



# SUSSEX CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

## March 2025 Newsletter

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### A Note From Pastor Kendall: A Taste of the Kingdom

I'm ready for Spring. Winter was fun while it lasted but I'm over it now. I like snow, colder temperatures, the lakes freezing over, and recently I found out I really like skiing, but I'm ready for Spring and warmer weather. The end of February and early March often bring some phantom Spring days. We recently had a bitter cold front, then a few days where the temperatures got into the forties and fifties. With the sun shining, it might as well have been seventy degrees. On one of those days, I was playing outside with the kids and we were so warm there was no need for coats or sweatshirts. It was gloriously refreshing. It filled my soul with joy and hope for those Spring days where the sun shines, the robins return, the days are longer, and the early flowers blossom.

Now, of course I know that these few warm days don't mean Spring has officially arrived. In New Jersey, I know this like the "false Spring". Then it will go back to feeling like winter. There's a good chance we get more snow in March. Then gradually we'll get some more days where it feels like Spring, then another cold front before Spring REALLY arrives. Of course with Spring's arrival will bring rain and the mud season until everything dries up. But it still feels really good and reminds me of the joy of what's to come.

It got me thinking about the Kingdom of God. When Jesus came to earth and began his ministry, he announced the kingdom of God had come!

Luke 17:20-21 says, *Once, on being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, "The coming of the kingdom of God is not something that can be observed, nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the kingdom of God is in your midst."*

We talk about the kingdom of God in terms of the "already and the not-yet". The Kingdom of God is already in our midst because of the work of Jesus and his Spirit living within us. It is just not yet complete. What an incredible reality to think about--that God's kingdom is already here! Yet we look at our world and we see the mess and chaos. There are still wars being waged, innocent people being taken advantage of, tragedy and disease still stealing the days of our loved ones. There is still corruption of our hearts and corruption in our world. But the kingdom is coming. In fact, it has already arrived. Like those early Spring days, we already get a chance to taste it and see it. We see the kingdom of God when the church really acts like the church. We see it in the Word of God speaking life to our hearts. We see it in a newborn baby or the genuine unbridled joy of a child. We see it when a grieving person can still find joy and laughter. We see it when the hurting experience healing in body and soul. People of God, it may not always feel like it, but the Kingdom of God has come, and soon we will see the finished product. In the meantime, let's keep our eyes open to celebrate the kingdom of God at work as a taste of what is yet to come.

## ABOUT SUSSEX CRC

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

## STAFF

### Senior Pastor:

Pastor Kendall Everett

### Admin. Assistant:

Rachael Klein

## March Birthdays

1: Casey Sytsema  
2: Corey Vander Groef  
3: Simon Valkema  
5: Karen Bast  
7: Magnolia Calyer, Josie Hicks, Jon Kuperus  
9: Joshua Jeltema  
10: Steve Van Ek, Erin Verblaauw  
11: Maebel Van Ek  
12: Rich Byma, Taylor Vander Ploeg  
13: Karissa Kuperus, Loree LaBar, Mario Ratti  
14: Elsie Kuperus  
16: Russ Zuidema  
17: Lisa Kuperus  
18: Carol Dekker  
19: Jeremy Apgar  
22: Eden Kuperus, Reyer Van Den Broek  
23: Leesa Valkema  
27: Abram Bast, Sonja Kuperus  
29: Al DeRoo, Skylynn Kuperus  
30: Henry Byma, Caleb Kuperus, Melinda Stackpole  
31: Eli Bast, Eleanor Caton

## At Sussex CRC

## Council Notes from the February Meeting

- As Holy Communion has been rescheduled for March 2nd, Mutual Censure occurred.
- Vacation Bible School has been tentatively scheduled for July 21st to July 25th and is being organized by Karisa Talen. There will be a meeting on Tuesday, March 4, to begin the preparations.
- Discussion occurred regarding having a new member's class. Contact Pastor Kendall or any Elder if you are interested in becoming a member.
- A Leadership Retreat for the Council and Vision team leaders will occur on March 28th & 29th.
- The deaconate reports a budget surplus of \$1,510.19. All Classical & Denominational shares have been paid through January 2025.
- Pastor Kendall & Deacon Bob Miedema gave an update on the recent Classis meeting held on Thursday, January 23 at Restore Church in Midland Park.
- Life Group update was given. Steven Fox to will give an update at an upcoming Church service.
- The full Council was advised that Rachael Klein has accepted a new full-time job and will be stepping down from the position of Administrative Assistant for our Church. The Council would like to thank Rachael for her 9 years of dedicated service to our Church and wish her all the best in this next chapter.
- The Council would like to invite any one who would be interested in applying for the Administrative Assistant position, please contact Pastor Kendall, or Elder Jon Tallamy as soon as possible.
- Discussion occurred on possibly creating a new church photo directory. More to come.
- Pastor Kendall advised the Council that former pastor Joel Vande Werken is now the new Director of Ecclesiastical Governance in the Christian Reformed Church. The Vande Werken family are now living in Michigan.

