

Dear Genesis Families,

What a great year we have had with our Genesis youth! They are quite a spectacular group – caring, curious, honest, funny, faithful. We started with eleven youth, committed to each other and to a shared journey of faith. They have learned and questioned; they have laughed and cried; and through it all they have stayed faithful to each other and to the journey.

Our hope had been to have some special moments this spring to help deepen the journey. But then the world locked down and our journey became a Zoom adventure. We missed the spring retreat in April. We missed the one-on-one time when we would explore with each student where they are in their faith journey, giving them a chance to write their own faith statement. We missed the special moment with families when we could celebrate the year together and hear the faith statements of our Genesis youth. We missed the special time in worship when we would baptize some of our Genesis youth and all would have read a part of their faith statements for the congregation. So many missed moments that are integral to the Genesis experience. We have discovered over the years that those moments help to bond our youth in the faith, so that years from now they will continue to walk faithfully with the Lord.

Our Genesis experience is not complete! We would like to offer a new plan for our Genesis youth as we navigate the current realities. This summer, we will pause our Genesis class and move into a more relaxed Youth Group fun... every week on Thursday there will be an invitation to join in the conversation and games. When fall arrives we will gather again as Genesis, and hopefully find ways to create some of those important moments in just a different way. When we asked our faithful eleven if they were willing to continue together, they said an eager “yes”.

I hope that you will continue to encourage and support your Genesis youth on this journey. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Anita or Rick. We look forward to working with you and your youth in the months and years ahead.

Blessings! *Anita and Rick*

# Lenape Valley Church



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