



SUSSEX CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

August 2023 Newsletter

A Note from Pastor Kendall: Gifts in Action

I don't know about you, but when I get someone a gift, I LOVE to see them use it and enjoy it. The more thought I put into that particular gift, the more I want to see that person use it. If that gift isn't being used, I might even pester that person with "Why aren't you using the thing I got you??" There's something about seeing a gift in action that brings me joy.

If we have that perspective when getting good gifts for each other, imagine God carefully making each and every person special and in his own image. He creatively shapes our personalities, our strengths, and our opportunities in this life. God specially designed each of us with gifts to serve him. We can be sure he LOVES to see us put those to good use.

This past Sunday, we celebrated the welcome of several new members to our church! That alone was a wonderful gift. It was the perfect Sunday to talk about what it means to belong to Christ as his member and how that translates to being a member of the local church. A key part of being a member of the church is looking for opportunities to use our gifts to serve God in this world. This week during Vacation Bible School, I got to see a LOT of gifts being put into action all at once. I can't recap the whole week yet, but I can give you a preview of so many ways the body of Christ was at work! Here's some examples:

First of all, there was some serious planning behind the scenes to put this all together, fitting volunteers into positions to best serve, getting all the details figured out, sometimes adapting on the fly. Then there are the group activities. Volunteers leading creative and interactive ocean-themed games, a stand with clever snacks like Jell-O with gummy sharks, or gold fish from "Miss Linda's Fish Market". There's craft time, where volunteers helped each kid put their own creative gifts to good use. "Professor Sharktopolous" taught the kids all about the ocean God made and captured their attention with some jaw-dropping experiments. Teachers used their own creativity in teaching important Bible lessons, dramatically showing and telling the story from the Bible, sometimes using some serious props! People on stage teaching the songs, recapping each night, and telling fun ocean-themed jokes. We can't forget the group leaders, staying with the same group of kids each night, getting to know their names, leading them from station to station, sometimes sitting down and answering some big faith questions.

Vacation Bible School is just one week to serve in the life of the church, but in that one week you see a lot of gifts put on display all at once. As a pastor, it brings me pride and joy to see so many people in unique places showing the love of Jesus to these kids. We do things like VBS because we believe some important truths about God and his love for children. We believe each child both inside and outside our church is made in His image. We believe that the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these and Jesus welcomes them to come unto him. We believe that the Holy Spirit stirs in our hearts a longing to be with and serve our Creator God. And we believe God can cause the seeds planted in one week to grow into great trees of faith. God delights when he gives us good gifts and we put them to good use in his kingdom. Thanks be to God for a week of serving!

ABOUT SUSSEX CRC

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sussexcrc.org

STAFF

Senior Pastor:

Pastor Kendall Everett

Worship Coordinator:

Karisa Talen

Admin. Assistant:

Rachael Klein

August Birthdays

1: Brian Bosloper, Greta
Caton, Henry Kuperus

3: Greg Muller, Zenya
Yanoff

5: Caleb Orr

6: Harriet Kuperus

8: Kinsley Lobban

10: William Zuidema

13: Louise Post

14: Larissa Bast, Amy
Everett, Jeff Little

15: Hannah Lucey

17: Marcie Walther

19: Josh Aukema, Kristy

Lockburner, Margaret
Weemstra

20: Pete Hagedoorn

22: Al Jeltema

26: Rich Douglas, Addi-
son Little

27: Audrey Little

29: Alicen Gebauer

30: John M. Kuperus

At Sussex CRC

Council Notes from the July Meeting

- Holy Communion will be celebrated on August 6.
- The Deaconate reports That the Compassion Project has been going well.
- Deaconate also reports that window treatments for the basement were scheduled to be installed on July 20. Approved the purchase of 2 additional cordless microphones.
- Deaconate also reports that the year-to-date budget deficit is \$26,223.75. Classical and Denominational shares have been paid through June 2023. The Council asks that you prayerfully consider how you may be able to help with reducing the budget shortfall.
- The Harvest table is now active in the basement.
- Plans have were finalized for VBS and all were excited for the week.
- The next Classic meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 19, at the Love Global Vision CRC in Clifton, NJ.
- The Elders were presented with new Little Praisers/Sunday School Curriculum for review. More to come!!

