



A Message from Pastor Becca

It won't be long now before I stand up and declare: "He is risen!" Easter is the pinnacle of all our Christian celebrations, it is the moment when Jesus is truly recognized as the Messiah. It is the day that our Christian faith traditions are established around. Jesus being raised from the dead is the game changer. Resurrection is central to our faith. This celebration of new life, new beginnings, new direction, new energy is what we are grounded in. In fact, it echoes through almost everything we do, each week we worship on Sunday because it is the day of resurrection. We confess our sins and receive forgiveness, a new start on the regular. I suspect we have all had these glimpses of new life and a fresh start on our personal journeys as well.

In 2008 I bought my mom a little rose plant. It was planted in front of her house and it thrived. It bloomed each year with pink edged yellow petals. Despite little attention being paid to it through a variety of renters the bush just kept blooming. In 2019 in preparing to sell that house, she asked me if I would like to go dig up the rose bush and plant it at my house. I read up on how to transplant a mature rose bush. The key was getting it dug up before it showed signs of new growth. I remember arriving and feeling defeated as I saw new growth already had appeared. It was very cold and raining, I did not have all the right tools as the root system was much larger than I had planned for. I ended up hacking off the main root with the end of my shovel. I wrapped the root ball in a bag and shoved the plant in my passenger seat for the drive back, branches broke off. I got it right in the ground and did a few things to encourage it to take root. Then all the new growth died. I just waited and right when I was about to give up hope, there it was, signs of new growth. By the end of the summer, it had bloomed with beautiful blooms again and now thrives just outside my front door. With a little care and lots of waiting, there was new life to behold. I marvel at just how amazing God's creation is that it can endure in such a way.

It is no secret that these past three years have been challenging ones for our congregation. There are days when it is quite easy for me to slink down into despair and wonder if I hope will ever show itself again. We are resurrection people, we believe in new life, in second and third chances, in miracles that just do not make sense. The pandemic cut down a good bit of the work we had done to live into the invitation to new life. We have been sitting dormant like that rose bush just waiting for some care, needing some time so that we might find renewed life. We are at a crossroads in our church life where we know we need resurrection. It is easy to feel overwhelmed by the challenges and lose hope. Beloved, our church needs a little TLC, and there is something you can do to help.

If we are going to live into the hope-filled future that we are being called to by God, we are going to have to get our hands a little dirty. We are going to have to pray like we never have before. We are going to be called to action. One way you can answer that call right now is by answering the call to leadership in our church. We are already in the season where our Nominating Committee is hard at work to identify our next classes of Ruling Elders and Deacons. It has been a challenge to fill these rolls for some time, but they are essential to our living into the future. The way forward begins with energetic and prayerful leadership! I am asking you as we enter this season to prayerfully consider if God is calling you to one of these important and life-giving ministries. Could you be the leader that helps bring new life to our congregation?

I am asking you to make this a daily part of your prayer life throughout the months of April and May. If you have questions, concerns, doubts, or joys please do not hesitate to reach out, we can have a conversation about what it looks like to take on one of these rolls.

Let us pray: *Holy God, I lift before you the members of Faith Presbyterian Church as we commit to praying about our call to be leaders. Let their hearts be clear of any voice but your own as you call us into the future. May our collective gifts be used to serve you, the church, each other, and our broader community. Continue to bless our vibrant ministries. Stir our hearts to action so that we might live into the promise of resurrection. Amen.*

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Becca



HOPE Garden Season 2021 Begins!

There will be a great need for fresh organic produce this spring, so there was no delay in preparing the HOPE Garden for planting. On Saturday, March 27th, garden volunteers worked in small groups to clean up the garden and make repairs. All enjoyed the fellowship of working together productively outdoors on this important mission, while keeping our required social distance.

There is another work day planned for Saturday, April 10 (weather permitting). Contact Mary with any questions or if you're interested in one of the remaining garden plots. Looking forward to a bountiful 2021 season!!



***"Trust in the Lord and do good; live in the land and be safe."
Psalm 37:3***





Session Update

During the March meeting, Session discussed and then approved several motions. Session approved the calling of a Congregational Meeting on April 25, 2021 for the purpose of electing three members-at-large for the Nominations Committee. The Nomination Committee needs to find several church members to volunteer for work as an elder and as a deacon so that both groups can continue the wonderful mission work that they have been involved in.

Additional motions that Session approved connect to the Reopening Guidelines. Members still must enter the church by the parking lot door so that the greeters can record their presence. The newly approved motions now allow members to enter and to exit the sanctuary and the church by any door, to permit verbal responses during worship, and when necessary, to allow an adult to take small children out of the worship service and stay with them in the Fellowship area to play with the toys that they brought with them. Church members may now fellowship on the back patio after the worship service. Finally, Morning Glories, OGs, and the Sleep Mat groups may now meet in the Fellowship area when they are ready to meet again with the requirement that each group member must wear a mask, attend to social distancing, and clean the used area when they finish.

Virginia Magnus
Clerk of Session

Deacon Update

The casserole ministry is really helping folks in Mt. Holly. The photo, taken by Rob, shows Kay picking up a casserole from Paige for Extended Hands Ministry.

The Deacons deliver 5-6 casseroles every other Saturday to the Ministry. **We are always in need of casseroles!**

Anyone can drop one off at the Church anytime. Just label it and leave it in the new fridge or freezer in the kitchen. Thank you.





OGs Update

We got a resounding response to the proposal to meet again before the summer break! Not everyone is ready to return, but enough have said "YES" to make it worth our while.

Those interested will meet on Thursday, April 8 in the Fellowship room at the usual time of 9:15. We should enter through the side door by the kitchen, and keep our social distances and wear masks. We will wipe down the chairs after we are through.

We can discuss what is new in our lives since we last met, and make plans for the rest of the Spring and our return in the Fall. Prizes for the most hair-raising quarantine stories! We will have name tags available so that we know who we are.

All so inclined can proceed to brunch at the Medport Diner afterwards.

Looking forward to a great time! Contact Charlie with any questions.



Sleep Mat Update

Sleep Mat volunteers also responded well to a "return to church" survey. While most opted to work from home, there were enough interested that we will meet each Saturday in April from 10 to noon.

Please contact Bonnie by the Friday before if you plan to attend. Participation is limited to 8 each week.

There are still hundreds of already flattened yellow bags if anyone wants to work on them at home. This ministry is in its final year so all remaining bags will be either flattened or cut into strips for easy storage. Crocheters can continue to use these supplies while they last.



Outdoor Fellowship on the Patio!

Each week we will hold fellowship time on the back patio. We won't have refreshments just yet. You are welcome to visit with friends on the patio. Please keep your mask on until you return to your car. Please be aware of social distancing.

Small World Update

Small World is very excited about Easter and the arrival of spring!!

Our TK class has been graphing the Lion vs. Lamb days of March and studying Rainbows, Weather and Wind.

Pre-K and Caps are busy working on the letter M and learning about the Solar System, Space and Astronauts.

Our three's and two's are learning about Easter, Rainbows and Springtime Rebirth.

Small World wishes everyone a Blessed Easter!!





***Congregational Meeting
Sunday, April 25 at 10:30 am***



One Great Hour of Sharing

Your Mission Committee wants to thank you for your generous donations to our 2021 OGHS campaign to support Presbyterian Mission projects around the world. If you have not yet made your donation, it is not too late! You can still send your donation via mail to the church, online giving or bring in person on Easter Sunday. Thank you.

Prayer for OGHS:

God of life, be with us.

May we see you in the lives of all we meet,

and may we offer ourselves in kindness and kinship to all those in need. Amen

