

# This week's news...



September 30, 2021

Dear Friend,

**TJ**

Few people have influenced the founding and formation of our country more than Thomas Jefferson. He's considered the author of the Declaration of Independence, was our 3rd president, and founder of the University of Virginia. Jefferson, while primarily a planter, lawyer and politician, mastered many disciplines, which ranged from surveying and mathematics to horticulture and mechanics. He was an architect in the classical tradition. Jefferson's keen interest in religion and philosophy led to his presidency of the American Philosophical Society; he shunned organized religion but was influenced by Christianity, Epicureanism, and deism.

While revered as a "Father of Our Country" he was also the father of a dozen children, six with his wife, Martha, and six with one of his slaves, Sally Hemmings. His was a full and complicated life and while much of it can be critiqued and judged, his service to his country is undisputed and widely acclaimed.

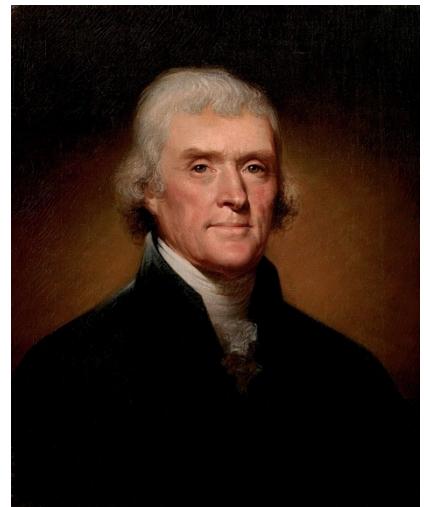
Jefferson came to mind when I read a quote of his recently:

**"I never considered a difference of opinion in politics, in religion, in philosophy as cause for withdrawing from a friend."** (Interesting that Jefferson and John Adams endured a feud most of their adult lives and only reconciled a decade or so before their deaths on July 4, 1826.)

Seems that lots of friendships (and even some families) are split over matters of ideology. Perhaps it's just me, but it also appears to be on the increase -- both frequency and intensity. It doesn't take an advanced degree in sociology to eventually point the finger at social media. IMHO it's just too easy to fire off a snarky comment, tweet, or post without properly employing one's filters of restraint, good manners (to say nothing of grammar), and sensitivity. Just for the record, I'm climbing off my "high horse" and joining the ranks of the guilty. The main reason I deleted all social media from my life was because I didn't want to be a part of the vitriol around the 2016 election cycle. Plus, I just don't need to know the level of detail many share about their lives!

It can be hard to stay in a relationship with someone with whom one has significant differences, especially when those differences affect our lives directly. It feels personal. Sometimes it is.

Christian teachings tell us to look beyond human distinctions and to see each other as children of God, siblings in Christ. What's more of a challenge is finding commonality and the means to honest communication. And then the greater challenge is recognizing that as well-reasoned and supported we believe our positions to be -- we just might be wrong! Perhaps the first step to take toward another is one born of humility.



In that light, I'm reminded of a quote by Ida B. Wells, an investigative journalist, educator, and early leader in the civil rights movement. She was one of the founders of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). She once said, "**Your opinion does not impeach the facts.**" We all have opinions, some strongly (stridently?) asserted; yet regardless of the degree of zeal, facts are facts and opinions do not change them -- as much as we wish they might!

I hope this finds you well! Stay safe and God bless,



P.S. Get vaccinated! I was lucky enough to get the booster yesterday -- no discomfort or side effects!



## WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3



The Peace and Global Witness Offering will be received. The offering supports Presbyterian missions around the world and locally. FPCH's portion of the offering goes to REHAB Project, Pakistan/Shakila Rani (through Asian Christian Ministries). The REHAB Project is a peacemaking ministry, serving women who are unjustly treated in their social setting or families. It provides refuge, counseling and referrals to victims of domestic violence.

