

This week's news...



May 27, 2021

Dear Friend,

If I Had a Hammer!

If I had a hammer
I'd hammer in the morning
I'd hammer in the evening
All over this land
I'd hammer out danger
I'd hammer out a warning
I'd hammer out love between
My brothers and my sisters, ah-ah
All over this land

(Peter, Paul, and Mary sing it [here!](#))

Now that we're moving closer and closer to being fully open, I hope to have visitors to my office! (You'll see later on in this email that I've had some already!)

I've hung some of my most cherished mementos from my career on the wall next to my desk, which are pictured above. On the top is a collage my family gave me. The theme is "For everything there is a season" from Ecclesiastes. The smaller frame is a copy of St. Francis' prayer, "Lord, make me an instrument of your peace" which was given to me by one of the deans of my first seminary. Lastly, there's a hammer that has been engraved with two definitions of the Portuguese word "pregar." One meaning is "to preach, proclaim, or advocate," and the other is "to hammer or fasten, to give out." It was given to me on the occasion of a former Associate Pastor when both she and her wife were ordained in the same ceremony. The event made national news as it was a first in any mainline Protestant denomination.



The three items are all related: Ecclesiastes proclaims that there is a "time to break down and a time to build up" and St. Francis reminds us that "in our giving we receive." The hammer is an instrument of both breaking down and building up and one definition of "pregar" is "to give out." Mixed up in all of them is a basic understanding of ministry — especially transitional ministry. It is a time to examine, perhaps break down, but always consider practices and structures and norms and "sacred cows" and wonder if they are still valid or needed or understood.

This interim time can be exciting and formative — it can also be fraught with anxiety and impatience. Certainly with the pandemic quieting down, at least locally, some of that pressure dissipates as we reconfigure our lives and lifestyles.

Along those lines, great progress is being made in the process to eventually call a new Pastor/Head of Staff. The Mission Study Team has finished its work and their report is going through a final edit before being presented to session and then the congregation. After that, the Nominating Committee will begin its work to nominate a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). Once that group is elected — we're clearly on God's timeline as they prayerfully consider candidates.


I hope this finds you well — stay safe — and God bless,

Weekly Wisdom:

There is no such thing as not worshipping. Everybody worships. The only choice we get is what to worship. (*David Foster Wallace*)



WORSHIP ON SUNDAY, MAY 30, IN FELLOWSHIP HALL!



The church opens its literal doors once again! It is time to gather in community to hear and proclaim the Word both in person and over live stream. The COVID Response Team has worked hard all year to ensure the safety of the congregation and friends who use the church building. And they developed the following guidelines for worship, which Session then approved. While state restrictions are changing daily, FPCH will begin the summer with the protocols listed here:

GUIDELINES FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP

**All worshippers must meet current CDC safety guidelines to enter –
*if you don't feel well, please worship online.***

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE:

- **Users of stairs:** Enter and exit through the side entrance on the Playground Side. Expect a temperature check and registration as you enter.
- **Elevator users:** Enter and exit through the Masonic Temple side of the building. Expect a temperature check and registration as you enter.
- **Exiting:** Deacons and ushers will excuse by row so that distancing can be maintained. Follow signs and ushers to proper exit. Please take all conversations outside.

DRESS CODE:

- **Congregants: Masks are required** at all times inside the building (if you are over 2). Please BYO – we'll have a limited number of extras just in case.
- **Worship Leaders:** Masks are required until they reach the area where they are isolated from contact with the congregation.

Per CDC Guidelines a mask must completely cover the nose and mouth, fit snugly against the sides of the face with no gaps and should not have valves or vents. (Bandanas, scarves, and face shields alone are not sufficient.)

DURING WORSHIP:

- **Seating:** Chairs will be set up six feet apart. Family units can pull chairs together if they wish.
- **Singing:** Nope – leave it to the professionals.
- **Praying:** Out-loud corporate prayers (Confession, Lord's Prayer, etc.) – This one is a yes!

