

# Glad Tidings

hearts open to christ - doors open to his world

First Presbyterian Church of Haddonfield • AUGUST 2020

## Pastor's Notes

Finally! After (im)patiently waiting over six months to meet my first grandchild, Harvey, my dream was realized a week ago Monday morning after he woke up at the home we rented in the White Mountains of New Hampshire! With the possible exceptions of every child or grandchild born to anyone remotely affiliated with FPCH, he's the best! My heart is bursting with joy and love!

Yet another wonderful aspect of spending a week with my family was enjoying the interactions and specifically seeing my son, Ben, as a father for the very first time. Clearly, the array of gadgets and gizmos now required for the successful raising of a baby has gone crazy since I was a new dad; but what hasn't changed is the depth of responsibility and the magnitude of the emotional rollercoaster involved.

Here's the essence of what I am trying to say: The most accurate gauge of anyone's parenting is how their children parent. We may not be intentional about passing on the skills required — but we do — and we do so in how we do the job. That same axiom is true for the church.

How we raise our children in the faith is reflected in how they lead their lives as adults, and — like parenting — they learn about the faith by how we live it.

Some may remember the didactic nature of Sunday School or Confirmation Class — but all will be able to recall their teachers and what kind of people they were to them. We never forget how people make us feel. We rarely forget the things they do — for good or ill.

Why is it that mission trip experiences are indelible? It's because they are just that — experiences — and further, are experiences of how a community lived their faith and convictions.

Jesus was rarely remembered for what he said — but always for what he did — more importantly, what he compelled others to do.

We are in that lineage of generation-to-generation. One day Ben may witness Harvey as a new dad and my hope is that he'll be as proud of him as I am of Ben.

Be well!

Doug



Rev. Doug and Harv



## WORSHIP

**Live Streaming  
10 AM Sundays**

Go to website and  
click on Watch Live

First Presbyterian  
Church  
20 Kings Highway  
East  
Haddonfield, NJ  
08033

[www.haddonfieldpres.org](http://www.haddonfieldpres.org)  
856-429-1960

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GLAD TIDINGS  
(formerly  
Haddonfield  
Presbyterian  
Messenger)  
(USPS-555-260)  
volume 9  
number 1

Published monthly  
except July by First  
Presbyterian Church,  
20 Kings Highway  
East, Haddonfield, NJ  
08033. Periodicals  
postage at Cherry  
Hill, NJ 08034.



## Courtyard Conversations

Doug and Nikki will host “Courtyard Conversations” on Tuesdays from 9 to 11. They will be outside the church, next to the playground, distanced, under a canopy. You are invited to visit with Nikki and Doug for anything from prayer to a casual “meet and greet.” To book your 30-minute time slot, contact Rebecca at the church number (856) 429-1960 or by email [rmannion@haddonfieldpres.org](mailto:rmannion@haddonfieldpres.org).

## Family Pandemic Group

The Family Pandemic Group meets on Wednesday at 8:00 p.m., to continue discussing Brené Brown’s *The Gifts of Imperfection*. This study will help us grow in discerning the difference between selfishness and self-love, provide tools to engage in practices that exhibit self-love, and most importantly – we will learn how to unhook ourselves from the oppressive structure of perfectionism. To attend please e-mail Gab Heimerling who will provide the zoom link.

## Pastor Nikki’s Thursday Bible Study

continues its exploration of the Gospel of Mark. Discussions take place on Thursdays at 7 p.m. on Zoom. Here is the [link](#). Join Nikki for fellowship and discussion!

## Pastor Doug’s Tuesday Bible Study

Every Tuesday at 8:00 a.m. join Doug for a conversation about the scripture that will be the text for the following Sunday’s sermon. The format is simple: Doug will present for about 20 minutes and then open things up to questions, reflections, responses, and general wonderings about the text. Here’s the [Zoom link](#) — hope to see you there!

