



CONTACT

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***South Branch
Reformed Church***

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@SBRChurch



sbrchurch

FROM THE PASTOR

As a congregation we went through Advent, Christmas, Lent, Holy Week, and Easter in four months! As soon as we were wrapping up one season, we were thrust into another with barely some time to reflect and appreciate what we have just experienced and celebrated. We ordered poinsettias & lilies just months apart from each other. It felt as Christmas decorations in the Sanctuary came down as quickly as they went up because Lent & Easter preparations were already beginning.



It was hard to catch your breath during this time. It was even more difficult to appreciate our celebrations because the next one was already coming. With the holiday whirlwind past us, I feel like I am, just now, adjusting to it all being finished.

We were able to experience a solar eclipse (even though it was too cloudy to truly appreciate it). We received over 17 inches of rain from January to March. Thankfully, 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.



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

- + New Members Class is set to begin on Sunday, May 5th.
- + Mystery Event & Dinner on Saturday, May 11th at 5:00 PM.
- + Pentecost Sunday on May 19th - Wear something red to church!
- + Trinity Sunday is on May 26th.

See you in worship & fellowship!

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 Aiden Stabile
Ryan Stabile
- 24 Rich Norz
- 29 Michael Murray



May Anniversaries

- 2 Dominick & Karen
Abbatiello
- 16 Tom & Beth
Bernard
- 19 William & Carmen
Munro
- 26 Joe & Irene
Foley
- 29 John & Kim
Colaiacovo

TREASURER’S NOTES

Spring is finally here. Gone are the dismal days of winter. The earth is awakening with an array of brilliant colors and sweet smells. Our church is coming alive as we continue to plan for our 175th anniversary, which is just one year away. We have identified the projects needed to beautify our building. A big thanks to all who have donated thus far and continue to donate, to the various fund raisers. With your generous support we will be able to complete those projects in time for the celebration.



March turned out to be a good month, financially. We started the month, \$3,011 in the red. Pledges totaled over \$12,000. Easter Sunday contributed another \$1,400. Our corned beef dinner made a profit of \$1,900. Our receipts for March were \$24,231. However, March is a month where several quarterly payments are made, in addition to our regular expenses. We ended the month, \$104 in the red. What a comeback! Let’s keep this momentum going. Keep up with your pledges. Submit your classis assessment of \$100 per member. Support the upcoming Roast Beef Dinner. We can get back in the black if we work together.



May God continue to bless SBRC and its people.

~ Robyn Friedlander

FLOOD WALL DRILL

On Saturday, June 8th, SBRC will hold a “Flood Wall Drill”. Hurricane Season is from June 1st to November 30th and the forecast for the 2024 Hurricane Season is: 23 Named Storms (14 is the average) with 11 Hurricanes (7 is the average) with 5 Hurricanes between at a Category 3 or greater (3 is the average). The potential for a very active & stormy Hurricane Season is pretty high. We NEED to be ready.



The Drill will be a time for those already trained to be re-acquaint with the materials & refined our skills. Also, it is an opportunity to teach those who were not able to go through the initial training.

The importance of this drill cannot be overstated! We will need all available hands to participate, practice, and learn so that our mitigation efforts are not in vain. Please make every effort to join us on June 8th! Please watch for more information in the June newsletter & in the Sunday bulletins.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The Sunday School is rolling through the month of April. Classes resumed on April 7th following a short break for Easter celebrations.

On Sunday, May 12th the students will participate in a Mother's Day activity.

Believe it or not our school year is already winding down. Plans are in the works for our Summer Kick-Off Carnival and Ice Cream Social, set for June 2nd to celebrate another great year of Sunday School. The children will begin in Church and following the year-end ceremony will head out for some fun. Younger siblings (and grandchildren) are welcome and encouraged to attend!

We are also planning for our 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



Summer Kick-Off Carnival & Ice Cream Social

Sunday, June 2
Following the Children's Sermon – 12 PM



LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MAY

May 5:

Acts 10:44-48

Psalm 98

1 John 5:1-6

John 15:9-17

May 12:

Acts 1:15-26

Psalm 1

1 John 5:9-13

John 17:6-19

May 19:

Acts 2:1-21

Psalm 104:24-35b

Romans 8:22-27

John 16:4b-15

May 26:

Isaiah 6:1-8

Psalm 29

Romans 8:12-17

John 3:1-17

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club started in January 2015 and has been meeting monthly. Meetings are held over Zoom so that those out of state can participate in the discussion. The May gathering will mark the 98th book that the group has read and discussed!!



On May 28th, the group will discuss "The World Played Chess" by Robert Dugoni at 7:00 PM via Zoom. Consider picking up a copy and joining in the discussion!

Summer Reading List:

June - "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks" by Rebecca Skoort

July - "All the Light We Cannot See" by Anthony Doerr

August - "Summer Wives" by Beatriz Williams

September - "Winter Garden" by Kristin Hannah



WOMEN'S GROUP

The Women's Group met during coffee hour April 21st to trim and sort stamps. We were down to only two members, but Phyllis Zeban and Juli Sikora deftly scissored around 143 stamps to send down to Fort Meyers, Florida, where Alliance Stamp Ministry will sell them to raise money to print Sunday School materials in Spanish for both the United States and Central America. Please be on the lookout for stamps in your mail. We've reached the bottom of the basket once again.



After sending a check for \$100 to Christian Blind Mission in February, from the coins that you donate, we received notice that another crippling eye disease is devastating the people of Africa in addition to river blindness. It's trachoma, a painful condition where the eye lashes grow inward and scratch the eye until it is blind. Without the medicine that your coins help to purchase, people resort to pulling out their eye lashes in order not to go blind. The next time you come across some coins, think of these people and how much good you can do with your pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters to alleviate this suffering. The coin container is just outside the sanctuary doors, next to the steps. And our deepest thanks to those who already faithfully remember to do this.



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*.

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

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

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

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

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

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

May 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Choir at 7:30pm in Parlor	3	4
5 Communion New Members Class	6	7	8	9 <i>Preschool Mother's Day Tea</i> Choir at 7:30pm in Parlor	10 <i>Preschool Mother's Day Tea</i>	11 Mystery Event & Dinner at 5pm in Dining Room
12 New Members Class	13	14	15 Knit, Pray, Crochet at 7pm at Stockman home	16 June Newsletter items due!! Choir at 7:30pm in Parlor	17	18
19 New Members with the Elders Women's Group	20 <i>Preschool Father's Field Day</i>	21 <i>Preschool Father's Field Day</i>	22 Consistory at 7:30pm in Parlor	23 Choir at 7:30pm in Parlor	24	25
26 Sacrament of Baptism Book Club at 7pm via Zoom	27	28	29 Knit, Pray, Crochet at 7pm at Stockman home	30 Choir at 7:30pm in Parlor	31	

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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

**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