- **Sharing the Peace of Christ:** Use a peace sign, a bow, a pantomime, a wave, or other sign of Christ's love, but please stay six feet apart.
- **Offering:** Look for offering baskets when you enter or exit. Or give online.
- **Communion:** Elements will be individually and safely packaged – instructions will be given!

OFFERING AND FOOD DONATIONS!

When we move indoors on May 30, there will be baskets and tables to receive donations and pledges. St. Wilfrid's continues to count on your faithful support and your financial support keeps the church's mission alive. Ushers and helpers will be on hand to give any assistance you need.



Children's Church



Nursery

The Nursery is Back! Along with worship reopening, the nursery is back for infants – 3-year-olds. Parents wishing to drop off their darlings can do so in the Hospitality Room where our nursery helpers will be happy to entertain your babies while you worship. Want to save time at drop off? Please have your information filled out ahead of time for our helpers.

Children's Church is Back! Have children too big for the nursery? Send them to Children's Church! Each week kids ages 4-10 are invited to join us in Children's Church in the Communion Class Room for a bible story, craft, and some play. Masks are required. We look forward to seeing you there!

CONVERSATION ON RACE

Conversations will take a break on May 30 for Memorial Day. Hope to see you in worship!



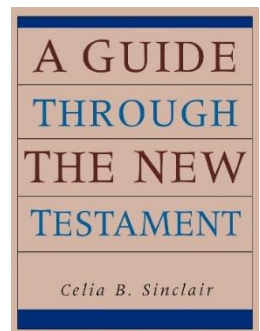
DEACONS SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE IS NEAR!

Scholarships are available to class of 2021 High School Seniors who are members of First Presbyterian Church of Haddonfield and who will be attending either a two- or four-year college in the fall of 2021. To get full details, [click here](#). You can download and complete the application from the First Presbyterian Church website [here](#) or call the church office at (856) 429-1960 to get a paper form mailed. **Application deadline is June 5.**

NEW STUDY OPPORTUNITY:

A GUIDE THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT

This course, like the one on the Old Testament, is meant as an introduction to Bible Study and is perfect for someone who hasn't had much experience with the text. The course is a combination of online teaching and discussion led by Doug and weekly homework in the workbook. Course meets on Mondays from 11:00 a.m. to noon on [Zoom](#), and **will begin on June 21st** and run for approximately 12 weeks. (Don't worry if you'll be away on vacation — this is easy to do on your own!) If you'd like to sign-up or would like a book to use on your own, send [Doug](#) a note and he'll reserve one for you! Books are \$15!



THANK YOU FOR SENDING IN YOUR PER CAPITA

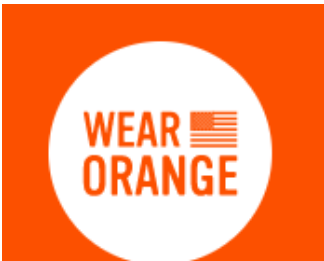
Per capita contributions have been flowing in. Thank you! And it's not too late! Our support of the Presbytery of Southern New Jersey and the larger denomination helps the missions of the PC(USA), and it helps us directly. Please do your part in return—\$37 per member. Use the "Per Capita" fund when giving online or label checks to indicate a per capita payment.

COMMUNION CLASS WILL CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER ON JUNE 6

We wrapped up our final week of 4th-grade Communion class this week. The kids learned all about Holy Week and received little reminders about each day. Afterwards the class and their families met in the Chapel with Pastor Nikki for a Sacraments Lesson. 4th-Grade Communion Sunday will be June 6th in Fellowship Hall. I'm so proud of this class and can't wait to share this special day with them and their families. (G. Heimerling)



WEAR ORANGE DAY



Next week orange ribbons and bows will be around the church for Wear Orange Day in honor of victims of gun violence. National Gun Violence Awareness week will follow. Wearing orange or decorating your home in orange helps draw attention to this serious crisis. The PCUSA Office of Public Witness calls gun violence in America "a national sin". It devastates people from every demographic. Those who also suffer the impact of systemic racism are even more vulnerable. The trauma inflicted on survivors and communities by gun violence lasts for generations. The Mission Committee and the Justice and

Advocacy Committee have distributed information on the Be SMART for Kids initiative over the last three years. Have you taken action to protect your family? Have you shared the information with your neighbors and co-workers? If not, now is the time to do it! We all want our children to grow up happy and healthy. Those choosing to own a gun, those wishing to abolish them, and everyone in between can learn more @ besmartforkids.org.

