



MAY AND JUNE ISSUE 2023

FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR

To Do The Next Thing

Do you ever have moments when you just don't know what to do? Do you have moments where you feel stuck in your tracks and don't know how to move forward? Do have days when you feel like you are moving backwards and it has left you in a paralyzed state? I have experienced all of these moments at one time or another. Recently, on a day when I felt quite discouraged I was told that sometimes we just need, "To Do the Next Thing." I began to wonder what does that mean "To Do the Next Thing." I began to think about a clock on the wall the time is constantly moving, it never stops it changes every minute. The clock never stops no matter what happens it always goes to the next minute, and to the next hour.

I'm reminded of the story 2 Kings 4:1-7 NLT "One day the widow of a member of the group of prophets came to Elisha and cried out, "My husband who served you is dead, and you know how he feared the Lord. But now a creditor has come, threatening to take my two sons as slaves." "What can I do to help you?" Elisha asked. "Tell me, what do you have in the house?" "Nothing at all, except a flask of olive oil," she replied. And Elisha said, "Borrow as many empty jars as you can from your friends and neighbors. Then go into your house with your sons and shut the door behind you. Pour olive oil from your flask into the jars, setting each one aside when it is filled." So she did as she was told. Her sons kept bringing jars to her, and she filled one after another. Soon every container was full to the brim! "Bring me another jar," she said to one of her sons. "There aren't any more!" he told her. And then the olive oil stopped flowing. When she told the man of God what had happened, he said to her, "Now sell the olive oil and pay your debts, and you and your sons can live on what is left over."

This story is great at demonstrating what it means "To Do the Next Thing," because the widow didn't know how her story would end. When Elisha asked her what do you have in your hands. He tells her to use what she has already. Her answer seems to be one of defeat, I have nothing but a flask of oil. He gives her the task to borrow and to fill the jars. She has no idea why Elisha is having her do this at the time. She just does what the prophet told her to do by filling the jars one by one.

Take a moment to think about when you have felt defeated or stuck and not sure how to handle the situation. The thing just seems overwhelming. My question for you is what is the "Next Step" you can take? Not the answer to the problem or situation, but what can you do next to start the journey of progress. I say, don't look at the whole picture, dreaming about how the story will end just, "Do the Next Thing."

The woman learns after she was obedient to the prophet, that he was setting her up to pay her debt. I'm sure didn't realize what she was doing was going to help her. But it did. There are times when we may not see the whole picture but if we are willing to just take the next step God will take us step by step to reveal what the plan is for us. I want to challenge you to not get stuck in trying to see the whole picture or trying to solve whole issue but just say to yourself I'm going, "To Do the Next Thing." The next thing maybe just getting up and going about your day. The next thing maybe taking a moment not to worry about or be anxious about the outcome but to focus on the small things. The next thing maybe to take it to God in prayer. The next thing maybe to take time to read your bible. Or make a phone call or do something that is moving your forward. The key is to not become stagnate or overwhelmed just take it one minute, one hour at time by "Doing The Next Thing.

Blessings,

Rev. Dr. Tiffany S. Murphy





Upcoming Events

May 23- Food Pantry, God's Closet, (10am-12 noon) and Loads of Love (contact Mariko Tabone for more information)

Ma 21 - Food and Fellowship

June 1- Moses Sight and Sound payment is due. Tickets still available. Trip is August 5.

June 3- Church Work Day

June 13- Food Pantry and God's Closet (10am-12 noon)

June 17- Church Picnic(12noon- 5pm)Meats provided by church- look for the sign up sheet to bring food and we need charcoal.(around May 28)

June 27 - Food Pantry, God's Closet, (10am-12 noon)and Loads of Love











Women's Ministry



On May 10, six women went to Keswick for their Spring Ladies Day featuring Susan Larson. There were over 650 women present that day. It was a great day of affirmation and encouragement that we have all been called by God in unique ways. There were many things she shared with us, I just want to include a few of the things she said:

*If the Lord calls you out, he will hold you up. Based around Peter walking on the water

*If God is making me wait, it is because he is making me ready

*I accept me and trust God. Allowing ourselves to know we are valuable to God, nothing missing or lacking.

*What would a healed you look like a year from now.

*Then she dared us and I dare you to spend 15 minutes a day, realizing that you are loved by God.

Then she gave us a faith declaration that we can pray every day to be strong in battle.



As a citizen of the Heavenly Kingdom, An Heir of God A Joint Heir with Christ, Filled with the Spirit of the Living God speak with precision, I pray with power, I walk in authority I am anointed and appointed, Blessed and beloved Bold and brave, Called and courageous Because I know God is with me I will triumph over my enemy And stand with Jesus on that final day



On May 16, some of the women of Pemberton met to talk about our history. We talked about what we wanted our purpose to be in the future. We were all clear that we just didn't want to be a ministry that had meetings month after to month. There was a collective sense that we wanted to be missional. So the women have decided that we would like to bless the families that come to the food pantry, with items that maybe difficult to get with food stamps or a limited income. So for the next four months, each month we will have different items to donate.

June and July: Toilet paper, body soap, paper towels and trash bags





Women's Ministry Cont'd

August and September: tooth brushes, tooth paste, hair shampoo and deodorant



We will be collecting these items at the back of the church. We are asking that as you go grocery shopping over the next few months that you would remember to pick up one of the items as part of you natural shopping trip. We are excited to be able to use our personal resources to help those in our community.

Pemberton Sick and Shut In

We would like to encourage members to send cards to those that are shut in. We want to make sure that we are reaching out to those that are unable to be with us in person on Sunday, to let them know that they are in our thoughts and are missed.

> Mr. William Colby Care 1 Assisted Living Route 70 Marlton, NJ 08053

Miss Emily Crouch 1075 Old Harrisburg Pike Gettysburg, PA 17520. Mrs. Annamarie Lane Keswick Pines 509 Rt. 530 Whiting, NJ 08579

Mr & Mrs Fred and Louane Haines Masonic Home 902 Jacksonville Rd Burlington, NJ 08016

> Mrs. Lillian Haines 725 Lenz Avenue Southampton, NJ 08088

Mrs. Eleanor Kirby 167 Vincentown Road Pemberton, NJ 08068

Mrs. Connie Edmonds 154 Pointville Road Pemberton, NJ 08068

Mr. Bruce Misner Cambridge Senior Living 255 E Main Street Moorestown, NJ 08057

Mrs. Joanne Sager 5 Antis Street Pemberton, NJ 08068

Mr. Chowdhery P. Elly 22 Thorn Hill Drive Lumberton, NJ 08048

Ms. Debra Mangles 15 Earlin Ave, Apt B Browns Mills, NJ 08015



Food needed for the Pantry

You are welcome to donate gift cards or cashCans of vegetables(including potatoes)Cans of soup(chicken noodle, Campbells, progresso and healthy choice)Box cereals(adults and children)Cans of fruitCans of tunaCans of chickenPeanut butterJellyPastaPasta sauceOatmeal



Tickets Are Available!!!!

Total Cost of Ticket is \$168 for adults \$105 for Children 12 and under Please note that if you have paid a deposit, you need to make a payment or pay it in full. Final Payment is due June 1, 2023 Please see Sandy Osiecki or JoAnne VanDerveer