



A Message from Interim Pastor Diane Curtis

One event I look forward to attending at the end of every summer is the U.S. Open Tennis Tournament. I have been going for at least a couple of days for many years. Going to the Open is one of the few things I actually do for my own enjoyment. This year, due to my hip surgery, I couldn't go. Of course I knew that would be the case when the surgery was scheduled in mid-July, but I was very disappointed just the same.

I am not a fan of disappointment. Yet, I have to deal with it on a regular basis. Whether it is the right cereal isn't stocked when I go shopping to not getting a job I thought I was the perfect candidate for, disappointment has a way of shoehorning itself into my life. I imagine you can name many of your own disappointments.

We have all heard the expression, "When life gives you lemons, make lemonade." I am not advocating that one should always look on the bright side of things or quickly turn the disappointments into positives. Spending a little time living with setbacks can be a helpful growing experience. When we just shrug our shoulders and tell ourselves, "that's the way the cookie crumbles," we walk away from what could be an opportunity for God to do something new or amazing that we couldn't have possibly anticipated.

Time to think and pray about a disappointment is a necessary part of moving forward. The amount of time needed varies with the disappointment one experiences, but to God there is always enough time. The Lord works in that time to heal some or all of the wounds. He can open the door to hope and encourage us to take steps towards that open door. Although we may never be at the place we think we should be in the aftermath of a disappointment, we are always in the place where God is and he is always where we are.

In Hope,

Pastor Diane



Faith's First "Sleep Out"

Friday, September 22 starting at 7:30 pm

Bridge of Hope helps homeless moms get a job, find an apartment and enroll their kids in school. They take a family from what is scary and temporary and create stability and hope by guiding and mentoring the mom. When the moms succeed, the kids succeed!

The **Mission Committee** is showing their support of **Bridge of Hope** by having a sleep out. You can experience what it's like to sleep outside in a car, a tent, a box or on the ground. Sign up to sleep outside and get others to sponsor your commitment. Registration forms and sponsor sheets are available in the Fellowship area. Make checks out to "Bridge of Hope @ Christian Caring Center" or sign up to sleep out. Donations will be collected starting at 7:30 pm.

There are plans for entertainment, pizza and beverages during the evening. There will be a night watchman so that you can safely access the church to use the restroom. The Medford police will be aware of this event and asked to patrol during the night.



Serving Breakfast at Seeds of Hope in Camden

On Saturday, August 5, a group from Faith Church joined other Seeds of Hope volunteers to serve breakfast in Camden. This was our second trip and we added five new people! We sorted clothes, scrambled eggs, flipped pancakes and served people who needed food for their bodies and their souls. We'll be signing up to do this again. Watch for info in the bulletin and join us for this important and satisfying mission!



Summer Clean Up

Thanks to everyone who volunteered to clean up the church grounds in August. We pulled weeds and pruned trees. We didn't look so good but the outside of the church looked much better!



2017 Session Committees

Session Clerk	Ginny Magnus
Building and Grounds	Norm Mackey
Communication	John Ford
Christian Education	Linda Hamilton
Finance/Treasurer	Joe Currie
Mission	Ginny Hagan
Nominating	Sharon Redheffer
Personnel	John Heald
Stewardship	John Heald
Small World	Steve Carter
Worship	Sharon Redheffer
Membership and Caring	TBD



Hurricanes Harvey and Irma – How to Help

As news continues to come in on the devastating effects of Hurricane Harvey in Texas, **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)** is organizing a response that will help sustain life and restore hope in the coming days. PDA is working with partners to meet immediate needs and support long-term recovery. PDA remains in constant contact with leadership in New Covenant, Mission and South Louisiana Presbyteries. PDA will also respond to any needs associated with Hurricane Irma which is currently predicted to have an enormous impact on the Caribbean and southern Florida.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is the emergency response and refugee program of the denomination, committed to the long-term journey of recovery of communities adversely affected by a crisis or catastrophic event. It is funded by the **One Great Hour of Sharing** and has designated funds for responding to specific disasters.

To support recovery efforts in the wake of Hurricane Harvey, go to <https://pma.pcusa.org/donate/make-a-gift/gift-info/DR000169/>. You'll be taken to the PC (USA) website to donate securely and quickly. If you prefer to mail a check (please designate Disaster Relief–U.S. Hurricane Response, DR000169), you may send it to:

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
P.O. Box 643700
Pittsburgh, PA, 15264-3700

You can call Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (EDT), at 1-800-872-3283 to donate by phone.

Save the Date!

Sunday, October 15th

Plan to stay after worship for a Fall Festival!
We're planning to have a pot luck plus crafts
and other fun to celebrate the fall season.



Old Guys – New Study!

Join the OGs this Thursday for a new study.

Is This The End? Signs of God's Providence in a Disturbing New World by David Jeremiah. This is a 10 session video series.



Update from the PNC

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) has been active for 13 months now and we have been through some emotional swings. We have reviewed over 100 resumes of Pastors who were matched as likely candidates from the PCUSA database of available pastors. After narrowing down the resumes, we have had phone interviews with over a dozen different pastors. We have had face-to-face interviews with six pastors and with three of those, we have had multiple in-person interviews.

It has been a very rewarding experience in many ways because we have been able to see God's light through many different people and we have been able to gain a deeper appreciation for what we have in Faith Church. We have been humbled by the positive comments about our church, mission and congregation and by the desire from people to join us.

At the same time, this has been a difficult process as we have had to turn away from some good candidates. These people were excited about the possibility of leading Faith Church but we did not believe would be the right fit for us. And it has been particularly difficult when candidates whom we liked very much and thought were a good fit decided that God was calling them elsewhere.

We do have strong candidates whom we are talking to and the committee is working aggressively to continue the process. At this point, we are still several months away from making a recommendation to the congregation. We are aware of how long this is taking and we pray on a regular basis that God leads us to the right person as soon as possible, but we understand how important it is that it be the right person. We ask that you continue to pray with us and trust that God's plan for us will be revealed soon.

The PNC: Jonathan Cohill, Mary Currie, Linda Hamilton, Bill Redheffer, Kay Galberg, Norm Mackey, John Ford.

Church Bulletin Board

Sunday, October 15: Join us for a fall festival which will include a pot luck and crafts for the kids. Watch the bulletin for details!

Sunday, October 15: Rite Aid will provide immunization shots after worship. See Bob Casey with any questions.

Saturday, October 21: LifeLine will provide health screenings at church. See Bob Casey with any questions.



HOPE Garden Update

Over **1,300 pounds** of produce have been donated to Urban Promise, Christian Caring Center and Migrant Worker Outreach. Thanks to our many volunteers for hours of work. We are truly Helping Other People Eat.





Planting
fall crops!