



# SUSSEX CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

February 2026 Newsletter

---

## **A Note From Pastor Kendall:**

Praise the God of Snow and Ice

Psalm 147:1, 15-18

"Praise the LORD. How good it is to sing praises to our God, how pleasant and fitting to praise him. He sends his command to the earth; his word runs swiftly. He spreads the snow like wool and scatters the frost like ashes. He hurls down his hail like pebbles. Who can withstand his icy blast? He sends his word and melts them; he stirs up his breezes, and the waters flow."

I always say I love each season for its own special reasons. In the winter, I truly love the snow. I love how pretty it is when it's falling, how the morning is so still and hushed and undisturbed with the fresh snow blanket covering the ground. I love playing in the snow with the kids. I don't even mind clearing the driveway and sidewalk. It can be hard work, but there's something exciting and rewarding about getting out there and taking care of it. But sometimes a person can have enough of a good thing. After getting a foot and half of snow, I didn't really want to hear the forecast of another possible storm on the way, especially since it was scheduled for a Sunday yet again! (As of this writing it looks like it's going to miss us.) We may love the snow for different reasons. For some of us it means great conditions for fun like snowmobiling, hitting the slopes or sledding. For others it means extra work and much needed income. But that also means more nights away from your cozy bed and time with your family. For others it might mean greater isolation because it's hard to get out in the bad weather. Personally, the snow is fun, but I don't mind thinking about the warmth of Spring.

Regardless of how we feel about the snow and icy air, Psalm 147 invites us to praise the Lord as the one who sends all kinds of weather our way. He sends his commands upon his created world and his word rushes to be fulfilled on earth.

## **Pastor's Note Continued**

The snow that falls is the hand of God spreading it over our land. The frost in the morning is like the Lord scattering ashes. He throws down the hail, he breathes out the icy wind chill, he also sends his word to melt it all away and usher in the warm springtime. He is the Divine Master of all creation, and yet he still cares about each and every one of us. What a wonderful thing to celebrate! And if God cares about us, and it the one responsible for what happens in all of creation, we can trust that no matter what we face on a day-to-day basis--the joys, the disappointments, the griefs, longings--it's all in the hands of our Divine Master. So whether we feel the newness of life right now, or feeling stuck in life, we can say, how good it is to sing praises to our God. Praise the Lord!

## **NEW! Elders/Deacons & Districts**

District 1

Elder: Owen Valkema

Deacon: Bryce GeBauer

District 2

Elder: Troy Yanoff

Deacon: Zack VanderGroef

District 3

Elder: Steve Van Ek

Deacon: Jay Miedema

District 4

Elder: Jonathan Kuperus

Deacon: Dan Van Wyk

District 5

Elder: Rich Sytsema

Deacon: Ryan Dykstra

District 6

Elder: Keith Niedergall

Deacon: Brandon LaBar



## December 2025 Financial Statement

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Benevolent</u>
Beginning Balance:	\$121,987.34	\$23,822.44
Income:	\$62,083.38	\$470.53
Total:	\$184,070.72	\$24,292.97
Disbursed	\$48,098.09	\$1,185.84
Ending Balance:	\$135,972.63	\$23,107.13

---

### Special Cause Donations

Christmas (3 Christian Schools)	\$3,341.01
Hope Thru the Valley	\$1,411.03
Peter Fish (coins)	\$610.90
SCS	\$300.04
My Brothers Place	\$170.01
Sussex Help Center	\$152.02
World Renew	\$50.00
Market Street Mission	\$50.00

### Monthly Budget Needs

Amount Needed: \$35,486.78  
Offering Received: \$53,877.48  
Difference: \$18,390.70  
Previous Month Deficit: \$3,337.78  
YTD Deficit: \$21,728.48

### Special Fund Donations

Benevolent: \$1,615.57  
Missions: \$1,920.03  
Tuition Assistance: \$21,695.20  
Cap Improvement: --

Classical Shares Paid through December 2025.

Denominational Shares Paid Through December 2025.

# At Sussex CRC

## Council Notes from the January Meeting

### *January 21, 2026 Council Meeting Highlights:*

The Council meeting started off with a reading and discussion of Psalm 63.

Council communally prayed over the needs of our members and close community. If you have a need that you would like Council to pray for, please contact the church office or member of the Council.

Council continues to work with the Search Committee for Associate Pastor position and discussed Ian Clark's potential candidacy.

Council approved the membership transfer of Mark and Linda Everett from Unity Church.

Council discussed feedback obtained from the January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026 Safe Church meeting of our volunteers and council members.

With Holy Communion being celebrated on February 15, 2026, Mutual Censure occurred around the room.

## BAPTISM

On Sunday, January 11, 2026, we witnessed the Baptism of Timothy Dale and Allison Lynn Meidema, twins of Bob and Ashley Mediema. Thanks be to God for His covenant promises!!



