can be taught about Jesus by you giving stamps. The stamps are sold and the money helps to publish Sunday School materials in Spanish. Please keep the children and the good news of Jesus in mind.



River Blindness collected \$20 in April. And we are learning of yet another eye disease that you can help by dropping your coins (or dollar bills) in the plastic container by the steps near the doors to the sanctuary. First, we learned of River Blindness caused by flies, then cataracts, and now a highly contagious disease called Trachoma, which causes a person's eye lashes to grow inward and scratch the eye until it is blind. In desperation, people take tweezers and painfully try to pull out their eye lashes to prevent going blind. But a simple surgical procedure for \$22 can correct the problem permanently. So this month, we almost gathered enough for one person to have this procedure done. Keep your eyes open and aware of coins to that we can help others to keep their eyesight.



- Lynne Diehl

NEW GRADUATES?



Do you know of anyone in our church family who is graduating this spring from grade school, high school, college, graduate school, etc.? If so, please complete the form below and return it to the church office or email the information to newsletter@sbrchurch.org. We would like to print our congratulations in the June issue of the **Contact**.

Name graduate(s)(d) from _____ on _____.
School, Degree, etc. Date

Additional Info. (daughter/son of, etc.): _____

Name graduate(s)(d) from _____ on _____.
School, Degree, etc. Date

Additional Info. (daughter/son of, etc.): _____

Name graduate(s)(d) from _____ on _____.
School, Degree, etc. Date

Additional Info. (daughter/son of, etc.): _____

May 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 Choir at 7:30pm in Parlor	5	6
7 Communion Fire Pit Fellowship beginning at 5pm	8	9	10 Knit, Pray, Crochet at Stockman home at 7pm	11 Choir at 7:30pm in Parlor	12	13
14 New Members Class	15	16 June Newsletter items due!!	17 Consistory at 7:30pm in Parlor	18 Choir at 7:30pm in Parlor	19	20
21 New Members Class	22	23	24 Knit, Pray, Crochet at Stockman home at 7pm	25 Choir at 7:30pm in Parlor	26	27
28 New Members meet with Elders Book Club 7pm via Zoom	29	30	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

FIRE PIT FELLOWSHIP

SBRC is ramping up another season of “Fire Pit Fellowship” opportunities! What better way to spend an evening outside of the confines of your home and with members of your church family than around a fire pit! If the weather cooperates, our first gathering will be held on Sunday, May 7th, beginning at 5pm.

If attending, please be sure to bring a chair and all are welcome to bring a beverage and/or snack to enjoy while sitting around the glow and the warmth of a fire pit!

Show up when you can & leave when you must!

