



SUSSEX CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

September 2023 Newsletter

A Note from Pastor Kendall: Rest for Our Souls

Do you ever feel like it's an awful lot of work to go on vacation? As I'm writing this, I'm supposed to leave for a week's vacation with my family in just a couple days. Vacation to me is supposed to be a restful time, a break from the usual work routine. But it sure is a lot of work ahead of time! Amy and I have been spending most of our free time lately preparing for our trip. Writing lists, shopping (and shopping again because our lists changed), cleaning the house, packing, and making sure all our work is done so we can leave with clear minds. It can make a person think, "After all this work getting ready, it better be a great vacation and I better come home well-rested!"

As a parent of young children, I know it's not a realistic expectation to come home feeling well-rested in the physical sense. I know our children I will probably sleep less because our kids will be off their routine and out of their usual environment, but I sure do hope my soul feels rested! We cannot magically make our souls well-rested. And demanding that feeling at all costs will probably make me a miserable and unhelpful person toward those closest to me. I think that's why it's so important to have the proper perspective on rest. I may think the rest that I need is a break from all my responsibilities. While that can be really nice at times, I can't neglect being a parent and husband. Instead, I should seek to find my rest in the presence of my Lord. Vacation to me is really about positioning myself and my family in a different setting so we can more deeply delight in the gifts of God.

Jesus says in Matthew 11:29, "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

That's the kind of rest that I seek--for my soul to delight in God himself.

I know for many of us, we are in full gear-up mode for a busy Fall season of school, harvest season, Fall cleanup, church ministries etc. In our work, let us not neglect the absolutely vital practice of rest. In fact, the busier we are, the more imperative it is that we guard time and space in our weekly rhythms to rest in God's presence. Remember, we were first created for relationship with God. Our work and our rest are a rhythm helping us to know that we belong to him, and we partner with him. So as we prepare ourselves for whatever responsibilities come our way, may we never forget the important gift of belonging to God in Christ.

ABOUT SUSSEX CRC

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STAFF

Senior Pastor:

Pastor Kendall Everett

Worship Coordinator:

Karisa Talen

Admin. Assistant:

Rachael Klein

September Birthdays

3: Michael Babich,
Hunter Calyer

5: Heather Apgar

8: Mitch Jurius, Autumn
Miedema

10: Paige Sinclair

12: Jane Valkema, Jen-
nifer Vander Groef

13: Jodie Joaquin

17: Al Bosma, Charlie

Kuperus Matthew

Kuperus, Halee Orr

21: Anna Mae Aukema

25: Kayleigh Jeltema,
Pete Thiessen

26: Tiffany Jeltema, Cal-

vin Kuperus, Kristin Tal-

lamy

27: Paul Tallamy

28: Logan Yanoff

29: Howie Kuperus,

Miles Kuperus III

30: Dayne Everett,

Terri Garris, Tilly

Tackema, Jada Tallamy,

Lynden Van Den Broek

At Sussex CRC

Council Notes from the August Meeting

- The Deaconate reports that the year-to-date budget deficit is at \$15,600.00 and is thankful for those who helped bring it down.
- A list of Elder & Deacon nominations was approved. Letters will be sent to those nominated for the positions of Elder & Deacons. This year, 3 Elders and 2 Deacons are needed. The Council asks that the congregation pray for those that have been nominated and that God will work within them to accept His calling to be a leader of His church.
- GriefShare began on Thursday, August 24.
- We are happy to announce that Amy Everett is the new Sunday School Superintendent. However, more Sunday School Teachers are still needed. Please reach out to Amy if you are interested in teaching our children about our Lord and Savior.
- Sunday, September 10, will be our Church Education Kick Off. Leaders/helpers are needed in various education programs. Please reach out to the council if you feel led to lead help in any of the programs.
- The Council encourages the congregation to attend the annual service at the Old Clove Church on September 17. This service will be in place of our Sunday Evening service.
- The Worship team has been invited to an ecumenical event hosted by the Baleville Community Church on September 30, (rain date: October 1), at the Cerbo Tree Farm in Frankford. This night of Worship will be from 4-9PM and our team plans to play a set of Worship songs. Also, the Worship committee is looking for suggestions on who from our church would enjoy participating in the Chili Cook-off. More information is forthcoming or speak with Karisa about more details.
- Holy Communion will be celebrated on October 8.
- Rick & Judy Vander Ploeg are once again planning a Financial Peace University class in January. More information to come.

