

*This week's news...*



April 20, 2023

Dear Friend,

## **SAILBOAT CHURCH**

Since the early days of Christianity, the church has been depicted as a boat in Christian art and literature. But what kind of boat are we? Is our church a rowboat or a sailboat?

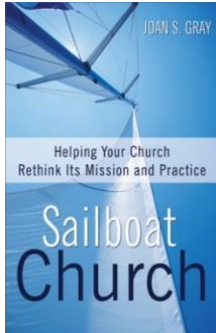
If you attended one of our Lenten book club groups, you've been thinking about that question for a while now. You've read Joan Gray's book *Sailboat Church*. Gray, a Presbyterian minister and former Moderator of the General Assembly, argues that many congregations are like rowboats. We rely on human power to get where we are going. The problem is, when the seas get rough or adverse winds blow, we get tired and blown off course. Gray encourages us to be a sailboat church. In the original languages of the scriptures, the word for wind, breath, and spirit is the same. Sailboat churches rely on the power of the Holy Spirit to get them where they're going. Sailing a ship does require work, as anyone who's ever gone sailing can attest, but it is work that harnesses and relies on a more powerful force than mere human effort. Gray encourages churches to prioritize prayer, trust, and obedience in their decision making, and let these disciplines set the agenda for budgeting, volunteer recruitment, and facilities maintenance, not the other way around.

Lent is over, but our *Sailboat Church* conversation is continuing! I invite all of you, whether you've read *Sailboat Church* or not, to stay after worship on April 23 for a *Sailboat Church* conversation. We're going to gather in the Hospitality Room in the basement at 11:15. As the scriptures say, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." What is the Spirit of Christ strengthening us to do? How will we raise a sail together and harness the power of the Spirit? Let's talk about that this Sunday.



Image Info: *Navicella*. 1305-13. Oil on canvas, 740 x 990 cm. Fabbrica di San Pietro, Rome.

The Presbyterian Church (USA)'s Office of Research Services invites you to take the Changing Families Survey. This survey covers marriage and romantic relationships, family structures, and expressions of gender identity. Your answers will remain anonymous. The Office of Research Services exists to help the denomination make fact-based decisions. To take the survey, go to:  
<https://surveys.pcusa.org/s3/Changing-Families-in-the-PC-USA>



## SAILBOAT CHURCH DISCUSSION *THIS SUNDAY*

Calling all sailors and rowers! If you read or are reading the Lenten book *Sailboat Church*, come share your thoughts on **Sunday, April 23, after church, 11:15 – 12:15** in the Hospitality Room on the lower level. We'll list what inspired us, what surprised us, and what we need to discern God's call for our future. Our prayer for today and April 23 is *God, without you, we can do nothing. With you, all things are possible. Open our hearts and minds to what you want to do in us. What are you saying to us, today?* Questions? Ideas? Contact Nancy Ruth Wainwright [nancyruthw@comcast.net](mailto:nancyruthw@comcast.net).

**CHRISTIAN HERITAGE CLASS** Does not meet on **April 23** to encourage folks to attend the Sailboat discussion. (See previous announcement.) The next scheduled meeting will be May 14, Pentecost.

**A gathering for adults with special needs and abilities meets Monday, April 24 at 6:30 in the Hospitality Center for crafts, games, and music. Contact Joyce Stout for information: [Billandjoyce1@aol.com](mailto:Billandjoyce1@aol.com).**

## The Social Connection

A gathering for adults with special needs and abilities

Fellowship and Friendship ~ Crafts ~ Community Service Projects

Games ~ Music ~ Snacks

ALL WELCOME!

