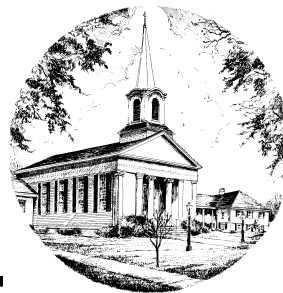


CONTACT



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***South Branch
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@SBRChurch



sbrchurch

FROM THE PASTOR

Well, the worship service of April 19th certainly didn't go as planned!! What started out as a day to "return" to the pulpit following my biopsy procedure on April 7th turned out to be an express trip to the hospital for observation and testing. I was released on the evening of April 21st and currently resting at home.

I want to take this opportunity to say thank you! While it caused quite a stir on Sunday morning, I am thankful that it happened in a place that is full of love and concern for me. The quick actions of our members helped me to get the care that I needed.

Thank you to Nancy Murray and Kristen Gilmore for responding so quickly and providing initial medical checks. Thank to you all who called 9-1-1 to get the emergency medical services to the church. Thank you to Debbie Norz and Nancy Murray for following the ambulance to the hospital and staying with me in the ER, but more importantly for reaching out to my parents. Thank you to everyone who called, texted, or stopped by the hospital to visit – it was greatly appreciated and helped the time pass (can only watch so much daytime TV).

Please know that the Consistory is well on top of things to ensure that things continue at SBRC. We have a truly dedicated group of leaders who care for the whole life of the church and are working diligently as I take time to rest & gain strength. I plan to be back at the church (probably in a limited capacity) as soon as I can and will take every effort to make sure that we don't repeat what happened.

Thank you all for your love, your prayers, and your support!

Pastor [Signature]

May Birthdays:

- 2 Karen Messineo
- 7 Danielle Marshall
- 9 Giovanni Franco
- 10 Dan Davenport
- 11 Kirsten Stockman
- 12 Kade Zeban
- 14 Thomas Marshall
- 20 Aiden Stabile
Ryan Stabile
- 24 Rich Norz
Juli Sikora
- 25 Christian Gilmore



May Anniversaries

- 2 Dominick & Karen
Abbatiello
- 16 Tom & Beth
Bernard
- 19 William & Carmen
Munro
- 26 Joe & Irene
Foley
- 29 John & Kim
Colaiacovo

TREASURER’S NOTES



Spring is here. I can tell by itchy eyes and a drippy nose. But it is still my favorite time of year as I witness God’s creation come to life to life in dazzling color and sweet melodies from chirping birds. Our church is alive with activity as numerous projects get underway to improve the appearance of our church and parsonage.

However, it is also the time we must address the day-to-day operation of our church. March was a good month financially. Pledges totaled over \$12,000. Classis dues continue to come in. The corn beef dinner sold out and made a profit of \$2,150. The preschool gave us money to cover half the cost of the plowing and salting bill. Our receipt totaled \$26,000. Unfortunately, we started March, \$942 in the red. Besides our regular expenses, we had over \$10,000 in quarterly payments that were due. We ended the month \$2,009 in the red. But this is South



Branch. A season of renewal is upon us as we look forward to Easter and the resurrection of our lord. And we will bounce back and get our current expense budget into the black.

May God continue to bless SBRC and its people.

~ Robyn Friedlander

WOMEN’S GROU P

The Women's Group met on March 15th to clip stamps while enjoying treats provided by Robin Friedlander and Pastor Steve and met again on April 20th with tasty chicken salad sandwiches, brownies, cheese, and fruit provided by the Kletz family. The combined number of stamps clipped was 593 and were sent to the Alliance Stamp Ministry in Fort Myers, Florida. As of the end of March, the Stamp Ministry has raised \$7,000 to produce Sunday School materials printed in Spanish. Stamps in our mail system are becoming harder to find, so please save them when you find them.

Also hard to find these days are coins to drop into the River Blindness container. You might want to consider tucking away a dollar bill instead to put in the container. In addition to supplying glasses and treating River Blindness, the mission also treats a highly contagious bacterial eye infection called trachoma which causes the eye lid to curt and the lashes to scratch the eye until it is blind. People resort to pulling out their eye lashes to relieve the pain. Children can be treated with an antibiotic once a year to prevent the disease. The pamphlet posted on the bulletin board by the sanctuary entrance can provide even more details. Please consider donating to this mission to help the poorest of the poor retain their eyesight and be able to make a living.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The Sunday School is rolling through the month of April. Classes resumed on April 12th following a short break for Easter celebrations. We had a busy morning on Palm Sunday, March 29th. The students started their morning with a Palm Parade during the first hymn before heading down to the kitchen to make pretzels, led by Patti Kletz. While the pretzels were baking, they participated in some Easter activities. Following Coffee Hour, 17 children proceeded out to the playground for our annual Easter Egg Hunt. A fun time was had by all. Thank you to the congregation for their candy donations and for helping stuff the eggs.

