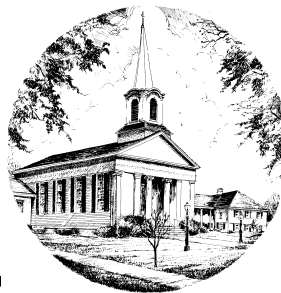




# CONTACT



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***South Branch  
Reformed Church***

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## WOMEN'S GROUP

After a long, wintry break, the Women's Group met Sunday, February 15th during coffee hour, while enjoying delicious snacks provided by Mary Nunn. The group clipped and sorted 612 stamps to be sent off to the Stamp Alliance in Florida, who will sell them to print Sunday School materials in Spanish. In 2025, the Stamp Alliance was able to raise \$35,000 for this endeavor. Our thanks to each member of the SBRC congregation who contributes stamps. We are so grateful for your diligence in trying to reach young people for Christ. Please remember that your stamps must be actual stamps, not printed on paper or metered. Try to leave a small margin around each stamp. As always, stamps can be dropped off in the church office in the basket on the window shelf. Stamps are getting harder to find, so an all-church effort is much appreciated.



Also appreciated are your contributions to the River Blindness Mission. During 2025, we raised \$175 through your donations of coins and dollars. Lets keep some of the poorest people on earth in our minds as we drop our coins and bills into the container at the bottom of the steps near the sanctuary. Perhaps in 2026, we can do even more. The Blindness Mission newsletter is posted on the bulletin board, featuring a young girl named Valentine in Cameroon who was blind with cataracts since birth, but can now see, thanks in part to your efforts. Please keep up the good work as Jesus instructed us to do to "the least of these." Remember that it is more blessed to give than to receive.



## ROAST BEEF DINNER

SBRC will be holding a Roast Beef Dinner on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 to 6:30 PM with Chef Tyson presiding over the kitchen. All tickets are \$20.

Call the Church Office at (908) 369-4956 to make reservations or purchase tickets online at: [app.gopassage.com/events/2026-roast-beef](http://app.gopassage.com/events/2026-roast-beef).

**Menu:**

*Roast Beef with Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Peas & Carrots,  
Pickled Beets, Cottage Cheese, Cole Slaw, Dinner Rolls,  
Assorted Desserts as well as Coffee, Hot Tea,  
Lemonade & Iced Tea*



**April Birthdays:**

- 6 Mariel Gulla
- 9 Anthony DePace
- 10 Luca Franco
- 11 Nancy Murray  
Tony Stramaglia
- 12 Robyn Friedlander
- 13 Carmen Munro
- 16 Emmalee Pantel
- 18 Patti Reilly  
Kate Sarles
- 25 Nick Speciale
- 27 Danielle Bowden  
Irene Foley
- 29 Sue Cole



**April Anniversaries**

- 8 Richard & Maria  
Cristina Sarles
- 12 Gil & Pam  
Warner
- 20 Jim & Hedley  
Wendover
- 25 Jeffrey & Nancy  
Murray

**FROM THE TREASURER**

Spring is slowly approaching, but Mother Nature is really messing with us. One day it is a balmy 79°. Two days later, it is in the thirties and snowing. Followed by a fierce thunderstorm with rain and high winds. Despite the wacky weather the church continues to burst with activity. There are movie nights, Lenten Studies, church dinners, and Sunday school projects to name a few. Attendance is increasing as our members return from winter hibernation and new friends have joined us in worship.

Financially the church is doing okay. We began February, \$741 in the red. Pledges totaled over \$12,000 for the month. Classis dues have been steady. There were no unexpected repairs. However, we got two heavy hits. The utilities were over \$1,800 and the plowing and salting was \$3,875. Despite this, we ended the month, only \$943 in the red.



But spring is a time for renewal, and the South Branch family will bounce back with new life. Keep up the excellent work and we will be back in the black soon.

May God continue to bless SBRC and its people.

