



CONTACT



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South Branch Reformed Church

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COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNERS

Those who live with food insecurity are truly vulnerable as they have to find ways to feed their families with prices for everything increasing year after year. With this in mind, SBRC is keeping up the annual tradition of collecting food items to provide two complete Thanksgiving Dinners for members in our community.

A sign-up sheet has been posted on the bulletin board in the main hallway. Prayerfully consider participating in this event to bring a bit of joy in the lives of those around us.



All items need to be at the church on or before Sunday, **November 15th** so that they can be delivered. Thank you for your continued care and love for those around us!

2026 ADOPT A FAMILY

How would you feel if on Christmas morning there were no gifts under the tree? Kids rushing in to find nothing? It's hard to imagine, but they are facing that very situation this Christmas. Most of us are blessed with a Christmas chock full of overindulgence – of gifts under the tree, filled stockings, and large family gatherings.

Imagine wondering how to be able to celebrate Christmas at all. A lot of us will joke about getting socks and underwear from Mom on Christmas – but they're the number one item on someone's list. Simple things that we all take for granted mean the world to those struggling during this holiday season.

We will be working to fulfill some holiday wishes by adopting some of the client families. Each client has submitted a "wish list" of three items each under \$35. SBRC will be "adopting" 12 of these clients for a total of 48 gifts.

Ornaments with gift tags for each person will be distributed on Sunday, November 22nd – grab yours on the way out of church. Place the ornament on the tree in the Sanctuary, but keep the tag.

Gifts need to be returned to church unwrapped with the tags attached by **December 6th**. If you have questions, please see Joanne Powell.





November Birthdays:

- 3 Joe Foley
- 6 Holly Kowalenko
- 18 Betty York
- 24 Joanne Powell
- 25 Jan Hubscher



November Anniversaries

- 2 Thomas & Danielle Marshall
- 13 Patrick & Danielle Dougherty
- 17 Christian & Kristin Gilmore

TREASURER'S NOTES

Summer is over, yet those warm humid days still linger. The church has resumed its regular schedule with numerous activities.

However, our incoming g pledges are still in summer mode. We barely received \$9,500 this month in pledges. The ham dinner helped slightly to offset the expenses by making a profit of \$1,542.



Over the past month, I have been reminding everyone that September is a month when numerous large quarterly payments are made. These include equity allowance, church pension, church insurance, workman's comp, classis dues, and two months of lawn service in addition to our monthly bills. We began the month, \$3,198 in the red and sadly ended September, \$17,725 in the red.

But South Branch will not be defeated if we work together. We can get back in the black if you catch up on your pledges, submit your classis dues if you have not already (\$103 per member), and support our fundraisers. We can do this!

May God continue to bless SBRC and its people.

~ Robyn Friedlander

ROAST TURKEY DINNER

SBRC will be holding a Roast Turkey Dinner on Saturday, November 21st from 4:00 to 6:30 PM with Chef Tyson presiding over the kitchen. Tickets are \$20 per person.

Call (908) 369-4956 for tickets or make your reservations by visiting: app.gopassage.com/events/2026-turkey

If taking your dinner to go, please remember to bring your reusable bag!



MENU

Roast Turkey with Gravy
Mashed Potatoes
Herbed Stuffing
Candies Sweet Potatoes
Green Beans with Craisins
Cole Slaw
Cranberry Sauce
Dinner Rolls
Assorted Desserts
Coffee, Hot Tea,
Lemonade / Iced Tea

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING & COVERED DISH LUNCHEON

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, November 22nd**, for the first of two Congregational Meetings immediately following worship. We gather in the Dining Room after the meeting for lunch and fellowship. We will discuss the presentation of the Proposed 2027 Budget as well as receive Nominations for individuals to serve on the Consistory and the Endowment Committee.



Sunday bulletins will have Nomination Forms. Prior to submitting it, please be sure that the individual your are nominating agrees to serve. A sign-up sheet for the Covered Dish Luncheon is on the bulletin board,

WOMEN'S GROUP

The Women's Group met October 18th and clipped 128 stamps. However, we're running into a problem: our stamp basket is almost empty. If you've been faithfully saving stamps at home, now is the time to bring them in and put them in the stamp basket in the church office. As always, the stamps go to the Stamp Alliance in Fort Myers who sells the stamps to vendors. The money is then given to a publisher in South America who creates Sunday School materials in Spanish. They send the materials to the United States, Central and South America, and to Spain. This is a worthwhile effort that your stamps support. Please continue to save stamps.



And also remember to drop your change or bills into the River Blindness container at the bottom of the stairs outside the sanctuary. Your donations help the poorest people in Africa to receive eye medicine, or glasses, or surgery to have a better life.

Finally, please remember that we will be collecting new socks for the homeless in Hillsborough all month. Socks are the number one item asked for during the cold months. I can't imagine not having a pair of socks to wear. We just take that for granted. Beginning November 1st, there will be a bin by the parking lot door to drop your new socks into. Let people know that you care.



LECTIONARY READINGS FOR

November 1:

Micah 3:5-12
Psalm 43
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13
Matthew 23:1-12

November 8:

Amos 5:18-24
Psalm 70
1 Thess. 4:13-18
Matthew 25:1-13

November 15:

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18
Psalm 90:1-12
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Matthew 25:14-30

November 22:

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Psalm 100
Ephesians 1:15-23
Matthew 25:33-46

November 29:

Isaiah 64:1-9
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:24-37



FROM THE PASTOR...

November has arrived! Programs & activities around SBRC have settled in and the routine is finally comfortable - just in time for the craziness of the approaching Season of Advent. It has been great to see all of your smiling faces in worship & fellowship opportunities.

