



A Message from Pastor Becca

Typically, I embrace the arrival of Autumn. I enjoy the cooler temperatures, the spicy scents and flavors, and the warmth of fall foliage. This year as the temperatures turned quickly, I found myself experiencing a sense of dread. Knowing that when the cold comes, we will be forced back indoors, makes me a little on edge. The isolation we experienced at the end of last winter is not something I am eager to dive back into. Over these warmer months I have enjoyed seeing my neighbors as they move about the neighborhood, saying hello to you in the church parking lot, and exploring all sorts of remote places in nature throughout New Jersey. I wonder if you too experienced this when we had our first snap of dry cool weather? I have grown weary of our new way of life. Perhaps you have too?

Early in the pandemic my neighborhood became incredibly quiet. Outside my front door where there are almost always children playing, there was nothing. Everyone quiet and trying to move as quickly as they could giving a friendly nod as they walked through the neighborhood. As late winter gave way into spring and then summer; we stopped to say hello again, had chats about our gardens, and eventually the sounds of children returned. Even the children seemed to understand that we needed to keep space. As summer turns to fall some families have returned to all their activities and others have not. Some parents remain extremely cautious while others are doing anything that restrictions have been lifted from. As you might imagine this can at times cause some tension.

Church life is not a whole lot different, some of us are back out in the world every day and others of us are hunkered down at home. As such we all have big passionate feelings about the return to worship in our building. I have heard passionate cases for reopening the building and passionate cases to not reopen the building. While that is not a decision I can make, it is one your Session is working diligently on. As your pastor, I want you to know I hear you if you are on team open or if you are on team stay closed. I tell you this because for every ounce of passion you feel about staying entirely online or coming back to church for worship, someone you worship with has the same amount of passion in the opposite direction. I know we have grown weary and the world feels so very unstable. We long for the anchoring of our faith, which for many of us is the desire to be in our building worshipping.

We are not quite there yet but we are getting closer every day to being able to safely get into our building to worship again. I thank you for your continued patience, the Ruling Elders you have elected to lead Faith Presbyterian Church are doing a phenomenal job leading us through this pandemic. They have been tasked with writing a reopening plan from scratch, following ever changing State, County, CDC, and denominational guidelines and restrictions. In this month's newsletter you will have an update from your Elder reopening team. My prayer is that we can celebrate the work that has been done thus far and continue to pray our way back into worship together.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Becca



Update from Your Church Reopening Committee.

The reopening plan that the committee has been working on was sent to the Presbytery for their consideration. They have sent back their approval of the plan with some additional safety precautions. We gladly added their recommendations to our plan as we endeavor to be as safe as possible when we reopen the church. The date for that reopening is still under consideration by Session as we work towards a unanimous vote.



What's New? The Buurmas welcomed a new granddaughter, Sydney Jane, born September 15 to their daughter Emily and her husband, Chris.



What's New? Evan has his things boxed up and ready to move to his new apartment in Cherry Hill! Just waiting for that Covid clearance!

Directory Updates – Send Them Now!

The most recent version of the church directory will be sent out at the end of October so that you have updated information for holiday cards. If you have changed your email or phone number, please send the new information to the church email. If you moved and already notified the church and are receiving your offering envelopes at the correct location, that change has been noted in the directory. Thanks!



October Session Report

Session discussed a 2021 budget draft. A Stewardship Campaign will start soon. After hearing back from the WJ Presbytery Committee on Ministry approving Faith's initial reopening plan, the Reopening Committee made revisions in the initial plan. Session has now approved the Revised Reopening Plan for In-Person and Virtual Worship as well as a plan for Faith Committees to meet inside the church. A reopening date for in-person worship continues to be worked on. A Congregational Meeting has been set for November 22, 2020. Finally, some outside fellowship will be held in the near future. Fire pits will be used for warmth.

Ginny Magnus, Clerk of Session



What's New? Joan and Stephen spent a day walking across the Hudson River on the longest pedestrian bridge in our country and hiking in the Poughkeepsie, NY area.



What's New? Dianne painted this bold new masterpiece and has a shirt to match!





