

This week's news...



January 13, 2022

Dear Friend,

Harder, easier and more convenient

Consider the windows on a car.

First, they were manually clipped into place.

And then they were hand-rolled into position. But that was too difficult.

So the electric window was born.



But holding your finger on the button for 10 seconds was onerous, so now, it's automatic.

It's easy to see the trend toward convenience in many areas of our lives. Sociologists have pointed out that people will trade privacy, money or friendships in exchange for convenience.

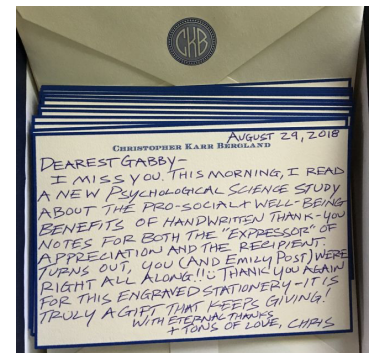
I'm not old enough to remember windows that clipped into place, but have owned cars that had hand-rolled windows and remember the magic of electric windows! Luxury!

We do live in a world of increasing convenience. Most of us carry around a powerful computer in our pockets which is also a phone, high-quality camera, and all-around knowledge base! How many times have we been asked or wondered something only to immediately reach for our phones and Google? Shopping is now a matter of browsing -- not racks in department stores -- but Amazon, Etsy, or any other major retailer. We take two-day delivery as standard and can get most things overnight. No longer do we have to schlep to movie theaters -- we can see what we want on flat pieces of glass on our living room walls or tablets on our laps.

Consider communication and the evolution we've all experienced. Texting is now *de rigeur* and a phone call seems charmingly old-fashioned. Meetings are via Zoom or Facetime. Sure, the pandemic has exacerbated the lack of in-person gatherings, but if anything, it just sped up the inevitable.

Yet, all of the above is but a prelude to a paean to the inconvenient methods I hope we preserve. Notably, two things:

1. In praise of the simple hand-written note. Some things simply need to be expressed in one's own hand (preferably with a fountain pen on good stationery), two of which are gratitude and sympathy. A well-phrased "thank you" note is a treat and a thoughtful note of condolence is especially meaningful and hopefully comforting. Hand-written notes are clearly not as convenient as dashing off a text (with or without emoji) but there are times that inconvenience is the point.





2. Good old-fashioned church services on hard pews in well-appointed churches with hymnals (can we talk about upgrading to the current one?) and Bibles and bulletins and collection plates and ushers and organs and choirs and bells and preachers in stuffy robes! Yes, all of these are anachronisms and all are inconvenient (to say nothing of expensive!) -- yet nothing replaces the experience of people gathered for worship --

singing, praying, laughing -- hearts unified and uplifted beyond themselves. There are lots and lots of more convenient ways to do what we do on Sunday mornings but none improve or enhance and all are deficient, at least IMHO!

There are times that the cost of convenience in terms of money, privacy, or relationships is too great and taking the inconvenient route is the better, often untaken, road.

Be well, stay safe, and God bless,

P.S. The current Covid guidelines will stay in place for the balance of January. The CRT (Covid Response Team) is meeting next week to assess the situation and possibly revise. If no one has said it to you recently -- thank you -- this is hard and everyone's patience is invaluable.



JANUARY 17 – MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., DAY

Office closed
No Session meeting

CIRCLE 3 MEETING ON ZOOM – The meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 18, at 10 a.m. has been moved online. Here is the Zoom link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88570645644>.

A NOTE FROM YOUR PNC

The Pastor Nominating Committee has been very busy over the last four months. We have all our paperwork finished, we received approval from Session and the Presbytery. In December our forms were posted on the Presbytery site for viewing by interested pastors. We have received our first batch of resumés and will start the very hard process of reading and categorizing them. Please keep your prayers coming as we continue down the path that God has laid out before our committee and its search for 1st Presbyterian's new head Pastor.

BE THE FRIENDLY FACE OF THE CHURCH – USHER TRAINING

Ushers are doorkeepers in the house of the Lord and play a significant role in providing first impressions! Do you generate a spirit of welcome and hospitality? If so, the ministry of ushering is calling to you! The Deacons are opening the work of ushering up to the congregation. Interested? Ushering training will be provided via Zoom on two separate occasions to accommodate varying schedules: **on Thursday, January 20, at 6:30, and Thursday, January 27, at 6:30. You only need to attend once!** Same link for each evening: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84926396230>. Training will be based on the small manual *The Work of the Usher*, which is available in the church office. You are encouraged to pick it up (at no cost)! Questions? Contact Pastor Nikki.

COMING TO THE CHURCH OFFICE OR NEED SOMETHING IN THE BUILDING?

