



## *A Message from Pastor Becca*

Recently as we gathered at our campfire fellowship, I was struck by just how much love resides in my heart for the people of Faith Presbyterian Church. In those sacred moments, it was the first time I had seen many of your faces in seven months. There were conversations I have missed dearly in our time apart. Now, if you have been following along in worship, you know that when we talk about love biblically it isn't always an emotion or warm fondness but more often an action. Surely what I felt that evening was a little bit of both the emotion and the intentional action of showing up. This led me to thinking about the great privilege I have in being in relationship with each of you as your pastor.

When I was ordained and every time I am installed at a church I answer three questions that talk about love. (If you are a Ruling Elder or Deacon you have answered similar questions too!)

*Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world?*

*Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?*

*Will you be active in government and discipline, serving the councils of the church; and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?*

These questions are central to my call to ministry being lived out. Often when I am overwhelmed by the day to day tasks of ministry, I pull these out and read them out loud. It helps me to find my center and my focus. I strive for love to be the cornerstone of everything I do. In these past several months I have been using energy, intelligence, and imagination to learn how to better love my neighbors in these pandemic times. I have had to relearn how to love because so many of the ways we have lived love in action in the past are not doable now. I have been reminded repeatedly how central living our faith in community is. While I am grateful for technology that helps us to come together as a community to worship and do the work of the church, **I miss you.** I often joke with colleagues that I was not prepared to become a televangelist overnight. Preparing for worship is entirely different now, I am thinking about copyright laws for streaming, technology, liturgy, music, the sermon, and even how I apply makeup. While I have become accustomed to preaching to a camera, preaching in an empty sanctuary is a lonely experience. No one comes running in late, no one shuffles papers, there are no children adding to the sounds of worship, I can't hear your voices when we pray together. I already know on the glorious Sunday when I stand at the lectern and see you there that I will be fighting back tears. I long for the day when I can stand at the door offering hugs, handshakes, and high fives. We aren't quite there yet and I know that is frustrating for some of you and a relief for others. In this newsletter you will hear more about that process from our Session.

One of the things I miss the most, is getting to hear about your lives on Sunday mornings, in prayer requests, as we greeted each other, and around the treats in the fellowship area. In these strange days, occasionally I will get an email or phone call, almost always prefaced with, "I am sorry to bother you" accompanying an update. Beloved, your updates are *never* a bother to me. It is one of the greatest joys of my ministry to get to walk with you on this journey. I want to encourage you to reach out and tell me what is new with you. In the meantime, know that I am praying for each of you and you are loved!



## Deacons' Drive-Thru Food Collection



**When:** Saturday, November 14th from 9am-3pm

**Where:** Faith Church parking lot

**What:** Any non-perishable foods and personal hygiene items. Some ideas:

Chunky soups

Spaghetti sauce and Pasta

Canned vegetables and fruit

Canned chicken, tuna, ham

Toothpaste, deodorant, hand lotion

**Why:** We want to restock our food shelf as well as help out those in need! Food will go to the Christian Caring Center, Extended Hand Ministry, and St. Vincent de Paul in Tabernacle.

**How:** Easy! You drive up in your car near the playground; we (masked Deacons!) unload your donation; you drive away happy because YOU have helped someone in need.





## How Can I Say Thanks?

I have much to be thankful for: a new lease on my life through a successful transplant, an abundance of prayers, cards, phone calls and meals. Words cannot adequately let you know what it has meant to me and Pat these past few months. However, the lyrics and music to an anthem, *"My Tribute To God be The Glory"* written by Andrea' Crouch, came to my mind and sum up my thanks perfectly:

How can I say thanks for the things  
You have done for me?  
Things so undeserved yet you gave  
To prove Your love for me  
The voices of a million angels  
Could not express my gratitude  
All that I am, and ever hope to be  
I owe it all to Thee

To God be the glory  
To God be the glory  
To God be the glory  
for the things he has done  
With His blood He has save me  
With His power He has raised me  
To God be the glory  
for the things He has done

Just let me live my life and  
Let it be pleasing Lord to Thee  
And if I gain any praise  
Let it go to Calvary

To God be the glory  
To God be the glory  
To God be the glory  
for the things He has done  
With His blood He has saved me  
With His power He has raised me  
To God be the glory  
for the things He has done

Here is a link to this great Anthem: [My Tribute To God Be The Glory](#)

PS I am thankful for Pat as we celebrate 40 years of marriage in November!

