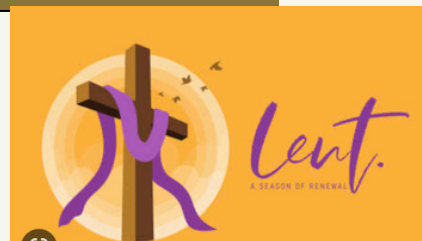




# Pemberton UMC NEWSLETTER



## MARCH AND APRIL 2023 ISSUE

### FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR

*Its a new season, do you see it.*

*Isaiah 43:19a NLT, For I am about to do something new.  
See, I have already begun! Do you not see it?*

I love this time of year. It is the season of new beginnings. Spring is just around the corner with daylight saving being on March 12. Where did the time go this year, it seems we blinked and now it is March and soon April the season of Lent and Easter. We begin to witness the blooming of the flowers pushing through earth to move from a season of hibernating to now being able to flourish. This is the time of year were all the beautiful pastel colors begin to line the store shelves, chocolate Easter bunnies and eggs are everywhere. We will begin to plan when it's time to boil eggs to dye(do people still do this?).

When I was a kid, I remember shopping for a new Easter dress with my mom and grandma, which would be such an exciting time. We would make a day of it, I would try on lots of dresses, with lots of ruffles and lace everywhere. I would get pretty ankle socks, and uncomfortable patent leather shoes. Everything would be planned for Easter, we would go to church followed by a wonderful family dinner. As I child, I can say that I never really understood the meaning of Easter. It was just another day were I got to wear my new dress. As I got older, I learned that for the believer this was one of the most important days of the year, the resurrection of our Savior.

Today I proclaim, "He has risen, He has risen indeed." I get excited knowing that Easter is the reminder of how much God loves us. The reminder that I don't need to be perfect to earn God's love, it is given freely without reservation.

As I think about this new season at Pemberton, I have just arrived in July 2022, and things are slowing changing for both me and you the, congregation. There are things springing up in the atmosphere. I was just talking about change last week at Wednesday's Bible Study. Many of us desire change, we want new things to happen, we want to see new things happen at church, we want to see growth and the list goes on....

However, when change meets us, we become afraid of what will happen. I experienced this with my new dog Betty. I was looking for a buddy for Bailey for months. Then the morning when it was to become official, I started to panic. Could I really care for 2 dogs, will Bailey like her, maybe this was a bad decision. I realized that is how change is experienced for us all, we are open to change until the moment where change is staring us right in the face. We may begin to ask questions, "What does this mean now, we have a new pastor, and she is having us vision new ways of being, she doesn't lead like Pastor Carter, and will she be good for our congregation. Now after thinking about it, maybe I don't really want to change."

Uncertainty can be hard to imagine. But just as nature changes with new beginnings every year it brings great beauty. Maybe we need to look at our fears about change and try to find ways to trust God in the process. God is always with us and will never leave us or forsake us.

As your new pastor, I believe that this next season at Pemberton will be great. The beauty of change is it opens up the opportunity for something new to bloom, in ways we never imagined. My time at Pemberton, has been a journey of learning. It has challenged my own ideas of change which has been wonderful , and the uncertainty of ministry has been hard for me.

I admit to you that my journey has been far from perfect. It's hard to learn how to fly a plane while sitting in the pilot seat. Thank you for all the ways you have supported me through the hills and valleys. I'm learning that ministry is built on relationships.

I may not know much but the one thing that I do know is that God loves each of us, and God loves the church. He will provide for, care for and guide Pemberton into a glorious future. We may not know what the future holds , but there will be ministry, there will be lives to be touched, people to be fed, cloths to be given and washed, joy to be felt and Gods abounding love for us all.

When I stop and think about the goodness of God, I get excited about the season of Lent and Easter that demonstrates God's love for us. When God sent his only begotten son for our sins, what greater love can there be. Remember things changed when Jesus died, all the disciples and the people had to learn to live in their new reality. If they could survive we will survive this season of change at Pemberton. God is indeed doing something new, do you see it?

Blessings,

Rev. Dr. Tiffany S. Murphy



## Upcoming Events

March 14 - Food Pantry and God's Closet

March 19 - Coffee with the Pastor immediately after the service

March 19 - Moses, - Sight and Sound – \$25.00 Deposit  
Due(date (August 5 )



March 22 - Senior Lunch at 12:30 PM - Sign-up sheets in the back of the Church

March 22- God's closet will be open for an hour after service

March 28 - Food Pantry, God's Closet, and Loads of Love

April 2- Palm Sunday

April 7, Good Friday Stations of the Cross

# Star Word Check-in

A Star Word is just an ordinary word chosen around the season of Epiphany. (Epiphany is the season after Christmas, celebrating the arrival of the Wise Ones to see the Infant Christ.) Star Words are meant to be thought-provoking. Inspiring. Engaging.

*Well...*



I had thought that IMAGINE would be a more fanciful word. A creative word. A way to revise my thinking and my perspective on life and Calling. I knew rounding into the New Year that I was going to be transitioning to a new position in our hospice organization, from spiritual care to bereavement counselor. I was excited and imagined all of the possibilities for ministry. I had lofty goals for my personal and professional growth.

Instead, I am now walking through circumstances that I never *ever* imagined. Not in my wildest *Imaginations...*

My husband's metastatic prostate cancer was unimaginable. Supporting him and my daughters as he goes through scans, tests, and chemo was never on my horizon.

