



# CONTACT

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***South Branch  
Reformed Church***

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**TREASURER'S NOTES**

April was a great month here at SBRC. So much activity as we prepare for our 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. The outside of the church looks great, especially the new landscaping. The banner between the two columns is stunning. The sanctuary received thorough cleaning and new shades were installed.

The Easter services were well attended, and people were very generous. The roast beef dinner was a tremendous success. Thanks to Tyson and all who helped or provided desserts, we made a profit of \$1,929. Thank you to our preschool for paying half of the 2025 plowing and salting bill. Thank you for supporting our clothing drive, which made a profit of \$433. Thank you to everyone who made donations to our special 175<sup>th</sup> event. We raised \$14,545.



Yes, April was a spectacular month, financially. We started the month, \$4,976 in the red in our current expense budget. Thankfully, expenses were average with no large, unexpected bills. I am happy to report, we ended April, \$3,076 in the black. Way to go, South Branch. Let us keep this momentum going.

May God continue to bless our church and its people.

~ Robyn Friedlander

**Join Us for a Day Trip to Lancaster, PA!**  
*Thursday, October 2, 2025*  
*(most local schools are closed on 10/2)*



**South Branch and Hillsborough Reformed, are teaming up for a wonderful fall day trip—and you're invited!**

We'll be traveling by bus to beautiful Lancaster, Pennsylvania for a day filled with fellowship, inspiration, and delicious food. The day begins with an early morning departure from SBRC promptly at **7:15 AM**, heading to the world-renowned **Sight & Sound Theatres** for the **11:00 AM performance of Noah**.

Following the show, we'll enjoy a delicious buffet meal at **Miller's Smorgasbord** at **2:30 PM**. We expect to arrive back to SBRC around 7 PM.

*Tickets are limited, so be sure to reserve your spot early!  
Reservation and payment are due on or before August 15.*



**June Birthdays:**

- 1 Danielle Burt
- 2 Mateo Akhdim
- 4 Mike Mastrosimone
- 11 Azucena Estevez
- 12 William Munro
- 13 Nathaniel Sarles
- 22 Kelly Stabile
- 23 Maria Cristina Sarles
- 27 Kim Kowalchuk
- 28 Armando Franco



**June Anniversaries:**

- 16 Lowell & Judy Kreeger
- 19 Frank & Barbara Eckert
- 30 Tom & Sherry Marlatt

**Summer Kick-Off Carnival & Ice Cream Social**  
To celebrate a great year of Sunday School



Sunday, June 1  
Following the Children's Moment – 12 PM

RSVP to your teacher

The Sunday School will wrap up our year on Sunday, June 1st. To celebrate a great year and the start of Summer, the teachers are hosting a Summer-Kick Off Carnival for our students and Ice Cream Social (during coffee hour) for the entire congregation. 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!

I want to send a special thank you to all our Sunday School Volunteers that helped make this school year a success. Our teachers: Danielle Dougherty, Jessica Estevez, Kacey Kowalchuk, and Debbie Norz, and substitutes: Adam and Valerie Franco, Mary Nunn and Kelly Stabile. We were very blessed to have had such a great turnout of volunteers, we couldn't have done it without you.

Wishing all our students, volunteers, and Church families a blessed and safe summer break and looking forward to catching up on Sunday mornings. Watch for information throughout the Summer regarding our Welcome Back picnic and the start of our 2025-2026 school year.

- Tracy Davenport

**SUMMER WORSHIP BEGINS!**

As we enter the Summer, please remember that SBRC will be gathering each and every Sunday at 10:00 AM in the Sanctuary. Please dress cool & comfortable. Feel free to bring a bottle of water with you to keep hydrated! We look forward to seeing you during the Summer as we continue to give thanks & praise to our gracious God.



## FLOOD WALL DRILL

Hurricane Season is from June 1<sup>st</sup> to November 30<sup>th</sup> and all available hands are needed to help keep SBRC dry!

There will be a Flood Wall Drill on Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 AM. We will gather in the Dining Room to review the process, answer any questions, and then make our way outside.

This is the perfect opportunity for those who missed the initial training and it will be a great refresher for the rest. Please make effort to attend and participate in this drill so that we will be ready for when it is really needed!



## LECTIONARY READINGS FOR JUNE

### June 1:

Acts 16:16-34  
Psalm 97  
Revelation 22:12-14,  
16-17, 20-21  
John 17:20-26

### June 8:

Acts 2:1-21  
Psalm 104:24-35b  
Romans 8:14-17  
John 14:8-17, 25-27

### June 15:

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31  
Psalm 8  
Romans 5:1-5  
John 16:12-15

### June 22:

1 Kings 19:1-15a  
Psalm 42  
Galatians 3:23-29  
Luke 8:26-39

### June 29:

2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14  
Psalm 16  
Galatians 5:1, 13-25  
Luke 9:51-62

*In your presence there  
is fullness of joy...*

*Psalm 16:11*



## WOMEN'S GROUP

The Women's Group gathered during coffee hour on Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, and clipped 618 stamps, while enjoying snacks provided by Jim and Hedily Wendover. The stamps were sent to the Stamp Alliance in Fort Myers, Florida, who will sell them and use the money to print Sunday School materials in Spanish. With stamps being harder and harder to find, we encourage church members to bring any stamps they collect to the church office and put them in the basket. Try to keep a quarter inch border around each stamp so that the Alliance can get the best price for them. They can, however, use all stamps, regardless of border size.

