



## Message from Pastor Becca

When I was a senior in high school there was a song by the band Green Day that came out and was incredibly popular on the day I graduated. It was called *Good Riddance* although it is more commonly known as *Time of Your Life*. It has become an anthem for transition for many of my generation, with lyrics that reflect on the adventures of our lives. There are so many ways in which we experience transition throughout our lives. Finishing school and setting out into the world is the first of many changes set before us in adulthood. I have often felt like I stood in a place where I was sad to let the road behind me go, yet eager to take the journey down the new road before me.

The life of a church isn't much different than our individual or family lives, there are seasons, transitions, heartbreak, and celebrations. We are not immune to growing pains or hardships. Our buildings age as they bear witness to our weddings, baptisms, funerals, and weekly worship. You have heard me acknowledge that we are in transition around here at Faith Presbyterian. Since I last wrote to you, we have learned that this transitioning will continue as Bethan answers God's call to what is next for her. Yet we celebrate the receipt of a large gift that has offered us hope! Yes, life around here sure does mimic the rollercoaster of life in the world.

This week as I drove up to the church the song *Good Riddance* came on the radio and I lingered in my car looking at our building. I remembered something else about these crossroads that are full of wonder and sadness, they can also be terrifying! We can look back with gratitude and sadness at what has been, what life demands we leave behind even when we aren't ready. We can look forward at that open road eager to embrace what comes next but anxious because we can't quite see what is over the next hill. That is the place we stand today as a congregation, in need of leaving some things behind while eagerly looking forward and perhaps incredibly nervous about what lies ahead!

We do not know what is next for Faith Presbyterian in the big picture but there are some small details that I hope give us enough courage to continue the journey. Our financial situation is stable enough after our staffing changes that the session will be taking some time to discern how to best use the generous gift we have received. Your pledges are still incredibly important to keeping us stable. The session has also voted to create a search committee to search for a new musician to join our team, with the hope that we will be able to preserve our much-loved blended worship service.

As I make sure my safety harness is buckled up on this adventure of following the Spirit, I invite you to join me. I will leave you some lyrics from *Good Riddance*, so we have some music for the journey. Remember God is here with us, setting us exactly on the road we need to travel!

*Another turning point, a fork stuck in the road  
Time grabs you by the wrist, directs you where to go  
So make the best of this test, and don't ask why  
It's not a question, but a lesson learned in time  
It's something unpredictable, but in the end it's right  
I hope you had the time of your life*



## Valentine's Food Drive! Continues February 10 and 17

Help cupid restock the food shelf! Our friends at the Christian Caring Center recently needed emergency supplies, which we gladly provided. Now we need to refill the shelves and we are missing the items which are most needed for the CCC.

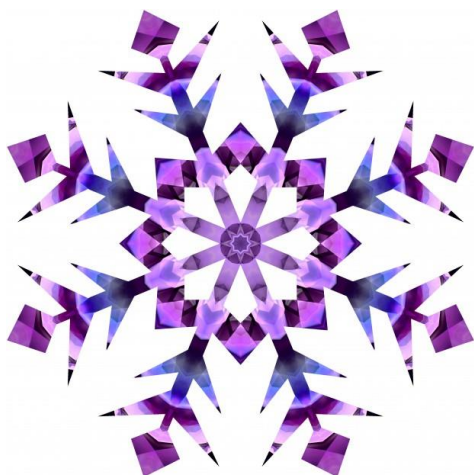
Here's what's needed most:

Canned Items	Staples	Packaged Snacks
Soups	Peanut butter	Protein bars
Fruits	Spaghetti sauce	Peanut butter crackers
Tuna	Cereal	Oatmeal cups

Place your items in the large **blue bucket** located in the fellowship room. Thank you for caring and sharing!



ushers are needed for Sunday service. It's easy! You hand out bulletins and collect the offering. Let Jonathan Cohill know that you want to volunteer.



## FYI About Potential Church Closings

In the event of severe weather or another emergency that might affect the conduct of Church services or meetings, the Pastor and Clerk of session will make a joint decision as to cancellation of services.

Notification will be made to members via email or telephone. You can also check the church Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/FaithPresMedford](http://www.facebook.com/FaithPresMedford) Please insure that the church office has your correct contact information.



## Lent, Holy Week & Easter Preview 2019

**Ash Wednesday:** March 6 Details Coming Soon    **Palm Sunday Worship:** April 14 9:30 am    **Maundy Thursday Worship:** April 18 7:30 pm    **Good Friday Worship:** April 19 5:00 pm

April 21

Easter Worship at Sunrise  
6:30 am

April 21

Easter Worship  
9:30 am

**The First Sunday of Lent: March 10**  
**Luke 4:1-13, Theme: Temptation**

**The Second Sunday of Lent: March 17**  
**Luke 13:31-35, Theme: God's Longing**

**The Third Sunday of Lent: March 24**  
**Luke 13:1-9, Theme: Repent and Grow New Fruit**

**The Fourth Sunday of Lent: March 31**  
**Luke 15:1-3, 11-32, Theme: Reconciliation**

**The Fifth Sunday of Lent: April 7 Communion**  
**John 12: 1-8, Theme: The Finest Gifts**

## Donate That Gift Card!



Did you get a gift card for a place where you never shop? Seeds of Hope in Camden is having a fundraiser auction on April 12. They're requesting gift cards to make baskets of cards to auction. **The deacons are collecting UNUSED, FULL VALUE gift cards for them.** Look at their ministry at <http://www.seedsofhopeministried.org>.

