



Sussex Christian Reformed Church October 2021 Newsletter

A Note From Pastor Kendall: Working and Waiting

As of this writing, we really thought we would have met our baby boy by now. Though the due date is this week, everything seemed to be pointing to an early delivery. We were timing contractions, calling the family for childcare, getting the plans in order. Just when we thought we were ready to go the hospital, plans changed. A few days like that are enough to drive a person crazy. For weeks now we've had the car ready with the infant car seat and the hospital bags packed with the clothes and snacks (very important) for delivery and recovery. Every day we wonder what the day is going to bring. Sometimes we have to remember the plans we've already had on the calendar. Thinking the baby was coming, I almost forgot about other important responsibilities. Amy had to remind me about things like, "Don't forget you're coaching soccer and we have Back-to-School night tonight." And I find myself thinking, "Right! We still have other things to do..." Sometimes the waiting game is the hardest. Every day needs a plan and two backup plans so we are ready for the big moment. Sometimes it's nice to have something to do together so we know we'll be out for a couple hours. It's a nice distraction from the ever-growing sense of impatience swirling in our hearts and minds. Something we're learning is that busyness, though effecting in distracting us, doesn't help us be with God. Sometimes we need to slow down and bring our thoughts to God and learn to find patience in him. Otherwise we are left living for the future and forget God is with us in the present. So we keep looking around at the gifts God has given us and engaging with the work God has placed before us. It's been nice to seize a few more opportunities to intentionally spend with our two girls before we add to our number. Amy reminded me recently, it's great to have a plan but we have to hold it loosely. I think if we're able to hold our plans loosely, it helps us patiently wait on God's plans. Then we are able to cherish His presence as we wait, even in the frustrations and false alarms, even in the busyness of our work.

I am reminded this week of what Romans 8:22-25 says: "For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience."

Patience is hard, especially while we wait for something beautiful. I know the Everett household is not the only one dealing with impatience and frustrations these days. For you it might be a job that constantly has setbacks and you feel like you're treading water. Maybe it's another round of uncertainty about school staying open. Maybe it's being hit with an illness that you just can't wait to kick. Maybe it's longing for the day when you have enough help at the business to be able to breathe. I think we tend to imagine what our lives will look like down the road just a little bit and we dream about it being so much better. So we put our heads down and keep busy hoping our activity will help us pass the time until we get there. As most of you know, that sweet time you wait for sometimes never comes the way you want or expect. Maybe God has a word for us for the moment. We're waiting for life with God.

Now that September has come and gone already, our church has been blessed by a lot of work God has placed before us. We've seen a lot of our ministries kick off for the Fall season with big hopes of a long and fruitful ministry through the year. What a gift! We have big hopes of people discovering salvation in Jesus and disciples grown. Many of us are very busy with activity for Jesus right now. But as busy as we are, let's not neglect the important work of learning to sit with God our Father and learn patience in him. Then, we will be more able to cherish the moments where the presence of God is especially evident. Like when a child volunteers to pray in a Sunday School class for the first time. When a kid jumps up in excitement when learning something new about Jesus. When a group takes a moment to celebrate God's creative gift in nature. When someone shares something vulnerable and it's met with the Christlike presence of others. When someone grieving understands that Jesus is with them. When a young mom finds comfort in community. When the senior group shares a collective laugh. These are all moments to celebrate. So we may be waiting for something big coming, but let us take comfort in the Spirit who empowers our hope in Him and helps us be patient with our circumstances. Then, let us cherish the moments God is with us as we work and wait.

At Sussex CRC

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Council Notes from the September 15 Meeting

- 1.) The Council of Sussex CRC has accepted an invitation to attend and participate in a Reformation Day worship service at Goshen CRC. Look for more information to come in the next few weeks in the church bulletin.
- 2.) Sunday School and Catechism began on Sunday, September 19. GEMS, Cadets, and Youth Groups are starting up for the new season; check the church bulletin for more current information about the programs you are interested in. Council reviewed and approved the volunteers list for the youth programs. The council is very appreciative for all the volunteers for the many programs. Additional help is always gratefully welcomed.
- 3.) Life Groups has become so well received and popular that additional group hosts and facilitators are needed. Thanks Kim Sytsema. If you are interested in joining a new Life Group, then call the church office for more information.
- 4.) The Annual Congregational meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 11th; the deacons are putting the finishing touches on the 2022 budget for the congregations' approval; also there will be two new Elders and two new Deacons selected for three year terms. The meeting will also have some very informative reports and a time for questions and answers.
- 5.) The Classis Hudson meeting on September 21 will be held at Faith Reformed CRC in Wyckoff, NJ. Please contact a council member or the church office for a meeting agenda or copies of the minutes.

