



SUSSEX CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

April 2025 Newsletter

A Note From Pastor Kendall:

Celebrating the Spirit's Work

This weekend some of our leaders will be meeting together for a leaders retreat. I know Eric just said in his sermon that retreats were originally meant for silence and solitude, but for lack of a better term we'll still call this a retreat. We'll be getting out of our usual working space (out of the council room and out of the church building) and we'll spend time talking about exciting things like vision, strategy and objectives. Keith Doornbos, who has worked with us in the past, will be leading us. We'll evaluate where God has currently positioned us as a church, where he's leading, and how we can faithfully follow Him. Eric and I had a Zoom call with Keith this week to go over the details for the weekend and there was something Keith said that I really liked. I'm paraphrasing here, but he was talking about how as a church it looks like we've got a strong boat built and are already out on the water. Now it's all about adjusting the sails to catch the wind. Of course, what he means is that it looks like we've got a strong foundation as a church; now it's all about positioning ourselves to "catch the wind" and follow the Spirit's leading.

It got me thinking, how are we doing as a people following the Spirit's leading? The very identity of the "Church" is the Spirit-filled people of God who are gathered into his eternal family through faith in Jesus. Jesus says in John 4:23-24 "Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."

When is the last time you really sensed the Spirit leading you? We've been in a sermon series on the "Spiritual" disciplines. How are our faith practices and routines helping us hear from the Spirit? Has the Spirit challenged you through your Bible reading? Has the Spirit filled you as you've fasted? Has the Spirit generated a deeper gratitude in you as you've practiced frugality? Has the Spirit been speaking to you through whispers in silence and solitude? And how has the Spirit challenged you to pursue life with God deeper?

The Spirit of God is unique. We don't always know where it comes from or where it's going, but isn't that the adventure of life with God? He leads us by His grace into circumstances we weren't prepared for. He pushes us out of our comfort zones and into places where we have to trust in him. He challenges us to serve those around us. He shows he is at work whether we join him or not, always accomplishing God's sovereign will. I think it's worth it for us all to take a step back and examine how the Spirit has been moving in our lives, enjoying the blessings, learning from the challenges, and celebrating that God is always at work in our world and in our lives. How can we celebrate the Spirit of God and join his work today?

ABOUT SUSSEX CRC

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

STAFF

Senior Pastor:
Pastor Kendall Everett

Admin. Assistant:
Cassidy Abma

April Birthdays

1: Colby Brands
3: Jim Kuperus
5: Paisley Sullivan
6: Richard Kuperus
6: Percy Van Ek
6: Peyton Birchenough
7: Aubrey Everett
7: Althea Quigley
9: John Kuperus
9: June Oskamp
9: Joy Tallamy
9: Brianna Kuperus
9: Anneliese Gebauer
11: Debbie Van Saun
11: Rachel Kuperus
13: Emma Vander Groef
13: Jean Thiessen
17: Brynn Sytsema
18: Austin Niedergall
18: Nolan Apgar
19: Brian Caton
20: Rylie Everett
21: Sean Gebauer
21: Tyler Jeltema
23: Rianne Vander Groef
24: Elaina Buske
26: Amilya Rivas
30: Kristin Woodell
30: Ada Moore

At Sussex CRC

Council Notes from the March Meeting

- As Holy Communion has been rescheduled for March 2nd, Mutual Censure occurred.
- Vacation Bible School will occur on July 21st to July 25th and is being organized by Karissa Talen. This year's theme will be "Magnify". Anyone wishing to help out please see Karissa.
- New Members Class - Pastor Kendall will be setting a date for the first class soon 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 and will be held at the Hope Through The Valley building in Frankford.
- The deaconate reports a budget surplus of \$3,041.51. All Classical & Denominational shares have been paid through February 2025.
- New Life Groups will be starting up in April. If you have not yet signed up, please do.
- While our search for an Associate Pastor of Worship & Discipleship continues, the Council is also seeking an Interim Worship Coordinator. This part time position consists of no more than 20 hours a week, and a degree in music is preferred. If anyone is interested or knows of someone that would be interested, please contact Rick Vander Ploeg or Pastor Kendall.
- The Council would like to offer the upright piano, that is in the basement, to anyone who is interested in taking it. Please see or contact any deacon for more information.
- Holy Communion will be celebrated at the Good Friday Evening Service on April 18.



Missionary Updates

After much thought, Johnny Gryglewics will be leaving Resonate Global Mission as of March 31st.

It has not been an easy decision for him, but he has struggled to feel like he is adding value to the ministry as his main focus has been on his role as the administrator for all the partners and programs in Haiti. Johnny, Kim, Kailey, Olivia, and Jaycie feel cared for and loved by all those who have supported them.

Currently, Johnny does not have anything lined up for what is ahead. Kim will continue working at a school while he figures out his next steps.

Despite Johnny's resignation, the Haiti field will continue to operate, run Impact Clubs and in some capacity support their partners.

This story is based on an email Johnny sent on March 6, 2025.



Please Pray For the Starkenburgs in Nicaragua:



Here are a few prayer requests:

- Pray that we will find rest in the midst of such a busy season of life
- Pray for God's provision of our last two teacher vacancies -- ESL Teacher and Instructional Coach
- Pray for our family and all of our neighbors and the many people affected by widespread water outages during this dry season. We now have water only every other day, and many people have water only once a week.
- Pray that Judah will pass all of the tests and other requirements to get his driver's license in the next month or so.

Pray for God's provision for our family finances, especially as we prepare for summer travels.

In Christ,

Liam Starkenburg, Director
Nicaragua Christian Academy International

Who We Support

World Renew - <http://worldrenew.net/>
Today's Choice - www.friendsoftodayschoice.org
Prison Ministry - www.cpmministries.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

February 2025 Financial Statement

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Benevolent</u>
Beginning Balance:	\$68,872.33	\$27,843.82
Income:	\$38,450.84	\$425.00
Total:	\$107,323.17	\$28,268.82
Disbursed	\$32,365.30	--
Ending Balance:	\$74,957.87	\$28,268.82

Special Cause Donations

World Renew - Wild Fires: \$974.00
Cadets: \$934.71
Today's Choice: \$150.01
Griefshare: \$25.01
SCS: \$25.00
My Brothers Place: \$25.00

Monthly Budget Needs

Amount Needed: \$35,486.78
Offering Received: \$37,018.10
Difference: \$1,531.32
Previous Month Surplus: \$1,510.19
YTD Surplus: \$3,041.51

Classical Shares Paid through February 2025.

Special Fund Donations

Benevolent: \$650.00
Missions: \$698.00
Tuition Assistance: \$6,425.01
Cap Improvement: --

Denominational Shares Paid Through February 2025.