

# *This week's news...*



November 25, 2020

**Dear Friend,**

## ***Thanksgiving!***

I am thankful for . . .

- The taxes that I pay because it means that I have income.
- The mess to clean after a party because it means that I have been surrounded by friends.
- The clothes that fit a little too snug because it means that I have enough to eat.
- My shadow who watches me work because it means that I am out in the sunshine.
- A yard that needs tending, windows that need cleaning, and gutters that need fixing because it means that I have a home.
- All the complaining I hear about the government because it means that we have freedom of speech.
- The spot I find at the far end of the parking lot because it means that I am capable of walking and I have been blessed with transportation.
- My huge heating bill because it means I am warm.
- The person behind me in church who sings off key because it means I can hear.
- The piles of laundry and ironing because it means I have clothes to wear.
- Weariness and aching muscles at the end of the day because it means that I have been capable of working hard.
- The alarm that goes off early in the morning hours because it means that I am alive.



and I am thankful for ...

- A church that strives to worship and serve with faithful integrity.
- A congregation that cares for, and supports, one another and their community.
- Colleagues in ministry who navigate difficult and confusing times with honesty and compassion.
- God, who wakes me up every morning expecting me to exhaust myself in the hope of doing God's will.

Happy Thanksgiving to my new friends in Haddonfield, New Jersey!



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## ***AND MORE THANKSGIVING!***

A huge **THANK YOU!** Words cannot express how grateful my family and I are for the generosity of our congregation in the annual turkey drive. We collected 102 birds and \$1,205 in cash. We are truly grateful for all who donated. Thank you all! Know that your donation will help make the lives of families in need a bit better.

The Dark family - and the Mission committee

## The Goal and the Challenge: A Message from the Stewardship Committee

Dear Family of Faith:

It goes without saying that 2020 has greatly impacted all aspects of our lives including how we engage with and continue the work of the church. The resilience and perseverance that has been exhibited in continuing to fulfill the church's mission has been extraordinary. For this reason, Run with Perseverance is the theme of the stewardship campaign. Thanks to all the members and staff who have provided their unique messages related to our church family during campaign. It was not only great to see your faces but also hear the stories and their relevance to the collective financial support of the congregation. (Watch a video from the Skey family below.)



As we move to the pledging phase of this year's stewardship campaign, we feel it is appropriate to clearly articulate the overall goals.

The Goal: In articulating the goal, it is important for the congregation to understand what may be a little-known fact. For each year from 2015 through 2020, the number of pledging units and total dollars pledged has declined as shown in the table below.

	Units Pledging	Amount Pledged	
2015	256	\$698,844	
2016	231	663,513	
2017	210	606,051	
2018	188	564,217	
2019	165	488,058	
2020 so far	28	109,070	updated 11/25

The goal for this campaign is to build back and achieve 2015 levels of giving in terms of number of pledges and total dollars. While the goal may not be achieved this year, we need this year to be the year we as a congregation reverse the trend of decline and work toward achieving the 2015 levels.

The Challenge: Here's what you can do to help. Below is a three-prong challenge for you to consider for increasing your pledge and contributing to achieving the goal.

We are asking you to consider an increase in your pledge applying the formula below (1, 2 or 3) that would result in the greatest increase:

1. Increase your pledge to the church average of \$3,150 for the coming year;
2. Increase your pledge by 1% of your gross income; or
3. Increase your pledge by \$500 for the year.

We certainly know these times are incredibly difficult and you simply may not be able to meet this challenge at any level. But if you are able, we would greatly appreciate it if you would prayerfully consider increasing your financial support, if not at the greatest level outlined above, at a level with which you have comfort.

To those members who consistently support the church financially but choose not to pledge, please know that your contribution is vital to life of the church and we would ask those members to consider the challenge above whether or not it includes a formal pledge.

We will be providing the congregation with weekly updates on the number of pledges and total amount versus the stated goals.

Your time and attention to all of the information provided through the email newsletters, bulletins and services is very much appreciated and we certainly welcome any feedback on any aspect of the campaign. Any questions or feedback can be sent via email to Gene Spinelli [genespin@comcast.net](mailto:genespin@comcast.net).

God Bless You All,

The Stewardship Committee

[2021 Online Pledge Form](#)

[2021 PDF Pledge Form](#)

[A message from Joe and Carrie Skey](#)



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## **ADVENT FESTIVAL 2020 - AT HOME VERSION!** **ORDER YOUR TAKE-HOME KITS BY 11/26**

The season of Advent is almost upon us, and while we can't do our typical Sunday Night craft blitz, we hope we can still provide some Advent fun at home:

- 1. ADVENT FESTIVAL TAKE HOME KITS** filled with family-themed crafts, supplies, and how-tos to be distributed on **11/29/20** after the church service. You can order your kits and customize some of the crafts by **filling out the following google form HERE [Advent Kit Order Form](#)**. **Please submit all orders by 11/26/20. Check out the order form for pictures of each craft included in the kit. (PS - the kits are free)**
- 2. ADVENT WREATHS** will also be distributed after the service on 11/29/20. We have kits filled with the foam hoop, pins, advent candles and candle holders - all that's missing are the greens. If you would like an advent wreath kit, please contact Gabrielle Heimerling at [gheimerling@haddonfieldpres.org](mailto:gheimerling@haddonfieldpres.org).



