



## *A Message from Pastor Becca*

Summer is upon us!

There is a vaccine for COVID 19!

After 15 long months we are living with fewer restrictions!

We are back to in person worship!

In person events to mark the milestones of our lives are back on the calendar!

We are eager to put this pandemic behind us, rightfully so. Yet, as I reflect on this last year I keep coming back to the same question, what can I let go of? Throughout this grueling time I have seen invitations to let go so that I may live more fully. The truth is the normal of the before times was not working in my life. The hours I spent rushing around because I had a full calendar didn't amount to much except my growing exhaustion. These days I find myself asking what activities or events are life giving and worthy of the time and effort to attend. It has really changed how I encounter my calendar and how I schedule my days. I found easing back into the new, new normal is the best way for me to come out of the last 15 months.

I believe whole heartedly this invitation exists for our church too. That before we rush back to what "normal" was before the pandemic, we are invited to ask what was not working? What is working now? Are we being asked to let go of anything? Are we being invited into a new normal? As we get closer and closer to the way things were before the pandemic, we need to take a breath, ask the hard questions and as Rilke would advise, live into the answers. If tomorrow everything was back to the normal of the before times, it still wouldn't be the same. We will never be people who have not experienced a pandemic again. We will never be the church who never worshiped online again. For better or worse this pandemic has changed us. Many of us grieve for lost family and friends. We grieve for what we have missed, what we have lost. We celebrate those things we desperately missed. Perhaps we even look with fresh eyes upon what we have learned in the past year.

I wonder if we will accept the invitation to live into a new way of being. We are *all* eager to take off our masks, to sit in our favorite pew, or shake hands and roam about at the passing of the peace. Yet we still live in an in between space where not everyone is able to be vaccinated. Not everyone is ready to lessen the distance between us or take off their mask. We are emerging into a new world and that is going to take time. We are a changed people. We are invited to ponder the new life this can bring our church. When we are open to the Holy Spirit, to God's invitation, nothing is impossible. Let us go into the summer dreaming big impossible dreams of the church we can live into being in the coming days, months, and years.

Blessings,  
Pastor Becca



## May 2021 Session Meeting Summary

At the May meeting, Session celebrated the fact that Jonathan Cohill was recently elected by the Presbytery For Southern New Jersey to serve as Moderator-elect for the coming year and then Moderator for the following year. He will be officially installed at the June 15, 2021 Presbytery meeting. ***Congratulations Jonathan!***

A Congregational meeting is now called for June 27, 2021 for the purpose of electing new Elders and Deacons and to approve two church by-law changes. One change is to permit e-votes for Session and the congregation when a discussion is not needed. The second change is to allow for online meetings for both Session and the congregation.

Because of recent NJ State changes, Session has approved the point that no masks will be required to be worn outside on church property, but wearing masks will still be required to be worn inside the church unless a person is eating or drinking coffee. Session directed the Reopening Committee to remove the orange stickers in the sanctuary but to maintain the blocked pews.

Dr. Ginny Magnus  
Clerk of Session

## Mark Your Calendars!

- **May 31:** Last Sunday for Zoom worship; Facebook and YouTube remain available
- **June 3:** 2021 Small World Graduation outside at 5:30 pm
- **June 13:** Celebration Sunday: Sleep Mat Dedication, Graduate Recognition and Reception
- **June 27:** Congregational Meeting to elect new Elders and Deacons and approve by-laws

**Join us on the patio!** Snacks and coffee will be available at our time of outdoor fellowship following worship. If the weather is not favorable, refreshments will be set up in the fellowship area.





## Deacons Food Shelf is Changing!

We are changing the way we operate our food shelf at the church. Instead of individual pick-ups, we'll be donating food once a month to local organizations such as the Extended Hands Ministry in Mount Holly. **The 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month (Communion Sunday) will be our "Food Collection Sunday."** Starting in September, we'll ask for a specific category of food (e.g., breakfast foods, canned vegetables, soups, pasta/sauce, etc.). There will be a collection box or bin located in the hallway as you come in. Please be on the lookout for the "item of the month" in an email, the bulletin or the newsletter. THANK YOU IN ADVANCE for your generosity as we look to help the needy in our local area! Contact Betty Ann with any questions.



