



A Message from Interim Pastor Diane Curtis

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven.”

These familiar words from Ecclesiastes may sound somewhat simplistic, but they describe a very real truth about our world. There is a predictability to life even when it may not always seem so when we are in the midst of living day-to-day and week-to-week. That predictability reflects the nature and character of God, the creator of the universe.

We all know that we live in challenging times. In a world where we worry about our own and our children's safety, where job security is non-existent, and where the economy seems to be headed in a downward spiral, it is hard to comprehend the unchanging nature of God, let alone put our trust in the Lord. Yet that is what we, as Christians, are called to do – put our trust in the God who loves us, forgives us, and is always there for us.

I know it is not easy to trust God. Trust is something we expect someone to earn; something we build slowly in a relationship. God, however, has already done more than enough to earn our trust. We just have to learn to recognize and to acknowledge all that he has done.

One way we can begin to do this is to take time to thank God for all the small blessings of life. Until we take a few moments to stop and think about the many ways God has helped us, provided for us, encouraged us, and guided us, we will find it difficult to trust in God and his constancy.

The month of November, when our thoughts naturally turn to the giving of thanks, is a natural time to focus on the blessings the Lord has brought into our lives. As you look at the world around you, interact with family and friends, buy food and clothes, attend church, and even when you pay the bills, give thanks to God for the opportunity to have such experiences, to enjoy relationships, and to have a life to live.

We can depend on the unchanging nature of God, who has provided order to the universe and a predictability to life. Let us give thanks to the Lord!

With thanksgiving,
Pastor Diane



Update from the Pastor Nominating Committee

Great News! The Ministry Information Form (MIF) used to post the pastor position for Faith Church has been completed. **It was approved by session and by the West Jersey Presbytery!** Included in the approval is a request that the position be full time. The MIF will be posted online with the Church Leadership Committee (CLC), a tool provided through the Presbyterian Church. Our church will then be connected with candidates. Pray for our committee as we embark on the next step to discern who God is calling to our church.

Turkey Donations Needed!

Deadline is Sunday, Nov. 13

The deacons are still collecting donations to purchase 175 turkey coupons worth \$15 each for the Christian Caring Center. We're more than halfway to our goal! Checks can be made out to Faith Church with "Turkey Coupons" written in the memo. Sandy Prescott will be in the Fellowship Room after Sunday worship to collect donations.



Sunday School for Children

Sunday school is a great way for children to learn about Jesus and the Bible through stories, crafts and activities. Children attend the first part of worship to hear a children's message from the pastor. Then they head to class for a bible lesson suitable for all youngsters. All ages are welcome.



Moses Parting the Sea Snacks!



International Gift Sale Clearance Event

We Still Need Help! – Nov. 10, 11 and 12

We still have treasures left in storage from our annual International Gift Sales. **We're having a blowout sale of the remaining gift items. We're even selling the cash registers, baskets and display pieces!** The public sale will be Saturday, Nov. 12 from 9 am to 2 pm. Please plan to volunteer for a few hours during the three days. **We will move items from storage to the church on Thursday. We will unpack items, price and display them on Friday, Nov. 11. We will sell items on Saturday, Nov. 12.** The proceeds will go to various Faith Church missions.

Date	Activity	Volunteer Times
Thurs. 11/10	Bring items from shed to church	Contact Norm Mackey for details
Fri. 11/11	Unpack items Set up and pricing	8am to noon 8am to noon, noon to 5pm, 5pm to 8pm
Sat. 11/12	Selling Cashiers Runners Clean up	8:30 am to 12, 11:30 to 2:30 8:30 am to 12, 11:30 to 2:30 8:30 am to 12, 11:30 to 2:30 1:30 to 3 pm

Do You Have: A clothes rack we could borrow?

Can You Donate: shopping bags, brown bags (large ones or lunch size), tissue paper?

Contact Linda Mackey with any questions.

