



Message from Pastor Becca

God is working in this place.
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GOD is working in *this* place!

Over the past few weeks we have been talking about our call stories; mine, yours, and ours. Being church is like being a big blended family gathering to worship, praise, and serve. I have told you many times on Sunday mornings all the ways I see God working here among us, in us, through us. I am confident God is with us in this difficult season of extended transition as we learn to be the church we are called to be, with the resources we have, today. I feel the Spirit moving as I begin to think about how we will worship and study during the season of Lent. If you grew up with siblings like mine, you know it is hard to find something that really speaks to everyone. If one of my siblings picked the music for any given road trip we might end up with Classic Rock, Folk, or Techno. No one would agree on the best choice. The same would be true if we talked about our gifts and passions. Even though we all share a family we all have gone on to experience the world differently. It reminds me a lot of life in church; I could sit quietly for hours while others need a little music. I might enjoy a book study and someone else might want a walking group. God has made us differently so that we might have ALL the gifts we collectively need to serve the community. I also understand we all encounter God differently. As I prepare for Lent I would love some input on how we could offer studies that would best feed your soul.

Below are some ideas that I am considering:

- Prayer Stations that change each week, for a time of engaged but quiet prayer on your own terms.
- A six week study on the Lord's Prayer & Lent, or The Great Thanksgiving (our Communion liturgy).
- A book study on how we read the Bible.
- A dinner group where we can chat about what life brings our way and hard questions.
- A book group working through contemplative practices at home and coming together to reflect.
- The amazing ideas you haven't shared with me yet!

Beloved, let me know what you need to grow in faith this Lent. I am so excited to walk with you all through this season for a third time. To explore the wilderness and await the resurrection. This is a difficult season in the life of our congregation as we face continuing transition. The Spirit is here and alive in this place!

Peace,
Pastor Becca



Soup and Sock Sunday!

After Worship February 9

On Sunday, February 9, the Deacons are hosting an all-church brunch with soup, salad, bread and dessert. You do not have to bring any food contribution for this “breaking bread” feasting and fellowship time.

Coinciding with this brunch, the Mission Committee is collecting new, warm socks for homeless men, women and youth. A box is available in the fellowship area for your donation during February.

**No sign up is needed – just come and enjoy
Soup and Sock Sunday!**



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



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. The steps are easy and fun for all ages and skill levels. We will happily train you! We already have one mat completed and many more in progress. Each week, we welcome back regular visitors from Lord of Life Lutheran Church and St. Mary of the Lakes. This year, we're getting lots of guests from Medford Methodist! Come and meet these wonderful friends. You don't have to come every week or even stay for the whole two hours. Any help you can provide is most welcome. See Bonnie Halle with any questions.





Sunday School Update

- Our new Children's Corner is set up in the Fellowship Room, giving the children a dedicated space to play after Sunday School.
- We're on a Mission to help others in our community! In December, we had a Holiday Food Collection, and in January, we learned about Faith's Sleep Mat Ministry and how to make waterproof sleep mats for the homeless.
- Our next Mission Sunday will be February 16. Hint: it's about caring for others and acts of kindness. On March 8th, we'll be making Sleep Mats again!
- Be sure to come to Sunday School each week until Palm Sunday as we'll be learning a new song for our Palm Sunday Parade!





Session Report

Session spent much time discussing the church's stewardship and its 2020 budget which has a deficit. The discussion included the number of pledges out of the giving units, the expenses for the year, and pastoral terms of call for 2021. Another discussion was on changing the insurance plan to Franklin Mutual for 2020. Since Christian Education does not have a line item in the budget and they want to purchase the curriculum program entitled Deep Blue, Session approved taking the money out of the Youth Donation Fund. Finally, Session approved the election of John Heald as Corporate President, Ginny Magnus as Secretary/Clerk, and Joe Currie as Treasurer for 2020.

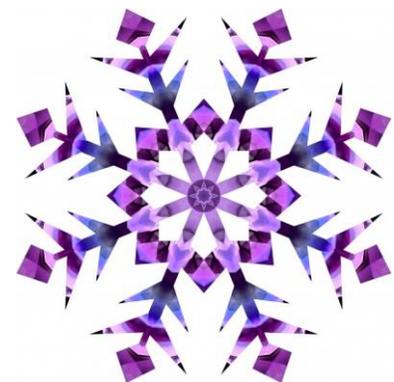
On January 26, Faith Church held a Congregational Meeting and Corporation Meeting. At this meeting, the congregation discussed the 2019 Annual Report, the 2020 Budget, and approved the selection of the corporation officers as selected by Session.

Ginny Magnus, Clerk of Session

FYI About Weather 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 Please insure that the church office has your correct contact information.



Pastor Becca's Drop-in Office Hours

- ✓ Monday 3 - 5 pm
- ✓ Tuesday 10 am – 12 noon
- ✓ Wednesday 9:30 am – 12 noon at Lakes Coffee
- ✓ Thursday by appointment

It's always a good idea to call first in case something has come up.



Mission Committee Update

Thank you for your generous donations to the **Christmas Mission Offering**. Your financial gifts make it possible for us to help people in need. We were able to send a donation to help Puerto Rico after the recent earthquakes and for the ongoing recovery from the hurricanes. We are also exploring direct aid in the form of items they can no longer find in Puerto Rico such as bug spray, tarps, etc. We will keep you posted on that opportunity.

The **Socks for the Homeless** campaign will continue until the end of February. Place your new, warm socks for men, women and youth in the tote in the fellowship area. Did you know that socks are the most needed and least donated items for the homeless? Thank you.

Please continue to be in prayer for our 3 missionaries: Greg & Christine Callison serving in Iraq, Dr. Stephen & Amy Chiu and their young sons Joshua & Timothy serving in central Asia and our friend Denise Hoover who serves in Indonesia. These dedicated missionaries put themselves in harm's way on a daily basis in order to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Lorraine Kunkle, Mission Committee Chair

Take A Copy!

The pamphlet "Our Daily Bread" is available for you in the fellowship area. Please take one and keep it to read or pass it along to someone you know who might find comfort or inspiration inside.



Hats Off to Debbie!

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

Give Debbie a Thank You! Go to our Facebook page and reply to the thread.

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



Jigsaw Puzzle Lending Library

We heard that Leisuretowne closed its famous “take one, leave one” puzzle collection so we decided to do something about it!

We’ve made a jigsaw puzzle library here at Faith Church. It’s in the hallway closet between the narthex and the loft stairs. The door always said “HVAC” but now it also says “Jigsaw Puzzle Library.” It’s a modest start with only five puzzles but feel free to donate or borrow puzzles to get you through the winter!



2020 Per Capita Fee

The 2020 per member cost for per capita is \$38.75 as set by the Denomination, Synod & Presbytery. The Per Capita fee goes to help the General Assembly (23% or \$8.95), the Northeast Synod (11% or \$4.10), and our own West Jersey Presbytery (66% or \$25.70). Please use the blue envelope titled “Per Capita Apportionment” which you received with your pledge envelopes and write “2020 Per Capita fee” in the check memo.