



SUSSEX CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

January 2025 Newsletter

A Note From Pastor Kendall: Resting in Christmastide

Just like that, the big day has come and gone. How was Christmas for you this year? Was it a let-down this year? Is your heart full or disappointed? When I was a kid I was always disappointed that the magic of Christmas was kind of over by now. Maybe you're exhausted from all the activity and preparations. Maybe you're trying to get your house back in order. Maybe the tree is already down. Maybe you're already trying to set your eyes on the new year. If we're not careful, we can too quickly turn the page on Christmas. But make no mistake--the season of Christmastime has only begun.

You've probably heard of the Twelve Days of Christmas. There's even a song about the twelve days. You know, the one with all the geese, the swans, the calling birds, the French hens, turtle doves and the partridge in a pear tree. I'm still not exactly sure why someone would want all those birds, but that's the song. Traditionally the Twelve Days of Christmas actually begin on Christmas Day, not conclude with it. Christmas is meant to continue past the big day. In the church calendar we call it Christmastide. It's the twelve days after Christmas. In fact, some traditions carry that season much longer than others, but the point is the same. We're not supposed to just rush through one day and move on to the next thing. We're meant to slow down and savor the meaning of Christmas now. In fact, I think this is the best time to really enjoy the holiday of Christmas. It can be easy to get too caught up in all the things leading up to Christmas--the shopping and the gifts, the parties, the decorations, the food and preparations. Those can all be wonderful things, but when do we find the time to rest in the meaning of Christmas? If Christ has come as the Savior of the world and we're reminded of his great grace, that should cause us to slow down from our need to be busy, to be productive, to do all things we NEED to do, in order to receive the ultimate gift of salvation. I think we need to learn how to rest in that new reality.

Let's not be in such a rush to move on in our lives that we miss out on slowing down to savor the reason for the season--we have been set free from sin and death, free from our failure to earn salvation, free from the burdens of this world and set free to live with God. In eternity we will experience the ultimate rest of knowing we belong to God Almighty forever. Christmas is supposed to be the first taste of that reality here on earth. God invites us this season to slow down, to remember that Christ has come, that he lived, died, rose again, went to heaven and left us his Spirit so we would know the joy and rest of the presence of God. Let's slow down and savor the rest of Christmastide.

ABOUT SUSSEX CRC

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STAFF

Senior Pastor:

Pastor Kendall Everett

Admin. Assistant:

Rachael Klein

January Birthdays

1: Donna Zuidema

2: Lisa Van Ek

4: Duce Tallamy

5: Luke Byma, Miles
Kuperus, Jr., Emma
Sytsma, John Vander
Goot

8: Easton Mann

9: Ava Langenbach, RJ
Vander Ploeg

11: Skylar Olinger, David
Van Dokkenburg

12: Timothy Kuperus

13: Daniel Kuperus, Pe-
nelope Kuperus, Craig
Langenbach

15: Annabelle Buske

16: Christina Post-Gibbins

18: Jonas Rivas

19: Dana Accettulli

20: Karisa Talen

22: Ken Jeltema

24: Anthony Mann, Freya
Talen, Willow Talen

25: Ed Brands, Ingrid
Langenbach

26: Owen Kuperus, Tim
Vander Groef

27: Jacob Kuperus, Jacob
Thiessen, Brandon LaBar

28: Linda Kuperus

29: Anneke Kuperus, Bob
Miedema, Grady Van Ek

30: Alex Yanoff

At Sussex CRC

Council Notes from the December Meeting

- A presentation was presented by Eric Thiessen on Hope Thru The Valley Ministry. A motion was approved to partner with and support this ministry on a monthly basis.
- Mutual Censure occurred as Holy communion will be celebrated on December 29th.
- The deaconate reported a YTD budget deficit of \$2,137.04.
- New Elders Jon Tallamy & Troy Yanoff along with new Deacons Brandon LaBar & Zack Vander Groef attended the meeting.
- Outgoing Elder Miles Kuperus & Deacons Matt Lockburner & Don Kievit gave parting words. These individuals were thanked by the Council for their work.
- Council Reorganization occurred:
 - Council & Elder President/ Chairman: HR Byma
 - Council & Elder Vice President/ Chairman: Jon Tallamy
 - Clerk: Rick Vander Ploeg
 - Deaconate Chairman: Bob Miedema
 - Vice Chairman: Zack Vander Groef
 - Secretary: Dan Van Wyk
 - Treasurer: Matt Kuperus
 - Buildings & Grounds: Bryce Gebauer
 - AGAPE: Brandon LaBar
 - District 1: Owen Valkema & Bryce Gebauer.
 - District 2: Troy Yanoff & Zack Vander Groef
 - District 3: Steve Van Ek & Bob Miedema
 - District 4: Rick Vander Ploeg & Dan Van Wyk
 - District 5: Jon Tallamy & Matt Kuperus
 - District 6: Keith Niedergall & Brandon LaBar
- Membership transfer requests to our church were received and approved by Council, from Jeanette Vander Groef and Steve & Barbara King. Pastor Kendall will welcome them at an upcoming Church Service.
- New First Aid Guidelines were recently established and reviewed by Council. More to come in the near future.
- Intern Eric Thiessen has agreed to stay on for the next 3 months assisting with worship & Discipleship.
- A presentation was also given by Eric Thiessen related to Life groups. This is a very exciting plan, and the Council encourages all to participate.

