

This week's news...



August 5, 2021

Dear Friend,

Haven't We Had Enough?



The Bible story for Sunday is about the prophet Elijah, who, after winning a dramatic victory over competing prophets supported by the dreaded queen, Jezebel, finds himself depressed and despondent realizing that his arduous quest has no end.

Elijah abandons his traveling companion and treks into the wilderness alone — in essence — to die. Exhausted, he collapses under a solitary scrawny shrub and falls asleep.

Yet, as we'll find out on Sunday, God is not finished with him and so an angel is dispatched with food and water to revive and nourish. The messenger also brings the news that his journey is not over, and after Elijah regains his strength, it will be time to head out.

Here are a couple of quick "take-aways" from the story:

1. When Elijah was at his nadir, God sent a messenger to provide. At his lowest point, someone intersected Elijah's journey with exactly what he needed at the time. Yet there's more! Not only did Elijah receive help — he accepted it. Here's an interesting short spiritual exercise for you: Go back over your lifetime and think about times that you felt lost, confused, alone, abandoned, or unsure. Then, think about how you moved on from that time — and I'd guess that you'll be able to name a person who was in the right place at the right time with the right thing to say. My point? God is still sending angels and we still struggle to accept help!

2. The angel didn't just provide nourishment for Elijah, the angel also reminded him that life goes on and he has to eventually get up and keep moving. In essence, sustenance for body and spirit! Life is often about recovering and moving forward — through things large and small — even and especially when it's hard to do.

All of the above leads me to my core theology:

God is good. God will provide!

P.S. When I read the story about Elijah — dejected and forlorn — I was reminded of the song from Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat entitled, "Close Every Door." [Here](#) it is if you'd like to hear it!

Be well, stay safe, and get vaccinated!



AUGUST WORKSHOPS ON VISITATION AND PRAYER START AUGUST 5!

Beginning August 5th Pastor Nikki will be offering a series of Equipping Workshops for people who wish to deepen their life of faith, spiritually strengthen relationships, and develop a compassionate posture to all God's children. All workshops will be offered at 6:30 on Thursday evenings [via Zoom](#):

- August 5th: The Art and Skill of Home and Hospital Visitation
Our time will be dedicated to tips and suggestions for making in-house visits, and providing resources for those desiring to visit the hurting and lonely. We will examine the healing spiritual gifts that every person brings to the table in challenging situations. This workshop is recommended for Deacons, Elders, and those who feel called to a ministry of visitation.
- August 12th: Prayer Workshop #1
- August 19th: Prayer Workshop #2
- August 26th: Prayer Workshop #3- Guest Speaker
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. On August 26th, Laraine Thulin will be our guest facilitator. Laraine is the Leader for the Prayer Ministry Team at Excelsior Covenant Church in Minnesota.

CONVERSATION ON RACE



Our next Conversation on Race will be held on Sunday, August 8th after church. In preparation, please continue to listen to the Oprah's Bookclub podcast with Isabel Wilkerson, [episodes 5 & 6 \(covering Caste pillars 4 & 5\)](#). All are welcome, regardless of whether you have joined prior conversations on race or not. Questions? Contact [Becky Bryan](#).

WE ARE SO GLAD WE WERE ABLE TO HOLD VBS THIS YEAR!

Gab Heimerling reports: The campers were amazing, energetic, and fun. The shepherds (15 total!) brought their A Game every single day, and the station leaders (10 total plus 1 helper) were exceptional. It was such a wonderful, fun week. We got so many goodbye hugs, lots of "see you next year"s, and even some of our older campers asking to become shepherds. It was a perfect ending to a great week of camp. Biggest thanks to all who make VBS possible. I am so grateful for all of you. Huzzah! (More photos below.)



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.

A GUIDE THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT IS ONGOING, Mondays from 11:00 a.m. to noon on [Zoom](#). Questions? Contact [Doug](#).

DOUG'S TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY (8 a.m. [via Zoom](#)) is ongoing and open to all. The text for the coming week is 1 Kings 19:4-8.

THERE WILL BE AN IN-PERSON STEPHEN MINISTRY INTEREST MEETING on Thursday, Sept. 2 at 6:30. Watch for more information in the coming weeks.

PASTOR NIKKI'S BIBLE STUDY RESUMES September 16.

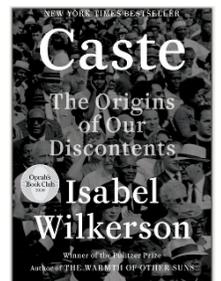
BACKPACK AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES COLLECTION

The Mission Committee is collecting for kids served by Camden Community Center and St. Wilfrid's. Look for sales when you shop and 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)

MATTHEW 25 BOOK STUDY FOR FALL

The congregation is invited to read Isabel Wilkerson's book *Caste*, in preparation for a book discussion in early September. Wilkerson began researching the construct of caste as a better way to capture race relations in our country after writing her award-winning book *The Warmth of Other Suns* and hearing the word used repeatedly by her sources. Is "caste" a better way to describe U.S. race culture? Is discussing caste emotionally easier than discussing racism? Please make this book one of your summer reads and look forward to a thought-provoking conversation.



ST. WILFRID'S OPEN DOOR CLINIC

Kae Fretz writes: *I am thrilled to be working again at St. Wilfred's after my covid hiatus. And what a shock. Talented and relentlessly hard-working volunteers have transformed an area that did a myriad health and outreach services to a bim-bam efficient, very professional food distribution organization. By the end of each Saturday morning, 108 grocery bags are filled with canned food, cereals, and whatever a family needs that is available to us. At the same time outside, another group distributes the bags filled the week before. A crowd working. **Volunteers are needed**, especially to lug heavy canned goods and other items for distribution. **Join us or just take a peek.***

This week marks the 72nd straight week that the Open Door Clinic at St Wilfrid's has distributed food during the pandemic; 100 bags, 6,671 total. Over 166,775 pounds of food and dry goods, 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.

There is a Foodbank pick-up Friday, August 13th. Help is needed... If you can help, please contact Rose Guthrie at intrepidrose@hotmail.com.

NEEDS: pasta sauce & tuna, baby wipes, -men's razors, deodorant, and shampoo, adult diapers – large and extra-large, plastic grocery bags from Shoprite or Wegman's, paper grocery bags to line the plastic bags, and newspaper bags to hold hygiene products. These items may be dropped off weekdays in the bin on the Patco side of Grace Episcopal Church or Sundays at FPC on a table outside Fellowship Hall or on a table outside on the Masonic temple side of church after church.

FANS UPDATE: The Open Door Clinic distributed an additional 3 fans Saturday, bringing the total distributed this year to 149. We still have fans so we might be ok with that. Thank you to all. If you have any questions or would be interested in helping in any way, please call Jill Mascena at 856-428-7342 and leave a message, or check the website www.opendoorcliniccamden.org

For the Lord is good **Porque Jehova es bueno**

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.*

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Aug 5 – 6:30 p.m. Equipping Workshop – The Art and Skill of Home and Hospital Visitation
Aug 8 – 10 a.m. In-person and Online Worship
Aug 8 – 11a.m. Conversation on Race
Aug 9 – 11 a.m. New Testament Class
Aug 9 – 4 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting
Aug 10 – 8 a.m. Doug's Bible Study
Aug 11 – 7 p.m. Covid Response Team Meeting
Aug 11 – 7:30 p.m. Richard Rohr book study with Nikki
Aug 12 – 4:00 p.m. Communications Committee Meeting
Aug 12 – 6:30 p.m. Prayer Workshop #1
Aug 15 – 10 a.m. In-person and Online Worship



MORE VBS JOY!