## Gracemeals With Faith Begins for 2021!

**Gracemeals With Faith** begins summer salad and protein bar deliveries to the Christian Caring Center on June 2. Once a week, we will be preparing and delivering 50 salads. The CCC delivers them the same day to the food-insecure in Pemberton.

**We could really use help with delivering the salads.** It's easy! We will call you Wednesday morning between 10:30 and 11 and tell you we're ready. The salads are packed in paper shopping bags. You take them to the CCC in Pemberton, pop the trunk and their helpers will unload them. And you're off! If you can help with this, please contact Joan Z. We are always looking for back-up volunteers to help make salads and bake protein bars. Let Joan know if you'd like to be on the helper list. Contact Bonnie with any additional questions.







## SLEEP MAT Dedication on June 13!

Sleep mats will be dedicated during worship on June 13. We have at least **13 mats** to donate to the Christian Caring Center this year! Because of the laws which will soon end our supply of plastic bags, this mission will no longer meet in person. However, we have LOTS of plastic strips and balls for our at-home crocheters to continue their work. Contact Bonnie with any questions.



## First HG Harvests!

**HOPE Garden 2021** is in full swing, with 5 harvests already this season! More than 100 pounds of lettuce, spinach, Swiss Chard and radishes have been donated to the St. Vincent de Paul food pantries in Medford and Tabernacle. Stop by and check out the beautiful plants, and please contact Mary C. if you are interested in helping out!



*The peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:7*



## *SMALL WORLD NEWS*

Small World is getting ready to wrap up another successful school year!! Even COVID could not keep us from having the best year.

- **Tuesday 6/1** will be the last day of school for our two- and three-year olds.
- **Wednesday 6/2** will be our annual TK/Pre-K Carnival Day.
- **Thursday 6/3** will be our 2021 Small World Graduation outside at 5:30 pm.

**Congratulations to all of our Graduates!!**

Small World would like to wish everyone at FPC a happy, healthy summer and let's hope in September we will all be back in the building together.



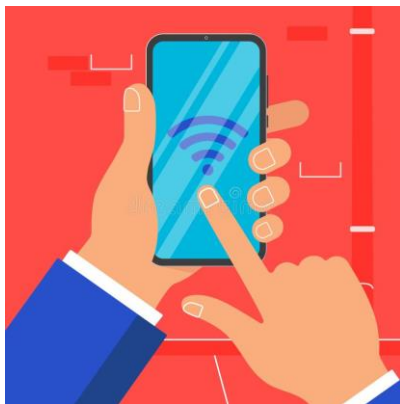
*Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love. Ephesians 5:1-2*





## OGs Update!

We enjoyed good fellowship and nourishment in our last few men's Bible study meetings and are now on summer break. Stay tuned for more information about next Fall's meeting dates when we will resume our study of The Truth Project.



## Turning Off Your WiFi

*We are asking that you turn off your WiFi on Sunday mornings. As you enter the building, your phone picks up the church's WiFi service. This is causing high demand on the Internet connection and delays in transmission for the Facebook streaming of the service. Thank you for your cooperation!*



## Info@Faith Becomes Seasonal!

Now that we are worshipping in person again and meeting regularly, the Info@Faith newsletter will be distributed on a more seasonal basis, four or five times per year. Pastor Becca, the Elders and Deacons will continue to be in touch via email with important announcements and information between issues.

## Editors Needed!

We are also seeking new editors. If you are looking for a way to participate in our church life while staying safely at home, then helping with the newsletter is for you! We currently use Microsoft Word, but any software that can create a few pages is fine. It's very easy and a great way to connect with others! Contact Bonnie or Sandy G. if you have questions or are interested in participating.



## Did You Know?

Faith Church has added an **ON-LINE GIVING** option through the Presbyterian Foundation. This option is available on our website using the GIVE NOW button and on our Facebook page using the link to on-line giving (right above DONATION).

While this is a great option to give for on-line visitors to Faith Church, members of Faith Church should be aware that 2% of all donations through this service go to administrative fees and only 98% goes to the church. A better option for members, who give on a regular basis, is to use Bill Pay through the member's bank. Bill Pay, which is free and easy to set up, assures that 100% of the donation goes to Faith Church.