PER CAPITA Details and Description

Each year Faith Presbyterian Church, along with the other churches in West Jersey Presbytery, is asked to make a financial contribution to the Presbytery known as *per capita*. This contribution is a set amount based on the number of members of the particular church, and is split between the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly to support the work of these governing bodies. **For 2017, the per capita is \$38.75 per member**, with a large majority of that amount supporting the work of our Presbytery. West Jersey Presbytery is absorbing the increase in per capita from the General Assembly and Synod so that the amount each church pays per person remains the same as it has for the past several years. You can help defray this cost by contributing your own per capita to the church (for each *member* in your household). This contribution will be tax deductible and will be recorded on your giving records. Thank you for your support.



Prayer Shawl Ministry 10th Anniversary Outreach

PSM has been going strong for ten years at Faith Church, making shawls, scarves, lap robes, pillows and pocket prayer squares. **To celebrate our anniversary, we're doing a special outreach project.** Did you know that 6,000 migrant workers come to south Jersey every summer? There are over 25 migrant camps in Atlantic, Burlington and Camden counties during June and July. Most workers are Haitian and some are Latino.

We plan to knit 500 pocket prayer squares by April 2017 and give them to the workers. The squares will include scripture written in Haitian Creole and Spanish. The prayer squares will be added to hygiene kits which are distributed by Dory Dickson through her Migrant Worker Outreach. We've contacted several other churches to ask if they'll help and have gotten positive responses!

Want to help?

NOW: We need knitters or those willing to learn! The squares require smaller sized needles and lightweight yarn. We have baby (sport) weight yarn, if you want some. We have instructions for the prayer square pattern and knitters to show you how it's done. The goal is to have 500 squares knitted by the end of March 2017.

SOON: We will need help laminating, cutting and attaching the scripture tags. Also, each square has beads which say "Jesus" and we'll need help adding those.

2017: We'll collect items for the hygiene kits including toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap and travel size shampoo. See Janet Sharpe with any questions.





HOPE Garden's Amazing Year!

Our harvest total for 2016 is 1,460 pounds!

In 2016, donations went to the Christian Caring Center, Urban Promise, Migrant Worker Outreach and New Visions. We also donated 6 dozen fresh eggs to the CCC which were contributed by one of the gardeners (Sui Applegate).

Thank you to all church members and community friends who supported the HOPE Garden by planting, watering, weeding, harvesting, delivering and praying throughout the 2016 season.

A **BIG** thank you to several local garden centers that donated vegetable plants, including **Laurel Oaks, Spotts, Flagg** and **Cathedral Village**, as well as **Medford Oaks Tree Service** for wood chips to line the walkways through the garden and minimize weeds.

Our goal to Help Other People Eat has been met again, thanks to all of you!





What Are You Thankful For?

Elders and Deacons Give Thanks

I'm thankful for Stephen and my healthy family. Baby smiles and children's laughs. **Deacon Joan Zinader**

The Kunkle family is thankful for this beautiful country. Having recently visited the deserts of Arizona & the mountains of California & seeing the waves of the Pacific Ocean, all we can say is, "Thank you Lord!" **Deacon Lorraine Kunkle**

I'm thankful for each beautiful day, for God's love & grace guiding our church & keeping us together. I'm thankful for my family & friends. I trust in God to bring our country together to know his LOVE & keep his guiding commandments. **Deacon Paige Caracuzzo**

*I am Thankful for the gift of Grace and eternal life that I do not deserve.
I am thankful for Our Faith Church and that we are on a path for growth and vitality.
I am thankful that every Sunday we are seeing more and more children and their parents attending, and that's a very good thing.
I am thankful for all of the wonderful, loving and generous people that make up our faith community.
I am thankful that for each small step we take together the further we can go.
I am thankful for the work that the PNC is doing in our next step forward towards the revitalization of Faith Presbyterian Church.*
Elder George Anderson

I'm thankful to notice the beauty and good in the world around me. **Deacon Bob Casey**

Thanks to the congregation for a great response to Session's appeal for increased pledges to move forward with a call for a full time pastor. **Elder Joe Currie**

I'm thankful for the core group of people who have decided to remain and worship at Faith United Church. This gives us hope for a brighter future. **Elder John Heald**