Jonathan Cohill





## Thankful!

The Kunkle family is thankful that our prayers were answered and Evan was finally able to move into his new apartment quad.

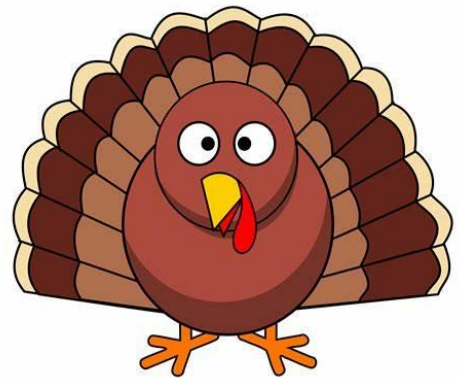


## Turkeys! Turkeys! Turkeys!

The Deacons are starting their annual **Turkey Drive** to help the Christian Caring Center this Thanksgiving. This year, we are “upping the game”. **We have committed to buying 150, \$20 Acme turkey coupons!** Please prayerfully consider donating to this wonderful project which is a longstanding tradition here at Faith.

No amount is too small! You do not have to contribute in \$20 increments -- **any** donation is appreciated. We'd like to have all donations by Sunday, November 15th. Any questions? Please contact us at Faith Church by calling (609)654-5148 Ext. 103 (This is the Deacons Food Shelf - please leave a message and we will return your call!)

Please mail your check, made out to “Faith Church” with “turkeys” noted on it, to:  
Faith Church  
318 Stokes Rd.  
Medford, NJ 08055







## Session Update

In preparation for the 2021 Budget, Session discussed plans for a Stewardship Campaign this November. This campaign will include sending out a letter to members, stewardship sermons, and a short video of the church's mission work that will be included in each of the services.

Reopening the church was again discussed. New issues with the pandemic were included in this discussion, such as the rising rate of cases of the virus. Pastor Becca shared with Session what some other churches in the area and in the Presbytery are doing about staying closed or reopening. Concerns were raised about having enough volunteers to greet and if people were to lower their mask any time during the service. No decision to reopen was reached at this time.

For the Advent season, the church is in need of volunteers to schedule a time that they could come in to put up the two Christmas trees behind the podium, the manger, and the tree in the foyer. Volunteers should contact Pastor Becca as soon as possible to schedule an individual work time.

Finally, the Christmas Eve service will be pre-recorded so that people can view the service at their own desired time. Pastor Becca is looking for volunteers to assist her by taping Bible verses either at home or in the sanctuary. Please contact her as soon as possible if you are interested in assisting her for this service.

## HOPE Garden Update – 1,500 Pounds This Year!

The HOPE garden had another amazing year. They have even continued to harvest all through the fall! More than 1,500 pounds of produce was donated! The cleanup on October 31 went well and there is still more lettuce, peas and spinach to harvest during the first Saturday of November!





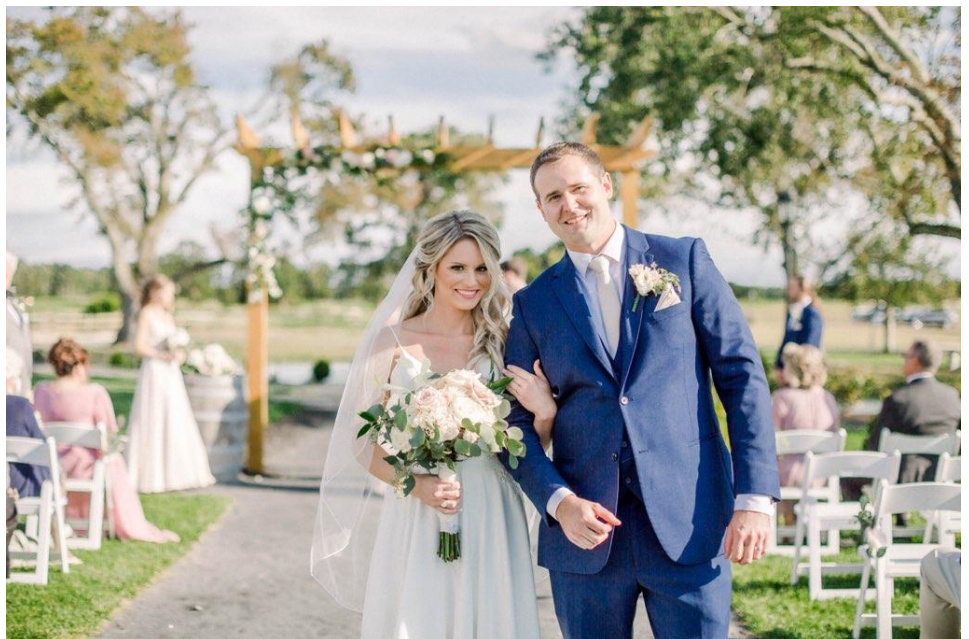
## Thankful!

