



# CONTACT



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## COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNERS

Those who live with food insecurity are truly vulnerable as they have to find ways to feed their families with prices for everything increasing year after year. 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 16<sup>th</sup>** so that they can be delivered to the Hillsborough Food Pantry. Thank you for your continued care and love for those around us!

## 2025 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 23rd – grab yours on the way out of church. Place the ornament on the tree in the Sanctuary, but keep the tag.

Gifts need to be returned to church unwrapped with the tags attached by **December 7<sup>th</sup>**. If you have questions, please see Joanne Powell.



***South Branch  
Reformed Church***

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### 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

## TREASURER'S NOTES

September has arrived with its warm days and chilly nights. Summer is fading from our memory as the church resumes the regular schedule filled with numerous activities. However, our incoming pledges are still in summer mode. We barely received \$8,860 this month. The ham dinner helped slightly to offset expenses by making a profit of \$1,875.



Unfortunately, September is a month where numerous large, quarterly payments are made. We began the month, \$5,709 in the red and sadly ended September \$14,219 in the red.

But South Branch won't be defeated if we work together to get back in the black. Catch up on those pledges. Pay your classis dues. Support our remaining two fund raiser dinners.

We can do this! May God continue to bless SBRC and its people.

~ Robyn Friedlander

## ROAST TURKEY DINNER

SBRC will be holding a Roast Turkey Dinner on Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup> 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/2025-turkey](http://app.gopassage.com/events/2025-turkey)

**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 16<sup>th</sup>**, 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 2026 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 bulletin board,

## WOMEN'S GROUP

The Women's Group met during coffee hour on Sunday Oct. 19th and clipped stamps while enjoying the delicious snacks provided by the Sarles family. A total of 472 stamps will be sent to the Stamp Alliance in Florida in order to raise money to print Sunday School materials in Spanish for children in both in the United States and abroad. So far this year the Stamp Alliance has raised \$29,000 for this project. As always, we thank the faithful stamp givers who put their stamps in the basket in the church office. As you're clipping, when possible please leave a quarter inch border around each stamp.



And for the eighth year, the Women's Group will be collecting new socks for the homeless in Hillsborough Township. Socks are the number 1 most requested item by the shelters to keep people's feet warm during the cold months ahead. Last year, our congregation gathered 178 pairs of socks to give to the local shelter. Please consider tossing pair of new socks into your grocery basket as you shop. They will provide hours of blessings.



Finally, remember to drop your coins or bills in the River Blindness container at the foot of the stairs to the sanctuary. River Blindness people provide glasses for students, surgeries, medicines, and education to the poorest people in Africa. The little that we give has great impact there.



## LECTIONARY READINGS FOR NOVEMBER

### November 2:

Isaiah 1:10-18  
Psalm 119:137-144  
2 Thessalonians 1:1-4,  
11-12  
Luke 19:1-10

### November 9:

Haggai 1:15b-2:9  
Psalm 98  
2 Thessalonians 2:1-5,  
13-17  
Luke 21:5-19

### November 16:

Malachi 4:1-2a  
Psalm 12  
2 Thessalonians 3:6-13  
Luke 21:5-19

### November 23:

Jeremiah 23:1-6  
Psalm 46  
Colossians 1:11-20  
Luke 23:33-43

### November 27:

#### Thanksgiving

Deuteronomy 26:1-11  
Psalm 100  
Philippians 4:4-9  
John 6:25-33

### November 30:

Isaiah 2:1-5  
Psalm 122  
Romans 13:11-14  
Matthew 24:36-44

## FROM THE PASTOR...

October continued to be a busy month at SBRC with a number of property concerns, repairs, and replacements being accomplished! First, the good news - the Preschool passed the re-licensing inspection with no violations!!

In other news, Phase One of the Parsonage basement repair was completed on Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> and Phase Two is in the works. Priming & painting of the exterior doors around the Church has begun. The roof of the Chapel (Blue Room) was replaced and we are truly grateful to our Preschool who helped to cover half of the cost of the roofing project. Keeping this 175 year old building up and running is a continual labor of love!!

We have projects waiting for better weather as well as saving up the needed funds: taking care of the steps in the front of the Sanctuary, pressure washing & painting the exterior (including the shutters), as well as looking into the Sanctuary windows to see if they can be repaired or do they need to be replaced.

