



A Message from Interim Pastor Diane Curtis

*He is risen!
He is risen indeed!*

This traditional Easter morning greeting proclaims again that Jesus Christ is alive. The empty tomb signifies the truth of his resurrection and the hope that we have in him. The church's message always has been and will continue to be the one we proclaim on Easter: *He is risen! He is risen indeed!*



Bunnies, baskets, Cadbury eggs, Peeps, and egg hunts are the stuff of Easter, too. So are new Easter clothes, church, and Easter brunch. Jesus is in the midst of it all. He is there in the determined looks and joyful faces of the egg hunters; in the inquisitiveness and surprise at the opening of the plastic eggs. As family and friends gather over a meal, talking, sharing, and laughing together, Jesus is present, helping connect one to another.

Easter also finds Jesus caring for the sick, comforting the grieving, sitting with the lonely, finding the lost, providing for the needy, forgiving the sinful, giving hope to the hopeless. No matter what Easter brings, Jesus Christ is there. When we proclaim the Risen Christ we affirm the presence of the One who lives, the One whose love is so strong that he sacrificed everything for us and the One whose resurrection brings us new life.

Happy Easter! He is Risen!

Pastor Diane



Update from the Pastor Nominating Committee

The PNC members have been busy reviewing the Pastor Information Forms (PIF) from 87 candidates. Yes, you read that right - 87! What a blessing but it's a lot to review. We have had initial interviews with four candidates which went well. We are looking to narrow the number of candidates for our second round. There have been some good interviews and we are hopeful that one of these candidates is the one God has called to be our new pastor at Faith. Please continue to keep our committee in your prayers.

Faith Church Holy Week Schedule

April 9th – Palm Sunday. *A Day for the Crowd*

10:30 a.m. – Crafting Event

April 13th – Maundy Thursday.

7:30 p.m. Communion Service. *All In*

April 14th – Good Friday

12 noon - Hosting a Joint Service with St. Peter's Episcopal and Medford United Methodist churches

5:00 p.m. – *The Passion of Christ* followed by soup supper

April 16th – Easter Sunday

6:30 a.m. – Sunrise Service, Camp Ockanickon

9:30 a.m. – Easter Service. *The Message is Clear*



Donate to One Great Hour of Sharing

It's that time of year! One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is our direct response to God's call in Isaiah 58. With your gift, you:

- **Loose the bonds of injustice (Self-Development of People)**
- **Share your bread with the hungry (Presbyterian Hunger Program)**
- **Bring the homeless poor into your house (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance)**

Details are in the Sunday bulletin. Fish banks are available in the Fellowship Room.



HOPE Garden Work Begins!

The first work day in the garden was March 25 and a lot was accomplished. Loads of manure were spread and tilling was started. Thanks to Tom Mains for using his truck to make several trips to visit the horses!

The next work day is this Saturday, April 8 at 10 am. More tilling will be done plus some fence repair, spreading wood chips and compost management. We may even do some planting!

We need your help! You don't have to have a garden plot to join us in the dirt. The shared garden provides fresh produce to many needy local families – join in the sharing and the fun!



Eyeglass Collection

The Mission Committee is collecting used eyeglasses during the month of April. Please place your donation of glasses in the box marked "Eyeglasses" in the Fellowship Room. The glasses will be donated to the Lions International Club.





Good Friday Meal

A simple meal consisting of soup and bread will be served immediately following the **5 pm Good Friday Service on April 14th**. Everyone is invited to join us as we break the fast with soup and fellowship.

Please contact Linda Mackey to let her know if you are attending and if you can bring soup or bread or help with set up or clean up.



Life Line Screening at Faith Church

Monday, April 17th

Pre-registration required: 1-888-653-6450

Life Line uses ultrasound technology to look for advance warning signs. You can then take the screening results to your doctor to discuss your risk and how to improve your health.

Call the 888 number or go online to www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners. You will receive a \$10 discount and schedule your exam.



Order Easter Flowers!

This Sunday, April 9 is your last chance to order Easter flowers to decorate the sanctuary for Easter Sunday. Please write "Easter Flowers" in the memo of your check. If you donate, you are welcome to take some flowers home after the 9:30 Easter service.

Any questions, speak to Erin Ford.



Big Sleep Mat Thank You!

Our last sleep mat workshop was on April 1. We have completed 11 mats and expect a 12th one soon! Thank you so much to those who crochet like crazy during January, February and March so that the homeless can have a more dry and comfortable place to sleep. Thanks to everyone who helped – the flatteners, the cutters and the loopers! Thanks to everyone who donated plastic bags. We had just the right amount this year.

We plan to dedicate the mats sometime in May. We'll begin collecting bags at the end of 2017 and sleep mat workshops will start again January 2018.



VBS is Coming!

Vacation Bible School will be here before you know it! **Save the dates: June 26 to 30.** The theme is "Operation Arctic" and kids will explore the coolest book on the planet – the Bible! There will be MANY volunteer opportunities both before and during VBS week. Watch the bulletin for sign up information for your kids and grandkids.





Church Bulletin Board

Monday, April 17: Faith Church will host Life Line Medical Screenings at the church. Watch the bulletin for an insert with details. Pre-registration is required.

Sunday, June 4: We're planning a potluck to rejoice with all couples who are lucky enough to celebrate 50 or more years of marriage. Save the date!

June 26 - 30: Vacation Bible School "Operation Arctic" - VBS was a huge success last year and we can't wait to do it again! There will be MANY volunteer opportunities so save the date!

A New Way to Connect with Faith Church!

Faith Church is now part of a website called "**Faithstreet**".

The URL is <http://www.faithstreet.com/search?lat=39.8741&lng=-74.809>. This takes you to the main page showing all Medford churches listed on Faithstreet. Notice that Faith is the first listing. Clicking on that link will take you to our page.

The website is <http://www.Faithstreet.com>. This is another way people can find us. Our Website is <http://www.Faithchurch.org>.

Our Facebook page is: <https://www.facebook.com/HopeGardenatFaithChurch/> or search Facebook for HOPE Garden - our Missions - Faith Church, Medford, NJ

Did You Know?

If you bank online, you can set up an automatic payment for your contribution to Faith Church. You'll never have to worry about forgetting your envelope!

2017 Per Capita – It's Not Too Late!

You can still contribute the \$38.75 (per member) per capita payment for 2017. Use the offering envelope marked "Per Capita" or write "per capita" in the memo of your check.