

This week's news...



January 28, 2021



Dear Friend,

The most important and immediate task for any pastor new to a congregation is meeting members and getting to know them. The whole basis of ministry is based upon relationships and it takes time and intention to form and strengthen those connections. It goes without saying that our current state of affairs hampers the traditional means of accomplishing that process yet the miracle of technology is helping to partly ameliorate that handicap. Hence my delight when directed to a blog by Trish Adkins, who, by the way, doesn't know I'm writing about her! The blog is [Yoke](#) and from my cursory read is typically filled with personal, mostly humorous, reflections on her life and extended family. She writes poignantly about one daughter's brain tumor and subsequent recovery and then the next day describes the inherently funny travails of escorting her mother to cataract surgeries.



This morning's post was a little different and it talked about her church and what it means in her life. Here's what she said:

The post [she was going to write about her hair], of course, would be funny and absolutely self-centered, as is the nature of my personal brand of blogging. But then I got some news about a church family we know—news which felt really close to home. Our church is home and family for us—even though I haven't been in the sanctuary since March 15, 2020. It is our church that has held us tight in love and friendship and faith. When any one of us is hurting, we all hurt.

The last couple of sentences spoke volumes to me and, if I were writing a description of First Presbyterian Church of Haddonfield for my replacement, I'd include them.

Thank you, Trish, for giving me a glimpse into your life; and thank you, people of FPCH, for caring so deeply and visibly for your community and church family.

Be well, stay safe, and God bless,

NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, we celebrate the Lord's Supper. And because it will be the first Sunday of the month, your Deacons offering will be collected. Thanks you for your generous support of the missions of the Deacons.

CONVERSATIONS ON RACE



Conversations on Race continue each Sunday from 9-9:45 a.m. on Zoom at [this link](#). To prepare for our conversation on race this Sunday, please watch the **second video** on this link, [Power to the People](#), from Austin Channing Brown's series, *The Next Question*.

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.

Yet *Another* Bible Study — BUT — This One Is for You!

Yes *YOU!*

It seems like yesterday that I, as a "thirty-something," got up a little extra early and drove to a nearby diner for a breakfast Bible study offered by one of the pastors of a UCC church my family and I had just started to attend.

Like most Protestant teenagers, I had been confirmed (Missouri Synod Lutheran!) and was given a Bible by some close friends of my family. It had my name and the date embossed on it, and I cherished it. It held a prominent place on my bookshelf, and I dutifully brought it with me to boarding school and to this day, it's on my bookshelf.

Of course — keeping it on my bookshelf and actually reading it are two very different things!

It was with no small amount of trepidation that I took my seat at the table that morning and we were asked to turn to Second Kings! Of course, I had to look at the Table of Contents for a page number and then navigated, with help, my way to the verses.

Thankfully — the pastor realized that some of us were beginners and geared the conversation closer to our level. That little taste of the Bible opened up the rest of the book, and I've been a student of it ever since.

In the decades since that first breakfast Bible study I've discovered equal enthusiasm for teaching about the Bible and leading studies, hence, this introductory class!

The class will use this book and meet on 12 consecutive Mondays beginning on February 22 at 11:30 a.m. *(If that schedule is terrible for folks who want to participate, we'll re-examine during our first session!)* The books are \$15 and will be available soon! If you know you're interested and want to reserve one, just click [here](#) and send Doug an email!

Take a chance and let the world of the Bible open up!

Doug

A GUIDE
THROUGH
THE OLD
TESTAMENT

Celia Brewer Marshall

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, February 2** is Mark 1:29-39. 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](#).

Porch Bible Study, studying the Book of Ephesians, meets next on February 2 at 7 p.m. 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.



MUSICAL MEDITATION FROM MARK *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need, arr. Molly Ijames*

*My Shepherd will supply my need; Jehovah is His name;
In pastures fresh He makes me feed beside the living stream.
He brings my wandering spirit back when I forsake His ways;
And leads me, for His mercy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.*

[Listen here](#)

Molly Ijames is widely recognized for her many sacred choral compositions and arrangements, instrumental solo and ensemble settings, and keyboard collections.

THE DEACONS HAVE BEEN BUSY!

On Martin Luther King, Jr., Day, 200 sandwiches were delivered to Camden's pop-up library. In addition, 70 coats and 42 backpacks brimming with supplies were delivered to the Camden Neighborhood Center. Thanks to Ed Hess and the Deacons for being Christ's – and our – hands and feet in the world.

LAST CALL TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

We are compiling a Lenten Devotional with devotions written by church members, and you are invited to participate. See instructions and scripture readings [here](#) and sign up for a specific date [here](#). Deadline for submissions is February 1. Contact Anne Vial with questions or for an extension of the deadline.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS!

We have a "take two" this week for Youth Group! Please join us this Sunday, 1/31, from 5pm-6pm on Zoom. We'll play Pictionary, compete in a Home Scavenger Hunt, Kahoot Trivia? Maybe All 3? Join us Sunday and find out. Check your email for the Zoom link. Not on the email list? Contact [Gab Heimerling](#) for the info.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

This week in Sunday School, we learned all about second chances, and one very reluctant prophet named Jonah. I love hearing stories about imperfect, reluctant prophets because I am hopelessly imperfect, and sometimes reluctant! Jonah shows us that God can use us even when we are reluctant to answer the call. I also love that it takes Jonah a couple of times to do the right thing. I rarely get things right the first time. We need second chances to get “doing the right thing” right. Doing the right thing may not be the easiest, but God loves us even when we need second, or more, chances. We all know what it's like to be told (not asked!) to do something we do not want to do. We know what "reluctance" feels like. Doing the right thing is hard. Doing the right thing with the right attitude can be even harder! But God doesn't give up on us. God keeps at us, just like with Jonah. And we always have second, third, even infinity chances with God.



