

This week's news...



February 3, 2022

Dear Friend,

Wordle

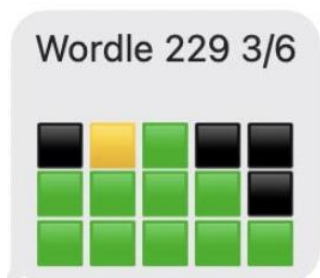
Have you discovered Wordle? It's a word game invented during the UK lock-down by a person whose last name is Wardle as entertainment for his partner.

I read a short blurb about it in *The New York Times* (which eventually bought the game for “low seven figures”!) around Christmas-time and was immediately hooked!

For the uninitiated, it's a very simple word game. The goal is to guess a 5-letter word in 6 tries. After each guess the letters turn either gray (letter is not in the answer), yellow (letter is in the final word but not the location of the guess), or green (the letter is in the final word and is in the correct position). Here's an example:

(This is from a few days ago — so no spoilers!)

The fun part is you can trade scores and guesses with friends without revealing the answer, as follows:



(This is today's — easy to share without giving anything away!)

In addition, there's only one game per day so you won't fall down the “rabbit hole” and spend the better part of a day playing!

As you can imagine, word-nerds (among which I count myself) have all kinds of theories about best words to start with and strategies for guesses. I just pick the first word that pops into my head and go from there. I don't mind spending all six guesses — after all — it's a fun word game and not a Mensa competition! (By the way — if you are a Wordle enthusiast feel free to text me [302-354-6930] your “share”! Love to see how folks are doing!)

Wordle has caught on like the proverbial wild-fire — one could say it's gone “viral” but maybe that's too soon! — so I wonder why?

Here's one theory:

Wordle exploded in popularity at the cusp of the new year. In November, the game had 90 players, but now it has over 2 million, reports Kyle Chayka for the New Yorker.

Thi Nguyen, a philosophy professor at the University of Utah and a scholar of games, wrote a Twitter thread offering his opinion on why the game went viral.



“The cleverest bit about Wordle is its social media presence,” he writes. “The best thing about Wordle is the graphic design of the shareable Wordle chart. There’s a huge amount of information - and drama - packed into that little graph.”

He describes each game of Wordle as an “arc of decisions, attempts and failures.”

“I don’t know any other game that has nearly as graphically neat a synopsis, where you can just see the whole arc of another’s attempt so quickly,” he writes.

The game stimulates both the language-and logic-processing areas of the brain, psychologist Lee Chambers tells Insider’s Sian Bradley, and it leads to the release of dopamine, a chemical that causes people to seek out a positive experience again.

Because all users are trying to guess the same word, everyone is sharing a common experience and struggle.

“Sharing a common experience and struggle.” Sounds like what we’ve all been through for nearly two years.

In some ways, Wordle is the epitome of the pandemic — a shared experience coupled with the desire to connect.

In my first sermon of 2022 I mentioned that the key to living well can be summed in four words: **Move. Nourish. Refresh. Connect.**

A member, with that sermon in mind, sent me this terrific [calendar](#) as a reminder to stay connected:



As always — I hope this finds you well, warm, and vaccinated! Be well and God bless,

Doug

ANNUAL MEETING

On Sunday, February 13 following worship, the Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held in the Sanctuary and on Zoom for the purpose of receiving the 2021 Annual Report. (Elections were held and terms of call approved at the Congregational meeting on January 2, 2022.) Copies of the Annual Report will be available on the church website starting Monday, February 7. Print copies will be available in the office. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84899576450>.

DOUG'S NEW BOOK STUDIES BEGIN NEXT WEEK

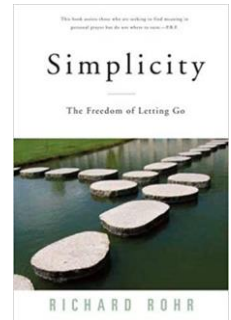
- A 14-week Bible Study on Acts *Into the World: The Acts of the Apostles*, **Mondays at 11:00 a.m.** via Zoom on **Feb 7**, 14, 28; March 7, 14, 21, 28; April 4, 11, 25; May 2, 9, 16, and 23. Contact Doug for the book.
- A 4-part book study/workshop on *The Dead Beat: Lost Souls, Lucky Stiffs, and the Perverse Pleasures of Obituaries*, by Marilyn Johnson on **Tuesdays at 4:30 p.m.** via Zoom on **Feb 8**, 15, 22, and March 1. Please order your own book.

