



A Message from Pastor Becca

Today is my first day back at the church after two weeks away. For most of that two weeks my family and I were living out of our car as we traveled New England, tent camping, with our dog. This morning I woke up to an alarm clock instead of bird song or waves crashing in the distance. I rushed through the school year version of the morning routine, waved my kiddo off to school, and settled in at my desk. For better or worse we are full swing into the early school year transition. The days grow shorter but the warmth of summer sun remains. Our routines become more structured as we try to squeeze in one last campfire before the weather turns cold.

This spring as I was attending Credo in Virginia, where our focus as pastors is to recognize what it is we need to sustain ourselves in a life of ministry, I made a note; spend more time in creation/nature. I noticed at the retreat center that I felt so energized by the warmth of the sun on my skin. All spring and summer I have tried to get outdoors as much as I could. This trip was designed to keep us outdoors for 9 days, exploring beaches, mountains, and a National Park all while sleeping in a tent. That fresh air does a body, mind, and spirit good.

About halfway through the trip I found myself on an outcropping of rocks, watching the waves crash all around me. The ocean was as beautiful as ever and the scenes took my breath away. Nature can do that, if we pay attention. The waves becoming more than a lulling background sound. They become rushes of wonder and newness reminding me of God, the maker of the waves knows the very hairs on my head. I took a deep breath and took it all in. I reflected on how over the course of the previous days, I had spent little time in structured devotional time, yet I had felt closer to God than I had in a very long time. The spaciousness, the wonder, the beauty had been drawing me in for days and I was aware and in awe of God every moment. I pulled out my phone and snapped this picture because I wanted a shot to remember this moment. The way the day was slipping away, the ocean was pushing in against the rocks, the resilience of seaside trees. I hoped to capture it all. It wasn't until later, I noticed. In the center of the bottom of this picture is a sea creature's tail. I tried zooming it in to no avail. I suspect this was a seal as I had seen others earlier in the week around this spot.



I had been fully present in this moment taking it all in for several minutes before I snapped this shot. I never once noticed any wildlife and I spent time looking for some marine mammals as I am quite fond of them. In a moment's time, I reflected on the astounding beauty of creation, the very real presence of God in my surroundings, and my own response to this experience. I was fully alive in that moment, sea spray on my face, nostrils filled with salt air, and heart sing in harmony with both God and creation. And yet, I missed it, a fellow product of creation at play in the surf or perhaps looking for their next meal. How amazing is it that even when we are fully aware of God and our surroundings, the distraction of technology tucked away, God can show up and surprise us! This is the God of abundance!



Remembering Matt Schreiner, our dear brother in Christ, with love and grateful hearts for his faithfulness, fellowship and kindness to all.



“Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.” ~ Psalm 23:6



September Save the Dates!

- 9/7 – Prayer Shawl Ministry (10-11am)
- 9/8 – Unraveled Bible Study (8:30am)
- 9/11 – Unraveled Bible Study (1:00pm)
- 9/9 – Small World Pre-school Begins
- 9/15 – Flu Shot Clinic (10:30am)
- 9/15 – Sunday School Begins
- 9/15 – Vital Congregations Study (11am)
- 9/21 – Rummage Sale (8am-noon)
- 9/16 – Deacons Meeting
- 9/23 – Session Meeting

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ~ Colossians 3:12

Prayer Shawl Ministry Celebrates its 12th Year of Giving!

Please join us for our first meeting this fall on Saturday, September 7, 10am at the church.

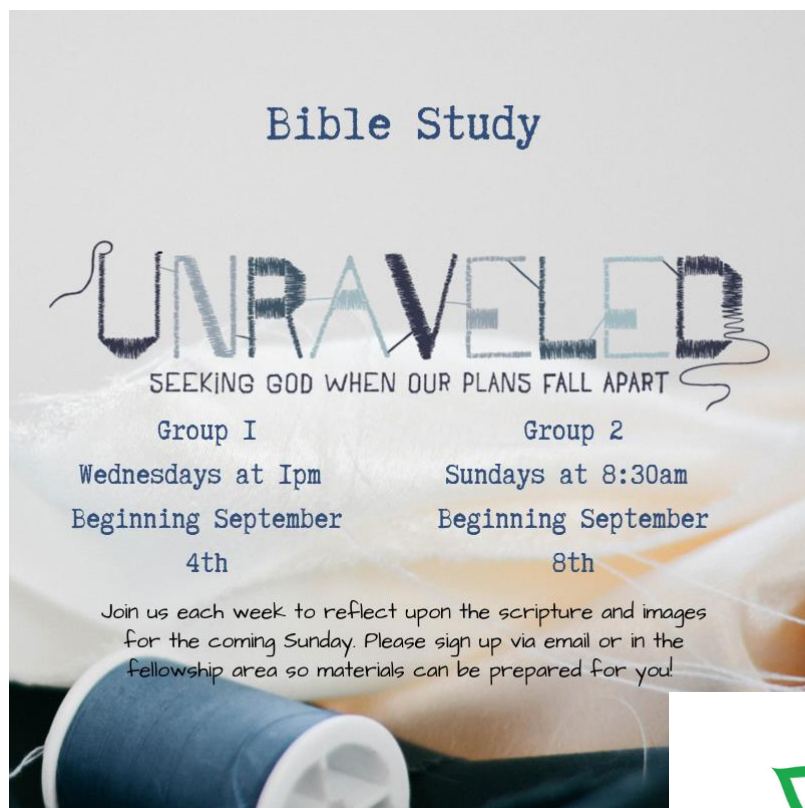
We need knitters! We welcome new members and anyone who would like to knit at home. Help us with Prayer Shawls, Baby Blankets, Scarves, Pocket Prayer Squares, Prayer Pillows – and newborn Baby Hats, our newest outreach project for Virtua Hospital in Mt Holly. See Janet Sharpe with any questions.





