

This week's news...



April 22, 2021

Tying Up Loose Ends!

Dear Friend,

This week's note is a bit of a hodge-podge of news and reflection as it's been a busy week at the church and lots of news to share!



Yellow Ribbons:

You may recall that I asked for an explanation of the yellow ribbons and bows I see on my morning jogs through Haddonfield. While the array of answers was impressive, ranging from political to poignant, the correct answer is that the ribbons are a sign of support and awareness of 13-year-old Jackson Sadlowski's death by suicide last month.

Here's one short explanation by a community member:



The pandemic has caused a mental health crisis with our youth which has tragically increased the suicide rates. Two week ago we lost a local young boy, Jackson Sadlowski at the tender age of 13 to the unthinkable. Jackson's family has requested that awareness be brought to the growing mental health crisis that our children are experiencing and want for his memory to shed light on this. The family has started a charity foundation in Jackson's memory to aid children in need of help and support.

Our children need our help — we know that — and Jackson's ribbons are a strong, somber, and stark reminder. While I am confident that Jackson is at peace and now dwells in the complete love of God, my heart breaks for his parents and family as they navigate their grief and loss. God is with them — each and every step and turn — on that we can trust.

In-person Worship Plan Approved:

Last Monday evening, **Session approved the carefully crafted plan** devised by the COVID Response Team (CRT) with input from the Worship and Music Committee. (You can view/download the plan by clicking [here!](#)) In its approval, Session also asked that the CRT devise a metric or quantifiable standard by which the church would open safely and the CRT is working expeditiously to figure that out! The plan has been submitted to the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry for approval.



New Neighbors in the Manse!

Very excited to announce that **Nikki and Marco** will be moving into the manse within the coming months. Details have been worked out between the two of them and the Human Resource and Property and Finance committees. As we currently have a resident in the building, needed upgrades and repairs won't start until the summer with hopes of occupancy before or around Labor Day! (cont.)

The church will then have both pastors living in church housing—although Nikki will have the shorter commute—and continuing to increase their presence in the community!

Miscellany:

1. **Two major projects** will be completed in the near future: paving the driveway between the courtyard and Kings Highway and interior painting of the first floor of the church along with some areas of the lower level. You'll also see the driveway curb painted yellow!
2. **Doug's contract was renewed** for another year through June of 2022. Of course, if a "real" senior pastor is called prior to then, he'll get the boot! And — to that end — the **Mission Report Team** is making excellent progress and will have their report very soon.
3. **Need your windows washed?** The church recently hired this company to wash the windows on the Wezner House (oh my...) and they did a really superb job. No matter the condition of your windows — these folks can handle them!
4. Lastly — words of wisdom from my daily calendar: "**One's philosophy is not best expressed in words; it is expressed in the choices one makes.**" Eleanor Roosevelt.

Be well, stay safe, and God bless,



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.

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.

THIS WEEK IN SUNDAY SCHOOL

It was prequel week in Sunday School! Remember Doubting Thomas? Before Jesus appeared to Thomas, he saw the other 11 disciples. And guess what? The disciples thought Jesus was a ghost! Just like Thomas they needed proof. The disciples had lots of questions and did lots of wondering about Jesus' resurrection. Could it really be him? They had seen him die a terrible death, and now here he was, standing there before them. Jesus patiently gave them different "proofs" of his alive, resurrected self. In our story this week, one thing that Jesus does to prove he is alive is eat broiled fish. The symbol of the fish is really important Christianity. I bet you have seen it in lots of places around the church. This symbol has a special name: **ichthus**. The next time you're watching the livestream, see if you can see this symbol around the sanctuary or in the stained glass windows.



THIS WEEK IN YOUTH GROUP

This week in Youth Group we played a very intense game of Uno. The kids were ruthless with Draw 4s and Reverses. It was so great seeing some familiar faces that were able to attend this week and hang out together and enjoy the beautiful weather. We are meeting this Sunday, 4/25, from 5pm-6pm – outside weather permitting and in Fellowship Hall if it's raining. Hope to see you there!

CONVERSATIONS ON RACE

Sunday morning discussions continue from 9-9:45 a.m. on Zoom at [this link](#). This week (4/25) we consider the value of elevating beautiful and truthful images, representations and narratives in order to advance happiness for people of color as part of our anti-racism work. In addition to reading this article <https://www.vogue.co.uk/arts-and-lifestyle/article/what-is-black-joy>, please bring to the discussion an example of Black Joy that you experienced in your life or in the media this week. 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.



UrbanPromise Fellows share in worship, 2019

EARTH DAY IS EVERY DAY



Earth Day has been observed on April 22 since the 1970s, but as stewards of God's earth we know that every day is Earth Day. This Lent, did you meet the [Caring for God's Creation Challenge](#)? We hope it was fun. At the beginning of Lent, we distributed a calendar of actions you could take to protect God's great gift. The challenge was to act on 40 of the options, in any order, by Earth Day. It's not too late. As you plan meals, shop, do spring cleaning and create beautiful yards, faithfully consider how you are impacting the earth. The ideas on the calendar can help give you a jump start. Plant trees for Arbor Day on April 30th or any day. Add another "R" to "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle": "Refuse" to accept that nothing can be done or it's too hard to live in a sustainable way. We can do this.

