



CONTACT



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**South Branch
Reformed Church**

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FROM THE PASTOR...

I hope you all enjoyed the Seder Service & Covered Dish Dinner! I pray that your celebrations of the Resurrection of our Lord filled your hearts & homes. Christ is Risen! He is Risen, indeed!

It is difficult to think of us entering April without the solemnity of Holy Week and the celebrations of Palm Sunday & Easter! By the time April arrives, it will have been completed and we might feel like it all went by much too quickly (and I agree!).

Soon we will start up the Fire Pit Fellowship events as an opportunity for us to gather outside, around the warmth & light of a fire, and enjoy the presence of one another. If you have participated in the past, you know that these gatherings bring a lot of fun & laughter as well as a much needed break from the normal routine. Be sure to watch for when this will begin & I hope you join us!

As we continue to prepare for the 175th Anniversary, please be sure to look at the updated bulletin board. It lists the projects we hope to complete before the anniversary, interesting facts about SBRC, and the current amount of donations have been received. This is an important milestone for our congregation, and we have a lot to be proud of as we continue this ministry that began in 1850.

FLIPGIVE

Fundraising is tough! We're constantly reaching into our wallets to reach fundraising goals. Rather than paying for auctions, raffles, and bake sales, make your personal purchases work for you and the church.

SBRC has partnered with FlipGive, a fundraising platform used by sports teams to raise money. Like AmazonSmile, enter the FlipGive team funding app to earn cash for SBRC when you shop for the things you love (or need). There are hundreds of participating stores like: Exxon, Hotels.com, Walmart, and grocery stores, etc.

Simply sign on to the app, look for South Branch Reformed Church and the store where you plan to shop. Once you make your purchase, SBRC will receive a percentage of your purchase price.

FlipGive is free to use and once we've reached our goal of \$1000 by February of 2025, they'll send us a check to put towards our church's needs. The church earns \$5 just for signing up and using the app.



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 Irene Foley
- 30 Catherine Burt



April Anniversaries

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

FROM THE TREASURER

Spring is approaching. The earth is slowly warming. There are signs of renewal peaking up all around us. Our church is alive with numerous activities. I am witnessing a notable excitement at SBRC as new and interesting fundraising ideas are presented and eagerly put into place. Could we finally be breaking from the tradition of "We never did it that way before," and are finally commencing to "Think outside the box"? Only time will tell.



We began February \$5,137 in the red. Pledges were over \$10,000 for month. Many of you sent in your classis dues. Ash Wednesday donations were better than last year. Things were looking good. Unfortunately, Mother Nature sent us a couple of snowstorms and some icy conditions which created a plowing and salting expense of \$3,450. We ended the month, \$3,012 in the red.

But as I stated earlier, we have a new energy coursing through us. We can turn things around. Keep up the excellent work and we will get back in the black.

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 27th 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/2024-roast-beef.

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

WOMEN'S GROUP

The Women's Group met March 17th during coffee hour, and fingers were flying, both clipping and sorting 1,107 stamps. Our deepest thanks to all who have continued faithfully to contribute stamps since October. For the year 2023, as of September, the Alliance Stamp Ministry received more than \$23,000 from selling used stamps to earn funds to publish Sunday School materials in Spanish. But now our stamp basket is empty, so please be on the lookout for stamps in your mail at home or work. Only two guidelines are suggested: it must be an actual stamp and please leave at least a 1/4" margin around the stamp when trimming them. If you don't feel like trimming them, just bring them to church and drop them in the stamp basket in the office. We'll be happy to do the rest.

Also be on the lookout for coins (or bills) for River Blindness Missions. Most people today use plastic or phones to pay, but, if you can, scout for coins that you can drop into the plastic container outside the sanctuary. The coins (or bills) that you donate go a long way to help provide medical services to the poorest of the poor in Africa. Keep Matthew 25:35-40 in mind for motivation.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

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

Palm Sunday, March 24th was a busy day for the Sunday School. During Church, students, staff and volunteers gathered in the kitchen to make pretzels at our annual Lenten Pretzel Activity. While the pretzels were baking, the children participated in a school-wide Easter event, making creative Easter crafts and decorating egg hunting bags. The children joined the service during the final hymn for a Palm Parade, celebrating Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem waving their palms high. Following Coffee Hour twenty-one children

participated in our annual Easter Egg Hunt collecting hundreds of candy-filled eggs. Thank you to all who have donated candy for our Egg Hunt and volunteered to help make this very busy day a success for our program.

There will be no class on Easter Sunday, and our regular schedule will resume on April 7th.