A BIG FAT GREEK MOVIE NIGHT!



Here's something that's just for fun — no work, no study, no reading — just taking a couple of hours and watching a really great movie that's guaranteed to leave you feeling happy. It's simple:

1. Sometime in the next few weeks, watch "[My Big Fat Greek Wedding](#)" on whatever device or streaming service you prefer.
2. Block off Tuesday, March 9, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. for a Zoom conversation.

That's it. If something that folks enjoy, we'll do it every month!

WHY IS IT SAFE TO REOPEN OUR PRESCHOOL?

After many months of closing our preschool due to COVID-19, our doors are once again open. I have learned more about this infectious disease, CDC guidelines, protocols, PPE, Zoom, grants, google surveys, etc.... than anyone would care to in their first months of director of a locally renowned preschool. I was determined to reopen our Preschool in a safe way for all. In the fall, data was new or nonexistent and the spread of the virus became widespread, so the safest way was to hold outdoor classrooms and virtual lessons. We were successful in doing that. Not one staff member or student contracted the virus at the Preschool. (cont.)



Why have children been largely spared during the pandemic? It has become apparent that fewer young children have contracted COVID-19 than teens, young adults and older adults. Why is that? Are young children the “super-spreaders” they were once thought to be?

Mt. Sinai researchers have been studying why COVID-19 may be less common in young children than in adults. Findings show that young children lack a receptor in their cells necessary to catch the virus. The coronavirus uses the ACE2 receptor to enter the human body, where it spreads. ACE2 is known to be present in our airway, kidneys, heart, and gut. They found that younger children have lower levels of ACE2 in the nasal passages and this ACE2 level increases with age into adulthood. The nasal passages are typically the first point of contact for COVID-19. Dr. Paul Offit, a CHOP Infectious Disease Specialist stated that with the lack of the receptor ACE2 in children's cells, it makes it much harder for young children to contract COVID-19. The virus is less capable of binding to cells that line a child's upper respiratory tract. As children age, they slowly develop the ACE2 in their cells. Therefore, "children that are less than 5 years old are less infectable and when infected, are less contagious and less seriously affected as compared to older adolescents and adults." This may explain why children have been largely spared and they are not the "super spreaders" they were once thought to be.



We have examined the data and followed the research. We have watched other preschools follow guidelines and open safely indoors. We are well versed in protocols, guidelines, temperature checks, handwashing, air purifiers, ventilation, masks, hand-sanitizers, disinfectant products, and vaccine registrations. Now, we are prepared to open our doors and begin indoor learning. Children are in need of routine and socialization. Our classrooms are ready for children to learn, discover, gain independence, and develop friendships.

Marisa McGovern, Director of First Presbyterian Preschool

OUR YOUNG MUSICIANS



Allie Hall moves her voice up and down as she follows the path she drew in Cherub Choir.

James Gushue sings
"Come and Sing
Together"

[Listen Here](#)



ST. WILFRID'S OPEN DOOR CLINIC

Saturday was the 45th straight week that The Open Door has given out food, diapers, and other needs during the Pandemic... 107 bags of food were given out bringing the total to 4,086! That's over 100,000 pounds of food and hygiene supplies!



- Several youth groups are getting together 120 Valentine goodies bags.
Needed are travel size toothpaste and kids' toothbrushes!
- Peanut butter and jelly sandwiches last week were donated by families who made them as a project on Martin Luther King Day. This week, the FPC Sandwich Ladies will be making at least 200 PBJs again!
- **Current needs** are peanut butter, tuna, toothpaste, soap, diapers – kid and adult sizes, wipes, and hygiene supplies. And bags-bags-more bags!: Plastic grocery bags from Shoprite, Wegman's, Aldi's or Trader Joe's. Paper grocery bags to line the plastic bags, and newspaper bags to hold the hygiene supplies. AND winter jackets and coats all sizes, hats & mittens, and socks-socks-more socks (they make great hand warmers too!) We are giving away 40-50 jackets and coats a week. Some people lately have come just for the jackets, arriving in sweatshirts.

Donations may be dropped off at the drive-through after church on Sunday or in the bin behind Grace Church on weekdays. Anyone available to help pick up food from the Food Bank please contact Rose Guthrie at intrepidrose@hotmail.com. Questions on volunteering or needs-please call Jill Mascena at 856-428-7342 Or check the website opendoorcliniccamden.org

WEEKLY CALENDAR

- Jan. 28 - 6:30 p.m. Nikki's Bible Study
- Jan. 31- 9 a.m. Conversation on Race
- Jan. 31 - 10 a.m. Worship
- Jan. 31 – Donation drive-through, church driveway
- Jan. 31 – 5:00 p.m. Youth Group
- Feb. 2 – 8 a.m. Doug's Bible Study
- Feb. 2 – 7 p.m. Porch Bible Study
- Feb. 3 – 7:30 p.m. "Speaking the Truth in Love" class
- Feb. 4 - 6:30 p.m. Nikki's Bible Study
- Feb. 7 - 9 a.m. Conversation on Race
- Feb. 7 - 10 a.m. Worship – Communion and Deacons Offering