A WONDERFUL PW OFFER!

Circle 1M makes totes for walkers. They have two pockets on one side and a large pocket on the other side. Perfect for holding your glasses, tissues, a book, water bottle and whatever you need. They come in various patterns; floral, striped, plain—your choice. Five people from our congregation have already used one and found them very helpful. If you know of someone who would benefit from one of these, contact Joan Miller at 856-701-7012 and we will get one to you.



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.)

PINWHEELS FOR PREVENTION

Pinwheels are still flying in observance of Child Abuse Prevention Month. Presbyterian Women and *Prevent Child Abuse-New Jersey (PCA-NJ)*, which promotes great childhoods, positive parenting and healthy child development, choose pinwheels as a logo and symbol each April as an 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.

MEMBER CARE FOR THE CONGREGATION

Do you know of one of our own who is suffering or struggling? Feeling lonely or isolated? Do you know of someone who would like a phone call or a note or needs prayer? If folks have a need, or you know of someone who does, please contact someone on our Member Care Coordination Team. There are five of us, because if someone doesn't feel comfortable contacting one of us, they have 4 other names to pick from. What this does is provide a NETwork of Care and reduces instances when people's needs fall through the cracks!

Please contact one of us when congregational needs arise:

Cheryl Tarditi (Elder Representative) cheryltarditi@gmail.com

Rebeca Silva de Foote (Moderator of Deacons) silvadefoote@verizon.net

Kelly Stout (Deacon Representative) kellystout322@yahoo.com

Anne Vial (Administrator) avial@haddonfieldpres.org

Rev. Passante (Assoc. Pastor) npassante@haddonfieldpres.org

Any questions or comments, please contact Pastor Nikki at npassante@haddonfieldpres.org

LAST CALL FOR 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.

BLANKET SUNDAY ON MOTHER'S DAY, MAY 9



Presbyterian Women invites you to support the Church World Service Blanket Appeal this Mother's Day, May 9. CWS writes: “When difficult times happen, a kind and loving response can make all the difference. That's why the CWS Blankets program was created—to give a kind, loving and tangible response to someone facing a difficult time, reminding them that they are not alone.” Through our generosity and that of others our most vulnerable neighbors around the world can feel safe and keep warm with fresh linens and clean sleeping quarters. Donations may be made by dropping off an envelope marked “CWS Blanket Appeal” at the Sunday morning drive-through or online at <https://onrealm.org/FirstPresbyteri11244/-/give/now>. When our neighbors are in need, even \$10 for a single blanket goes a long way.

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER LIST

Beginning this week, each Sunday bulletin will include a list of folks and situations to prayer for. If you would like to add a personal prayer request, please contact one of the pastors or Anne Vial. In making requests on behalf of others, please obtain the permission of the person needing prayer. The requestor will have their name printed as the originator of the request. You can view this week's list [here](#).

The [Prayer Request portal](#) on the website is still available for private requests sent directly to the pastors.

CHOIR HYMN SING!

Mikey, James, Mackenzie, and Allie sing hymn #369 "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me" as they go from rehearsal energized as God's hands, hearts, and voices in our world.

"I'm gonna live so God can use me, anywhere, Lord, anytime. (repeat)
I'm gonna work so God can use me...
I'm gonna pray so God can use me...
I'm gonna SING so God can use me.."



ST. WILFRID'S OPEN DOOR CLINIC

This week marks the 57th week that the Open Door Clinic at St Wilfrid's has distributed food during the pandemic—109 bags this week; 5,301 total! Over 132,525 pounds of food and dry goods distributed to date. **NEEDS:** Our requests this week are for baby wipes, bars of soap and body wash, shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, size 6 diapers and wipes, woman's adult PULL UP diapers, sizes L and XL. Also needed are canned peaches, applesauce, cereal, and always 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 weekdays in the bins behind Grace Church or on Sundays at the drive-through after church. **Help is also needed** on an occasional weekday to pick up loaves of bread from a house on Grove Street...you would be called that morning; another volunteer picks it up to deliver to Camden. If you could help or have questions or are interested in helping sort food from the Food Bank and filling grocery bags for the clients, or would like to help with yard work on a Saturday – please call Jill Mascena at 856-428-7342.

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 27** is Acts 8:26-40. Zoom link



Pastor Nikki's Bible Study And Speaking Truth In Love Class will pause this week—no meetings 4/28 or 4/29. Both resume the following week.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Apr. 22 – 6:30 Nikki's Bible Study
Apr. 25 – 9 a.m. Conversations on Race
Apr. 25 – 10 a.m. Worship
Apr. 25 – Donations drive-through (portico)
Apr. 25 – 5 p.m. Youth Group
Apr. 26 – 11:30 a.m. Old Testament Bible Study
Apr. 27 – 8 a.m. Doug's Bible Study

Apr. 27 – 7:30 p.m. Deacons
Apr. 28 – STIL does not meet
Apr. 29 – Nikki's Bible Study does not meet
May 2 – 9 a.m. Conversations on Race
May 2 – 10 a.m. Online Worship
May 2 – 10 a.m. 4th-grade Communion Class