SIMPLICITY BOOK STUDY HAS BEGUN

SIMPLICITY BOOK STUDY HAS BEGUN – Pastor Nikki is leading a study of Richard Rohr's book *Simplicity: The Freedom of Letting Go*. The group meets on **Wednesdays at 6:30** via Zoom. Here is the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6467052376>. If you would like to join by phone, use this number: 662-608-3419 (PIN: 655696482). Participants are responsible for the book purchase.

Class schedule:

- 2/9 Ch. 3-*Getting Rid of the Church*
- 2/16 Ch. 4-*Christians and Political Commitment*
- 2/23 Ch. 5-*Contemplation – the Spiritual Challenge*
- 3/2 **NO CLASS – Ash Wednesday**
- 3/9 Ch. 6-*The Freedom of the Sons and Daughters of God (Luke 8)*
- 3/16 Ch. 7-*What Is This 'Women's Stuff'?*
- 3/23 Ch. 8-*The Social and Political Vocation of Christians*
- 3/30 Ch. 9-*Less is More – Paths to a Spirituality of the Simple Life*



LENTEN DEVOTIONAL – THERE IS STILL TIME!

Slots are filling up for the 2022 Lenten devotional made up of contributions from the congregation, *but there is room for you*. Instructions are available [here](#) and on the church website. Sign up for a particular day's devotions using [Sign-up Genius](#). Email devotions to [Anne Vial](#) by February 7. (Note, however, that Anne can be soft on deadlines.)

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 is Luke 6: 17-26.

PORCH BIBLE STUDY will be studying the Book of James. Our next Zoom meeting is at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, February 22. All are welcome. Please contact the church office for the link.

JAZZ @ First Presbyterian

Jazz organist Lucas Brown brings his quartet, with special guest guitarist Peter Bernstein, to the First Presbyterian on Friday, March 4 at 7:30 p.m. Also featuring Byron Landham on drums and tenor saxophone Chris Lewis, the band will bring excitement as well as lyricism to the Sanctuary while swinging hard through a mix of standards and originals. There will be a freewill offering to benefit the church music program. Audience and performers will be masked and vaccinated.

Youth News

THESE CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROGRAMS will be staying virtual a little longer:

- Nursery: We are looking forward to hanging out with your babies and toddlers at the end of 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.

YOUTH GROUP – Field trip time! We are tentatively meeting on Sunday from 2-4 p.m. at WinterFest at Cooper River. So lace up those skates and get ready to do your best Pemchenko. If you don't know what this is, your parents definitely do. Toe pick! Look for the youth group email for more details or reach out to Gabrielle Heimerling at gheimerling@haddonfieldpres.org. And continue to work on getting those canned goods and donations for the Souper Bowl of Caring. You can collect all donations on your own and bring them to church by 2/13/22. *We are hoping to bring everyone back together in person on 2/27/22.*

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

Please help the FPCH Youth Group Mission Project

Two ways to donate:

1. Bring in **canned goods** to donate to the Cherry Hill Food Pantry through 2/13/22. Please make sure they are labeled or marked Souper Bowl of Caring or Cherry Hill Food Pantry. (This means bringing an extra can or two in addition to your regular St. Wilfrid's donations.)
2. Give **monetary donations** either online or in person. 100% of proceeds through 2/13/22 are donated to the Cherry Hill Food Pantry. Help us crush our fundraising goal of \$300! The QR code and link for donations are at right and below. Cash or checks (made out to FPCH) will be accepted at church – please mark donations for Souper Bowl of Caring or Cherry Hill Food Pantry. <https://map.tacklehunger.org/donate/firstpresyouth>



YOUTH MISSION TRIP 2022 – Join us for our first meeting on 2/27/22 at 11:15 a.m. in the Sanctuary with both chaperones and participants where we get to know each other, talk schedules, fundraising, and other important information. See you there! **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 25 to Saturday July. 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>.

This week in (virtual) Sunday School: This week our lesson teaches us about a prophet named Jeremiah Prophets are receivers and speakers of God's messages. Jeremiah was chosen by God when he was only a teenager, and God gave him a really hard job to do. Jeremiah's messages were hard to say and hard for people to hear, but Jeremiah was able to rise to the challenge.

