

CONTACT



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***South Branch
Reformed Church***

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FROM THE PASTOR...

September 7th will be **Hawaiian Shirt Sunday** to mark the last “Summer Worship” Sunday! Come to church decked out in your colorful Summer attire. For those of us who enjoy taking cruises, you know that your closet has a couple of Hawaiian shirts - so, wear one to church and let’s fill the Sanctuary with color as we say goodbye to Summer!

In many way, September is a “re-start” at SBRC. Many of our programs and activities go silent as most of us spent time away. There are a number of activities gearing up as we gather together in worship and fellowship.

The **Ham Dinner** will be held on Saturday, September 13th from 4:00 PM to 6:30 PM in the Dining Room. It will certainly be nice to see all of the faces of our members and friends as we are able to gather around the table and enjoy a meal together.

SBRC Choirs are getting their voices ready for another year of leading us in worship and praise! Adult Choir Rehearsals are set to begin on September 11th at 7:30pm in the Parlor and their return to the Sanctuary will be on Sunday, September 14th! **Junior Choir** will begin rehearsals following worship on Sunday mornings in September, so please be sure to watch the bulletin for when that resumes. I’m sure all of us will be very happy to their voices on Sunday morning!



Sunday School is set to begin on September 14th!!! The “**Welcome Back**” **Picnic** will be held following worship and a sign-up sheet has been posted for people to share what they will be bringing.

I am planning on starting a new gathering beginning on September 29th at 7:00pm in the Parlor - **Lectio Divina**. It is an ancient practice of embracing Scripture in a deeper way and I hope you will join me in a new (well, “new” to us) way of exploring God’s Word and our faith. More information can be found in the Newsletter. Come out and give it a try!!

Plastic Update!! We continue to collect plastic for a new bench. So far, we have collected 632 lbs. and still need 368 lbs. We have two months of collecting left to meet the 1,000 lbs. goal.

Pastor [Signature]



September Birthdays:

- 4 Tom Evers
- 7 Tracy Davenport
Danielle Dougherty
Jessica Hinks
- 13 Lucas Akhdim
- 15 John Colaiacovo
Thomas Marlatt
- 16 Michael Powell
- 17 Gilbert Warner
- 18 Ben Burt
- 22 Anthony Cole
- 27 Joseph LiBrizzi
- 28 Amanda Sarles
- 29 Thomas Kletz



September Anniversaries

- 3 Robert & Ines
Kuehn
- 5 Joe & Annette
LiBrizzi
- 10 Britt & Joanne
Powell
- 14 Joe & Juli Sikora
- 22 Dan & Tracy
Davenport
- 23 Glenn & Jessie
Hinks

TREASURER'S NOTES



Happy Summer everyone. I hope everyone is enjoying their well-earned vacations. Let me bring you up to date on the finances of the church.

We began June \$2,084 in the black. Pledges were decent for June, totaling \$11,176. Unfortunately, June is the month where several large, quarterly payments are made. We ended the month \$4,480 in the red.

As stated above, we began July in the red in our current expense budget. Pledges for July were an impressive \$14,000. However, all our annual inspections of the boilers, the alarm systems and the replacement of the UV filter came due. Also, we paid for the 2nd and 3rd quarters of our classis assessment. As a result, we ended July, \$4,626 in the red. We have experienced worst financial summers, so I know we can get ourselves back in the black come fall.

May God continue to bless SBRC and its people.

---Robyn Friedlander

HAM DINNER

SBRC will be holding a **Ham Dinner** on Saturday, **September 13th** from 4:00 to 6:30pm with Chef Tyson presiding over the kitchen. Cost is \$20.00 per ticket.

Call (908) 369-4956 for tickets or make your reservations by visiting: app.gopassage.com/events/2025-ham

Menu

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

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!
Online ticket sales began on August 18 at 9AM

SBRC CHOIRS

One of the best parts about the arrival of September is the return of the SBRC Choirs! We all enjoy the dedication and the talent of each of our choir members and we look forward to their voices leading us during Worship.

Junior Choir is set to resume in September and all children from Preschool to 8th Grade are invited to join in the fun! Rehearsals will be held on Sundays following Worship in the Parlor.