On Sunday, May 10th the students will participate in a Mother's Day activity. We are in the process of gathering supplies, please let your children's teacher know if they will be unable to attend. Believe it or not our school year is already winding down. Plans are in the works for our Summer Kick-Off Carnival and Ice Cream Social, set for May 31st to celebrate another great year of Sunday School. 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! We are also planning for our next school year and are always looking for volunteers. Please reach out to me if you are interested in teaching, co-teaching, or substituting.

- Tracy Davenport



Summer Kick-Off Carnival & Ice Cream Social

Sunday, May 31st
Following the Children's Sermon – 12 PM



BOOK CLUB

The Book Club started in January 2015 and has been meeting monthly ever since! Meetings are held over Zoom so that those out of state can participate in the discussion. This group has read over 100 books in that time!

On May 31st, the group will discuss "How to Read a Book" by Monica Wood at 8:00 PM via Zoom. Consider picking up a copy and joining in the discussion!

Summer Reading List:

June 28: "The Harvey Girls" by Juliette Fay

July 26: "The Lion Women of Tehran" by Marjan Kamali

August 30: "The Secret War of Julia Child" by Diana R. Chambers



LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MAY

May 3:

Acts 7:55-60

Psalm 31:1-5,15-16

1 Peter 2:2-10

John 14:1-14

May 10:

Acts 17:22-31

Psalm 66:8-20

1 Peter 3:13-22

John 14:15-21

May 17:

Acts 1:6-14

Psalm 68:1-10

1 Peter 4:12-14

John 17:1-11

May 24:

Acts 2:1-21

Psalm 104:1-21

1 Cor. 12:3b-13

John 20:19-23

May 31:

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

Psalm 8

1 Cor. 13:11-13

Matthew 28:16-20

MANY THANKS....

As we look over the past few months, it is important that we take some time to offer thanks to some members & friends who have gone the extra mile to help SBRC!



Thank you to Tyson Stramaglia, his kitchen crew, and to everyone who has stepped up to help/donate! These dinners are a success because of all your hard work!

Thank you to Holly Kowalenko for leading the tradition of gathering two community dinners to families in our community. We were able to make the holidays special for these families and it is all due to the generosity of our members!

Thank you to the Sunday School teachers & staff for a wonderful year of learning & growing! Our children certainly love spending time with you all.

Thank you to the Adult & Junior Choirs! Your voices have truly enhanced our worship services as we gather in praise and thanksgiving for all that God continues to do for us and our church.

Finally, thank you to the membership of SBRC! We are a congregation that seeks to love one another and those in our community. You're continued dedication to the Church and our shared ministry is a beacon of light to those around us.

NEW GRADUATES?



Do you know of anyone in our church family who is graduating this spring from grade school, high school, college, graduate school, etc.?

If so, please complete the form below and return it to the church office or email the information to newsletter@sbrchurch.org. We would like to print our congratulations in the June issue of the **Contact**.

_____ graduate(s)(d) from _____ on _____.
Name School, Degree, etc. Date

Additional Info. (daughter/son of, etc.): _____

_____ graduate(s)(d) from _____ on _____.
Name School, Degree, etc. Date

Additional Info. (daughter/son of, etc.): _____

_____ graduate(s)(d) from _____ on _____.
Name School, Degree, etc. Date

Additional Info. (daughter/son of, etc.): _____

May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Communion	4	5	6	7 Choir at 7:30pm in Parlor	8	9
10 Confirmation	11	12	13 Knit, Pray, Crochet at 7pm at Stockman home	14 Choir at 7:30pm in Parlor	15 Wedding Rehearsal at 7pm	16 June Newsletter items due!! Stramaglia Wedding at 3pm
17 Confirmation	18	19	20 Consistory at 7:30pm in Parlor	21 Choir at 7:30pm in Parlor	22	23
24	25	26	27 Knit, Pray, Crochet at 7pm at Stockman home	28 Choir at 7:30pm in Parlor	29	30
31 Elders Mtg with Confirmation Class Book Club at 8pm via Zoom						

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

Join Us for A Trip to Lancaster, PA!!

*Tuesday, November 3, 2026
(most local schools are closed on 11/3 for Election Day)*

Sister Churches, South Branch and Hillsborough Reformed, are teaming up again 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 AM performance of the brand-new original stage production of **JOSHUA**.

Following the show, we'll enjoy a delicious buffet meal at **Miller's Smorgasbord** at **2:30 PM**. We plan to head back around **4:30 PM**, returning to SBRC around 7 PM.

Prices (includes roundtrip charter bus transportation, show ticket and dinner): Adults: \$165/each and **Children (ages 3–12):** \$115/each

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

Sign up on the bulletin board or email: davenportfamily2015@gmail.com. Please include: Name, Church name, ticket quantities (adult and children), phone number and email address. Payments may be made to SBRC with *Lancaster Trip noted in the memo*.