

# This week's news...



October 14, 2021

Dear Friend,

## ***Hacking Life***

I've mentioned this couple and their writing before, [Marc and Angel Hack Life](#), as they compose one of my "don't miss" blogs. Today's entry is entitled, "5 'Notes to Self' About the Precious Little Time You Have Left," (they love lists!) and I'll let you read the entire entry on your own as I only want to lift up two of the notes:

### **3. The willingness to do hard things makes life worth living.**

*If you want a job, be ready to work. If you want a relationship, be ready to work. If you want a family, be ready to work. If you want happiness, be ready... To learn and earn and give and grow, NOT just want and have and take and show. A marriage is hard. Friendship is hard. Parenting is hard. Staying healthy is hard. **But all are amazing and worth every bit of effort you can muster.***



We can easily add: If you want a vibrant church, be ready to work! First Presbyterian of Haddonfield hasn't been around for 150 years because folks let others do the work. Christianity is not a commodity to be consumed passively -- it's an active verb -- and we serve a God who insists on being in charge of every aspect of our being and life. It takes work to follow Christ -- if it doesn't feel like that it may be time for a faithful assessment!

### **4. Daily kindness is a beautiful legacy to leave behind.**

*Some people will be kind to you. Some won't. Be kind anyway.*

*Through kindness you have the ability to make a profound difference in every life you touch, including your own. When you guide somebody who is lost and confused, when you hold somebody who is sad and grieving, when you hug somebody who has lost all their hope, you too will feel yourself healing and growing stronger.*

*So just keep reminding yourself that you will end up terribly disappointed if you expect people will always do for you as you do for them. Not everyone has the same heart, strength and inner resolve as you. No matter what has happened, or what happens today, let kindness be your superpower. **Being extra kind to people is a peaceful way to live in each moment, and a beautiful legacy to leave behind in the long run.***

Seems like being kind, and its close cousin, "nice," are falling into the realm of weakness. That's a shame. They cost nothing, make us feel better about ourselves, and improve another person's day. It takes energy to be mean and nasty -- and I've never felt better for the effort. Yes, personal and emotional boundaries are crucial to our overall health, so being "kind" has nothing to do with letting another take

advantage of us or not speaking a critical word when warranted. Being kind has everything to do with care, consideration, and respect for another regardless of the message conveyed.

These can be confusing, frustrating, and even frightening times -- all of which call for an extra dose of kindness. it's worth it.

Be well, stay safe, get vaccinated, and God bless,



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## **PASTOR NIKKI'S INSTALLATION – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17!**

You are cordially invited to the Installation of the Rev. Nikki Perrine Passante at First Presbyterian Church of Haddonfield, NJ, on Sunday, October 17, 2021, at 3:00 in the afternoon. Speakers will be the Rev. Dr. Douglas D. Gerds, the Rev. Dr. Debby Brincivalli, who serves as the Executive Presbyter of the Presbytery for Southern New Jersey, and the Rev. Dr. William D. Hess II who will be delivering the sermon for the afternoon. Rev. 'Bill' Hess served as the Senior Pastor at First Presbyterian Church in West Chester, PA, for 27 years, and has served as a transitional pastor throughout New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Bill currently serves as the summer pastor for Christ Union Chapel in Branchville, NJ.



*There will be a celebration in the courtyard following the service.*

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**THE NEXT MATTHEW 25 CONVERSATION ON RACE** will be held on **Sunday, October 24**, after the 10 a.m. service in the Choir Room. Bob Lehman will be leading a fascinating discussion on segregation in the US, based on the book, *The Color of Law: The Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America*, by Richard Rothstein. Reading the book is not required to join in the discussion—you may want to listen to this interview with Mr. Rothstein: <https://www.minneapolisfoundation.org/podcasts/conversations-with-chanda/the-color-of-law/> and read the [book excerpt](#) linked on the Adult Ed page of the website. Questions? Email Becky Bryan at [rebeccabryan@me.com](mailto:rebeccabryan@me.com).

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## **STEPHEN MINISTRY INTEREST MEETING *NEW DATE***

Nikki is holding a Stephen Ministry interest meeting on Wednesday, November 3, at 6:30 p.m. in the Youth Room on the lower level. Read Nikki's 2020 [blog post](#) for a description of this ministry. Go to <http://www.haddonfieldpres.org/blog>

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**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER** of First Presbyterian Church in Haddonfield, NJ? *New Members classes* are scheduled for two consecutive Sundays: November 7th and November 14th, beginning at 11:15 a.m. after the worship service. The first New Members class will be held via Zoom, and the second class on November 14th will be offered in-person. If you'd like to know more about this faith community, are interested in attending, or have any questions, please contact Rev. Nikki Passante at [npassante@haddonfieldpres.org](mailto:npassante@haddonfieldpres.org) or at the church office: 856-429-1960 ext. 110.

