



**SUSSEX CHRISTIAN**  
REFORMED CHURCH

**March 2026 Newsletter**

---

Note from Pastor Kendall

## The Difference Faith in Jesus Makes

When my grandfather passed away, my family and I received a lot of texts, emails, phone calls, cards and other words of sympathy and prayers from all kinds of people in my life. Many came to the funeral and visitation. From people in church, family members, friends, old coworkers, people connected to me in different seasons of life, people came out of the woodwork to reach out and show their support. It was a huge blessing and I'm grateful for each person. One thing became obvious as people reached out to me: the difference faith in Christ makes.

Now, my grandfather was almost 94 years old and lived a long, full life. He was mostly healthy until shortly before his passing. His mind was still incredibly sharp and even when he struggled to speak, he still knew his family and could express his love for us in different ways. Many people don't get to experience that. There are many things from an earthly perspective we can point to and be grateful for. That certainly gives us some sort of comfort.

But the greatest source of comfort came flowing overwhelmingly from fellow believers. If I were to describe in one word the difference faith in Christ makes, I would say it is Hope. The expression of prayers, the confidence that he belonged to Jesus and his body is at peace now, the assurance that we get to meet again in God's eternal kingdom--it all communicates a profound hope that sets the believers apart. It makes me all the more grateful for the work of Christ who came to be with us in this world, who took our sins and sufferings upon himself on the cross, who rose from the dead on the third day, ascended to take his place at the Father's right hand and promises he is coming again. It fills me with hope. Hearing the same Gospel of Jesus never gets old. And in every situation and season of life, it speaks to me in slightly different ways.

Our shared faith in Christ makes a difference and it becomes abundantly clear when we can share it with each other. As a pastor, it's kind of my job to remind others of the good news of Jesus, and it sure is a sweet gift to be on the receiving end of that as well. It's something I hope all those in my life who don't yet believe in Jesus get to experience. It's something I wish everyone would know. And it reminds me of the importance of sharing it. So, keep at it, church. Keep reminding each other of the Gospel. Keep holding onto the faith in Jesus Christ. It makes all the difference in the world.

## Missionaries 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)

Resonate Global Mission -  
[www.resonateglobalmission.org](http://www.resonateglobalmission.org)

Hope Thru The Valley - [hopethruthevalley.org](http://hopethruthevalley.org)

Perrin and Jodi Werner (Resonate-Japan)

Liam and Jessica Starkenburg (Resonate-Nicaragua)

Sussex Help Center and Family Promise

## Elders/Deacons & Districts

### District 1

Elder: Owen Valkema  
Deacon: Bryce GeBauer

### District 2

Elder: Troy Yanoff  
Deacon: Zack VanderGroef

### District 3

Elder: Steve Van Ek  
Deacon: Jay Miedema

### District 4

Elder: Jonathan Kuperus  
Deacon: Dan Van Wyk

### District 5

Elder: Rich Sytsema  
Deacon: Ryan Dykstra

### District 6

Elder: Keith Niedergall  
Deacon: Brandon LaBar

## January 2026 Financial Statement

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Benevolent</u>
Beginning Balance:	\$135,972.63	\$23,107.13
Income:	<u>27,874.21</u>	<u>925.04</u>
Total:	163,846.84	24,032.17
Disbursed	<u>94,290.92</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Ending Balance:	\$69,555.92	\$24,032.17

### **Special Cause Donations**

Today's Choice	\$245.01
My Borthers's Place	\$ 25.00
SCS.	\$ 25.00

### **Special Fund Donations**

Benevolent:	\$ 925.04
Missions:	\$1,258.03
Tuition Assistance:	\$2,537.02
Cap Improvement:	--

Classical Shares Paid through January 2026.

Denominational Shares Paid Through January 2026.

### **Monthly Budget Needs**

Amount Needed:	\$36,764.00
Offering Received:	\$25,587.87
Difference:	\$(11,176.13)
Previous Month Surplus	-
 YTD Deficit:	 \$ (11,176.13)

## Council Meeting Highlights, February 18, 2026

- The Council meeting commenced with a reading of a devotional by Gary Thomas based from John 21:20-23.
- Council communally prayed over the needs of our members and close community. If you have a need that you would like Council to pray for, please contact the church office or member of the Council.
- Council thanks the Congregation for their participation in the Candidacy weekend for Ian Clark, a candidate for Pastor of Discipleship and Worship. Please pray for the Lord's guidance to be upon Council and Ian as we make the next steps.
- Council discussed feedback obtained regarding the revised Evening Service schedule. We celebrate the increased attendance. We look forward to investigating opportunities to better foster discipleship growth here at SCRC both on Sunday evenings and throughout the week. We will continue with the current schedule and ask for prayers for the Lord's guidance allocating the resources God has entrusted to us.
- With Holy Communion being celebrated on February 22, 2026, Mutual Censure occurred around the room.
- Offerings for March 2026:
  - March 1: Missions
  - March 8: Benevolence
  - March 15: Tuition Assistance
  - March 22: Sound of Life
  - March 29: Sussex Christian School
  - March Evening services: Sound of Life

