



## *A Message from Pastor Becca*

I have been thinking often about the sacrament of The Lord's Supper lately. This may be because I am getting my bearings around a new-to-me Communion table. I have spent time pouring over the liturgy and in the sanctuary practicing because the process is new and unsettling. There are some things I really enjoy about being in this new space; it is as if we are actually gathering around the table when we come to receive this spiritual sustenance.

The table in our sanctuary is quite large, it reminds me of the table in the chapel at Louisville Seminary; where once a month our Friday worship included an Agape meal following the benediction. The table would be set with all the typical elements but spread over the entire table would be bowls of fruit, vegetables, hummus, cheese, pitas, and so forth. We would not leave the chapel but instead gather around the table and partake in all this beautiful fresh food as well as leftover elements from communion. As we fed our bodies, we shared with one another about the challenges and joys of the week. Students, faculty, staff, and children would eat and chat, my professors and classmates would engage my daughter in conversation. Everyone was welcome at the table and it is a beauty that is not soon forgotten!

On the first Sunday we shared this Sacrament together, I was paying keen attention to how we shared this sign and seal together. I noticed in those sacred moments that the children were missing from our shared meal! This led to some amazing conversations over the past several weeks about what exactly it is we believe about welcoming children to the table.

***The opportunity to eat and drink with Christ is not a right bestowed upon the worthy, but a privilege given to the undeserving who come in faith, repentance, and love. All who come to the table are offered the bread and cup, regardless of their age or understanding. If some of those who come have not yet been baptized, an invitation to baptismal preparation and Baptism should be graciously extended. -The Book of Order, W-3.0409, pg. 96***

The Presbyterian Church (USA), practices what we call an open Table, all are welcome, no exceptions. If you would like to encounter a powerful story of one woman's conversion to Christianity as she ate the bread of life, I invite you to read the work of Sara Miles with me!

*(Continued on the next page)*



## *A Message from Pastor Becca , continued*

Parents are the only ones who can make the decision of when a child can come to share in the bread and the cup. The denomination, the session, or the pastor do not make this decision. We often wait until we think our kids can fully understand, for many years this was common practice. However, we have come to see that our understanding of Communion changes over time and with our experiences. The youngest children understand that this is a special meal that they get to be a part of! Over time, their understanding will grow and evolve, just like ours does. Faith is a lifelong journey. What happens in this celebration of the Sacrament is a holy mystery that our humanity doesn't allow us to understand. Even as a person who is ordained as a Minister of the Word and Sacrament, I cannot fully understand or grasp what happens at the table. Therefore, I say great is the mystery of our faith and you respond with Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again. I invite you in to explore this mystery together, if you are interested in learning more all you have to do is ask! Stay tuned in the coming weeks for a class for the children where we will make unleavened bread and learn together about this meal we share.

## **Pastor Becca's Lenten Diner Tour**

*In an effort to get to know you better, I am inviting you to come out and chat with me during Lent. On Mondays, I will be heading out to various diners at different times of day. Drop in for coffee, dessert, or a meal. Feel free to bring your story and questions!*

- March 12, Noon at Medport Diner
- March 19, 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm at Red Lion Diner
- March 26, Noon at The Pop Shop

## **One Great Hour of Sharing**

It's that time of year! One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is our direct response to God's call in Isaiah 58. With your gift, you:

- Loose the bonds of injustice (Self-Development of People)
- Share your bread with the hungry (Presbyterian Hunger Program)
- Bring the homeless poor into your house (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance)

Details are in the Sunday bulletin. Fish banks are available in the Fellowship Room.



## Installation of Pastor Rebecca J. Gresham-Kesner

With great joy, we celebrated the installation of Pastor Becca on Sunday, March 4. We were joined by members of Becca's family and home church as well as Rev. Joel Buckwalter, Rev. Debby Brincivalli, Rev. Ellie Cowherd, Rev. Wendy Boer, Rev. Eliza Jaremko, Rev. Lory Ryan and Rev. Dr. Terry Chapman. Rev. Chapman gave a moving message about the "In Between" church and the need for all of us to find creative and kind solutions to needs and conflicts which we find within the church and in the community.