**STAFF**  
**Senior Pastor:**  
Pastor Kendall Everett

**Admin. Assistant:**  
Pam D.

**ABOUT**  
**Sussex CRC**  
49 Unionville Ave.  
Sussex, NJ 07461  
973-875-5591  
sussexcrc.org

# Happy Birthday!

## February Birthdays:

2/2: Helen Kuperus

2/4: Rosina Byma

2/5: Felicia Mann, Tina Brands

2/7: Melissa Niedergall, Tucker Moore,  
Zachary Caton

2/8: Meadow Birchenough, Patrick Lobban,  
Tyler Niedergall

2/10: Sloan Van Wyk

2/12: Amy Caton

2/13: Julia Snader

2/14: Charlene Westra, Joan Aukema

2/16: Chelsea Westra, Cheryl Brands,  
Madison Tallamy, Rena Kuperus, Stephen  
Sullivan

2/17: Rita Yanoff

2/18: Brian Van Den Broek, Minnie Fox,  
Rick Vander Ploeg

2/20: Grant Fox, Maeve Fox, Joshua  
Kuperus, Lisa Van Wyk

2/21: June Sytsema, Wyatt Valkema

2/25: Samuel Olinger

2/27: Dale Meyer

2/28: Christine Byma

2/29: Josiah Thiessen

"The Lord bless you and keep you;

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you;

The Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace."

Numbers 6:24-26

## Missionaries

### Who We Support

World Renew - <http://worldrenew.net/>  
Today's Choice - [www.friendsoftodayschoice.org](http://www.friendsoftodayschoice.org)  
Prison Ministry - [www.cpministries.org](http://www.cpministries.org)  
Resonate Global Mission -  
[www.resonateglobalmission.org](http://www.resonateglobalmission.org)

Hope Thru The Valley - [hopethruthethevalley.org](http://hopethruthethevalley.org)  
Perrin and Jodi Werner (Resonate-Japan)  
Liam and Jessica Starkenburg (Resonate-Nicaragua)  
Sussex Help Center and Family Promise

---

## December Update from Steven and Karissa Koopmans

### ***Wai'aha.***

December has been a heavy mix of joy and some sad goodbyes.

The students absolutely love Christmas and went all out decorating their classrooms.

One long-standing tradition at the school—even from when I was a student here—is the annual Christmas program put on by the entire school, K–11, for families and the community. The students did an amazing job, and the Gospel message was clearly shared. There were Christmas hula dances, a skit, and a beautiful presentation by the K–2 students as they told the story of Jesus' birth, referring to Him as the "Light" while shining flashlights. A student also performed a saxophone solo; his neighbors, who are not believers, attended because they had heard him practicing. Several additional dance pieces rounded out the evening. It was a special time.

Steve and I also said goodbye to our dear friends from Finland, Timi and Liina, who are heading back with their boys and will not be returning next semester. This was a difficult goodbye for us, especially as I am losing my running partner.

### **Christmas**

We flew to New Jersey for Christmas so we could meet our nephew, Mark. Spending time with family and reconnecting with good friends has been such a gift, and it has been really refreshing.

### **Peace with what's next.**

Thank you all so much for your prayers and encouragement.

What we are most prayerfully considering right now is a move to Michigan after the school year, for a couple of reasons.

First, family. Both Steve and I have family in Michigan. Steve's twin brother, Schyler, and his wife live in Grand Rapids. My brother Joshua is also in Grand Rapids completing his residency, and my two younger siblings, Anneke and Caleb, are students at Calvin. In addition, we both have aunts, uncles, and cousins in the area. Being closer to family is something we deeply value.

Second, Steve's passion for engineering. Kailua Kona has very little to no mechanical engineering positions that apply to Steve's interests and skills. He is looking forward to starting his career as an engineer and feels unable to do so in Hawaii.



This is an area where we would greatly appreciate continued prayer. Specifically, Grand Rapids has a tremendous amount of engineering infrastructure, but the job market has slowed down significantly this year. Please pray for a good engineering job that fits Steve's interests as well as a good teaching job for Karissa.

Over the past couple of months, we have carefully considered each of our options. Staying in Hawaii would truly be wonderful—we feel settled after two moves, changes in vehicles, and we love our community here. At the same time, we have felt a great sense of peace when we think about moving back to the mainland.



The Christmas program.



We were in the Kona Christmas parade and held the sign for University of the Nations.



Steve and Mark



The mango tree on campus has a plethora of mangos.

# December Update from Steven and Karissa Koopmans Continued

## How God Has Worked

Looking back over this past year, we can clearly see God's hand in every part of it:

- Steve completed his senior design presentation
- I finished my student teaching
- We both ran a marathon, graduated, and got married—all in the same month
- We attended weddings of close friends and of Steve's brother and sister-in-law
- We moved to Hawaii
- We moved twice while in Hawaii
- We began working and volunteering
- We have been blessed with an incredible community, both near and far

Looking back, not one of these things would have been possible without the Lord. We are so thankful for the passions God has given us in engineering and teaching, for the commitment we made to one another surrounded by friends and family, and for the opportunity to be in Hawaii during this season.

**Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year! We are beyond thankful for each one of you, and your prayers, encouragement, and support.**

If you are looking to give financially here is the link to do so:

<https://servantsintl.org/missionaries/koopmans-karissa-waiaha-school-ywam-kona/>

---

## Have Something for the Newsletter?

Church Newsletters are published on the last Friday of the month. The next newsletter will come out on: **February 27**.

If you have an article, story, or news you'd like to see in the next newsletter, please send it in by: **February 23**.

Newsletter articles can:

- Promote upcoming or recap recent events
- Highlight a Bible study, youth program, or small group
- Give an update on a missionary or organization we support

If you have any questions about the newsletter, feel free to contact the church office or reply to this email.