July 2023 Financial Statement

| | <u>General Fund</u> | <u>Benevolent</u> | <u>Special Cause Donations</u> | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--|------------|
| Beginning Balance | \$225.65 | \$23,245.16 | Hoving Home | \$50.00 |
| Income | \$51,378.98 | \$652.01 | Capital Imp/Bldg | \$150.00 |
| Total | \$51,604.63 | \$23,897.17 | My Brothers Place | \$75.00 |
| Disbursed | \$37,712.80 | - | Sussex Christian School | \$589.02 |
| Ending Balance | \$13,891.83 | \$23,897.17 | Sound of Life | \$377.01 |
| | | | <u>Special Fund Donations</u> | |
| | | | Benevolent | \$567.00 |
| | | | Missions | \$1,051.42 |
| | | | Tuition Assistance | \$809.01 |
| | | | Classical Shares Paid through July 2023 | |
| | | | Denominational Shares Paid through July 2023 | |
| <u>Monthly Budget Needs</u> | | | | |
| Amount Needed | \$31,310.69 | | | |
| Offering Received | \$41,839.86 | | | |
| Surplus | \$10,529.17 | | | |
| Previous month deficit | <u>\$(26,223.75)</u> | | | |
| YTD Deficit | <u>\$(15,694.58)</u> | | | |

A Baptism

On July 30, we got to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism with Bob and Ashley Miedema in the baptism of their son, John Robert.



Have Something for the Newsletter?

The next newsletter will come out **Sept. 29**. Stories are due by **Sept. 22**.

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.



Missionary Updates

Update from the Starkenburgs in Nicaragua

The school Liam and Jess teach at, Nicaragua Christian Academy International, recently adopted a new schooling framework called Teaching for Transformation. The school recently held a 2-day training session to help develop the storyline for the school year.



The Starkenburg kids are going back to school as well. Caleb is starting senior year of high school and visited colleges over the summer. Judah is starting 10th grade. He recently bought a trumpet, loves coding, and will be a youth group leader. Belen is starting 7th grade. She is excited for this year and is full of creativity and kindness. Asher is starting 6th grade. He enjoys soccer with friends, biking, playing outside, and recently, yo-yo!



Prayer Praises:

- The new school has begun, and we have new opportunities to form active disciples of Jesus Christ!
- Summer was both adventurous and restful, which was needed after a very full year of school and challenges related to living in Nicaragua.
- We have been able to see an increase in parent involvement in the school, which helps reduce the work load of our teachers and staff.

Prayer Requests:

- We are still missing 3 teachers! We had to cover these positions internally, which is not sustainable, so please pray earnestly that God would provide a 5th grade teacher, 6th grade teacher, and Middle School English/Social Studies teacher! Even though the school year has begun, we would love to hire these teachers at any point -- the sooner, the better!
- Please pray for our finances. The months after summer travels are always difficult because our summer expenses deplete our savings and we have to live from month to month, trusting in God's provision. Furthermore, our overall support levels decreased last year.

Thank You

Thank You from the Gryglewicz

“Thank you for your warm hospitality and love you shared with us during our visit. We feel so blessed to have spent time together. Thank you for the tickets to the game! Until next time.

Bondye beni ou,
Johnny, Kim, Kailey, Olivia, & Jaycie”

-Game tickets refer to the Baseball Outing church had back in July.

--“Bondye beni ou” is Haitian Creole for “God bless you”

There was a recent article in the *Banner* magazine about the Gryglewicz’s ministry. The article, “Florida Church Planters: They Left Haiti, Still Serve Haitians” by Roxanne Van Farowe can be viewed online by [Clicking Here](#).

Thank You from the CRCNA

“You are making a difference! On behalf of the ministries of the Christian Reformed Church in North America, thank you for your gifts to ministry shares. Your support enables congregations to do so much more to further God's Kingdom than any one church could do alone. Our denomination could not impact the world through missions, media, and church development without your incredible and faithful support. Thank you! To discover more visit crcna.org/ministryshares.”

Thank You from the Hoving Home

“Dear Friends, It was a blessing to worship our Lord in song and bring glory to His name during our time with you. It is my prayer that our time together brought hope through accounts of God’s love and grace.

“Receiving your gift of \$1,785.32 following our concert was a joy to behold! Please know that your contribution will go directly to impact and transform the lives of women who are battling to overcome addiction.

“All of us at Hoving Home sincerely appreciate your kindness and trust you saw for yourself how lives are transformed by the love of Jesus. Thank you for making this ministry possible.

“I, along with each of our Ladies and staff send our sincere love and thanks.”

Because He lives,
Beth Greco, President & CEO

Who We Support

World Renew - <http://worldrenew.net/>
Today's Choice - www.friendsoftodayschoice.org
Prison Ministry– www.cpministries.org
Campus Ministry - Mike Mun, InterVarsity at Drew University

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