***God of Grace, who called us to a common ministry as ambassadors of Christ, trusting us with the message of reconciliation: give us courage and discipline to follow where your servant rightly leads us; that together we may declare your wonderful deeds and show your love to the world; through Jesus Christ the Lord of all. Amen.***



*Thanks to Jonathan Cohill and Debby Brincivalli for the photos!*



## Lenten Worship Schedule

### March 25 Palm Sunday

9:30 am - Worship

### March 29 Maundy Thursday

7:00 pm Worship at Faith

### March 30 Good Friday

Noon - Interfaith Worship at St. Peters Episcopal Church, Medford

5:00 pm - Worship at Faith & Breaking of the fast with Soup Supper

### April 1 Easter Sunday

6:30 am - Sunrise Service followed by breakfast at Camp Ockinickon

9:30 am - Worship



## Pastor Becca's Office Hours

- ✓ Monday 10:00 am – 2:00 pm and 5 pm to 7 pm

*In the evening, the doors will be locked. Please call so she can let you in.*

- ✓ Tuesday 9:30 am – 1:30 pm
- ✓ Wednesday 9:30 am – 1:30 pm
- ✓ Thursday 10:00 am – 8:00 pm

*If you need to see Pastor Becca outside of these times, please let her know. She is glad to meet with you! Please note that there are some days when she will need to leave the office for lunch meetings so it's a good idea to call ahead if you plan to visit during lunchtime.*

*Pastor Becca's cell phone number is 609-313-6568. Call or text!*





## A Letter to Parents and Care Givers from Pastor Becca

When our daughter was a toddler, I was in Seminary and working as a church intern specializing in youth and children's ministry. I spent my days studying theology, scripture, history, dead languages, and so on. Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings, I was busy teaching children and youth about a life of faith. Yet, at home, I found it difficult to teach my own child about faith or even how to pray. Our lives were full and getting a three-year-old to sit still at the end of the day is not for the faint of heart. I also noticed that it became much harder to take time out of my day to focus on prayer. Juggling Seminary and Preschool was taking a lot out of me.

Things changed once I talked about this struggle in a class that used a lot of creative ways of praying as we gathered to learn. In Seminary, it was not uncommon to begin class with a prayer but in this class we drew, we engaged our bodies, we played, we gathered around food. Prayer came alive. I ended up doing a project on how to integrate prayer into our busy family life. What you have been watching me lead the children in during the kid's talks is inspired by those days of study.

I am so grateful you are bringing the children to worship! If your house is anything like ours, Sunday mornings can be hard to get people motivated. I know we all lead busy lives, we all face the challenge of balancing family, keeping our households running, and our work lives. You aren't alone if you sometimes find your faith life slipping out of priority. I wanted to share with you some ways to incorporate what we are learning in the kid's talks into your home life, if you so desire.

Art prayer is easy to integrate if you have kids that love to color. You can get them started and then doodle your own prayer. Try not to get hung up on the kids drawing things that aren't doodles. They are learning to express themselves to God, there really isn't a wrong way to do that.

I often pray while I cook. As I chop veggies, I pray for all the people it took to bring those veggies to our table. I pray for those who will eat them. Sometimes I pray around food justice issues like fair pay for migrant workers and fair pay for family farms.

I enjoy writing prayer. With some work, this can be incorporated into the time you spend around the table doing homework each day.

Don't underestimate the power of play as prayer. You can observe so much of creation while simply blowing bubbles and sharing those observations with your tiny people.

Some people need to be active to pray. Incorporate prayer beads or knots into your routine. You will see in the coming weeks ways to make yoga poses into prayers. If you walk or jog, this can be meaningful prayer time as well. Prayer is for our whole selves not just mind and spirit.

Silence is a more difficult practice to keep with little ones around but it can be done. The key is not to get upset if you fall asleep while trying to hear God. As my very wise spiritual director once said to me, "What makes you think God doesn't want to watch God's children sleep?"

If you enjoy nature as a family or just playing at the park on a warm afternoon, there is ample opportunity to offer prayers of gratitude and sustenance for creation. The very act of enjoying nature, this beautiful creation at God's hand, is a form of prayer.

Music has been used in worship and as a form of prayer all the way back to the Psalms in Scripture. The possibilities are endless in how you can incorporate music into your prayer life. If you have a long commute, it is a great time to listen to some music that helps you feel connected to God. Try singing your table or bedtime prayers with your children each night.