From Betty DiMedio, "Thankful my daughter Dina Rose got married in our back yard! Beautiful day! Nolan and Dina Rose McDonald 10/24/2020. Also, my parents, Bette and Bill Dewey were married 60 years on 10/22/2020. I am Blessed."



## Thankful!

From Sandy Gustavsen, "So thankful for the blessing of a beautiful and happy wedding day for our son Dave and his new wife Tara!"







## Christmas Promise Store

Urban Promise schools in Camden will again be collecting gifts this year. Please deliver your gifts to the church by **Thursday, Dec 10** for delivery to Camden on Dec 11. Please see the flyer below for details. Further info on church drop off times will be announced later. For questions, call or email Lorraine Kunkle.



[www.urbanpromiseusa.org](http://www.urbanpromiseusa.org)



## Christmas Promise Store

UrbanPromise has 2 Christmas Promise Stores for the children and youth of our 2 schools and our afterschool programs serving nearly 700 children and youth! During the pandemic, we will still be offering the Christmas Promise Store, with the appropriate social distancing procedures in place.

This store model has returned dignity to our families by allowing them to shop for gifts for their child - no money is exchanged, just love! **Gifts due by Friday Dec. 11th.**

Will you help UrbanPromise stock the shelves by providing a new, unwrapped gift for the Christmas Promise Store?

### Gift Suggestions by age groups

- K-4th grade:** Superhero or Disney items - figures, shirts, pjs, towels  
Board games - Connect Four, Don't Tip the Waiter, Clue Junior, Pictionary Junior  
Apparel: positive logo t-shirts, sweat shirts, pjs  
Arts and Craft items—jewelry making, science projects, art  
Trucks, Legos, sports balls, Barbies and dolls of color
- 5th-8th grade:** Costume jewelry, body lotions and sprays, make up and brushes, sports balls, sporting equipment  
Apparel: positive logo t-shirts, sweat shirts, team sport shirts, hats  
Gift cards: Wal Mart, Target, McDonalds, Wendy's, AMC movie passes
- High School:** Costume jewelry, body lotions and sprays, make up and brushes  
Apparel: positive logo t-shirts, sweat shirts, team sport shirts  
Gift cards: Wal Mart, Target, McDonalds, Wendy's, AMC movie passes

The best rule of thumb to use is: if your child or teen would like it, so will our children and youth. Thank you !

**Gift Cards MUST have the amount clearly marked!**



## Thankful!

There is so much to be thankful for during this year. Most of all I thank the Lord for keeping our church family safe. We are also thankful for Becca and Paul and for all who kept our church ministries going. I am grateful for all the prayers for my family. The Lord bless you all.

- The Schreiners and Jensens.



## What's New?

Hi church family. Well we at Brookdale are eating one day a week in the dining room. We are all getting tired of having our meal in our room or apartment. The food is cold by the time I get it on the second floor, Thankful my daughter and granddaughters bring me some frozen food like cordon blue. I put it in the oven.

I am wii bowling with my neighbor 3 times a week. I keep busy painting my family and. paint every Saturday night through Messenger Video Chat. That is a lot of fun.

I hope this mess is over soon. I miss coming to church.  
Your friend in CHRIST, John Horton







## Mission Update – Denise Hoover

On Monday October 12, the Mission Committee hosted a Zoom meeting with Denise Hoover, a longtime church member, who is currently serving in Southeast Asia. Denise sent us this story about her life growing up at Faith Church (edited with permission). It was enlightening for us to get to visit with her via Zoom and Denise asks us to pray for wisdom and discernment for this next year.