## **ADVENT - GIVING BACK**

- 1. COLLECTING SOUP:** Instead of serving soup this year we are going to be collecting soup to donate so please bring cans of soup to donate while picking up your Advent Festival Take Home kit or just because you're going through the donation drive.
- 2. GIFT CARD DRIVE:** We will be sponsoring a gift card drive for Caring Hearts in lieu of filling their holiday stockings. Stay tuned for details!



## **YOUTH GROUP FUN!**

**Youth Group** had an awesome time on our field trip this past Sunday. Good fellowship around the firepit and a new game called Mafia (it's like Among Us, just in person, you know, like an old timey game LOL). Big thank you to the Andrews Family for hosting. We're going to take this Sunday off, so be on the lookout for info for our next get together on 12/6/20.

## **ADVENT WORKSHOP ON RESILIENCE**

Advent is a time of waiting and preparation, and our goal is to honor these spiritual practices, especially during a time where we may need to prepare to shelter at home. To these ends, you are invited to participate in a special Advent Workshop on resilience. On **Monday, December 7, 2020 from 7-9pm**, join a multi-church Zoom led by Becky Bryan on ways to understand and cope with the challenges of stress. See the flyer and sign-up information [here](#).



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## **A SERIES OF 3 WORKSHOPS FOR AN UNPRECEDENTED ADVENT**

How do we prepare for the Light to enter the world in 2020? Join these Zoom workshops from 6:30-7:30 p.m. on three Wednesdays in December. **Wednesday, December 2**, *Naming What We Carry*; **Wednesday, December 9**, *Sensing the Divine Spark in Each of Us*; **Wednesday, December 16**, *The Power of Gratitude*. [Click here](#) for details. [Zoom link](#).

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## **Tuesday Morning Bible Study with Doug**

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, December 1** is Isaiah 40:1-11. Here's the Zoom [link](#).

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## **SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS**

**This Week In Sunday School** - It was all about giving today for our younger friends. We focused on a story called the Widow's Offering that shows us that God is happiest when we give from the heart. God doesn't need to be impressed by you—God already loves you. The best way to honor God with our giving is to do it out of love and gratitude for all we have received. Every time. Our older friends focused on our old friend Paul the Apostle, this time his letters to the Corinthians. We are on track to becoming Paul Experts in our older classes! Wishing all the Sunday School Families a wonderful Thanksgiving filled with lots of love, grace, and gratitude. I know that I am grateful for all of you. And pumpkin pie.

Register your child for Sunday School here: <https://forms.gle/F9pRSFygbLJgrSYa6> Each week, Sunday School grade-appropriate lessons are emailed to children preK - 8th grade who are registered. Resources can also be found on the [Children's Ministry](#) page of the website. Questions? Feel free to reach out to Gab Heimerling at [gheimerling@haddonfieldpres.org](mailto:gheimerling@haddonfieldpres.org)

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## **AN ADVENT ANTHEM FROM ARIELLA LIGGERA**



Ariella, Thank you for helping us prepare!



## ***Gratitude from (and for) the Preschool***

Gratitude is a choice...In the year 2020 when there has been anxiety and frustration, so much to grumble about, it is more important than ever to remind ourselves and reflect on what we are thankful for. "This is the day that the Lord has made." Why not try to "rejoice and be glad in it?" Being grateful has been proven to reduce anxiety and boost immunity. Who doesn't need that right now?

At the Preschool, we are grateful for Mother Nature's cooperation! The mild fall weather has allowed us to open the gates to the playground each week. The children and teachers have truly embraced the outdoor classroom model.

We are especially thankful for the tiny humans who grace us at the preschool. Their smiley eyes brighten our days and provide optimism for the weeks to come.

Our preschool classes are healthy and hopeful. We have successfully provided a program that has proved to be safe and effective. We collected data and are so very grateful for all of the kind words our families expressed when surveyed about our program. We are hopeful that our community will reign in desires for social contact and embrace time at home with loved ones over the holidays so that we can move forward and open indoors on January 25th.



On this Thanksgiving, the Preschool is mostly thankful for our dedicated staff.

They have gone above and beyond week after week to provide a fun and engaging unique preschool experience for our little learners!

