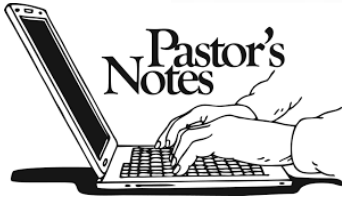


CONTACT

September 2026



Where has the time gone?! Looking at the past couple of months, it is really hard to believe that we are entering September when it feels like June was just a few days ago. I hope that all of you took some time to relax, rest, and recharge for the new school year and for the activities that are set to start up again at the church.

We had a wonderful time with Summer Worship in the Dining Room. It was a nice change of scenery, provided space with cooler temperatures, and had enough room for us to enjoy a coffee while participating in the worship service. Summer Worship was well attended, and everyone really enjoyed the "Brunch Sundays" that started up this year. Pay attention for "Brunch Sundays" to continue following our return to regular worship services in the Sanctuary. But, before we return to our regular worship services, we will send off the Summer with "Hawaiian Shirt Sunday" on the last Summer Worship Sunday in the Dining Room on September 6th. Come dressed in your favorite colorful and comfortable attire!!



With deepest thanks to Bill Munro & the Property Committee, a lot of projects were completed at the Parsonage & the Church this summer. Have you noticed anything different? Be sure to take a look around and you will see all the work that has been accomplished. At the Parsonage, painting was done on the garage & around the house and a new toilet & piping was installed on the first-floor bathroom. At the Church, the columns were repaired, front steps to the Sanctuary were fixed, the hallway to the Sanctuary was repainted, the shutters were repainted, and new floors were installed in the two Sunday School (and Preschool) rooms. It was a flurry of activity!!



Be sure to read through the Newsletter and the Sunday Bulletins for information on all that is happening at the Church. I am looking forward to seeing all of you as the Church returns to "normal" in September.

Pastor Steve

Treasurer's Notes ...

Happy Summer. I hope everyone is enjoying their well-earned vacations. It has been great seeing so many of you attending Sunday services in the cool of our dining room. Let me bring you up to date on the church finances.

We began June, \$3,566 in the black. Pledges were decent for June totaling over \$10,000. However, many large quarterly payments are made this month. As a result, we ended June, \$1,246 in the red.

As stated above, we began July in the red in our current expense budget. Pledges for July were almost \$11,000. Not bad for the summer. However, the inspection of our alarms systems and the annual replacement of the UV filter came due. Also, our utility bills for June & July was just under \$3,000. As a result, we ended July, \$1,666 in the red.

We have experienced much worst financial summers. With your help, we can get back in the black, come fall.

May God continue to bless SBRC and its people.

~ Robyn Friedlander

Sunday School News ...

Please join us on Sunday, September 13 for the first day of our 2026-2027 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 – sides, desserts and beverages. A sheet will be 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 Moment, 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 7th 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, Year End Carnival 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.

~ Tracy Davenport

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 27th at 8pm via Zoom to discuss "The Boys of Riverside: A Deaf Football Team and the Quest for Glory" by Thomas Fuller.

The October 25th reading selection is "Vera Wong's Unsolicited Advice for Murders" by Jesse Q. Sutanto. In November, group has chosen "I See You've Called in Dead" by John Kenney.

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 10th.

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!

Ham Dinner

SBRC will be holding a **Ham Dinner** on Saturday, **September 12th** 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/2026-ham.

Menu

Baked Ham

Au Gratin Potatoes

Corn

Applesauce

Tomato & Cucumber Salad

Dinner Rolls

Assorted Desserts

Coffee/Tea/Lemonade/Iced Tea

If you are taking your dinner(s) to go, please be sure to bring a reusable bag!

Hawaiian Shirt Sunday

A new tradition was started last year as Pastor Steve encouraged everyone to wear a Hawaiian Shirt as a fun way to say goodbye to Summer. Hawaiian Shirt Sunday will be on September 6th as we gather for the last Summer Worship Service for 2026. If you don't have a Hawaiian shirt or clothing, do not go out to purchase one – just attend in colorful clothing!! Come out and join us in saying goodbye to Summer in color & flair.



Cardboard Box Lids Needed

The Church Growth and Outreach Committee will be collecting 16L x 12W x 3" high and similar size cardboard box lids with lip (i.e., bottoms of cat food cases) over the next few months. They are needed by the Somerset County Regional Animal Shelter to be used as cat litter boxes. Please place them in the labeled bin by the parking lot church entrance. If you have any questions, please speak with Holly Kowalenko.