Please call before venturing out. Staff are working remotely as much as possible during January. In-person meetings are discouraged. If you need to get into the building, talk to a staff member to make arrangements. If your group or committee would like a Zoom meeting scheduled, leave a phone message for Kris Bean or Anne Vial.

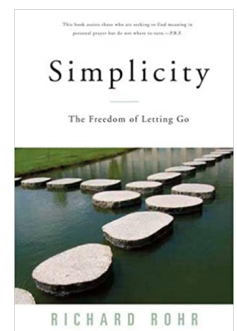
BeSMART PRESENTATION SUNDAY, JAN. 23 @ 11:30

Every adult can play a role in keeping kids and communities safer. Join us on Zoom for an adults-only presentation by Dave Austin, the BeSMART Lead for the South Jersey chapter of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense. A retired public school educator, Dave has made sharing the BeSMART message a major priority in his life. He will present the five pillars of BeSMART in a non-partisan, non-judgmental fashion that allows for open and honest conversations about this important, life-saving program.

STUDY OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE NEW YEAR

THE PORCH BIBLE STUDY will meet on Zoom at 7 p.m., on Tuesday, January 18th. Our class on the 18th is called, "Living in the Light." If you would like to attend, please contact the church office for the Zoom invitation. The Porch group studies the Bible and how it relates to our daily life and decisions. We end with prayer joys and concerns.

SIMPLICITY – Beginning January 19, you are invited to begin studying Richard Rohr's *Simplicity: The Freedom of Letting Go*. We will meet every Wednesday at 6:30 via Zoom and cover one chapter a week. Here is the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6467052376>. Participants are responsible for the book purchase. Books may be purchased on Amazon for approximately \$15, or Lesley Kirsch can order books from Ida's Bookstore in Collingswood to support a new black-owned business (also available online through <https://www.oursisterbookshops.com/>.) Contact Lesley at lesley@lesleykirsch.com.



DOUG'S TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY (8 a.m. via Zoom) is ongoing—and you can join at any time. The texts for the coming week are Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 and Luke 4:14-21.

PASTOR NIKKI'S BIBLE STUDY is pausing for a short time. See the announcement above about the book study on Richard Rohr's *Simplicity*.

GIVING ENVELOPES FOR 2022

Thanks to all who pledged for the coming year! If you requested giving envelopes, please pick them up in the copy room behind the office (where the accessible bathroom is). Find the box with your name on it. (As with last year, we are saving money by not having giving numbers printed on envelopes.) If you would like envelopes but didn't say so on your pledge, you may take one of the unlabeled boxes. Cash donors take note: when using giving envelopes make sure to include a name or giving number so your offering can be credited to your account.

ANNUAL REPORT – The office is beginning to compile the annual report for 2021 – what a year! If your group or committee typically contributes a report, please send it to Anne Vial, avial@haddonfieldpres.org by January 21. If you are not sure or have questions, contact Anne. The 2020 Annual Report is linked on the "Bulletins" page of the church website for reference. the Annual Meeting is scheduled for February 13.

Youth News

MISSION TRIP 2022 – Spots still available for the 2022 mission trip for both students and chaperones! We're partnering with Appalachia Service Project and headed to Kentucky for the 2022 Youth Mission Trip! Trip dates are Saturday June 25th to Saturday July 2nd. Any eligible students (rising 9th graders through recently graduated seniors) and potential chaperones, please turn in your completed applications NOW plus \$225 deposit to the church office Attn: Gabrielle Heimerling If you have any questions or concerns, or need a student or chaperon application, please reach out to Gabrielle Heimerling at gheimerling@haddonfieldpres.org. To learn more about ASP, please visit their website: <https://asphome.org>.

Sunday School Teacher Needed – There is an opening for a teacher for our 7th/8th Grade Sunday School class. All that's needed is a willingness to teach and we will provide the curriculum, teaching manuals, supplies and support. Please consider volunteering for this fun and rewarding experience. Reach out to Gabrielle Heimerling at gheimerling@haddonfieldpres.org.

For the month of January the following Children and Youth Programs will be going virtual:

Nursery: The nursery will be closed through the month of January. We are looking forward to hanging out with your babies and toddlers in February!

Sunday School: Please be on the lookout for virtual Sunday School lessons emailed each week. To make sure you are on the distribution list please reach out to Gabrielle Heimerling at gheimerling@haddonfieldpres.org.

