



A Message from Pastor Becca

This September I was reminded of the song *We Need a Little Christmas*: “We need a little Christmas right this very minute”. The song is from the musical *Mame*, when Mame begins to decorate her house just a week after Thanksgiving Day because a financial crisis has hit her (and many others as it was The Great Depression). This premature (for the time) decorating is accompanied by her singing they need a little Christmas right then in that moment, it simply cannot wait.

Has there ever been a year where we needed Christmas so badly?

Let’s think back to that very first Christmas, the very day Jesus was born, the story takes us to all sorts of unexpected places. It has Mary and Joseph traveling away from home, there is birth that happens in a stable, mom and baby exposed to the elements and possibly animals. The savior of the world comes not riding into town on a horse with fanfare but is born humbly in a tiny human body in an unexpected place.

We have been worshiping in our homes for so long, many of us are eager to get back into church. The session, informed by the growing numbers of cases, has made the difficult decision to keep worshiping exclusively online. As such on Christmas Eve there will be online worship available to us in our homes. Watch your email for details in the coming weeks.

There is one exception: this Christmas we will have a unique and perhaps authentic opportunity to worship together. At 7pm on Christmas Eve we will gather out front of the church for worship. This will be a shortened service and will take place no matter what the weather (unless it is dangerous). Plan to come in your warmest coat and gloves, bring your umbrella or poncho if it rains, we will remember our baptisms. I will be sending out details about this service in the coming weeks. Masks will be required, we will social distance, and we will sing (something we cannot do indoors right now). I will need some volunteers to help with set up and clean up, sign ups will go out soon. Weather permitting, we will have fire pits for warmth, if you have one we might be able to use please let me know! As with all things right now, if state restrictions change, we will follow them.

Wishing you and yours a blessed Advent and Christmas.

Pastor Becca



WORSHIP WITH US

CHRISTMAS EVE

7:00 pm
Outdoor Worship - Faith Presbyterian Church
318 Stokes Road - Medford, NJ
Bring your mask & a chair.



From Pastor Becca:

"My Christmas wish is for all of us to know the Love of God."

DEC 24 • ALL DAY • ONLINE ON FACEBOOK & YOUTUBE

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH





Session News for December



Reopening Delayed

During the recent Session meeting, Session agreed to maintain the status quo on not reopening the church for worship. This is due to the rising number of COVID cases and the recommendation from the State.

Christmas Eve Services

Faith Church will have worship in an appropriate way for Christmas Eve. A pre-recorded service will be posted on Facebook around noon, so that people can view it at their convenience. In addition, an outdoor service will be held at 7:00 PM in the church parking lot and heated by several fire pits. This service will include a lesson, prayers, and candles to light. People are asked to bring their own lawn chairs for this 30 minute service.

Pledges & Serving

Session also discussed at length two issues. The first one was the low number of pledges that have been returned and that won't be able to support the tentative 2021 Budget. (If you haven't returned your pledge, please do so ASAP.)

The second issue was the fact that both the Session and Deacons are down in number due to the fact that church members are not volunteering to serve. This is a big concern because of the need for both boards to help the church to function. (If you would like to learn about what is involved in working on either board, please contact any elder or deacon.)

Join us in welcoming new Deacon, Rob Galberg. We are grateful for three renewals: Joyce Schreiner (Deacon), Ginny Magnus (Elder) and Linda Hamilton (Elder). Kay Galberg, Pat Cohill and Dave Wood have completed their terms as Deacons. Thank you ALL for your service to Faith Church!

Ginny Magnus, Clerk of Session



THANK YOU

to the Galberg and Kunkle families for decorating the pulpit area for Advent and Christmas. It looks beautiful!



Deacons' Update



Casseroles for Extended Hand Ministry (EHM): We are continuing to provide 6 casseroles every 2 weeks to EHM in Mt. Holly. We could really use more help! Please contact Kay Galberg (rkgalberg@comcast.net or 609-953-1344) or Mary Currie (currieml@gmail.com or 609-654-8042) to get on the sign up list!