Adult Choir will resume in September and we invite all interested singers beginning in the 8th Grade. Rehearsals are held on Thursdays at 7:30pm in the Parlor and will begin on September 11th.

No experience or formal training is required to be part of the choirs! We are always looking for new members. All that is necessary is a desire to sing, assist in the worship service through our shared voices, and a willingness to have a great time!



SUNDAY SCHOOL



Please join us on Sunday, September 14 for the first day of our 2025-2026 Sunday School Year followed by our Welcome Back Picnic. All are welcome! As with previous years, the picnic is potluck. Paper goods, burgers, hotdogs, condiments and rolls will be provided and Church members are asked to fill in the rest - bringing sides, desserts and beverages. A sheet has been posted in the hallway to sign up.

As tradition here at South Branch, our Sunday School students start each Sunday morning in the Sanctuary at 10AM. Following the Children's Sermon, the children and teachers will head out to their classrooms for the remainder of the hour, concluding at approximately 11AM.

Please complete a registration form and return it to me by text or email at your earliest convenience. This information will be used to set up classes and order curriculum. All children 2-1/2 years through 8th grade are welcome, bring a friend!

Group activities to look forward to this year include: a Halloween Party, Christmas Program, Valentine's Day activity, Lenten Pretzels, Easter activity and Egg Hunt, Mother's Day activity and fun times together each week making friends and learning God's Word along the way.

We are always looking for volunteers to help make our program even better. If you are interested in helping in any way: teaching, co-teaching, substituting, event planning, etc. please reach out.



LECTIONARY READINGS FOR SEPTEMBER

September 7:

Jeremiah 18:1-11
Psalm 139:1-6,13-18
Philemon 1:1-12
Luke 14:25-33

September 14:

Jeremiah 4:11-12,22-28
Psalm 14
1 Timothy 1:12-17
Luke 15:1-10

September 21:

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1
Psalm 79:1-9
1 Timothy 2:1-7
Like 16:1-13

September 28:

Jeremiah 32:1-3a,6-15
Psalm 91:1-6,14-16
1 Timothy 2:1-7
Luke 16:19-31



- Tracy Davenport



We had a great time at our Summer Camp. Four weeks of “Summer Adventures” flew right by. The children enjoyed stories, crafts and outdoor play in all of our themes – Around the Campfire, Outer Space, Ahoy Matey & Jungle Safari.

The start of the school year is upon us, and we look forward to another wonderful school year here at South Branch. We are so fortunate that all of our wonderful staff will be returning for another school year, and we welcome Diana Dudzinski who will be teaching our Early Beginnings class and will also be a substitute for us. The start of this school year is also special because it is the start of Kyleann Thosten’s 20th school year here at South Branch. As the head teacher and respected leader in our program she has spent two decades nurturing her students with patience, warmth, and unwavering care. She brings joy, structure and a sense of belonging to each school day. Congratulations Kyleann.

We are getting ready to welcome returning and new families to our Open House on Friday September 5th. This is a great opportunity for students and families to meet their teachers, classmates and other families. The first day of classes will be Monday September 8th. This September, the Preschool is full with 74 registered students across 5 classes. We have also added a 3-year-old extended day class this year which we are excited about!

Our Early Beginnings class starts on Wednesday, September 24th and runs for nine weeks. Our fall session is all about colors. This is our mommy & me class which is a great introduction to Preschool.

If you would like information about any of our programs, please contact me at preschool@sbrchurch.org.

~ Jenn Feaster

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club has been holding their monthly meetings on the last Sunday of the month at 8:00pm via Zoom. Our participants include church members, families & friends of church members, and out-of-state family members. We are always looking for more members & friends to join us!



The next meeting will be on Sunday, September 28th at 8pm via Zoom to discuss “The Dead Romantics” by Ashley Poston.

October’s reading selection is “Bright Young Women” by Jessica Knoll. For November the group has chosen “Skeletons at the Feast” by Chris Bohjalian.

HOME FUNDRAISER

HOME Calendar Raffle! 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 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 at 908-704-1920 to purchase your ticket; tickets are \$10 each. Raffle tickets also available through Kate Sarles at church.



LECTIO DIVINA

Lectio Divina means “divine reading” and its foundation is in the Jewish practice of reading the Haggadah (the text read during Passover) that retells the Exodus story. St. Gregory of Nyssa introduced the Christian form of this practice and it was encouraged by St. Benedict of Nursia, the founder of the Benedictine order.



