



A Message from Pastor Becca

As I sit down to write, I am full of joy after sharing a night of contemplative prayer and an Agape Meal with some of you. I treasure these moments of praying together in new ways that help us to go deeper and grow our faith. Our evening of sharing also marked the halfway point of Lent. My focus is beginning to shift to Holy Week and Easter as we prepare to worship together over the course of several days in anticipation of the Resurrection. As you know before we get to the Resurrection, we will go deep into the valley to those sacred and horrifying days of the Last Supper and Crucifixion.

I know that your lives are full of joy and struggle, that finding time to come to church three or more times in just four days' time can feel near impossible. I want to encourage you now while we are still a few weeks out to join us for one or more of our weekday worship services leading up to Easter morning. Holy Week begins with our celebratory Palm Sunday worship on April 14 at 9:30am. We will worship at 7:30 pm on Maundy Thursday April 18 and Good Friday April 19 at 5:00 pm here at Faith Presbyterian. At noon on Good Friday I will lead worship with my colleagues from around Medford at the Medford United Methodist Church. I encourage you to accept this invitation to worship on the difficult days as we approach the joy of Easter morning. If we skip over the hard and heavy stuff and go right to Easter, we rob ourselves of the full story. If we only come worship to encounter joy, we forget that God is present in the pain of our lives. These days of mourning hold a significant place in our liturgical calendar. I look forward to remembering and celebrating with you.

As a community of believers, we have been facing some of our own difficult days. We have grieved the loss of many of our staff members, we worry about budgets, we get concerned about the future. It can feel a little dark and overwhelming, we can forget about the hope and promise of resurrection! As we await the resurrection, I want to invite you to participate in the Vital Congregations program with the Presbytery. You received an email last week about this program and I will be sending more on to you as the program begins. If you are interested in praying our way into the future alongside the community of our fellow churches, please let me know!

I am so grateful for each of you and look forward to our unfolding future, trusting God is not done yet!



Holy Week

Join us as we walk the path of Jesus' last days.

Palm Sunday

April 14 9:30am

Maundy Thursday

April 18 7:30pm

Good Friday

April 19

Noon at Medford United
Methodist Church

5:00 pm at Faith
Presbyterian Church

Join us for Worship
Easter Sunday April 21

6:30 am

Camp Ockanickon

Breakfast to Follow

*1303 Stokes Road
Medford, N.J.*

9:30 am

Faith Presbyterian

*318 Stokes Road
Medford, N.J.*



HOPE Garden 2019 Season Begins!

The HOPE Garden had its first workday on March 30. The weather was perfect for getting things cleaned up, tilling all of the plots, spreading compost and turning on the water.

Next Work Day: Saturday, April 27 at 10:00 am

We need many hands and appreciate all volunteers. There is much to do including planting, seeding and spring cleaning chores. Bring gloves and tools for a variety of tasks. If you are interested in having a plot, contact Mary Currie. Thanks for your generous support of this mission to

Help Other People Eat!



Order Easter Flowers!

It's Lent! This means it's time to think about the flowers that will decorate the sanctuary on Easter. If you want to make a donation for the purchase of flowers, please make out a check to Faith Church with "Easter Flowers" written in the Memo.

Collection ends Palm Sunday April 14.

If you donate, you are welcome to take home some flowers after the 9:30 Easter service. If you have any questions, speak to Erin Ford or contact her at fordelf@msn.com.





Sleep Mat Workshop Celebrates Another Amazing Season!

The final Sleep Mat Workshop was March 30. We have 13 completed mats! We enjoyed spending 3 months of Saturdays with our good friends from Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Our Lady of the Lakes and several other churches. Watch for an announcement in the bulletin about dedicating the mats during worship this spring. **Thanks to everyone who helped out!**





Small World Updates!

April is about new life and all things **Spring** here at Small World! We are very thankful that Pastor Becca will be starting our month off with the Easter Story. All of the classes have been watching their caterpillars grow bigger every day and now spinning into their chrysalis. We are all anxiously awaiting the arrival of our butterflies!!

TK is swinging into spring!! They are busy learning about bugs and pond life. They will prepare and eat gummy worm dirt and sand cups. They can't wait to be bunnies and celebrate Easter with an egg hunt and Easter spoon races!