## Glad Tidings

Betsy Westermaier,  
Editor  
[beewulf@mac.com](mailto:beewulf@mac.com)

### — Church Staff —

**Rev. Dr. Douglas Gerdts**  
Transitional Pastor

**Rev. Nikki Passante**  
Associate Pastor

**Peter Leibensperger**  
Music Director

**Nancy Ruth Wainwright**  
Children’s Choirs

**Mark A. Cole**  
Organist

**Gabrielle Heimerling**  
Director of Youth and  
Family Ministries

**Marisa McGovern**  
Preschool Director

**Anne Vial**  
Office Administrator

**Kris Bean**  
Financial Secretary

**Ed Hess**  
Community Caseworker

**Rebecca Mannion**  
Receptionist

**Mike Richardson** Custodian

**Mark Hall**  
Security

# Four High School Seniors Received Deacons Scholarships



**Delaney McGlade**

Delaney is very mature and dedicated and has participated actively in many aspects of the life of our church. Most notably, she was selected to serve on our Associate Pastor Nominating Committee where she spent over one year in this discernment process, making thoughtful contributions. Delany has also been a vital part of our music program, talent shows, youth services, youth group and, last but not least, mission trips. She plans to attend Kean University.



**Carson Grabowski**

Carson was the first person baptized by Pastor Bill Getman at First Pres, and he has been engaged in church life ever since. He has been teaching Sunday School for the Pre-K and Kindergarten Class together with his grandparents for the last three years and has taught vacation bible school even longer. His patience with the little kids, and his kindness and empathy are remarkable. Carson is planning to study at Rutgers, Camden.



**Payton Anderson**

Payton describes the Mission trips as her most meaningful faith experiences, where she could have a positive impact on other people's lives. Being part of our church has taught her to be more open to other people's ideas. Payton has participated in choirs and bells for many years and is planning to go to the University of South Florida



**Victoria Wilson**

Tori was active mainly in the children's choirs and bell choir and describes how Confirmation Class helped her explore her relationship with God, deepen her faith and build relationships with the other confirmands. She is planning to attend Elon University.



Peter Leibensperger  
Music Director

# Music Ministry

## The Music Library

When I first arrived at First Presbyterian Church back in 2013, I was given a tour of the building, and I remember remarking upon the beauty of the sanctuary and being excited about having an office. But our tour took a darker turn as we headed down the stairs in the narthex to visit the Music Library. (I've since learned that most people in our church don't know where the Music Library is, and that's probably for the best.) I realized that this room was the forgotten dungeon of our church. Everything was covered in a thick layer of dust, there were signs of mice, and most notably, the ceiling tiles were disintegrating in front of our eyes, and several lay crumbled on the floor. And so it remained...

Until now! Through January and February of this year, many volunteers from the Chancel Choir and the Thomas Sherrerd Memorial Choir began carrying our approximately 2000 boxes of choral music (that's in the ballpark of 100,000 individual copies) as well as approximately 500 scores of large choral works. At the same time, Paul Nussbaum and Skip Bean began searching for contractors, and our own Keith Kirsch volunteered to take dozens of measurements and to draw up a new design and floor plan himself! I hope you will join me in thanking these generous and talented folks for caring for our home.

Renovations are scheduled to begin soon, and the final product promises to be beautiful! Here are some images to help put a picture in your head.



## MUSIC MINISTRY (continued)

Like everyone right now, Nancy Ruth and I have been having many conversations about what this year will look like. There are significant challenges to overcome with regards to singing and ringing. Group singing is considered dangerous at the moment, and standing shoulder to shoulder at a bell table is not advised. These conversations are ongoing, but we believe that we have a plan for our music program to function safely but with significant modifications. We'd like to take a moment to share what we are thinking with you, since many of our choir members are in the middle of registering for extra-curricular events and planning their fall schedules.

### Vocal Choirs

The message from health officials is clear: group singing is an easy way to spread the virus and must be avoided right now. With this in mind, Nancy Ruth and I think that singing at home is more important than ever. Our goal this fall, then, will be to teach music right in the homes of our choir members via Zoom. All of our vocal choir rehearsals will be held via Zoom, and once everyone has memorized their part, we will ask choir members to record themselves performing individually, and these video performances will be edited into a virtual choir music video. This music video will then be shared with the congregation in Sunday morning worship.

