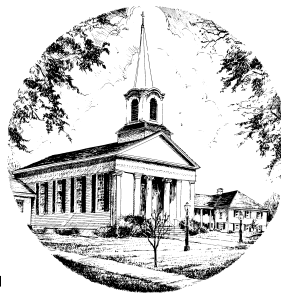


CONTACT



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sbrchurch

FROM THE PASTOR...

September is upon us and activities have begun ramping up again at home, school, and the church! It is always an exciting month for us at SBRC as we return from our Summer breaks, share some memories or stories about activities that we took part in, and, for the first time in many months, truly gather together in worship and in fellowship!

As you read through the newsletter, you will see that there are a number of activities planned! First off is the Ham Dinner, will be held on Saturday, September 9th from 4:00pm to 6:30pm in the Dining Room. It will certainly be nice to see all of the faces of our members and friends as we are able to gather around the table and enjoy a meal together. And yes, take-out is still available for those wishing to take their meal(s) home. ***Please remember to bring a bag with you for take home meals!!***

The SBRC Choirs are getting their voices ready for another year of leading us in worship and praise! Adult Choir Rehearsals are set to begin on September 14th at 7:30pm in the Parlor and their return to the Sanctuary will be on Sunday, September 17th! The Junior Choir will begin rehearsals following worship on Sunday mornings in September, so please be sure to watch the bulletin for when that resumes. I'm sure all of us will be very happy to their voices on Sunday morning!

Sunday School is set to begin on September 17th!!! The "Welcome Back" Picnic will be held following worship and a sign-up sheet has been posted for people to share what they will be bringing.



Pastor [Signature]

NEW MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY!

There comes a time when all of us could use a meal, a hug, and/or some company. SBRC is looking to start a new Outreach Ministry - "Food for the Soul". This ministry will provide meals to church families who have experienced the recent loss of a loved one. Once the funeral is over, family and friends make their ways home, but survivors could use some short-term additional support. "Food for the Soul" seeks to help by providing meals, visits, and/or comfort for a week or two following the funeral. We are seeking volunteers to help with this project!

However, there are some ground rules:

1. Once a need is known, a "Food for the Soul" Sign up Genius will be sent to volunteers. ***This will be the only way to sign up!***
2. If you commit to making a meal, you **MUST** follow through and provide the meal.
3. You **MUST** deliver the food (address will be provided).
4. If you decide to provide a delivered meal (DoorDash, UberEats, local pizzeria, etc.), you are responsible for paying for it yourself.

If you are interested in this new ministry opportunity, please see Joanne Powell to sign up or sign up on the bulletin board.



September Birthdays:

- 4 Tom Evers
- 7 Tracy Davenport
Danielle Dougherty
- 13 Ander Sarles
- 15 John Colaiacovo
- 16 Michael Powell
- 17 Gilbert Warner
- 18 Ben Burt
- 27 Joseph LiBrizzi
- 28 Amanda Sarles
- 29 Thomas Kletz

September Anniversaries

- 1 Daniel & Kimberly
Kazar
- 5 Joe & Annette
LiBrizzi
- 6 Steve & Kim
Kowalchuk
- 10 Britt & Joanne
Powell



TREASURER'S NOTES

As predicted, this summer followed the pattern of summers past. Attendance dropped as did the donations. Thank you to all that maintained their financial commitment online, by mail or in person. However, without everyone's support we could not remain in the black.

We started June, \$3,124 in the black. Pledges totaled close to \$9,700, which is not that great considering there were five Sundays this month. Besides our regular expenses, we made several large quarterly payments. We ended June, \$3,472 in the red.

July donations were down by \$1,700 compared to the previous month. Expenses were normal with no large, unexpected bills. We ended July, \$3,756 in the red.

But the situation is not hopeless. If we all work together, we can get our current expense budget back in the black by fall. Catch up on those back pledges. Pay your classis assessment of \$100 per member if you haven't done so already. Come out and support our upcoming ham dinner. When we all work together, we can and do accomplish great things.

May God continue to bless SBRC and its people.

- Robyn Friedlander

HAM DINNER

SBRC will be holding a **Ham Dinner** on Saturday, **September 9th** from 4:00 to 6:30pm with Chef Tyson presiding over the kitchen. Cost is \$20.00 per ticket.

Call (908) 369-4956 for tickets or make your reservations by visiting: app.gopassage.com/events/ham-dinner3

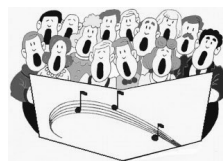
Menu

Baked Ham
Au Gratin Potatoes
Corn
Cole Slaw Applesauce
Tomato & Cucumber Salad
Dinner Rolls with Butter
Assorted Desserts
Coffee/Tea/Lemonade/Iced Tea

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!

Online ticket sales began on August 4th at 9:30 AM

SBRC CHOIRS



One of the best parts about the arrival of September is the return of the SBRC Choirs! We all enjoy the dedication and the talent of each of our choir members and we look forward to their voices leading us during Worship.

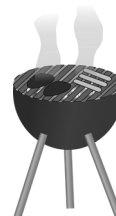
Junior Choir is set to resume in September and all children from Preschool to 8th Grade are invited to join in the fun! Rehearsals will be held on Sundays following Worship in the Parlor.

Adult Choir will resume in September and we invite all interested singers beginning in the 8th Grade. Rehearsals are held on Thursdays at 7:15pm in the Parlor and will begin on September 14th.

Experience or formal training is not required to be part of the choirs! All that is necessary is a desire to sing, assist in the worship service through our shared voices, and a willingness to have a great time!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Please join us on Sunday, September 17th for the first day of our 2023-2024 Sunday School Year followed by our "Welcome Back" Picnic. All are welcome! As with previous years, the picnic is potluck. The Church will supply the paper goods, Pastor Steve will donate the burgers, hotdogs, and rolls, and Church members are asked to bring sides, desserts, and/or beverages. A sheet has been posted in the hallway to sign up.



