

This week's news...



August 19, 2021

Dear Friend,

Four Sentences that Lead to Wisdom

From earlier notes, I'm aware that there are more than a few Louise Penny/Armand Gamache fans in the congregation. For the uninitiated, Louise Penny is an author of a series of murder mysteries featuring the recurring character of Chief Inspector Armand Gamache. Gamache is to Penny what Poirot is to Christie.

Armand was greatly influenced early in his career by a superior officer who imparted to him four sentences that lead to wisdom:

I'm sorry.
I was wrong.
I need help.
I don't know.

Simple sentences, uncomplicated concepts, basic words, and clear language. No euphemisms, no twisted syntax, no veiled meanings—just pure sentiment and assertion.

Given that last week's sermon was about Solomon's request to God for wisdom, it's been on my mind, and I was reminded of Armand and his four sentences. I was also reminded of another simple saying that I found on a stark graphic:



Sometimes the best thing we can say—is nothing! Wisdom is knowing when!

As we, as a faith community, attempt to navigate an ever-changing pandemic and its health implications to us and our children, those four sentences are heard often. I think the best summation is simply this: **Doing the best we can with what we know at the time.** That's as good as it gets and that's really the only standard any of us can be measured against.

Lastly, a number of folks asked about the prayer I offered to the US Senate, and I've attached a copy of the prayer and also my introduction by Sen. Coons.

I hope this finds you well—

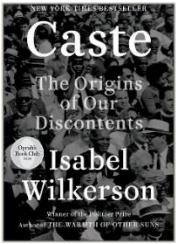
[Senate Prayer](#)

Be well and stay safe!



[Senate Introduction](#)

CONVERSATION ON RACE MEETS THIS WEEK, AUGUST 22



This week after church, our Conversation on Race will be led by Paul Urian and will be on Pillars 6-8 of *Caste*. In preparation please listen to [podcast 7](#) and [podcast 8](#) of Oprah's Bookclub - interviews with author Isabel Wilkerson.

We will schedule a virtual book discussion on the book, *Caste*, sometime in September. All Cherry Hill high school students have been assigned this as summer reading - let's join them and find out why! Questions? Email Becky Bryan: rebeccabryan@me.com.

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE IS HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE A SLATE FOR THE PNC

The nominating committee has been hard at work and has identified the following church members to serve on the Pastor Nominating Committee:

Pete Hurd
Brian McGlade
Bud Miller
Deb Nussbaum

Margaret O'Neil
Andy Reinicker
Maggie Sell
Rebeca Silva de Foote

Photos and bios are below. There will be a congregational meeting on **Sunday, August 29**, in person and on Zoom for the purpose of electing the PNC. Meeting details to come.

Many thanks to the nominating committee, chaired by Betsy Westermaier: Quint Lerch, Linda Hess, Amy Stedman, Jayne Grabowski, Joyce Stout, Chuck Bell, and Doug Gerdts, ex officio

JOIN NIKKI'S WORKSHOPS ON PRAYER

Pastor Nikki will hold two more **Equipping Workshops** on prayer for people who wish to deepen their life of faith, spiritually strengthen relationships, and develop a compassionate posture to all God's children. Each week participants will be introduced to a different prayer technique, and we will hear what Jesus, Thomas Merton, Richard Rohr, and C.S. Lewis, among others, have to say about prayer. Workshops meet at **6:30 on Thursday evenings** on [Zoom](#):

- August 19th: Prayer Workshop #2
- August 26th: Prayer Workshop #3 – *Guest Speaker Laraine Thulin will be our guest facilitator. Laraine is the Leader for the Prayer Ministry Team at Excelsior Covenant Church in Minnesota.*

MISSION TRIP LEADER MEETING



Calling all past, present, and future Mission Trip Leaders (includes both chaperones and organizers) to join us on Tuesday, August 24, at 7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall to discuss the 2022 Mission Trip. Any questions, please contact Gabrielle Heimerling at gheimerling@haddonfieldpres.org.

