



A Message from Pastor Becca

Eastertide began almost a month ago, our halleluiahs echo like a distant memory. Yet as I sit here, the world slowly turning green outside, I can't help but be filled with gratitude for the time we spent together during Holy Week in worship. I celebrate how many of you were able to participate in each of the services offered. I have savored your willingness to engage something new in worship during that time. I am grateful to each of you who helped make those worship services flow. I certainly couldn't have done it on my own.

I hope that as our seasons change, you are able to find ways to sink into a more relaxed summer rhythm that allows you plenty of space for sabbath. If you should happen to find yourself in a place of sabbath I invite you to reflect upon Scripture, particularly which verses, theme, or book has been significant to you on your faith journey. Allow me to share one such piece with you.

"I can't tell you how much I long for you to enter this wide-open, spacious life. We didn't fence you in. The smallness you feel comes from within you. Your lives aren't small, but you're living them in a small way. I'm speaking as plainly as I can and with great affection. Open up your lives. Live openly and expansively!"
(2 Corinthians 6:11-13, *The Message*)

This was the theme of a youth worker's convention Paul and I attended just a few weeks after we were married. This is the first time I can remember scripture shaking me to my core in a large group setting, especially in a paraphrase like *The Message*. I wasn't a Corinthian, but I did feel pretty small and fenced in. I had begun to discern a call to ministry and I was absolutely terrified by the prospect. There was a long road ahead; I would have to do mountains of paperwork, learn two dead languages, get over my fear of speaking in front of people, figure out how to afford life while working internships. I was being invited in, to living expansively. In that moment, living expansively meant trusting God with all I was worried about. Trusting that the call to ministry would unfold, that it wasn't a mistake that I, of all people, heard this call. The journey would turn out to be more challenging than I had ever imagined. It was rarely easy. Though I have found my way through the required education, exams, and paperwork that precede ordination, my journey did not end on ordination day three years ago. I continue hoping to live expansively into this call.

My hope for us as a congregation is that we, too, would live expansively and open to trusting where God might lead. Trusting that God is in whatever process we find ourselves in can be incredibly difficult. Last week's sermon engaged the idea that after pruning, we await growth, not alone, but with Jesus. As a congregation you have weathered a very difficult season, it can be hard at times to see God at work, but I assure you God is at work here. May we live expansively enough to see God's hand and courageously enough to leave a sense of smallness behind as we continue to journey toward who God is calling us to be.



Faith Church Annual Meeting Sunday, May 20th after worship

Don't miss our annual meeting! The primary purpose of the meeting is to nominate new elders and deacons. There will be time for questions or discussion of the 2017 annual report and the 2018 budget at the annual meeting.

HOPE Garden Gets a Boost!

In keeping with Eastertide and our theme of Resurrection, we announce that the garden received the \$5,000 grant from the presbytery!

Session reviewed several proposals from individuals and groups within Faith and chose the HOPE Garden plan. The garden will partner with other local faith-based groups including St. Vincent de Paul and Medford Friends to provide fresh produce to local people who don't have enough to eat. There will be many ways to help even if you don't have a plot in the HOPE garden. If you are interested in helping with this very local outreach, contact Mary Currie. Thanks for your generous support of this mission to **Help Other People Eat!**





New Faith Facebook Page!

We have a new church page on Facebook which has announcements, photos and topical information. We still have the HOPE Garden/Mission page and the Small World page. We also still have our web site.

Visit them all!

New church Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/FaithPresMedford/>

HOPE Garden/Mission Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/HopeGardenatFaithChurch>

Small World Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Small-World-Preschool-NJ-890627094292782/>

Faith Church web site: <http://faithchurch.org/>

faith & film

Come explore the
themes of faith
found in modern day films!

Tuesdays
6:30 PM
Faith Presbyterian Church
318 Stokes Road
Medford, NJ 08055

Free!

**Join us every Tuesday in May (except May 15) at 6:30 pm.
All films are PG!**



New Missionaries!

The Mission Committee is excited to introduce you to our new missionaries: Dr. Stephen Chiu and wife Amy from Interserve. They are in training and leave for Central Asia in early Fall. Dr. Chiu is a medical doctor and Amy is a school teacher who also teaches music after school. Please stop by Faith's Mission bulletin board to see more information.

Pastor Becca's Office Hours

- ✓ Monday 10:00 am – 2:00 pm and 5:30 pm to 7:30 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 – 3:00 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.



Sunday School

**The theme for May and June is
"Growing"**

Sunday School is a great way for children to learn about Jesus and the Bible through Stories, crafts and activities. All ages are welcome! See Linda Hamilton to volunteer as a teacher for this enthusiastic group of kids.



Please Help!

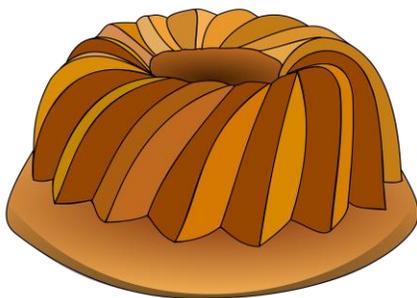
Become a Prepper!

We need one or two more volunteers for fellowship prep. The Mackeys are moving to their new home in PA this month and we are getting desperate to find someone (or two) to help in their place.

Fellowship prep involves making coffee and setting out snacks. Cleanup is pretty easy because, if you ask, anyone in the fellowship room will help.

We have four remaining preppers so if you volunteer, **you will prep once every 5 weeks. Easy!** The old, heavy coffee urns are gone and the smaller ones are much lighter and easier to carry. Of course, we will train you!

Please see Bonnie H. or Lorraine K. to volunteer. If you have questions about what's involved, ask one of the current preppers: Bill Hamilton, Nathan and Peggy Burma, George Anderson or Bonnie Halle.



Fellowship Snacks

We are grateful that so many people come to fellowship after worship to have a drink and a snack while catching up with old friends and meeting new ones.

But this popularity means we're running out of food!

Please sign up in the fellowship book to bring a snack. **You don't have to bake!** You can pick up a pudding cake or small fruit bowl at the grocery store or grab some donut holes on your way to worship.



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.

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!