Meets on 4th Monday of the month  
6:30-8PM  
First Presbyterian Church  
20 Kings Hwy E  
Haddonfield, NJ 08003  
(856) 429-1960



Please RSVP to  
Joyce Stout  
[Billandjoyce1@aol.com](mailto:Billandjoyce1@aol.com)  
609 605-3653

Please Join Us on Monday, April 24, 2023

**APRIL IS EARTH MONTH - EARTH DAY IS APRIL 22**

## HOW DO YOU STEWARD GOD'S EARTH?

EARTH DAY IS THIS SATURDAY APRIL 22, 2023

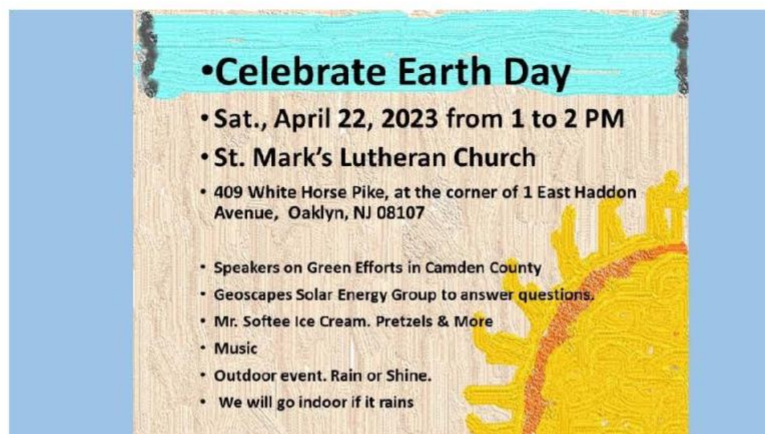
There are several special Earth Day events happening in our area and you're invited!. This is a good time to assess our personal environmental impacts both positive and negative. How much plastic do I use? Do I recycle properly? Does my garden have bee friendly native plants with no dangerous chemicals? Do I shop for locally sourced products? Do I walk or bike instead of drive whenever possible? Is my home energy efficient? We need more than a day to make the changes needed to protect God's Creation. That's why all of April is Earth month and our work must continue beyond this month into our everyday lives and the important choices we make.

**Medford Community Yard Sale and Earth Day Event Saturday April 22<sup>nd</sup> begins at 8:00AM**

Located at Freedom Park, 86 Union St, Medford, NJ 08055

Medford's Environmental Affairs Advisory Committee will be giving away trees. The Medford Quaker Meeting will have a table to explain the Inflation Reduction Act's tax credits and rebates available to all of us to electrify our homes and our transportation and increase energy efficiency.

- **The Collingswood Green Festival from 10 AM until 2 PM on Saturday, April 22nd.**
- Downtown Collingswood - Haddon and Irvin Avenues (in rear parking lot of Thriven Design)
- Join us for our annual green resources event. Whether you are an eco-friendly expert or just getting started on your own green initiatives, the Collingswood Green Day provides opportunities and resources to support you on your journey to sustainable living.
- Stop by and enjoy refreshments and live music with your neighbors and learn more about living greener!



**THE BOROUGH OF HADDONFIELD CELEBRATES EARTH DAY WITH A WEEKEND OF EVENTS FOR ALL AGES! *Thursday, April 20 through Sunday, April 23***

The Haddonfield Environmental Commission is Celebrating Earth Day with a weekend of fun events for the entire family to enjoy. This year's theme, "**Haddonfield's Urban Forest – Incredible Beauty in Our Own Backyard,**" highlights local civic organizations dedicated to conservancy and sustainability. [Details here.](#)

**Links to some local activities:**

[MEDFORD](#) [COLLINGSWOOD](#) [OAKLYN](#) [HADDONFIELD](#) [CHERRY HILL](#)  
**PLEASE NOTE:**

MONTHLY COOKING FOR JOSEPH'S HOUSE POSTPONED UNTIL MAY – Please note that our regular cooking date on the last Tuesday of the month has been rescheduled for Tuesday, May 9. Details to follow.

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## VBS 2023 – REGISTRATION OPEN!