Confirmation Class

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 to each of the students with the class expectations and schedule for the upcoming year. Confirmation Class will begin on Sunday, **October 4th** 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 keep 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.

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. A chosen text from Scripture is read four times, giving an opportunity to think deeply on the words and to respond thoughtfully.

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 is hoping to resume this gathering on Monday, September 21st at 7:00 PM. A sign-up sheet has been posted on the bulletin board. If you need more information or if you have questions, please speak with Pastor Steve.



Women's Group

The Women's Group will begin meeting again on September 20th. We will clip stamps to send to the Alliance Stamp Ministry in Florida. This is our 12th year clipping stamps as a mission project. Our first stamps were sent January of 2015. In the years in between, the Stamp Ministry has raised more than 1 million dollars selling used stamps to vendors. Common stamps, for example, are sent to the vendors in 25lb boxes. I can't imagine how many stamps it takes to weigh 25lbs.

The money that is raised is then sent to a publishing house in Argentina, Publicaciones Alianza, which is dedicated to writing and publishing Sunday School materials in Spanish for the United States, Central and South America, and Spain. These materials are used by more than 40 Protestant denominations. By collecting and donating stamps here in SBRC, you are participating in mission work around the world. Help support this mission work. Stamps are harder to find, so please save every one that you can. Drop them into the basket in the church office, and the Women's Group and the Lord will take care to the rest. As of May of this year, the Stamp Alliance has raised \$13,000. Last year they raised \$40,000. Think of each stamp that you collect as you being a missionary.



Our other mission project is River Blindness where you can drop in coins and dollar bills into the container at the foot of the sanctuary steps. This mission helps provide medicine, glasses, and surgeries to the poorest people in Africa, many of whom would otherwise face blindness and a lifetime of begging to survive. Please consider donating a little something toward their lives. We have so much.



~ Lynne Lothian

HOME Fundraiser

HOME is conducting its **Calendar Raffle**. This year it is very important. In June, we purchased a building to house HOME – it needs work and we no longer are rent free. It is only \$10 and that gets you multiple chances to win. Kate Sarles has the raffles and if she is not in church just send her the \$10 to the address in the directory and she will fill out your entry using directory information and send you back the daily raffle information. It's nice getting a check in the mail!



2026 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 calendar for the remaining 2026 Dinners:

September 12th - Ham Dinner
October 17th - Chicken Cordon Bleu Dinner
November 21st - Turkey Dinner

**SBRC Sunday School
Registration Form
2026 – 2027**

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 13, 2026.*

Celebrations in September

Birthdays

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



Anniversaries

- 5 Joseph & Annette LiBrizzi
- 10 Joanne & Brett Powell
- 14 Joe & Juli Sikora
- 22 Daniel & Tracy Davenport
- 23 Glenn & Jessie Hinks



Lectionary Readings for September

September 6:

Ezekiel 33:7-11
Psalm 119:33-40
Romans 11:23-26
Matthew 13:8-14

September 13:

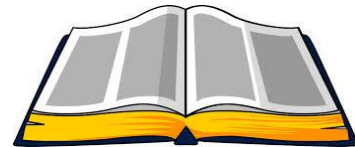
Genesis 50:15-21
Psalm 103:1-13
Romans 14:1-12
Matthew 18:21-35

September 20:

Jonah 3:10-4:11
Psalm 145:1-8
Philippians 1:27-30
Matthew 20:1-16

September 27:

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32
Psalm 25:1-9
Philippians 2:1-13
Matthew 21:23-32



Save the Date!!!

SBRC will run a community Trunk-or-Treat on Saturday, Oct. 10th (Rain date Sunday, Oct. 11th) from 12pm to 4pm. Be sure to watch the Sunday bulletins and next month's newsletter for more information.



September 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
		<i>SVP at 7pm in Fireside Room</i>		<i>SVP at 7pm in Fireside Room</i>		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Communion Hawaiian Shirt Sunday	<i>SVP at 7pm in Fireside Room</i>		Knit, Pray, Crochet at 7pm in Parlor <i>SVP at 7pm in Fireside Room</i>	<i>SVP at 7pm in Fireside Room</i>	Dinner Set-Up at 7pm	Ham Dinner 4:00-6:30pm
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Regular Worship Begins Sunday School Begins “Welcome Back” Picnic			Newsletter Items Due Consistory at 7:30pm in Parlor	Choir at 7:30pm in Parlor		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Women’s Group in Dining Room	Lectio Divina at 7pm in Parlor		Knit, Pray, Crochet at 7pm in Parlor	Choir at 7:30pm in Parlor		
27	28	29	30			
Book Club at 8pm via Zoom						