

This week's news...



May 6, 2021

Dear Friend,

Can You Feel It?

Can you?

There's a change. It's palpable. It's all around.
It feels good.

What is it?

Openness.

Yes, openness.

Openness tinged with relief and bathed in a bit of anxiety.

In New Jersey, starting May 19th, most indoor spaces are able to open to 100% capacity while enforcing 6' distancing and mask-wearing. (In your diminutive neighbor to the southwest, apparently since they are smaller, residents only need to stay 3' apart!)

On May 30th the church will commence modified and CDC-compliant in-person worship in Fellowship Hall. It's a step, perhaps a big one, to returning to the sanctuary in September.

Yes, there's a growing sense of openness; but I have specifically avoided the word "normal." We're *not* going back to "normal" — too much has changed, we've lost too many people, and our lives have been inextricably changed. To return to "normal" means everything's all better. And it's not.

Moving forward — changed, altered, resilient — that's what we're doing. We're moving forward the best that we can in the still-present ethos of a disease that ravaged our society and community — to say nothing of the families who are emerging from the pandemic without loved ones.

Yes, there's a change and it's palpable and it's all around and it even feels good — but it's not a return to normal — it's a tentative step into a future that is markedly different from just 16 months ago.

Markedly different in all ways but one way:



For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

God is good. God will provide.

Be well, stay safe, and God bless,



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.

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.

CONVERSATION ON RACE

Conversation on Race takes a break today for Mother's Day. Look for a new discussion topic next week. Questions? Email Becky Bryan, rebeccabryan@me.com.

PW VIRTUAL SPRING GATHERING, TUESDAY, MAY 11



All are invited to join the Presbyterian Women (PW) of our church for its virtual spring gathering. Mark your calendar for this Tuesday, May 11, at 1 p.m. when the membership and friends will gather via Zoom for a time of fellowship and fun. To add to the festive atmosphere of the event, come wearing your most festive hat and bring along a favorite dessert. Our guest speaker will be Carrie Wiggins of Feed my Starving Children, who will share with us how FMSC has met the challenge of these unusual times. [Click here for the Zoom link.](#)

PER CAPITA: \$2,222.00 < \$31,775.00

Kris Bean has sent a check for \$31,775.00 to Presbytery to cover First Presbyterian Church of Haddonfield's annual per capita obligation. So far, FPCH members have sent in enough individual contributions of \$37 per confirmed member to cover \$2,222.00 of that cost. Let's bring a little more balance to this equation! \$37 per 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. 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!



BARB SEWALL RETIRING



Barbara Sewall will be retiring from First Presbyterian Church Preschool on May 28th, 2021. Barb has served on FPC staff as the Preschool Director since 1983. For 38 years she has been devoted to the Church and the Preschool. Barb has welcomed thousands of children and dozens of staff members into a loving and supportive Christian atmosphere. She created a school where children feel encouraged, are recognized for their uniqueness and have the opportunity to develop friendships. An integral part of Barb's mission was not only to offer a wide range of experiences to children but to also offer parents and staff a place to develop friendships with those sharing common interests. Barb's core values and legacy will continue for many years to come under the leadership of Marisa McGovern, who was appointed as Preschool Director on July 1st, 2020.

First Presbyterian Church of Haddonfield would like to wish Barbara well as she begins her next chapter. Your gratitude and appreciation for Barbara's service can be expressed through cards and/or donations to her purse. We will be collecting now until May 21st at the drive-through on Sunday mornings. Please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church and put Barbara's name in the memo or donate online at www.haddonfieldpres.org through Realm if you prefer. You may also drop off cards/donations to the Preschool office or Church mailbox Monday-Friday 9:00 AM -12:00 PM.

