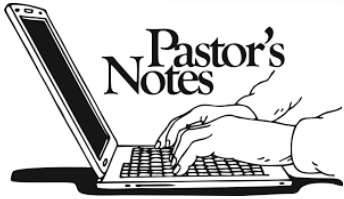


CONTACT

October 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" coming up on October 11th and December 13th.



Windows in the Sanctuary are slated to be replaced during the last week of September. This will certainly spruce up the Sanctuary and provide with some better energy efficiency (already something difficult in such a large space).

Be sure to read through the Newsletter and the Sunday Bulletins for information on all that is happening at the Church. The Truck-Or-Treat is coming on October 10th, the Chicken Cordon Bleu Dinner is coming on October 17th, and other activities are in the works. Don't miss an opportunity to join in the fun.

Pastor ST

Treasurer's Notes ...

Summer is over. Our worship service has left the cool of our basement and returned to the sanctuary. The choir has returned to their loft and once again we enjoy the sound of their beautiful voices accompanied by the organ. The Sunday School kick-off picnic was a huge success despite having to cook the burgers and hot dogs under a canopy in the pouring rain. It is great hearing the voices of our children echoing in the halls of the church. Yes, SBRC is gearing up for another year of activities and fellowship.

Financially, it was not a bad summer. We began August, \$1666 in the red. Pledges were steady but not enough to offset the expenses. We ended the month, \$3,198 in the red. Just a reminder, September is a month when several quarterly payments are due, in addition to our regular monthly expenses.

You may be asking what can I do to get us back on track. Keep up with your weekly donations, even if you are not in church. Submit your classis dues if you have not already (\$103 per member). Support the remaining fundraiser dinners and other activities. We can do this SBRC if everyone pitches in.

May God continue to bless our church and its people.

~ Robyn Friedlander

Sunday School News ...

Our Sunday School year kicked off on September 13th with our first session and Welcome Back Picnic. Thank you to all our volunteers and donations that helped make the picnic possible. Special thanks to Tom Kletz, Joe Librizzi, Christian Gilmore, Steve Hubscher, Paul Stabile and Mike Mastrosimone for manning the grill on the rainy Sunday morning. It was a wonderful time of fellowship and celebration for another school year ahead.

We've been so very blessed with wonderful volunteers that will help make this an amazing year for our Sunday School students. Danielle Dougherty and Valerie Franco will be leading our Mini's class. Jessica Estevez and Lisa Czifra will be teaching our Junior class. Kacey Kowalchuk will be teaching our Senior class. All preschoolers 2-1/2 and up are welcome. This includes Grandchildren and visitors. We also have several volunteers to substitute when needed. Thank you to Adam Franco, Mary Nunn, Debbie Norz, and Kelly Stabile for being available to fill-in.

We will celebrate Halloween on Sunday, November 1st. Children will start with our annual costume parade through the Sanctuary to share some smiles with the Congregation before our classes head to the Fireside Room for fun and games. All are welcome.



We look forward to spending Sunday mornings with your children learning God's Word. Bring a friend!

~ Tracy Davenport

Book Club ...

The Book Club is finalizing their choices for 2027. This is a great time to consider joining! They have been holding their monthly meetings on the last Sunday of the month at 8:00pm in the Parlor. 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, October 27th at 8pm in the Parlor to discuss "Vera Wong's Unsolicited Advice for Murders" by Jesse Q. Sutanto.

The November 29th reading selection is "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!

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.

Chicken Cordon Bleu Dinner

SBRC will be serving a **Chicken Cordon Bleu Dinner** on Saturday, **October 17th** 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-chicken.

Menu

Chicken Cordon Bleu

Roasted Red Potatoes

Broccoli

Braised Red Cabbage

Dill Cucumber Salad

Fruit Cup

Dinner Rolls & Butter

Assorted Desserts

Coffee/Tea/Lemonade/Iced Tea

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

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.

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

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:

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

Celebrations in October

Birthdays

- 5 Beth Bernard
- 7 Khaila Tan
- 13 Joe Sikora
- 14 Adele Miller
- 17 Jude Mazzarella
Linda Ruocco
- 18 Gabriella Marshall
- 19 Adam Franco
- 24 Savannah Marshal



Anniversaries

- 2 Louis & Tara Mazzarella
- 8 Mark & Karen Messino
- 12 James & Mary Nunn
- 23 Rich & Debbie Norz
- 29 Tom & Jean Evers



Lectionary Readings for October

October 4:

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

October 11:

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

October 18:

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

October 25:

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



October 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
				Choir at 7:30pm in Parlor		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
World Communion Sunday Confirmation	<i>SVP at 7pm in Fireside Room</i>		<i>SVP at 7pm in Fireside Room</i>	Choir at 7:30pm in Parlor		Trunk or Treat 12-4pm
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	<i>SVP at 7pm in Fireside Room</i>	<i>SVP at 7pm in Fireside Room</i>	Knit, Pray, Crochet at 7pm in Parlor <i>SVP at 7pm in Fireside Room</i>	Choir at 7:30pm in Parlor	Newsletter Items Due	Chicken Cordon Bleu Dinner 4:00-6:30pm
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Women's Group in Dining Room Confirmation	<i>SVP at 7pm in Fireside Room</i>	<i>SVP at 7pm in Fireside Room</i>	Consistory at 7:30pm in Parlor	Choir at 7:30pm in Parlor		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Reformation Sunday <i>SVP at 7pm in Fireside Room</i> Book Club at 8pm via Zoom	<i>Preschool Pumpkin Carving</i>	<i>Preschool Pumpkin Carving</i>	Knit, Pray, Crochet at 7pm in Parlor	Choir at 7:30pm in Parlor		