Have Something for the Newsletter?

The next newsletter will come out **August 25**. Stories are due by **August 18**.

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.

June 2023 Financial Statement

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Benevolent</u>	<u>Special Cause Donations</u>	
Beginning Balance	\$(414.49)	\$21,070.15	Hoving Home	\$1,785.32
Income	<u>\$28,074.71</u>	<u>\$2,472.01</u>	Capital Imp/Bldg	\$175.00
Total	\$27,660.22	\$23,542.16	My Brothers Place	\$25.00
Disbursed	<u>\$27,434.57</u>	<u>\$297.00</u>	Sussex Christian School	\$50.00
Ending Balance	\$225.65	\$23,245.16	New City Kids	\$30.00
			Compassion Project	\$2,100.00

Monthly Budget Needs

Amount Needed	\$31,310.69
Offering Received	\$24,309.36
Surplus	\$(7,001.33)
Previous month deficit	<u>\$(19,222.42)</u>
YTD Deficit	\$(26,223.75)

Special Fund Donations

Benevolent	\$317.01
Missions	\$775.01
Tuition Assistance	\$716.01

Classical Shares Paid through June 2023

Denominational Shares Paid through June 2023

Baptisms, Professions of Faith, & New Members

On July 16, we witnessed the Professions of Faith of Anneke Kuperus and Simon Valkema.

On July 23, we welcomed new members Morgan Kuperus, Anthony & Felicia Mann, Melissa Niedergall, Liz Treiber, and Abby Vander Groef, and celebrated the baptisms of Aliyah, Easton, and Colton Mann.

Welcome to all our new members!



Recent Events

A lot has happened at Sussex CRC this summer! Here's a recap of some recent events:



On June 30, we had a Baseball Outing at Skylands Stadium in Augusta. We got to watch the Sussex County Miners play the Empire State Greys. The Miners won with an end score of 6-3!



The July 2 Morning Worship Service featured Johnny & Kim Gryglewicz and family, one of the missionary families our church supports. They spoke about their work in Haiti.



On July 11, the Vander Groefs hosted an outdoor Young Adult Movie Night at their Family Farm. The Lord blessed them with a beautiful evening of fellowship and entertainment!



From July 24-28, we had Vacation Bible School! Over 60 kids participated in Mystery Island! Thank you to everyone who helped with VBS this year!

If you'd like to check out upcoming events, you can

- Follow us on [Facebook](#) and Instagram
- Check the [Church Calendar](#)



Missionary Updates

Update from Mike Mun in Campus Ministry

In his latest email newsletter, Mike reported that School is out for the summer, but ministry work is not. Five of the Drew University's IntersVarsity student leaders graduated this year, with three student leaders still on campus for the coming year. Mike hopes and prays that God will lead them to students who are desiring God.

On July 2, Mike and Diana welcomed a baby girl, Emma!

Mike asks that we pray for:

- That the Lord will guide the group to extend the love of Christ
- That he and the students will live out lives that exemplifies radical transformation and courage to serve others
- To reach out to those in the margins
- That they would be united in the pursuit to see God's Kingdom on campus
- That he and Diana would raise up their children in fear and worship of the Lord.



Mike also thanks everyone who has supported him financially over the past three years. He reflected on how God met his needs throughout the years. Mike had to raise funds while serving abroad for a few years, while in a Partnership Program at Gordon-Conwell, and now in campus ministry.

[If you would like to donate towards Mike's work with IntersVarsity at Drew University, Click Here.](#)

Learn More About Our Missionaries

If you would like to learn more about the missionaries we support, check out sussexcrc.org/missionaries. There you can find links to learn about the Johnny & Kim Gryglewicz serving Haiti, Larry & Ruth Spalink in Japan, Mike Mun & Diana Yu in NJ campus ministry, and Liam & Jessica Starkenburg in Nicaragua.

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