

# CONTACT

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**sbrchurch**

## TREASURER'S NOTE

Summer is over. As fall approaches, our church is beginning to come alive with activity. Once again, our building is filled with the laughter of children and the beautiful voices of our choir. New projects and opportunities are being introduced and need your attention and participation.

Our church dinners have returned after a four-month hiatus, with more people enjoying each other's company in the dining room. We are beginning to plan for our 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in 2025. Yes, you can feel a sense of excitement in the air. But we must take this newfound energy and get down to the business of getting our budget back on track.

August was another lean month. Pledges, including online donations, were down. We only received \$8,300 for the entire month. We started August, \$3,756 in the red. After paying our normal monthly expenses, we ended the month, \$5,816 in the red.

But we are the people of the South Branch Reformed church. When we come together, we can move mountains, or at least get our budget back in the black. May God continue to bless SBRC and its members.

- Robyn Friedlander



## A NOTE OF THANKS

Dear Friends,

My family and I would like to thank you for the many expressions of sympathy we received following the passing of Dick. The prayers offered during his illness and especially since his passing, the sympathy cards sent, and food prepared or sent meant so much to us. We appreciate the many who came to the visitation at the funeral home to offer support and sympathy.

We also want to thank Pastor Steve, John and Emily for their contributions to the beautiful Memorial Service. We were truly touched by the number of people who attended the service that Sunday afternoon.

Again, thank you all so much for all expressions of sympathy and support.

Sincerely,  
Judy Coates and family



### October Birthdays:

- 5 Beth Bernard
- 9 Karen Abbatiello
- 13 Blake Kruze
- 14 Adele Miller
- 17 Jude Mazzarella  
Linda Ruocco
- 18 Gabriella Marshall
- 19 Adam Franco
- 24 Savannah Marshall
- 26 Sarah Davenport
- 27 William Wright, Jr.
- 29 Irene Bogdan



### October Anniversaries

- 2 Louis & Tara  
Mazzarella
- 8 Mark & Karen  
Messineo
- 12 James & Mary  
Nunn
- 23 Blake & Jennifer  
Kruze  
Rich & Debbie  
Norz
- 29 Tom & Jean  
Evers

## FROM THE PASTOR...

What is your favorite season of the year? I have two: Autumn & Spring - and I look forward to when we enter these times of the year. Autumn brings a certain cozy feeling - comfy warm days, crisp cool nights, and colors on display in God's creation from trees to sunsets!

Autumn also brings a cozy & warm feeling in the church! The return of the Preschool children, the choir takes their prescribed place in the Sanctuary, we smile as our children return for Sunday School, the smell of church dinners waft throughout the building, we gather for our fellowship activities, and it warms both heart & soul to see all of God's children back in the Sanctuary for worship.



As you can see in the newsletter, the Sunday bulletin, and the weekly church emails, there is a lot of things going on and more are being planned at SBRC. We are always looking for new ideas or opportunities that provide us a chance to get together. So, if you have an idea, share it!

This month we see the return of "Fire Pit Fellowship" on Sunday, October 1st beginning at 5pm. If you haven't attended one of these gatherings in the past, please try to come and join us this time around. It is a night filled with laughter and conversation. Hope you're able to join us & don't forget to bring your chair!

If you haven't returned to in-person worship - we miss you!!! Autumn is a great time to join us in the Sanctuary! The cooler temps make worship in the Sanctuary more comfortable, and we are excited to welcome you back! Worship will continue to be provided via Zoom, but nothing can replace gathering together in one place to worship our amazing God!

Yes, I truly love the Fall for all of the things that it brings back to our shared ministry & work in the church!

*Pastor St*

## TAKEOUT CHICKEN CORDON BLEU DINNER

### Menu

- Chicken Cordon Bleu
- Noodles Romanoff
- Broccoli
- Cole Slaw
- Braised Red Cabbage
- Dilled Cucumber Salad
- Fruit Cup
- Dinner Rolls with Butter
- Assorted Desserts
- Coffee/Tea/Lemonade/Iced Tea

SBRC will be holding a Chicken Cordon Bleu Dinner on Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup> 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/cordon-bleu](https://app.gopassage.com/events/cordon-bleu).

**The Dining Room is open for you to join us in-person! If taking your dinner to go, PLEASE remember to bring your reusable bag!**

## TREX BENCH CHALLENGE RETURNS!

Have you been collecting plastic over the summer waiting for the return of the Trex Bench Challenge? If so, the waiting is over and you can start bringing your collection to the bins at SBRC! Bins are located by the entrance from the parking lot as well as at the entrance to the Sanctuary.

As a reminder, we must collect 1,000 lbs. plastic in twelve months. Once it has been all collected, Trex will donate a high-performance composite bench to our church - like the one by the parking lot entrance. It's a very achievable goal and with everyone's help, we can get it done!



Please remember the advice from Irene Foley, the only plastic we are able to take is the type that your finger can go through!

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our Sunday School year kicked off on September 17<sup>th</sup> with our first session and Welcome Back Picnic. Thank you to all our volunteers and donations that helped make the picnic possible. Special thanks to Pastor Steve for his generous donation; Joe Librizzi, Tom Kletz and Ashley Librizzi for manning the grill; and Patti Kletz and Nancy Murray for getting everything set in the dining room. It was a wonderful time of fellowship and celebration for another school year ahead.