Also, coins are becoming more difficult to find. Please drop any coins into the River Blindness container at the bottom of the stairs outside the sanctuary. Dollar bills are fine to give also. Jesus knew how important it was for a person to see, and he healed a beggar by putting mud on the beggar's eyes, then told him to wash it off. We may not have Jesus' healing powers, but we do have the opportunity to provide sight to people in the poorest of countries in Africa, such as Malawi. River Blindness needs money to transport the medicines that are donated, give glasses to school children, and prove cataract surgeries for babies, children, and adults. Please consider donating any coins (or dollars) as you enter the sanctuary.

## BOOK CLUB

The Book Club changed the meeting time to 8:00pm. In June, the Book Club will be meeting on Sunday, June 29<sup>th</sup> at 8pm via Zoom to discuss "The Wedding People" by Alison Aspach. All are welcome to join in the discussion and the fun!!

### Summer 2025 Book Club Reading List:

**July** "Iona Iverson's Rules for Commuting" by Clare Pooley

**August** "The Wishing Game" by Meg Shaffer

**September** "The Dead Romantics" by Ashley Poston



## FROM THE PASTOR...

What a great celebration for the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of SBRC! We gathered in worship and shared a wonderful meal together. As I have always said, SBRC is better when we are together!! Many thanks to everyone who worked hard in the planning & preparation for this milestone. SBRC is truly blessed to have you and your dedication to our church family.

On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, I will be travelling to Tucson, AZ to attend the Annual Stated Clerks Meeting and the 2025 RCA General Synod. I am happy to share that Robyn Friedlander is also going as a voting delegate from the Classis of Delaware-Raritan. So, I would ask for prayers for the both of us as we travel to do the work of the Church.

At SBRC, the arrival of June usually brings a “slow-down” period. Members and friends will take some well-deserved time off from work to enjoy the weather, vacation with their families, and visit with friends. Some will travel to other locations for a bit of relaxation and others will opt for “stay-cations”. Regardless, we are all looking forward to warmer temperatures and the opportunity to wind down for a bit. While we are getting ready for summer breaks/vacations, please remember that SBRC remains open for worship & fellowship opportunities.

Summer worship begins on Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup>! While the worship service will be shortened to help with the warmer temperatures, we will still have the opportunity to gather in fellowship! Over the last few years we experimented with worship outside, in the Dining Room, and in the Fireside Room. Due to the complaints about online worship quality, we will remain in the Sanctuary. So, please come dressed as cool & comfortable as possible.

*Pastor St*

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## HOME CALENDAR RAFFLE!

For \$10 you can help at-risk-families, AND maybe win some cash! Tickets are on sale now for HOME of Somerset County’s annual fundraiser. The calendar raffle draws three winners each week in November 2025, December 2025 & January 2026. All tickets are re-entered for each weekly drawing giving ticket holders multiple chances to win! Each winning day of the three-month period has a designated value of \$50 to \$100 and winners will receive a check in the mail after each drawing. Please contact Karen Donohue, Director of Volunteer Services at 908-704-1920 to purchase your ticket; tickets are \$10 each. You may also stop by HOME’s office at the address listed above. HOME provides emergency shelter, transitional housing and support services to families throughout Somerset County. HOME is supported by over 30 religious congregations and a large network of volunteers.



# June 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion Summer Kick-Off & Ice Cream Social  SVP in Fireside Room	2  SVP in Fireside Room	3  SVP in Fireside Room	4  SVP in Fireside Room	5	6	7
8 Summer Worship Begins  SVP in Fireside Room	9  SVP in Fireside Room	10  Somerset Patriots Game at 6:35pm SVP in Fireside Room	11  Knit, Pray, Crochet at 7pm at Stockman home SVP in Fireside Room	12	13	14
15	16  Newsletter Items Due!	17	18  SVP in Fireside Room Consistory at 7:30pm in Parlor	19  SVP in Fireside Room	20	21
22  SVP in Fireside Room	23 Preschool Summer Camp Begins  SVP in Fireside Room	24  SVP in Fireside Roomi	25  Knit, Pray, Crochet at 7pm at Stockman home SVP in Fireside Room	26	27	28
29  SVP in Fireside Room Book Club at 8pm via Zoom	30  SVP in Fireside Room					

South Branch Reformed Church  
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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

## HOME POLO CLASSIC

Join HOME of Somerset County at the annual Hunterdon Polo Classic, a family fun event benefiting local charities, on Saturday, June 14th at Fieldview Farm in Pittstown. The event features a fast-paced polo match, classic car parade, equestrian entertainment, Tewksbury Foot Bassets and Essex Fox Hounds. Prizes for Best Tailgate and Most Festive Hat will be awarded. General admission tickets are \$40 and children under 12 are free. Admission plus lunch at the HOME tailgate is \$60. Tailgate sponsorship levels are also available. For more information or to buy tickets, call Karen at 908-704-1920, email [Karen@homescnj.org](mailto:Karen@homescnj.org) or visit [www.homescnj.org/polo](http://www.homescnj.org/polo). Only tickets purchased through HOME will benefit our programs.