



CONTACT



Happy Thanksgiving!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Treasurer's Notes | 2 |
| Turkey Dinner | 2 |
| Community Dinners | 3 |
| Thanksgiving Eve Service | 4 |
| 175th Anniversary | 5 |
| Poinsettia Order Form | 6 |
| Monthly Calendar | 7 |

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNERS

As we all can agree, prices over the last few years have skyrocketed in all areas of daily living! Those who live with food insecurity are truly vulnerable as they have to find ways to feed their families. With this in mind, SBRC is keeping up the annual tradition of collecting food items to provide two complete Thanksgiving Dinners for members in our community through the Hillsborough Food Pantry.



A sign-up sheet has been posted on the bulletin board in the main hallway. Prayerfully consider participating in this event to bring a bit of joy in the lives of those around us.

All items need to be at the church on or before Sunday, **November 17th** so that they can be delivered to the Hillsborough Food Pantry. Thank you for your continued care and love for those around us!

2024 ADOPT A FAMILY

How would you feel if on Christmas morning there were no gifts under the tree? Kids rushing in to find nothing? It's hard to imagine, but they are facing that very situation this Christmas. Most of us are blessed with a Christmas chock full of overindulgence – of gifts under the tree, filled stockings, and large family gatherings.

Imagine wondering how to be able to celebrate Christmas at all. A lot of us will joke about getting socks and underwear from Mom on Christmas – but they're the number one item on someone's list. Simple things that we all take for granted mean the world to those struggling during this holiday season.

We will be working with the Hillsborough Food Pantry to fulfill some holiday wishes by adopting some of the client families. Each client has submitted a "wish list" of three items each under \$35 to the food pantry. SBRC will be "adopting" 12 of these clients for a total of 48 gifts.

Ornaments with gift tags for each person will be distributed on Sunday, November 24th – grab yours on the way out of church. Place the ornament on the tree in the parlor to help decorate – hang on to the tag.

Gifts need to be returned to church unwrapped with the tags attached by **December 8th**. If you have questions, please see Joanne Powell.



***South Branch
Reformed Church***

**870 River Road
Hillsborough, NJ
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Office: (908) 369-4956

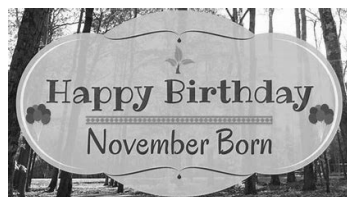
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Web:

www.sbrchurch.org

 **@SBRChurch**

 **sbrchurch**



November Birthdays:

- 3 Joe Foley
- 6 Holly Kowalenko
- 18 Betty York
- 24 Joanne Powell
- 25 Jan Hubscher



November Anniversaries

- 2 Thomas & Danielle Marshall
- 13 Patrick & Danielle Dougherty
- 27 Joe & Irene Bogdan

TREASURER’S NOTES

September is here. The leaves are changing to beautiful shades of orange and red. The air is cool and fresh. Summer has become a distant memory. The church is alive with numerous activities as we kick off another season at SBRC. Our pledges, both online and in person totaled \$11,670. Despite the low attendance at our ham dinner, we made a profit of \$1,869. Thank you especially for your generous donations at the next day food sale.



Unfortunately, September is a month where numerous large quarterly, payments are made. We also had a few unexpected repairs. We began September, \$3,582 in the red, and sadly ended the month, \$11,105 in the red.

But we will not be defeated. Catch up on those pledges. Pay your classis dues. Come out and support our remaining two dinners. We can do this people if we work together.

May God continue to bless SBRC and its members.

~ Robyn Friedlander

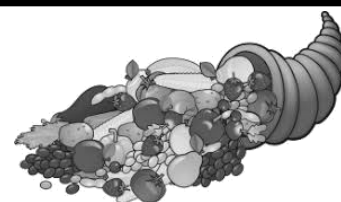
ROAST TURKEY DINNER

SBRC will be holding a Roast Turkey Dinner on Saturday, November 16th from 4:00 to 6:30 PM with Chef Tyson presiding over the kitchen. Tickets are \$20 per person.

Call (908) 369-4956 for tickets or make your reservations by visiting: app.gopassage.com/events/2024-turkey

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!



MENU

- Roast Turkey with Gravy
- Mashed Potatoes
- Herbed Stuffing
- Candies Sweet Potatoes
- Green Beans with Craisins
- Cole Slaw
- Cranberry Sauce
- Dinner Rolls
- Assorted Desserts
- Coffee, Hot Tea,
- Lemonade, Iced Tea

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING & COVERED DISH LUNCHEON

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, November 17, 2024** for the first of two Congregational Meetings immediately followship. We gather in the Dining Room after the meeting for lunch and fellowship. We will discuss the presentation of the Proposed 2025 Budget as well as receive Nominations for individuals to serve on the Consistory and the Endowment Committee.