Soup for YOU! There are soups in the freezer for **ANYONE** who is not feeling well or is feeling fine but just needs a quick dinner. The Deacons are making homemade soups and putting them in the new refrigerator's freezer. We started this ministry last winter and wanted to continue it this year. If you know of someone who could use a soup, but can't get to the church, please contact Mary Currie at 609-654-8042.



And, last but certainly not least: **The "Drive By" Food Drive, held on November 14th, was an amazing success!!** We were overwhelmed by your generosity - thank you to all who contributed.

Enough food and personal hygiene items were collected to fill up our own food shelf and send 10+ bags/boxes to both Extended Hand Ministry and St. Vincent's in Tabernacle. **We are still collecting money to help us cover 150, \$20 ACME turkey coupons** given to the Christian Caring Center. So far, we've collected \$1,385 of the \$3,000 total. If you'd like to contribute, it would be greatly appreciated! THANK YOU!

Kay Galberg, Deacon Moderator





"To our church family, Grace and peace be with you during this Christmas season and into the new year. We look forward to seeing you in person. Thank you to Becca, Paul and Lilia for keeping us together in worship." With remote hugs, Ed & Janet

Mission Update

Christmas Gifts for Urban Promise

Nearly 700 children & youth are served by Urban Promise in Camden in their 2 schools and after school program. For many years Faith Church & Small World Nursery School have generously donated gifts to the Christmas Promise Store. This year due to the pandemic, shopping by the parents will be done safely with masks, social distancing and additional shopping times. The store model has returned dignity to the families by allowing them to shop for gifts for their child with no money being exchanged, just love!

A Drive By Drop Off will be available this year on **Saturday December 5 from 10 to 2** on the Faith Church parking lot. A Mission Committee member will receive your gifts. Gifts for all ages, Kindergarten through High School, are needed. Gift cards can be donated as long as the amount of the card is clearly marked on the card.

If you cannot drop off on Saturday December 5, please contact Lorraine Kunkle at WLKunkle@verizon.net & an alternative drop off or pick up will be arranged. All gifts must be received no later than Wednesday December 9.

Thank you for your generosity towards these children at this blessed time of year.

The Mission Committee

*The good person out of the good treasure of the heart produces good,
...for it is out of the abundance of the heart that the mouth speaks.
Luke 6:45*





Mission Update (cont.)

CHRISTMAS MISSION OFFERING

Each year at Christmas time, the Mission Committee includes an envelope in the church bulletins during the month of December to receive your **Christmas Mission Offering**.

This year will look different because we are not meeting in the sanctuary & we do not have bulletins. But, the need for this annual fund drive does not change as it is our single largest source of money to support all of our local & international missions. The committee evaluates the needs at places like the Christian Caring Center, Urban Promise, My Brother's Keeper, Jean Webster & Presbyterian Disaster Relief to name a few. We make sure your financial donation is used where the need is greatest & where we can have an impact.

This year your Christmas Mission envelope will be mailed directly to your home & will include a return envelope for you to send back to the church as soon as possible. Please mark your check with your giving number.

These are extraordinary times & the world has seen a medical disaster that has reached far & wide. It is easy to start to think that things are out of control & we cannot do anything about it. But we can do something about it. We can pray for God's wisdom & grace to see us through & we can continue to support those missions that are in even greater need of our help this year.

We thank you in advance for generously supporting the Faith Church Mission Committee.

Lorraine Kunkle, Mission Elder



*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called Wonderful
Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.
Isaiah 9:6-7*



"We welcomed three new grandchildren to the Sharpe family in this pandemic year of 2020. We wish them all the blessings of this holy season in this their first Christmas together as a married couple. May they experience all the joys of a long and happy marriage."