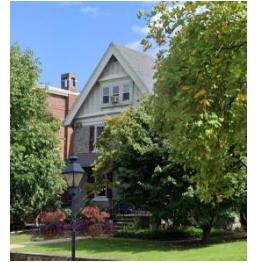
TEEN AND ADULT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Children's Church: Volunteers are needed to teach our young friends each Sunday during the worship service. All that is needed is a willingness to read a story and facilitate a craft. Gabrielle Heimerling will provide you with everything you need to help with the class – all we need is you! All classes will take place in the CE Room (formerly the yoga room) on the lower level.

Nursery Staff: We are looking for people to help staff our nursery as some of our current wonderful nursery helpers are headed off to college in the fall. Ideal candidates will be high school aged or older with ample babysitting experience and/or certification. Must love babies and toddlers! Please reach out to Gabrielle Heimerling for more details at gheimerling@haddonfieldpres.org.

Sunday School Teachers: We are already looking toward the fall and bringing back in person Sunday School! Volunteers are needed to teach our young friends in grades PreK through 8th. All that's needed is a willingness to teach and we will provide the curriculum, teaching manuals, and supplies. Any questions, please reach out to Gabrielle Heimerling at gheimerling@haddonfieldpres.org.

FROM NIKKI AND MARCO: *We are thrilled to be living at the Manse beginning Sept. 1st and are excited to be a part of the neighborhood and make our home on historic Kings Highway! A huge thank-you to Paul Nussbaum, chair of the property committee at First Presbyterian; the property committee, Travis, Ryan – our steadfast painter, and Mark Hall. Thank you to the contractors and all the generous benefactors, along with a special thank-you to the Rev. Dr. Douglas Gerdt for his consistent support and advisement. Thank you so very much and it is a joy to be neighbors!*



A NOTE FROM PASTOR DOUG AND PAUL NUSSBAUM: While we have enjoyed use of the Manse for many years as an annex to the main church building, we now enter a new phase, or perhaps return to a much older one, and that is, that the Manse is indeed a private residence for one of our pastors and her family. Please give Nikki and Marco every courtesy as we protect and honor their privacy.

STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

STEPHEN MINISTRY INTEREST MEETING – In light of increased Covid restrictions, the Stephen Ministry interest meeting has been rescheduled for Wednesday, October 13th at 7:00. Stay tuned for more details.

PORCH BIBLE STUDY RESUMES IN SEPTEMBER – The Porch Study will resume on Zoom on Tuesday, September 14. We will also meet on Tuesday, September 28, and Tuesday, October 12. We will be starting with Philippians, Chapter 3. Meetings start at 7 p.m. and end by 8:30 p.m. All are welcome. If you are new and don't yet have the link, contact the church office.

DOUG'S TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY (8 a.m. [via Zoom](#)) is ongoing and open to all. The text for the coming week is James 1:17-27.

PASTOR NIKKI'S BOOK STUDY on Richard Rohr is ongoing Wednesdays @ 7:30 p.m., [Zoom link](#). Please note that there will be no meeting on September 1.

PASTOR NIKKI'S BIBLE STUDY resumes on Thursday, September 16, on [Zoom](#) to begin a discussion of the Letter to the Hebrews.

THANKS FOR THE BACKPACKS AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES!

This week, Ed Hess delivered 66 backpacks to the Camden Community Center to help the kids served get ready for school. Please keep them coming! Bring donations with you to worship or drop off on Sundays at 11, office-side door. Needed items include:

- Erasers
- Colored Pencils
- Crayons
- Glue Sticks
- Handheld Pencil Sharpeners
- Pencil Box or Pouch
- 3-Ring Binders – 1" or 1 ½ "
- Loose Leaf Filler Paper – Wide Rule
- Calculator
- Washable Markers
- Watercolor Paint
- Art Smock
- 12" Ruler
- Junior Scissors with 5" Blunt Tip
- Pocket Folders
- Composition Notebooks
- Tissue Packets
- Backpacks (the biggest need is for Grades 3-8)

ST. WILFRID'S OPEN DOOR CLINIC

From Corey Crumley, volunteer: For years I have seen requests for help at St Wilfrid's in the Sunday bulletin but the specific Saturday morning never seemed to work for me. Earlier this year I realized that with them changing to providing services every week, maybe I could help? I contacted the always helpful Jill Mascena, who not only gave me the information I needed, but also put me in contact with other church members who volunteer so I didn't have to show up my first time alone! There is always something for me to do at St Wilfrid's. Some weeks I am packing food bags, some weeks I am moving and assigning the food for the bags, and some weeks I am organizing and packing diapers. Walking in past the line of appreciative clients is a great reminder that this work has a direct and immediate impact on people's lives. Whether I go one Saturday a month or four Saturdays a month, they are always happy to see me and have task for me!