The Sanctuary windows were replaced! What a difference it has made in the Sanctuary to have windows that are not fogged up as well as some better energy efficiency. Thanks to a donation by Ken Staats, this project was completed with no effect to the church budget.

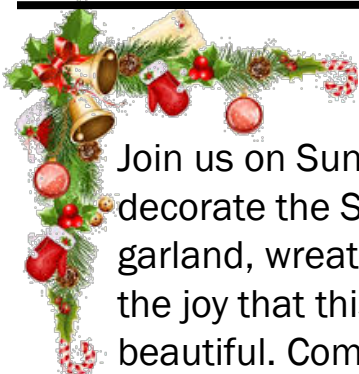
November brings a lot of events to an already busy calendar for all of us. Here is just a few to mark on your calendar:

- † Daylight Saving Time Ends on Nov. 1st (turn those clocks back on Oct. 31st before going to bed)
- † Sacrament of Communion & the annual Communion of the Saints on Nov. 1st
- † Confirmation Class meets on Nov. 1st & Nov. 15th
- † Thanksgiving Dinner Items due on Nov. 15th
- † Poinsettia Orders are due on Nov. 22nd
- † Turkey Dinner on Nov. 21st from 4:00 PM to 6:30 PM
- † Congregational Meeting & Covered Dish Lunch on Nov. 22nd
- † Decorate the Sanctuary following worship on Nov. 22nd
- † First Sunday of Advent on Nov. 29th

In order to update all of you on my health, I am happy to say that I am catheter free as of October 5th (you have probably noticed more a pep in my step) and the chemo infusions started again on October 12th. In November, I have infusions scheduled for Nov. 2nd and Nov. 23rd. My last infusion is scheduled for Dec. 14th. I truly do appreciate all of your cards, messages, and prayers throughout this journey. I am especially grateful for those who provided meals during my infusion weeks through the Meal Train - it took away the need to figure out dinner while recovering.

Thank you all for what you do to make SBRC a special place!

Pastor Steve



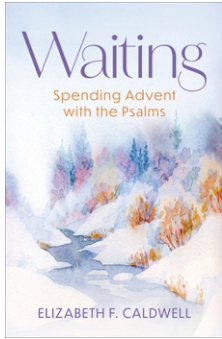
DECORATING THE SANCTUARY!

Join us on Sunday, November 22nd following the Covered Dish Luncheon as we decorate the Sanctuary for the Advent & Christmas Season! We will put up the garland, wreaths, and Christmas trees. A perfect opportunity to begin feeling the joy that this season brings as well as work together making the Sanctuary beautiful. Come out and have some fun!

As a reminder, in order to preserve their beauty & life, the poinsettias will be placed in the Sanctuary on the Third Sunday of Advent.

ADVENT STUDY!

Pastor Steve is planning on holding an Advent Study on Monday evenings at 7:00 PM in the Parlor. We will use “Waiting: Spending Advent with the Psalms” by Elizabeth Caldwell as our guide.



A sign-up sheet has been posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. Please sign-up early so that enough books can be ordered for our time together. Any questions, please speak with Pastor Steve.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The Sunday School is back in full swing. Staff and students are happy to be back and sharing their Sunday mornings together learning God’s Word. We are celebrating Halloween on November 1st. Children should meet at 9:50 AM for our costume parade through the Sanctuary. We will then head downstairs for some Halloween fun.

Plans are in the works for our Christmas Program, which will be presented to the Congregation on Sunday, December 20th during Worship. More information for our students (and our Congregation) to follow. All children ages 2-1/2 – 7th grade are invited to join us every Sunday morning. The Sunday School staff is excited to continue along this journey with their students.

Save the Date!

Holiday Lights Hayride

Saturday, December 5th at 5:30 PM

Kick off the Christmas Season with your South Branch Reformed Church Family at Norz Hill Farm and Market, 120 South Branch Road, Hillsborough, NJ.

Festive lights, interactive holiday displays and a ride around the farm will bring back what really matters this holiday season—celebrating the birth of our Savior while making memories you will cherish.

Sign up any Sunday in November or by calling the Church office.

Raindate: Sunday, December 6th at 5:30 PM.

Christmas is a time of rejoicing and reflection. It is also time to order one or more poinsettias to help decorate our Sanctuary for Christmas. *Poinsettias will be placed in the Sanctuary on the Third Sunday of Advent to help maintain their life & beauty!*

The cost is \$10.00 each and the deadline for ordering is **Sunday, November 22nd**. If paying by check, please write "Poinsettia" in the memo section.



OR

☐ Memorial Fund

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November 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion Communion of the Saints Sunday School Halloween Parade Confirmation at 7pm in Parlor	2	3	4	5 Choir Rehearsal at 7pm in Parlor	6	7
8	9	10	11 Knit, Pray, Crochet at 7pm in Parlor	12 Choir Rehearsal at 7pm in Parlor	13	14
15 Women's Group Thanksgiving Dinner Items Due Confirmation at 7pm in Parlor	16 Newsletter Items due	17	18 Consistory at 7:30pm in Parlor	19 Choir Rehearsal at 7pm in Parlor	20	21 Turkey Dinner from 4pm to 6:30pm
22 Congregational Meeting & Covered Dish Luncheon Decorate Sanctuary Poinsettia Orders due	23	24	25 Knit, Pray, Crochet at 7pm in Parlor	26 HAPPY THANKSGIVING!	27	28
29 First Sunday of Advent Book Club at 8pm via Zoom	30 Advent Study at 7pm in Parlor					

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

November 1, 2026 turn your clocks
back one hour!

