

This week's news...



December 2, 2021

Dear Friend,

COVID Response Team (CRT) Update!

It appears as though we are faced with yet another "perfect storm" of pandemic-related circumstances. I read an article recently that said navigating the pandemic last year was so much easier -- everything just shut down! This year, we, all of us, are making decisions and plans that can change on a moment's notice.

I've said this before, but it bears repeating: This church's team of folks who comprise the CRT is one of the most devoted committees I've ever seen. They meet regularly, stay up on the science and trends, and constantly balance the desire of the congregation to gather with the need to keep everyone safe. It's a hard job -- a really hard job -- and they do it well and they do it faithfully. That said, their clear direction for the near future is that there will be no change to the existing guidelines in light of new strains of the virus and winter weather:

1. Every adult entering the building must be fully vaccinated.
2. Please stay home if you're experiencing any cold or flu symptoms at all -- even slight ones.
3. Every person in the building must be masked when in common areas with others or near children.
4. Every other pew in the sanctuary will remain closed.

How does that affect the Christmas season services? A few different ways:

1. Please click on [this link](#) and to indicate you are coming to the Advent Candlelight Service on Sunday, December 12, at 5:00 p.m. This is NOT a reservation -- but rather simply a way for the church to plan on capacity.
2. The modified Sanctuary will accommodate approximately 300 people and Fellowship Hall will be set-up for overflow. (The service will be streamed and projected.)
3. The same arrangements will be made for the 10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service.
4. The 4:00 p.m. service for families and children will be held per usual as will the 7:30 p.m. service in the Chapel.



On a different topic, I read this [article](#) about "forgiveness" and thought it worthy of sharing. Here's a small excerpt:

Every functional family, defined here as people willing to be in relationships without end, relies on forgiveness at some level, and surprisingly often that forgiveness is routine, spontaneous and possibly beyond merit. Not that it's easy. But the alternative is even harder.

My friend, a rabbi in San Francisco named Michael Lezak, has officiated at hundreds of funerals where people have not resolved

their conflicts, compounding their grief with regrets and shame. "Pain and anger embed themselves in our souls," he told me. "Gone unprocessed, unchecked and, ultimately, unreleased, this subterranean hurt can so easily metastasize, sapping us of potential and impeding us from feeling fully alive."

*And we all have more experience with forgiving than we sometimes give ourselves credit for. If you're looking for a 2021 holiday miracle, here's a big one: **At every dinner table, there are people who have managed to look past all kinds of wrongs, people who engage in a voluntary amnesty that marries an acceptance of our own flawed ordinariness and the truth that every last one of us is more than our most unjust behaviors. At every table, people are breaking bread, raising a glass, letting go.***

I hope this finds you well!

Be safe and God bless,



PS: The members of the CRT are: Lee Federline (chair), Gerry Rice, Anne Walters, Karen Dante, Travis Bogetti, Chuck Bell, Lorraine Gormley-Devine, Michelle Taffet, Margot Dark, Marisa McGovern, Anne Vial, and Doug Gerdts.

Advent deadlines and dates:



- December 2 – Feed My Starving Children "Christmas Around the World"
- December 4 – last day to order poinsettias for the Candlelight service
- December 4 – Interfaith Caregivers Holiday Market (Exchange products available)
- December 8 – Preschool Shopping event - Haddonfield stores
- December 8 – Deadline for Caring Hearts Donations (See announcement)
- December 12 – Candlelight Service**

Christmas toy collection has begun - new toys, please!

CARING HEARTS DONATIONS!

We need your help fulfilling holiday wish lists for deserving families through the Caring Hearts Ministry. Please consider donating \$25 for gift cards (cash, check, or online through Realm – select Caring Hearts in the Giving drop down menu), and we will do the gift card shopping for you. Let us know your donation is for Caring Hearts. Let's bring some Holiday Cheer to families struggling with HIV/AIDS. Caring Hearts donations are due by 12/8/21. Thank you!!



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.*

Youth News

Mission Trip 2022: It's official! We're partnering with Appalachia Service Project and headed to Kentucky for the 2022 Youth Mission Trip! Trip dates are Saturday June 25 to Saturday July 2. Any eligible students (rising 9th graders through recently graduated seniors) and potential chaperones, please turn in your completed applications plus \$225 deposit to the church office Attn: Gabrielle Heimerling by **December 12, 2021**. 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>.

Youth Group: Please join us this Sunday 12/5/21 from 5pm-6pm for a mission project and some games. Of course pizza and snacks to start. Then we will be off the following week 12/12/21 for the Candlelight Service then back together 12/19/21 for the final Youth Group of the year. We'll see you in the Hospitality Room!

Advent Festival: Thanks to all for a wonderful Advent Festival this past Sunday. It was so wonderful to meet in person after last year's take home version. Big thanks to the incredible Advent Committee: Trish Adkins, Heather Chamberlin, Rachel Davis, Anne Montgomery, Christina Neal, Cheryl Tarditi, Jennifer Wesson, Caroline Yount and ALL of our youth and adult station volunteers, including Mr. Federline and the Confirmation Class. You are all angels on earth!



CHECK OUT THE NEW MONTHLY NEWSLETTER, PRESBY BUZZ

PRESBY BUZZ
EPCC MONTHLY YOUTH NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 2021 - VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Music News
- Youth Group News
- Advent Festival
- Mission Trip 2022
- Other Resources

IT'S OUR INAUGURAL NEWSLETTER!

