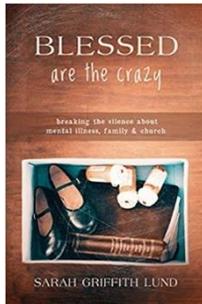


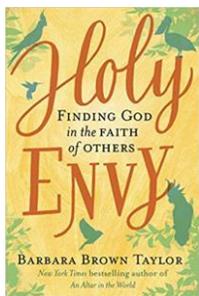


A Message from Pastor Becca

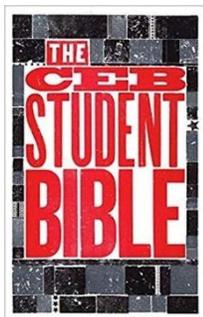
This summer I am going to shake things up and instead of writing you a note about church life, I am going to share what I am reading. It is not uncommon to find me part way through 3-5 books at a time. It is a life skill I picked up through the demands of higher education, I can read several books at a time. I know that sentence is making some of you cringe! Here are three I am reading right now and why I am reading them.



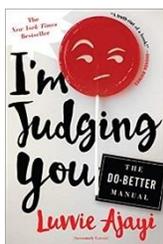
Blessed are the Crazy by Sarah Griffith Lund This book is the testimony of a fellow clergywoman who grew up with mental illness in her family. I am just one chapter in, but my understanding is that she will help church leaders find tangible ways to talk about mental illness in the church. Churches have not been good at talking about mental health and mental illness and she sees tangible ways to change this. This is currently the book I leave in my study at the church and I read it in the hope of gaining new insight into being a pastor in today's world.



Holy Envy, Finding God in the Faith of Others by Barbara Brown Taylor Let me start with, if you haven't read any of Barbara Brown Taylor's work you are missing out. She is an Episcopal priest who teaches Religion 101 in a small town in Georgia. She is also a phenomenal speaker who I have had the privilege to hear on multiple occasions. I am reading this book for a Pastor Book Study group I meet with on Tuesday afternoons. In *Holy Envy*, Taylor recounts her own story of finding beauty in other faith traditions. I am having a terrible time putting this one down as we read one chapter per week!



1&2 Samuel in The Bible It may seem odd to list *The Bible* as on my reading list because I am a pastor after all! I read one chapter every morning, slowly and intentionally. Sometimes I need to read them two or three times because the stories leave me with plenty to chew on. I am currently reading them in CEB (Common English Bible) translation which is fairly new in the world of translations. I love this translation because it stays true to the original Greek and Hebrew but uses language common to our time. I invite you to do the same this summer, choose one or two books of the *Bible* and give them a close reading. I highly recommend doing this with stories we know by heart, there are often parts we leave out or forget about. For example, the book of Genesis has two separate creation stories in Chapters 1 & 2, we often combine them when we talk about them. The story of Noah doesn't end with the rainbow and dove, it takes a dark turn. The beautiful story of Abraham and Sarah has an ugly underside in Hagar and Ishmael being turned out.



Bonus: *I'm Judging You: A Do Better Manual* by Luvvie Ajayi I just finished reading this one for fun. Before I go any further, I will warn you Ajayi is very straightforward and names things with honesty that are sometimes hard to hear. She also occasionally uses strong language, as in not suitable for church. However, she is a powerful storyteller and takes on how we act, especially on social media, with humor, honesty, and some hard to swallow truths. I found it to be thought provoking and funny. It was also a nice break from theology!



Read About Our Accomplished Faith Graduates!

Connor Ford

After a wonderful four years, Connor Ford graduated from Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania on May 19th with a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science, cum laude. Starting this fall Connor will be attending Carnegie Mellon University for a Master's Degree in Cyber Security. He will be attending on a scholarship from the National Science Foundation, which will require him to work for the federal government for two years following graduation.

Early in his freshman year, Connor joined the Dickinson Christian Fellowship and it became one of the most important aspects of his college life. He met his closest friends through DCF. His senior year, he was the president of the organization.

Connor would like to thank Faith Church for its support through his four years, especially for the care packages. He reads from his personalized Bible that Faith Church gave him every day





Casey Hamilton

Casey graduated magna cum laude from the inaugural class of the Rutgers Honors College School of Environmental and Biological Sciences with a degree in Ecology, Evolution, and Natural Resources. He was an Honors College Scholar, a George H. Cook Scholar and a James Dickson Carr Scholar. He also received the Peter E. Smouse Award for the Outstanding Student in Evolution.

This summer, Casey will be interning for the Department of Energy at Brookhaven National Laboratory in the Environmental and Climate Sciences Department. His project is measuring plant physiological and environmental parameters using remote sensing technology to examine plant growth response to drought conditions with the ultimate aim of improving crop breeding and management.

During his senior year, he also wrote and defended his G. H. Cook Honors Thesis titled “Dual effects of forest fragmentation on forest-associated bees in New Jersey.” The project’s central findings were that wild bees that rely on forest habitat for survival in New Jersey decline with the loss of forest from a landscape but benefit from the creation of forest edges that accompany deforestation. These findings have implications for the conservation of forest-specialist bees, a group that includes species that provide important pollination services to both wild plants and many of the crops grown in New Jersey. Casey will be presenting this research at the National Conference of the Ecological Society of America in Louisville, Kentucky this August.





Valerie Buurma

Valerie graduated summa cum laude with her Doctor of Pharmacy from Rutgers University in New Brunswick.

She is heading to New Hampshire for a one year residency at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center.





Get Excited!

We've Got a New Mission Starting!

