



A Message from Pastor Becca

"Let's go to the movies!" Every time I speak or hear this sentence I sing it, the tune stuck in my head from the movie *Annie*, a childhood favorite. I have loved stories for as long as I can remember but in my adolescent years the way I enjoyed them most was on film. I longed to tell stories on the silver screen, with witty dialogue, beautiful images, and meaningful messages. Stories can reach deep into our being as we recognize part of our own experience, our own story. Over the summer I listened to the book, *Where the Crawdads Sing*, after seeing an enticing preview for the movie. Toward the end of the story, Tom Milton, Kya Clark's defense attorney, gives a speech in the court room that is perhaps the best sermon I have ever heard. Kya, is on trial for murder, Tom is wrapping up his case. He paints a very different picture of Kya and how she was treated by a town full of people who could have helped her and chose not to. I found my mouth hung open as I listened to the words. My heart leapt and I thought dang, he is preaching! I was so wrapped up in the story I ended up cheering. Interesting characters pull at our hearts and pique our curiosity. Well told stories can change us or give us renewed hope. A good plot twist can keep us engaged.

I have two invitations for you this fall. The first is a practical one, to join me on discount Tuesdays (\$5 tickets all day and evening) to see a current release a story of any kind and then gather to discuss the story. We could talk about where we saw faith, God, theology, or just plain old life. Perhaps it is a hazard of being a pastor, I tend to see theology and God everywhere and the theater is no exception. Once I have a group of interested folks we will agree on a film, date, and time.

My second invitation is to think about your own story and God's story and where they meet. In Scripture God's story is laid out in words spilling over pages written over hundreds of years. Yet God's story is not limited to the pages in our Bibles. God's story is in our hearts, in our lives, and in the lives of countless people around the world. You too have a story of your life and it intersects with God's story, more often than you might think. You do not have to pick up a book, see a film, or listen to an excellent album to encounter God in your story. As we transition back into our fall rhythms I am curious to see where God shows up unexpectedly in your life and mine. I am curious to know how your story is unfolding and where you see God and maybe where you do not.

In my own practice, I have noticed God surprises. I feel God as the surprise flower in my garden leaves me smiling for hours. I feel God as beautiful vistas take my breath away. I feel God in a speech in a fiction novel that sums up a life of faith with out ever saying a word about God. God shows up in the people around me, in the places I end up, and sometimes even when I am doing the dishes. I invite you into this practice of noticing, even seeking out God in the everyday tasks of your life, the quiet moments, and the chaotic ones. I suspect, like me, you may be surprised. I would love to hear from you about your experiences.

Blessings,
Pastor Becca



HOPE Garden Update

Despite the hot, dry conditions this summer, it has been a good season for the HOPE Garden. We've had excellent success with our very first watermelon crop, and managed to harvest 35 watermelons though a pesky groundhog presented some challenges! Just over **1,700 pounds** of fresh produce has been donated to the St. Vincent de Paul food pantries in Tabernacle and Medford and the Migrant Worker camps in Hammonton. It's time to start planting fall crops! Harvests will continue into November.

It's a real blessing to be able to share nutritious food, especially in another year of great need. A BIG thank you to everyone who cares for the garden directly, to those who donate plants and materials, and to all who give their support financially and in prayer.



Faith Church is Turning 60 and We're Going to Celebrate!

Faith Church is turning 60 in October. Can you believe it!?! A 60th Anniversary Luncheon celebration is being planned for Sunday, October 9 so please save the date.

We would love to hear from you as you reflect on your time at Faith. If you could share a story, pictures or other memorabilia, please contact Lorraine Kunkle. If you are in touch with previous members, ask them if they want to share or even attend that Sunday.

We hope you can join us as we reminisce on 60 wonderful years of ministry and share the many memories we have of our church family and its many activities. More info to follow.



Communion Changes

We've been through many changes in our Sunday worship since Covid. Session has talked about bringing back more of what was a part of our shared experience. Starting October, we look to return to having the elements served during communion. For now, the prepacked elements will be used. We will consider using the separate bread and wine in the future. Please feel free to share your thoughts with a session member or Becca.



Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers are the lifeblood of any community. Church volunteers are the heart of our family! Please consider reaching out to participate in one of these important efforts.

Worship Assistants – As previously mentioned, we are looking to bring back some things missing in worship. Having worship assistants is one of these. Please reach out to Becca or a session member if interested.

Worship Committee – Do you have a passion for how worship occurs? We need a few members to be a part of a worship committee which would coordinate the different aspects of worship. Please reach out to Becca or a session member for questions or to express an interest.

