

This week's news...



January 14, 2021

One Day at a Time

Dear Friend,

One of the recurring Christmas presents I've received for most of my adult life is a day-at-a-time calendar. The topics have ranged from a "Word of the Day" to "Car Talk" trivia, to crosswords, and daily words of inspiration. This year was "Great Quotes from Great Leaders" — and it's one of my all-time favorites!

Of course, you know what's coming!

Last Monday, January 11, here's the pearl wisdom awaiting me as I poured my first cup of coffee!

Now, I'm a huge fan of David Sedaris but I wouldn't lump him in as a "great leader"; yet, I loved his comment about changing people!

"I haven't got the slightest idea how to change people, but still I keep a long list of prospective candidates just in case I should ever figure it out!"

It's trite, but true, that the only person we can change is ourselves — yet my guess is that most/all of us have a list, short or long, of people we wouldn't mind changing. Maybe not huge wholesale changes — just a few tweaks here and there: a habit, quirk, or even an attitude or perspective.

How satisfying that would be! It's a win-win: our little bubble gets even more comfortable and non-irritating and we didn't have to do any work on ourselves at all!

Alas, the good news is — that just ain't gonna happen — and thanks be to God for that!

First of all, figuring out how to put up with each other is one of the best parts of being in a human community. Navigating and negotiating relationships is, for me at least, the best part of being alive! It's probably one of the best parts of being a pastor and hopefully one of the best parts of being part of a faith community.

Secondly, while I'm sure it's hard to believe, there may be a thing or two someone might want to change about you! Can you imagine that you could possibly be on someone's "things I'd change" list? Perish the thought! Clearly we're perfect, God-created beings just as we are!

Actually — that last phrase is one key aspect to Reformed theology — we are all beloved creatures of God endowed with gifts, talents, and skills to be employed for the glory of God.

I believe that — to my very core — and remind myself of that whenever I'm tempted to put someone on my "list of prospective candidates!"

God's blessings on each and every one of you! Be well and stay safe,



JANUARY 11

MONDAY

I haven't got the slightest idea how to change people, but still I keep a long list of prospective candidates just in case I should ever figure it out.

—DAVID SEDARIS

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

A big thank you from the Stewardship Committee for the positive response to the Run with Perseverance stewardship campaign. Many people have increased their pledge amounts and people who have never pledged before have made the commitment to ensure a reliable budget for 2021. We still have high hopes for meeting our pledge goal for the year. If you have not yet pledged and can do so now, please use [this online form](#) or fill out [this PDF](#) and email it to [Kris Bean](#) or drop it off during the drive-through. The church counts on your support for the programs and missions that allow us to be Christ in the world. Thank you.



A NOTE ON PLEDGE ENVELOPES – Pledge envelopes this year DO NOT have numbers. You can use your existing envelope number and either write the number or your name on the outside of the envelope.

CONVERSATIONS ON RACE

Conversations on Race continue each Sunday from 9-9:45 a.m. on Zoom at [this link](#). This week's discussion will begin with reactions to Will Bunch's column in the *Inquirer* on January 12, 2021. [PDF here](#). [Link here](#).

Each week's resources are linked in the weekly email newsletter and on the [Adult Ed](#) page of the website. Questions? Email Becky Bryan, rebeccabryan@me.com.



PORCH BIBLE STUDY

The Porch Bible Study will begin a study on the Book of Ephesians at 7 p.m., Tuesday, January 19th. Ephesians reveals many of God's wonderful truths including that we are all loved and accepted by Christ and saved through faith. We will go through the six chapters over a period of weeks and discuss what different religious teachers and pastors say about the book by Paul that discusses both God's love for us and how to be mature Christians. Deb Nussbaum and Jill and Tony Mascena host this Zoom study. We end every session with prayer concerns. All are welcome. If you would like the Zoom link, please contact the church office to be put on the Porch Study mailing list. The second session is scheduled for Tuesday, February 2.

ON-GOING...

Doug's Bible Study: Tuesdays at 8:00 a.m. on Zoom, Doug hosts an informal conversation about the scripture that will be the text for the following Sunday's sermon. The text for **Tuesday, January 19** is Jonah 3:1-5, 10. Here's the Zoom [link](#).

Speaking Truth in Love: Nikki's class "Speaking Truth in Love: How to Be an Assertive Christian" continues on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. Find the syllabus [here](#) and the Zoom link [here](#).

Nikki's Bible Study: Join Nikki on Thursday evenings at 6:30 for an in-depth study of **Revelation**. Here is the [Zoom link](#), and here is the [Syllabus](#).