Pre K, along with TK, will review the alphabet during Chicka Chicka, Boom Boom week. The Pre K classes will also be talking about gardening then planting and growing grass from seeds!

Three's classes are all about bugs right now, whether it be grouchy ladybugs, caterpillars or buzzing bees. They are also very busy learning their Mothers Day songs for their Mothers Day Teas.

Two's have wrapped up their learning about yellow and baby animals. This month they will learn about purple, ovals, bunnies and Easter.

CAPS this month will focus on the desert, and then will switch their focus to building and construction. They will be making some really cool "Junk" art!



Eyeglass Collection

When Helen Keller addressed the international convention at Cedar Point in Ohio on June 30, 1925, the Lions were charged as Knights of the Blind and have been collecting eyeglasses ever since.

The Mission Committee is continuing the collection of eyeglasses for the month of April. Your old prescription glasses, reading glasses and sunglasses are of great need. Please place your donation of glasses in the box in the Fellowship Room labeled Eyeglasses. They will be donated to the Lions International Club in Medford.





About the Lenten Agape Meal

On Wednesday, March 27, some very fortunate church members and a few guests were able to experience a special church service and enjoy an agape meal.

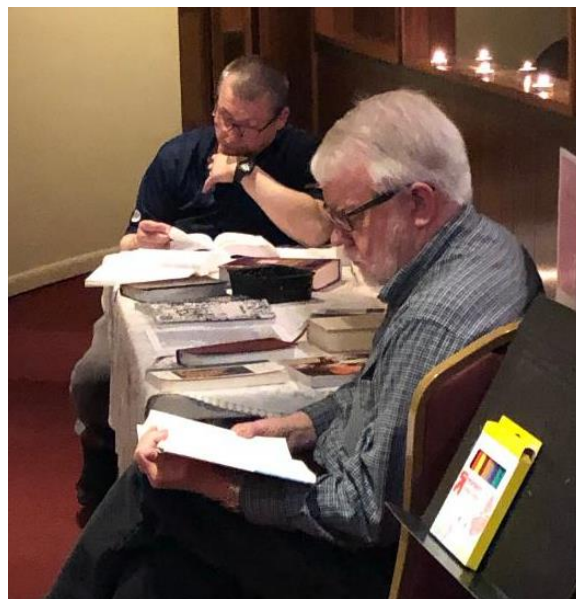
Here in our sanctuary, we were able to share in communion by intinction as we gathered around the communion table which was laden with food. This agape meal is typically shared with fellow Christians just as Jesus often did during his earthly ministry.

Earlier, as part of the service, we were able to experience "Prayer Stations" which were scattered throughout the sanctuary and hallways. At these various stations, which included interactive and tactile displays representing nature, photography, exercise, literature, music, and more, we were able to individually immerse ourselves in focused, meditative prayer.

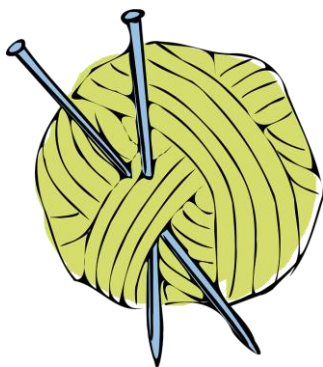
The entire service was moving and reflective. The agape meal, which eventually moved to the fellowship area, was a wonderful chance to share fellowship while enjoying a delicious meal. We want to thank Pastor Becca for inviting us to share this unique experience during the Lenten season.

- Bill & Lorraine Kunkle





Prayer Shawl Ministry New Meeting Day and Time Join Us!



Prayer Shawl Ministry will now meet the **first Saturday of the month from 10 to 11 am. The first meeting this year will be April 6** and there will also be a meeting May 4 The Ministry meets again in September, October and November. We welcome new members and anyone who would like to knit at home. See Janet Sharpe with any questions.

Sunday School News

We are looking for teachers! You will have an assistant and a lesson plan. It's forty minutes of fun plus it's so important for the adults to pass this knowledge on to the children. If you are interested, please see Linda Hamilton.

April Lessons:

4/7: Jesus Celebrates Passover

4/14: Jesus Enters Jerusalem

4/21: Jesus Lives!

4/28: The Road to Emmaus