## THE DEACONS PRESENT: HELPING OUR AFGHAN FRIENDS

*Presbyterian Deacons are called to a ministry of "compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress" (G-2.0201)*

The Deacons felt called recently to use their funds to support our Afghan friends in need. This is a wonderful way to put our mission into action—"Hearts open to Christ; Doors Opening to His World." If you are interested in making a donation, you can do so by writing a check to "First Presbyterian Church-Bordentown" and writing "Afghan Refugees" in the memo line. Their mailing address is 435 Farnsworth Avenue, Bordentown, NJ 08505-2004. 100% of every donation will be used to purchase needed items. God bless our Afghan friends! God bless you for helping them! 😊

## RETURN TO THE SANCTUARY ON OCTOBER 10!

In a week from Sunday, worship returns to the Sanctuary. How wonderful to welcome the community to that sacred space. Choirs will be back, the organ will sound, Sunday School will begin in person, and the nursery will move back upstairs. Please wear a mask. Live streaming will continue as before using the Watch Live link on the church website.



## OCTOBER 10 WILL BE BIBLE SUNDAY

Along with celebrating our return to the Sanctuary and in-person Sunday School, The Great Bible Giveaway is BACK! If you are in the following grades and didn't receive a Bible last year from our Giveaway, please join us on Sunday, October 10th in the Sanctuary and receive your Bible during the Children's Message before being dismissed for Sunday School.

The following grades will receive Bibles:

- Preschool/Kindergarten receive *The Beginner's Bible*
- 3rd Graders receive *The Children's Bible in 365 Stories*
- 6th Graders receive our traditional "Red Bibles" \*
- 9th Graders/Confirmation Class receive *NIV Quest Study Bibles*

This is a wonderful tradition that grew out of our 3rd Grade Bible Sunday. If you have a child in any of the above grades and did not receive a bible during last year's event, please be sure to come out and see us.

\*Note that the current 6th grade class received their traditional Red Bibles during the 3rd-Grade Bible Sunday in October 2017. But any 6th grader that doesn't have a Red Bible or didn't participate in that event is more than welcome to receive one.

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## MORE THINGS SUNDAY SCHOOL AND YOUTH GROUP!

**This Week in Sunday School:** This week was all about James, one of Jesus's 12 disciples, aka BFFs, who was very important in the early days of the church. The Book of James is really a letter to people to teach them how to live in this new Christian Faith—it's like the first Christian How To Book! In this particular bible story we learn all about prayer. The next time you are in church (please come October 10th for IN PERSON Sunday School and Bible Sunday!), look around the worship space for things that remind you to pray while you are at church. Do you see a cross, images in the windows or in other artwork, the baptismal font, or the communion table? These are all good visual reminders! I bet you can find things at home that remind you to pray now that you are looking for them. Want to get on the mailing list for Sunday School lessons and activities? Please reach out to Gabrielle Heimerling at [gheimerling@haddonfieldpres.org](mailto:gheimerling@haddonfieldpres.org).



WHO'S READY FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL?



**Sunday School Registration Now Open!** We are looking for Sunday School to start in person October 10. Please use the following link to fill out the online registration to make sure your child has a spot in class and so your child can receive virtual Sunday School lessons while we are still remote. We can't wait to be back in the classroom soon! Any questions, please contact Gabrielle Heimerling at [gheimerling@haddonfieldpres.org](mailto:gheimerling@haddonfieldpres.org). [SS 21-22 Registration Form](#)

**Sunday School Teachers Needed WE NEED YOUR HELP!** We still need teachers for grades 3/4, 5/6, and 7/8. All that's needed is a willingness to teach; we will provide everything you need: the curriculum, teaching manuals, supplies and support. We promise it is a fun and rewarding experience. Please reach out to Gabrielle Heimerling at [gheimerling@haddonfieldpres.org](mailto:gheimerling@haddonfieldpres.org).

**We need help in the Nursery, too:** 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](mailto:gheimerling@haddonfieldpres.org).