With much love, grandma and grandpa (Janet & Ed)



Prayer Shawl Ministry News



Since the Christian Caring Center thrift shop in Pemberton is closed, our 15 scarves were delivered to Extended Hand Ministry in Mt Holly. We are told they were glad to get them! The scarves will be bringing warmth & comfort to folks who need it this winter!

As always, we are in need of additional home knitters. If you are interested in joining this "heart and hand" ministry or know of someone who needs comforting, please contact Janet Sharpe.



2021 Sleep Mat Project Update



Here's some information about what we know and don't about our potential 2021 Sleep Mat Workshop.

We won't make any plans to meet before **Saturday, January 16**. We will see what the conditions are in the county and what procedures we are following at the church at that time.

If meeting in-person looks possible, we'll email participants to see who is interested in being there. We would have folks sign up and limit attendance. We would wear masks and space out appropriately. The level of interest would dictate whether we consider meeting weekly or biweekly. If interest is low or if conditions do not permit meeting, we will do the same as last year and contact each other to pick up and drop off supplies as needed.

Due to the new state legislation banning plastic bags, 2021 will be the last year for this mission. We have many bags still to be used at Faith, and the Lutherans have also been collecting and storing bags so we have a good supply for next year. Our work-from-home crochet team does an amazing job no matter what the conditions!

Contact Bonnie Halle with any questions.



From Debbie: "I wish for everyone to find Peace and Joy this holiday season. I wish for everyone who is sad or lonely or just feeling lost to find the courage to reach out and ask for help. I wish for everyone to find that little light in their heart and let it shine. Let it shine on someone who needs light. The more we shine our light the brighter the world will be."



Small World Update

During the month of December Small World will continue to collect food for the Food Pantry and also Christmas gifts for Urban Promise.

🎄 Week of November 30th - December 4th:

Pastor Becca will tell the Story of the Nativity to each Small World class.

🎄 Week of December 7th - 11th:

The Small World Staff will assemble Gingerbread Houses for the children to decorate in their individual classes.

🎄 Week of December 14th - 18th:

Small World classes will have Birthday Parties to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Our three-year-old classes will perform their Joyful Noise Program in their individual classes which Jayne will video and send home for the families to enjoy.

Although Christmas 2020 looks very different here at Small World, we are feeling extremely blessed to be at school and healthy. We miss all of our Faith Presbyterian friends 🏠 and hope you all are well. Small World wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a promising New Year!!



From Joan: "I am feeling joyful today and want you all to know that I feel blessed to have you all in my life. I want to thank you for your prayers, well wishes and cards during my recent medical situation. As I approached surgery, I often thought of my church family and all we give each other. You gave me a feeling of peace and hopefulness when I was not in control. God, with His strength, was in control and brought me to a blessed prognosis. Thank you so much from both Stephen and I. Merry Christmas to all."





Thanks for Sharing Your Christmas Favorites!

Chocolate Orange Shortbread Cookies (Bonnie)

1 cup plus 2 tablespoons (2 1/4 sticks) cold salted butter, cut into 1/2-inch pieces
1/2 cup granulated sugar
1/4 cup packed brown sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla
2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
12 ounces semisweet chocolate, coarsely chopped, divided
Zest of 1 medium orange (about 2 tablespoons)
More orange zest, for topping (optional)

1. In the bowl of a stand mixer with the paddle attachment, beat butter, sugars and vanilla on medium-high speed until light and fluffy, about 3 to 5 minutes.
2. Scrape down sides of the bowl, then stir in flour on low speed until just combined. Stir in 6 ounces chocolate chunks and 2 tablespoons orange zest until just incorporated.
3. Divide dough in half. Place each half on a large sheet of plastic wrap. Fold over plastic wrap to cover dough, then roll each piece of dough into a log about 2-2 1/4 inches in diameter. Wrap dough in plastic wrap to cover completely and chill at least 2 hours until firm (can be chilled up to 1 week).
4. Heat oven to 350 degrees F. Line a cookie sheet with parchment paper. Uncover one log and, using a sharp serrated knife, gently slice log into 1/2-inch-thick rounds, using a sawing motion to cut. Place cut side-up on prepared cookie sheet about 1 inch apart.
5. Bake 13 to 15 minutes or until edges of cookies are just beginning to brown. Cool 1 minute on cookie sheet, then transfer to cooling rack to cool completely. Repeat with second log of dough.
6. Melt remaining 6 ounces semisweet chocolate in microwave or in a double boiler. Dip one end of each fully cooled cookie into melted chocolate; let excess chocolate drip off, then place cookie on cooling rack. Sprinkle with more orange zest, if desired. Chill dipped cookies in fridge 30 minutes until chocolate is set.
7. Store cookies in an airtight container up to 5 days. (Recipe and Photo credit <http://www.girlversusdough.com>)