A MUSICAL MEDITATION FROM MARK

Meditation, by Tracey Craig McKibben

Tracey holds her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in piano performance and pedagogy from Pensacola Christian College. She began composing and arranging in college, and developed into a lifelong passion for creating music. Tracey resides in Dayton, Ohio with her husband and son.



[Listen here](#)

NEWS FROM PW



Although separated from each other, the PW continues to connect and serve the community. Two circles meet via Zoom to continue their Bible Study "Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament." The subject has proven to be a particularly relevant one this year.

The Equal Exchange sales continued through Christmas and there are a few items still available. Bonnie Manskopf informs us that she has 2 green tea, and 13 dark chocolate almond, 5 dark chocolate caramel and 10 dark chocolate candy bars. You may contact her at bonniemankopf@yahoo.com or 856-858-1934 to purchase any of these items.

Sue Smith reports that Knitting4peace is well and functioning. Their website, Knitting4Peace.org offers information, patterns and instructions for many items that are needed. If you chose to knit these items you may contact Sue to collect and ship the items at susanclaireg@gmail.com or 856-546-8482.

Linda O'Neill continues to oversee the distribution of Kivsa loans to deserving women. The latest recipient is Luisa from Samoa who is using her loan to purchase supplies for her home-based cooking business that provides funds to educate her 5 children.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS!

THIS WEEK IN YOUTH GROUP - We were all Sus in Youth Group this on Sunday!. We had fun playing Among Us on Zoom and I am happy to report the Youth Group kids were very kind and helpful to their clueless leaders trying to learn Among Us. Youth Group is taking a break this week due to the long weekend but we will be back virtually on 1/24/21. Check your email for details coming soon!

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



We were all about baptism this week in Sunday School, specifically Jesus's baptism by John the Baptist. Baptism days are some of my very favorite days at church. I love everything about a baptism. I love the parents' silent prayers and mild panic hoping everything will go smoothly (spoiler alert: it usually doesn't). I love when older siblings go rogue. Any and all reactions from the babies make me laugh: when they stare blankly at the Pastor, when they smile and snuggle, when you hear adorable baby babble. My favorite though? When the baby is NOT HAVING IT. Fussing, tears, and protest - I LOVE IT. I know. I can't help it. It's absolutely not funny to the baptism parents (trust me, I have personal experience with a baptism gone south) but it is a sweet, honest, hilariously human moment. I also love how you can feel the whole congregation rally around the baptism family and commit to this new member of our church family. Virtual baptisms, I'm happy to report, also bring the joy. I am so grateful we have been able to continue to share baptisms with our church families.

Ask your parents about your baptism and see if you were a smiler or a crier - both are awesome. And don't despair if you haven't been baptized yet! There's no Need-To-Be-Baptized date. Baptism is welcome at any age.

Finally Friends, Please remember that God calls us "beloved" in baptism, just as God did with Jesus. God knows and loves each of us. You are beloved to God, and to all of us.

ST. WILFRID'S OPEN DOOR CLINIC

Current Needs:

- Winter coats/jackets - (in last 4 weeks, 200 coats/jackets have been given out), hats, mittens/gloves, socks and more socks for cold feet, and blankets
- Brown Trader Joe's or Whole Foods bags and regular grocery paper bags, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, and always diapers and wipes
- And of course-peanut butter, tuna, and pasta/Mac n cheese.

Donations of current needs may be dropped off at the FPC drive-through on Sunday between 11 and 12 or any day of the week in the bin behind Grace Episcopal Church. If anyone can help pick up food at Food Bank on Fridays, please let Rose Guthrie know: intrepidrose@hotmail.com. Any questions, please call Jill Mascena-856-428-7342 or visit the website. opendoorcliniccamden.org



CHERUB AND CAROL CHOIRS ON ZOOM

Thank you, Jennifer Wesson, for the photos. Back to in-person rehearsals on Wednesday!



WEEKLY CALENDAR

- Jan. 14 - 6:30 p.m. Nikki's Bible Study
- Jan. 17 - 9 a.m. Conversation on Race
- Jan. 17 - 10 a.m. Worship
- Jan. 18 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Jan. 19 - 8 a.m. Doug's Bible Study
- Jan. 19 - 7 p.m. Porch Bible Study
- Jan. 20 - 7:30 p.m. "Speaking the Truth in Love" class
- Jan. 21 - 6:30 p.m. Nikki's Bible Study
- Jan. 24 - 9 a.m. Conversation on Race
- Jan. 24 - 10 a.m. Worship