Deepest thanks to Bill Munro for gathering estimates as well as the time spent at the building overseeing the work being completed. Thanks to Joe LiBrizzi & Mike Mastrosimone for painting the exterior doors. And big thanks to Steve Hubscher & Mike Mastrosimone for helping me to take out all of the window air conditioning units.

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:

- + Daylight Saving Time Ends on Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> (turn those clocks back on Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> before going to bed)
- + Sacrament of Communion, Reception of New Members, & Communion of the Saints on Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>
- + Dinner Set-up on Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM
- + Turkey Dinner on Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 PM to 6:30 PM
- + Congregational Meeting & Covered Dish Lunch on Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>
- + Thanksgiving Dinner Items due on Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>
- + Poinsettia Orders are due on Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>
- + Decorate the Sanctuary following worship on Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>

Thank you all for what you do to make SBRC a special place!

*Pastor Steve*

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## DECORATING THE SANCTUARY!



Join us on Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> 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.***

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

On Sunday, November 2nd, SBRC will welcome the newest members to the family: Christian Gilmore and Scott & Vera Wengryn! We are excited to welcome you into our family and look forward to working with you!

*Welcome*

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWEST DEACON!

We are pleased to announce that Danielle Dougherty was appointed to fill the un-expired Deacon term by the Consistory at the meeting on October 15th. Danielle is a long-time member of SBRC, teaches in the Sunday School program, helps with the Cemetery Committee, and has raised funds for the Church through her gifts at making jewelry.

Danielle will be ordained to the Office of Deacon and installed as a member of Consistory on Sunday, October 26th. We are excited to welcome Danielle and look forward to the gifts that she will bring in service to SBRC and Jesus Christ, our Lord.



## 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. Small change to the program this year, we have combined our Mini and Junior Classes. The combined class will be led by Jessica Estevez and Danielle Dougherty.

We are celebrating Halloween on October 26<sup>th</sup>. Children should meet at 9:50 AM for our costume parade through the Sanctuary. We will then head downstairs for some Halloween fun. Students in our Senior class (5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> grade) should bring a cleaned-out pumpkin that morning for carving.

On Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, our students will participate in a program-wide lesson for All Saints' Day. Details have been sent to families for needed supplies.

Plans are in the works for our Christmas Program, which will be presented to the Congregation on Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup> during Worship. More information for our students (and our Congregation) to follow.

All children ages 2-1/2 – 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Saturday, December 6th 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 any Sunday in November or by calling the Church office.

\$12.00/per ticket

*Rain date: Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM*

# *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 23<sup>rd</sup>**. 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
			<input type="checkbox"/> In Honor
			<input type="checkbox"/> In Memory
			<input type="checkbox"/> In Honor
			<input type="checkbox"/> In Memory
			<input type="checkbox"/> In Honor
			<input type="checkbox"/> In Memory

# November 2025



**Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat**

						1
2 Communion & Reception of New Members  Confirmation at 7pm in Parlor	3  Lectio Divina 7pm in Parlor	4	5	6 <i>Preschool Closed</i>  Choir at 7:30pm in Parlor	7 <i>Preschool Closed</i>	8
9	10	11	12  Knit, Pray, Crochet at 7:00pm	13  Choir at 7:30pm in Parlor	14  Dinner Set-up at 7:00pm	15  Turkey Dinner 4:00pm to 6:30pm
16 Congregational Meeting & Covered Dish Luncheon Confirmation at 7pm in Parlor	17  Lectio Divina 7pm in Parlor	18	19  Consistory at 7:30pm in Parlor	20  Choir at 7:30pm in Parlor	21	22
23 Decorate the Sanctuary Poinsettia Orders Due!	24 <i>Preschool Thanksgiving</i>	25 <i>Preschool Thanksgiving</i>	26 <i>Preschool Early Dismissal</i>	27 Church & Preschool Closed  <i>Happy Thanksgiving</i>	28 Church & Preschool Closed	29
30  Book Club at 8pm via Zoom						

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

Family  **ALL**  
Thankful **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

## ADVENT STUDY!

Pastor Steve is planning on holding an Advent Study on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 PM in the Parlor. We will use a book by Tracy Daub, “Holy Disruption: Discovering Advent in the Gospel of Mark” as our guide.

A sign-up sheet has been posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. Please sign-up early so that enough books can be ordered for our time together. Any questions, please speak with Pastor Steve.