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### ***WELCOME NEW MEMBERS - INCLUDING THE LITTLEST!***

During worship this past Sunday, 7 new members joined FPCH and we were treated to FPCH's first socially-distanced baptism. How wonderful it is that our family grows in such times as these! Look at Sunday's [live stream](#) worship service for videos of some of the new members and the beautiful ritual that introduced Nova Lee Louise Nagle into our midst.

New members: Meagan Farrow, Curtis Farrow, William Kennan, Deborah Kennan, Emily Kolton, Deborah Hagy, and Claudia Formoe



## A MUSICAL GIFT FROM MARK:

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow,” arr. Heather Sorenson



PRAISE  
GOD

from whom all  
blessings flow

[Listen here](#)

"Old Hundredth" is often attributed to Louis Bourgeois, who edited the *Genevan Psalter* of 1551, in which it first appeared. The tune became associated with William Kethe's version of Psalm 100 in the *Anglo-Genevan Psalter* of 1560, from which the name *Old Hundredth* is derived.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## EQUAL EXCHANGE PRODUCTS FOR CHRISTMAS

The Presbyterian Women will continue selling some Equal Exchange products for Christmas giving. We will be ordering olive oil, chocolate candy bars and hot cocoa mix. Why not make up a “Christmas bag” for friends and relatives, with these goodies. The sale of these products helps to support the fair trade small co-operative farmers from various countries. If you are interested contact Bonnie Manskopf, via email, [bonniemanskopf@yahoo.com](mailto:bonniemanskopf@yahoo.com), **no later than December 1st**. Hot Cocoa Mix is \$5.50, Extra Virgin Olive Oil, from the West Bank of Palestine, is \$12.50, Candy Bars (organic) are \$3.00 each—Flavors: Caramel Crunch, Orange, Mint Crunch, Almond. Thank you!



## FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN AND CHRISTMAS



Feed My Starving Children has partnered with Lynch Creek Farms to help you decorate for Christmas. Lynch Creek Farms, located in Washington State, offers organizations like Haddonfield's “It Take A Village,” FMSC Mobile Pack the opportunity to earn 15% on all sales of their beautiful holiday wreaths and centerpieces. Most of their products cost approximately \$45-\$75, which includes shipping. Use the campaign #246058 to be certain that FMSC gets credit. **Orders can be made up until Dec. 15th**. Here's how it works: Online orders may be made by going to

[www.lynchcreekfundraising.com/c/246058](http://www.lynchcreekfundraising.com/c/246058). Just make your selection and provide the information required. Please note that the date you are asked to provide will be the approximate shipping date-not the arrival date of the item. You can also order by phone at (888) 426-0781 if you would prefer.

**A SHOPPING REMINDER - USE AMAZON SMILE** - If you use Amazon to do online buying, do so using Amazon Smile and Amazon will donate .5% of your purchase price to the church. Go to <https://smile.amazon.com> and select "First Presbyterian Church of Haddonfield" as your charity.





## **ST. WILFRID'S OPEN DOOR CLINIC**

### **Report from the Open Door Clinic at St Wilfrid's November 23, 2020**

On September 21, we reported about the pregnant woman waiting for food, in line at St Wilfrid's, going into labor, and rushing off to the hospital. Saturday, we met Alaya, born October 28, 2020, an American citizen. She is perfectly and wonderfully made. Pray for Alaya, that she has good health, safety, and good fortune. We are truly thankful for seeing Alaya.



This week marks the 26th straight week that the Open Door Clinic at St Wilfrid's has distributed food during the pandemic; 114 bags, 3,151 total. Over 78,000 pounds of food and dry goods given out!

**Needed...** We are collecting CLEAN winter jackets and new socks. Diapers: sizes 2, 4, 5, 6, and wipes. Blankets And-always peanut butter, tuna, pasta, sauce, macaroni n cheese are needed

December 12th we will be distributing Christmas gifts for our clients' children. Help will be needed to translate, show parents what is available, and to go inside to get the gifts chosen. We are working from outside.

If you can help or have any questions, please call Jill Mascena -856-428-7342 and leave a message or check the website [www.opendoorcliniccamden.org](http://www.opendoorcliniccamden.org)

Thank you for your caring and showing God's love!

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## **WEEKLY CALENDAR**

- Nov. 26 - Deadline for ordering Advent Festival kits**
- Nov. 26 - THANKSGIVING**
- Nov. 29 - 9 a.m. Matthew 25 Conversation**
- Nov. 29 - 10 a.m. Worship - First Sunday of Advent**
- Nov. 29 - Pick up Advent kits and wreaths after worship**
- Dec. 1 - 8 a.m. Doug's Bible study**
- Dec. 1 - Deadline to order Equal Exchange items**
- Dec. 2 - 6:30 p.m. First of three Workshops for an Unprecedented Advent**
- Dec. 6 - 10 a.m. Worship - Second Sunday of Advent**