Sunday bulletins will have Nomination Forms. Prior to submitting it, please be sure that the individual your are nominating agrees to serve. A sign-up sheet for the Covered Dish Luncheon is on the *Church News* bulletin board,

These are important meetings for SBRC and we hope to see you there! If you have any questions, please speak with Pastor Steve.

TREX BENCH CHALLENGE RETURNS!

In October 2023, SBRC undertook the challenge to collect 1,000 lbs of plastic within 12 months for a second bench. Some of us thought we would need the whole 12 months and still others thought that we would complete it easily. In true SBRC fashion, the goal was met within 8 months and the new bench was placed in front of the Chapel entrance.



October 2024 brings the return of the Trex Bench Challenge with the same goal of collecting 1,000 lbs of plastic within 12 months. The collection bin has been placed at the entrance by the parking lot. Please be sure to review the items that are accepted for collection.

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR NOVEMBER

November 3:

Ruth 1:1-18
Psalm 146
Deuteronomy 6:1-9
Psalm 119:1-8
Hebrews 9:11-14
Mark 12:28-34

November 10:

Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17
Psalm 127
Kings 17:8-16
Psalm 146
Hebrews 9:24-28
Mark 12:38-44

November 17:

1 Samuel 1:4-20
1 Samuel 2:1-10
Daniel 12:1-3
Psalm 16
Hebrews 10:11-25
Mark 13:1-8

November 24:

2 Samuel 23:1-7
Psalm 132:1-18
Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14
Psalm 93
Revelation 1:4b-8
John 18:33-37

November 28:

Thanksgiving

Joel 2:21-27
Psalm 126
Timothy 2:1-7, 15-18
Matthew 6:25-33

FROM THE PASTOR...

In the October Newsletter, you will have read that a lot of work was completed in and around the church during the summer. Well, the work continued through September and into October. Three windows in the parsonage were replaced, violations given to the preschool were abated, and adjustments were made to the new staircase to meet the requirements of the town. Another couple of busy months at SBRC! Many thanks to all who helped with these projects and a big thank you to Tom Kletz for replacing the sump pump pipe & taking care of the Preschool violations. Also, many thanks to Bill Munro for the time & energy spent on the new Church sign!

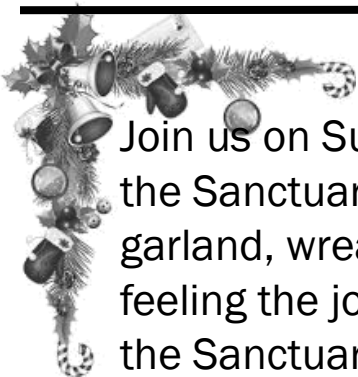
After time spent in prayer and discussion, the Consistory voted to discontinue the Thanksgiving Eve & Ash Wednesday Services. The primary reason was dwindling attendance (last year, both services saw only 7 in the pews, 5 in the choir, and 2 online) and given the amount of time and energy (not to mention heating & lights) that goes into these services, it is not feasible for them to continue at this time. However, I do hope that you will spend some time in prayer & reflection on these days and the significance they hold in our Christian life journey.

November brings a lot of events to an already busy calendar for all of us. Here is just a few to mark on your calendar:

- + Dinner Set-up on Nov. 15th at 7:00 PM.
- + Turkey Dinner on Nov. 16th from 4:00 PM to 6:30 PM.
- + Congregational Meeting & Covered Dish Lunch on Nov. 17th.
- + Thanksgiving Dinner Items & Poinsettia Orders due on Nov. 17th.
- + Decorate the Sanctuary following worship on Nov. 24th.

Thank you all for what you do to make SBRC a special place! Looking forward to worshipping and working with you all.

Pastor Steve



DECORATING THE SANCTUARY!

Join us on Sunday, November 24th during Coffee Hour as we decorate the Sanctuary for the Advent & Christmas Season! We will put up the garland, wreaths, and Christmas trees. A perfect opportunity to begin feeling the joy that this season brings as well as work together making the Sanctuary beautiful. Come out and have some fun!

As a reminder, in order to preserve their beauty & life, the poinsettias will be placed in the Sanctuary on the Third Sunday of Advent.

WOMEN'S GROUP

During the month of November, the Women's Group will revive a tradition that we began 9 years ago, 2015, with "Socks for the Homeless." For the four weeks of November, we will have a tub set out for you to drop in a package of new socks. As you are going up and down the grocery store aisles or shopping on line, please consider adding a package of socks to your cart. For most of us, not having socks to keep our feet warm is unimaginable. But for some people in our community, it is a sad reality. Lets keep them in mind as we begin the holiday season.



On October 20th, the Women's Group clipped 452 stamps, all the while enjoying tea sandwiches and Patti Kletz's delicious pumpkin-raisin cake. So far this year, as of the end of September, the Alliance Stamp Ministry in Fort Meyers, Florida, has raised \$22,000 in support of their Spanish language Sunday School materials program. Stamps are becoming more rare in our society, so when you see one in your mail, please save it and bring it to church to drop into the basket in the church office. And feel free to join us for clipping and sorting stamps on the third Sunday or each month during coffee hour. All are welcome and no experience is required.