LG's Reindeer Cookies

One batch of your favorite chocolate chip cookie dough recipe, leave the chips out.
Chocolate covered pretzels
M&Ms
Chocolate chips
Mini pretzels
Sliced almonds

1. Bake the cookies as directed.
2. Before removing from the pan add pretzel antlers, almond ears, chocolate chip eyes, and M&M nose.
3. Carefully remove from baking sheet to a cooling rack.





Butter Brickle Cookies (Paige)

Heat oven to 375 degrees and line cookie sheets with parchment paper. Cream 1 cup of butter and 3/4 cup of light brown sugar and 3/4 of granulated sugar. Add 2 eggs, 1/2 tsp of salt, 1 tsp of baking soda, 1 tsp of vanilla extract. Add 2 cups of Heath English Toffee Bits. Then add 2 cups of flour. Drop a Teaspoon of dough 2" apart on lined baking sheets. Bake 8-10 minutes, then transfer to cooling racks. Store in cookie tins.

SO GOOD even George likes these, I think! 😊



Photo Credit: www.anaffairfromtheheart.com

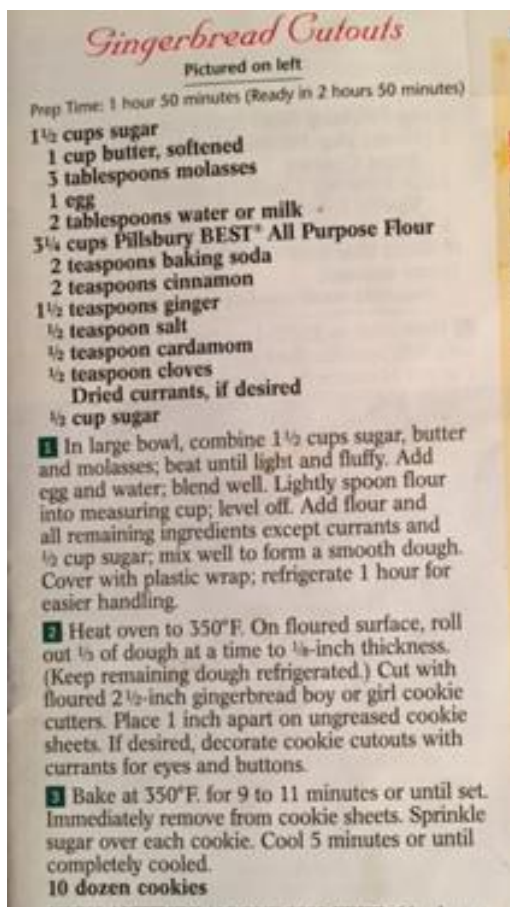
Simple Shortbread Cookies (Sandy)

2 c. sifted flour
1/4 t. baking powder
2 sticks butter
1/2 c. powdered sugar

Sift together flour and baking powder. Work butter and sugar together and add flour mixture. Drop from spoon onto ungreased cookie sheet. Dip in sprinkles or add a candied cherry (cut in fourths) or pecan half on top, then cook. Bake at 350 degrees for 10-12 minutes.



Gingerbread Cutouts (Debbie)



Recipe and Photo from Pillsbury Festive Holiday Baking Cookbook