~ Robyn Friedlander

**MAUNDY THURSDAY MEAL**

Join us on Maundy Thursday, April 2nd, at 6:00pm in the Dining Room for the “Maundy Thursday Meal”. This Covered Dish Supper will be an opportunity to gather in fellowship as we celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper. Bring your favorite dish, dessert, and/or beverage to share as we gather during Holy Week.

**2026 DENOMINATIONAL ASSESSMENT**

In January, Pastor Steve sent out a letter to the congregation concerning the 2026 Denominational Assessment. This assessment is paid based on the active communicant membership of South Branch Reformed Church. For 2026, the assessment is \$103.00 per member and this assessment supports the work of the Classis, the Regional Synod, and the General Synod.

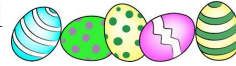
Now is the perfect time to help SBRC cover the cost of the 2026 Denominational Assessment. Donations may be made quarterly or annually. If paying by check, please be sure to write, “2026 Assessment” in the memo section of your check or on the envelope if not using the one provided in the box of offering envelopes.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

It is hard to believe how fast the school year is flying by. We are preparing for our Palm Sunday celebrations. On Palm Sunday, March 29th, the students will participate in our Annual Lenten Pretzel Activity during Church and celebrate Easter with our school-wide Easter Egg Hunt following Coffee Hour. The children should head downstairs to the dining room/kitchen at 9:45 AM before the start of Church.



There will be no Sunday School on Easter Sunday, as we all celebrate our Risen Savior together with our families.



Planning ahead, Mother's Day is on May 10<sup>th</sup>, the Sunday School will participate in a program-wide activity. Please let your teacher know if you are unable to attend.

We are looking ahead to next school year already, please reach out to Tracy Davenport if you would be interested in teaching, co-teaching, or substituting.

We have a lot of fun planned for the rest of the school year, which will wrap up on Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup>.

We look forward to spending our Sunday mornings together.

~ Tracy Davenport



### Join Us for a Day Trip to Lancaster, PA!

Tuesday, November 3, 2026

*(most local schools are closed on 11/3 for Election Day)*

**Back by popular demand** – South Branch and Hillsborough Reformed are teaming up again this year for a wonderful fall day trip and you're invited!

We'll travel by bus to beautiful Lancaster, PA 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 the brand new production of *Joshua*.

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 **7:00 PM**.

We received glowing reviews from those who joined us last year for Noah and we are excited to be able to plan another so soon.

*Tickets are limited, so be sure to reserve your spot early!*

**Reservation and payment are due on or before August 15.**

## LECTIONARY READINGS FOR APRIL

### April 2: Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-14

Psalm 116:1-2,12-19

1 Cor. 11:23- 26

John 13:1-17,31b-35

### April 3: Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Psalm 22

Hebrews 10:16-25

John 18:1-19:42

### April 5: Easter Sunday

Jeremiah 31:1-6

Psalm 118:1-2,14-24

Colossians 3:1-4

John 20:1-18

### April 12: Exodus 15:1-11 Psalm 111 1 Peter 1:3-9 John 20:19-31

### April 19: Isaiah 51:1-6 Psalm 34:1-10 1 Peter 1:17-23 Luke 24:13-35

### April 26: Ezekiel 34:7-15 Psalm 100 1 Peter 2:19-25 John 10:1-10

## FROM THE PASTOR



The weather the past couple of months has challenged us in many ways. From freezing temps to high winds causing wind chills below zero to services getting canceled (a first at SBRC) due to weather conditions. Now, the page is starting to turn with warmer temperatures finally removing the snow/ice on the ground and, if you look close enough, creation is starting to show signs of renewal. It is a welcome sign and helps lift our spirits as we emerge from our winter huddling in our homes.

SBRC is preparing to enter Holy Week starting on Palm Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. We will join with the crowds and celebrate Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem with palm fronds and our annual tradition of hot cross buns.

Maundy Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, provides with an opportunity to celebrate the institution of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. We will gather for the Maundy Thursday Meal, a covered dish supper, in the Dining Room at 6:00pm for fellowship around the table as well as share in the Sacrament. Hope to see you there!!