Cards will be collected during February. Give cards to Bonnie Halle or put them in an envelope and leave them in the deacon mailbox.





## 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 make plastic bags into waterproof sleep mats for the homeless. Our tasks are easy and fun 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.





## Kid's Corner – News from Small World Pre-School

Although February is a short month, here at Small World, it's a month packed with learning and lots of love!!

**T-K** loves February because that means it's Small World Circus time and their Valentine ice cream party time!! They will end the month with a super exploration of Space as they reach for the stars!!

**Pre-K** will put on the greatest show on earth, the **Small World Circus, on Wednesday February 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:30**. They will participate in a "Caught Being Kind" campaign. As a part of National Dental Health Month, they will have a visit from a Dentist. The end of the month will be spent studying Community Helpers, with family members coming in to share their jobs.

**The Three's** will complete a "Kindness" Quilt that will hang in the hallway. They will work on their Happy Healthy Me Unit and learn about "good for you" foods and "sometimes" foods. They too will celebrate National Dental Health Month by learning about the importance of brushing their teeth morning and night and they will learn proper brushing technique. They will finish out the month with their Nursery Rhyme Olympics.

**The Two's** will be continuing to master their daily routine and focus on topics such as Friendship and Love, Transportation and "I Like to Eat". Their color of the month is pink and their shape of the month is hearts. They will continue to work on their fine motor skills through art projects, using finger-paint and playdough. They will also work on their gross motor skills through obstacle courses and lots of dancing. They love to dance!!

**Registration is now underway for the 2019-2020 school year and classes are filling up quick.** Please spread the word if you know of anyone who might be interested in registering.

Looking ahead to March, we will once again have our **Art Show and Book Fair the week of March 11th through the 15th. Stop by and check it out!!**







## Children Are Welcome Pew Card

You may notice a new card in your pew. Please take a minute to read it. We want to let everyone know that it's okay if their baby is a bit fussy or if their toddler speaks during a quiet moment. We want parents to know that we understand that kids will be wiggly and talkative and they are very welcome here no matter what.



Goodbye Eric, Gelsey, Lucy and Izzy. We love you all and hope to see you soon!

## Sunday School in February

The February focus is on the ministry of Jesus and His teachings.

Feb. 10: Jesus's Love Can Change Anyone

Feb. 17: Jesus Provides Everything We Need

Feb. 21: Jesus Can Help People Be Friends

## Pastor Becca's Open Office Hours

- ✓ Monday 12 noon – 3:00 pm
- ✓ Tuesday 9:30 am – 12 noon
- ✓ Wednesday 10 am – 12 noon at Lakes Coffee
- ✓ Thursday 9 am – 11 am

*These are the times Pastor Becca is in the office with no scheduled meetings and you are welcome to pop in unannounced. She is available to you anytime by appointment.*



## Hats Off to Debbie!

Our Faith Church Facebook friend Debbie Mastranduno has knitted dozens of beautiful hats for us to donate. The hats were taken to the Christian Caring Center by Joan Zinader and will be distributed to anyone needing their warmth.

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

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

## Faith Bible Study Groups

The OGs continue their study of the book of Revelation. The video series is called *Breaking the Code*. It is taught by Bruce Metzger, Professor Emeritus at Princeton Theological Seminary. The OGs meet at 9:30. Open discussion follows the video and the group enjoys a fellowship brunch at the Medport Diner after the study.

Morning Glories meets the second and fourth Thursdays at 9 am. They are reading *Unveiling Mary Magdelene*. Morning Glories meet at 9:15 for coffee and bible study begins at 9:30.

## 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.



The info below is from our friends at the new Medford Volunteer Center. Join them for the Grand Opening!

## Medford Volunteer Center Grand Opening

April 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019 from 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
5 Skeet Rd., 2<sup>nd</sup> door on left side of building  
Medford, NJ 08055

### Non-profits and other charitable groups:

- \* You're invited to give a presentation during our Open House. To register for a time slot, call Dory Dickson at (609) 969-2480 or email: [MedfordVolunteerCenter@Mail.Com](mailto:MedfordVolunteerCenter@Mail.Com)
- \* Your brochures and posters can be displayed on our information tables year round.
- \* Please consider joining our Advisory Board.

### Prospective volunteers:

- \* We'll help you match your skills and interests with projects and programs that need volunteers.
- \* We organize on-site projects, projects you can work on from home or at school, and activities at various other locations.
- \* We collaborate with organizations throughout South Jersey.

### Our facility is handicap accessible.

- \* We welcome volunteers of all ages, abilities, gender identities, nationalities, races & religions.
- \* We can sometimes arrange transportation to volunteer sites for volunteers who do not drive.



## Share your gifts; volunteer!

**Blog:** [MedfordVolunteerCenter.BlogSpot.Com](http://MedfordVolunteerCenter.BlogSpot.Com)

**Email:** [MedfordVolunteerCenter@Mail.Com](mailto:MedfordVolunteerCenter@Mail.Com)

**FaceBook:** Medford Volunteer Center

**Phone:** (609) 969-2480

**Mailing address:** P.O. Box 155, Medford, NJ 08055