



# SUSSEX CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

May 2025 Newsletter

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## A Note From Pastor Kendall:

"In Light of your Vision"

At our recent leaders retreat we had lots of important conversations regarding the vision of our church and how we can accomplish the goals we believe God is leading us to pursue. Keith Doornbos, a church consultant with our denomination, lead the discussions. Pretty soon we will hold a Town Hall type congregational meeting to share some of the things we talked about, including our results from a congregational survey. As we discussed some important church-related topics, Keith kept coming back to a phrase we should be asking ourselves--"in light of your vision". There are usually plenty of things we want to talk about relating to church ministry--good ideas of things to try, what to do with a particular ministry, how to pursue the right opportunities, how to raise up new people to serve and lead. However, with so many ideas swirling, how do we make sure we stay focused on what God is leading us to do? We ask those questions "in light of our vision".

What's our vision? At Sussex Christian Reformed Church, our vision is to "Grow disciples of Jesus who transform lives for Christ". So the question we should always be asking ourselves is, "how does this help us grow disciples of Jesus who transform lives for Christ?" It's one thing to offer ministries to help God's people grow in their walk with Jesus; it's always good for us to be pursuing spiritual growth! But a big part of walking with Jesus is not just growing close to him for our own sake, but also growing close to him for the sake of his kingdom. That's why it's another thing to train the people of God to walk with Jesus in such a way that others' lives are changed too! Our vision is not just about adding to our church numbers, it's about multiplying disciple-makers.

How are you pursuing life with Christ? Do you regularly read and study God's Word so you can hear his voice? Do you pray both individually and with the people of God? Do you intentionally gather and connect with other believers to encourage each other? Is transforming other people's lives with the grace of Jesus a key goal in all of your spiritual practices?

Here's a challenge for us all to pursue: Seek and pray for opportunities to grow as followers of Jesus for the sake of others. How can your Bible study be a chance to transform lives? How can your life group be a chance to multiply disciples? How can you think of your home, job or other community connection as an opportunity to transform lives for Christ? We hope and pray our church grows even more focused on the multiplication of disciples of Jesus as we grow in Him!

## ABOUT SUSSEX CRC

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

## STAFF

### Senior Pastor:

Pastor Kendall Everett

### Admin. Assistant:

Cassidy Abma

## May Birthdays

2: Rebekah Bast  
2: Silas Talen  
3: Gillian Birchenough  
4: Shelby Van Ek  
6: Larissa Gebauer  
6: Sam Valkema  
8: Hailey Woodell  
8: John Miedema  
8: Levi Birchenough  
15: Lincoln Van Ek  
17: Dhane Boyd  
18: Steve Schipper  
20: Brianna Zuidema  
20: Dean Byma  
22: Janice Douglas  
23: Eric Thiessen  
29: Kendall Everett  
31: Remington Tilley

## At Sussex CRC

### Council Notes from the April Meeting

#### *April 16, 2025 Council Meeting Highlights:*

- As Holy Communion has been scheduled for April 18, Good Friday Worship service, Mutual Censure occurred.
- New Members Class - Pastor Kendall has set a date of Friday, April 25, for the new member class. Anyone still interested in becoming a member of SCRS please contact Pastor Kendall or any Elder if you are interested.
- The full council spoke about the recent Leadership Retreat that occurred on March 28th & 29th, at the Hope Through The Valley building in Frankford. Many great comments and ideas have come out of the retreat. Council is looking to conduct a Town Hall type meeting with the congregation in early June. More to come.
- The deaconate is very appreciative of our giving congregation, as the budget continues to be met every month of this fiscal year. All Classical & Denominational shares have been paid through March 2025.
- The Council is pleased to announce that Tim Vander Groef has accepted the role of Interim Worship Coordinator. Thank you, Tim, for your willingness to help lead our congregation in music and worship.
- As a reminder, the Council would like to offer the upright piano, that is in the basement, to anyone who is interested in taking it. Please see or contact any deacon for more information.
- A report was read from Stephanie Valkema regarding the new photo directory. She is hoping to have it completed by the end of May. If anyone has not yet provided your information and photos, please contact Stephanie as soon as possible.