### Bell Choirs

Bell ringing, is actually a bit easier to accommodate. Instead of cloth gloves, we will wear disposable rubber ones. Instead of putting three people at a table, we will place two people on opposite ends of each table, spread out in the sanctuary. Finally, everyone will be required to wear a mask, and we will turn on the outdoor ventilation in the sanctuary. In this way, bell rehearsals will still be able to carry out their work, and when the way is clear, we intend to have our bell groups participate in worship in the fall.

### Rehearsal Schedule

Since vocal choir rehearsals will be held at home and bell rehearsals will be held at the church, rehearsal times will be decreased to allow for transportation, sanitization, and set up. Below, please find the proposed rehearsal times for our choirs. Please note that Whitechapel Bells rehearsal day is TBD.

Group Name	Rehearsal Day	Rehearsal Time	Rehearsal Location
Chapel Choir	Wednesday	3:45p–4:15p	via Zoom
Carol/Cherub Choir	Wednesday	4:30p–5:00p	via Zoom
Alleluia Bells	Wednesday	4:45p–5:15p	Sanctuary
Whitechapel Bells	TBD	5:30p–6:00p	Sanctuary
Thomas Sherrerd Choir	Wednesday	6:30p–7:00p	via Zoom
Kirk Ringers	Wednesday	7:30p–8:15p	Sanctuary
Moore Bells	Thursday	6:30p–7:15p	Sanctuary
Chancel Choir	Thursday	7:30p–8:00p	via Zoom

With shortened rehearsal times, now is a great time to join a choir with less commitment. Please contact me ([PLeibensperger@haddonfieldpres.org](mailto:PLeibensperger@haddonfieldpres.org)) or Nancy Ruth ([nancyruthw@comcast.net](mailto:nancyruthw@comcast.net)) if you're interested in signing up your child for the first time.

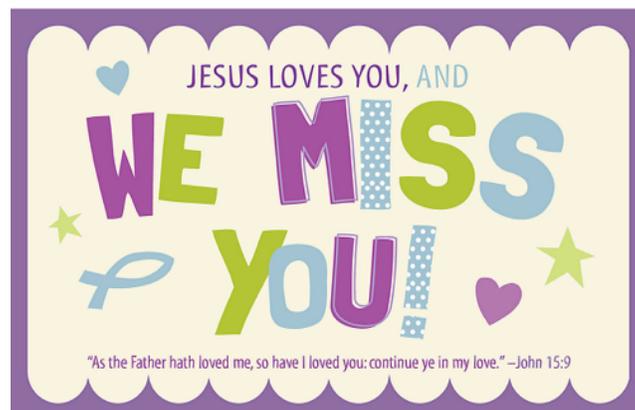
## YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRIES UPDATE

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH:** Sunday School is on summer vacation but we brought back Children's Church for our youngest friends. Each week we email a lesson for kids in preschool through 2nd grade with a Bible story, activities, coloring pages, and video. Previous lessons include Pentecost, Jacob and Esau, the Lost Sheep and Coin, and more. We've been storing previous lessons on our website <http://www.haddonfieldpres.org/children> under the Children's Sunday School tab. Please take a look! If you would like to be on the email list to receive these weekly lessons, please reach out to Gabrielle Heimerling at [gheimerling@haddonfieldpres.org](mailto:gheimerling@haddonfieldpres.org).

**LOOKING TOWARDS THE FALL:** What does the fall look like for our Sunday School Program? For our Youth Groups? The only thing that is certain is all of the uncertainty. The most important thing is the health and welfare of all our church members, and for Sunday School that means the kids AND the teachers. If church services are virtual, Sunday School will be virtual like we did in the Spring. We are working on ways to stay connected to our young friends as best we can during this time. One thing remains true - we miss seeing the kids on Sunday mornings and can't wait until we can all get together again soon. Didn't receive the Sunday School lessons in the Spring and want to? Reach out to Gabrielle Heimerling at [gheimerling@haddonfieldpres.org](mailto:gheimerling@haddonfieldpres.org).

