

# This week's news...



June 23, 2022

Dear Friend,

## 11 Last Words

The best part of having a farewell gathering the week prior to my actual departure is that it provides me the opportunity to say “thank you!” (So, before I go a word further — thank you to Nikki, Maggie, Deb, and all of the folks who brainstormed on gifts, brought food, and just came to say farewell!)

If there's one thing I've learned (the hard way) throughout my career is that any list of acknowledgments is always deficient (someone should name a “law” about that) and so to avoid the risk of missing someone, I'll hit the highlights!



As I mentioned on Sunday afternoon, I came to First Presbyterian in Haddonfield to do a job that had a specific scope, process, and hoped-for outcome. My last call in Wilmington had been a full-contact engagement. I willingly gave the congregation everything I had for 17 years, and they returned the commitment — a similar relationship, I understand, that you had with Bill Getman — hence, I was ready for a task or an assignment. That task was articulated in my first sermon with you and was two-fold:

1. To get you (the church) into “dating shape” which meant some cleaning out, shaping up, fresh appearance, slimming down, and updating systems and infrastructure. It also meant providing the opportunity to re-invent or at least try out a new perspective.
2. The second part was to redefine areas of responsibility and participation which was described as “staying in our lanes.” I often hear in committee and staff meetings as well as casual conversations, “I'm not sure this is my lane...but!”

Overlaid on all of the above is the continuing pandemic — the effects of which have been delineated *ad nauseam* in this and other forums. Suffice to say, we've been through something.

Then, the strangest thing happened.

“You” became “us.” Don't know how else to put it. Your warmth and acceptance and willingness and kindness infiltrated my carefully defined job description and I fell in love.



So, thank you for...

- Welcoming me into your “family”
- Putting up with my flaming liberalism (well...most of you did!)
- Giving lots and lots of feedback about sermons and nearly everything I've done!

- Willingness to try some new things and to let go (even temporarily) of some traditions
- Being flexible with new ways of doing things in light of the pandemic
- Letting me gently poke into money and history and hidden agenda
- Actually listening to me — sitting through sermons and meetings and Zoom calls
- Giving me forums to teach about the Bible and lead book studies
- Providing me a staff and colleagues surpassed by none.
- Most of all — thank you for giving me the most amazing cap to my career that I could imagine. I move into retirement with a sense of satisfaction and accomplishment all wrapped in the lovely knowledge that I was a part of a congregation that seeks to live the gospel inside and outside of the walls (and windows) of its church.

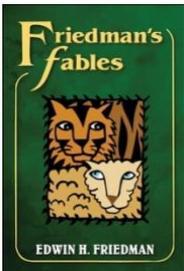
Somewhere in my reading I came across an article that proposed the last 11 words we might say to another person who was meaningful in our lives. Now, this is a tad morbid, but humor me (yes, again!) and hear how they apply now. At least, I write them to you with a full and grateful heart:

**Please forgive me.  
I forgive you.  
I love you.  
Thank you.**

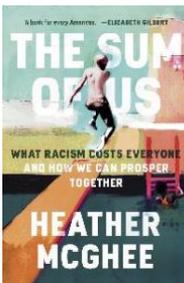
Be well and God bless you always,



## SUMMER STUDY OPPORTUNITIES!



**WEDNESDAY EVENING BOOK DISCUSSION** - Beginning on **July 6 at 6:30 on Zoom**, join a discussion of *Friedman's Fables*, by Edwin H. Friedman. These tales “offer fresh perspectives on familiar human foibles and reflect the author's humor, pathos, and understanding.” Zoom link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6467052376>. To join by phone: 646-558-8656, meeting ID 6467052376.



**JAC'S SUMMER BOOK DISCUSSION: *The Sum of Us* by Heather McGhee.** The Justice and Advocacy Committee is reading Heather McGhee's *The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together*, which explores how racism and zero-sum attitudes are used in discussions about the common good. **You are invited to join JAC's initial discussion on July 10, immediately following worship in the choir room. Please read first 2 chapters. At the first discussion on the 10th, we will determine how frequently we will meet.** For more information, go to the Adult Ed page of the website: <http://www.haddonfieldpres.org/adult-education>

## OPENING THE SANCTUARY TO THE PUBLIC IN JULY

On **July 9 and 10**, during the Haddonfield Arts and Crafts Show, we would like to invite the public into the building. Please sign up to be a greeter for an hour on one of those days. All that's required is your welcoming presence. If you have questions, please contact Margot Dark: [margotdark@msn.com](mailto:margotdark@msn.com). Brochures describing the stained glass windows are available in the back of the Sanctuary.