We've been so very blessed with wonderful volunteers that will help make this an amazing year for our Sunday School students:

- Danielle Dougherty (Messineo) will be leading our Preschool/Kindergarten class. All preschoolers 2-1/2 and up are welcome. This includes Grandchildren and visitors.
- Tracy Davenport will be teaching the 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> grade class.
- Kacey Kowalchuk will be teaching the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grade class.
- Debbie Norz will be teaching the 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> grade class with Adam Franco and Tyson Stramaglia as long-term substitutes until early-November.
- We also have several volunteers to substitute when needed. Thank you to Nancy Murray, Valerie Franco, Mary Nunn, Karen Messineo, Kelly Stabile, Jen Kruze, and Rich Sarles for being available to fill-in.

We will celebrate Halloween on Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup> during Sunday School. The children will start with our annual costume parade through the Sanctuary to share some smiles with the Congregation before heading down to the Fireside Room for fun, games and snacks. More information to follow. All are welcome.

We look forward to spending Sunday mornings with your children learning God's Word. Bring a friend!



- Tracy Davenport

## LECTIONARY READINGS FOR OCTOBER

### October 5:

Joshua 3:7-17  
Psalm 107:1-7,33-37  
Micah 3:1-4; 2:1-4  
Psalm 43  
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13  
Matthew 23:1-12

### October 12:

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25  
Psalm 78:1-17  
Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16  
Amos 5:18-24  
Wisdom of Solomon 6:17-20  
Psalm 70  
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18  
Matthew 25:14-30

### October 19:

Judges 4:1-7  
Psalm 123  
Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18  
Psalm 90:1-12  
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11  
Matthew 25:14-30

### October 26:

Ezekiel 34:11-16  
Psalm 100  
Ezekiel 34:11-16,20-24  
Psalm 95:1-7a  
Ephesians 1:15:23  
Matthew 25:31-46

## WOMEN'S GROUP

The Women's Group joined in with the many activities celebrating the return to the full church schedule September 17th: like meeting the Sunday School staff, the children going to Sunday School, the choir signing, and a huge delicious family-style picnic after the service. So it only felt right that the Women's Group should get back into the swing of things too. We clipped and sorted 294 stamps to send to the Alliance for Stamp Ministry in Florida to raise money for Sunday School materials printed in Spanish.

Just a reminder also to the faithful stamp contributors in the congregation, the only stamps that the Alliance can use are **actual, physical stamps**, not ones that are simply printed onto the paper. If you can't feel the stamp, they can't use it. This is a change from years past. So be very vigilant. Watch for any possible stamps and bring them each Sunday to put into the basket in the church office.



And \$10 in coins was added to the River Blindness initiative. These funds go to help the poorest of the poor in Africa so that they can prevent blindness, be useful and independent, and not rely on begging, even the children. Our coins can do so much. So put your coins to good use and drop them into the container at the foot of the steps by the sanctuary. Lets not waste even our "leftover" coins.



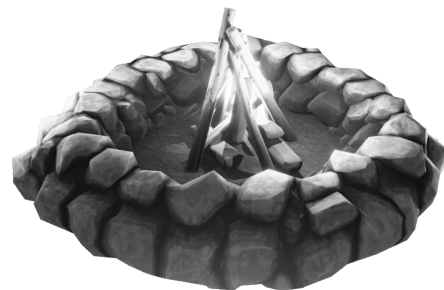
- Lynne Lothian

## FIRE PIT FELLOWSHIP

Autumn signals the arrival of cooler weather and different ways to gather! Over the past few years, SBRC has gathered around the fire pit and those who have attended are eagerly waiting for that opportunity again!

We are pleased to share that "Fire Pit Fellowship" will take place on Sunday, October 1st beginning at 5pm! If the weather cooperates, we will gather outside around the warmth & light of the fire. Please be sure to bring a chair as well as any beverages/snacks for yourself or to share. Feel free to arrive when you can and leave when you must.

Come join your friends & family from SBRC around the fire pit for a relaxing evening!



# October 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 World Communion Sunday  Fire Pit Fellowship at 5:00pm	2	3	4	5  Choir at 7:30pm in Parlor	6	7
8	9	10	11  Knit, Pray, Crochet at 7:00pm in Stockman home	12  Choir at 7:30pm in Parlor	13  Dinner Set-Up at 7:00pm	14  Chicken Cordon Bleu Dinner 4:00 -6:30pm
15  Women's Group in Dining Room	16  Newsletter Items Due!!	17	18  Consistory at 7:30pm in Parlor	19  Choir at 7:30pm in Parlor	20	21
22	23	24	25  Knit, Pray, Crochet at 7:00pm in Stockman home	26  Choir at 7:30pm in Parlor	27	28
29 Reformation Sunday Sunday School Halloween Party Book Club at 7:00pm via Zoom	30	31				

South Branch Reformed Church  
870 South Branch Road  
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

## FALL PROPERTY PROJECTS

On **Saturday, Oct. 7th** beginning at **10am**, there will be a gathering for those who are able to help out completing a few Fall Projects at the church. We will need assistance in removing the window air conditioning units, power washing the building, and a few other smaller projects.



If you are able to help, please be at the church by 10am. The more hands helping means we will complete these projects quicker!