

# This week's news...



April 15, 2021

## The Platinum Rule!

Dear Friend,

Like many of you, I'm sure, I read the New York Times every morning (on my iPad) and make use of the ways in which I can customize the feed to my particular interests. One thing I rarely miss is the Opinion section, especially since the paper is committed to presenting a diversity of views.

A few days ago, a [column](#) with the heading:

**'To Leave the World a Bit Better,' and Other Codes to Live By**  
*We asked readers what philosophies they live by. Their inspirations include Emerson, Niebuhr, deceased family members, a sign at a boat dock, and a pet.*

One submission was particularly interesting:

**To the Editor:**

***Many people live by the Golden Rule (treat others as you wish to be treated), but I've come to follow the Platinum Rule, which is to treat others as they wish to be treated. Treating others as they wish to be treated requires a willingness to learn about others' lives.***

***For example, as an extrovert, I enjoyed talking with my professors, going to office hours and even loved being called on in class. If I treated all of my students the way I wanted to be treated, I would annoy (at best) or alienate some of my introverted, shy or anxious students. Instead of making assumptions to treat them as I'd like to be treated, I get to know students as individuals and treat them as they'd like to be treated, creating a richer learning environment.***

***Similarly, the Platinum Rule can be useful for white people in this era of racial justice, because it asks us to stop centering our own experiences as the norm. Instead, it asks us to consider how others may experience the world in ways that are unfamiliar to us and be inclusive of experiences that are different from ours.***

I shared this with an out-of-state colleague who declared it "too much work!"

Seeing the world through others' eyes and life-experience does take work — **and** our job doesn't stop there — we have to modify/customize our own communication and thought processes in deference to this new understanding. It is a lot of work and, as Christians, it's our work.

(continued)



Of course, there are all kinds of reasons to push back against the Platinum Rule, but none of those negate the mandatory first step: a willingness to learn about others' lives. After all — isn't that what we'd hope for ourselves?

Let's talk more on Sunday!

Be well, stay safe, and God bless,



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## NEW MEMBERS CLASS!

First Presbyterian Church of Haddonfield will be hosting spring New Members classes via Zoom on Sunday May 9th, and Sunday May 16th. Start time for both meetings is 1:00 and each will last for approximately one hour. If you are interested in joining, or simply learning more about membership, this time is for you. We will have the opportunity to make new friends, share more about First Presby's mission in the church and the world, and learn more about what makes Presbyterians unique. Please contact Pastor Nikki to RSVP, for more information, or any questions.

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## COMMUNION CLASS – WE'RE BACK!

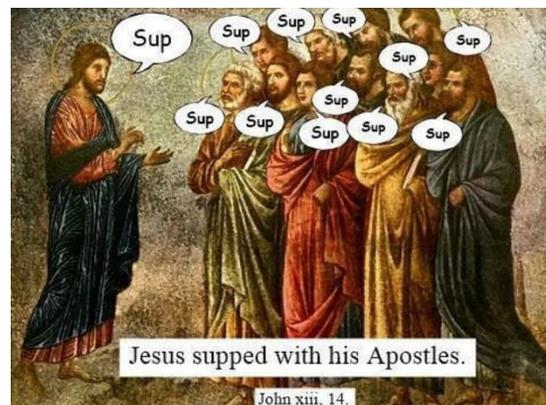
We are happy to announce that we are bringing back our Communion Class after last year's unexpected shutdown. We are so excited to be able to guide the kids through these special classes while also complying with our current COVID guidelines. Preparation for Communion will take place Sunday, May 2nd, through Sunday, May 23rd, from 10 a.m.-11 a.m., with Communion Sunday on June 6th. The Communion Class will share in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper together during the 10:00 a.m. service on Sunday, June 6th. If you have a *current 4th grader* and didn't receive the information earlier this week, please contact Gabrielle Heimerling at [gheimerling@haddonfieldpres.org](mailto:gheimerling@haddonfieldpres.org).