This year's VBS: Operation Restoration! invites kids to be menders in God's world. As they make connections between Bible stories and mending actions, they'll discover simple ways to live out faith in daily life by exploring the daily themes of Feed, Heal, Forgive, Pray, and Rest. Dates are July 24-28, 2023. Register [here](http://www.haddonfieldpres.org/children) or through the church website: <http://www.haddonfieldpres.org/children>. As always, we look forward to including youth shepherds and adult volunteers in the adventure! The cost of the camp is \$25 per Mender, payable via Check (First Presbyterian of Haddonfield memo line: VBS), Venmo ( @FPCHaddonfield), or through Realm (QR code links directly to Realm). We look forward to seeing you in July!



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### PORCH BIBLE STUDY

The Porchers will meet on Zoom at 7 p.m. on **Tuesday, April 25**. We will finish our discussion of the Gospel of Luke. All are welcome. Contact Deb Nussbaum: [debranussbaum1987@gmail.com](mailto:debranussbaum1987@gmail.com)

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### Pastor Nikki's New Bible Study Starts Next Week

Beginning **Thursday, April 27 at 7 p.m.**, Pastor Nikki will be hosting a Bible Study via zoom on the book of Genesis, beginning with chapter 12 and the call of Abram. Entitled "Genesis: Relational and Family Dynamics," we will be looking at God's promise to God's people as it travels through 4 generations of one family, and all the peculiar ways they (and we) try to avoid God's promise and plan. The Zoom link is <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81798184993>. We will also meet in person at pre-determined times. Please contact Pastor Nikki if you have questions and are interested, or simply join us on zoom on the 27th!

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### SAVE THE DATE



**THE STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL IS BACK! Friday, June 2, 6 – 8 p.m.**  
Sweet strawberry short cakes will be smothered with berries and "sugared" with Musical Notes from Peter and our adult choir for your entertainment.

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## HOSPITALITY UPDATE



Based on popular demand and inspired by the Lenten study book “Sailboat Church,” after-service refreshment time will be returning soon to FPCH. The Deacons have assembled a Hospitality Committee (Joan Fiorella, Janet Shoemaker, Quint Lerch and Pete Hurd) and agreed on a plan to bring back refreshment time beginning with the movement of the church service to Fellowship Hall for the summer season, probably on June 4. There will be a sign up for individuals, couples, families, and hopefully other church committees, to volunteer to provide refreshments after service on any Sunday of their choice. (More information on exactly how that will work will be presented sometime in May.) When the church service returns to the Sanctuary in early September, we will begin holding

refreshment time in our beautifully refurbished parlor. Then, sometime during the autumn months, we would like to bring back “Soup Sundays” to Fellowship Hall. **We are hoping to recruit volunteers, both to handle refreshments after church, and to consider joining the Hospitality Committee. We would love to welcome the input of additional volunteers!**

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## STEPHEN MINISTER COMMISSIONING – MAY 7



On Sunday, May 7th we will commission 2 new Stephen Ministers. They are Paul Sommers and Donna George. Paul and Donna have been through 50 hours of specialized training in Christian caregiving. As a Stephen Minister each will provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care to people experiencing a crisis or going through a difficult time. They meet weekly with their care receiver to listen, care, encourage, pray, and provide emotional and spiritual support

Please lift up our new Stephen Ministers in your prayers, asking that God bless their ministry and work through them to bring hope and healing to those they will serve. They will be depending on our support in the time ahead as they assume the duties of their ministry. Our congregation is one of more than 13,000 worldwide, representing 160 Christian denominations that use the Stephen Series system of lay caring ministry developed by Stephen Ministries in St. Louis.

### How can we help?

First of all, we can **pray** for our Stephen Leaders, our Stephen Ministers, and their care receivers. This ministry calls for both time and effort.

We can also **affirm** and show our appreciation for this valuable ministry. We can tell them how much their hard work means to us, and tell others how much we value our Stephen Ministry.