This week in (virtual) Sunday School we talked about Epiphany. The wise men traveled really far in order to give Jesus some very special, expensive presents. At the end of our lessons there was a video about an entirely different kind of present. I love this short film and hope you will, too. Here's the link. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3XA0bB79oGc>

Youth Group is taking this Sunday (1.16.22) off this week for the long weekend. We'll be meeting again virtually on 1.23.22. Be on the lookout for Zoom information to be sent next week. Want to join us? Reach out to Gabrielle Heimerling at gheimerling@haddonfieldpres.org.

ST. WILFRID'S OPEN DOOR CLINIC

This week marked the 92nd week that the Open Door distributed food during the Pandemic. 62 bags were given out, over 8,873 total! Over 221,825 pounds of food and dry goods have been distributed by the all-volunteer, everything-donated, nobody-gets-paid Open Door Clinic at St Wilfrid's. Thank you for your generous collections and contributions!

More volunteers are needed on Saturday mornings to set up at 8:30 a.m. Distribution of food and winter coats, etc. begins about 9:15. **AND more volunteers are needed to pick up food and dry goods at the Foodbank of South Jersey on Fridays** (usually about 8:00 at the Foodbank and 8:30 at St Wilfrid's to unload and store). If you can help on Saturday mornings or on Fridays, come join the team! Contact Paul Urian at umanpaul@me.com. The next pickup is Thursday (not Friday), January 20th.

NEEDS:

Coats: all sizes from 24 months to XXX large, and sweatshirts and pants for extra layers. It's cold, and landlords keep heat at 55 degrees, so sometimes coats, etc. are worn indoors. Items may be

dropped off weekdays on Corey Crumley's porch (40 Warwick Road Haddonfield) or Sundays in the alcove behind the parlor at FPCH.

Food Needs: tuna, tomato sauce (no glass jars please), cold cereal, toothpaste and toothbrushes, diapers (sizes 5 and 6), wipes, and more wipes. And we always need plastic grocery bags from Shoprite or Wegman's, paper grocery bags to line the plastic bags, and newspaper bags to hold hygiene items. If you see toiletries (bars of soap, toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, hygiene pads or adult diapers size large) on sale, we give these items as needed to our clients. Items may be dropped off weekdays on the steps of the PATCO side of Grace Episcopal Church or on Sundays in the alcove between the parlor and the Sanctuary or after church at the door to the office on the Masonic Temple side.

OTHER ST. WILFRID NEEDS: 300 PB&J sandwiches are given out each week. Can you believe almost 15,000 PB&J sandwiches have been given away during the Pandemic and it is still everyone's favorite sandwich?! **We are looking for peanut butter and jelly sandwich makers.** Scouts? Students? Seniors? Families? Sunday School Classes? Anyone needing service hours? If you are interested in making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, please select a donation week on this signup form: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0845aba72caa8-pbjs1>. Wendy, who coordinates the peanut butter and jelly traffic can be reached at her email: wendy.coffman@gmail.com. If you have any questions - check the website, www.opendoorcliniccamden.org, or call Jill Mascena at 856-428-7342 and leave a message. She'll get back to you!

PICKLE BALL, ANYONE? Steve and Karen Dante will be offering a basic introduction to the very fun game of pickleball to church members and friends. They will run sessions on Fridays from 5:30 - 6:30pm in Fellowship Hall on the following dates: 2/4, 2/18, 2/25, 3/11, 3/18, 3/25, 4/1, 4/8, 4/22 and 4/29. Cost is \$25 for 4 evenings (they don't need to be on consecutive Fridays), scheduled and paid for in advance, and there is room for up to 8 people per evening. Karen and Steve will provide all equipment, although entry level racquets are not expensive, and you are encouraged to bring your own. Contact Karen with any questions or to sign up: kfdante@verizon.net.

YOUTH NEWSLETTER, newest edition, is available [here](#) and on the church website.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

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| Jan. 16 – 10 a.m. Worship | – 4:45 p.m. Alleluia Bells |
| – No Youth Group | – 5:30 p.m. Whitechapel Bells |
| Jan. 17 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – Office closed | – Simplicity book discussion begins |
| – No Session Meeting | – 7:30 p.m. Kirk Ringers |
| Jan. 18 – First day back for Preschool | Jan. 20 – 6:30 Moore Bells |
| – <i>Glad Tidings</i> Deadline | – 6:30 1st Usher Training opportunity |
| – 8 a.m. Doug's Bible Study | – No Chancel Choir |
| – 10 a.m. Circle 3 Zoom | Jan. 21 – Deadline to send Annual Report reports to Anne Vial |
| – 10:30 Staff Meeting – virtual | Jan. 23 – 10 a.m. Worship |
| Jan. 19 – No Singing Youth or Children's Choir Rehearsals (No spaghetti meal) | – 11:30 BeSMART Presentation on Zoom |
| | – 5 p.m. Youth Group |