

Tidings and Treasures - April 2022

Dear PVEC Community,

What does the resurrection mean to us? **We are now “Easter People.”** We are the Body of Christ. We allow Him to live through our bodies and voices, our thoughts and dreams, our arms, and faces. This is not merely a nice metaphor; it speaks a reality by which we live as Easter people. Jesus now is with us, within us. He is also outside us, in others—we meet him especially in those who need our love, those we can feed, clothe, visit, heal, forgive, and love.

As our loved Ninabeth is being moved to another church, we are now experiencing an opportunity to look at ourselves as Easter People and ask our members and friends to help plan a way forward as we explain to possible pastor candidates “who we are” and the direction we want to go.

PVEC has gathered a discernment committee, consisting of congregation members, both young and older, who have volunteered to take on this task. But we have a job to do to help them. Here is what they ask:

What is the Next Chapter in PVEC's Story?

The Discernment Team has begun the process of learning where God is calling our church.

A very important part of discerning the next chapter in the story of our church is.... YOUR story.

Understanding where we have been on our 50+ year journey as a church and as a congregation will help us all gain insights into:

- Who we are today
- What has mattered and does matter to us individually and as a church
- What have been the high -- and low -- points in our 50+ years as a congregation
- How has the ministry of this church touched your life, the lives of others, our congregation, and our community
- What we want our church to be as we move forward

I'm enclosing a stamped envelope and a 3 X 5 index card on which you can give us your thoughts and memories as we collect our story. Whether you are now attending church on a regular basis, worshipping with us on-line, or have moved to another place, we want your thoughts!

As of July 1st, Ninabeth will move on to her next assignment with the Greater Methodist Church, and we will have one of our favorite interim pastors leading our worship services: Rev. Deacon Jeanette Hile, who is a member of the Episcopal Diocese of Newark.

In the meantime, here's a Stewardship snapshot of what's happening at our church: Fund-raising is at an all-time high as the pandemic FINALLY winds down. Call Nikki in the office (908-852-5444) for times to these events:

1. Spring-Fling Vendor sale was a huge success, both for our church as well as the vendors
2. Rummage Sale starts on April 22
3. Chicken Dinners continue
4. Bunny Breakfast April 16
5. Fish and Chips dinner is planned for June 18
6. Vacation Bible School August 1 – 5

And now a little joke:



Have a blessed Easter Season, He Has Risen, Hallelujah! Blessings, Donna Weinberg