### STAFF

Senior Pastor: Pastor Kendall Everett

Interim Worship Coordinator: Tim VG

Admin. Assistant: Pam D

### ABOUT

**Sussex CRC**

49 Unionville Ave.

Sussex, NJ 07461

973-875-5591

[sussexcrc.org](http://sussexcrc.org)

## Happy Birthday!

# March Birthdays:

03/ 01	Casey S	03/14	Elsie K
03/02	Corey VG	03/16	Russ Z
03/03	Simon V	03/17	Lisa K
03/05	Karen B	03/18	Carol D
03/07	Jonathan K, Josie H, Magnolia C	03/19	Jeremy A
03/09	Joshua J	03/21	Cole VS
03/10	Erin V, Sophia O, Steve VE	03/22	Eden K, Reyer VDB
03/11	Maebel VS	03/23	Leesa V
03/ 12	Rich B, Taylor VP	03/27	Abram B, Sonja K
03/13	Karissa K (missionary), Loree LB, Mario R	03/29	Skylynn K
		03/30	Caleb K, Henry B, Melinda S
		03/31	Eleanor C

From Steve Koopmans:

The first month of 2026 has come and gone!

One of the highlights of this month in Kona is our volcano's massive episode. There was a particularly large eruption on the 24th. Here is a brief summary of the episode: [Kīlauea episode 41 lasts several hours with over a thousand feet of lava; volcanic ash falling in nearby communities | News | kitv.com](#)

Karissa and I have met another couple through our small group which we have become close to. We went camping together in the volcano national park the weekend previous to the eruption. There was almost zero activity and we were able to enjoy hiking through the volcanic crater. Amazing the difference between the quiet calm of our camping trip and the violent eruption one week later.

Karissa has had an excellent start to her second semester. She has recently started getting her students prepared for the SAT in addition to standard curriculum.

I have been able to connect with some of my close friends from college and noticed that each friend asked me to explain or clarify what my job is here in Kona. I realized that most people are aware that Karissa serves as a volunteer math teacher at YWAM's school for grades 6th, 7th, 8th, and 11th, but my job is a little less known. I hope to use this email update to provide a little more context on what I am doing in Kona.

I work at Kama'aina Hale apartments. (Pronounced something like "comma" "ine" "soft a" - "hall" "hard a") Kama'aina Hale is a nonprofit that provides low income housing. Our property contains about 120 units. The apartments were originally built in the 70's as luxury kit homes but have since lost their "style" and now serve a much more important role. The property happens to be immediately next door to YWAM's campus which is a huge blessing as it allows Karissa and I to have lunch together daily. Due to the proximity, a portion of our residents are YWAM families which is a nice way to feel connected to the campus even though the properties are completely separate.

The large majority of our residents are Pacific Islanders. As a result, my work at the apartments has included a little bit of "culture shock". My boss informed me upon hiring that I might experience a little bit of resistance from some of the residents simply because I was a pasty white dutchman riding around on a golf cart in the middle of the Pacific. It did indeed take a few days for my friendly waves to be returned, but now I feel very comfortable on the property. I want to be clear that there are not "better tenant groups" or "worse tenant groups" in Kama'aina Hale. There are some extremely friendly and nice people, and there are some people who are not so friendly—but both of those categories are spread across *all* demographics. Both people who look like me and who don't look like me.

My role at the apartments is a 'maintenance technician'. The entire nonprofit is a small team of five consisting of myself, my maintenance manager who is an incredible Christian man and phenomenal role model, his wife who is our trustworthy accountant, a local Hawaiian who is our amazing property manager, and our fearless "boss man" who leads with incredible skill and charm.

My job with maintenance is to perform any and all services that pertain to the upkeep and preservation of all 120+ units. I have since worked as a plumber, carpenter, floorer, electrician, drywaller, roofer, asphalt repairman, garbage man, custodian, tree arborist, fabricator, pest controller, demolition laborer, painter, and more. I generally enjoy the work although it isn't quite what I studied in college. I have learned quite a few handy skills which I am sure will be of use down the road. My manager recently got back from a two and a half week missions trip to the Philippines which meant I was on my own for a lot of the maintenance. It was a good challenge and I enjoyed it, but am very thankful to have him back.

There is much more I would love to share about my job including all of its challenges and victories but I must refrain in order to maintain the confidentiality and respect for all of the tenants. I can say that I spent a lot of my time this past week dealing with sewage and I would appreciate prayers for functional and clear plumbing.

Karissa and I were able to participate in YWAM's "Aloha Night" which welcomes everyone to the new semester. This was a very fun night filled with worship, a brief message, and a very impressive display of fire twirling.

We have three visits planned for February from close friends and family which we are very excited for. It will be good to see some familiar faces in our island home.

Karissa and I continue to ask the Lord for peace and clarity about our future and hope you will join us in those prayers as well as general prayers for opportunities to share the gospel and blessings for all those visiting us.

Thank you and stay warm on the mainland!

-Steven Koopmans