## ***SUNDAY SCHOOL AND YOUTH GROUP!***

**Youth Group:** After a triumphant return of Grog, we are taking the week off and will meet on 10/24/21 from 5pm-6pm. Please make sure to bring a mask and we will see you then. For questions concerning Youth Group please contact Gabrielle Heimerling at [gheimerling@haddonfieldpres.org](mailto:gheimerling@haddonfieldpres.org).

**Sunday School Is Back** It is so wonderful to have the teachers and kids back in person after many months of virtual lessons. Please welcome our wonderful teachers:

- PreK/K: Chuck and Jayne Grabowski, and Kim Hall
- 1st/2nd/3rd: Wendy Preihs and Megan Zeigler
- 4th/5th/6th: Gabrielle Heimerling
- 7th/8th: Rita Brown

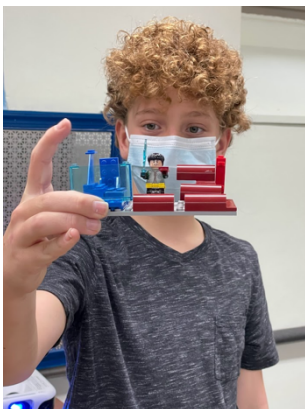
Please make sure to register your children for Sunday School through the following link: [SS 21-22 Registration Form](#) (available on the website, too).

**Interested in teaching?** We can always use volunteers! Please reach out to Gabrielle Heimerling at [gheimerling@haddonfieldpres.org](mailto:gheimerling@haddonfieldpres.org) for more information.

**Bible Sunday was a great success!** It brought us so much joy to hand out Bibles to our Sunday School students on our first day back in the sanctuary. In the following grades and didn't receive your Bible? Please reach out to Gabrielle Heimerling to make sure you receive yours! Thanks to all who participated and contributed to making our Bible Sunday a success.

- Preschool/Kindergarten receiving The Beginner's Bible
- 3rd Graders receiving The Children's Bible in 365 Stories
- 6th Graders receiving our traditional "Red Bibles" \*
- 9th Graders/Confirmation Class receiving NIV Quest Study Bibles

*\*Please note that the current 6th grade class received their traditional Red Bibles during the 3rd Grade Bible Sunday in October 2017. But any 6th grader that doesn't have a Red Bible or didn't participate in that event is more than welcome to receive one.*



4th/5th/6th grade class making their own creations after learning about Creation

**We need help in the Nursery:** Looking to earn some extra cash? We are looking to staff our nursery as many of our wonderful nursery helpers headed off to college. Ideal candidates will be high school aged or older with ample babysitting experience and/or certification. Must love babies and toddlers! This is a paid position! Please reach out to Gabrielle Heimerling for more details at [gheimerling@haddonfieldpres.org](mailto:gheimerling@haddonfieldpres.org).

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN (PW) FOR OCTOBER:

Circle 1: October 19 – 9:30 a.m. Hospitality Center

Circle 3: October 19 - 10:00 a.m. Hostess Connie Reeves, 5 Smokebush Ct., Marlton, NJ, 429-0326.

Circle 4: October 11 – 7:15 p.m. on Zoom. Contact Nancy Ruth Wainwright for the link.

**PW FALL GATHERING – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23, 9:30 a.m.** All women & friends of Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery for Southern New Jersey are invited to attend our Fall Gathering. The host church is Trinity Presbyterian Church in Cherry Hill. Our speaker is Karen Jennings from the Military Support Group of New Jersey. For full details including donation requests, see the [event flyer here](#) or on the FPCH website.

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## 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*

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## A QUICK NOTE FROM YOUR PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

We have started the process of looking for our new Senior Pastor. We will be meeting weekly and will communicate with the congregation monthly to keep you updated on our progress. The committee consists of Maggie Sell (chair), Rebeca Silva de Foote (vice chair), Deb Nussbaum (secretary), Bud Miller, Brian McGlade, Margaret O'Neil, Pete Hurd, and Andy Reinicker. This is going to be a long process and we ask for your continued prayers in our search.

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## A BIG BACKPACK THANK YOU!

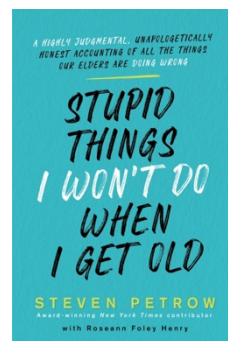


Once again, the Deacons and Mission Committee thank you sincerely for backpack and school supply donations. Eighteen additional backpacks and 4 boxes of school supplies have been dropped off at the Camden Community Center. All together, we gave away over 85 backpacks with plenty of supplies to fill them. Thank you!