Deacons' Info Coming Soon

Stay tuned! The Deacons have important information to share with you in the next few weeks as we gear up for the fall season. Look for special emails and Sunday announcements on upcoming food drives and Acme Turkey Coupon sales. These will benefit the Christian Caring Center in Pemberton, Extended Hand Ministry in Mt. Holly, and our own food shelf!

Now Offering Door-To-Door Jigsaw Puzzle Delivery!

Great news! You can now get a jigsaw puzzle brought right to your house! Bill Kunkle will bring a selection of several puzzles and will arrive (wearing a mask) to show them to you at your front door. You can indicate which one or two you want and he will leave them on your porch. If you have completed puzzles and would like to donate them back to our collection, leave them on your porch and he will take them away with him.

Our puzzle shelf is turning into a puzzle closet! There are many styles and sizes to choose from. The Kunkles have completed almost every puzzle in the collection and are happy to make recommendations based on interest and skill. **You can call or text Bill at 609-315-1369** or wlkunkle@verizon.net to arrange a time to meet.



Gracemeals Update

Gracemeals with Faith has prepared 375 fresh salads this summer. A protein bar is included with each salad and the environmentally friendly container and fork are made from sugarcane so they are biodegradable. The salads are delivered to the homeless in Pemberton via the Christian Caring Center.

A big thanks to everyone who volunteered to make and deliver salads as well as to the HOPE Garden for their many donations!



What's New? I have a new niece! After 50 years of waiting, Kimberly was finally allowed to access her birth certificate from the State of NJ. Her mother is my older sister Donna who lives in Florida. I have five brothers and sisters and we are all excited about the new family addition. Kimberly has not met Donna but they have spoken on the phone numerous times.

Mary and I met with Kimberly, her husband and her son at Ridley Creek State Park. We chatted and shared pictures for about two hours. Kimberly is a pediatrician living near West Chester, PA. We plan to meet again soon and do some hiking with my new niece. You never know what each day will bring.

-Joe C.



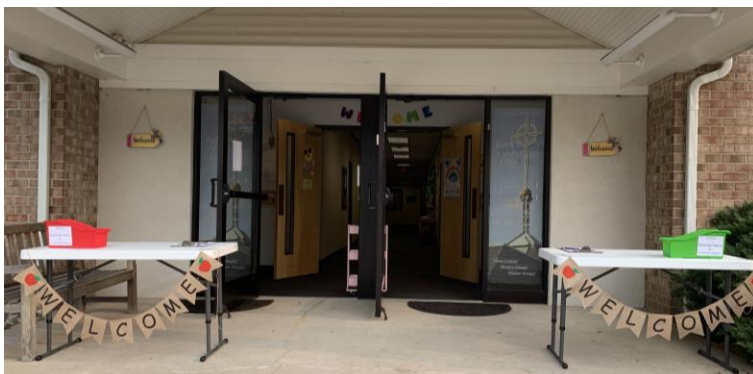
What's New? Caroline, Jenna, Rob and Kay hiking in Tahoe!

Small World is Back!

We had our first day, with our new school hours (9:00-3:15) on Monday, September 14th. We are small on enrollment (only 43 students), but the volume of love, laughter and learning in the building is overflowing ♥

We do miss our FPC friends and hope that real soon we are all back together!

Jayne Norcross, Small World Director





HOPE Garden Update

The HOPE Garden continues to donate fresh vegetables to St Vincent food pantries in Medford and Tabernacle. Fall crops are growing well, including Black Seeded Simpson lettuce, string beans and carrots.

Pictured is a thank you from St. Vincent of Holy Eucharist in Tabernacle for the produce we have been giving them this year.



Fall is Here!

Black-seeded Simpson lettuce enjoying the cooler weather!



What's New? Charlie has a new leisure time hobby!



Fall Is Here! Joyce's porch has a toothy Halloween couple taking a ride!



What's New? The Mystery Gourd! A vine appeared and Becca let it grow until this amazing gourd happened!



Fall is Here! Butterflies are still enjoying the flowers in HOPE Garden.