- Lorraine Kunkle, Mission Elder



When my family moved to South Jersey in the late 70s, my parents enrolled me in Small World pre-school and soon after decided to join the church, though they had not previously been Presbyterian. I can quite honestly say that growing up at Faith Church had a significant impact on my life. Through the Sunday school classes, the food pantry, and other community outreaches like Trevor's Run in Philadelphia, I met Jesus in a very real and tangible way. Though my life was arguably very sheltered, I learned to see Jesus in those less fortunate and to use my privilege to empower others.

On any given Sunday my mom would be singing in the choir, my dad would be counting the offering after service, and my younger brother would be running around, causing trouble with the other boys. Through the Jr and Sr High youth groups, the retreats down on the Chesapeake Bay, the shore trips and ski trips, I gained a family at Faith that I have carried with me throughout my life, even though we are now all scattered to the wind.

Kate Killebrew was the interim pastor who taught our confirmation class, and I really took both her guidance and the course content deeply to heart. In fact I asked to have a key to the church so that when I went for bike rides, I could come sit in the sanctuary by myself and enjoy the solitude and God's presence. I was also very moved by Christian missionaries who would visit from time to time and talk about what God was doing in other parts of the world, something which clearly has continued to inspire me.

You might be surprised to hear that the governance of the church is something that I still appreciate and hold up as at least a near-gold-standard. Having both men and women equally involved in pastoral ministry, the session, the deacons, and all the other activities of the church was a very good formation for a young girl to experience. I appreciate how all members can rotate through these positions in an effort to avoid hierarchy and instead create a truly shared community. I also didn't realize until I was older just how unique the actual design of the church was. To have the congregants face each other, and to have simple yet powerful symbols of our faith brilliantly incorporated into the architecture and decor was truly a stroke of genius.

I spent five years in a reformed seminary to study scripture more deeply and come to a renewed appreciation of the tradition in which I was raised. I also wrestled a lot with calling and eventually found myself headed for overseas ministry, and have been so thankful for your support over the past decade or so that I have lived and served in Africa and Asia.



I've had a variety of roles during my years overseas, but now my primary focus is what we call EthnoArts, or more simply, local arts.

EthnoArts is... working alongside local artists to:

- learn about and increase awareness of local arts
- preserve and/or revitalize local artistic traditions
- create new artistic works

...in order to move the community toward a better future

This work is primarily done through workshops in partnership with local churches. As word gets out, we are invited to hold more workshops in other locations, and often pick up some new facilitators along the way! At a time when globalization brings Western pop culture to the most remote mountaintop villages, it truly is a joy to create a space for locals to rediscover their local arts and traditions and realize that God can speak and move through these art forms in a much more meaningful way than imported hymns, dances, etc.

Otherwise I have been busy reading and reflecting on a lot of issues, especially the issues that are currently plaguing the US, and praying about how we as followers of Jesus are meant to be involved. What happens in the US really affects the whole world, for better or for worse, and I've been thinking a lot about how the US church, or more specifically - white evangelical American Christianity - has been exported worldwide. I'm not always sure this is a good thing, to be honest with you.

As the church we have an essential role in this. We are called to be the hands and feet of Jesus, yet it seems more and more as though we have forgotten this calling and have long been complicit in the injustices that have been perpetrated - not only throughout history, but even today. This greatly saddens me, but I do think it's important to face these issues rather than pretend that they don't exist. They won't go away on their own.





## Thankful!

From Sondra Carroll:  
"Thankful for the  
members of Faith Church  
and all they do!!"

## Thankful!

From Sandy Gustavsen: "So thankful that Faith's mission efforts were able to carry on during the closures and uncertainties of late. Thanks be to God for all the volunteers who gave their time and talents to continue helping those in need by providing food, casseroles, salads and fresh produce, waterproof mats, warm shawls, blankets and scarves, and so much more."



## Thankful!

A member of Faith Church donated the purchase of a new oven for our kitchen! We are so thankful for this generosity for our missions, future potlucks and for Small World projects.



Out with the old ...



And in with the new!





## Small World Update

Small World was very busy in October and will continue into November celebrating the Fall Harvest! We also had pet week and some special visitors! Although we will not have a Feast with our parents, we will celebrate in our individual classes. We will be conducting our annual food drive for the Deacons pantry throughout November and December.

