



# SUSSEX CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

September 2024 Newsletter

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## A Note From Pastor Kendall: My Do It!

It's good to be back from vacation. We had a great week with our family. It was busy with lots of activities so it wasn't exactly relaxing, but it's worth it to make memories with the family. Vacationing with a toddler is particularly interesting. He has high energy, needs constant activity and supervision and still requires a nap to function best. That means sometimes a parent has to stay back with him or get him to sleep in the car or stroller while the other parent goes ahead with the others. He's also at the fun age where he insists on his own independence. He even has a cute little phrase. Where we might politely say, "I would like to do this myself, thank you", he simply says, "MY do it!" For example, when you try to put the lid on his water bottle he wrestles it away from you saying, "MY do it". Try to buckle him into his car seat and he grabs the buckle saying, "MY do it". Sometimes it's a safety matter. If you try to hold his hand crossing a road or parking lot, he tries to shake his hand away saying, "MY do it". This can be super frustrating as a parent when trying to accomplish anything, especially if we're in a rush. I sometimes find myself trying to reason with my child saying, "If you'd just let me help you a little, this will go so much easier for both of us." I know my child craves independence and wants to be able to do things himself, but I also know how much he needs me no matter how much he insists he doesn't. Now obviously this is a normal and necessary part of a child's development in learning to grow up and do ordinary things on their own, but it certainly got me thinking about our spiritual lives. How often are we tempted to wrestle away a little control from God because we insist, "MY do it!"

Recently I saw a quote that said, "Parenting really is a crash course in theology. You have someone made in your image who you love so desperately you can hardly stand it. But half the time they're convinced you're trying to make them miserable when everything you're doing is actually for their ultimate good." It made me laugh at myself as a parent trying to care for my children. It also made me think about how I treat God. He is sovereign, always there with us working for our good and ready to help us, yet I still act like I've got it all under control on my own.

When we walk with God, are we really convinced he loves us so desperately he would do anything for us? Are we always convinced that no matter what he does, it is always for our ultimate good? That might be easy to believe when things are going well for us, but it becomes harder when life is difficult or uncomfortable or down right painful. On the flip side, sometimes it's the good times that make us think how great we must be doing if so many things are going right. Listen to Ephesians 2:10 (ESV). "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

We were not created to go through this life all on our own. We were created to trust that God is ordaining our steps. What we think are our own good qualities is the workmanship of God. What we think is our own hard work is God preparing us for the good works he's prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

I'm really grateful God is sovereign. On my own strength I'd be sure to mess things up way worse than they are. But I'm glad to know God is ordaining our steps as we live for him.

## ABOUT SUSSEX CRC

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

## STAFF

**Senior Pastor:**  
Pastor Kendall Everett

**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  
25: Kayleigh Jeltema,  
Pete Thiessen  
26: Calvin Kuperus,  
Peyton Kuperus, Tiffany  
Jeltema, Kristin Tallamy  
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 August meeting was a quarterly strategic Council meeting
- Ideas were discussed on how to regularly share church prayer needs.
- Corey Vander Groef & Clay Sytsema will be making Profession of Faith on September 1 at the morning service.
- An update will be given by the Search Committee also on September 1.
- Taylor Vander Ploeg has agreed to be the new Nursery Coordinator.
- Council discussed the need for several volunteers, especially for the upcoming Sunday School season.
- The deaconate is happy to report a YTD budget surplus of \$2,984.92.
- Mutual Censure occurred as Holy communion will be celebrated on September 8th.
- The deaconate will begin working on the new budget soon.

### Have Something for the Newsletter?

The next newsletter will come out **September 27**. Stories are due by **September 20**.

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.

### July 2024 Financial Statement

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Benevolent</u>	<u>Special Cause Donations</u>	
Beginning Balance	\$74,663.73	\$27,572.00	My Brother's Place	\$722.00
Income	\$28,089.81	\$659.00	SCS	\$20.00
Total	\$102,753.54	\$28,231.00	Street Childrens Ministry	\$546.92
Disbursed	\$26,514.26	-	Compassion Project	\$85.02
Ending Balance	\$76,239.28	\$28,231.00	<u>Special Fund Donations</u>	
			Benevolent	\$262.01
			Missions	\$170.01
			Tuition Assistance	\$260.01
			Cap. Improvement	\$50.00
			<u>Monthly Budget Needs</u>	
Amount Needed	\$32,640.90			
Offering Received	\$25,674.81			
Difference	\$(6,966.09)			
Previous month Surplus	\$9,951.01			
YTD Surplus	\$2,984.92			

Classical Shares Paid through July 2024  
Denominational Shares Paid through July 2024

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## Professions of Faith

On August 4, we got to celebrate the Professions of Faith of Kayleigh Jeltema and Madison Tallamy.



