



A Message from Interim Pastor Diane Curtis

Bring Your Hope!

What is the one thing the church can offer that no other community organization can offer? The one thing that can truly change lives? There are, of course, many things our church can offer to people in the community – Sunday school, worship and spiritual music, and fellowship to name a few. But the one thing? HOPE!

Hope is among the three “basics” that Paul lists at the end of 1 Corinthians 13: “And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love.” Faith, hope, and love. Each of these vital characteristics is essential for the Christian faith. Love is the greatest for it describes our very existence – created by God out of love. All that we are called to do as followers of Jesus Christ is rooted in God’s love for us and our love for others. Faith, God’s in us and ours in God, brings us into a vital relationship with Jesus. It is our faith in Christ, his love and redeeming work for us, that sends us out into the world to share the good news of the gospel in both word and action.

It is hope that we bring with us as we do God’s work in the world. According to Hebrews, hope is the anchor for the soul. Hope is what keeps us going when life’s challenges seem too much to bear, when we wonder what the future will bring, when we contemplate the meaning of our lives. Our hope has God’s love as its foundation, the very love God offers to the world through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

We are called to be bearers of hope into our community and beyond. As we embark on our Mission Study, I believe it is really about hope. It is about helping us identify where, in our community, God is calling us to bring that hope, the hope that comes only through the gospel of Jesus Christ.

In Christ’s love,
Pastor Diane





Together in Faith

Discovering God's Plan for Our Future

We have just begun an important journey together. Formally known as a "Mission Study" – over the next several months we will be working together as a congregation to discover:

1. **Who we are now as a congregation?**
2. **Who we aspire to be – what is God's plan for us?**
3. **What steps to take next to make that plan a reality?**

As a congregation, we have recently been through a period of very significant changes, many of them painful. Although sometimes difficult, change is a natural part of the life that God intends for us.

This next step forward for our congregation - **Discovering God's Plan for Our Future** – will lay the groundwork upon which we will rebuild. Among other things, the plan we develop is a necessary precursor to our search for a permanent pastor. It is important that as many people as possible participate so that we have the best chance of understanding and interpreting God's plan for us.

To that end, the Session has chartered a leadership team: Bill Hamilton, Sandy Gustavsen, Brian Mackey, Cathy Hofmann and John Ford aided by Pastor Diane and Pastor Ellie Cowherd from the Presbytery. We have been meeting regularly and have come up with a schedule of activities for the congregation to participate in:

- **November 1st – Creation of a timeline of the life of our church**
- **November 8th – Sermon will include some gathering of information from the congregation**
- **November 22nd – Pot Luck of soup and bread immediately following the service where we will share the information we have so far and work together on discovery activities**

Please mark these events on your calendar. **It is important that everyone has the chance to participate.** There will be many more opportunities in addition to these and we will communicate progress as frequently as possible. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to any of the leadership team members.

I know that God has wonderful things in store for our future. **Together in Faith** we will discover His plan and make it a reality!

John Ford



International Day of Peace

Faith Church participated in the International Day of Peace celebration in September hosted by the Protestant Community Church of Medford Lakes. Both the Prayer Shawl Ministry and the Sleep Mat Project held workshops after the opening parade. It was a great day for peace!





A Heartfelt Thank You!

Faith Church said **Thank You** to Tracy Janusz for 19 years of fellowship, hugs and fun as the leader of our youth group.

Tracy used her powerful faith and boundless energy to rally our youth to dozens of mission-centered projects and trips. Her trust and love for our youth helped them to grow into faithful and serving adults.

We celebrated with cake and more hugs than usual!

Thank you, Tracy!



Faith Church Finances

As of September 30, 2015 total cash is \$130,348. The church has no outstanding debt. For the period July 1, 2015 to September 30, 2015 total income was \$48,379 and total expense was \$55,667. The result is a loss of \$7,288 which is slightly less than the budgeted loss of \$7,389 through September 2015. While work needs to be done to eliminate the current loss, overall our financial position is stable.

Joe Currie, Treasurer

Let's Talk Turkey (and helping people eat)

The **Deacon's Turkey Drive** begins on **November 1**. The goal is to purchase **175 Acme gift cards worth \$15** each so that families helped by the Christian Caring Center can purchase a turkey. The Deacons will have a Turkey Table in the Fellowship room during November. Drop your cash or check with them or put the money into the offering with the form in the bulletin.

We exceeded this goal last year. Let's do it again!