We can **become involved** in this ministry in many ways. Some of us may recognize a call to use our special gifts in this ministry and may apply to be a Stephen Leader or Stephen Minister. Others may accept the care of a Stephen Minister. We can be ministers of referral, watching for people in need and suggesting a Stephen Minister’s care. Most of all, we can continue to pray for our Stephen Ministers, affirming them for answering God’s call to serve in this way.

Please join us on May 7th as we commission our newly trained Stephen Ministers. Let us thank God for all that they will bring to this congregation in providing care to others, and let us promise them our daily prayer and support as we send them out to minister among us.

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**A THANK YOU FROM ROBIN WRIGHT** – *Heartfelt gratitude for all of the support throughout my cancer treatment. As Pastor Marvin stated in his first sermon with us, the power of prayer is amazing! It was a blessing to be back sitting with the congregation on Sunday.*

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**A THANK YOU FROM CIRCLE 1** – *Thank you for your support and nimble fingers to those who have donated items for the Pillowcase dresses and especially for the completed, lovely dresses! We know these will be accepted with smiles of joy and giggles for a new dress.*



*Where will these dresses go? The dresses will be sent to Kenya.  
How will they get there? Beatrice Wangi will be taking the dresses when she returns to Kenya as she visits Founder Girls Raising Hands – YouthPromise.*

*What is our goal? There are 30–50 girls at YouthPromise. Circle 1 plans for a new dress for each.*

*We thank all sewers for the blessings you give to these young girls and teens.*

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**CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER LIST** - Please keep members and friends of the congregation in your prayers. The weekly Prayer List is available in Sunday's bulletin or online [here](#). If you would like to add a personal prayer request, please contact one of the pastors or Anne Vial. Please obtain the permission of the person needing prayer. *The Prayer Request portal on the website is available for private requests sent directly to the pastors.*

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First Presbyterian Church Haddonfield  
presents  
**POPS  
RESTRUNG**  
A concert featuring songs by your favorite pop divas  
Saturday April 29 at 7:30 pm  
20 Kings Hwy E. Haddonfield, NJ

First Presbyterian Church invites you to an evening of “Pops Restrung” on **April 29, at 7:30 p.m.**, featuring works from your favorite pop divas. The world-class string quartet features Alexandr Kislitsyn on first violin (MM Temple), Aisha Dossumova on Second violin (Doctoral Temple), Branson Yeast on cello (BM Curtis, MM Juilliard), and Haddonfield’s own Kathryn Dark on viola (MM Rice University). The concert is free but there will be a free will offering to help fund future concerts at the Church. Doors will open at 7 pm. There will be time for some Q & A. All are invited – young strings player may find this especially enjoyable.

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### **SPRING CLEANUP AT MOUNT PEACE CEMETERY – NEXT SATURDAY**

The Mission Committee invites all ages to take part in a spring cleanup at Mount Peace Cemetery from 9:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 29. Please RSVP on the cemetery’s website: <https://www.mtpeacecemeteryassociation.org/event-details/mount-peace-cemetery-spring-clean-up>.

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### **ST. WILFRID'S OPEN DOOR CLINIC UPDATE**

You can feel a new energy in the church as FPCH renews its commitment to be in direct service to the hungry, the thirsty, the poor, the needy or those otherwise distressed. There are so many opportunities for church members of varying talents to ride this wave. Volunteering at The Open Door Clinic at St. Wilfrid's in Camden might be the perfect starting point. The Open Door Clinic provides a variety of dearly needed items and services topped with abundant love that allows our client families to thrive.

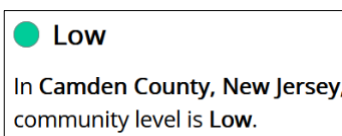
In March our volunteers provided assistance to 1286 impoverished people, a third of them children. So what do our volunteers actually do?

