



Message from Pastor Becca

As I write this morning, I am wrapped in a warm robe at my dining room table, sipping on a warm beverage, listening to Andra Day & Stevie Wonder sing *Some Day at Christmas*. Seven years ago I was driving when the lyrics captivated me. It is a long beloved secular song but it is also a beautiful summary of what we believe is to come; that some day at Christmas there will be peace, no war, people will be free, when we have found what life is really worth, no hungry children, no empty hands, people share a world where people care, no tears, no fear, and love will prevail. It seems impossible to believe in such a possibility and yet this is the story I get to proclaim every week from the pulpit, every day in the living of my life, every minute as I hold this world in my heart. In this season we will hear those words again, "Nothing is impossible with God." The world can feel pretty hopeless but we cling to hope none the less. That is who we are.

The doorbell rings, the dog goes bonkers barking and pacing about, a package has been delivered. My focus has been broken and I look around at my house, not a single twinkling light to be found. The only hint of Christmas is an artificial tree in the corner still in the box. My yard is still peppered with pumpkins that the squirrels have found. My head and heart are still in July in pure disbelief it is actually December. My pulse increases as my mind floods with all that has to get done before Christmas. There are liturgies to pull together, decorations in the attic, baking, end of year reports, and all the kid events of the season. I have a hard time remembering the hope I just wrote of, instead I am filled with a feeling of dread. Will I get it all done? Probably not, some item will slip past me, when I realize it too late, I will feel defeated.

Then I remember that there is not a single thing I need to do in order to make Christmas happen. Cookies are nice, liturgy is important, twinkling lights fill me with joy, but none of it is necessary. Christmas will happen no matter what and that is where I find my hope today. Jesus has already been born, I do not have to make it happen, in fact I can't make it happen. My prayer this Advent and Christmas for you and for us is that we let Jesus meet us in the absolute messiness of our very human lives. I pray that if you aren't feeling the Christmas spirit you are able to sit with that and not be forced to put on a false face of happiness. You are enough just as you are, you are welcome at the table, the gifts you bring are sufficient. You are loved beyond measure by God. May hope sustain you on the darkest winter nights.

May you be blessed this season with space to encounter God and may you be filled with new life to take you into the seasons to come.

Pastor Becca



INFO@FAITH

December 2022

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Happy 60th Anniversary Faith Church!





Session Report

Session has been busy this fall with church activities. On October 9, 2022, Faith Church celebrated its 60th Anniversary as a church. Rev. Dr. Deborah Brincivalli, the Executive Presbyter of our Presbytery for Southern New Jersey, attended the church service and shared her congratulations. After the service, members shared together lunch. Included in this newsletter are several pictures of the celebration. A special thanks go out to all members who were able to attend this special event in our church life.

Session is currently working on the 2023 Budget, and they will formally approve it in December. This fall, both Linda Hamilton and George Anderson spoke during the Sunday services about church finances. A special thanks go out to all members who have submitted a pledge. If anybody still needs to submit a pledge, it should be sent directly to Joe Currie, our treasurer. At our Annual Congregational Meeting, Joe Currie will be able to present the budget to our members.

Session discussed the recent breakage of the church mailbox. A police report was filed. The box was repaired by both Bill Kunkle and Rob Galberg. The offering basket will now be placed inside the sanctuary. The Building and Grounds Committee members will look into other church security issues.

Session approved moving up the Christmas Eve Service to 4 PM. An online service will be available for Christmas day. An in-person service for New Year's Day will be held.

Virginia Magnus, Ed.D., Clerk of Session



A huge thank you to the volunteers who came out to decorate the church! The sanctuary is full of warmth and light!



Holiday Worship Schedule

Christmas Eve Worship
Communion & Candle Light
4:00 pm



Christmas Day Worship
Online Only on Facebook & YouTube
9:30am



New Year's Day Worship
In Person & Online
9:30am



Epiphany Worship
In Person & Online
January 8, 2023
9:30am





Additional Session News

During the October meeting of Session we welcomed guest speaker Deborah Wright from PneuMatrix. PneuMatrix is a group working with The Synod of the Pacific focusing on congregations with 100 members or less and the clergy that serve them. Helping these congregations to seek ideas and solutions with the goal of seeing these congregations adapt and thrive.

The session members have also attended webinars held by PneuMatrix regarding many of the challenges facing our churches today. Deborah stressed that we are not alone. Over half of PCUSA churches nationwide have 100 members or less.

Deborah guided our conversations regarding merging with another church, sharing a pastor and other innovative ideas.

The Session is excited and hopeful to be working with Deborah and PneuMatrix to forge a path forward for Faith Church.

We are grateful to The Presbytery for naming Faith Church as a part of this group and for funding the project.

Linda Hamilton, Elder

Deacon's Food Shelf

A very **BIG Thank You** for your generosity and support recently! The food you have donated has gone to a few different programs that are feeding families in need. These groups are extremely appreciative as the numbers have increased recently.

- For our annual Turkey Drive, we were able to send 100 \$20 gift cards to the Christian Caring Center to be enclosed in their Thanksgiving baskets. It's not too late to contribute to the Turkey Drive if you would still like to.
- The families of Small World had their annual Thanksgiving food drive which contributed a huge amount of food. This was distributed to a local program that put out a call for help.
- On December 4th, Communion Sunday, we will be collecting personal items such as shampoo and conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, hand and body lotions, soap, body wash, deodorant, sanitizers or anything else along those lines. Please drop your items in the blue bin by the parking lot doors.



Betty Ann Beck, Deacon

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



Mission Update

CHRISTMAS MISSION OFFERING

Once each year the Mission Committee asks you to prayerfully consider your donation to our Christmas Mission Offering.

