



CONTACT



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***South Branch
Reformed Church***

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sbrchurch

TREASURER'S NOTES

December is a pivotal month for the finances of the church. For the past several years, our current expense budget has been in the red as we start the last month of the year. As I would nervously pay our bills, including the large quarterly payments, I would pray for generous donations and hope for a miracle to get us back in the black or at least break even.



This year was a little different. We began December, \$2,043 in the black. We still made the made the large quarterly payments in addition to our regular expenses. However, the monthly donations were extraordinary. Pledges totaled over \$23,000. Despite lower than usual attendance on Christmas Eve, donations were generous. Thanks to your love and support for SBRC, we ended 2024, \$11,251 in the black.

But there is more to this story. As I recorded the donations, I realized something incredibly special. Over \$10,000 of the donations came from people outside our membership. People who love SBRC and wanted to show their support. This is truly a special place to so many.



May God continue to bless SBRC, its members, and the community beyond our walls.

~ Robyn Friedlander

February Birthdays

- 2 Kristin Gilmore
- 6 Frank Eckert III
- 8 James Nunn
- 13 Collin DePace
- 14 Thomas Bernard
Valerie Franco
- 15 Matthew Burt
- 17 Steve Eckert
- 21 Susan Rohner



February Anniversaries

- 17 Anthony & Dana
DePace
- 20 Tom & Patti
Kletz
- 20 Brent & Holly
Kowalenko



FROM THE PASTOR...

Thank you to all who helped with our Christmas traditions and worship services. A big thank you to our wonderful choirs for your energy and your voices in helping lead worship to praise our gracious God!



Thank you to all those who participated in the Sunday School Christmas Program! It was so great to see the adults participate with the children as we heard the familiar story of the birth of Jesus. Many thanks to Emily Muller and her helpers in pulling it off - it was a great time!!

Thank you to Danielle Dougherty for hosting a Jewelry Fundraiser in December and thank you to those who participated! The event raised \$150.00 for the church and those attending had a great time learning to make jewelry.

In an effort to beat the winter doldrums, join me for a movie night on Friday, February 7th in the Dining Room at 7:00pm to watch "Conclave". Feel free to bring snacks and beverages (adult beverages welcome) to share. Also, the tables and chairs will be moved, so bring a comfortable chair to enjoy the show!

2025 is just beginning and we are hoping to keep the activities & programs in the church running. The sign-up sheets for Greeters, Refreshments, and Sunday Flowers are still pretty empty - please stop by and see where you can help out! Also, we are always looking for different fellowship opportunities. So, if you have an idea, let us know and we can get it started! The only limitation is our imagination and/or desire to do things together as the SBRC family.

Pastor [Signature]

CORNERED BEEF & CABBAGE DINNER

SBRC will be holding a Corned Beef Dinner on Saturday, March 15th from 4:00 to 6:30 PM with Chef Tyson presiding over the kitchen. All tickets are \$20 and you can dine in or take out!

Call (908) 369-4956 for tickets or make your reservations by visiting: app.gopassage.com/events/2025-corned-beef. Online tickets available for purchase beginning February 2nd.

Menu

- Corned Beef
- Boiled Cabbage
- Parsley Potatoes
- Glazed Carrots
- Cole Slaw
- Rye & Irish Soda Breads
- Assorted Desserts
- Iced Tea, Lemonade, Hot Tea & Coffee



BOOK CLUB

The Book Club continues to meet each month (January to November) on the last Sunday of the month at 7:00pm via Zoom! As was shared in the January newsletter, this is the 10th year of the Book Club and a total of 104 books have been read & discussed. Why not join in the fun?!

The book chosen for February is "The Women" by Kristen Hannah and the group will gather via Zoom on February 23rd at 7:00pm. Zoom link will be provided in the weekly worship email on February 21st.



Upcoming Books:

March - "Unlocked" by Karen Kingsbury

April - "Yellowface" by R.F. Kuang

SOUPER-BOWL SUNDAY!

The Church Growth & Outreach Committee is reviving our Souper Bowl Sunday tradition to benefit the Hillsborough Food Pantry. Please place your donations of canned and/or packaged soup in the marked bin at the lobby entrance. Donations will be accepted until February 9th. Once again, we would like to thank you for your continued support of our local food pantry. If you have any questions, please speak with Holly Kowalenko.