THIS WEEK IN SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our lesson for the younger grades this week took place in the very early days of the church after Jesus rose to heaven. His disciples were now out spreading the Good News about Jesus. Our story focuses on a disciple named Philip who helps explain the wonderful story of Jesus to an official who has traveled all the way from Ethiopia to try to understand the works of the Prophet Elijah. The Ethiopian is so moved by Jesus that he asks to be baptized right then and there! Our older kids, in honor of Mother's Day, learned about some biblical mothers, like Sarah, Rebekah, Naomi, Hannah, and of course Mary. [Here's a great recap video.](#)

This Week in Communion Class

Our 4th grade catacombers met on Sunday in person and learned all about the ichthus. The ichthus symbol in Greek letters spells out 'Jesus Christ, God's Son, Saviour.' and is also a monogram, as ichthus is the Greek word for 'fish'! We also talked about Moses, the 10 Plagues, and the Passover Seder. Getting ready for Week #2 of our class with this great group of kids.



THIS WEEK IN YOUTH GROUP

It felt like summer sitting outside chatting over water ice. One of our awesome youth groupers, Thomas, shared with us a wonderful poem he wrote for school about hope, then we pivoted hard with another vicious dodgeball match. We are taking the week off this week for Mother's Day but will meet again for our final get together on May 16th.

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.*

MEMBER CARE FOR THE CONGREGATION

We have a team of folks available to hear your concerns about any members who might be struggling, lonely, or need a phone call. Send an email with your concerns to one of the **Member Care**

Coordination Team:

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

ST. WILFRID'S OPEN DOOR CLINIC

The Report of the Open Door Clinic at St Wilfrid's May 3, 2021:

The "Baseball Reference" chronicles the professional baseball history of the forty-one-year-old pitcher who lines up for a food bag weekly at St. Wilfrid's: Julio Guerrero was 19 years old from the Dominican Republic when he entered the Pittsburgh Pirates organization in the year 2000. From 2000 to 2005, he pitched for the Pirate organization in places like Hickory, NC, Williamsport PA, Lynchburg VA, and had his best year at age 24 with a 11-5 record in 129 innings, striking out 78 and walking 23. Apparently, the Pirates lost interest in Julio and appear to have released him after that year. He then tried to catch on through pitching in independent leagues for teams in Long Island, the Camden Riversharks, and the Netanya Tigers of the Israel Baseball League. His professional career ended in 2010. At St. Wilfrid's we know Julio only as a tall, good looking, soft-spoken man. Imagine being a teen, leaving your homeland to seek a profession in a foreign land, different culture, different language, in Hickory, or Williamsport or Israel? Julio never speaks of his baseball past. He is humble. He is quiet. He is friendly. He smiles. He's grateful. The Open Door Clinic seeks to help all in need each Saturday. Sometimes they are past professional baseball players.

This week marks the **59th straight week** that the Open-Door Clinic at St Wilfrid's has distributed food during the pandemic: **86 bags, 5,480 total, over 137,000 pounds** of food and dry goods. Thank you all for your generous collections and contributions.

Needs: Rice, pasta, macaroni and cheese, applesauce, toothpaste, and bars of soap plastic grocery bags from Shoprite or Wegman's, paper grocery bags to line the plastic bags, and newspaper bags to hold hygiene products. We are starting to collect box fans as the temperature rises AND to collect backpacks to give out when school starts again in September. We estimate needing 75 backpacks These items may be dropped off in the bins behind Grace Episcopal Church on weekdays or on Sundays at the drive-through after church from 11-12. If you would like to know more about this mission or would be interested in helping in any way-please call Jill Mascena at 856-428-7342. Leave a message and Jill will get back to you. www.opendoorcliniccamden.org.

URGENT: Foodbank Pickup Help is needed badly on Friday, May 7. A couple of the regulars will be out of town and we will certainly need some muscle at the St Wilfrid's end, in addition to the Foodbank transport. Foodbank transport is a little after 8:00 a.m. Fridays or St. Wilfrid's about 8:35. For more information or if you can help please email Rose Guthrie at intrepidrose@hotmail.com.