Got Coffee? – Mingling after church in our Fellowship room over a cup of tea or coffee and enjoying baked goods takes planning and preparation. We are looking for some new helpers to set up the small coffeepot, set out supplies and clean up after Fellowship time. If we have enough committed helpers, you might only be called upon to volunteer once every 4-5 weeks. Please consider joining our Fellowship Team. See George Anderson to sign up.



Gracemeals Update

Gracemeals with Faith will have prepared **600 fresh salads** for the Christian Caring Center by the end of September! A protein bar is included with each salad and the environmentally friendly container and fork are made from sugarcane so they are biodegradable. The CCC then delivers the salads to the homeless at all locations, including motels.

A big thanks to our wonderful volunteers for shopping, creating labels, making and delivering salads as well as to the HOPE Garden for their many donations!

2022 volunteers were Sandy Gustavsen, Joyce Schreiner, Linda Cleveland, Betty Ann Beck, Sondra Carroll, Dianne Hillman, Pat Carter, Pat Cohill, Cynthia Heald, Bettie Lohman, Katie Swanson, Judy Lerner, Vivian Banks, Jim Trainor, Cynthia Russell, Joan Zinader, Lorraine Kunkle, Sandy Prescott and Bonnie Halle.



Hymnal News

The “**purple**” hymnals have now taken the place of our 30 year old “**red**” hymnals which are no longer in the pews. If you are interested in having a copy of the red hymnal, please see Pastor Becca or Bill Kunkle to pick one up.

We have ordered 20 additional new hymnals at a cost of \$20 each. If you are interested in donating a hymnal, we will put a personalized label in the front cover recognizing your donation. Checks can be made out to Faith Church with “hymnal” in the memo line.



Mission Committee Updates

As I mentioned recently during an Aug. 28 Moment for Mission, your Mission Committee has continued our commitment to Urban Promise Summer Camp in Camden. We made a donation that helped provide camp to 275 children grades 1-8 plus 56 paid Teen Leaders at 4 different sites. Urban Promise has been providing this camp program for over 30 years and has enriched countless young people who might otherwise have languished over a long, hot summer. We are thankful for your help in making this donation possible.

Ukraine is still in the news almost daily as they continue to bravely fight the aggression that is destroying their country. In July, your mission committee allocated a donation to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance/Ukraine. We also opened this up to the Faith Church Family so they could choose to make a personal donation to directly help the Ukrainian people. We were pleased to be able to make a joint gift of \$1,150 to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance/Ukraine on your behalf. Thank you.

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. 1 Peter 4:10

Lorraine Kunkle, Mission Elder



Cool Weather Means Jigsaw Puzzle Time!

Our puzzle shelf is well stocked and waiting for you! There are many styles and sizes to choose from. The Kunkles have completed almost every puzzle in the collection and are happy to make recommendations based on interest and skill.

Morning Glories

Morning Glories lady's bible study and fellowship started back up in September. The Morning Glories usually meet the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at 9:30 am. For any questions, contact Carol Fischer.

OGs

OGs meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 9:15 with brunch afterwards at Medport Diner.

On September 13, they will be continuing a series by Rob Bell. For any questions, contact Charlie Hoffman.

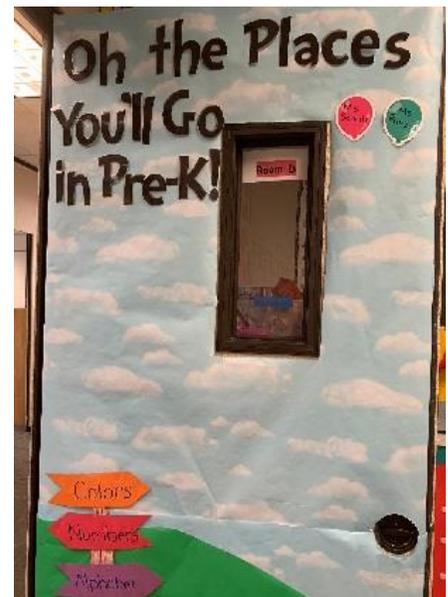


Small World Update

Small World is getting ready for our opening week on September 12th!! We have 2 two year old classes, 3 three year old classes, 3 Pre-K classes, a full TK class and a full Caps class!

We are looking forward to another wonderful year with our friends at Faith Church ☺

Jayne Norcross, Small World Director



Let's Go to the Movies!

Do you love stories and encountering God in them?

Let's go to the movies this fall on discount Tuesdays.

Join Pastor Becca to view a current release and chat about the story, God's story, and where they meet

Contact Pastor Becca if you are interested!

Date and time are TBD.



Christmas Worship Note

Christmas falls on Sunday this year. We will be offering recorded worship on our streaming channels.



More great photos of our HOPE Garden bounty!



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