- Secure guns in homes and vehicles.
- Model responsible behavior.
- Ask about unsecured guns in other homes.
- Recognize the risk of teen suicide.
- Tell your peers to be SMART.

MEMBER CARE COORDINATION TEAM

Do you know of needs in the congregation? Please contact one of these folks:

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

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS ON!



It's time to register for VBS 2021 - Knights of the North Castle, July 26-30 from 9am-12pm, children ages 4-10. Become Knights on a journey to the North Castle in a frozen land where we are on a quest to find the King's Armor. We are looking forward to another great VBS week filled with music, games, crafts, and bible stories. Let's take up the gauntlet and accept the challenge to "armor up" and be strong with God! Due to limited spacing this year your child(ren)'s spot in camp will not be confirmed until payment is received. **Registration alone is not a confirmed spot in camp. If there is available space for your child(ren), you will be sent information regarding payment. Once payment is received, your spot will be confirmed.**

Volunteers needed for VBS! Calling all shepherds! Looking for our middle and high schoolers to help out with our campers July 26-30. Please contact Gabrielle Heimerling at gheimerling@haddonfieldpres.org.

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER LIST

Please keep members and friends of the congregation in your prayers. 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 still available for private requests sent directly to the pastors.*

LOOK WHO PAID PASTOR DOUG A VISIT



Before Preschool wrapped up for the year, Pastor Doug was serenaded in his office by this good looking group of youngsters. Now that's a workplace perk!

ONGOING...

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, June 1 is Psalm 130**. [Zoom link](#)

Pastor Nikki's Bible Study: Nikki's Bible Study is pausing for the summer. Watch for information about workshops Nikki will offer in the coming weeks.

ST. WILFRID'S OPEN DOOR CLINIC

Maybe one day there won't be a need for an Open Door Clinic, but there is one now. Over 10 years ago medical volunteers started doing monthly health screenings at St. Wilfrid's and then began giving out clothing and food and baby things. Last March we switched to giving out weekly food and hygiene products. This week marks the **62nd straight week** that the Open Door Clinic at St Wilfrid's has distributed food during the pandemic: **110 bags, 5,764 total. Over 144,100 pounds** of food and dry goods have been distributed by the all-volunteer, everything donated, nobody gets paid, Open Door Clinic at St. Wilfrid's. Thank you all for your generous collections and contributions.

Needs: It seems that every week we need diapers and baby wipes—the need is greater than the supply. Other needs are cold cereal, canned fruit, spaghetti squash, soap, deodorant, sanitary pads, ziplock sandwich bags, and gallon twist tie plastic bags. Plastic grocery bags from Shoprite or Wegman's, paper grocery bags to line the the plastic bags, and newspaper bags to hold hygiene products are also needed. These may be dropped off in the bins behind Grace Episcopal Church on weekdays or on Sundays on donation tables in the church. (Ushers will direct folks as logistical plans evolve.)

Do you have an old fan lying around??? We can use it. It can be dropped off at the rear of Grace Church or Corey Crumley's house at 40 Warwick Road; Haddonfield NJ. Please give Corey the "heads up" at Crumleyc@gmail.com if you're dropping off. If you are interested in volunteering on Saturdays, helping with pickup at Food Bank, or have questions, please call Jill Mascena at 856-428-7342 and leave a message or check out the website: opendoorcliniccamden.org

WEEKLY CALENDAR

May 30 – 10 a.m. IN-PERSON and Online Worship
June 2 – 8 a.m. Doug's Bible Study
June 6 – 9 a.m. Conversation on Race
June 6 – 10 a.m. IN-PERSON and Online Worship with Communion
June 6 – 10 a.m. 4th-grade Communion Class in worship
June 6 – Wear Orange to End Gun Violence