You have to do challenging things all the time, especially dealing with pandemic life these past few years. Jeremiah's calling us shows us that God knows of all our special gifts and abilities. God knows we can make it through life's challenges, and will be there with us through them, even when we feel sad and alone. Just like God knew Jeremiah before Jeremiah knew himself, God knows and loves each and every one of you.

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; 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.

PRESCHOOL!

The Preschool 4-year-old Discovery class travels the world! They are immersed in the culture of a different country each week. They learn about the culture, have special visitors, and make traditional foods. This week they traveled to France. Chef Goofball (Jessica Simone) visited the class and led the group in making crepes! She wowed the children by flipping the crepes and serving them with chocolate or powdered sugar!



We are currently accepting registrations for September 2022. Come join the fun!

EQUAL EXCHANGE – Delicious coffees, teas, chocolate bars and more are still available, though supplies are limited. Go to the Presbyterian Women webpage for prices and ordering details. <http://www.haddonfieldpres.org/presbyterian-women>

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.*

ST. WILFRID'S OPEN DOOR CLINIC

The Open Door Clinic was closed Saturday for the road and parking difficulties of the volunteers and the safety of all. But there are a number of items to report on because there is always ongoing service

There was no Foodbank pick-up this week. The Foodbank is implementing a new inventory and ordering system. The next foodbank pick-up will be in February. Please contact Paul @ umanpaul@me.com if you can help transport food to St Wilfrid's.

Coats: Another donation of coats from Christ the King of Haddonfield. And thank you to Haddonfield Presbyterian Church Preschool for their donation of kid's hats and gloves.

NEEDED: Adult hats, gloves/mittens, jackets or coats sizes L, XL, XXL. These may be dropped off on Corey Crumley's porch (in plastic bags if possible) – 40 Warwick Rd., Haddonfield.

OTHER NEEDS: spaghetti sauce (cans or plastic jars please), tuna, rice, toothbrushes, diapers size 2, and WIPES. Plastic grocery bags from Shoprite or 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 bins 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 on the cart by the office door on the Masonic Temple side of the church

PB & J: 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 about volunteer opportunities or have any questions-check out the website.

www.opendoorcliniccamden.org. Or call Jill Mascena at 856-428-7342, leave a message and she will get back to you.

IHOC
INTERFAITH HOMELESS OUTREACH COUNCIL

Working Together Since 1991
16th Annual

MALL
WALK
FOR THE
HOMELESS

Sunday, February 27, 2022

Voorhees Town Center (Echelon Mall)
Register online: www.ihocsj.org • Walk starts at 2:30 PM
Rain, Snow, or Shine

Have fun and help Homeless People

For additional information call (856) 424-3820 or e-mail: info@ihocsj.org

Presented by Interfaith Homeless Outreach Council and sponsored in part by:

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WEEKLY CALENDAR

- Feb. 3 – 6:30 Moore Bells
– 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir – rehearsing but not yet singing in worship
- Feb. 6 – 10 a.m. Worship with Communion
– 2 p.m. Youth Group Field Trip
- Feb. 7 – 11 a.m. Doug's study of Acts
- Feb. 8 – 8 a.m. Doug's Bible Study
– 4:30 p.m. Doug's Obituary book group
– 7 p.m. Christian Ed Committee
- Feb. 9 – Youth and Children's Singing Choirs Rehearse!
– 4:45 p.m. Alleluia Bells
– 5:30 p.m. Whitechapel Bells
– 6:00 p.m. Spaghetti dinner
– 6:30 p.m. Simplicity Reading Group
– 7:30 p.m. Kirk Ringers
- Feb. 10 – 6:30 p.m. Moore Bells
– 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir
- Feb. 12 – Youth choir NYC trip
- Feb. 13 – 10 a.m. Worship, SOUPER BOWL OF CARING
– 11 a.m. Annual Meeting in the Sanctuary and on Zoom

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HADDONFIELD

2022 PER CAPITA NOW DUE

Please help provide the means to strengthen the connections of our work and build lasting relationships to help all Presbyterians share God's love through mission and ministry. Thank you!

\$37 per confirmed member –

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