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## THIS WEEK IN SUNDAY SCHOOL

This week our younger friends learned about a disciple named Thomas. He's universally known as Doubting Thomas and gets a bad rap because he questioned the return of Jesus. But doubt isn't a bad thing! Asking questions, looking for evidence, finding proof - these are all GOOD THINGS. God loves questions; Jesus encouraged questions in his teaching and storytelling; and Thomas's wanting to be sure is an important aspect of faith. Belief isn't something that is above doubt. Everyone doubts at some point in their life. This story reminds us that true belief comes from asking questions. Your faith grows even stronger when you ask questions. For our older friends, we didn't learn about only one disciple, we learned about them ALL plus a bonus one because we are college-level Sunday Schoolers who don't mess around. We also added a few Disciple memes just for fun.



## THIS WEEK IN YOUTH GROUP

It was *Minute to Win It* this week in Youth Group. We learned many valuable lessons like picking up M&Ms with chopsticks is hard and pool noodle play inevitably evolves into a lightsaber battle. Such is the fun of Youth Group. We are meeting this coming Sunday (4/18) from 5pm-6pm – Youth Group Parents - I'm looking for feedback about Youth Group meeting times – please reach out to me. Hope to see you Sunday! [gheimerling@haddonfieldpres.org](mailto:gheimerling@haddonfieldpres.org)

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### ON BEING A MATTHEW 25 CHURCH...



Part of being a Matthew 25 church is "advocating and acting to break down the systems, practices, and thinking that underlie discrimination, bias, prejudice, and oppression of people of color."

Since October, under the leadership of Becky Bryan and Rachel Davis, a group of members has met for a Zoom discussion every Sunday morning. The charge was to learn, discuss in a safe space, and act, to help us be more understanding and become messengers of anti-racism. With the help of speakers and member leaders, we've discussed numerous topics, such as mass incarceration (Paul Urian), education (Rachel Davis), housing (Rev. Greg McMillan), environment (Rita Brown), and voting rights (Lisa Hurd and Assatta Mann and Phillip Hensley from the League of Women Voters). Other topics were gun violence, maternal and infant mortality, and childcare. We've talked about personal prejudices and experiences, and observations of racism in our towns.

We've learned that we need to learn, that it is ongoing, that we need to have open, sometimes difficult discussions, and that we need to listen.

Where do we go from here? How can we as a congregation affect change in our community and beyond? It is a continuing discussion and learning experience for all of us. New voices and faces are always welcome.

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### CONVERSATIONS ON RACE

Sunday morning discussions continue from 9-9:45 a.m. on Zoom at [this link](#). This week (4/18) we will reflect on the work we're doing to become antiracist. [This selection](#) is from *The Racial Healing Handbook* by Anneliese A. Singh, Ph.D, LPC. 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](mailto:rebeccabryan@me.com).



### PINWHEELS FOR PREVENTION



Once again Presbyterian Women is creating a pinwheel garden in April for the observance of National Child Abuse Prevention month. It is a program of *Prevent Child Abuse-New Jersey (PCA-NJ)* which promotes great childhoods, positive parenting and healthy child development. Founded in 1979, all their efforts throughout the state are dedicated to preventing child abuse and neglect in all forms for all New Jersey children. April is the national observance of Child Abuse Prevention Month. During this time, PCA-NJ implements its "Pinwheels for Prevention" campaign. The pinwheel is in their logo and was chosen as a national symbol of prevention because it is whimsical and evokes childlike notions – so it is a good emblem of the "Great Childhoods" that are desired for all children. On Saturday and Sunday, May 1 & 2 children may stop by the garden to pick a pinwheel to take home.

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## PW VIRTUAL SPRING GATHERING

Join Presbyterian Women (PW) for our virtual spring gathering, scheduled for Tuesday, May 11th at 1 p.m. The Zoom gathering will feature Carrie Wiggins of Feed My Starving Children, who will share how the organization has faced some of its recent challenges to pack and distribute much-needed manna packs to organizations throughout the world. To add to the festive atmosphere of the event, come wearing your most festive hat and bring along a favorite dessert. (Information on how to access the event will follow.)