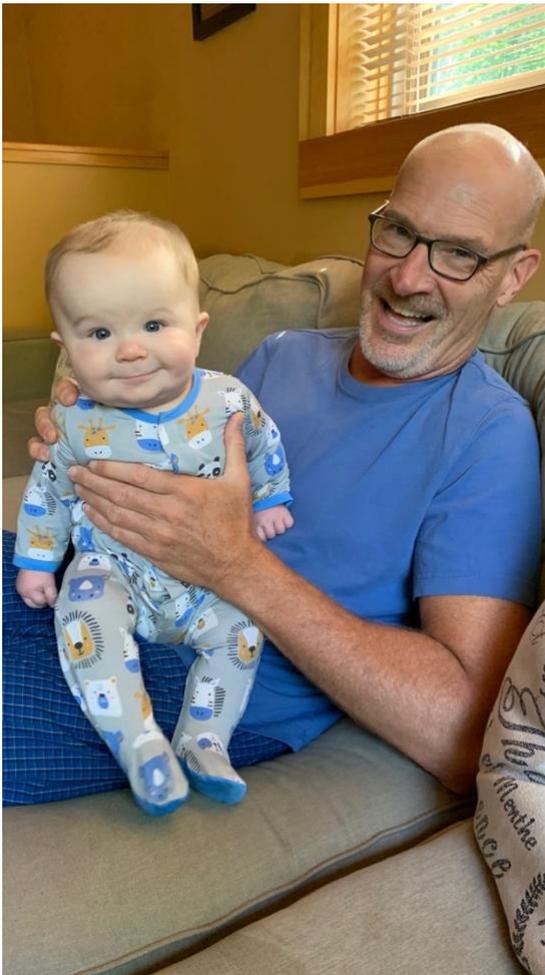
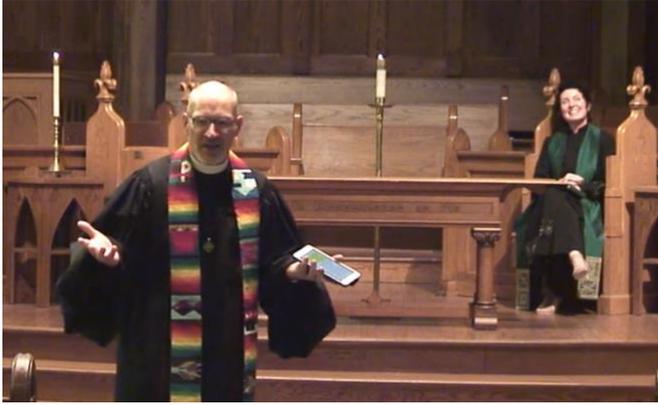
USE THE NEW USHER SIGN-UP SOFTWARE!

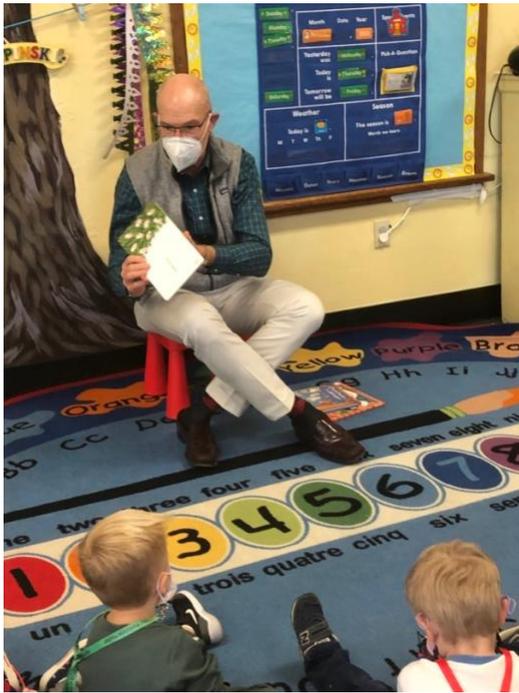


## OUT AND ABOUT WITH FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

[A new summer feature - [send us](#) your project, vacation, garden, adventure photos and we will share them here. Note to study groups - send us a photo of your Zoom or gathering!]

**This week we say thank you, Doug, and “Godspeed”**







Cooking with Youth Group – Doug far right (surprisingly)



**FROM THE PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE** – Just a note from the PNC. It's been a while since you've heard from us, but we didn't have much to report. But trust us we've been very hard at work. It has been a long, sometimes frustrating journey as we have had many applicants that just have not met our criteria. We can report that there have been a couple people that we have been very interested in and we have had follow up conversations with these individuals. Your continued prayers would be appreciated as we wait for questions to be answered. We as a committee fully believe God has a specific person in mind to be our new head pastor and we truly understand that it is in God's time not ours. That being said, we truly appreciate your patience and your prayers and kind words. This has been an adventure and a huge learning experience for all of us.