Easter Lilies will be arriving soon as we prepare the Sanctuary for the celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord! Two worship opportunities are available on Easter Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. The Easter Dawn Service at 6:30am will be held by the cemetery (weather permitting) and the traditional 10:00am Easter Service will be held in the Sanctuary. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated at both services. I hope to see you at one, or both, of the opportunities to rejoice in the Resurrection!!

Soon, you will notice a change in the format of the Newsletter. This is due to Microsoft no longer supporting MS Publisher which we used for a variety of publications in the Church Office (newsletters, postcards, flyers, etc). With this change, we are attempting to find a suitable replacement.

*Pastor Steve*

## PRESCHOOL NEWS

Wow, I can't believe it is already April. We are looking forward to warmer days ahead. The snow covered playground for most of the winter had us anxious to get back outside and the students and teachers are so happy to be able to run and climb again!



We started off February with the Wheel study. This was a new study for our students and they had a blast with it as it is so relatable and we see all types of wheels everyday. After the wheel study we went into the bread study. This study is one of our favorites as it uses all of our senses. Students had bread tastings each week and then voted on their favorites.

We held our annual STEM Enrichment Night on March 24<sup>th</sup>. Students got to spend time in 2 rooms - "Kitchen Chemistry" and "Every Inch of Me". In "Kitchen Chemistry" students were able to perform all types of hands-on activities like making a lava lamp, making icer cream and skittles rainbow. In "Every Inch of Me" students were able to investigate all of their senses with taste tastings, finger printing and how tall they are.

We then celebrated Easter in with our Easter Egg Hunts and learn about why Jesus died and rose from the dead.

The school year is flying by, and we are looking forward to our Mother's Day Tea, Father's Field Day and our Year End Celebrations.



As the school year comes to an end on June 5<sup>th</sup>, we will now focus on our Summer Camp which will run from June 22<sup>rd</sup> through July 16<sup>th</sup>. Our themes this year are "Summertime Fun" including Down by the Sea, Fun & Fantasy, Creepy Crawlies and Down by the Farm. Registration has begun for our summer camp.

We are currently enrolling for September 2026. We currently have openings only in our Tuesday/Thursday classes. If you or someone you know would like to find out more about our program, please feel free to call or email the Preschool, at (908) 369-7885 or [Preschool@SBRChurch.org](mailto:Preschool@SBRChurch.org).

# April 2026

Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

			1	2	3 Good Friday	4 Holy Saturday
				Maundy Thurs. Meal at 6pm in the Dining Room		
5 Easter Sunrise Service at 6:30am Worship at 10am No Sunday School No Confirmation	6  Lectio Divina at 7pm in the Parlor	7	8  Knit, Pray, Crochet at 7pm at Stockman home	9  Choir Rehearsal at 7:30pm	10	11
12  Confirmation at 7pm in the Parlor	13	14	15  Consistory at 7:30pm in Parlor	16  Choir Rehearsal at 7:30pm	17	18
19  Confirmation at 7pm in the Parlor	20  Lectio Divina at 7pm in the Parlor	21	22  Knit, Pray, Crochet at 7pm at Stockman home	23  Choir Rehearsal at 7:30pm	24  Dinner Set-up at 7pm	25  Roast Beef Dinner from 4:00pm - 6:30pm
26  Book Club at 8pm via Zoom	27	28	29	30  Choir Rehearsal at 7:30pm		

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



*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

## EASTER AT SBRC

### **March 29th - Palm Sunday**

Sunday School Pretzel Activity

Easter Egg Hunt following Coffee Hour

### **April 2nd - Maundy Thursday**

Maundy Thursday Meal with Communion  
at 6:00pm in the Dining Room

### **April 5th - Easter Sunday**

Easter Dawn Service with  
Communion at 6:30am by  
the Cemetery

Easter Service with  
Communion at 10:00am in  
the Sanctuary

