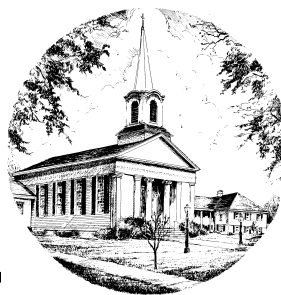




CONTACT



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Treasurer's Notes	2
Corned Beef Dinner	2
Sunday School	3
Ice Cream Fundraiser	4
Lily Order Form	5
Lenten Challenge	6
Book Club	6

**South Branch
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@SBRChurch



sbrchurch

FROM THE PASTOR



Thank you to all who attended to the annual Ash Wednesday Prayer Service. I pray that you have use this Season of Lent as an opportunity to reflect and pray - seeking God's continued love and forgiveness for ourselves and one another.

Also, thank you to everyone who has been participating in the Lenten Bible Study on Monday evenings. It has been a fun learning from one another and reflecting on the lives of those who were involved in that first Easter.

Don't forget that our annual Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner will be held on Saturday, March 16th from 4:00 PM to 6:30 PM in the Dining Room. Reserve your tickets in the Church Office or pre-purchased tickets online at app.gopassage.com/events/2024-corned-beef. If you are donating desserts for the dinner, please bring your dessert to the kitchen on the morning of March 16th.

This year, instead of a Tenebrae Service, I will be holding a Seder Service with a Covered Dish Dinner on Maundy Thursday (March 28th) beginning at 6:00 PM in the Dining Room. We will walk through the Seder, fellowship over dinner, celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, and prepare our hearts and minds for the celebration of the Resurrection! A sign-up sheet has been posted on the bulletin board and I hope to see you all there! This service will not be available via Zoom.

See you in worship!

Pastor St

EASTER COMMUNITY DINNERS

All items for the Easter Community Dinners are due on or before Sunday, March 10th to insure delivery to the Hillsborough Food Pantry for distribution to clients. Items may be placed in the bin by the parking lot entrance.

As food insecurity remains at a high level for many people, each of you is making a difference in the life of a family in our community. Your donation(s) are lifting their spirits and helping them to know that they are loved (even if they don't know who is sending that love).





March Birthdays:

- 2 Joe Bogdan
Lynne Lothian
- 6 Carol Rzeczkowski
- 10 Phyllis Zeban
- 17 Jeffrey Murray
- 23 Jim Wendover
- 26 Isobel Green
James Paterno
- 30 Steve Hubscher



March Anniversaries

- 6 Al & Susan
Rohner
- 30 Fred & Jennette
Neske

TREASURER'S NOTES

Happy New Year! As stated in my December report, we ended 2023 \$2,174 in the black despite being in the red the last six months of the year. As it is our practice to start each new year with a zero balance in the current expense budget, I transferred the \$2,174 into a general fund, a sort of rainy-day line in the budget.

Unfortunately, January proved to be a rough month. Pledges were down, \$4,000 compared to last year. The weather was the next obstacle. First came the rains which produced widespread flooding. Thankfully, the church was spared. But then there was a second bout of rain, followed by two snowstorms. A decision was made to cancel our January fundraiser dinner. Next, we received a bill for \$2,675 for plowing and salting. I am sad to report, we ended the month \$5,138 in the red.

But a bad start does not define who we are. If we work together, we can turn things around.

May God continue to bless SBRC and its people.

~ Robyn Friedlander



CORNER BEEF DINNER

SBRC will be holding a Corned Beef Dinner on Saturday, March 16th 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 pre-purchase tickets by visiting: app.gopassage.com/events/2024-corned-beef.

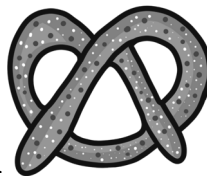
Menu

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 4th the Sunday School celebrated Valentine's Day making cards to share some smiles with those in need. A few of the beautifully creative original cards were sent to those in our Church family who are not able to join us in person and a box full was hand-delivered to Avalon Assisted Living to be distributed to their residents on Valentine's Day. They were excited to receive such a special delivery. The students also participated in making delicious chocolate covered strawberries, a special treat.

On Palm Sunday, March 24, 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 7th 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, 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 2nd. We look forward to spending our Sunday mornings together.

~ Tracy Davenport

LENT & EASTER AT SBRC

Ash Wednesday Prayer Service ~ February 14th

In Sanctuary & via Zoom at 8pm

Palm Sunday ~ March 24th

Worship in Sanctuary & via Zoom at 10am

Maundy Thursday ~ March 28th

Seder Service & Covered Dish Dinner at 6pm (Not available via Zoom)

Easter Sunday ~ March 31st

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



LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MARCH

March 3:

Exodus 20:1-17
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 1:18-25
John 2:13-22

March 10:

Numbers 21:4-9
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Ephesians 2:1-10
John 3:14-21

March 17:

Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 51:1-12
Hebrews 5:5-10
John 12:20-33

March 24:

Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Mark 14:1-15:47

March 28:

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

March 29:

Acts 10:34-43
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Mark 16:1-1:8

March 31:

Acts 10:34-43
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Mark 16:1-1:8



March
Ice Cream

Cooldest Fundraiser



GREEN MINT ICE CREAM CHOCOLATE FUDGE SAUCE BROWNIE PIECES




Proceeds benefit the 175th Committee

**ORDER BY MAR 10
PICK UP MAR 17
DURING COFFEE HOUR**

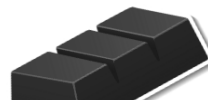


Here's how it will work.