The Mission Committee and Session have approved the creation of a mission project here at Faith Church to get food to the local homeless. The plan is to start out by focusing on two areas of need:

1. Coordinate with Medford Methodist and Prince of Peace Lutheran to provide meals during the weeks they host homeless families at their churches. Each church hosts once a quarter for one week at a time. Meals are needed for as many as 12 people. There are additional opportunities such as serving the meals, helping school age kids with homework and playing with the young ones.
2. Provide fresh and healthy meals-to-go for the Christian Caring Center and St. Vincent de Paul. Both organizations have direct outreach to the homeless and the food-poor. We'll make fresh salads and homemade protein bars, which will be packaged so that both groups can easily distribute them the same day. We'll use HOPE Garden produce when possible.

All this talk of food comes with a POT LUCK PICNIC!

Join us after worship on Sunday, June 30 for a pot luck picnic.

- We'll have details on many ways YOU can help, including: prepping food and delivering food locally.
- You'll get to vote on a name for the mission!
- We'll have a contest to create a logo.
- There will be examples of the food that will be given to people.
- We'll have a "kitchen shower" to collect some of the items needed.

Watch the bulletin for details and to sign up for the pot luck. The steering committee for this mission is the Mission Elder (Ginny Hagan), Lorraine Kunkle, Bonnie Halle, Joan Zinader and Sandy Gustavsen. Please speak to any committee member if you have questions or want to volunteer before the picnic.





Urban Promise Graduation Cookies

Urban Promise Academy graduation is June 12. They would like cookies to serve at refreshment time. If you would like to bake or buy cookies for them, it would be greatly appreciated.

You may bring them to the church on Sunday, June 9, Monday, June 10 or Tuesday, June 11. Mission will take them to Urban Promise on Wednesday, June 12. Please leave them in the kitchen and mark them "Urban Promise."



Panera Pickup Help Needed

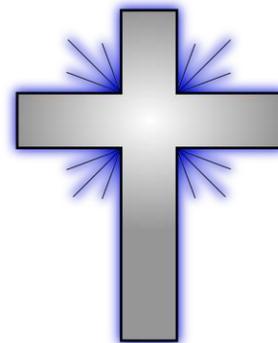
Every other Sunday at 8 pm, a volunteer from Faith picks up unsold baked goods from Panera Bread in Sagemore on Rt. 73. Panera's mission includes donating 100% of what is leftover every day. They rely on volunteers like us to help distribute the food.

We bring the baked goods back to our church that evening so that the Christian Caring Center can pick it up on Monday morning. The Kunkles are currently doing this. **We are looking for an additional volunteer so each would only do the pick up once a month.** Talk to a friend – if more volunteer, then the pickups are even less frequent! If you are available to help or have questions, please talk to Bill or Lorraine K.

Thank you!

Confirmation Sunday, June 9

On June 9, with great joy, we will welcome two new members to Faith Church – Brielle Olivieri and Caroline Galberg. Be there as they commit to us and we affirm our commitment to them. There will be cake and punch after worship to celebrate!





HOPE Garden is Off to a Great Start!

In May, volunteers planted dozens of donations from Cathedral Village and Rutgers nursery. All of the rain has really caused them to thrive! **160 pounds of produce has already been picked and donated!**

The garden can always use a helping hand because the weeds are also doing well! Please stop by if you get a chance and just spend 15 or 20 minutes pulling weeds to help out. This is an organic garden and no weed killers are used.





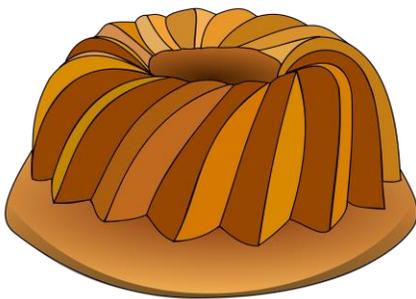
IMPORTANT INFORMATION from Pastor Becca

It has come to my attention recently that in other parts of the country a new scam has come about where people impersonate a pastor and ask for gift cards or money transfers. Know that I will never ask you for gift cards, gift card photos, or to wire me money, via email or text message. Not for myself or on behalf of the church. If you get a suspicious message from “me”, feel free to call my cell phone and confirm it is in fact me who sent the message.

Fall Sermon Series! Beginning September 8 using resources from *A Sanctified Art*.



Stay tuned for details to follow!



Fellowship Snacks

We are grateful that so many people come to fellowship after worship to have a drink and a snack while catching up with old friends and meeting new ones.

But this popularity means we could use more food! Please sign up in the fellowship book to bring a snack. **You don't have to bake!** You can pick up a cake or small fruit bowl at the store or grab some donut holes on your way to worship.



Sunday School Summer Update

The regular Sunday school class will continue through June 16th (Father's Day). After that, watch the bulletin for two special Mission Sundays on July 21st and August 18th. More details to come!

Save the Date Flu Shot Clinic

Rite Aid will hold a flu shot clinic after worship on **September 23**. It's quick and convenient and most insurance is accepted!

Beginning in July, Pastor Becca will have summer hours by appointment. She will be in the building regularly but with an ever-changing schedule. Check the bulletin or Facebook each week to know where to find her!

Summer Update for Morning Glories and OGs

Morning Glories will not be meeting for the summer. Watch for program notes and start up dates in September. Faith's men's group, OGs, will also not be meeting until the fall.

New Church Musician

The search committee has recommended and Session has approved the hiring of Darlene Campbell-Silbering. Darlene has been playing the organ since she was 17 years old. She has been the organist and cantor with the Catholic Church for nearly 18 years. She has provided private home piano instruction for children and adults and she has most recently been the Music Director/Music Supervisor as well as accompanist on piano and organ for weekend Masses and special occasions with the choir and cantors. She is married, has one daughter and lives in Bensalem, PA. Her first Sunday with us will be July 7. We will have guest organists until then.





Small World's first week of summer camp is off to a "swimming" success under the sea!!