Fall Bible Studies

Mark your calendars for the these fall study options!



Vital Congregations

Bible Study

Sundays at 11 am

September 15 - October 27

Join us each week as we explore scriptures and the seven marks of a vital congregation. We will discuss what it means to be vital in our community! This nationwide initiative, which the presbytery is participating in, will be fully introduced in worship on 8/18/19.



Clean Your Closets!

Faith's 2019 Rummage Sale is Almost Here!

Saturday, Sept. 21 from 8 to noon

This event puts the **"FUN"** in fundraiser! Bring your stuff to sell. It's an easy half day of meeting people and hanging out on our lovely church front yard. Charlie and Joe will be making Faith MacMuffins in the morning and will grill hotdogs after that.

We still need more people to sign up to sell their items. There are many church tables available. You don't have to be a member to sell! Ask your neighbors, friends and relatives if they're interested. Sign them up on the poster in the fellowship room or use the flyer in the Sunday bulletin. If you sign up, you'll receive detailed information about setting up, parking and cleaning up.

If you're not selling, there are volunteer opportunities! We need people to help during the morning with setting up and selling. We still need donations of doughnuts, English muffins, eggs, cheese and baked goods for our high-profit grill booth! That sign up is also in the fellowship room and in the bulletin.





Gracemeals with Faith is Underway! ❤️

Our newest mission “**Gracemeals with Faith**” has been busy making and delivering nutritious meals as part of Faith’s outreach to the homeless.

Meals-to-Go

On July 17, we began assembling and delivering 30 individually-packaged salads and a protein bar to the Christian Caring Center, every Wednesday. To date, we have supplied 240 of the fresh, nutritious lunches for the homeless in the local areas. We are using environmentally friendly compostable containers and forks. We appreciate the fresh produce donations from the Hope Garden.

If you would like to be a part of this worthwhile new mission project, we could use help assembling the salads each Wednesday, 9 – 10 AM, or delivering these to the CCC in Browns Mills at 10 AM. We will continue until the end of September and plan to restart in May/June 2020.

Dinner Meals

We are also coordinating with area churches that are hosting homeless families as part of the Interfaith Hospitality Network of Burlington County. On Aug 12, we prepared a delicious meal of chili, corn bread, salad and dessert bars – enough to serve 8 people, who were being housed for one week at the Medford Methodist Church. We plan to continue to provide a meal on a quarterly basis to support the IHN mission. If you are interested in helping to cook the next meal at our church in November, please contact a steering committee member: Bonnie H, Sandy G, Joan Z or Lorraine K.

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, ... Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me. ~ Matthew 25:35,40





HOPE Garden 2019 1,000 Pounds!

It has been a rainy and buggy season, but the Helping Other People Eat (HOPE) Garden has been busy reaching out into the community. Donations of fresh vegetables – and our first plums – have surpassed 1,000 pounds as of the end of August. Fall crops are now coming in.

THANK YOU to all the volunteers who continue to help out in so many ways!!



Buildings and Grounds Update!

- ✓ Two root intrusions in our sewer line repaired
- ✓ Parking lot repairs complete
- ✓ Sanctuary roof repair contract issued, awaiting start date
- ✓ Two kitchen ovens tested, repaired and working *mostly* OK



Sunday School Begins September 15th!

We are looking for teachers! You will have an assistant and a lesson plan. It's forty minutes of fun plus it's so important for the adults to pass this knowledge on to the children. If you are interested, please see Linda Hamilton.

September Lessons:

9/15: God Calls Samuel

9/22: Samuel Anoints Saul

9/29: Samuel Anoints David

Students & Families!

Celebrate the
start of
Sunday School
with an

**ICE CREAM
SOCIAL**

September 15, 10:30am



A fun Mission Sunday on August 18th, exploring the HOPE Garden and how Faith Church is using the land around the Church to grow vegetables for those in need.

Whoever has a bountiful eye will be blessed, for he shares his bread with the poor. ~ Proverbs 22:9



View photos of these activities and more on our Facebook Page

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

No login required to view the photos.



HELP WANTED!

Church office volunteers need for the following:

- ❖ **Returning informational phone calls (can be done remotely)**
- ❖ **Organizing the all church/building calendar (can be done remotely, except for ½ hour per month)**
- ❖ **Updating the lighted sign out front**

See Pastor Becca for more information.