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## LET'S READ A BOOK TOGETHER!

Six folks responded to Doug's invitation to read Steven Petrow's book and then talk about it as a group! (Doug is avoiding the term "book study" – think of it as a "book read" with a fun conversation following!) The book is composed of 43 short, 2-page, essays divided into 3 sections. The thought is to meet 3 times (via Zoom) and share reflections and reactions. They'll probably be spread out over a few weeks to give everyone plenty of time to read. The actual dates and times will be decided once we have a group. If you're interested, just [email Doug](#) and let me know! (Folks are encouraged to buy the book on their own!)



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**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 Mark 10:46-52.

**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.

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## THE OPEN DOOR CLINIC AT ST. WILFRID'S

This week marked the 82nd straight week that the Open Door Clinic at St Wilfrid's has distributed food during the pandemic; 113 bags again, 7,741 total. Over 193,525 pounds of food and dry goods. Thank you all for your generous collections and contributions.

- **There is Foodbank pick-up again Friday, October 22nd.** We meet at the Foodbank at about 8:00 a.m. and make our way to St Wilfrid's by about 8:35. Please schedule with Paul Urian if you can help. [umanpaul@me.com](mailto:umanpaul@me.com)
- **CBS 3 Link.** Thanks again to CBS 3 for the coverage of the Open Door Clinic Foodbank pick-up and Open Door Clinic itself. Follow this link if you missed the story: <https://philadelphia.cbslocal.com/2021/10/06/brotherly-love-open-door-clinic-st-wilfrids-church-camden/>
- **Matching Grant 2021:** For the month of October, your donation will be matched! Gifts may be made through FPCH's "Give" button on the website or by check to First Presbyterian with St. Wilfrid's in the memo so your donation will appear on your giving statement. (Grace Church is still receiving donations as noted last week.)
- **Needs:** We are desperate for **baby wipes again**. When they come in the door, they are as quickly distributed to the clients. We can go through hundreds a Saturday! Also needed are bags of dried beans, cereal, and chicken or tuna in tear open bags, Chef Boyardee meals in cans with a flip top, and individual single serving fruit or applesauce cups—homeless clients appreciate easy-opening packaging! We are also in need of toothbrushes. And we are always accepting plastic grocery bags from Shoprite or Wegmans, paper grocery bags to line the plastic bags, and newspaper bags to hold hygiene products
- **Peanut Butter and Jelly Sign Up Link:** If you are interested in making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, please select a donation week by signing up on this signup link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0845aba72caa8-pbjs1>. Wendy Coffman, who coordinates the peanut butter and jelly traffic can be reached at her email: [wendy.coffman@gmail.com](mailto:wendy.coffman@gmail.com)
- **Any questions**, call Jill Mascena and leave a message. 856-428-7342. Or check the website: [www.opendoorcliniccamden.org](http://www.opendoorcliniccamden.org)

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## WEEKLY CALENDAR

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| Oct. 14 – 6:30 p.m. Nikki's Bible Study                     | Oct. 19 – 9:30 and 10 a.m. Circles 1 and 3  |
| Oct. 14 – 6:30 p.m. Moore Bells                             | Oct. 19 – Governance Committee  |
| Oct. 14 – 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir                           | Oct. 20 – 3:45-8:15 p.m. Children's and Youth<br>Choir rehearsals w/ spaghetti dinner |
| Oct. 15 – 9 a.m. Women's Prison Ministry Zoom               | Oct. 21 – 6:30 p.m. Nikki's Bible Study   |
| Oct. 17 – 10 a.m. In-person and Online Worship              | Oct. 21 – 6:30 p.m. Moore Bells   |
| Oct. 17 – 10 a.m. Sunday School – begin in the<br>Sanctuary | Oct. 21 – 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir   |
| Oct. 17 – 11 a.m. Nominating Committee                      | Oct. 24 – 10 a.m. In-Person and Online<br>Worship/Sunday School                       |
| <b>Oct. 17 – 3 p.m. Pastor Nikki's Installation Service</b> | Oct. 24 – 11 a.m. Conversation on Race  |
| Oct. 18 – 10 a.m. Quilters                                  | Oct. 24 – 5 p.m. Youth Group  |
| Oct. 18 – 7 p.m. Session meeting on Zoom                    |   |
| Oct. 19 – 8 a.m. Doug's Bible Study                         |   |