As tradition here at South Branch, our Sunday School students start each Sunday morning in the Sanctuary at 10AM. Following the Childrens' Moment, the children and teachers will head out to their classrooms for the remainder of the hour, concluding at approximately 11AM.

Please complete a registration form and return it to me by text or email at your earliest convenience. This information will be used to set up classes and order curriculum. All children 2-1/2 years through 7th grade are welcome, bring a friend!

Group activities to look forward to this year include: a Halloween Party, Christmas Program, Valentine's Day activity, Lenten Pretzels, Easter activity and Egg Hunt, and fun times together each week making friends and learning God's Word along the way.

We are always looking for volunteers to help make our program even better. If you are interested in helping in any way: teaching, co-teaching, substituting, event planning, etc., please reach out.

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR SEPTEMBER

September 3:

Exodus 3:1-15
Psalm 105:1-6,23-26,
45b
Jeremiah 15:15-21
Psalm 26:1-8
Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 16:21-28

September 10:

Exodus 12:1-14
Psalm 149
Ezekiel 33:7-11
Psalm 119:33-40
Romans 13:8-14
Matthew 18:15-20

September 17:

Exodus 14:19-31
Psalm 114
Exodus 15:1b-11,20-
21
Genesis 50:15-21
Psalm 103:8-13
Romans 14:1-12
Matthew 18:21-35

September 26:

Exodus 16:2-15
Psalm 105:1-6,37-45
Jonah 3:10-4:11
Psalm 145:1-8
Philippians 1:21-30
Matthew 20:1-16

- Tracy Davenport

PRESCHOOL NEWS

Our 4 weeks of summer camp flew by as we explored "Summertime Fun". Children learned about all types of animals from "Down by the Sea" to "Down on the Farm". "Fun & Fantasy" week and "Creepy Crawlies" were also a huge hit.

The start of the school year is upon us and we look forward to another wonderful school year here at South Branch. We do not have any staffing changes this year as all of our seven amazing teachers are returning. The end of last school year marked Joanne Laub's 20th year of teaching at South Branch. Joanne embodies the heart of South Branch instilling the love of learning in each child that enters her classroom. Congratulations Joanne!

The staff is getting ready to welcome returning and new families to our Open House on Friday September 8th. This is a great opportunity for students and families to meet their teachers, classmates and other families.

Regular classes start on Monday September 11th where we currently have 61 students registered across 5 classes.

The beginning of the school year is such an exciting time as students will spend many weeks focusing on all that is available to them in the classroom and getting to know their classmates and teachers during our Beginning of Year Study. They will also each complete an "All About Me" flower to display in the classroom. The staff will complete theirs too to be hung on our main bulletin board so everyone can learn a little bit about us.

Our Early Beginnings class starts on Wednesday, October 4th and runs for ten weeks. Our fall session is all about colors. This is our mommy & me class which is a great introduction to Preschool.

If you would like information about any of our programs please contact me at preschool@sbrchurch.org.

~ Jenn Feaster



BOOK CLUB

The Book Club has been holding their monthly meetings on the last Sunday of the month at 7:00pm via Zoom. Our participants include church members, families & friends of church members, and out-of-state family members. We are always looking for more members & friends to join us!



The next meeting will be on Sunday, September 24th at 7pm via Zoom to discuss *West With Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge. There is a library book discussion kit that will be available.

October's reading selection is *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt. November's book selection is *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict.

HOME FUNDRAISER

Home of Somerset County is kicking off its annual Calendar raffle. Tickets are \$10 each and will benefit at-risk families in our community. Three winners will win cash prizes every Wednesday from November through January. Tickets are drawn every Wednesday and values are \$50 and \$100. Tickets are reentered for each weekly drawing, giving ticket holders multiple chances to win. Join in the fun and support HOME of Somerset County. For more information contact Kate Sarles.

September 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Communion	4	5	6	7	8 <i>Preschool Open House</i>	9 Ham Dinner 4:00-6:30pm
10	11 <i>Preschool Begins</i>	12	13 Knit, Pray, Crochet at 7:00pm at Stockman Home	14 Choir at 7:30pm in Parlor	15	16
17 Start of Sunday School “Welcome Back” Picnic	18	19	20 Consistory at 7:30pm in Parlor	21 Choir at 7:30pm in Parlor	22	23
24 Book Club at 7:00pm via Zoom	25	26	27 Knit, Pray, Crochet at 7:00pm at Stockman Home	28 Choir at 7:30pm in Parlor	29	30

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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

WOMEN'S GROUP

"As scarce as hen's teeth" is an old saying, but it's becoming truer every day when thinking about stamps. They're becoming harder and harder to find. Please be watchful as you bring in your mail, and bring any stamps to church. These stamps help to raise money to print Sunday School materials in Spanish. As of the end of May of 2023, the Alliance Stamp Ministry has sold these kinds of stamps and raised \$11,000 for printing costs. Just realize that your stamps could help a child come to know Jesus. What could be more special than that? The Women's Group will once again be clipping and sorting stamps beginning on September 17th after church during coffee hour. All are welcome to participate.

And just as stamps are becoming more difficult to find, so are coins that we use to fund River Blindness. We gathered \$20 in coins for June and \$10 for July. That may not seem to be much, but our coins go much farther in helping people in Africa to provide medicine to prevent river blindness, perform cataract surgery on children and adults, and provide glasses. Be aware of how much your few coins can do and drop them into the container outside the sanctuary doors. God can bless these few coins just like He did to the loaves and the fish.

~ Lynne Lothian