

This week's news...



April 29, 2021

Sorrow and Kindness

Dear Friend,

Of the many joys of listening to NPR is its broad range of programming and its willingness to take "deep dives" into stories and events. Throughout April, many of its programs have featured poems in recognition of National Poetry Month. This week I heard one that made me not only slow down and listen but go to the poets.org website and read it again. Here it is:

Kindness

Naomi Shihab Nye - 1952 -

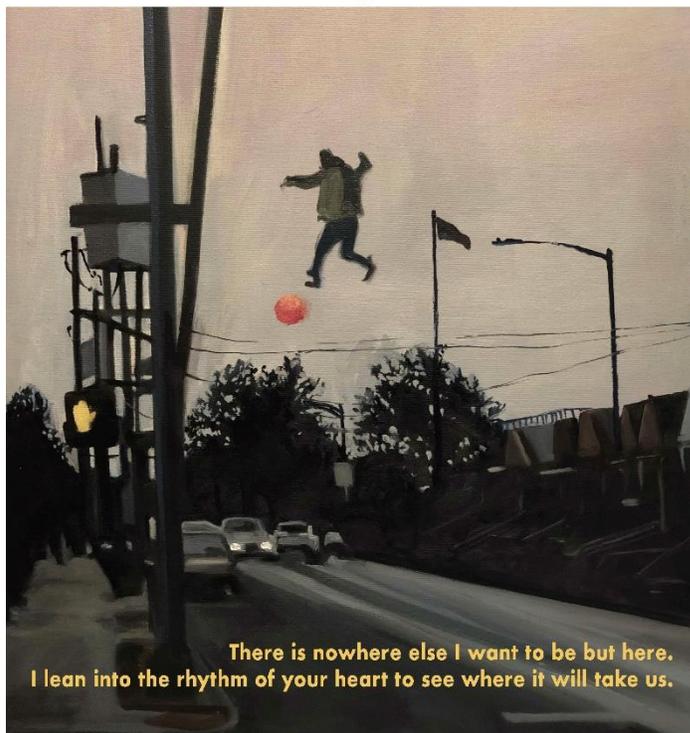
Before you know what kindness really is
you must lose things,
feel the future dissolve in a moment
like salt in a weakened broth.
What you held in your hand,
what you counted and carefully saved,
all this must go so you know
how desolate the landscape can be
between the regions of kindness.
How you ride and ride
thinking the bus will never stop,
the passengers eating maize and chicken
will stare out the window forever.

Before you learn the tender gravity of kindness
you must travel where the Indian in a white poncho
lies dead by the side of the road.
You must see how this could be you,
how he too was someone
who journeyed through the night with plans
and the simple breath that kept him alive.

Before you know kindness as the deepest thing inside,
you must know sorrow as the other deepest thing.
You must wake up with sorrow.
You must speak to it till your voice
catches the thread of all sorrows
and you see the size of the cloth.
Then it is only kindness that makes sense anymore,
only kindness that ties your shoes
and sends you out into the day to gaze at bread,
only kindness that raises its head

National Poetry Month April 2021

Celebrating 25 years



There is nowhere else I want to be but here.
I lean into the rhythm of your heart to see where it will take us.



from the crowd of the world to say
It is I you have been looking for,
and then goes with you everywhere
like a shadow or a friend.

(From Words Under the Words: Selected Poems. Copyright © 1995 by Naomi Shihab Nye)

It's the last stanza that caught me — the concept that before we can truly know kindness, we must know sorrow as the deepest thing.

Does it seem to you that the pandemic has heightened our sensitivity toward kindness — how the power of a kind word or gesture has been accentuated? Maybe it's just me, but given the sorrow that escapes no one, and affects some to excruciating levels, simple acts of kindness are now memorable events. We are immersed in so much bad news, so much sadness, that those glimmers of hope and healing and kindness take on exponential magnitude.

I'm grateful to serve among you — and value your welcome and patience and tolerance. Most of all I value being included in the events of your lives — big and small, happy and sad — it's what feeds and fuels my pastor's heart.

Be well, stay safe, and God bless,



P.S. **Weekly Wisdom:** "I think one lesson I have learned is that there is no substitute for paying attention." *Diane Sawyer*



SUNDAY, MAY 2—COMMUNION AND DEACONS SUNDAY

Sunday worship will include the Lord's Supper this week. Come to the online service with elements at the ready. The Deacons will be hosting the service are thankful for your virtual presence! 😊 And as usual on the first Sunday of the month, the Deacons Offering will be received.



Presbyterian Deacons are called to a ministry of "compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress" (G-2.0201)

FOURTH-GRADE COMMUNION CLASS STARTING SUNDAY, 5/2!

We are so excited to start our Communion Classes this Sunday at 10am! Calling all 4th-grade Catacombers to meet outside the church near the playground door to start our Communion Adventures. Please remember to bring a mask and temperatures will be taken upon arrival. Looking forward to seeing everyone! For information, please contact Gabrielle Heimerling at gheimerling@haddonfieldpres.org.

NEW MEMBERS CLASSES BEGIN MAY 9!

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.

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. Through our generosity 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](#). even \$10 for a single blanket goes a long way.