**Youth Group:** Youth Group is meeting this Sunday 10/3/21 from 5pm-6pm outdoors in the courtyard for all kids Middle School and High School. Looking forward to seeing you there!

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### PASTOR NIKKI'S INSTALLATION – AT LAST!

You are cordially invited to the Installation of the Rev. Nikki Perrine Passante at First Presbyterian Church of Haddonfield, NJ, on Sunday, October 17, 2021, at 3:00 in the afternoon. Speakers will be the Rev. Dr. Douglas D. Gerdts, the Rev. Dr. Debby Brincivalli, who serves as the Executive Presbyter of the Presbytery for Southern New Jersey, and the Rev. Dr. William D. Hess II who will be delivering the sermon for the afternoon. Rev. 'Bill' Hess served as the Senior Pastor at First Presbyterian Church in West Chester, PA, for 27 years, and has served as a transitional pastor throughout New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Bill currently serves as the summer pastor for Christ Union Chapel in Branchville, NJ.

*Immediately following the service, everyone is invited to an open house and celebration at the church manse, directly adjacent to the sanctuary.*

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### FALL PROGRAMS:

- Porch Bible Study will meet on **Tuesdays, September 28** and October 12 to study 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.
- Pastor Nikki's Bible Study is underway on [Zoom](#) with a discussion of the Letter to the Hebrews.
- Doug's Tuesday Morning Bible Study (8 a.m. [via Zoom](#)) is ongoing—and you can join at any time. The texts for the coming week are Mark 10:17-27 and Hebrews 4:12-16.
- Pastor Nikki's Book Study on Richard Rohr meets for one more Wednesday @ 7:30 p.m., [Zoom link](#).

**STEPHEN MINISTRY INTEREST MEETING** – Nikki is holding a Stephen Ministry interest meeting on **Wednesday, October 13th at 7 p.m.** in the Youth Room on the lower level. Read Nikki's 2020 [blog post](#) for a description of this ministry. Go to <http://www.haddonfieldpres.org/blog>

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### BE A HERO, VOLUNTEER WITH INTERFAITH CAREGIVERS

Join Interfaith Caregivers and volunteer to help your neighbors who are seniors or living with disabilities? We make it easy to volunteer:

- Volunteer when you have time
- Use our online system to find assignments that fit your schedule
- Give a ride, shop for groceries, call someone to chat, you decide what you are comfortable doing
- We have covid safety protocols in place to keep everyone safe.

It is not every day you get the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others. Contact us today so we can tell you all about it. Decide for yourself if we're a good fit, absolutely no pressure. Contact Suzan at [suzand@ifchaddons.org](mailto:suzand@ifchaddons.org) or 856-354-0298.

## GRIEF SUPPORT GROUPS

Everytown Survivor Network, through Moms Demand Action, is hosting Grief Support Groups beginning on October 4th at 8:00 p.m. These virtual support groups will run for 8 weeks and will focus on grief, resilience, and support. There will be groups focused on survivors of suicide, bereaved parents, a men's group, and all survivors of gun violence. If you're interested or know someone who is, go directly to the link: <https://forms.everytown.org/a/everytown-survivor-network-support-groups>.

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## 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 available for private requests sent directly to the pastors*

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## ST. WILFRID'S OPEN DOOR CLINIC

This week marks the 80th straight week that the Open Door Clinic at St. Wilfrid's has distributed food during the pandemic; 108 bags, 7,520 total. Over 188,000 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.