My diagnosis of uterine cancer came out of left field. Of course "something" was wrong. (Post-menopausal spotting is always concerning.) But the diagnosis shocked me and my gynecologist. I remember her words: "I never imagined this..."

Cancer brings a set of feelings, especially fear and uncertainty. What I thought I could do, what I planned to tackle in 2022 was tossed by the wayside. Trips? Postponed. Vacation? Spent going to doctor's visits and recovering from surgery. Work projects? Delayed or handed to someone else. The simplest of goals have been set aside...

So what has IMAGINE been teaching me?

First, when I am stressed or scared, I go to THE WORST possible outcome. It's not just the doom and gloom of having a cancer diagnosis. It's the worries about what the future could bring. It's looking too far ahead into the unknown of a prognosis. It's every ache and pain, every side effect being over-played, and the fear of an opportunistic infection.

Second, I run from my feelings, until they catch me and flatten me. Smiling on the outside, struggling on the inside. I hide a lot from others. Only when I feel safe do I really share my fears and my tears. Those who don't know what living with cancer is like either praise me for being "brave" (I'm NOT) or call me a "warrior" (I'm just trying to live), or worse, "ghost" me and don't say anything at all.

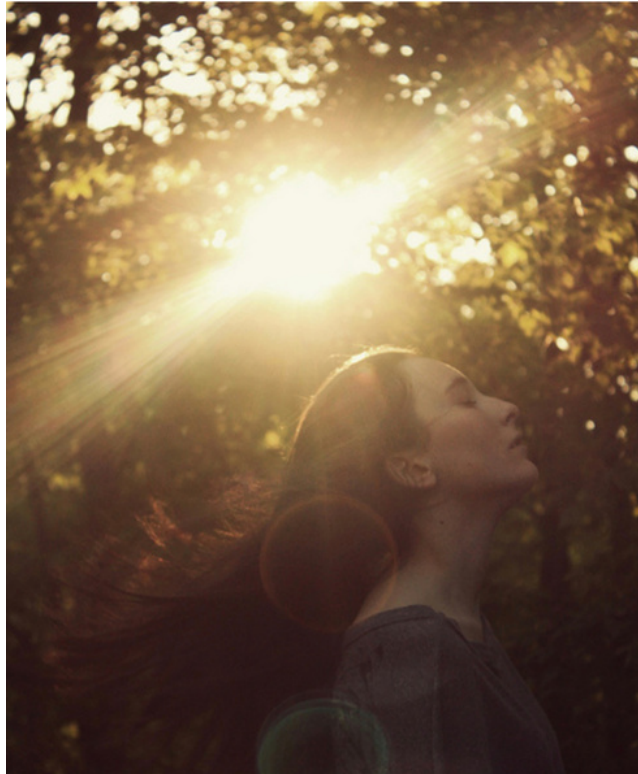
Finally, my overactive imagination can lead me to expect the worst. Anxiety and fear are a part of living with cancer. So are anger and frustration. The truth is... things are (at least for the moment) not as bad as I fear.





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# Star Word Check in Cont.



And... in all of these moments, I forget that I follow a God who can do more than I can *imagine*! Not just for me, but for all people... everywhere... down through time. As the Apostle Paul wrote:

*20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen. (Ephesians 4. NRSV)*

That's the image and presence of the Divine that I hang on to. Beyond all that I can even *imagine*, the Holy One is at work. My ability to trust and follow is limited. But the creative and imaginative power of God is not!

By Rev Deb Vaughn, "*An Unfinished Symphony*"





Pemberton United Methodist Church  
**Sat. August 5, 2023**



**INCLUDES:**

- ★ Sight & Sound Theatre Show
- ★ Free Time @ Bird-in-Hand Farmers Market
- ★ Buffet Meal @ Millers Restaurant
- ★ Round Trip Motorcoach Transportation *via JC Tours*
- ★ All Taxes and Gratuities *(Except Driver)*



**\$168 Per Person**

**ITINERARY:**

**8:00 AM PROMPT DEPARTURE:** *Pemberton, NJ -45 Hanover St. @ Pemberton U.M. Church*  
 10:15 am Approx. arrival at S&S  
 11:00 am Showtime  
 2:00 pm Depart for Farmers Mkt.  
 2:15 pm Free Time at Farmers Mkt.  
 3:15 pm Depart for restaurant  
 3:30 pm Buffet Meal  
 5:00 pm Depart for home  
 7:00 pm Approx. arrival home



**FOR RESERVATIONS CALL:**  
**Pastor Tiffany Murphy**  
**856-292-5294**



**PLEASE FILL OUT RESERVATION FORM BELOW**

Sat. 08/05/23

S&S Theatre "MOSES"

GROUP: Pemberton United Methodist Church

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

# of People Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: home \_\_\_\_\_

/cell \_\_\_\_\_

We are pleased that you are considering joining us to see Moses at Sight and Sound on August 5, 2023. Below you will see the details for your deposit to hold you spot and a payment plan schedule. Please note that the payment plan is optional. You are free to pay whenever you would like too. We are just providing a timetable to allow you time to work towards getting your ticket paid off. You can give your reservation form and payments to Sandy Osiecki or JoAnne Vanderveer. You will need to pay your deposit of \$25 to hold your spot for the trip by March 19.

Also, if you decide to pay your money online you must indicate in the dedicated funds line that the payment is for "Sight and Sound 23." When we take payments online, we are charged a service fee. You will need to cover the fee. We can you an average of what the service charge will be when you get closer to paying it off, we can give you what is needed for your final payment.

Total Cost of Ticket is \$168 for adults

\$105 for Children 12 and under

Payment plans available upon request