I am thankful for the dedication and quality of work that the Mission Study and Pastor Nominating Committee teams have demonstrated. God is at work in Faith Church! I am thankful for the support that the Presbytery has provided us during the last 2 years, especially with helping us find Pastor Diane, and the guidance we have been receiving with the Pastor Nominating Committee. In particular, I am thankful for the Reverends Eloise Cowherd and Debby Brincivalli.
Elder John Ford

I am thankful for my family, my church family and my small group. **Deacon Mary Currie**

I'm thankful that we can use our church property for HOPE Garden. I'm thankful for the big-hearted volunteers who work so hard to feed others. **Deacon Bonnie Halle**



Advent and Christmas Worship 2016

November 27th 1 st Sunday of Advent	<i>The Messiah King: The Backstory</i> Matthew 1:1-17
December 4th 2 nd Sunday of Advent Communion	<i>The Messiah King: A Peaceful Ruler</i> Isaiah 11:1-10
December 11th 3 rd Sunday of Advent	<i>The Messiah King: A People's King</i> Isaiah 9:1-7
December 18th 4 th Sunday of Advent	<i>The Messiah King: The Unroyal Arrival</i> Matthew 1:18-25
December 24th Christmas Eve	<i>The Messiah King: Angels and Shepherds</i> <i>Celebrate!</i> Luke 2:8-20
5 p.m.	Family Candlelight Service
8 p.m.	Lessons and Carols, Communion and Candlelight
December 25th Christmas Day	Celebrate His Birth With Family and Friends No Worship Service
January 1st New Year's Day	<i>The Messiah King: Wise Men Worship</i> Matthew 2:1-12



A Message From the Pauzas

Greetings from the Chicago area! After a few weeks of homelessness, we are now in our new home in North Barrington, IL. We are up to our ears in boxes but we have found our beds and toothbrushes so life is good. Occasionally we unpack something that reminds us of Faith Church so know that you are not far from our thoughts, hearts and prayers. Thank you for the wonderful gifts as we departed: knitted blanket, pray pillows, picture album and HOPE garden painting (and apples). But more importantly, thank you for your friendship, willingness to pray for us and the opportunity to worship with you for the previous 8 years. You were a great church family to us and we truly enjoyed worshipping and serving God with you during our time in NJ. As Christians, we never really say goodbye but rather see you later.

Tim and Mary Pauza and John Severson



Because of Bethlehem

You need a Savior. Because of Bethlehem, you have one.

Pastor Diane will be leading an Advent Bible Study that follows Max Lucado's new book, ***Because of Bethlehem***. This seasonal video study focuses on the story of Christmas and how it can give you a lifetime of hope. The study is four sessions long and there will be both a Monday daytime group and a Tuesday evening group. Everyone is invited to attend either group. Please note that the Tuesday group does not meet on the 29th and instead goes for an extra week.

Monday Group – 12 Noon – Bring a Lunch

Nov. 14 – Nov. 21 – Nov. 28 – Dec. 5

Tuesday Group – 7 pm

Nov. 15 – Nov. 22 – Dec. 6 – Dec. 13

Advent and Christmas Decorating Party

Sunday, Nov. 20th after worship

Join us to prepare the church for the season by coming to a decorating party! We'll meet after worship to decorate the sanctuary and the entrance doors. A pizza lunch will be served with donations welcomed.

Church Bulletin Board

November Clothing Drive: During November, the Deacons will have a Men's Winter Clothing drive to benefit **Seeds of Hope in Camden**. As the weather gets cooler, start saving items to donate. Watch the bulletin for collection details!

Casseroles for Camden: Every fourth Tuesday, Steve Carter takes casseroles from our freezer to the **New Visions Homeless Day Shelter** in Camden. Just add your casserole to our freezer on the shelf marked "Casseroles for Camden" and Steve will deliver it. Can't use your free turkey from the grocery store? Why not take the free lasagna and donate it!

Updated Membership Directory: An updated member directory is now available. Please contact the office for an electronic or paper copy. Be sure to update the office with any changes in your phone, address or email.



Did You Know?

If you bank online, you can set up an automatic payment for your contribution to Faith Church. You'll never have to worry about forgetting your envelope!