



CONTACT

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**South Branch
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FROM THE PASTOR

Currently, I am in Tucson, AZ attending the Annual Stated Clerks Gathering as well as the 2024 RCA General Synod. I thank you for the prayers of safe travel for me and all of the delegates. Please continue to pray for our time spent in discussion & deliberation during the meeting. Our agenda is very full and there are recommendations that can & will affect our historic denomination and our shared future. Your prayers are appreciated!



Our kids have wrapped up another school year. Vacations beckon us with the promise of good times & good memories. Family gatherings are held after months of school & work. Another way to beat the heat of Sumer is time spent in the air conditioning with a good book or the latest binge-worthy show. All of these vie for our attention & participation as the Summer months envelope us.



Who could compete against these opportunities? It is no wonder why SBRC experiences a significant dip in attendance as we enter the Summer months. We see it each year and we have come to expect it as regularly as we expect the sun to rise each morning.

At SBRC, I cannot offer you the cool temperatures provided by air conditioning or binge-worthy suspense shows or action-packed activities. However, I can offer you the opportunity to create lasting memories as you worship together as a family or the time to gather with your church family over coffee or the opportunity to participate in creating lasting connections with people that care for and love you as you are! I can offer you the opportunity to feel connected with others that the world around us does not offer - a connection that doesn't require anything of or from you other than just being yourself!



So, as we enter the Summer months, don't forget that SBRC will be here and waiting to welcome you with open arms, a friendly face, and an opportunity to encounter God's love!



Hope to see you over the Summer!



July Birthdays:

- 01 Tara Mazzarella
- 02 Paul Stabile
- 07 Mark Messineo
- 09 Violet Mazzarella
- 11 Gia Zeban
- 15 Debbie Norz
- 17 Jennifer Krause
- 19 Annette LiBrizzi
- 27 Cheryl Speciale
Tyson Stramaglia
- 30 Barbara Eckert



July Anniversaries

- 01 Steve & Jeanette Hubscher
- 03 Michael & Emily Muller
- 10 Paul & Kelly Stabile
- 18 Nick & Cheryl Speciale
- 29 Facial Akhdim & Jessica Estevez

TREASURER’S NOTE

Summer is upon us. Everything is winding down at SBRC. Sunday School and the Choir are on vacation until the fall. There are no fund raisers scheduled till September. But the church is not on vacation.



Services will be held. We still must pay our bills. Please help us to fulfill our obligations by submitting your pledges regularly, whether online, by mail or best of all, in person. It is also a suitable time to send in your classis dues (\$100 per member) if you have not done so already.

We started May, \$3,510 in the black. Pledges were fair for this time of year. Thankfully, there were no unexpected expenses. We did lose some ground. But I am happy to report we ended the month, \$3,402 in the black.

Please continue to support SBRC throughout the summer so we can remain in the black.



May God continue to bless our church and its people.

~Robyn Friedlander

HAM DINNER

The Ham Dinner will be held on Saturday, September 7, 2024 from 4:30pm to 6:00pm with Chef Tyson presiding over the kitchen! All tickets are \$20.

Call (908) 369-4956 to reserve tickets or purchase online at:

app.gopassage.com/events/2024-ham

Menu

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

We hope you join us in the Dining Room!
If taking your dinner(s) to go, please remember to bring your reusable bag!
Online ticket sales begin on August 12th at 9:00 AM

UPCOMING BOOKS FOR BOOK CLUB!

In July, the Book Club will be reading “All the Light We Cannot See” by Anthony Doerr and will meet on Sunday, July 28th at 7pm via Zoom to discuss. There will be a library discussion kit available.



In August, the group will be reading “Summer Wives” by Beatriz Williams and will meet on Sunday, August 25th at 7pm via Zoom to discuss. There will be a library discussion kit available.

In September, the selection is “Winter Garden” by Kristin Hannah and the club will meet on Sunday, September 29th at 7pm via Zoom to discuss.

FOCUSED FOOD DRIVE

Hunger never takes a vacation and this time of the year is one of the hardest for those community organizations that assist families with food insecurity. For some in our community, they are not thinking about planning a trip, but they are thinking about how they are going to feed their children. For our local organization, the Hillsborough Food Pantry, the donations decrease significantly during this time. SBRC, however, is committed to helping them help our community.

SBRC has been asked to participate in a Focused Food Drive during the summer months. This will focus on gathering donations of two specific items that the Hillsborough Food Pantry needs the most – bags of dry beans and bags of rice! Not what you were thinking, right?



During the summer, SBRC will be collecting bags of dry beans and bags of rice!



It can be any kind of bean or rice that you would like to donate, but please make sure that the bag(s) **do not weigh more than 2 lbs. each** (this is not a warehouse shopping type of donation).

So, while you are out doing your weekly grocery shopping, pick up a bag and drop it off at the church. The best part is that these items are relatively inexpensive and easy to carry. For the clients, these items can be stored easily and can provide more nutritious meals.

Donations will be delivered to the Hillsborough Food Pantry throughout the summer months, but the last day of the collection will be **Sunday, August 18th**!

Thank you in advance for helping out our local Food Pantry!



August Birthdays:

- 3 Fern Wallack
- 4 Emily Muller
- 5 Jessica Estevez
- 17 Patrick Dougherty
- 24 Bea Staats
- 28 Malinda Murray



August Anniversaries

- 09 Ben & Danielle Burt
- 22 James & Renée Paterno



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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

2024 CHURCH DINNERS

The Church Dinners are certainly a wonderful source of fellowship and fun for all involved whether you help out at the dinner, dine in with us or take a meal to go! It is certainly something we all enjoy and don't want to see end. As a reminder, SBRC will host three more dinners in 2024:

September 7	Ham Dinner
October 19	Chicken Cordon Bleu
November 16	Turkey Dinner

Thank you for your continued support and energy in providing these wonderful meals to our family and friends of SBRC.