



A Message from Pastor Becca

The wilderness of Lent will be slipping away into Holy Week very soon. Yet it feels like we are a long way from leaving the wilderness of the COVID-19 pandemic. This week will be week four of worshipping virtually and I must tell you **I MISS YOU ALL!** Every one of you! I think of you and pray for you often. I wonder how everyone is holding up? How are you passing the time? How can I better support you? Some of you have sent me email updates that I very much enjoy, even if I don't always get to answer them right away.

Beloved, I do not know what will come next for church, for New Jersey, the USA, the world. There is no clear teaching on how to handle a pandemic in Scripture or Seminary. I do know that I am feeling mighty disappointed that we won't be able to worship together on Easter morning. We WILL worship but we won't gather in our space and exchange hugs and handshakes. Come Easter morning the resurrection will have happened, even if we cannot gather how we might like for worship and family celebrations. ***Perhaps this year early in the morning we can read the scripture and pay attention to how few people were around when the tomb was found empty.*** That first Easter morning wasn't like the joyous celebrations we have come to expect in our lifetime. I wonder if this year that joyous, yet confusing morning might take on a whole new meaning for us. I suspect our hearts might be more vulnerable and open to this fantastic truth.

No matter what the world brings to us or takes away from us in the coming weeks the promises of the resurrected Jesus, Savior of the world remain the same. God is with us in every moment of this most difficult time. God promises us plenty of love and grace. Jesus tells us a new world is coming, pandemics, uncertainty, and death do not get the final say. New life in a world we cannot even fathom awaits us. Let us cling to these promises this Holy Week and Easter.

In Jesus Love,
Pastor Becca



HOPE Garden Season 2020 Begins!

There will be a great need for fresh organic produce this spring, so there was no delay in preparing the HOPE Garden for planting. On Sunday, March 29th, garden volunteers worked in small groups to rototill, repair boards and fencing, and stake out the plots. Beds in the main community garden are now planted with cool weather crops, including radishes, spinach and lettuce. All enjoyed the fellowship of working together productively outdoors on this important mission, while keeping our required social distance. Looking forward to a bountiful 2020 season!!



*"Trust in the Lord and do good; live in the land and be safe."
Psalm 37:3*





Sleep Mat Workshop Has Another Amazing Season!

Although our sleep mat workshops were cut short, we really enjoyed the ones which we got to have! Folks are still working at home on numerous mats and we expect to have quite a few to donate to the CCC. In addition to our steadfast companions from Lord of Life Lutheran Church and St. Mary of the Lakes, we added new friends from Medford Methodist and other neighbors as well as word-of-mouth visitors. Watch for an announcement about dedicating the mats during worship this spring. **Thanks to everyone who continues to help out!**



Deacons' Update

The Deacons want you to know that we are thinking of you all during our time apart. We are collecting prayers -- yes, prayers! If you have a prayer request, please let us know so we can pray for you and put your request on the prayer list if you'd like.



Betty Ann Beck (609-654-8478) is in charge of our food shelf. We have homemade soups in the freezer and food on our shelves and it is there for any of you! Please contact Kay Galberg (609-953-1344) with any prayer requests, food concerns, or anything else that you might need. The Deacons are here for you, so please reach out if there is **anything** that we can do to help.



Session Update

West Jersey Presbytery has granted at no cost to each church in the Presbytery the virtual Zoom program for virtual meetings. Faith's Session and church committees are taking advantage of this wonderful gift.

As a result, Session conducted its March meeting via Zoom. Faith Church's annual financial audit has been completed. This year, a special mailing for One Great Hour of Sharing will go out in early April.

Virtual worship will need to continue. Pastor Becca will send out emails with the weekly worship material. For offerings, members are urged to set up online giving to Faith through their own banks, or members can mail in their offerings to the church.

WJ Presbytery is discussing the possibility of doing a joint Presbytery Service for Easter with different leaders participating. Since the Y Camp is officially closed, there will not be a sunrise service this year.

Since the church building is currently closed, anyone who needs to go into the church should contact Pastor Becca in advance.

Virginia Magnus
Clerk of Session





Sunday School Update!

The Sunday School teachers miss you and send their love to all! We are looking forward to being back together soon. Meanwhile, here is some Scripture that you can read at home together:

Bible Readings for Holy Week:

- * **Palm Sunday:** Triumphal Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem *Matthew 21:1-9*
- * **Maundy Thursday:** The Last Supper of Jesus: *Matthew 26:26-30*
- * **Good Friday:** Jesus Died on the Cross *1Peter 3:18*
- * **Easter:** Jesus Lives! *Matthew 28*

Next Mission Sunday! In May, get ready for our next Mission Sunday! We'll learn about the Prayer Shawl Ministry and help to assemble Pocket Prayer Squares for hospital patients.



One Great Hour of Sharing

For over 70 years, **One Great Hour of Sharing** has provided Presbyterians a way to share with our neighbors around the world. In a world of disaster, hunger and oppression – millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education and opportunity.

Now imagine a world that already has all those needs listed above and multiply that need as the world deals with a global pandemic. Think of the 70 million displaced people – refugees, asylum seekers, and those internally uprooted by war and other crises. These are the ones most vulnerable to the spread of the coronavirus and the least able to combat it. A catastrophic impact appears to be only a matter of time.

We are so blessed to live in the Medford area where we have state of the art hospitals nearby, food on the shelves, clean water to drink and technology to keep us connected. Let us be mindful of the millions of people around the world who have none of these advantages. Please pray and give generously to the OGHS campaign this year especially. Give as if those lives depend on it, because they do.

Lorraine Kunkle
Mission Elder