



A Message from Pastor Becca

Can you believe we are already approaching Lent? It seems like just yesterday I was breaking pumpkin bread in the candlelight of Christmas Eve.

This month I want to give you a preview of what lies ahead for us as we approach Lent. First and foremost, please join us for worship on Ash Wednesday 3-6-19 at 7:30pm at the Medford United Methodist Church. I have been working with Pastors Kathleen and Joe to create a collaborative time of worship, I hope to see you there!

Often during this season, we hear things like, I am giving up chocolate for Lent! This practice of giving things up is a form of fasting that comes to us from long ago. For a long time, I made this my personal practice and because I like a challenge I have had some lofty goals. I once failed miserably at giving up worrying for Lent but God used that season to help me hear my call to ministry. Giving up meat for all of Lent is how I once became an accidental vegetarian for several years. A fast should never be about giving up something to lose weight or change a habit, it should point us to God. In giving up meat I had to become way more conscious of my food choices. It opened me up to understanding many new levels of food injustice in our world.

These days I have shifted to adding a practice to my life rather than fasting from things. This year I plan to pray the hours, these are short periods of worship at a variety of times throughout the day. They are often associated with monastic communities. I am sure this will be a great challenge for me to stop and pray when I am distracted by work and life. I will also be using some devotionals during this time, you can check them out at these links!

<https://www.pcusastore.com/Products/1711618008/presbyterian-today-2019-lenten-devotional.aspx>

http://presbyearthcare.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/2019-Lenten-Study-Web.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3s8iA-VI7QaQ9qAPe8BUha6unegG-PyjjgWPeNRoOwBwmdB29q8yI_zwY

My personal guilty pleasure during Lent is Lent Madness. I invite you to join in the fun here <https://www.lentmadness.org/bracket/> it is a great opportunity to learn some Christian history, sometimes very obscure history!

On Sunday March 10, the first Sunday in Lent I will send you home with your very own Lenten devotional, Lent in a Bag. Please be sure to come get your bag and dive deep with scripture and prayer during this season of repentance!

March 27th marks the halfway point of Lent and we will gather at the church to worship and share an agape meal that evening, **please mark your calendars**. I understand it is hard for some folks to drive in the evening, if this is the case please let me know so we can make arrangements for you to be here.

I hope no matter what you do to mark this season of repentance that you will find time to intentionally connect with God!



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





Sleep Mat Workshops – Final Month!

We're still working on our sleep mats and already have 8 completed! March is the last month we will be meeting and we can still use your help! Join us on Saturdays from 10 to noon.



Deacons Soup Ministry

Due to the generous donations from Faith Church members, we usually have containers of soup in the kitchen freezer. Help yourself if you are feeling "under the weather" or know of someone who needs some "soup therapy." Each soup is labeled with the ingredients so you know what you're getting!



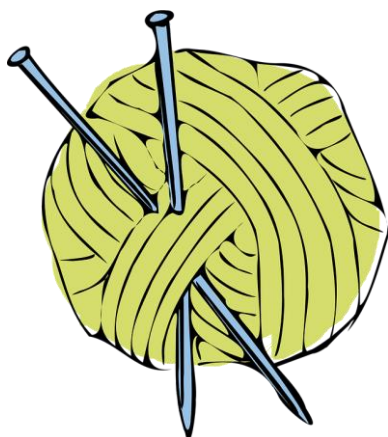


Farewell to Bethan

We recently said farewell to our gifted Music Director, Bethan Neely. We were blessed to listen to her amazing skills on both organ and piano for two and a half years. She will be making the Methodist Church in Quakertown very happy! We thank her and wish her the very best.



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.



Prayer Shawl Ministry New Meeting Day and Time Join Us!

Prayer Shawl Ministry will now meet the **first Saturday of the month from 10 to 11 am**. The first meeting this year will be April 6 and there will also be a meeting May 4 The Ministry meets again in September, October and November. We welcome new members and anyone who would like to knit at home. See Janet Sharpe will any questions.



Sunday School News

In March, the kids are learning about Jesus' teachings and miracles. On March 3, they heard how friends can help each other follow Jesus.

March 10 "God Wants Us to Serve Others"

March 17 – To Be Announced

March 24 "We Can Call Jesus Our Friend"

March 31 "Jesus Washes Feet"

Small World Book Fair & Art Show

Book Sale - Monday, March 11 to Friday, March 15

During drop off and pick up

Art Show – Wednesday, March 13, 5 to 7 pm



Come browse the wonderful selection of books at the Small World Book Fair. The book fair will be open for 30 minutes during drop off (9-9:30) and pick up (3-3:30). There will be many great books for kids and the young-at-heart!

Join us on the evening of March 13 for a show featuring artwork created by the children.



HOPE-ing for Spring! HOPE Garden Update

March is here and it's time to begin planning for our spring planting! The coffee grounds from Harvest Coffee are working their magic, providing good organic material. Mark your calendars for the first work day (Spring clean-up) scheduled for **Saturday, March 30th.**

Small World Updates!

TK will visit Shawnee, along with the Pre K classes, for Read Across America! They will be dancing the Irish Jig, eating green bagels and conducting wind and rainbow experiments. They are super excited for the first day of Spring so they can wake up their class Bear!!

Pre K will kick off the month celebrating Dr. Seuss and all of his wonderful books! They will also learn about rainbows, celebrate St. Patrick's Day and welcome Spring.

Three's will be "greening" up their classrooms for St. Patrick's Day and looking for gold at the end of the rainbow! The week of March 18th is Block Week and the Three's will be experimenting to see how many blocks it takes to keep Humpty Dumpty from "having a great fall"

Two's will be learning about the season of Spring, Baby Animals, Rectangles, Birds and the color Yellow.

To celebrate **St. Patrick's Day** they will make a three dimensional cloud and rainbow scene using fruit loops and marshmallows. They will be celebrating Dr. Seuss by reading One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish and making handprint fishbowl art!



Pastor Becca's Open Office Hours

- ✓ Monday 12 noon – 3:00 pm
- ✓ Tuesday 9:30 am – 12 noon
- ✓ Wednesday 1 pm – 3 pm 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.

2019 Per Capita Payment

The 2019 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.