Note: There are a lot of people who support this outreach in many different ways. We have those who collect and transport to St Wilfrid's. We have the food bank and food bag group who gather, transport, and prepare the food bags for distribution: 6,881 so far during the pandemic. We have special projects and "off-campus" personnel promoting and making the outreach special. We have a core group nearly every Saturday supporting the clinic: we have the intake crew, recording those receiving food, and an input team entering that information into the computer. We have those who donate food, diapers, and hygiene products EVERY week. We have those who make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for our clients. We have those who donated coats in winter, fans and air conditioners in summer, backpacks and school supplies, Easter candies, and Christmas toys for the children. And we have those who make financial contributions big and small through FPC. Checks may be made out to FPC with "St Wilfrid's" on the memo line. You may also give on Realm with "St. Wilfrid's" on the memo line.

This week marks the 74th straight week that the Open Door Clinic at St Wilfrid's has distributed food during the pandemic: 98 bags, 6,881 total. Over 172,025 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. We also gave out 2 air conditioners. Thank you for your generous collections and contributions!

Needs: size 6 diapers and baby wipes, tuna, cold cereal, 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. Food donations may be dropped off weekdays at the bin on the PATCO side of Grace Church or Sundays at FPC on the table outside Fellowship Hall or after church from 11-12 on the table outside the door to offices on the Masonic Temple side of the church.

Peanut butter and jelly sandwiches are badly needed the next few weeks because many who usually make them are away. If you are interested in making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, please select a donation week by signing up on this sign-up form: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0845aba72caa8-pbjs1>. Or call Jill Mascena at 856-428-7342 and leave a message or contact Wendy Coffman at Wendy.coffman@gmail.com. For more information on St Wilfrid's outreach, check the website: opendoorcliniccamden.org

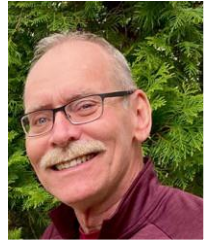
CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER LIST

Please keep members and friends of the congregation in your prayers. The weekly 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.*

COVID GUIDELINES – The Covid Response Team has made the decision to return to the guidelines set out at the beginning of the summer so that we can continue to worship in person but also ensure the safety of those unable to be vaccinated and the well-being of families who want to keep kids in school.

Nominees for the Pastor Nominating Committee

Peter Hurd – I grew up at FPC where my parents, Chuck and Bunnie Hurd, were active members for many years. My wife, Lisa, and I raised our two children here. I have served on Session once and am currently in my third stint as a deacon, where I serve as secretary and chair of the transportation committee. I am also half of the A/V committee with Jim Peterson, and in that capacity we have been streaming the church services and related activities for the past decade.



Brian McGlade – I was raised in the Presbyterian faith, having attended Carmel Presbyterian Church in Glenside, PA as a child and young adult. I joined First Presbyterian Church of Haddonfield 25 years ago along with my wife (fiancé at the time), and we were married by the Pastor, William Levering. Our two daughters attended Sunday School and Confirmation Class, and are members of the church. I have served as an Elder twice, and participated in mission trips to Tennessee and the Dominican Republic.