Pray for the world using a map or globe. Simply apply sticky notes to a region with your prayers for that place or people. If you want more resources about any one of these, just ask! I am here to support you and your kiddos in your faith journeys. We are in this life of faith together!

Many blessings,  
Pastor Becca





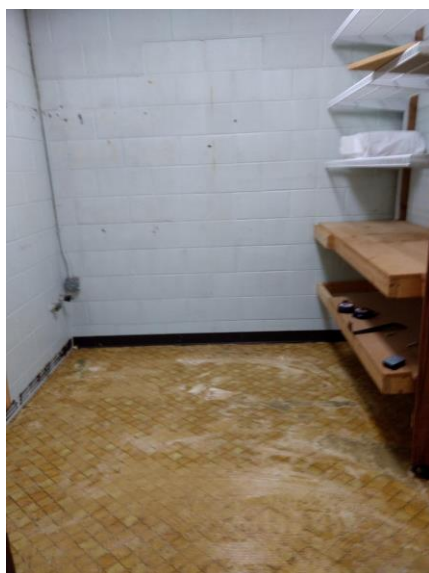
## Sleep Mat Workshops – Final Month!

We're still working on our sleep mats and now have 6 completed! March is the last month we will be meeting and we can still use your help! Join us on Saturdays from 10 to noon.



## Deacon Closet Grand Re-opening and Spring Food Drive

Stop by to see the revamped Deacon Closet. We got new flooring, updated the shelving and got a new coat of paint. But to do all this, we had to empty the shelves by donating everything to Extended Hand Ministries in Mt. Holly. Now we need your help to restock the shelves. We're looking for nonperishable items. Please, no expired dates! Expired food cannot be distributed by law. Mark the bag as "Food Donation" and leave it in the kitchen. Thank you!



The closet before (yuk), after (much better) and refilled (just needs more canned goods!)!



A community of believers  
Centered in Christ,  
Caring for others and  
Loving one another.

## Here We Go!

We received a wonderful letter from the Presbytery of West Jersey in December, along with a check for \$5,000. (WOW! That does not happen every day!). The Presbytery wants to help us engage with our local community and they are asking us to use the money for new or expanded mission. They want us to connect a passion of our congregation with a specific need in our community. (Our community is approximately a 10 mile radius of the church).

God works in wonderful ways and the timing of this gift could not be better for Faith Church. With Pastor Becca beginning her ministry with us, it is time for us to begin our new journey. Our Mission Study called out that our path forward must include reaching out to our community with missional activities, and the Presbytery's gift will be the catalyst to do just that.

**The first step – we need ideas!** Please think of ways that our congregation can impact our community. What are we good at, what needs are out there? What are we passionate about, what do we like to do, how can we help people? Please jot down your ideas and stick them on our “mission tree” in the fellowship room. The session will decide what we will focus on during our March meeting. We give thanks to God for continuing to bless our church with guidance and vision for our future.



## Sunday School

### March's Theme is “Family”

We're following January's theme of “Sharing” and “Loving” for February. Expect a special musical treat from the Sunday School kids on Palm Sunday! See Linda Hamilton to volunteer as a teacher.



## Join Us for an Easter Egg Hunt! After Worship on Easter Sunday

Join the fun after Easter worship.  
We have an Easter Egg Hunt  
planned for the children – and the  
young at heart!



**Coming Soon: Film & Theology**  
Watch movies and discuss theology with Becca.

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## *Small World Open House Book Fair and Art Show*

**Open House: Wednesday, March 14, 5:30 to 7:30**

**Book Fair: Monday, March 12 to Friday, March 16**



Come browse the wonderful selection of books at the Small World Book Fair. See the children's wonderful artwork! You can visit the classrooms and chat with the Small World staff. There will be light refreshments and lots of great books for kids and the young-at-heart!

*Pastor Becca wishes to express her deep gratitude to all who attended and participated in her Installation worship. Especially those who prepared such a beautiful reception afterwards and all who made the delicious treats!*



## 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!

## 2018 Per Capita Payment

The 2018 per member cost for per capita is \$38.75 as set by the Denomination, Synod & Presbytery. Please use the blue envelope titled "Per Capita Apportionment" which you received with your pledge envelopes.