

This week's news...



September 2, 2021

Dear Friend,

Odds and Ends!

A few updates:

1. The **Pastor Nominating Committee** (PNC) was elected (thank you!) on Sunday and are just now in the process of setting up their first meeting with representatives from the Presbytery who will guide them on the process and help with organization. Now's the time to add them to your personal prayer list as they discern additional pastoral leadership for the congregation!

2. Both Session and the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry (COM) have approved the updated and revised **Mission Study** which is now available to the congregation! This will be the blueprint for the PNC as they write this church's Mission Information Form (MIF) which is basically a lengthy "want ad" for the new pastor. [You can download the Mission Study here!](#)

3. On a personal note, I mentioned on Sunday that while I was on vacation on Cape Cod, my son and daughter-in-law, Ben and Hillary, had a little baby girl, **Eleanor Leigh**. Big brother Harvey is thrilled — thus far!



4. I've been reading an insightful blog for a number of years and wanted to introduce you to it: [Marc and Angel Hack Life!](#) Today's entry is short and chock full of great ideas. It's entitled [4 Little Things that Will Matter a Lot More to You in 40 Years!](#)

Here's the gist...

God willing, you'll be gifted another 40 years of life experience. But even if you aren't, the core principle of this article remains relevant:

As you age, you'll learn to value your time, genuine relationships, meaningful work, and peace of mind. Little else will matter. Deep down you know this already, right? Yet today, just like the majority of us, you are distracted by everything else.

You give too much of your time to meaningless time-wasters.

You take your important relationships for granted.

You get to work, skeptically, with inner resistance.

And you let needless stress get the best of you.

Why?

Because you're human, and human beings are imperfect creatures who make misjudgments constantly. We get caught up in our own heads, and literally don't know our lives to be any better than the few things that aren't going our way. And as our minds subconsciously dwell on these things, we try to distract ourselves to numb the tension we feel. But by doing so, we also distract ourselves from what matters most.

But the older we grow, the quieter we tend to become, and the less pointless drama, distraction, and busyness we tend to engage in. Life humbles us gradually as we age. We begin to realize just how much nonsense we've wasted time on. And we begin to refocus our attention on what truly matters.

Truth be told, the afternoon and evening always understand what the morning never even suspected.

But — and this is a big “but” — the morning can plan better for the afternoon and evening.

So with that in mind, challenge yourself to plan better today. Challenge yourself to focus more on what truly matters in the long run...

1. Treating your very limited time each day with care.

As time passes, you naturally have more of it behind you and less of it in front of you. The distant future, then, gradually has less value to you personally. But that doesn't really matter, because the good life always begins right now, when you stop waiting for a better one. Some people wait all day for 5pm, all week for Friday, all year for the holidays, all their lives for happiness. But you don't have to be one of them. Don't wait until your life is almost over to realize how good it has been.

2. Genuine relationships.

It's nice to have acquaintances. It's important to be friendly. But don't get carried away and spread yourself too thin. Leave plenty of time for those who matter most to you. Your time is extremely limited, and sooner or later you just want to be around the few people who make you smile for all the right reasons.

Truly, we all long for genuine relationships, but these relationships can be hard to find and nurture, even in our overly connected lives. We meet people in person and socialize online, but these connections often lack a necessary dose of intimacy. We work alongside others in crowded office buildings, but our communication with them is usually work-oriented and not relationship-oriented. We may be lucky enough to have close friends and family in our lives, but when we are distracted by social media and busy with work, those relationships take a major hit.

3. Engaging passionately in whatever you choose to do.

Passion is powerful! It rests deep within you and passively drives your feelings, choices, and courses of actions. It can't be ignored, and it shouldn't be ignored.

Your passion will likely become the sole source of your greatest achievements and your finest moments. The fevering excitement of love. The joy of work that moves you. The clarity of your purpose. The ecstasy of letting go and being one with the present moment. In a nutshell, this is what passion gradually does for you. Without it there is little peace of mind in the end—just a hollow existence of unfulfilled dreams—a lifetime left mostly unlived.

That might sound a bit melodramatic, but it's the truth.

If your life is going to mean anything to you 40 years down the road (or even 10 years down the road), you have to actively and passionately live it every day until then. You have to deeply engage yourself in activities that move you. But the key thing to realize is that almost any activity can move you if you let it. You don't need some massive, life-engulfing passion to suddenly appear in your life. Because real passion comes from within, and the source of passion

4. A mindset that brings you peace.

Life is a series of continuous changes. Don't resist them; doing so only creates unnecessary stress. Let the reality of these changes take place. Let them flow. Or as Henry Wadsworth once said, "For after all, the best thing one can do when it is raining is to let it rain."

As we age, we gradually learn the power of this kind of acceptance...