Have Something for the Newsletter?

The next newsletter will come out **January 31**. Stories are due by **January 24**. Newsletter articles can promote upcoming or recap recent events, highlight a Bible study, youth program, or small group, or give an update on a missionary or organization we support. If you have any questions about or something for the newsletter, contact the church office.

November 2024 Financial Statement

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Benevolent</u>
Beginning Balance	\$73,738.16	\$24,313.01
Income	<u>\$36,241.67</u>	<u>\$1,146.51</u>
Total	\$109,979.83	\$25,459.52
Disbursed	<u>\$32,764.12</u>	
Ending Balance	\$77,215.71	\$25,459.52

<u>Monthly Budget Needs</u>	
Amount Needed	\$32,640.90
Offering Received	\$30,856.63
Difference	\$(1,784.27)
Previous month Difference	<u>\$(352.77)</u>
YTD Deficit	<u>\$(2,137.04)</u>

Classical Shares Paid through Nov 2024
Denominational Shares Paid through Nov 2024

<u>Special Cause Donations</u>	
World Renew- World Hunger	\$1,413.00
World Renew- Hurricane Relief	\$1,504.00
My Brothers Place	\$25.00
Todays Choice	\$25.00
SCS	\$25.00
Grief Share	\$50.00

<u>Special Fund Donations</u>	
Benevolent	\$1,551.51
Missions	\$1,017.52
Tuition Assistance	\$1,410.52
Cap. Improvement	\$100.00

Baptism & Profession of Faith

On December 1, we got to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism with Will & Megan Sytsema in the baptism of their son, William Martin. We also got to witness Megan's Profession of Faith.



Changes By Numbers for 2024

Marriages (3):

John Vander Goot & Elinor Halma Frech
Matt Kuperus & Nicole Sweetman
Austin Niedergall & Paige Bordner

Baptisms (18):

Howard Kuperus
Freya Talen
Willow Talen
Colton Lobban
Maeve Buske
Josephine Dykstra
Angelina Accettulli
Grace Miedema
Amilya Rivas
Jonas Rivas
Meadow Birchenough
Peyton Birchenough
Levi Birchenough
Bennett Orr
Hailey Woodell
Derek Kuperus

Ada Moore

William M. Sytsema

New Members (31):

Annette, Lucas, & Peyton Kuperus
Katie Kuperus
Dan, Jules, Annabelle, Cora, Elaina, & Maeve Buske
Christopher, Dana, & Angelina Accettulli
Jason, Karen, Peter, & Grace Miedema
Taylor Vander Ploeg
Jonas, Yessica, & Amilya Rivas
Scott, Kristin, Evan, & Hailey Woodell
Trevor, Gillian, Meadow, Peyton, & Levi Birchenough
Megan Sytsema

Members Who Left (0):

Deaths (1):

Henny Sytsema

Missionary Updates



Update from the Gryglewicz

Prayer Requests

- Pray for the safety of those in Haiti. Since the end of October, there was a huge increase in gang and violent activity and political events that reflected this. There were massacres caused by gangs, resulting in over 100 people being killed. One staff member who leads an Impact club had to flee her home with her family due to gangs coming into the community and lighting houses on fire and shooting.
- Please pray for the safety of the Impact Clubs in Haiti and for the safety of their students, leaders, coaches, and families.
- Please also pray for the IMPACT clubs that are closed, such as in Port-au-Prince and Gros-Morne.
- The past few years, but the past few months in particular, have been hard for Johnny. He has been feeling the impact mentally and now physically as well. It's connected to everything that happened during the last few months in Haiti and the updates he has been getting from the staff still there. He was supposed to go on a trip to visit the staff in October, but it was cancelled at the last minute, which was devastating for Johnny. Please pray for Johnny during this time.

Prayer Praises

- In the last quarter, 25 active IMPACT clubs have been received regular club visits and assistance. During this quarter, they also welcomed 426 members and 51 leaders in the 25 active clubs.
- 151 boys and 275 girls are part of this program in 4 Departments in Haiti
- Johnny Gryglewicz has been working with Classis SE and Resonate (Marco Avila) on ordaining Haitian Pastors and planting churches. At the last Classis meeting, they had an examination and pass for Pastor Leclair. Pastor Leclair's church has around 100 people and he would like it to be a CRC church. The next Classis meeting was set to have 3 more Haitian Pastors examined. They also finalized an ordination curriculum to help these pastors.
- Johnny's sister recently had a baby and the family was able to fly up to New York to visit.
- Kim Gryglewicz took a job as an Assistant Principal at Bradenton Christian School and things have been going well!

-This article is based off an email and newsletter sent by Johnny Grygewlicz on Nov. 27, 2024.

Who We Support

World Renew - <http://worldrenew.net/>
Today's Choice - www.friendsoftodayschoice.org
Prison Ministry - www.cpministries.org
Campus Ministry - InterVarsity

Johnny and Kim Gryglewicz (Resonate-Haiti)
Larry and Ruth Spalink (Resonate-Japan)
Liam and Jessica Starkenburg (Resonate-Nicaragua)
Sussex Help Center and Family Promise