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## Coming Up This Fall

As summer winds down and fall begins, many of our Bible Studies, Youth Programs, and Groups are starting up again! Here are some dates to watch out for:

### Bible Studies & Groups

**Financial Peace University:** New class starts September 19 at 7pm in the Science Room at Sussex Christian School.

**GriefShare:** New session began on August 29 and will meet weekly on Thursdays through December 19. Afternoon Group meets at 2:30pm and Evening Group meets at 7pm.

**Ladies Fitness & Fellowship:** Will continue to meet on alternating Tuesdays at 7pm. Please see the calendar for the dates.

**Ladies' Morning Bible Study:** New study begins on September 18 at 9:45am.

**Men's Prayer & Bible Study:** Will continue to meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at 7:30pm.

**Men's Morning Bible Study:** Will continue to meet on Thursdays at 6:30am at Yetter's Diner.

### Youth Programs

**Cadets & GEMS:** Kick-off meetings scheduled for October 4 at 7pm. Cadets is for boys, grades 2-8 and GEMS is for girls grades 2-8.

**Jr. High Youth Group:** Kick-off meeting on September 27 at 7pm at church. Jr. High is for those in grades 7-8.

**Sr. High Youth Group:** Kick-off meeting is September 4 at 7pm at church. Sr. High is for those in grades 9-12.

**Sunday School & Catechism:** Classes are scheduled to begin on September 22. Sunday School is grades K-6 and Catechism for grades 7-12.

Learn more about all Youth Programs at [sussex-crc.org/youth-programs](http://sussex-crc.org/youth-programs).

You can view all meetings and events on our Calendar on the Church Center App or at [sussex-crc.org/calendar](http://sussex-crc.org/calendar). You can also learn more about these groups at [sussex-crc.org/studies](http://sussex-crc.org/studies).

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## Thank You - Ministry Shares

“Dear Brothers and Sisters of Sussex CRC,

“Thank you for your church's gift to the ministry shares program. For over 160 years, churches have been joining in ministry through ministry shares. As a result, they've been able to have a much larger impact than any congregation could have on its own.

“Your gifts provide resources for proclaiming the gospel of Jesus around the world and support the work of disciplining people to experience the saving grace of Jesus. You support missionaries in the field, media broadcasts in 12 languages, church plants across North America, students at Calvin University and Calvin Seminary, and you provide valuable resources and support to all of the congregations of the CRCNA.

“Your willingness to work with other Christian Reformed Churches is helping proclaim the story of salvation and bringing a light to a dark world. Thank you.

“I invite you to visit [crcna.org/ministryshares](http://crcna.org/ministryshares) to learn more about how your ministry share gifts are making a difference. Please share one of our videos, slides or printed material about ministry shares with your congregation and remind them of the of the shared ministry they are apart of.

“Thank you for your continued support of ministry shares. I pray you will be blessed by all of your giving.

“In Christ's Service,  
Jeff Bolt”

*-This article is from an email sent from the CRC on August 13, 2024*

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## About Crossroads Prison Ministries

Our special offering for September will be Crossroads Prison Ministries. As stated on their website, Crossroads' mission is to “connect people in prisons with mentors from churches to develop Christ-centered relationships as they study God's Word together” ([cpministries.org/mission-vision](http://cpministries.org/mission-vision)).

Crossroads trains mentors to help prisoners study God's Word through Bible study programs, by writing letters of encouragement, and by praying for them.

To learn more about Crossroads Prison Ministries or about becoming a mentor, more information is on their website at [cpministries.org](http://cpministries.org).



**CROSSROADS**  
PRISON MINISTRIES

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## Who We Support

World Renew - <http://worldrenew.net/>  
Today's Choice - [www.friendsoftodaychoice.org](http://www.friendsoftodaychoice.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