



A Message from Interim Pastor Diane Curtis

So long, farewell, auf wiedersehen, goodbye...

Saying goodbye is probably the most difficult part of my work as an interim pastor. Knowing that this time will come from the beginning doesn't make it any easier for, as you know, saying goodbye doesn't just mean having a last day with a party, waving to everyone, and riding off into the sunset. Many emotions are tied up with saying goodbye.

During my two and a half years with you I have built relationships, walked with many of you through the highs and lows of your lives, and have encouraged you as you began living into the new future the Lord has for you. Together we have restarted Sunday school, had two successful Vacation Bible Schools where children learned about Jesus, and expanded Faith's mission outreach in the community and beyond.

Staff transitions have led to the hiring of two outstanding new ministry team members, Music Director, Bethan Neely, and Administrative Assistant, Will Boer. Our relationship with the church's preschool, Small World, is much stronger. I have seen several new members join the church, and said goodbye to others who have moved away, found new church homes, or joined the saints in heaven.

Have there been challenges? Of course! Life is always full of challenges. Life in the church is no different, especially during a time of transition. From my perspective, though, you, as a congregation, are in a much better place than when I started my ministry with you. My goal from the start has been to prepare you for your new pastor.

As the Pastor Nominating Committee reaches the latter stages of the process to identify and present a candidate for your new pastor, it will soon be time to turn the page to a new chapter in the life of Faith Presbyterian Church. I am sure this and the chapters to follow will have their celebrations and challenges. Knowing you all, I am confident that you will celebrate well with lots of good food, cake, and fellowship, and will rise to the occasion when needed.

Each church I serve as an interim pastor leaves a part of them inside my heart. The part you leave will be larger than most. I have grown and changed during our time together as, I imagine, have you. As I head into the sunset I leave you with tears in my eyes and, in the near future, the loving and capable hands of your new pastor, confident you will love and support him or her as you have me.

With love and prayers for your future,

Pastor Diane



Prayer Shawl Ministry's New Project

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is making pocket prayer squares for children. The tags will have the words from the song "Jesus Loves Me" included. The ministry also made prayer squares with Spanish tags. These will be given to the Hammonton Presbyterian Church which provides a worship service in Spanish every Sunday. The ministry meets the fourth Wednesday most months. Our projects are easy and we'll gladly teach you how to knit. We love at-home knitters! Please contact Janet Sharpe for details on joining the meetings or knitting at home.

Farewell to Pastor Diane! And Sunday School Kickoff New Date! Sunday, October 22

Plan to stay after worship for a pot luck to say goodbye and thank you to Pastor Diane. We will also kick off the new season of Sunday School with crafts for the kids.

See Linda Mackey to RSVP. We want to hear from you so we can plan seating, beverages and final food choices. Please, no desserts! We will have cake for the adults and ice cream sundaes for the kids.





HOPE Garden Update

Over **1,500 pounds** of produce have been donated to Urban Promise, Christian Caring Center, New Visions Day Shelter and Migrant Worker Outreach.

Thanks to our many volunteers for hours of work. We are truly Helping Other People Eat.



Church Bulletin Board

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

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

Sunday, October 22: Join us to celebrate Pastor Diane with a pot luck and crafts for the kids. Watch the bulletin for details! See Linda Mackey with any questions.



Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria – 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 had an enormous impact on the Caribbean and southern Florida as well as Hurricane Maria which devastated Puerto Rico.

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 Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria, 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.

Please Join the Fellowship Team!

Do you enjoy the coffee and refreshments after church each week? We have volunteers who set up, clean up and bring treats for our fellowship time. You can be part of the team by signing up in the black notebook that is on the refreshment table. If you become one of the regulars, you will prepare fellowship less than once a month! Of course, training is provided!! You can also sign up to bring treats any week that's convenient for you. Sign up in the notebook or contact the church office to help.





Be Healthy! Get Your Shots!

October 15th after worship

Rite Aid will be at church after worship to provide adult flu shots and both types of pneumonia immunizations. Rite Aid will submit paperwork to your healthcare provider and most people pay nothing. Stay healthy this year and get your shot! See Bob Casey with any questions.

Fill the Shelves!

The deacon pantry has empty shelves after filling many bags for the needy this summer. Please think of us when you're at the grocery store and pick up a few extra non-perishables. We recently had a request for a child needing gluten-free food so look for those items as well. Please note that we cannot accept any food past the "use by" date. See Betty Engelke with any questions.



New Prayer Request List

We're trying a new approach to prayers for our congregation, friends and family. A list of names and concerns (under general headings such as healing, hospitalized, blessings) will be printed in the bulletin each week. No medical details will be included. To have someone listed, please get their permission first then contact the church office.



Life Line Screening

Saturday, October 21 at Faith Church

Pre-registration is required – 1-888-653-6450

Life Line is offering several screening packages for onsite ultrasound testing. Call the number above or go onto their web site at www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners to find the choices for preventive screening. Within three weeks, you will be provided with a report that you can share with your physician.

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