- Each quart must be pre-purchased for \$12.00 each.
 - You can purchase 1 or more, no limit.
 - Cut off will be the Sunday before delivery. (3/10)
 - Pick up will be the following Sunday during coffee hour.(3/17)
 - You can purchase with cash or check (SBRC)& hand to Debbie Norz or by credit card using either link below
- 



bit.ly/4aZXXVx



Memorial Easter Lilies

Easter is a time for freshness, beauty, and renewal. This Easter, help us refresh and beautify the Sanctuary.

Memorial lilies, designated “in memory of” or “in honor of” a friend or loved one, may be ordered by using the short form printed below. Please complete the form and return to Karen Abbatiello. If you do not wish to take a lily home, but want to remember or honor a loved one, you may contribute to our Memorial Flower Fund instead.

The cost is \$9.00 each and the deadline for ordering is **Sunday, March 17th**. If paying by check, please write “Easter Lily” in the memo section.

☐ Easter Lily: # _____

OR

☐ Memorial Fund

Name(s)	Relationship	Given by	Choose one
			<input type="checkbox"/> In Honor
			<input type="checkbox"/> In Memory
			<input type="checkbox"/> In Honor
			<input type="checkbox"/> In Memory
			<input type="checkbox"/> In Honor
			<input type="checkbox"/> In Memory
-			<input type="checkbox"/> In Honor
			<input type="checkbox"/> In Memory
			<input type="checkbox"/> In Honor
			<input type="checkbox"/> In Memory
			<input type="checkbox"/> In Honor
			<input type="checkbox"/> In Memory
			<input type="checkbox"/> In Honor
			<input type="checkbox"/> In Memory

BENCH CHALLENGE

SBRC has collected 554 lbs out of the needed 1,000 lbs. That means in only 4 ½ months, we only need 446 lbs to complete our goal!

SBRC is well positioned to meet the goal and to meet it early – again! Keep up the great work



and soon we will have another bench by the parking lot entrance for all of us to enjoy!

HELP NEEDED AT HOME

HOME needs volunteers for its emergency shelter which is housed in religious facilities. Basically there are churches providing accommodations, but need volunteers to cook dinner or sit down with our families and enjoy that home cooked dinner or spend the night with the families. If you can volunteer for any of these activities, please call Kate Sarles at 908-581-0044 or email mkatesarles@gmail.com. These families are in crisis and 90% of them will never be homeless again after working in HOME



LENTEN CHALLENGE

Each day of Lent, remove one item from your family's closet that you no longer wear or need and place it in a bag. At the end of the 40 days, your bag will be ready for donation. This challenge will lead up to a Spring Clothing Drive on April 13th.

We will be collecting usable and wearable men's, ladies' and children's **clothing** and **shoes** for all seasons and sizes. Also collecting **accessories**: purses, belts, baby accessories, backpacks, hats, scarves, gloves, and ties; **soft household items**: blankets, tablecloths, bed sheets, draperies, and curtains.

None of the clothing is shredded or destroyed and all proceeds from this fundraiser will go towards SBRC's fundraising efforts. Join us in the Lenten challenge and bring that bag as well as many others as you are able to gather (no limit).

Donations will only be accepted on Saturday, April 13th from 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM in the church parking lot. Please do not bring your items prior to this date & time. Late donations will not be accepted.



BOOK CLUB

The Book Club continues to meet and it is a great time to join! They have continued their lively discussions each month. You can be part of 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. Contact Mary Nunn for further information.

March 26: "The Storied Life of AJ Fikry" by Gabrielle Zevin (Library book discussion kit)

April 30: "The Last Castle" by Denise Kiernan

May 28: "The World Played Chess" by Robert Dugoni

June 25: "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks" by Rebecca Skloot



March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Communion	4 Bible Study at 7pm in Parlor SVP at 7pm in Fireside Room	5	6	7 SVP at 7pm in Fireside Room Choir at 7:30pm in Parlor	8	9
10 Daylight Saving Time Begins! Ice Cream Order Due SVP at 7pm in Fireside Room	11 Bible Study at 7pm in Parlor	12 SVP at 7pm in Fireside Room	13 Knit, Pray, Crochet at 7pm at Stockman Home	14 Choir at 7:30pm in Parlor	15 Dinner Set Up at 7:00 PM	16 April Newsletter Items due! Corned Beef Dinner 4:00pm - 6:30pm
17 Ice Cream Pick-Up Easter Lily Orders Due!	18 Bible Study at 7pm in Parlor SVP at 7pm in Fireside Room	19	20 Consistory at 7:30pm in Parlor	21 Choir at 7:30pm in Parlor	22	23
24 Palm Sunday Sunday School Pretzel Activity Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt	25 Bible Study at 7pm in Parlor SVP at 7pm in Fireside Room	26 Preschool STEM Night at 5:30pm in Lower Level	27 Knit, Pray, Crochet at 7pm at Stockman Home	28 Maundy Thursday Seder Service & Covered Dish Dinner at 6pm in Dining Room	29 Good Friday	30
31 Communion Easter Sunrise Service at 6:30am Worship at 10am No Sunday School						

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

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS—SPRING AHEAD

**Daylight Savings Time
begins on March 12th!!**

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