Looking for a way to impact those struggling to feed their families? The First Presbyterian volunteers at St Wilfrid's have some suggestions:

- Three Fridays a month, a group heads over to the Food Bank of SJ to pick up food and transfer food for distribution at St Wilfrid's the following day. While we welcome volunteers with strong backs, we also need more vehicles to transport food from the Food Bank to SW...drive without having to lift!!! We meet at the Food Bank at 8 a.m. and are usually home by 10 a.m.
- Every Saturday, the Wellness Center at St Wilfrid's hosts over 100 families to fill their food, hygiene, and baby needs. We have stand-up and sit-down jobs available for folks of all abilities. The timing is flexible, and we have need for volunteers any time between 8:30 a.m. and 12 noon. Stay as long as time allows you! Interested in volunteering or learning more? Contact Paul Urian at [umanpaul@me.com](mailto:umanpaul@me.com)

**Matching Grant 2021:** October will be the only time we solicit contributions to the Open Door Clinic so we can take advantage of the offer of matching grants. To date, we have two matching grants, one for the first two thousand dollars, and then another matching grant for the second two thousand. Donate now, and your gift will double. More information to come in following weeks. We will have a special notice about the match grant later. When you fulfill these needs, you are really involved.

**Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwiches.** If you are interested in making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, please select a donation week by signing up on this signup form:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0845aba72caa8-pbjs1>. Wendy, who coordinates the peanut butter and jelly traffic can be reached at [Wendy.coffman@gmail.com](mailto:Wendy.coffman@gmail.com).

**Current Needs:** bags of dried beans (pinto, black, red); pouches or cans with pull up tops of chicken, tuna, beef stew; packages of individual containers of applesauce or fruit; diapers size 6; and always wipes. These items may be dropped off weekdays in the bin on the steps of the PATCO-side of Grace Episcopal Church or Sundays on the tables near Fellowship Hall or after service from 11-12 on the cart near the office door on the Masonic Temple side of the church. Any questions, please call Jill Mascena at 856-428-73425.

Check out the website for more info: [www.opendoorcliniccamden.org](http://www.opendoorcliniccamden.org)

## CHEEP, CHEEP



On September 27th, Preschoolers were greeted by the sounds of little cheeps and chirps. Throughout the day our preschool classes witnessed a dozen little chicks hatching from their eggs. We have a dozen happy, fluffy, yellow chicks...a perfect hatch!

**Carol Choir singers got to peek, too!** James, Allie, Mackenzie, and Mikey (L to R) sing to the chicks hatched in our Preschool.



## THE PER CAPITA CAMPAIGN IS PAYING OFF!

On September 12, \$5,971 had been collected of the hoped for \$14,500. As of this week, we are up to \$9,114. Thanks to everyone who has contributed. An updated list will be published in the coming weeks. (It's not too late. Send your \$37 per confirmed member to the church or to <https://onrealm.org/FirstPresbyteri11244/Give>.) Thank you!

## WEEKLY CALENDAR



- Sept. 30 – 6:30 p.m. Nikki’s Bible Study
- Sept. 30 – 6:30 p.m. Moore Bells
- Sept. 30 – 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir
- Oct. 3 – 10 a.m. In-person and Online Worship – World Communion Sunday
- Oct. 3 – 5 p.m. Youth Group
- Oct. 4 – 10 a.m. Quilters
- Oct. 4 – 7:30 p.m. Preschool Committee, Zoom
- Oct. 5 – 8 a.m. Doug’s Bible Study
- Oct. 5 – 9:45 a.m. PW Coordinating Committee
- Oct. 6 – 3:45-8:15 p.m. Children’s and Youth Choir rehearsals w/ spaghetti dinner
- Oct. 7 – 4 p.m. Communications Committee, Zoom
- Oct. 7 – 6:30 p.m. Nikki’s Bible Study
- Oct. 7 – 6:30 p.m. Moore Bells
- Oct. 7 – 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir
- Oct. 9 – Visitation for Charles Tourtellotte, Sanctuary
- Oct. 9 – Funeral Service for Charles Tourtellotte, Sanctuary
- Oct. 10 – 10 a.m. In-person and Online Worship – Bible Sunday and return to Sanctuary!
- Oct. 10 – 10 a.m. Sunday School – begin in the Sanctuary
- Oct. 10 – 5 p.m. Youth Group