Welcome to our new first issue! We're hoping you'll find this a great place to find out all the things we're up to and our exciting plans for the future. We'll be sharing about our Youth and Family Events, and have other great opportunities for your families.

Help center of Haddonfield Presbytery and Haddonfield Presbytery. Presby Buzz has a mission to help you find out all the things we're up to and our exciting plans for the future. We'll be sharing about our Youth and Family Events, and have other great opportunities for your families.

PRESCHOOL FUNDRAISER DEC. 8

Presby Preschool Parents Night Out

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8TH

4:00 – 8:00 PM

Presby has partnered with local businesses to provide an opportunity to shop local during extended hours. Please **mention Presby Preschool** and a percentage of sales will be donated to our preschool!

Participating Businesses Include:

Melange Children's Boutique, A Little Whimsy, Maxwell James Jeans, Sole Active Apparel, Passariello's, Kings Road Brewing Company, Haddonfield Running Company, Inkwood Books, Mecha Chocolate



SHOP LOCAL * EAT LOCAL * SIP LOCAL * SUPPORT LOCAL

ST. WILFRID'S OPEN DOOR CLINIC

88 weeks in a row is a long time – over a year and a half! We used to conduct the Open Door Clinic once a month, and when the pandemic started, we opened weekly. On the Saturday after Thanksgiving, we did not open. And we will not be open on Saturday, December 25, or Saturday, January 1. We will give out extra food prior to the closed Saturdays. So...we need some extra things prior to those dates:

NEEDS:

- **Food bank pickup:** extra help is needed on **Friday, December 10**, and **Friday, December 17**. Please check in with Paul at umanpaul@me.com if you can help transport food to St Wilfrid's on 12/10 or 12/17.
- **Coats:** As we enter this holiday season, please be on the lookout for coats, gently used or new; also sweatshirts and sweatpants, socks, hats, scarves, mittens, and gloves. Those

without homes of course need these items, but so do people who rent but live in frigid apartments – they live in their jackets and coats when home. These items may be left in the alcove behind the parlor on the coat rack.

- **Food and Hygiene:** Needs are instant oatmeal packets, granola bars, pasta, toothpaste, soap, women’s sanitary pads, and baby wipes! And of course plastic grocery bags from Shoprite and Wegman’s, paper grocery bags to line the plastic bags, and newspaper bags to hold hygiene products. These items may be dropped off weekdays in the bin on the steps of Grace Episcopal Church – PATCO side – or Sundays in the alcove of our church between the parlor and the sanctuary. Thank you for caring!
- **PB&J sandwiches:** given out to all who come on Saturdays. **We are short on people to do this.** Last year many families did it often as a way of helping their neighbors but can no longer do so. If you are interested in making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, please select a donation week by signing up 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.

REMAINING 2021 OPEN DOOR CLINIC DATES: December 11, and December 18

If you would like to know more, check the website: www.opendoorcliniccamden.org or call Jill Mascena at 856-428-7342 and leave a message.

BIBLE STUDY

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 Zephaniah 3:14-20 and Luke 3:7-18.

PASTOR NIKKI’S BIBLE STUDY meets Thursdays at 6:30 on [Zoom](#) for a discussion of the Letter to the Hebrews. You are welcome to join whenever you can.

URBAN PROMISE INTERNATIONAL PRESENTS

A Christmas of Promise

Dec 9th, 2021

A Virtual Christmas concert featuring:
Urban Promise International fellows Choir
and The Philadelphia Orchestra

Date: Dec 9th, 2021
Time: 8pm-8:40pm ET
Streamed on Zoom
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84245768955>



First Presbyterian Church

Wednesday, December 22nd
2pm – 7pm

First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall
20 Kings Highway East
Haddonfield, NJ 08033

[CLICK HERE TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT](#)

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WEEKLY CALENDAR

- Dec. 2 – 6:30 p.m. Nikki's Bible Study
- Dec. 2 – 6:30 p.m. Moore Bells
- Dec. 2 – 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir
- Dec. 3 – 9 a.m. Women's Prison Ministry Zoom
- Dec. 4 – Poinsettia order deadline
- Dec. 4 – 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Interfaith Caregivers Winter Market
- Dec. 5 – 10 a.m. Worship - 2nd Sunday in Advent, Communion
- Dec. 5 – 5 p.m. Youth Group
- Dec. 6 – 9:30 a.m. Quilters
- Dec. 6 – 4 p.m. Finance Committee
- Dec. 7 – 8 a.m. Doug's Bible Study
- Dec. 7 – 9:45 PW Coordinating Team
- Dec. 7 – 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
- Dec. 7 – 11:30 a.m. Staff lunch
- Dec. 7 – 7 p.m. Governance Committee
- Dec. 8 – Deadline for Caring Hearts Donations
- Dec. 8 – Presby Preschool Shopping Event
- Dec. 8 – Youth and Children's Choir Rehearsals; Spaghetti dinner (6:00)
- Dec. 9 – 6:30 p.m. Bible Study with Nikki
- Dec. 9 – 6:30 p.m. Moore Bells
- Dec. 9 – 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir
- Dec. 11 – 11 a.m. Tableau Rehearsal
- Dec. 12 – 10 a.m. Worship – 3rd Sunday in Advent
- Dec. 12 – 5 p.m. Advent Candlelight Service