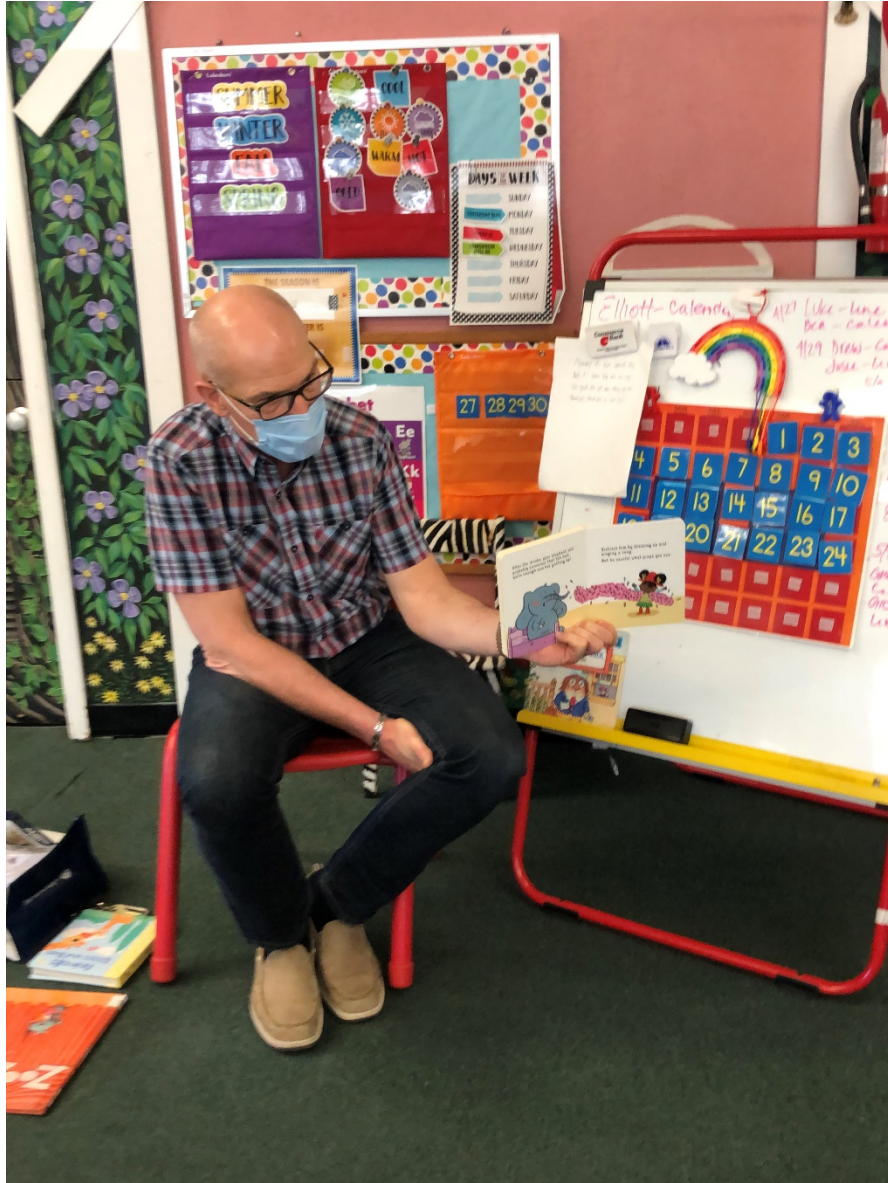
ONGOING...

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 11 is Acts 1:1-11**. [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.

DOUG GOES TO SCHOOL (PRESCHOOL, THAT IS)



Look at the new kid who showed up for story time – and took over.
Lucky kids! (Lucky pastor!)

WEEKLY CALENDAR

May 6 – 6:30 Nikki's Bible Study
May 9 – Conversation on Race does not meet
May 9 – 10 a.m. Online Worship – Blanket Sunday
May 9 – 10 a.m. 4th-Grade Communion
May 9 – Donations drive-through (portico)
May 9 – 1 p.m. NEW MEMBERS CLASS
May 9 – Youth Group does not meet
May 10 – 11:30 a.m. Old Testament Bible Study
May 11 – 8 a.m. Doug's Bible Study

May 12 – 7:30 p.m. STIL
May 13 – 6:30 Nikki's Bible Study
May 16 – 9 a.m. Conversation on Race
May 16 – 10 a.m. Online Worship
May 16 – 10 a.m. 4th-grade Communion Class
May 16 – Donations drive-through (portico)
May 16 – 1 p.m. NEW MEMBERS CLASS
May 16 – 5 p.m. Youth Group
May 17 – 7 p.m. Session