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## The Baptism of Everly Grace Pabst

On March 30, surrounded by the love and support of her family and the SCRC Community, we celebrated the baptism of Everly Grace Pabst.

We look forward to watching her grow in faith and continue to shine brightly in our church family. We pray for God's blessings and guidance on her life.



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## Missionary Updates

Here's an update from Alisha Kuperus, in Berlin, Germany, with Resonate Global Mission.

### March

March was quite a busy month for me. I finished a German course and spent time working in the church and the shelter. I also spent a week in Rome at a Resonate Retreat, where the Cohort group met CRC missionaries from all over Europe.

### The Shelter

When I look out the window of my room, I see a stark contrast between two worlds. For context, I live directly across from the homeless shelter where I work. Every morning and evening, the shelter's guests sit crowded on a bench, waiting for the shelter to open. On the other hand, kids in my building run around carefree, playing soccer, climbing on playground equipment, and playing hide and seek, whereas with the guests one can see the weight of the world on their shoulders. They will often carry around bags containing all of their worldly possessions. They will layer multiple jackets because they are out in the cold all day. I suppose there is a harshness to the world that those who are homeless understand, that I hope those kids will never experience. Sometimes, the contrast strikes me in my own life. Every evening after a shift at the shelter, I come home to a group of my friends rather than sleeping in a room with people I haven't met before. I come home to the privacy of my own room after having given men or women at the shelter a bed in a room with up to fourteen other people. I don't worry about where I will sleep, how cold the weather is, or if I will eat. I'm grateful that I get to be a part of their lives, and am also grateful they get to be a part of mine.

### Resonate Retreat

March was a month of rest. I traveled with Cohort to a retreat in Rome for Resonate's European missionaries. For four days, we debriefed our time in our respective countries. Meeting the Resonate (or CRC) missionaries from around Europe was incredible. Listening to their hearts for the countries that they serve was inspiring. The effort they put into learning the language and the culture was incredibly moving. We listened to a speaker (in English, which I greatly appreciated) and took time to soak in the sunshine (which I also greatly appreciated since Berlin is still quite grey).

The day I returned to the shelter after the week off, I was standing at the door of the shelter. A woman who is a frequent guest of the shelter looked at me and said, "Ich weiß dich" – "I know you." Since I spend three to four nights a week at the shelter, for someone to say "I know you" when I came back was, I suppose, a way to acknowledge I had been gone and come back. I was glad to be back. As we celebrate Jesus' resurrection, may we be aware of the blessings around us.

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## Who We Support

World Renew - <http://worldrenew.net/>

Today's Choice - [www.friendsoftodayschoice.org](http://www.friendsoftodayschoice.org)

Prison Ministry– [www.cpmministries.org](http://www.cpmministries.org)

Resonate Global Mission - [www.resonateglobalmission.org](http://www.resonateglobalmission.org)

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

## March 2025 Financial Statement

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Benevolent</u>
Beginning Balance:	\$74,957.87	\$28,268.82
Income:	\$45,102.81	\$933.00
Total:	\$120,060.68	\$29,201.82
Disbursed	\$40,455.25	\$5,300.00
Ending Balance:	\$79,605.43	\$23,901.82

### Special Cause Donations

Sound of Life Radio: \$945.01

Cadets: \$25.30

Today's Choice: \$50.00

SCS: \$1,337.01

My Brothers Place: \$25.00

World Renew: \$25.00

### Special Fund Donations

Benevolent: \$933.00

Missions: \$1,793.00

Tuition Assistance: \$2,410.32

Cap Improvement: --

### Monthly Budget Needs

Amount Needed: \$35,486.78

Offering Received: \$40,177.17

Difference: \$4,690.36

Previous Month Surplus: \$3,041.51

YTD Surplus: \$7,731.87

Classical Shares Paid through March 2025.

Denominational Shares Paid Through March 2025.