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

Tracy Davenport

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR APRIL

April 7:

Acts 4:32-35

Psalms 133

1 John 1:1-2:2

John 20:19-31

April 14:

Acts 3:12-19

Psalms 4

1 John 3:1-7

Luke 24:36b-48

April 21:

Acts 4:5-12

Psalms 23

1 John 3:16-24

John 10:11-18

April 28:

Acts 8:26-40

Psalms 22:25-31

1 John 4:7-21

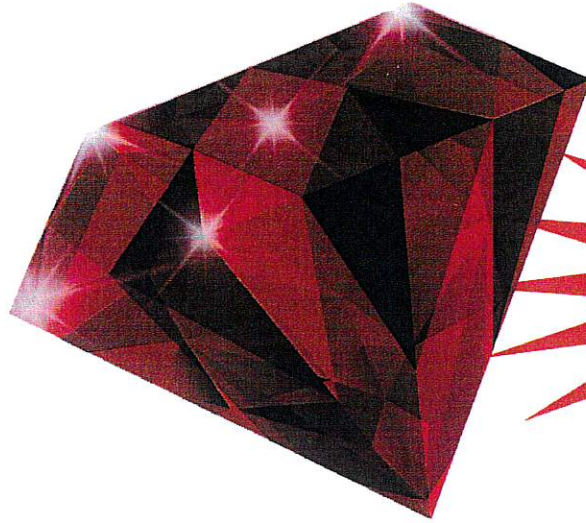
John 15:1-8



The LORD
IS MY
SHEPHERD
I shall not want
PSALM 23:1

THE CURSE OF THE BLOODSWORTH RUBY

**SOUTH BRANCH REFORMED
CHURCH
870 RIVER ROAD
HILLSBOROUGH, NJ 08844**



Play detective and enjoy an evening of good food and fun!

MAY 11, 2024 | STARTS AT 5PM

TICKETS - \$50 EACH

ONLY 100 TICKETS AVAILABLE!

SHOW BY NEW JERSEY MYSTERY COMPANY

DINNER BY BELLA PIZZA

**GET YOUR TICKETS USING THE QR CODE
OR THE LINK**



bit.ly/49MuU6x

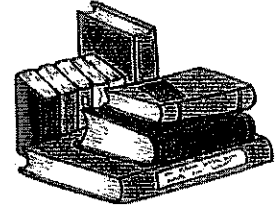


BOOK CLUB

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: "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
 July 28: "All the Light We Cannot See" by Anthony Doerr (Library book discussion kit)



SENIOR RECITAL FOR ASHLEY LIBRIZZI

Ashley LiBrizzi will be performing her Senior Recital at South Branch Reformed Church on Friday, April 26, 2024, at 4:30 PM in the Sanctuary. Ashley is a senior at Westminster Choir College double majoring in Vocal Performance and Sacred Music. The recital is in fulfillment of the Vocal Performance Bachelor of Music degree at Westminster Choir College. All are welcome to attend. The recital will be approximately 45 minutes with a reception dinner afterwards in the dining room.



PRESCHOOL NEWS

As we head into spring there is so much excitement at the Preschool!

Recently, we wrapped up our "Roads Study". This study is a favorite for our students because Roads take us everywhere – even to school! At the end of our study, the Somerset County Hazmat Truck visited which was so exciting.

We held our annual STEM Night on March 26th. In "Kitchen Chemistry" students were able to perform all types of hands on experiments using everyday items from your kitchen. In "Every Inch of Me" students were able to learn all about the 5 senses.

We also celebrated Easter with our Easter Egg Hunts and learned about Jesus' death and resurrection.

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.

As the school year comes to an end on June 7th, we turn our focus on our Summer Camp, which will run from June 24th through July 18th. Our themes this year are "Around the World in 15 Days" including The Rainforest, America the Beautiful, The Arctic and A Down Under Experience. Registration has begun for our summer camp!

We are currently enrolling for September 2024. If you or someone you know would like to find out more about our program, please feel free to call or email the Preschool, at (908) 369-7885 or Preschool@SBRChurch.org.

April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 Choir Rehearsal at 7:30 PM in Parlor	5	6
7 Communion	8 <i>Preschool Resumes</i>	9	10 Knit, Pray, Crochet at 7:00 PM at Stockman home	11 Choir Rehearsal at 7:30 PM in Parlor	12	13 Family Challenge Drop-Off 10 AM - 12:30 PM Cub Scout Car Wash 11AM - 3 PM
14	15	16	17 Consistory at 7:30 PM in Parlor	18 Choir Rehearsal at 7:30 PM in Parlor	19	20
21 Women's Group	22	23	24 Knit, Pray, Crochet at 7:00 PM at Stockman home	25 Choir Rehearsal at 7:30 PM in Parlor	26 Ashley LiBrizzi Senior Recital at 4:30 PM in Sanctuary	27 Roast Beef Dinner 4:00 PM -6:30 PM
28 Book Club at 7:00 PM via Zoom	29	30				

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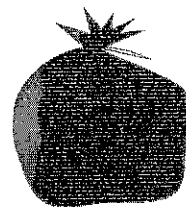


Live & Love Like Jesus

Rev. Stephen Eckert ~ Pastor
Mr. John Colaiacovo ~ Music Director
Mrs. Karen Abbatiello ~ Church Secretary
Mrs. Jennifer Feaster ~ Preschool Director
Mrs. Maritza Acosta ~ Sexton

Lenten Family Challenge

For those who have been collecting & storing items throughout the Season of Lent, you are invited to bring your items to the church parking lot on Saturday, April 13th, from 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM!



All proceeds will go toward the fundraising efforts of the 175th Committee

Early or late donations will not be accepted!