October Birthdays

- 1: Kenzie Tallamy
- 3: Emery Van Ek
- 6: Jonah Kuperus
- 9: Leanna Sterling
- 10: Pete Bast, Dan Tassej
- 11: Ted Ruby
- 14: Maisey Kuperus
- 16: George Young
- 17: Owen Valkema
- 18: Gwendolyn Gibbins,
Travis Tallamy
- 21: Marge Kuperus
- 25: Linda Anderson, Morgan Kuperus
- 26: Amy Boyd, Steven Fox
- 28: Donna Babich
- 29: Annette Gebauer

August 2021 Financial Statement

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Benevolent</u>	<u>Special Offering Donations</u>
Beginning Balance	\$1,078.31	\$29,994.10	Sussex Help Center \$741.00
Income	\$31,922.41	\$234.00	Sussex Christian School \$808.25
Total	\$33,000.72	\$30,228.10	Compassion Project \$920.00
Disbursed	\$25,810.25	\$7,289.91	My Brothers Place \$10.00
Ending Balance	\$7,190.47	\$22,938.19	New City Kids Church \$107.50
	<u>Monthly Budget Needs</u>		<u>Special Fund Donations</u>
Amount Needed	\$29,499.86		Benevolent \$234.00
Offering Received	\$29,291.40		Missions \$4,322.00
Difference	\$(208.46)		Tuition Assistance \$385.10
Previous Difference	\$(23,213.31)		
YTD Deficit	\$(23,421.77)		

Classical Shares Paid through August 2021
Denominational Shares Paid through August 2021



Missionary Updates

Update from the Spalinks in Japan

In the latest update, Larry recapped the amazing summer he and Ruth had. They traveling across the US to places including Grand Rapids, Chicago, Saylorsburg, Abrightsville, and College Station. Ruth and Larry were able to visit family that they hadn't been able to see in person for over 18 months. This includes Mom, 4 kids, and 7 grandkids.

As of the latest update, Tokyo was in a state of emergency and facing its fourth wave of COVID cases, which include the Delta variant and Mu mutation. The last time the Spalinks' church was able to celebrate communion was during Lent of 2020. They miss singing and mingling with the congregation, but are able to connect through Zoom and Facebook and livestream services to YouTube. Larry said that, "This is not our preferred way to operate, but we have to admit that the times have stretched us to find new ways to do ministry & to preach the message of God's salvation and love displayed by Jesus to give us forgiveness and life. There is no "normal" to go back to any more, as we have changed along with the medical situation. But that's okay. Family groups are sharing more intimate worship times. More people even in remote places and in areas hostile to Jesus are hearing the Gospel!"

Prayer Requests:

- Please pray that Resonate would be able to recruit and deploy new missionaries to Japan. Larry's goal is to have at least 3 missionaries in the future. They do not have any new ones yet, but have been in discussion with someone.
- The Spalinks ended the 2020-2021 fiscal year surpassing their financial goal. Thank you to everyone who gave!
- "You've heard us mention this many times, but one of our deepest and most important needs is for the work of the Spirit to break down the numerous barriers that keep people from really hearing and responding to the good news of new life in Jesus! Ask God to do this!"
- "Compounding stress leads to mental (as well as physical) fatigue and lowers resistance to emotional and physical sickness. Many of us are familiar with this personally. At times we see family members struggling. Church members (and leaders) do too! Ask the Lord for grace to reach out for help before hopelessness sets in, and for grace to reach out to those around us when we think we notice warning signs! Pray that our churches will be able to offer hope and be havens of rest for the weary multitudes around us!"
- "Thank God for the amazing technology that is available to us to help us maintain and expand ministry! Ask him for courage and creativity to take advantage of these wonderful tools! Pray for more people with the skill set to help us with this, especially young people!"



(Above pics) Some of the Spalink grandkids.

-This article has been adapted from a newsletter sent by Larry Spalink on September 17, 2021.

At Sussex CRC

Recent Services

During the September 12 morning Worship Service, we heard from Phoenix Valkema about his recent Mission Trip with Teen Missions International to Montana.

If you missed it, you can watch the September 12 service on our Facebook page or YouTube channel. Phoenix's story starts around the 20-minute mark.



Pre-K Graduation

Congratulations to our recent Pre-K graduates!



Thank You from Sussex Christian School

Thank you for your recent charitable contribution to the work of Sussex Christian School. Gifts like yours are greatly appreciated. With your support, we will continue to provide an affordable, Christ-based education to the community.

On behalf of the Association, we THANK YOU for your prayers and financial support for our school.

In Christ's Service,
Kenneth Jeltema, Treasurer

Who We Support

World Renew - <http://worldrenew.net/>
Today's Choice - www.friendsoftodayschoice.org
Prison Ministry— www.cpministries.org
Roy and Laura Thiessen - roy.thiessen@interactministries.org

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