



# CONTACT



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### *South Branch Reformed Church*

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## TREASURER'S NOTES

December is the month where we usually hold our breath and pray that we end the year in the black. But this year proved to be different.

We began December. \$3,581 in the black. We still made our large quarterly payments. We paid our regular monthly expenses.



We even had a \$2,000 snow removal and salting bill. But the December donations were extraordinary. Pledges totaled over \$21,000. Christmas Eve donations were generous despite the lower than usual attendance at the service.

Thanks to your love and support for SBRC and the generosity of those from outside our membership, I am happy to report we ended 2025, \$6,126 in the black.

This is truly a special place for so many people. May God continue to bless SBRC, its members, and the community beyond our walls.

~ Robyn Friedlander

## LECTIO DIVINA

Lectio Divina continues to meet on the Monday following Confirmation Class at 7:00pm in the Parlor. We read through the assigned Scripture passage four times with a ten minute reflection period between each reading. The only things you need to bring are your Bible, a notebook, and a pen/pencil.

There is always room for more to experience this personal interaction with Scripture. Still unsure? Have questions? Feel free to speak with Pastor Steve or join us for a session and see if it works for you!



## February Birthdays

- 2 Kristin Gilmore
- 3 Debbi Sheldon
- 6 Frank Eckert
- 8 James Nunn
- 13 Collin DePace
- 14 Thomas Bernard  
Valerie Franco
- 15 Matthew Burt
- 17 Steve Eckert
- 21 Susan Rohner
- 28 Kacey Kowalchuk



## 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*

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!!

In an effort to beat the winter doldrums, join me for a Family Movie Night on Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, in the Dining Room at 7:00pm to watch "In Your Dreams". Feel free to bring snacks and beverages to share. Also, the tables and chairs will be moved, so bring a comfortable chair to enjoy the show!

2026 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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/2026-corned-beef](http://app.gopassage.com/events/2026-corned-beef). Online tickets available for purchase beginning February 16<sup>th</sup>.

### 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 8:00pm via Zoom! The book chosen for February is “Anxious People” by Fredrik Backman and the group will gather via Zoom on February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 8:00pm.



### Upcoming Books:

March - “The Berry Pickers” by Amanda Peters

April - “How to Age Disgracefully” by Clare Pooley

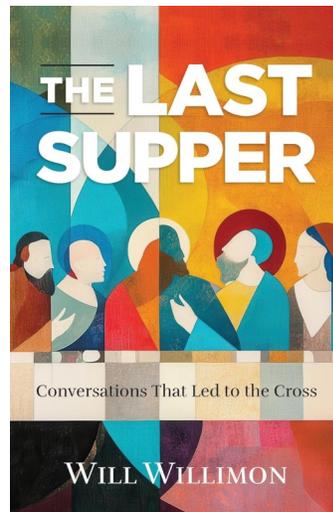
May - “How to Read a Book” by Monica Wood

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## LENTEN STUDY

A Lenten Study has been planned using Will Willimon’s book/video guide, “The Last Supper: Conversations that Led to the Cross”. Our gatherings will be held on Tuesdays at 7:00pm in the Parlor from February 24<sup>th</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup>.

Please sign-up by Sunday, February 8th, so that materials can be delivered in time. Should you have any questions, please speak with Pastor Steve. Come join us for as we explore God’s Word this Lenten Season!



## LECTIONARY READINGS FOR FEBRUARY

### February 1:

Micah 6:1-8

Psalms 15

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Matthew 5:1-12

### February 8:

Isaiah 58:1-12

Psalms 112:1-10

1 Corinthians 2:1-16

Matthew 5:13-20

### February 15:

Exodus 24:12-18

Psalms 2

1 Peter 1:16-21

Matthew 17:1-9

### February 22:

Genesis 2:15-17 & 3:1-7

Psalms 32

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11

## 2026 Sign Up Sheets

The Sign Up Sheets for Greeters, Refreshments, Flowers, and Audio/Visual are posted on the hallway bulletin board by the entrance to the Sanctuary. As of now, there are A LOT of empty spaces. Please be sure to look over the available dates and sign up as you are able. It is helpful to know that Refreshments can be done by more than one person or family on a Sunday. Invite someone to help!

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## Preschool News

Our students jumped right back into our preschool routines right after our Christmas break. We started the year off with our Signs Study. The students really enjoyed this study as we see signs everywhere. They learned that signs communicate messages with and without words. From street signs and store logos to classroom labels and safety



symbols, students investigate how colors, shapes, images, and symbols help people navigate their world. As our Signs Study wraps up we roll right into the Wheels Study. Also in February we will be celebrating Valentine's Day with our class parties.

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 23<sup>rd</sup>. For new students our Open House is scheduled for Saturday, February 7, 2026 at 10am. Please pass along the word to your family and friends. Registration forms will be available on the table in the front foyer.

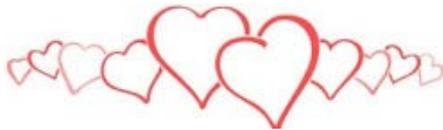
If there is anything you would like to find out more about or to schedule a tour, please feel free to call us at 908-369-7885 or email the Preschool at [Preschool@SBRChurch.org](mailto:Preschool@SBRChurch.org).

~ Jenn Feaster

# February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion  Confirmation Class at 7pm in Parlor	2  Lectio Divina at 7pm in Parlor	3	4	5  Choir at 7:30pm in the Parlor	6  Movie Night at 7:00pm in the Dining Room	7 <i>Preschool Open House</i>
8	9	10	11  Knit, Pray, Crochet at 7pm at the Stockman home	12  Choir at 7:30pm in the Parlor	13 <i>Preschool Closed</i>	14
15 Women's Group in Dining Room  Confirmation Class at 7pm in Parlor	16 <i>Preschool Closed</i>  Newsletter items are due!  Lectio Divina at 7pm in Parlor	17	18    Consistory at 7:30pm in Parlor	19  Choir at 7:30pm in the Parlor	20	21
22  Book Club at 8pm via Zoom	23	24  Lenten Study at 7pm in Parlor	25  Knit, Pray, Crochet at 7pm at the Stockman home	26  Choir at 7:30pm in the Parlor	27	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

**FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT!!**

Brave the cold to enjoy the warmth of your SBRC family on Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00pm in the Dining Room as we gather to watch the movie, "In Your Dreams". Feel free to bring snacks & beverages to share. Tables & chairs will be moved out of the way for you to bring a more comfortable seating arrangement.

