



Message from Pastor Becca

Greetings Beloved Community!

I am so excited to be your new pastor. As you know, I come to you from South Dakota where I was the solo pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Mitchell for nearly three years. I served a small congregation there with a membership of 77 and average worship attendance of about 35. Faith Presbyterian offers me a new experience in that there is a staff for me to work alongside. I have enjoyed getting to know the staff and learn about their expertise. I look forward to working with each of them as we live into ministry together in Medford. It is an absolute joy to have the energy of the children from Small World in the building each day!

Having a new pastor can bring up many questions, I want you to know it is okay to ask me questions! Please feel free to stop in to see me in the office. If popping into the office does not work into your schedule, fear not, I will be taking a Lenten tour of local diners where my purpose is to be out in the neighborhoods where we all live and to meet you and get to know you. You can find the schedule in this newsletter.

Since this article is all about getting to know one another, I will take a few moments to share about my call to be your pastor. We often talk about being called to ministry in church life. This language was strange to me as I was not raised in the church. Church did not become a regular part of my life until I was about 15 years old and I was immediately intrigued by this thing called church. Eventually, I understood the longing I had felt since I was a small child was what we talk about in church as a call to ministry. I entered into the care of Monmouth Presbytery and did a single Semester at Princeton Seminary. I was absolutely miserable and positive I had made a mistake - God did not call me. I took some time off and God would not let up. In 2011, along with my family, we moved to Louisville, KY where I attended Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary and Bellarmine University. Shortly thereafter, I once again was under the care of Monmouth Presbytery. I graduated with a dual degree in 2014 (Master of Divinity & Master of Arts in Spirituality) and began to search for my first call. It was a process that took some time but God led me to Mitchell, SD. This was place I never dreamed I would live but I trusted God was leading me to the people I was to serve with. I was ordained on March 8, 2015 here in New Jersey and moved from Kentucky to South Dakota just two weeks later.

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Message from Pastor Becca - continued

It was a privilege to serve alongside the fine Presbyterians in Mitchell, SD. Last summer, I felt God pulling on my heart once again. It seemed it was time to move on. I began to search for what was next by posting my Personal Information Form on the Church Leadership Connection. Over the course of several months, I spoke with many churches; all of which were doing important and vital ministry in the world. Faith Church and I were matched through this system and the PNC invited me to further conversation. I read over the materials, looked at the website, researched the community, and decided that I would like to explore what God was doing here. As the PNC and I learned more about each other, I asked a difficult question of them. The PNC took time to discuss this question at their meeting that night and sent me a beautiful reply the next morning. I had asked many churches this question and Faith's PNC was the first to answer in a way that caught my attention. (I know you are curious, I asked, "What needs are unmet in your surrounding community?") Through further conversation and visits, I felt firmly God's call to minister alongside the faithful people of this congregation. We continued to walk faithfully in the process until I was offered the call and later accepted the call to be your pastor. The official conclusion of this process will be my Installation that is tentatively planned for March 4 at 3pm.

I am excited about what the future holds for all of us!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Becca

Pastor Becca's Lenten Diner Tour

In an effort to get to know you better, I am inviting you to come out and chat with me during Lent. On Mondays, I will be heading out to various diners at different times of day. Drop in for coffee, dessert, or a meal. Feel free to bring your story and questions!

- February 19, 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm at Medport Diner
- February 26, Noon at Marlton Diner
- March 5, 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm at Shamong Diner
- March 12, Noon at Medport Diner
- March 19, 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm at Red Lion Diner
- March 26, Noon at The Pop Shop



A community of believers
Centered in Christ,
Caring for others and
Loving one another.

Here We Go!

We received a wonderful letter from the Presbytery of West Jersey in December, along with a check for \$5,000. (WOW! That does not happen every day!). The Presbytery wants to help us engage with our local community and they are asking us to use the money for new or expanded mission. They want us to connect a passion of our congregation with a specific need in our community. (Our community is approximately a 10 mile radius of the church).

God works in wonderful ways and the timing of this gift could not be better for Faith Church. With Pastor Becca beginning her ministry with us, it is time for us to begin our new journey. Our Mission Study called out that our path forward must include reaching out to our community with missional activities, and the Presbytery's gift will be the catalyst to do just that.

The first step – we need ideas! Please think of ways that our congregation can impact our community. What are we good at, what needs are out there? What are we passionate about, what do we like to do, how can we help people? Please jot down your ideas and stick them on our “mission tree” in the fellowship room. The session will decide what we will focus on during our March meeting. We give thanks to God for continuing to bless our church with guidance and vision for our future.



Sunday School

February's Theme is “Loving”

We're following January's theme of “Sharing” with “Loving” for February. We're always looking for teachers and helpers for this joyous and rewarding ministry. See Linda Hamilton to volunteer.



Lenten Worship Schedule

February 14 Ash Wednesday: You are invited to the Methodist Church

Noon - Worship

7:30 pm - Worship

7:00 pm-9:30 pm - Stop in for ashes and prayer

March 25 Palm Sunday

9:30 am - Worship

March 29 Maundy Thursday

7:00 pm Worship at Faith

March 30 Good Friday

Noon - Interfaith Worship (Location to be announced.)