This annual donation along with our bi-monthly green envelopes, is our only source of funds to meet the great needs locally and around the world. This past year we were able to support Friends of Jean Webster in Atlantic City, Urban Promise Summer Camp, Christian Caring Center, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance/Ukraine to name a few.

Postcards will be mailed in early December with a special offering envelope which may be mailed back to the church by December 31 or placed in the offering basket by December 24, Christmas Eve.

We are blessed abundantly and are asked to share our bounty with those in need. Thank you for your generous donation to this year's Christmas Mission Offering.

60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION LUNCHEON

Food, fellowship, video and picture remembrances were shared during a festive Anniversary Celebration on October 9. Special thanks to the Deacons for hosting and to Joyce Schreiner for her hospitality expertise.

FALL COAT COLLECTION

This fall we joined with Small World families and successfully collected 130 coats, jackets and sweatshirts for the Christian Caring Center in Pemberton, NJ. These warm clothes were distributed to grateful people who live in the woods or in motels in the Brown's Mills area. Your generosity will bring warmth to countless people going into a cold winter. Thank you.

URBAN PROMISE CHRISTMAS TOY COLLECTION DEADLINE DEC 9

Many organizations donate hundreds of unwrapped gifts which are displayed in a store-like setting (Christmas Promise Store) on the Urban Promise school campus. The parents can then "shop" with dignity for their children with no money being exchanged. Your gifts and/or gift cards (with amount clearly marked) can be placed near the small Christmas tree in the Fellowship area until Friday, December 9th at 10:00 am.

We are grateful for the many years that you have generously participated in this holiday effort.

Lorraine Kunkle, Mission Elder



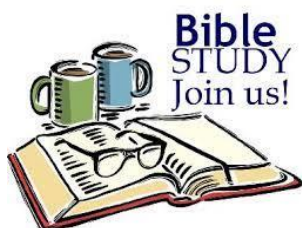


HOPE Garden – Best Season Ever!



We have much to be thankful for. HOPE Garden donations surpassed 2,100 pounds for the 2022 season, with weekly deliveries going out to the Migrant Worker Organization and St. Vincent de Paul food pantries in Medford and Tabernacle. Thank you gardeners and friends for all your hard work, prayers and support!

Contact Mary Currie if you would like to get involved in this mission in 2023!

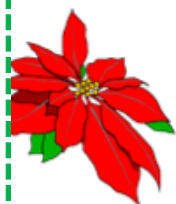


Morning Glories (women's Bible study and fellowship group) meets on the 2nd & 4th Thursdays. The next meeting will be Dec 8 at 9:30. All ladies are welcome. For more information call Carol Fischer (609) 801-2961.

OGs (men's Bible study) meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 9:15 am. On December 13, we will meet and continue with a video series by Ray Vander Laan.

Every good gift, and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights.

~ James 1:17



Poinsettia Donations



It's almost Christmas, which means it's time to decorate the Sanctuary with Poinsettias.

If you would like to donate to the purchasing of flowers, please make out a check to Faith Church with "Christmas Flowers" written in the Memo and place it in the offering.

Collection ends **December 11.**

If you have any questions, please call or text Sondra Carroll 856-577-5413 or Pat Cohill 609-506-9380

Name: _____

Donation: _____

Do you want to take your flowers home? ☐ Yes ☐ No

All Things Advent!

Our worship series, Generation to Generation, has several additions that go along with it to extend your devotions at home during Advent.

There is a print or E reader devotional booklet available. If you would like a copy please let Pastor Becca know and she will get them ready.

If you have young ones in your life, there is a printable Advent Calendar available; Pastor Becca would be glad to print you a copy.

If you love arts and crafts, there are a variety of projects available for your personal use; she would be glad to share them with you.

If you feel led to lead a group in crafting projects, let's find a way to make it happen!



Holiday Concert Sunday December 11, 3:00 PM

The Greater South Jersey Chorus will present Gloria, accompanied by brass, including John Rutter's Gloria and Randol Bass's Gloria, plus shorter works.

Christ Our Light
402 Kings Highway North
Cherry Hill, NJ

For more information, see Bill Kunkle or visit www.greatersouthjerseychorus.org.



Small World News

December is in full swing here at Small World!!

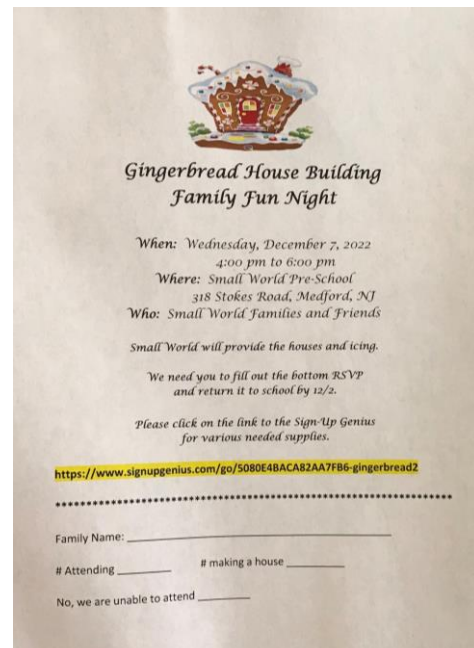
The children will be acting out the story of the Nativity with Pastor Becca next week. Currently they are busy little elves making gifts for their parents and learning lots of new Christmas songs.

We will be having our annual Gingerbread House Building Family Fun Night on Wednesday, December the 7th from 4:00 till 6:00. All are welcome!

Our three-year-olds will hold their Joyful Noise Program on Friday, December 16th at 9:15. Please come enjoy our little angels as they ring and sing to celebrate the Christmas season.

Small World would like to wish our Faith Church Family a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year 🎄

Jayne Norcross, Small World Director





*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*

Merry Christmas!