- One Friday a month 10 people with cars descend on the Food Bank of South Jersey to load between 3-5 tons of food and supplies into their vehicles and transport them to St. Wilfrid's which is about 10 minutes away. Typically it takes 1.5 - 2 hours. All you need is a vehicle. The ability to lift or carry is not required. Want to know more about this assignment? Among the people you can ask are Alan Stedman, Doug Barber, Rose Guthrie, Lesley Kirsch, Joan Fiorella and Joyce & Bill Stout.
- Every other Saturday volunteers arrive at St. Wilfrid's starting around 8:15 am. Jobs that need to be done include:
  - Packing bags full of food - ask Kae Fretz and John Reed
  - Sorting through donated clothing - ask Joan F., Corey Crumley and Caroline Yount
  - Assisting our clients in choosing clothing that works for them - ask Marsha Reed
  - Sorting through food and hygiene donations made by individuals - Melinda Lamb

There is a job for everyone - sitting or standing, inside or outside, client-facing or behind-the-scenes. Stay as long as you can. There are no fixed shifts. Have a spare hour? We can put it to good use. Have the whole morning free? We can use your talents from 8:15 am - 11:30 am. Volunteers must be at least 12 years old. If under 16 years old they must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information about volunteering at St. Wilfrids contact Paul Urian at [umanpaul@me.com](mailto:umanpaul@me.com) or 856-6786-2770.

## Camden County's Current Covid Status:



## CALENDAR

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| <p>Apr. 20 – 6:30 p.m. Moore Bells<br/>– 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir</p> <p>Apr. 23 – 10 a.m. Worship, Sunday School<br/>– 11:15 a.m. Sailboat Church<br/>Discussion</p> <p>Apr. 24 – 6:30 p.m. Adults with Disabilities<br/>Crafts and Games</p> <p>Apr. 25 – 10:30 a.m. Staff meeting – 4 p.m.<br/>Human Resources Committee<br/>– 7 p.m. Porch Bible Study<br/>– 7 p.m. Deacons Meeting</p> | <p>Apr. 26 – 10 a.m. Stephen Ministry Leaders<br/>– 3:45 p.m. Chapel Choir<br/>– 3:45 p.m. Cherub Choir – last one<br/>– 4:30 p.m. Carol Choir – last one<br/>– 4:30 p.m. Alleluia Bells<br/>– 6:30 p.m. Last Spaghetti Dinner<br/>– 6:30 p.m. TSM Choir<br/>– 7:30 p.m. Kirk Ringers – last one</p> <p>Apr. 27 – 6:30 p.m. Moore Bells<br/>– 7 p.m. Pastor Nikki's Zoom Bible<br/>Study</p> |
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- 7:30 p.m. Chancel choir
- Apr. 28 – 9:30 a.m. Women’s Prison Ministry
- Apr. 29 – 8 a.m. St. Wilfrid’s Open Door Clinic
- 9:30 a.m. Mt. Peace Cemetery Cleanup
- 7:30 p.m. **CONCERT: Pops Restrung**
- Apr. 30 – 10 a.m. Worship, Sunday School
- May 2 – 9:45 a.m. PW Coordinating Team
- 7 p.m. Governance Committee
- May 3 – 10 a.m. Stephen Ministry Leaders
- 3:45 p.m. Chapel Choir
- 4:30 p.m. Alleluia Bells
- 6:30 p.m. TSM Choir – last one
- May 4 – 6:30 p.m. Moore Bells
- 7 p.m. **Pastor Nikki’s Zoom Bible Study**
- 7:30 p.m. Chancel choir
- May 5 – 9:30 a.m. Women’s Prison Ministry
- May 7 – 10 a.m. Worship and Sunday School, **Stephen Minister Commissioning**
- 11 a.m. **Parlor Dedication**
- 5 p.m. MS Service night
- 6:30 p.m. HS Service night
- May 8 – Preschool Flower Sale
- 9:30 a.m. Quilters
- 7 p.m. Christian Ed Committee
- 7:30 p.m. Circle 4 Zoom
- May 9 – 1 p.m. Cooking for Joseph’s House



*Carol Choir using rhythm sticks and maracas as they sing.*