Acceptance is letting go and allowing things to be the way they truly are. It doesn't mean you don't care about improving the reality of your life; it's just realizing that the only thing you really have control over is yourself and your thoughts about everything else. This simple understanding is the foundation of acceptance, and only with acceptance can there be peace of mind and growth.

As always -- I hope this finds you well!

Stay safe, get vaccinated, and be well!



CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

The Deacons offering will be collected.

There will not be nursery care because of the Labor Day holiday.

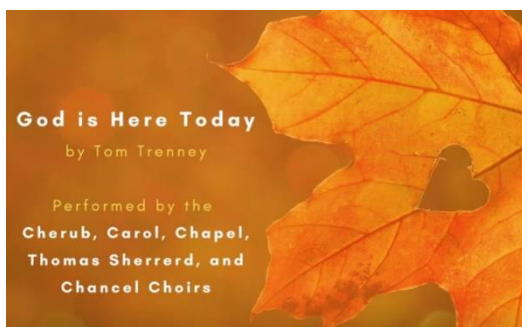
SIGN UP FOR 9/11 BELL RINGING

On Saturday, September 11, First Presbyterian will continue its tradition of commemorating the victims of the September 11 attacks by reading their names and ringing our bells. This year we will be outdoors: One person will be in the bell tower to ring the large bell at the times when the planes hit the Towers, and when the planes crashed in Pennsylvania and into the Pentagon. Following the first ring, volunteers on the front lawn of the church will read the names of the fallen, and other volunteers will ring large handbells. If you are interested in participating, please sign up using this [Realm event](#). (You don't need to be a Realm user to sign up.) Walk-up readers and ringers also welcome! Contact [Betsy Westermaier](#) with questions.

CHOIRS ARE REORGANIZING

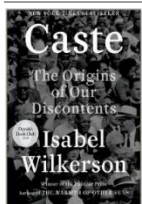
Children's and youth choirs begin Sept. 15. If you are thinking about signing yourself or your child up for a vocal or bell choir this fall, now is the time to get in touch with [Peter Leibensperger](#) or [Nancy Ruth Wainwright](#). Go to the music page on the church website (<http://www.haddonfieldpres.org/music-ministry>) to find schedules and COVID guidelines.

Listen here to "[God is Here Today](#)," recorded by our choir musicians last fall and produced and edited by Peter Leibensperger:



GOOD NEWS AND GOOD NEWS!

This Sunday marks Anthony Sharp's last Sunday as our Worship Pianist. It has been a privilege to worship with him this summer, but that is not the end of the story: Anthony has graciously agreed to be our Bass Section Leader again for the coming season, so you will get to enjoy his talents throughout the year! We very much look forward to welcoming Anthony back to choir again. **And we look forward to welcoming our New Principal Organist, Lucas Brown, next Sunday!** Keep your ear to the ground for more info about Lucas coming soon!



CONVERSATION ON RACE MEETS NEXT ON SEPTEMBER 26

The Conversation on Race will hold its discussion on the book, *Caste*, by Isabel Wilkerson, on September 26 after worship in the choir room. All Cherry Hill high school students were assigned this as summer reading - let's join them and find out why! Questions? Email Becky Bryan: rebeccabryan@me.com.



CONFIRMATION CLASS – Calling all rising 10th graders! The 2021-2022 confirmation class is forming now! Notifications have already gone out regarding this year's confirmation class and if you have not received an email yet and want to participate, please reach out to gheimerling@haddonfieldpres.org for more info. We are excited to bring back this rewarding year of learning and growth to our church youth.

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.

ADDITIONAL STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

- **NEW TESTAMENT CLASS MONDAYS** – 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 James 3:1-12.
- **PASTOR NIKKI'S BOOK STUDY** on Richard Rohr is ongoing Wednesdays @ 7:30 p.m., [Zoom link](#).
- **PASTOR NIKKI'S BIBLE STUDY** resumes on Thursday, September 16, on [Zoom](#) to begin a discussion of the Letter to the Hebrews.
- **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.



NURSERY WORKERS – Looking to earn some extra cash? We are looking to staff our nursery as many of our wonderful nursery helpers headed off to college. Ideal candidates will be high school aged or older with ample babysitting experience and/or certification. Must love babies and toddlers! This is a paid position! Please reach out to Gabrielle Heimerling for more details at gheimerling@haddonfieldpres.org.



CHILDREN'S CHURCH IS CLOSED FOR THE SUMMER – With an abundance of caution we are suspending our Children's Church program until further notice. Our primary goal is to keep our children safe and healthy and most importantly ready for school. As our Children's Church participants are too young for vaccinations, we feel this is the safest option for our young friends.

SUNDAY SCHOOL – We will be holding off meeting in person until we meet again in the Sanctuary, which will be October 10th at the earliest. While we are disappointed to not be able to meet in person in September, we are confident that if we take precautions now, we will be back together safely in no time. Look for virtual lessons to be sent out starting mid-September.