Lectio Divina provides us a way to develop a deeper relationship with God by prayerfully reflecting on Scripture.

Lectio Divina focuses on a chosen text from Scripture and is read four times, giving an opportunity to think deeply on the words and to respond thoughtfully. Lectio Divina incorporates four stages: Lectio (Read), Meditatio (Reflect), Oratio (Respond), and Contemplatio (Rest).

This is not a Bible Study, rather it is an opportunity to embrace Scripture in a different way as well as an opportunity to expand our prayer life. Pastor Steve will host an informational session on Monday, September 29th at 7:00pm in the Parlor. A sign-up sheet has been posted on the bulletin board. At this gathering, we will decide on future meeting schedule. If you need more information or if you have questions, please speak with Pastor Steve.

Confirmation Class!

SBRC has a Confirmation Class again! After a break of a few years, Pastor Steve is getting ready to welcome a new group of young adults to continue their learning as well as to explore their faith. A letter was mailed out (yes, he send it out the “old way”) to each of the students with the class expectations and schedule for the upcoming year.

Confirmation Class will begin on Sunday, **October 5th** in the Parlor from **7:00 PM to 8:30 PM**. If you have any questions or need more information, please speak with Pastor Steve.

Please be sure to keep each of these students in your prayers as they take the next step in their faith journey and learning what it means to be an active member at SBRC and a participant in the ministry of Jesus Christ.



NEW AED IN CHURCH OFFICE

In 2005, SBRC purchased an AED to be stored in the Church Office with the hopes of never having to use it, but secure in the knowledge that one is readily available should it be needed. Twenty years later, the AED is too old to purchase replacement batteries as well as adult & pediatric pads. So, a new AED was needed.



Thanks to a generous donation from the SBRC Preschool, a new AED was purchased and placed in the Church Office. For those who have been trained in the use of an AED, it is located in the bookshelf by the door to the Church Office. Many thanks to the SBRC Preschool for this amazing donation! We continue to pray that we never have to use it!

September 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 SVP at 7pm in Fireside Room	3 SVP at 7pm in Fireside Room	4 SVP at 7pm in Fireside Room	5 Preschool Open House	6
7 Communion Hawaiian Shirt Sunday	8 Preschool Begins! SVP at 7pm in Fireside Room	9	10 Knit, Pray, Crochet at 7pm at the Stockman Home SVP at 7pm in Fireside Room	11 Choir at 7:30pm in Parlor	12 Dinner Set-up at 7pm	13 Ham Dinner from 4:00pm to 6:30pm
14 Regular Worship Resumes Sunday School Begins! "Welcome Back" Picnic	15 SVP in Fireside Room at 7pm	16 Newsletter Items Due!	17 SVP in Fireside Room at 7pm Consistory at 7:30pm in Parlor	18 SVP at 7pm in Fireside Room Choir at 7:30pm in Parlor	19	20
21 Women's Group	22 Preschool Back to School Night	23 Preschool Back to School Night	24 Knit, Pray, Crochet at 7pm at the Stockman Home	25 Choir at 7:30pm in Parlor	26	27
28 Book Club at 8pm via Zoom	29 Lectio Divina at 7pm in Parlor	30				

**SBRC Sunday School
Registration Form
2025 – 2026**

Name of Child

Age

Grade

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Name(s) of Parent/Guardian

Mobile Phone Number(s)

Email Address(es)

Home Address

Please list any food allergies or medical concerns

*Please complete and return to the Church prior to the start of
Sunday School on September 14, 2025.*

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



2025 CHURCH DINNERS



September brings the next round of Church Dinners at SBRC! We truly appreciate all the members & friends that help make these dinners a success! Whether you are part of the kitchen crew, the set-up team, servers, patron, and/or clean-up crew, each of you make these dinners a success and a fun part of SBRC! Be sure to mark you calender for the remaining 2025 Dinners:

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

September 13th - Ham Dinner
October 18th - Chicken Francaise Dinner
November 15th - Turkey Dinner

The Dining Room is open and we are excited to see you all return. If taking your dinner(s) home, please remember to bring a reusable bag!