

This week's news...



December 9, 2021

Dear Friend,

Opponent or Enemy?

Senator Bob Dole is lying in state this morning in the Capitol and in light of his recent death, NPR is replaying an interview from 2005 in which Dole reflects on his recovery from war injuries and his years in Congress. One small distinction caught my ear. In speaking of those on the "other side of the aisle" he was careful to say, "they were opponents, not enemies"

It clicked. In much of our social and political discourse and discord we've conflated the two.

Opponent: *someone who competes against or fights another in a contest, game, or argument; a rival or adversary.*

Enemy: *a person who is actively opposed or hostile to someone or something.*



There's a clear line between the two: one is a contest between rivals and the other is open and active hostility. One seems to address a dispute over ideas or practices, the other is contempt for a person.

This isn't to uphold Senator Dole as any sort of icon but rather to say that I applaud his service and civility (even if mostly aspirational for most of us). His words also prompt consideration of how we treat or view those with whom we disagree. Are they opponents or enemies?

We know how Jesus felt about our enemies.

Food for thought.

In other news:

A church in Baltimore Presbytery recently had a significant outbreak among its Sunday morning worshipers with 10% testing positive and some with symptoms. It was reported that the congregation was mostly vaccinated and had relaxed masking and other guidelines. The church has now closed for 14 days and is implementing a sanitizing protocol while programming and worship is moved online.



As we head into our "busy season" with higher anticipated attendance, we're paying very close attention to capacity and COVID restrictions, namely, that every adult entering the building must be fully vaccinated and remain masked during services, in groups, or when children are present. In addition, to monitor limited capacity, we are counting out 350 bulletins for the Advent Candlelight this

Sunday and the 10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service. When those have been handed out, folks will be offered seating in Fellowship Hall where the services will be streamed and projected.

The church is committed to safety and staying open -- full vaccination equals full participation.

As always, I hope this finds you well!

Be safe and God bless,



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 deadline extended to 12/10/21. Thank you!!

NEW TOY COLLECTION

Every year, First Presbyterian helps many families make Christmas happy for parents and children alike. Please donate new toys to share with our neighbors this season. The toy box is set up in the Parlor.



THE MITTEN TREE...

is in the back of the Sanctuary for your donations of mittens, gloves, hats, and scarves for all ages. Donations accepted through December.

Advent and Christmas Worship:

ADVENT CANDLELIGHT SERVICE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, AT 5 P.M.

Childcare will be available. Christmas Joy offering will be received. We continue to follow social distancing protocols, including seating every other pew. If the Sanctuary reaches capacity, overflow worshippers will be seated in Fellowship Hall where the service will be streamed on the large screen. And the service will be streamed for those participating from home.



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES ON DECEMBER 24 – We will celebrate the birth of Christ together this year at our three traditional Christmas Eve services. Come to hear the familiar stories and sing the familiar carols.

- 4 p.m. Family Service in the Sanctuary – Carols and a story
- 7:30 p.m. Chapel Service – Lessons and Carols – contemplative
- 10 p.m. Candlelight Service – Lessons and Carols with choirs and candlelight singing

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 Deadline: 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: We're taking the week off this week for the Candlelight Service. We'll meet up again for our White Elephant Gift Exchange and Elf Movie Trivia game on 12/19/21. Hope to see you there!

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.

ST. WILFRID'S OPEN DOOR CLINIC

This week marks the **89th week out of 90** that the Open Door Clinic at St. Wilfrid's has distributed food during the pandemic; **111 bags, 8,565 total. Over 214,125 pounds** of food and dry goods! Thank you all for your generous contributions. In addition to the food bags, 100 hygiene bags for men, 100 hygiene bags for women, and 250 makeup bags for teenagers were filled by Corey Crumley and given out! Oh, the joy on our clients' faces! Please note, we will not be open on Saturday, December 25, or Saturday, January 1, so we need some extra things prior to those dates:

NEEDS:

- **Food bank pickup:** extra help is needed on **Friday, December 17**. Please check in with Paul at umanpaul@me.com if you can help transport food to St Wilfrid's on 12/17.
- **Coats:** As we enter this holiday season, please be on the lookout for coats, gently used or new, sizes from 24 months to 2XL; 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 spaghetti sauce, instant oatmeal packets, diapers size 6, baby wipes and more 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:** 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.

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.

PRESCHOOL GETS SOME SPECIAL VISITORS

It's so delightful to see the wonder in children's eyes when they see Santa. Our Santa is so patient and gentle, even the shyest children share their wishes with Santa. Each year, he asks, "would you like some surprises?" The responses vary from one to one hundred! No matter the age, surprises under the tree or in a stocking are always exciting! We are so thankful for Santa and Elf William and the holiday cheer and magic they bring each year to the preschool!



PW at INTERFAITH CAREGIVERS WINTER MARKET



BIBLE STUDY

DOUG'S TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY (8 a.m. [via Zoom](#)) is ongoing—and you can join at any time. The text for the coming week Luke 1:26-45.

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.

CHRISTMAS BLOOD DRIVE



First Presbyterian Church

Wednesday, December 22nd
2pm – 7pm

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

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WEEKLY CALENDAR

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|---|---|
| Dec. 9 – 6:30 p.m. Nikki's Bible Study | Dec. 21 – 8 a.m. Doug's Bible Study |
| Dec. 9 – 6:30 p.m. Moore Bells | Dec. 21 – 7 p.m. Governance Committee |
| Dec. 9 – 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir | Dec. 22 – 2-7 p.m. Blood Drive |
| Dec. 10 – Deadline for Caring Hearts Donations | Dec. 22 – No Youth and Children's Choir Rehearsals |
| Dec. 11 – 11 a.m. Tableau Rehearsal | Dec. 23 – Nikki's Bible Study Does Not Meet |
| Dec. 12 – 10 a.m. Worship – 3rd Sunday in Advent | Dec. 23 – 6:30 p.m. Moore Bells |
| Dec. 12 – 5 p.m. Advent Candlelight Service | Dec. 23 – 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir |
| Dec. 13 – 9:30 a.m. Quilters | Dec. 24 – Jan. 31 Church Office Closed (reopen 1/3) |
| Dec. 13 – 7 p.m. Session Meeting | Dec. 24 – 4 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Service in the Sanctuary |
| Dec. 13 – 7:15 p.m. Circle 4 on Zoom | Dec. 24 – 7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Chapel Service |
| Dec. 14 – 8 a.m. Doug's Bible Study | Dec. 24 – 10 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service |
| Dec. 14 – 7 p.m. Christian Ed Committee | Dec. 25 – CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF JESUS |
| Dec. 15 – No Youth and Children's Choir Rehearsals | Dec. 26 – 10 a.m. Worship |
| Dec. 16 – 6:30 p.m. Bible Study with Nikki | Jan. 2 – 10 a.m. Worship |
| Dec. 16 – 6:30 p.m. Moore Bells | |
| Dec. 16 – 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir | |
| Dec. 17 – 9 a.m. Women's Prison Ministry Zoom | |
| Dec. 19 – 10 a.m. Worship – 4th Sunday in Advent | |
| Dec. 19 – 5 p.m. Youth Group | |

