



# SUSSEX CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

November 2024 Newsletter

## **A Note From Pastor Kendall: Christlike Commitments for an Election**

It's that time of year again! The election is around the corner and it looks to be another contentious one at that. Every election matters, but we tend to feel that more is at stake when it's a presidential election. Anxiety runs high as we consider the implications of this candidate or that one. The fact that I'm writing about it may cause some heart rates to quicken a bit. My encouragement to you as you read is to take a deep breath with me, fixing our eyes on Jesus, remembering who is ultimately in control of our community, our nation and our world. In light of remembering God's sovereignty, I want to offer some pastoral wisdom for the occasion. I'm not interested in swaying people's minds one way or another. I'd rather the people of God vote their consciences after prayerfully weighing the options. We should be rooted in Christ first, then make a prayerful effort to vote in a way that we believe will benefit our communities and nation best, working toward a more just and peaceful world.

I've been reflecting on what kind of posture Christian believers should have when voting and I keep coming back to the Ten Commandments. The Ten Commandments are meant to give us a picture of how to best love God with our whole heart, soul, mind and strength, and love our neighbors as ourselves. If that is truly our ultimate goal, those principles should apply to all our lives, certainly how we vote. I took the Ten Commandments and paraphrased them to more directly apply to our posture in the election. I invite you to reflect on these commitments with me.

1. I will look to the LORD my God alone as my ultimate hope and salvation.
2. I will not make an idol out of any one candidate or political party. I will not bow down to them or worship them.
3. I will not misuse God's holy name in any way he does not intend. I will not wrongfully attach his name to causes he would not bless. I will also bear the name "Christian" in a way that glorifies Christ.
4. I will honor the Sabbath by intentionally turning away from the worries of this world to find my rest and delight in the God who walks with me. I will come back to him and let him restore my soul.
5. I will honor all those in authority God places over me, even if I don't vote for them. I will submit to them except in matters that directly contradict God's Word.
6. I will be an advocate for the life of all God's image-bearers regardless of ethnicity, religion, socioeconomic status, legal status, born or unborn, prisoner or free.
7. I will not abandon my family, friends or fellow believers if they don't meet my expectations. Relationships matter more than votes.
8. I will satisfy myself with God's provision and guard against greed. I will responsibly "give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's".
9. I will not twist someone else's words, take them out of context, or mischaracterize a person. Instead, I will only speak what is true and seek to guard the name and reputation even of those with whom I disagree.
10. I will submit my worldly desires to God and trust that God's kingdom will come in his own way in his own timing.

I pray these help us think about what matters most in this life--the God we serve and the people he has placed around us. I pray this frees us from our need to control other people's opinions and accept the results God has planned. Let us go to the ballot boxes with grace and peace, trusting God will always be faithful regardless of the outcome.

**ABOUT SUSSEX CRC**

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 Sussex, NJ 07461  
 973-875-5591  
 sussexcrc.org

**STAFF**

**Senior Pastor:**  
 Pastor Kendall Everett

**Admin. Assistant:**  
 Rachael Klein

**November Birthdays**

- 1: Darlene Tallamy
- 2: Pam Dobben, Liz Treiber
- 3: Chauncey Gebauer
- 5: Rena Bast, Bryce Gebauer
- 8: Tessa Kuperus
- 10: Alisha Kuperus, Zeke Talen
- 11: Judy Vander Ploeg
- 12: Judson Boyd
- 13: Bob Stackpole
- 14: Rob Dekker, Rich Oskamp
- 15: Stephanie Valkema
- 19: Roy Little
- 25: Ashley Kuperus
- 26: Patrick Vander Ploeg
- 27: Lydia Bast, Liz Calyer, Annika Gebauer, Levi Vander Groef
- 28: Annette Kuperus, Nicole Kuperus
- 29: Charlotte Kuperus, Ashley Miedema
- 30: Ruth Prol, Casey Sytsema

**At Sussex CRC**

**Council Notes from the October Meeting**

- The Council met with and interviewed John & Julia Snader for church membership. Profession of Faith and baptism of their 2 children will be scheduled in the near future.
- Next Holy Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, November 10.
- The deaconate reported a YTD budget Surplus of \$4,984.15.
- The deaconate presented the Council with a final budget for the upcoming year which was approved by Council.
- Elder & Deacon nominations are complete. Those nominated for Elder are Jon Tallamy & Troy Yanoff, and those nominated for Deacon are Brandon LaBar, Brian Bosloper, Caleb Vander Groef & Zack Vander Groef.
- The date of October 28, at 7pm has been set for the Annual Congregational meeting.
- Pastor Kendall gave an update on the recent Classis Hudson meeting that occurred at SCRC on September 19, where approximately 35 members attended. Elder Rick Vander Ploeg & Deacon Don Kievit attended the meeting.

**Have Something for the Newsletter?**

The next newsletter will come out **November 29**. Stories are due by **November 22**.

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.

**September 2024 Financial Statement**

|                        | <u>General Fund</u>         | <u>Benevolent</u> | <u>Special Cause Donations</u> |            |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|------------|
| Beginning Balance      | \$73,210.94                 | \$22,588.01*      | Cross Roads                    | \$959.01   |
| Income                 | \$42,990.04                 | \$925.00          | SCS                            | \$1,292.01 |
| Total                  | \$116,200.98                | \$23,513.01       | Todays Choice                  | \$25.01    |
| Disbursed              | \$31,748.85                 |                   | My Brothers Place              | \$25.00    |
| Ending Balance         | \$84,452.13                 | \$23,513.01       |                                |            |
|                        | <u>Monthly Budget Needs</u> |                   | <u>Special Fund Donations</u>  |            |
| Amount Needed          | \$32,640.90                 |                   | Benevolent                     | \$1,060.00 |
| Offering Received      | \$39,073.72                 |                   | Missions                       | \$1,012.00 |
| Difference             | \$6,432.82                  |                   | Tuition Assistance             | \$2,482.31 |
| Previous month Surplus | \$(1,448.67)                |                   | Cap. Improvement               | \$100.00   |
| YTD Deficit            | \$4,984.15                  |                   |                                |            |

Classical Shares Paid through Sept 2024  
 Denominational Shares Paid through Sept 2024  
 \*Numbers corrected from previous statement

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## Baptisms & Professions of Faith

On September 29, we got to celebrate the sacraments of Baptism and Profession of Faith with the Rivas Family with the baptisms of Jonas Rivas and Amilya Rivas and the professions of faith of Jonas & Yessica C. Rivas.



*The Rivas Family*



*The Orr Family*

On October 6, we also got to celebrate the baptism of Bennett Orr, the professions of faith of Scott & Kristin Woodell with the baptism of their daughter Hailey, and the professions of faith of Trevor & Gillian Birchenough with the baptisms of their children Meadow, Peyton, and Levi, and the profession of faith of John Pabst.



*The Birchenough Family*



*The Woodell Family*



*John Pabst*

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## Have Photos from Church? Feel Free to Send Them In!

If you have photos from church services and events, feel free to send them in to the office! We can use them to update web pages, create social posts, or update graphics for the Weekly Email. If you have older photos, we can add them to the timeline on the History page of our website. You can check out the timeline at [sussexcrc.org/history](http://sussexcrc.org/history)

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## Missionary Updates

### Update from the Starkenburgs in Nicaragua



Liam & Jessica Starkenburg recently shared a video update of what's been going on at the Nicaragua Christian Academy. [Click Here to Check it out!](#)

If you cannot view the link, it will be shown in a future church service. You can also email the church office for the link.

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## 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)  
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