For our Youth Group, it's more of the same. While we took a break in the Spring while adjusting to COVID life, we are looking to the fall to bring us together virtually. So please keep an eye out for upcoming youth groups get together, and if you are interested in joining our youth group, which serves our middle and high schoolers, please reach out to Gabrielle Heimerling at [gheimerling@haddonfieldpres.org](mailto:gheimerling@haddonfieldpres.org). I am very much anticipating our first in person get together with a game of Grog!

**CONFIRMATION CLASS: ATTENTION RISING 9TH GRADERS** Look for letters coming soon about your participation in the 2020-2021 confirmation class. While we are still figuring out how the class will look this year we want to make sure we have you on our contact list if you want to be a part of it. Letters and emails will be sent in early August. If you do not receive a letter and would like your child to participate, please reach out to Gabrielle Heimerling at [gheimerling@haddonfieldpres.org](mailto:gheimerling@haddonfieldpres.org).



# Joined the Church Triumphant

## JOAN WALDEN

Joan Walden was a 50+ year member of our church and an active participant in its life. She was a faithful worshipper at the Sunday morning Chapel Service.

When her two sons were young she taught Sunday Church School, Daily Vacation Bible School and volunteered as a choir mother. A term as a Deacon was also part of her service.

However, from the beginning of her membership in the church she was involved with Presbyterian Women, as a circle member and in several different leadership roles. For at least twenty-five years she was a leader or co-leader of an evening Circle, leading meetings, managing the finances and keeping the records of members up-to-date. In addition, for many years, she was the Luncheon Coordinator for PW. She planned the menus, oversaw the preparation of the meals by a faithful group of volunteers and supervised the clean-up, often missing the program to do so. For many years she was the PW liaison with New Visions, setting up the schedule of volunteers who worked to sort and organize clothing that was distributed to people in Camden.

Joan was also responsive to the needs of others in mission programs of PW. She regularly collected and contributed items requested for people served by St. Wilfrid's Clinic, New Visions, the Women's Prison and Interfaith Homeless Outreach Council. To keep in touch with friends, church and family members, Joan sent cards and notes for birthdays, anniversaries and holidays and she always sent thinking-of-you and get well cards when she learned of someone who needed encouragement.

PW recognized Joan for her faithful service, giving spirit and for all her contributions to the missions of the church and PW by awarding her an Honorary Life Membership in Presbyterian Women. We will miss her.

—Ginny Ritchie



## JACKIE TUCKER

Many in our church family knew Jackie Tucker as the spirited older alto in the chancel, exuding joy, as she sang hymns and anthems during worship. She sang with her whole self, her face alight and body alive. Full of praise and gratitude, she lived as she sang. She welcomed all and gave generously of herself, as she baked cookies several times a week to give away, prepared soup for church soup luncheons, and sent cards to those grieving or celebrating. Wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, she placed her family first and her church family members were not far behind.

I knew Jackie from Chancel Choir. We sat beside one another for years and our friendship grew from weekly rehearsal chats, to group motorcycle trips, to shared meals after her husband passed away, and even a tour of the Kimmel Center in Philadelphia, together. She shared her deep and abiding faith in song, word, and deed. We laughed, we shared, we prayed, we ate. She loved telling about visits "back home" in New York state and vacations with extended family. "Breakfast visits are best!"; she'd insist. I agree!

—NancyRuth Wainwright





## DOT HERBERT

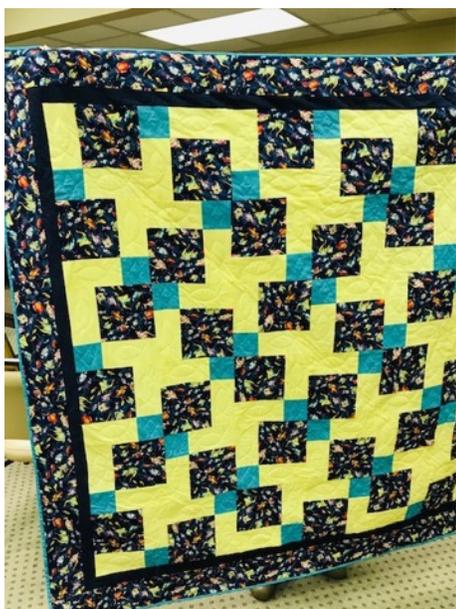
Dot Herbert was a compassionate, friendly, sympathetic, caring, and fun loving person. A faithful member of the 8:30 congregation, she always had a smile on her face and was always ready to tell you one of her own funny stories (of which there were many, many) to brighten your day. And she was often on the move to help those in need regardless of appearance, situation or condition.