## January 2025 Financial Statement

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Benevolent</u>	<u>Special Cause Donations</u>
Beginning Balance	\$113,676.29	\$26,845.52	Todays Choice \$953.30
Income	\$41,940.02	\$998.30	Hope Thru the Valley \$1,100.00
Total	\$155,616.31	\$27,843.82	
Disbursed	\$86,743.98		<u>Special Fund Donations</u>
Ending Balance	\$68,872.33	\$27,843.82	Benevolent \$1,423.30
			Missions \$1,410.30
			Tuition Assistance \$1,394.00
			Cap. Improvement -
	<u>Monthly Budget Needs</u>		
Amount Needed	\$35,486.78		
Offering Received	\$36,996.47		
Difference	\$1,510.19		
Previous month Surplus	\$33,321.23	Classical Shares Paid through Jan 2025	
YTD Surplus	\$34,831.42	Denominational Shares Paid through Jan 2025	

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## Baptisms & New Members

On February 2, we welcomed new members Steven and Barbara King. Steve and Barbara transferred to Sussex CRC from Pompton Plains Reformed Bible Church.

On February 23, we got to celebrate baptisms and professions of faith! Anthony and Felicia Mann's son, Marcus Dalton, was baptized, Jon and Julia Snader made public professions of faith and brought their children, Violet and Clayton, for baptism.



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## Life Groups are Open to Join

We are excited to announce that Life Groups are now open to join. At Sussex CRC our vision is to cultivate grace-filled, authentic relationships. As our church continues to grow, we seek new ways to intentionally connect with each other and encourage one another in our faith journeys. Life Groups are a key way for us to support our vision and grow as disciples of Christ.

What is a Life Group? A Life Group is small, intentional community of people who have committed to "doing life" together. They gather regularly to study Scripture, check in on one another's lives, pray for one another, and support each other as they live out their lives as Christians. Whether you've been part of this community for a lifetime, you're new, or anywhere in between, we invite you to join a life group to experience deeper connections with Christ and with one another in the church.

Our Life Groups grow together as they:

- Dive deeper into the Word of God as we seek to grow closer to Christ.
- Embrace the Worship of God as we pray for each other's concerns and lift up thanksgiving together.
- Experience a deep Community of God as we share joys, sorrows, and challenges, building deep and lasting connections within our church family.
- Explore our roles in the Mission of God as we look to serve our community.

To find more information and to sign up to join a life group, please follow the link below. We encourage you to sign-up by March 20th as we are looking forward to kicking off our groups in April.

Learn more at [sussexcrc.org/life-groups](https://sussexcrc.org/life-groups)

# Thanks for Everything!

Hi Everyone! As I am in the process of leaving my position as Sussex CRC's Administrative Assistant, I just wanted to say thank you for everything. I am so grateful for all the fellow staff and volunteers I have gotten to work with over the years. It's been an adventure and all of you have helped church (and me) in so many ways. I don't think people always realize just how many moving parts churches have! It can take between 25-30 people for a regular Sunday Service to happen between all the staff and volunteers helping put it together and to keep it moving. You've also helped me learn and grow into the person and worker I am today. Thank you all so much for everything!

To answer some frequent questions:

- The company I am going to work for is called Turtle. They are an electrical and industrial supply chain distributor, so very different from church work!
- The job title is called Lifecycle Services Specialist. My position is mostly remote, so I will still mostly be in the area.
- This is a full-time role
- My last day at church is Friday, March 7.

Thank you all!  
Rachael Klein

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## Missionary Updates



### Thank You from Resonate

Dear Friends at Sussex CRC,

Thank you for joining God in all He's doing through Resonate!

All around the globe, God is working through your church's support for your Christian Reformed missionaries, church planters, and ministry leaders. Together, we are taking part in the way God's Spirit is moving!

I hope you are continually encouraged by the good and fruitful work we are accomplishing together. Your church's gifts and prayers help make it possible to carry the hope and redemption of Jesus to the ears of unreached people in over 40 countries around the world! Your community's support is an important way you help make this ministry possible. We couldn't do it without you! Thank you for using your gifts to partner with Resonate.

I hope that you find warmth in knowing that by sending others to share the Good News of Jesus, your church is helping change the lives of individuals and communities for generations to come! Thank you!

In Christ, Kevin DeRaaf, Director, Resonate Global Mission

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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.cpministries.org](http://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