



A Message from Pastor Becca

I have been watching *The Chosen*, one episode each week in preparation for a meeting with a group of fellow pastors in the area. We meet regularly to talk about ministry and usually read a book, watch some sort of media, or listen to a podcast that we work through together. It is an interesting take on the stories of scripture, there is plenty of added dialogue, and liberty taken with what might have actually happened. It is a compelling way to tell the story of Jesus. In the last episode I watched, Simon has gotten himself into some trouble, he is on his boat fishing, and yelling at God. Internally my dialogue was, there it is **lament!** While we do not have a record of this circumstance or dialogue in scripture, I was excited to see lament taking place. There was frustration, anger, hurt, and dare I say some fear on Simon's part because he is in over his head. It was such a human and relatable scene.

Throughout this season of Lent we have been exploring and learning to lament together and on our own as a means of growing deeper in our faith. All while clinging to the hope of resurrection that is to come. It is easy to try to shy away from the hard places in our journey of faith. It is instinctive to want to jump right to the resurrection, right to the joy, the miracle, the promise kept. Yet if we skip over the less than good parts we are not living authentically. The truth of being human and being alive is that sometimes it is going to get hard. We will face emotional, physical, mental, or spiritual difficulty. Sometimes we will experience them all at once. It is in that spirit that I want to invite you to worship with us during Holy Week this year. April 10 is Palm Sunday and we will go through the motions of welcoming Jesus to Jerusalem once more. It can get to feel like we have already lived so many Palm Sundays do we have to do it again? The answer is, Yes! There is something about the embodiment of Palm Sunday that welcomes us into a week fraught with emotion, it is the beginning of our ritual of remembering.

We will move closer to Maundy Thursday, one of my favorite liturgical days of the year, where Jesus humbly washes feet, then breaks bread and shares the cup, preparing his loved ones for his departure. It is the calm before the storm of betrayal, pain, and death. It is the week we see him pleading for God to take this cup from him. Good Friday, the very next day, is one day I would like to ignore entirely. As someone who doesn't have much of a stomach for violence it is difficult for me to move through the texts of Good Friday. I want to skip ahead to the good part. I want to turn from the pain of the passion narrative. I want to remember it at a distance. I want to block from my memory that Mary was there watching her son suffer the whole time. It is too much for my momma heart to take in. As it has been asked for ages in Sunday School classrooms around the world, what is the **good** in Good Friday? The fancy theological answers I can give just do not seem to suffice. Then on Saturday the day of the Great Easter Vigil, we wait for the dawn. We wait for the pain to end. We wait for the joy that comes at dawn on Easter morning. Finally, it is here, and we can proclaim with joy filled hearts, He is Risen!

Could you commit to worshipping with me throughout this Holy Week, from Palm Sunday through Easter Sunday? Will you come on the emotional ride through all our faith stories and not jump just to the joyous morning of Easter? I know it is asking a lot to attend church that many times in one week. I know it is a lot, especially in the world we find ourselves in, to go into a week and remember all the parts of Jesus pain and death. I know it is a lot to go from the joyous welcome of Palm Sunday to the torn curtain of Good Friday, to the astounding good news on Easter, but would you do it anyway? Let's not skip to the good part this year, let us journey slowly through the week toward our destination. I wonder if that pace will help us to feel a more profound sense of faith at the end of the week? Throughout this newsletter you will see opportunities for worship. The times are unique this year as we try some new things, know that each will be available online. Please join me in worship and let us see where the Spirit will take us.

Fondly,
Pastor Becca



Palm Sunday Worship

April 10, 2022

9:30 am



Maundy Thursday

April 14, 2022 - 4:00 pm

In Person & Live Stream
Facebook & YouTube

Faith Presbyterian Church
318 Stokes Road
Medford, NJ

*Then he poured water
into a basin and began
to wash the disciples'
feet and to wipe them
with the towel that
was tied around him.*

- John 13:5



HOPE Garden Season 2022 Begins!

Opening Day is scheduled for **Saturday April 2nd at 9:00 am** (weather permitting). We'll clean up the gardens, rototill and plant seeds in the raised beds. We will most likely be there all morning. So, come when you can. We also have a few open plots. Let us know of anyone who might be interested!