Herbert “Bud” G Miller, Jr – I became a member of the First Presbyterian Church, Haddonfield, in 1986, when Joan and my family (3 children) moved from Texas to Haddon Twp. In 1987, I was asked to serve as a trustee and did so for two years. In 1986, I joined the Chancel Choir and continue to sing with them. For several years, I sang with and then directed “The Grace Notes,” an SATB octet that sang at the 8:30am service one Sunday a month. I also formed a quartet, “The Four Chaps.” Since joining the church, I have served as an elder and lay reader, served on and chaired the Worship and Music Committee, and served on the search committee to hire our Director of Music, the 2021 Mission Study Team, and the 2021 Organist Search Team. I have worked with “Feed My Starving Children” in several capacities, and in 2015 and 2016 I wrote “Sermon Take-aways” summarizing the theme of each Sunday’s sermon for the church’s social media.



Debra Nussbaum – I have been a member of the church for about 20 years and was on the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee that called Pastor Nikki. I helped run the Church Youth Group before we had pastors and staff involved and was a Sunday School teacher, Confirmation teacher, elder and member of the Christian Education Committee. I have run the Porch Bible Study (with Jill and Tony Mascena) for many years, cook and bake for Care and Share, teach at the Church Preschool, am part of the Prayer Chain, just started running a children's book collection with Jeanne Spinelli (for St. Wilfred's and Broad Street Ministry) and participate in several Bible studies with Pastors Doug and Nikki. My husband, Paul, and I have four children and three grandchildren.

Margaret O’Neil – I’ve been a member of the church since the early 1990s. After singing in an oratorio, I continued coming to First Pres where I found meaning and inspiration in the worship and a welcoming community. I have served as a deacon and elder and been a member of the Chancel Choir. I am happy to serve on the PNC but am aware of the daunting responsibility this entails.





Andy Reinicker – I've been a member of First Presbyterian since 1995. I've been married to Amy for 35 years. We have 3 children: Christine 31, Alex 28, and Rachel 26. I've been a deacon at least 4 times and was moderator during one of those terms. I've been in charge of ushering for a number of years. I've been on 11 mission trips with the youth of our church and community. I was on the building committee and have been a part of many projects around our church. I've been in business for myself since 1986. It is truly an honor to be asked to serve on the PNC.

Maggie Sell – I have been a member of First Presbyterian for about thirty years and was formerly a member of the Church of Scotland. I found the Haddonfield church warm and welcoming and very much like my church back in Scotland with an American accent. I felt at home. I have served on the Board of Deacons, most recently in 2019 as Moderator, and have been on mission trips to Kentucky and Haiti. I played handbells (a long time ago) and have been a member of Presbyterian Women. I served on two mission study teams.



Rebeca Silva de Foote – My husband Matthew and I moved to New Jersey after the birth of our first son, Benicio. We joined First Presbyterian Church of Haddonfield in 2005, where our younger son, Manolo was baptized in 2007. I have served as a deacon for the last four years and am entering my second year as Deacon Moderator. Serving as a deacon is not only a natural fit for me but has also been an incredible blessing in my life. I have also enjoyed being a part of the Conversations on Race group, participating in the Speaking Truth in Love course and the book group on Richard Rohr's *Breathing Under Water* offered by Pastor Nikki. I

keep a framed copy of Ghandi's prayer for peace which I read often especially in times of transition or trouble. I am excited about serving on the PNC as I continue my journey with the church.

REMINDER: *Join the congregational meeting on Sunday, August 29, directly after worship, to elect the Pastor Nominating Committee. The meeting will be held in person in Fellowship Hall and on Zoom. The Zoom link will be shared via Realm, the website, the weekly email, and the bulletin in the coming days.*

WEEKLY CALENDAR

- Aug 19 – 6:30 p.m. Prayer Workshop #2
- Aug 22 – 10 a.m. In-person and Online Worship
- Aug 22 – 11 a.m. Conversation on Race
- Aug 23 – No New Testament class this week
- Aug 24 – 8 a.m. Doug's Bible Study
- Aug 25 – 7:30 p.m. Richard Rohr book study with Nikki
- Aug 26 – 6:30 p.m. Prayer Workshop #2
- Aug 29 – 10 a.m. In-person and Online Worship
- Aug 29 – 11 a.m. (following worship) Congregational meeting



Note: As your committee or group makes plans for the fall for in-person or online meetings or events, please let the church office know so we can include them on the calendar. Updates are always welcome, as are announcements, photos, blurbs, and articles to include in the newsletter. Thank you!