5:00 pm - Worship at Faith & Breaking of the fast with Soup Supper

April 1 Easter Sunday

6:30 am - Sunrise Service followed by breakfast at Camp Ockinickon

9:30 am - Worship

Lent



Hats Off to Debbie!

Our Faith Church Facebook friend Debbie Mastranduono has knitted dozens of beautiful hats for us to donate. The first two boxes were taken by Steve Carter to New Visions shelter in Camden. At this time, we expect to take the second batch to Extended Hand Ministry in Mt. Holly which runs a homeless shelter and food pantry.

Want to thank Debbie? Go to our Facebook page and reply to the thread of thanks.

<https://www.facebook.com/HopeGardenatFaithChurch>





Join Us for Mat Workshops Every Saturday in February and March

Join us every **Saturday from 10:00 to noon during February and March** for our annual mat workshops. We'll prepare plastic bags to be made into waterproof sleep mats for the homeless. This is easy to do and is suitable for all ages and skill levels. We will happily train you! We already have three mats completed thanks to those who crochet all year. See Bonnie Halle with any questions.





Pastor Becca's Office Hours

- ✓ Monday 10:00 am – 2:00 pm and 5 pm to 7 pm

In the evening, the doors will be locked. Please call so she can let you in.

- ✓ Tuesday 9:30 am – 1:30 pm
- ✓ Wednesday 9:30 am – 1:30 pm
- ✓ Thursday 10:00 am – 8:00 pm

If you need to see Pastor Becca outside of these times, please let her know. She is glad to meet with you! Please note that there are some days when she will need to leave the office for lunch meetings so it's a good idea to call ahead if you plan to visit during lunchtime.



Chancel Flowers

Is there a special person or occasion you'd like to honor? You can dedicate the Chancel Flowers "in remembrance of" or "in honor of" that special memory.

Sign up on the Chancel Flower Sign-up Sheet in the hallway. Then make out a check for \$25 with "chancel flowers" in the memo line. Let Will know what you'd like your remembrance to say in the bulletin. See Erin Ford for more details.

A Note From Session – We live in uncertain times where we often wonder if we are safe in places like our church on Sunday mornings. The session is currently working on a comprehensive emergency preparedness plan. However, there was immediate concern about doors being unlocked so close to where the children gather. Beginning **February 4**, the side and back doors of the church will be locked prior to Sunday School beginning. If you arrive after that time, you will need to use the front doors. If that walk is burdensome for you, please ring the bell so the Sunday School teachers can let you in.



A Reminder of Missions at Faith

Those **green envelopes** in each pew have the power to transform lives! Take your own "Moment for Mission" and donate to the Mission Committee. Reach into your pocket to help Faith Church reach into someone's heart. See Ginny Hagan with questions.

Local organizations supported by Faith:

[Bridge of HOPE](#) of South Jersey (now affiliated with the Christian Caring Center) - mentoring single homeless mothers and their children find housing, overcome barriers, repair brokenness and begin to change their lives.

[Christian Caring Center](#), Browns Mills, NJ - providing Code Blue Sheltering and hot lunches to the rural homeless in Burlington County, as well as food pantry items and clothing to the elderly, disabled and working poor, and outreach to addicted men, women and teens (note: volunteers are always needed, including at the Village Thrift Shop in Pemberton, NJ).

[Friends of Jean Webster](#), Atlantic City, NJ – providing meals for Atlantic City's needy at the First Presbyterian Church on Pennsylvania Avenue; this non-profit mission feeds approximately 600-700 homeless and/or underprivileged people per day.

[Migrant Worker Outreach](#), Medford, NJ - distributes food, clothing and bedding to thousands of migrant workers in South Jersey during the blueberry harvest from mid-June through late July; publishes Migrant Worker Journals, coordinates English as a Second Language classes at migrant camps in the evenings, and facilitates the involvement of other organizations, groups and individuals in outreach to the migrant population.

[My Brother's Keeper](#), Camden, NJ – offering holistic drug and alcohol rehabilitation and recovery through a ministry that includes therapy groups, access to legal advice, training in life skills and computers, Bible study and spiritual guidance.

[New Visions](#), Camden, NJ - supplying shelter and warmth to Camden's homeless community through a day service shelter that includes breakfast, lunch, shower facilities, laundry facilities, a food pantry, a clothing closet, mail services and assistance with employment searches.

[Urban Promise](#), Camden, NJ – equipping Camden's children and young adults with the skills necessary for academic achievement, life management, spiritual growth and Christian leadership through after-school programs, summer camps, two schools, experiential learning, job training and other programs (note: volunteers are always needed as tutors in the after-school program).



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!

2018 Per Capita Payment

The 2018 per member cost for per capita is \$38.75 as set by the Denomination, Synod & Presbytery. Please use the blue envelope titled "Per Capita Apportionment" which you received with your pledge envelopes.