*"Trust in the Lord and do good; live in the land and be safe."
Psalm 37:3*



Goodbye Winter



Hello Spring!

Transition and Celebration

Easter Sunday, April 17, will be our last Sunday with our musician, Darlene. Join us to celebrate Darlene's ministry after worship on Palm Sunday, April 10.





Session Update from Town Hall Meeting

Session would like to update the congregation concerning the work done thus far initiated from the town hall meeting in January.

Letters have been sent to three local churches which asks if there is an interest to join together at some level to address financial and volunteer needs. If so, it also expresses an interest to meet to learn more about each other to determine if it would be a good fit to join forces. Currently, we have heard back from one church and plan further discussion with them.

Renting the church sanctuary to another church congregation has been discussed. Session is in agreement that we are open to that if approached. If that opportunity arises, a contract needs to be drawn up and then approved by Presbytery.

Mary Currie
Communication Elder

Deacon Update

Food collection for **Sunday, April 3** will focus on protein. Please bring in canned meats like tuna or chicken and also peanut butter. Please drop your items in the blue bin by the parking lot doors.

The casserole ministry is really helping folks in Mt. Holly as donations continue to Extended Hands Ministry. The Deacons deliver 5-6 casseroles every other Saturday to the Ministry. **We are always in need of casseroles!**

Anyone can drop one off at the Church anytime. Just label it and leave it in the new fridge or freezer in the kitchen.

Thank you all for your support!





Good Friday April 15, 2022

12:00 pm - Ecumenical Worship
At Medford United Methodist Church
2 Hartford Road - Medford, NJ

All Day
Outdoor Stations of the Cross

Faith Presbyterian Church
318 Stokes Road - Medford, NJ



Easter Flowers

It is Lent! That means it's time to think about the flowers that will decorate our sanctuary as we gather on Easter Sunday. To donate for the flower purchase, please make out a check to Faith Church with "Easter Flowers" written in the memo. Include a note with your name and the dedication for your flower donation.

The deadline for donations and dedications is **Sunday, April 10th**. If you donate, you are welcome to flowers anytime following the Easter Service. The remaining flowers will be planted around the church. Any questions, contact Pat Cohill or Sondra Carroll.





In Person - Facebook Live - YouTube

Join us for Worship

Easter Sunday April 17

9:30 am

Pre-service music 9:20 am

Faith Presbyterian Church

318 Stokes Road - Medford, NJ

One Great Hour of Sharing

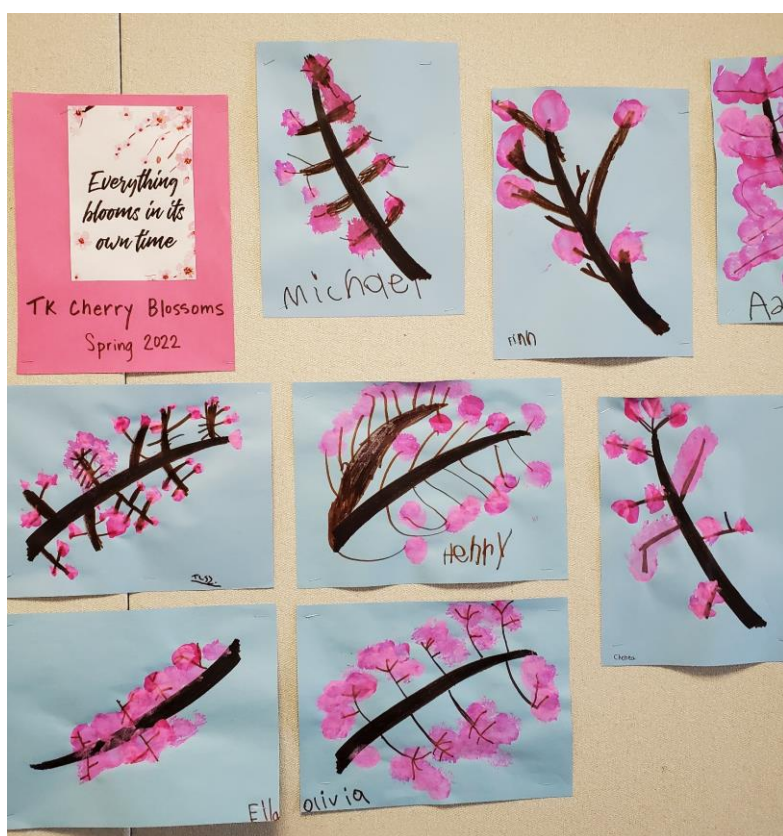
Each year at this time we, along with Presbyterian Churches worldwide, look to their members to support this expansive appeal. The need is great, with hunger affecting millions of people. Disasters of weather, fire, earthquakes, wars, etc. are touching all corners of our world. Oppressed women and other minority groups are looking for ways out of their dead end and hopeless situations. Each of us is called to help generously and share the riches God has given us so that other people the world over can be helped to regain their footing and flourish.