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## IHOC ADOPT-A-BOX COLLECTION



It's time to collect hygiene products – toothbrush and paste, shampoo, baby shampoo, hand sanitizer, deodorant, underwear, socks, comb, shaving supplies, soap, washcloth, etc. (travel sizes are fine) – and put them in a shoebox to be distributed to neighbors in need. Close each box with a rubber band, label it “Man,” “Woman,” “Boy,” “Girl,” or “Baby,” and drop it off at the Sunday drive-through.

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## ST. WILFRID'S OPEN DOOR CLINIC

Last week, the slate roof of St. Wilfrid's was repaired! It was an eight-and-a-half year quest which started without funds, broken promises, and no one wanting to come to Camden to perform a difficult repair on the roof of the church of a poor, nearly bankrupt congregation. Now, no more trash cans catching water inside and no more chances of mold or cost of mold remediation. Over the years, FPC Deacons and Mission Committee and individuals have donated funds for immediate repairs. This is God at work!!!

This week marks the **56th straight week** that the Open-Door Clinic at St Wilfrid's has distributed food during the pandemic: **90 bags again, 5,192 total. Over 129,800 pounds** of food and dry goods, distributed by the all-volunteer, everything-donated, nobody-gets-paid Open Door Clinic at St. Wilfrid's.

**Needs:** Our requests this week are for cans or jars of applesauce or peaches, boxes of cereal, bars of soap, and diapers and baby wipes (kids' diapers sizes 5 and 6, adults' L and XL). Also needed are plastic grocery bags from Shoprite or Wegman's, paper grocery bags to line the plastic bags, and newspaper bags to hold hygiene products. Donations may be dropped off any weekday in the bins behind Grace Church or on Sunday during the drive-through after the church service from 11 to 12.

**Help is needed** picking up bread donations in Haddonfield—we never know when until the day the donation is ready so if there is one day during the week you are usually free, let Jill Mascena know. We are starting a call list with Grace Church and FPC volunteers so that at most you would be needed once every couple of months. The day the bread is ready, you would be called, you would pick it up and, later that day, the bread would be picked up at your house and taken to St Wilfrid's. **In a couple of weeks**, yard work will begin at St Wilfrid's. BYO rake and energy! Watch for an announcement or contact Jill Mascena.

We are always looking for **volunteers to help translate** for the ever-growing Hispanic clientele, volunteers to pick up food at the food bank, usually on Fridays, and volunteers to help organize the food donations and fill the bags with the food during the week. If you have any questions or are interested in helping during the week in any way or on Saturdays, please call Jill Mascena at 856-428-7342 or check the website: [www.opendoorcliniccamden.org](http://www.opendoorcliniccamden.org)

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## A VIDEO TREAT

Ariella sings, "Give Me Oil In My Lamp", one of her favorite choir songs. Thanks, Ariella!

[Click here](#)

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## ONGOING...

**Old Testament Bible Study:** Meets Mondays at 11:30 a.m. on [Zoom](#). Contact Doug [here](#) for info.

**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, April 20 is John 10:11-18. [Zoom link](#)



**Pastor 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](#). This Bible study is open to all, and you are welcome to jump in when you are able. Give it a try!

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## WEEKLY CALENDAR



Apr. 15 – 6:30 Nikki's Bible Study  
Apr. 18 – 9 a.m. Conversations on Race  
Apr. 18 – 10 a.m. Worship  
Apr. 18 – Donations drive-through (portico)  
Apr. 18 – 5 p.m. Youth Group  
Apr. 19 – 11:30 a.m. Old Testament Bible Study  
Apr. 19 – 7 p.m. Session  
April 20 – 8 a.m. Doug's Bible Study  
Apr. 21 – 7: 30 p.m. STIL  
Apr. 22 – 6:30 p.m. Nikki's Bible Study  
Apr. 25 – 9 a.m. Conversations on Race  
Apr. 25 – 10 a.m. Online Worship