Finally, the coin and dollar bills donations for the month of October for River Blindness was \$13.00. Remember to keep the poorest of the poor in Africa in your thoughts as we approach Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years. Lets give them hope as they struggle for basic necessities.

- Lynne Lothian

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The Sunday School is back in full swing. Staff and students are happy to be back and sharing their Sunday mornings together learning God's Word.

We are celebrating Halloween on October 27th. Children should meet at 9:50 AM for our costume parade through the Sanctuary. Our Mini and Junior classes will participate in Halloween games and activities in the Preschool classrooms, while our Senior Class will carve pumpkins. Students in our Senior class should bring a cleaned-out pumpkin that morning.

We'll give thanks during the month of November for our Church, family, and friends.

Plans are in the works for our Christmas Program. More information to follow.

All children ages 2-1/2 – 8th grade are invited to join us every Sunday morning. The Sunday School staff is excited to continue along this journey with their students.

Holiday Lights Hayride

Kick off the Christmas Season with your South Branch Reformed Church Family at
Norz Hill Farm and Market
120 South Branch Road
Hillsborough, NJ 08844

Sunday, December 8th at 5:30 PM

Festive lights, interactive holiday displays and a ride around the farm will bring back what really matters this holiday season—celebrating the birth of our Savior while making memories you will cherish.

Sign up during any coffee hour in November or by calling the Church office.

\$12.00/per ticket

Christmas Memorial Poinsettias

Christmas is a time of rejoicing and reflection. It is also time to order one or more poinsettias to help decorate our Sanctuary for Christmas. *Poinsettias will be placed in the Sanctuary on the Third Sunay of Advent to help maintain their life & beauty!*

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

The cost is \$10.00 each and the deadline for ordering is **Sunday, November 17^h**. If paying by check, please write “Poinsettia” in the memo section.



Poinsettia: # _____

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 |
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November 2024



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

| | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| <p>3 Daylight Saving Time Ends Communion</p> <p><i>SVP at 7:00pm in Fireside Room</i></p> | <p>4</p> | <p>5</p> <p><i>SVP at 7:00pm in Fireside Room</i></p> | <p>6</p> <p><i>SVP at 7:00pm in Fireside Room</i></p> | <p>7 <i>Preschool Closed</i></p> <p><i>SVP at 7:00pm in Fireside Room</i> Choir 7:30pm in Parlor</p> | <p>8 <i>Preschool Closed</i></p> | <p>9</p> |
| <p>10</p> <p><i>SVP at 7:00pm in Fireside Room</i></p> | <p>11</p> | <p>12</p> <p><i>SVP at 7:00pm in Fireside Room</i></p> | <p>13</p> <p>Knit, Pray, Crochet at 7:00pm <i>SVP at 7:00pm in Fireside Room</i></p> | <p>14</p> <p><i>SVP at 7:00pm in Fireside Room</i> Choir 7:30pm in Parlor</p> | <p>15</p> <p>Dinner Set-up at 7:00pm</p> | <p>16 Newsletter Items Due!! Turkey Dinner 4:00pm to 6:30pm</p> |
| <p>17 Congregational Meeting & Covered Dish Luncheon Dinner Items & Poinsettia Orders Due!</p> | <p>18</p> | <p>19</p> <p><i>SVP at 7:00pm in Fireside Room</i></p> | <p>20</p> <p><i>SVP at 7:00pm in Fireside Room</i> Consistory at 7:30pm in Parlor</p> | <p>21</p> <p><i>SVP at 7:00pm in Fireside Room</i> Choir 7:30pm in Parlor</p> | <p>22</p> | <p>23</p> |
| <p>24 Decorate Sanctuary following worship</p> <p>Book Club at 7:00pm via Zoom</p> | <p>25 <i>Preschool Thanksgiving</i></p> <p><i>SVP at 7:00 PM in Fireside Room</i></p> | <p>26 <i>Preschool Thanksgiving</i></p> | <p>27</p> | <p>28 Church & Preschool Closed</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> | <p>29 Church & Preschool Closed</p> | <p>30</p> |

South Branch Reformed Church
870 South Branch Road
Hillsborough, NJ 08844

Thankful Family  ALL
LOVE GIVE THANKS
Autumn Blessings



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

JEWELRY CREATION FUNDRAISER

Sunday, Dec. 8th, there will be a jewelry making fundraiser from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM. You can make a necklace or 2 bracelets. More options available and will be posted.

Cost is \$50 a person - \$25 towards supplies and \$25 to the church.

I'll have my creations out for ideas or for purchase. Anything purchased that day will have 25% donated back to the church. It's the perfect time to make



something special for yourself or a loved one. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board in November. Please contact Danielle Dougherty at (908) 227-7344 or DLD.Dougherty2@gmail.com.