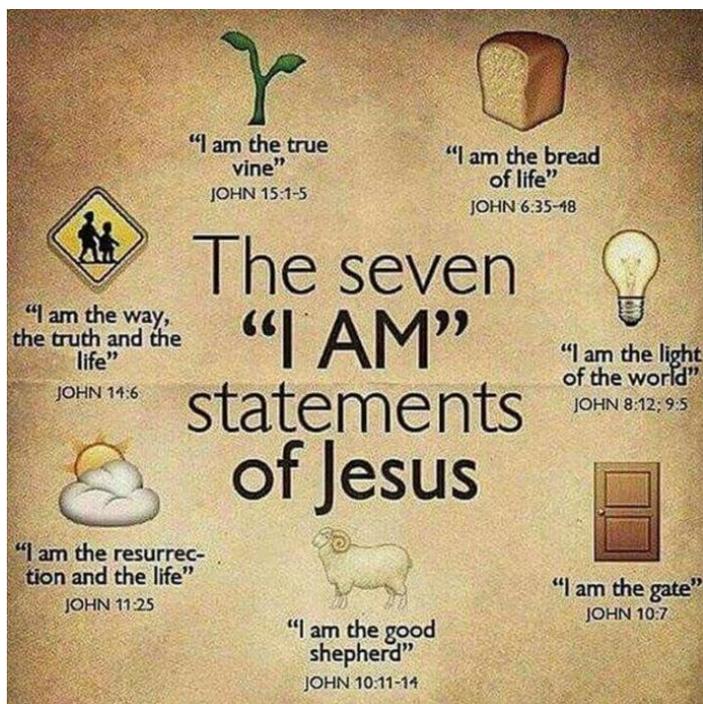
CONVERSATIONS ON RACE

Sunday morning discussions continue from 9-9:45 a.m. on Zoom at [this link](#). This week (5/2) we will discuss how racism negatively impacts everyone. [This 35-minute podcast interview](#) with Heather McGhee, author of *The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs All of Us and How We Can Prosper Together* will be our jumping off point. 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.

PER CAPITA

First Presbyterian members and friends did a wonderful job of maintaining the church's financial health in 2020—a difficult year for so many. 2021 is a new year, bringing with it new hope. And the work of the church continues. One of the most important ways to keep the church in shape for its role in the world is paying your per capita amount each year. \$37 per confirmed member is the amount FPCH pays to Presbytery for its support of our ministers and programs and to maintain our connections with the larger denomination. In 2020, the Presbytery was generous to us in its financial support through grants for technology and mission and in providing support and training for the pastors, helping to keep the church steady through transition. Please do your part in return—use the "Per Capita" fund when giving online or label checks to indicate a per capita payment. Thank you!

THIS WEEK IN SUNDAY SCHOOL



This week's lesson felt more like school because we learned about metaphors. Jesus loved to tell stories and give examples that made pictures to help us understand his lessons. This week is an example of Jesus using a metaphor to help explain to the disciples how much he loved them and all of us. Our Bible story today is about Jesus taking care of sheep. There is a special name for someone who takes care of sheep. They are called a shepherd. Jesus says he is like a good shepherd. Jesus takes care of people, like a shepherd takes care of sheep. Our older kids focused on all 7 "I Am" statements of the book of John. Here is the graphic that Pastor Doug highlighted in the Children's Message.

THIS WEEK IN YOUTH GROUP

This week in Youth Group we played Capture the Flag. The Youth Group kids think of some incredibly challenging (and maybe not completely legitimate) hiding spots for their team flags. We are loving this gorgeous weather to be able to hang outside together and eat tons of snacks and thousands of bags of fruit snacks. We are meeting this Sunday May 2nd from 5pm-6pm and hope to see you there!

A WONDERFUL OFFER FROM CIRCLE 1M!

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

The pinwheels on the front lawn were planted by Presbyterian Women in observance of National Child Abuse Prevention Month in April. Saturday and Sunday, May 1 and 2, children are welcome to 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

Cherub and Carol Choirs

"We Are the Church," sing our children to end their choir year.

I am the church.

You are the church.

We are the church, together.

All who follow Jesus all around the world,

Yes, we're the church together.

The church is not a building.

The church is not a steeple.

The church is not a resting place;

The church is the people!



Click on image

ST. WILFRID'S OPEN DOOR CLINIC

Saturday was a most beautiful spring day on Dudley Street at the Open Door Clinic. Our patrons stood in line facing a bright and warming sun. "Do you remember standing in the snow?"

Saturday we were able to distribute fresh vegetables in addition to our food bags and diapers. There is a sense of fellowship among the regulars. Neighbor is helping neighbor. **It's good news!**

This week marks the **58th straight week** that the Open Door Clinic at St Wilfrid's has distributed food during the pandemic: **93 bags again, 5,394 total. Over 134,850 pounds** of food and dry goods, distributed by the all-volunteer, everything-donated, nobody-gets-paid Open Door Clinic. Thank you all for your generous collections and contributions!

Needs: Rice; macaroni and cheese; canned applesauce, peaches, and pineapple; bars of soap; disposable razors; baby wipes and size 2 diapers. We are coming to the time when we will be needing **box fans** to give out. If families would like to help with **spring cleanup** of the grounds around the church, would like to donate any fans, or if you have any questions or would like to know more about anything, please call Jill Mascena at 856-428-7342. Leave a message and she'll get back to you. Or check out the website opendoorcliniccamden.org.

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, May 4** is John 15:9-17. [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.

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER LIST

Sunday bulletins will now 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.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Apr. 29 – Nikki's Bible Study does not meet
May 2 – 9 a.m. Conversations on Race
May 2 – 10 a.m. Online Worship and Communion
May 2 – 10 a.m. 4th-grade Communion Class
May 2 – Donations drive-through (portico)
May 2 – 5 p.m. Youth Group
May 3 – 11:30 a.m. Old Testament Bible Study

May 4 – 8 a.m. Doug's Bible Study
May 5 – 7:30 p.m. STIL
May 6 – 6:30 Nikki's Bible Study
May 9 – 9 a.m. Conversations on Race
May 9 – 10 a.m. Online Worship – Blanket Sunday
May 9 – 10 a.m. 4th-Grade Communion
May 9 – 5 p.m. Youth Group