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### **NURSERY CARE DURING WORSHIP**

The summer nursery is located in the Hospitality Center on the lower level across from Fellowship Hall. Any questions, please reach out to Gabrielle Heimerling at [gheimerling@haddonfieldpres.org](mailto:gheimerling@haddonfieldpres.org).

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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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### **Vacation Bible School (VBS) for 2022 – SPOTS AVAILABLE!**



**VBS 2022: DISCOVERY ON ADVENTURE ISLAND** – Camp dates are July 25-July 29 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. We are looking forward to another great week of VBS this summer! This year explorers participate on an exciting quest to find five mysterious Infinity Lanterns to help light their way. Using map coordinates from the Reference Book (the Bible), children discover clues to finding each Lantern while learning how God's light shines in the lives of familiar biblical characters in Old and New Testament stories. VBS is open to kids 4 (fully potty trained) - 5th grade. Cost is \$35 per Explorer. Use the following link for registration:

<https://fpchadventureisland22.mycokesburyvbs.com/>. Payment information will be sent once your registration is received.

**VBS 2022 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** We Need You! We are recruiting for Station Leaders (adults) and Shepherds (kids) for VBS 2022 taking place July 25-July 29 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Please contact Gabrielle Heimerling at [gheimerling@haddonfieldpres.org](mailto:gheimerling@haddonfieldpres.org) if you would like to help out with what is sure to be an amazing week of camp.

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

This week marks the **113th week** that the Open Door Clinic at St Wilfrid's has distributed food during the pandemic; **126 bags again, 11,269 total through Saturday**. Over **281,725 pounds** of food and dry goods, distributed by the all-volunteer, everything donated, nobody gets paid, Open Door Clinic at St. Wilfrid's. Thank you all for your generous collections and contributions.

**continued**

**Needs:** We are still collecting fans, BABY WIPES, diapers-sizes 2, 3, and 6, bar soap and deodorant.

**And PB&Js:** Again, Wendy reports that from about June 30 on to Labor Day, we need helpers to make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches: **A REAL NEED.** There was a time when peanut butter and jelly sustained the food give-away at the Open Door Clinic. It remains an important part of our overall giving program. Thank you. Please contact Wendy Coffman at [wendy.coffman@gmail.com](mailto:wendy.coffman@gmail.com) with any questions. And please pick a week to make PB&Js. It is a great opportunity to introduce grandchildren or children to giving and service. Find the sign-up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0845aba72caa8-pbjs1>. Thank you for caring: our clients LOVE PB&Js!!!!

**Check the website for more info:** [www.opendoorcliniccamden.org](http://www.opendoorcliniccamden.org)

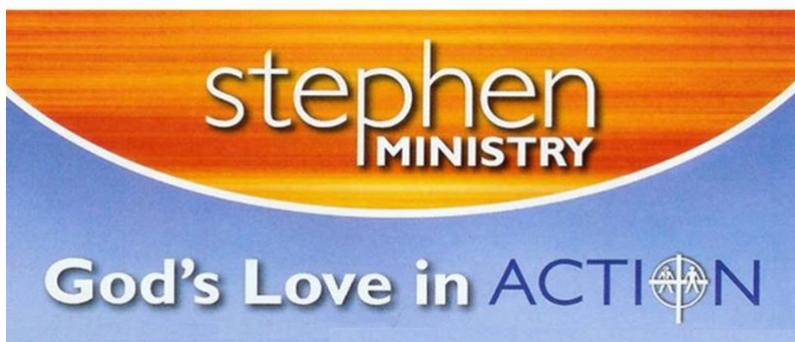
**The Open Door Clinic will next be distributing food on Saturday, June 25. Please contact Paul Urian with any questions or if you can help. [umanpaul@me.com](mailto:umanpaul@me.com)**



## WEEKLY CALENDAR

June 25-July 2 – Youth Mission Trip

- June 25 – 9 a.m.-12 p.m. St. Wilfrid's Open Door Clinic
- June 26 – 10 a.m. Worship
- June 20 – 9:45 a.m. Quilters
- July 1 – 9 a.m. Women's Prison Ministry Zoom
- July 3 – 10 a.m. Worship – Communion
- July 4 – **US Independence Day (Church Closed)**
- July 6 – 6:30 p.m. Fables Book Discussion Zoom
- July 10 – 10 a.m. Worship
- 11 a.m. JAC Book Discussion



Applications to become a Stephen Minister are available [on the website](#) and at church.