LECTIONARY READINGS FOR FEBRUARY

February 2:

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Psalm 71:1-6

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Luke 4:21-30

February 9:

Isaiah 6:1-13

Psalm 138

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Luke 5:1-11

February 16:

Jerimiah 17:5-10

Psalm 1

1 Corinthians

15:12-20

Luke 6:1-6,16-21

February 23:

Genesis 45:3-15

Psalm 37:1-11,39-40

1 Corinthians

15:35-38,42-50

Luke 6:27-38

SBRC COMMITTEES

SBRC has eight committees that are chaired by a member of the Consistory. Listed below are the committees & the chairperson:

Worship - Emily Muller

Christian Education - Dan Davenport

Property - Nick Speciale

Finance & Administration - Joe LiBrizzi

Fellowship & Church Life - Tyson Stramaglia

Congregational Care - Holly Kowalenko

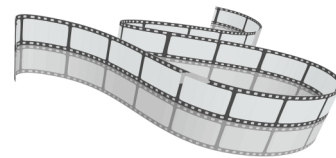
Mission & Social Witness - Irene Foley

Church Growth & Outreach - Holly Kowalenko

We are always looking for church members to participate in the committee and help us to continue our shared ministry. Each chairperson has been encouraged to gather those interested in serving on the committee and if you already know which committee you would like to serve on, please contact the chairperson listed above. Prayerfully consider participating in one of more of the committees and let's explore how God is leading us to new & amazing things in our church and our community!

MOVIE NIGHT!!

Brave the cold to enjoy the warmth of your SBRC family on Friday, February 7th as we gather to watch the movie, "Conclave", in the Dining Room at 7:00pm. Feel free to bring snacks & beverages (adult beverages as well) to share. Tables & chairs will be moved out of the way for you to bring a more comfortable chair.



Pre-School Update

Our students jumped right back into our preschool routines right after our Christmas break. We started the year off with an author's study. The students had fun hearing many different books from the same author and discussing the similarities and differences between their books. After that we moved on to the Tubes & Tunnels study. We are learning all about the characteristics of a tube and a tunnel and how we see them every day.



It's that time of year to start planning for September. Registration Forms will be available for current students, siblings, and church members starting on January 24th. For new students our Open House is scheduled for Saturday, February 8, 2025 at 10am. Please pass along the word to your family and friends. Registration forms will be available on the table in the front foyer.

If there is anything you would like to find out more about or to schedule a tour, please feel free to call us at 908-369-7885 or email the Preschool at Preschool@SBRChurch.org.

~ Jenn Feaster

WOMEN'S GROUP

The Women's Group met Sunday, January 19, during coffee hour to clip stamps and to enjoy snacks provided by Jim and Hedily Wendover. The group clipped 165 stamps to be sent to the Alliance Stamp Ministry in Fort Myers, FL who will sell them to raise money to print Sunday School materials in Spanish. Last year, 2024, they raised \$27,000. Please keep up the good work by looking for stamps. Christmas is a good time because of all the cards. Before you recycle them, check for stamps to drop into the basket in the church office. Lets be part of the next \$27,000. No need for you to clip if you don't want to. We'll be happy to do that for you. Our gratitude goes out to all the faithful who have been contributing stamps for years. Who knows how many children you have reached for Jesus?



Also getting rare to find are coins to drop into the River Blindness container at the foot of the sanctuary steps. The poorest children in Africa can receive medicine with your coins (or bills) to prevent river blindness, or can receive glasses to see the board in school, or can have cataract surgery. Each of these can change the life of a child forever. And if you don't have coins, a bill will help too. Remember to think of the less fortunate and to bless them with your giving. Look how Jesus praised the widow's mite.

- Lynne Lothian

February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Communion	3	4	5	6 Choir at 7:30pm in Parlor	7 Movie Night at 7pm in the Dining Room	8 Preschool Open House
9 Souper Bowl Items due!	10	11	12 Knit, Pray, Crochet at 7pm at the Stockman home	13 Choir at 7:30pm in Parlor	14 Preschool Closed	15
16 Women's Group Newsletter items are due! 2025 Directory Update Forms Due!	17 Preschool Closed	18	19 Consistory at 7:30pm in Parlor	20 Choir at 7:30pm in Parlor	21	22
23 Book Club at 7pm via Zoom	24	25	26 Knit, Pray, Crochet at 7pm at the Stockman home	27 Choir at 7:30pm in Parlor	28	

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Live & Love Like Jesus

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

BIBLE STUDY

A Sign-Up Sheet for a Lenten Bible Study has been posted on the hallway bulletin board. We will be using "Covenant" by William P. Brown as our guide. The group will meet for 6 Mondays at 7:00 PM in the Parlor beginning on March 10th to April 14th.

If you are interested in participating, please sign-up so that books and other resources needed for our time together.

Hope you will join us!!

