



A Message from Pastor Becca

Hope. Peace. Joy. Love.

These are the traditional themes of Advent.

This of course is not news to those of you who have been a part of the church community for some time. You are likely accustomed to hearing about these themes wrapped up in waiting and anticipation. Each year we are reminded that we wait not only for the birth of Jesus but for his much-anticipated return to Earth.

Like any story or theme, we know well it is easy to tune out and sort of go through the motions. This Advent, I invite you to slow down and reflect on each of these words, promises of our life of faith. What does it mean to have hope in December of 2021? Peace? Joy? Love?

Hope is a radical thing to have in the world right now, everywhere we turn, there is opportunity to be overwhelmed by despair. If I am honest, imagining a world where there is peace becomes harder with each passing year. Joy, real joy, is often hard to come by. I pray that love is easier to observe but that too seems to be a thing that hides from sight.

This time of year, the stories we tend to watch, the songs we gravitate toward, and even the stories we tell lean toward hope, peace, joy, and love. While they may be hard to find in real life, they are abundant in the stories we share and enjoy. At our core, we long for the very things we acknowledge in our collective Advent waiting. Yet, they are in fact not just a reminder of what is possible with God, but also part of our call as people who follow Jesus.

This Advent you are invited not only to find these four; hope, peace, joy, love, but to also bring these gifts into the world abundantly. We do not only anticipate the coming of Christ, but we do the work of Jesus with our very hands, feet, and hearts. We are the living kin-dom of God imperfect, painfully human, prone to falling short, yet chosen by God. We won't always get this right but that doesn't mean we stop trying. How can you share hope? In what ways can you work toward peace or reconciliation? Where can you find joy, even amidst sorrow? How can you love those you encounter well?

As you reflect on these themes, I pray you find new meaning in them this season.
Advent blessings to you!

Pastor Becca



Session News

Our Christmas Eve worship service, with candlelight and communion, will be at 7pm on December 24, 2021. All are welcome!

On December 26, 2021, a pre-recorded service will be streamed online for members to view on Facebook and YouTube.

Sunday, January 23, 2022 will be a big day for Faith Church. After the worship service, the Annual Congregational Meeting will be held with the added purpose to vote on changing the by-laws. Afterwards, we will break for lunch before we hold a town hall meeting to discuss the ideas on what we should do about the church's 2022 budget based upon the pledges that have come in.

The Building and Grounds Committee is looking into ways to help Pastor Becca reorganize the office space so that church groups would have an area in the office in which to hold meetings.

Dr. Ginny Magnus, Clerk of Session



Congregational Meeting!

The annual Congregational Meeting will take place on **Sunday, January 23, 2022** after the worship service. This year, we will vote to approve a cost-of-living increase in the pastor's salary and to change in the number of members required on Session and Deacons. Immediately following will be a town hall meeting with Session to address questions and concerns in a less formal setting. A light lunch will be provided.



Mission Update

Urban Promise Gift Collection!

Donated gifts are set up in the gyms of the two Camden Urban Promise schools. They call them their Christmas Promise Stores. The “store” model lends dignity to the families as they can “shop” for gifts for their children – no money is exchanged, just love.

The deadline for gift donations is **Thursday, Dec 9** as all the gifts will be delivered to Camden on Dec 10. Gift cards, with the amount clearly marked, are also collected.

The Mission Committee thanks our church family for continuing to support this worthy project. We especially appreciate our Small World families who also generously donate gifts.

There will be a **drive-by drop off on Saturday Dec 4**, 10am–noon in the church parking lot; otherwise, please leave your donated gifts by the Christmas tree in the fellowship room. Thank you!



*Every good gift, and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights.
~ James 1:17*

Special Prayer Request

Please keep our missionaries, **Dr. Stephen and Amy Chiu** and their 2 young boys in prayer. They are currently back in the US on family leave awaiting the birth of their third child. Prayers are requested for a healthy delivery and then eventual safe travels back to central Asia.



Mission Update (cont.)

Christmas Mission Offering

By now you should have received a special mailing highlighting the annual Christmas Mission Offering. Please prayerfully consider how you will support this important yearly appeal. The financial response that we receive from this offering allows us to support various local and nationwide mission needs throughout the coming year. We regularly rely on the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance agency to guide and direct our giving to urgent needs in the US and around the world.

Offering envelopes may be mailed back to the church or placed in the offering basket by **December 26**. We are grateful and thankful that you support our efforts to reach out and help those in need.

From a needy single dad with three young children to wild fires that destroy countless homes and businesses, your generous donations are used to help people and show the love of God, just as we are called to do in Matthew 25:40:

Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.

Lorraine Kunkle, Mission Elder

Deacons “Food Shelf”

We will be collecting food for distribution to our neighbors in need each month on the first Sunday of the month. **Sunday, December 5, we are collecting personal items** like toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, hand and body lotions, soap or bath gel, hand anti-bacterials, etc. Also there is a need for baby formula and wipes. **NO DISPOSABLE DIAPERS!** Please leave your contributions in the blue container that will be in the hallway at the parking lot entrance. Thank you for helping us fulfill this mission!





A VERY BIG THANK YOU
to all who helped decorate for Advent and Christmas.
It looks beautiful!



*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*

Join Us!

Morning Glories (ladies bible study and fellowship group) will be meeting the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month @ 9:30 a.m. The next meeting will be Dec. 9 All ladies are welcome. For more information call Carol Fischer (609) 801-2961.

OG's meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 9:15 am. We will continue with the program, Half Truths, a video series by Adam Hamilton on Dec. 14.



Prayer Shawls Available!

There are a number of prayer shawls, lap robes (short shawls) and scarves located in the “puzzle” closet near the front door of the church. Please let Joyce Schreiner know if you’d like one, or if you know of someone in need. Thank you!



HOPE Garden – It’s a Wrap!



We have much to be thankful for. HOPE Garden donations were just shy of 2,000 pounds for the 2021 season!

Thank you gardeners and friends for all your hard work!

Contact Mary Currie if you would like to get involved in this mission for the 2022 season!



I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. ~ Ephesians 1:16



Small World News

🙏 November was a great month of being thankful here at Small World. Each class celebrated with their very own Thanksgiving gatherings. They prepared muffins, breads and homemade butter! We celebrated the fact that we are so glad to be able to be at school 😊

🎄 December will start off with the classes participating in the story of the Nativity with Pastor Becca.

🎄 The staff will assemble **Gingerbread Houses on Sunday December 5th from 2:00 to 4:00** in the Fellowship area. Please stop by if you would like to lend a hand.

🎄 The three's will celebrate in the Sanctuary on the 17th at 9:30 with their Joyful Noise Program. All are welcome to share in this lovely performance. 🎶

The Small World Staff and Families would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

Jayne Norcross, Small World Director



Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. ~ Luke 2:14



2022 Per Capita Payment

The Presbytery of Southern New Jersey has set the per capita payment for 2021 at **\$38.75 per member**. This is the same amount as last year. All members are encouraged to pay their portion of Faith Church's per capita payment. You should already have received a blue envelope labeled Per Capita Apportionment for this purpose. Thank you!

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.



Join Us Every Sunday

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FaithPresMedford>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9wP9sIgYOEeTGWx5x2Q7IQ>