Dot Herbert was truly one of the Golden Girls! To paraphrase their lyrics, "she traveled down a wonderful road and back again. Her heart was true, she was a pal and a confidant. I'm not ashamed to say, I know it will always stay this way. My hat is off. If you could be here now, you should stand up and take a bow." Thank you for being our friend.

—Kathy Bell, Wayne McAllister, Dotti Peatman and many more

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## The Quilters Send a Gift of Warmth and Remembrance



Recently, the Monday morning quilters mailed Bill Getman a quilt they made and had planned to present to him at his retirement party.

In return, he personally sent each of them a thank you note saying it was a "beautiful surprise".

Bill and Sue are

redecorating their den and plan to use the quilt as part of the decor.

The quilters chose a fish theme for the quilt (Bill had a collection of fish in his office) as a reminder of Jesus' calling his disciples to be "fishers of men" and the miracle of the loaves and fishes.



The Monday morning Quilters: at the table - Neva Bosch, Ann Wells, Esther Gaunt, Dotti Peatman, Marybeth Creamer, and Jan Ulmer. Standing - Joan Miller and Sue Smith.



# Mission Opportunities

## News From St. Wilfrid's

THANK YOU FOR KEEPING UP YOUR DRIVE-THROUGH DONATIONS! You are helping to sustain many of our neighbors. Continuing needs are 10-pound bags of rice or beans, peanut butter, tuna, sauce, adult diapers – medium or large, feminine hygiene pads, bar soap, and toothpaste. Pasta is off the list for now because St. Wilfrid's got a donation of 5400 pounds of pasta! And don't forget bags: paper grocery bags to reinforce the plastic one and newspaper sleeves for hygiene products. Since the pandemic first hit our area in March, St. Wilfrid's Open Door Clinic has given away 1,500 bags of food.

Horace is one of our regulars. He is forty-five years old. He speaks in a monotone, without looking you in the eye. He is a stutterer. He has been a regular at the Open Door Clinic for ten years.

Horace used to wash the windows of the storefronts along Federal Street. They paid him in cash, and he used to get beaten and robbed of his earnings.. He now works performing trash detail at Seven Eleven. He lives in a garden apartment a few blocks from St Wilfrid's. Looking through the sliding door, it is a mess. He has an aunt and a brother.

We are important to Horace. We are important to Horace for clothing, and food, and respect, and recognition of who he is as a person. He is important to us, to allow us to reflect on the blessings we have.....and to see how God works through us to meet his needs. And he gives God hugs right back! —Jill Mascena

**“ Love your neighbor as yourself.”**

## Backpacks and School Supplies

Even though the COVID situation makes back-to-school plans fluid, the annual backpack and school supply collection will continue. The Mission Committee is collecting for kids served by Camden Community Center and by St. Wilfrid's. Look for sales when you shop and drop supplies off at the church drive through on Sundays, 11-noon.

- Erasers
- Colored Pencils
- Crayons
- Glue Stick
- Handheld Pencil Sharpener
- Pencil Box or Pouch
- 3-Ring Binders – 1" or 1 1/2 "
- Loose Leaf Paper – Wide Rule • Calculator
- Dictionary
- 12" Ruler
- Junior scissors with 5" blunt tips • Pocket Folders
- Composition Notebooks
- Tissue Packets
- Backpacks (the biggest need for backpacks is Grades 3-8.

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## Becoming a Matthew 25 Church

At the June Session meeting, our congregation accepted the PC(USA)'s invitation to follow Jesus' teachings in Matthew 25:31–46 by becoming active disciples and making a difference in our community and the world.

*For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me....Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."*

Matt. 25:35-40