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*

THANKS FOR THE BACKPACKS AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES!

Please keep them coming so the Camden Community Center can help the kids served get ready for school. There will be a Blessing of the Backpacks on September 26 during worship – in-person and online. Bring donations to worship or drop off on Sundays at 11, office-side door. Contact the church office if you would like to bring donations during the week.

CAN YOU HELP? A member of the congregation is about to buy a new Windows-based computer and will need assistance setting it up when it arrives. Is there a knowledgeable teen or adult who is willing to assist? The member lives in Cherry Hill and the timing is flexible. If you can help or know someone who can, please contact Paul Urian at umanpaul@me.com for more details.

ATTENTION SENIORS – TELL YOUR STORY

Mabel Kay Senior Center is excited to announce a new project starting in October: you (Haddonfield seniors) will have the opportunity to document your own life story (with a little help of course). Mabel Kay will be collaborating with a 9th-grade English class from Haddonfield Memorial High School to write your memoir. The students will meet with you over the course of the semester, interview you, get to know your life story, write it up, and hand you a finished product for you to keep or to hand down to your family (a holiday gift perhaps?). We even have a professional photographer, Amanda Hall (of Amanda Hall Studios), volunteering her time to take photos for the final product. We will be COVID-conscious and either meet outside if the weather is nice, inside with masks, or via Zoom technology if necessary. (We'll talk you through Zoom if you don't know how to use it.)

Intergenerational programming is one of our goals at Mabel Kay – such a great way for kids to learn from you and you to learn from the kids. RSVPs are mandatory and it will require a commitment on your part to attend the sessions with the kids since it is a class assignment (loosely once a week for four weeks, exact timing TBD). Contact Sheri Siegel, ssiegel@haddonfield-nj.gov or (856) 354-8789, with questions or to sign up. Write on! *See other programming news on the [Senior Ministry page of the church website](#).*

ST. WILFRID'S OPEN DOOR CLINIC

This week marks the 76th straight week that the Open Door Clinic at St Wilfrid's has distributed food during the pandemic; 111 bags, 7,095 total. Over 177,375 pounds of food and dry goods, distributed by the all-volunteer, everything-donated, nobody-gets-paid Open Door Clinic at St. Wilfrid's.

Christmas preparation has begun with this wonderful [Christmas registry](#). We are also accepting new toys from places other than the Amazon registry. Please click on the link to see if you want to buy a toy to support our effort. The delivery address is to Rose Guthrie in Blackwood. Any volunteers can email Rose directly: intrepidrose@hotmail.com. Last year we distributed 369 toy packages made up of 2 or three toys each. All year long new and used toys are accumulated for our Christmas Giveaway. Around this time, I try to organize all the donations given so far. We put the toys by age and gender in the pews at St Wilfrid's. **This Saturday 9-4-21 from 8:30 to 11** we will be doing this. If you can volunteer to help with this light project, please contact Rose Guthrie: intrepidrose@hotmail.com or 609-760-4324.

Current Needs: Cold cereal and tuna, diapers—sizes 2 and 6, and baby wipes. We really give away baby wipes. As always, we need plastic grocery bags from Shoprite or Wegman's, paper grocery bags to put inside the plastic bags so they don't rip, and newspaper bags to hold hygiene products. Donations may be dropped off weekdays in the St Wilfrid's bin on the steps of Grace Episcopal Church (PATCO side) and Sundays on the table outside Fellowship Hall or after the service on the cart near the bench near the office door on the Masonic Temple side of the church.

We are very short of volunteers to make PBnJ sandwiches in September. We give away about 300 sandwiches each Saturday. Each volunteer makes 30 sandwiches, which are collected on Thursdays. If you as a family or any service groups would like to take this on as a project—we need you!!!! Please select a donation week by signing up on this signup form or call Jill Mascena at 856-428-7342 and leave a message. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0845aba72caa8-pbjs1>

Drivers are needed Saturday mornings to deliver fresh fruit and vegetables to St. Wilfrid's between 8-9 a.m. If you can help- please contact Paul Urian at umanpaul@me.com



WEEKLY CALENDAR



- Sept. 5 – 10 a.m. In-person and Online Worship with Communion
- Sept. 6 – Labor Day: Church office closed
- Sept. 6 – 11 a.m. New Testament class
- Sept. 7 – 8 a.m. Doug's Bible Study
- Sept. 7 – 9:45 PW Coordinating Committee
- Sept. 8 – 7:30 Richard Rohr book study
- Sept. 9 – 6:30 Moore Bells
- Sept. 9 – 7:30 Chancel Choir
- Sept. 11 – 8:45 9/11 Commemoration – Bell Ringing
- Sept. 12 – 10 a.m. In-person and Online Worship

Week of Sept. 12 – Youth choirs and Preschool Begin

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!