Thank you for your help with the OGHS campaign. **Your donations will be received up until Easter Sunday, April 17.** Please make your check out to Faith Church with OGHS in the memo line and use the special envelope if available.



Sock Drive

The recent sock collection yielded **188 pairs of socks** – 62 from Small World families and 126 from Faith Church! Your generous donations will be distributed to Helping Hands Ministry in Mt Holly, Christian Caring Center in Pemberton and some to the Haines & Memorial Schools. Thank you for helping us reach out to provide this basic necessity to people in our local area.



Small World Artwork!



Looking Forward with Organ Music

We are fortunate to have found a supplier that can provide electronic 'midi' files that perform on our Allen digital organ. The files have been recorded by professional organists and fully utilize our organ's capabilities.

We will choose the hymns and responses desired on a Wednesday and the electronic "midi" music service will usually be ready within a half hour. A Prelude and Postlude are available and are selected by the supplier. When the service is ready, we login to their web site and download our program to an iPad or iPad Mini. The iPad is used to play back the music, using a 'Bluetooth' wireless connection to our organ. Organ volume and tempo are adjustable from the iPad, which can be up to 30-50 feet away and control the organ.

We have tested the system on our organ and it works superbly. The supplier has several hundred regular church customers. The cost is reasonable. Many thanks to Joe Currie who found this supplier on the internet.

Bill Kunkle

BIG THANKS to Bill Kunkle who has done hours of legwork to make this new system possible!

Gracemeals Update and Volunteer Need!

Gracemeals salad prep will be starting soon. **We REALLY need volunteers to deliver the salads to the Christian Caring Center in Browns Mills.** If you can help just once a month, this would make a huge difference!

Meals are prepped Wednesday morning and the salad makers will contact you when they're ready (around 11:00 am). They'll help you load them up. When you arrive at the CCC and announce that you have the salads, volunteers there will unload your car so you don't even have to get out. Delivery drivers are needed any Wednesday from June through September. Delivery drivers do not have to be Faith Church members! Do you know anyone with some time on their hands who likes to drive? We need them! Contact Joan Zinader with questions or to help out.



Morning Glories Update

Morning Glories women's bible study and fellowship group meets the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 9:30 a.m. The next meeting is April 14. All ladies are welcome. For more information, contact Carol Fischer.

OGs Update

OGs men's bible study and fellowship meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 9:15 a.m. The next meeting is April 12th and will continue with a video series by Rob Bell.

All so inclined can proceed to brunch at the Medport Diner afterwards. Looking forward to a great time! Contact Charlie with any questions.

Missionary Updates

Denise Hoover has been back in the Philadelphia area since last June and has decided to not return to Indonesia. She has stepped back from her missionary work. In Denise's words, *"I feel the need to be in the US, joining with other activists in grassroots movements in an attempt to raise awareness, call the church to action and affect change on both a local and global scale."* We wish Denise God's blessings as she starts her new journey.



Dr. Stephen and Amy Chiu Congratulations to Stephen, Amy and their sons, Joshua and Timothy, on the arrival of daughter/sister Karina Thien Aii Chiu in December, 2021 while home in the US on sabbatical. They will be returning to their work in central Asia in April. Stephen will continue his medical work with Rural Health Project where he helps train new doctors and medical personnel. Please pray for this young family as they seek to do God's work in central Asia.

Lorraine Kunkle, Mission Elder



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