

This week's news...



November 19, 2020

Dear Friend,

Two Blind Brothers

I'm not really sure where I first read about the Two Blind Brothers [website](#) and story — it could have been on [Wirecutter](#) where I seem to spend a lot (too much?) time — regardless, I was immediately intrigued at the thought of "shopping blind."

First of all, here are the [brothers](#):



Founders and brothers Bryan Manning and Bradford Manning are the Two Blind Brothers. They grew up in Virginia and currently live together in New York City. They are equally obsessed about the way clothing feels, and they are ruthlessly committed to finding cures for blindness. At a young age, they were both diagnosed with [Stargardt](#) disease, which is a form of macular degeneration.

They have small business selling some of the nicest/softest/well-made clothing, and all of the profits go to curing blindness.

One fun aspect of their business is the concept of "shopping blind!" In short, you pick one of the three price points, send money, and wait to see what comes! No idea what you're getting — and you don't even get to look at their catalog! Totally blind!

I picked the \$69 level and my package arrived in Wilmington earlier this week while I was in Haddonfield. I was really excited to see what I got!

A [knit cap](#), a [scarf](#), and a pair of [socks](#)! (I've connected links to the items on their website so you can read a complete description including the faux-leather braille sewn on each!)



Lastly, an excerpt from the letter than accompanied my order:

When someone shops blind, they prove something remarkable. They prove that genuine trust is real. They prove that they not only care about what a company sells but also what it stands for. They prove that when you face a challenge, you should embrace it. You are that person. In this way, the Shop Blind Challenge has helped us filter for the best people that any clothing brand or mission could ever hope to find.

So, what comes in your order?

The products you're holding right now are quite special. The strength of this community has allowed Two Blind Brothers to work with the world's best materials, fabrics, and production facilities. As soon as you touch the items, you'll know it for yourself.

We're lucky to have a team and group of partners from former luxury brands who are willing to produce these items for the sake of our charitable mission. In addition, we've been able to work with visually-impaired production teams like Industries for the Blind. You'll also notice a special detail--we try to incorporate a subtle braille word or message into all of our designs, as a way to honor our cause.

It's Stewardship Season at FPCH and so we're going to talk about money on Sunday — more to the point — how we get it and how we give it away and what role does faith play in any of that? I think it's true that for most of us, the most accurate statement of faith is our checkbook (or Quicken account!). How we spend our money really does speak to what matters to us. How much do we give away? What "strings" are attached? Are we "cheerful givers?" What causes prompt us to open our wallets? Do we expect anything in return - recognition? swag? influence?

Are we capable of "giving blind?"

We'll talk more on Sunday!



The Goal and the Challenge: A Message from the Stewardship Committee

Dear Family of Faith:

It goes without saying that 2020 has greatly impacted all aspects of our lives including how we engage with and continue the work of the church. The resilience and perseverance that has been exhibited in continuing to fulfill the church's mission has been extraordinary. For this reason, Run with Perseverance is the theme of the stewardship campaign. Thanks to all the members and staff who have provided their unique messages related to our church family during campaign. It was not only great to see your faces but also hear the stories and their relevance to the collective financial support of the congregation. (Watch a video from the Hurd family below.)



As we move to the pledging phase of this year's stewardship campaign, we feel it is appropriate to clearly articulate the overall goals.

The Goal: In articulating the goal, it is important for the congregation to understand what may be a little-known fact. For each year from 2015 through 2020, the number of pledging units and total dollars pledged has declined as shown in the table below.

| | Units Pledging | Amount Pledged | Applied (Received) |
|-------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| 2015 | 256 | \$698,844 | \$630,362 |
| 2016 | 231 | 663,513 | 621,073 |
| 2017 | 210 | 606,051 | 580,115 |
| 2018 | 188 | 564,217 | 563,933 |
| 2019 | 165 | 488,058 | 459,558 |
| 2020 so far | 10 | 26,970 | |

The goal for this campaign is to build back and achieve 2015 levels of giving in terms of number of pledges and total dollars. While the goal may not be achieved this year, we need this year to be the year we as a congregation reverse the trend of decline and work toward achieving the 2015 levels. The Challenge: Here's what you can do to help. Below is a three-prong challenge for you to consider for increasing your pledge and contributing to achieving the goal.

We are asking you to consider an increase in your pledge applying the formula below (1, 2 or 3) that would result in the greatest increase.

1. Increase your pledge to the church average of \$3,150 for the coming year;
2. Increase your pledge by 1% of your gross income; or
3. Increase your pledge by \$500 for the year.
- 4.

We certainly know these times are incredibly difficult and you simply may not be able to meet this challenge at any level. But if you are able, we would greatly appreciate it if you would prayerfully consider increasing your financial support, if not at the greatest level outlined above, at a level with which you have comfort.

To those members who consistently support the church financially but choose not to pledge, please know that your contribution is vital to life of the church and we would ask those members to consider the challenge above whether or not it includes a formal pledge.

We will be providing the congregation with weekly updates on the number of pledges and total amount versus the stated goals.

Your time and attention to all of the information provided through the email newsletters, bulletins and services is very much appreciated and we certainly welcome any feedback on any aspect of the campaign. Any questions or feedback can be sent via email to Gene Spinelli genespin@comcast.net.

God Bless You All,

The Stewardship Committee

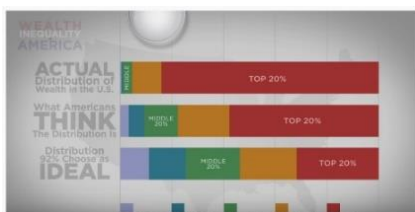
[2021 Online Pledge Form](#)

[2021 PDF Pledge Form](#)



Lisa and Pete Hurd: Why We Pledge

MATTHEW 25 DISCUSSIONS CONTINUE SUNDAY MORNINGS @ 9:00 ON ZOOM



Please join us again this Sunday, 11/22, from 9-9:45 for our continuing *Conversation on Race* by clicking on [this Zoom Link](#). In preparation, please watch this short video, [Wealth Inequality in America](#). We will take a break next week, as it is Thanksgiving weekend. Stay safe and eat comfort food!

SUPER -SIZED YOUTH GROUP TAKE TWO!



Youth Group is taking its postponed field trip to the Andrews' House for some pizza and s'mores! Please join us on **Sunday 11/22/20 from 5pm-6:30pm** (note new end time). We will meet with friends from 6th-12th grade outside for some food, games, and fun. **Don't forget a mask and a camp chair.** Upon arrival, I will be taking attendance and your temperature. Thank you, Andrews family, for hosting us! Please contact [Gab Heimerling](#) for the address. **RSVPing highly recommended so we have enough pizza and s'mores for all.** Cancellation due to weather will be emailed by 12pm on Sunday 11/22/20.

ADVENT WORKSHOP ON RESILIENCE

Advent is a time of waiting and preparation, and our goal is to honor these spiritual practices, especially during a time where we may need to prepare to shelter at home. To these ends, you are invited to participate in a special Advent Workshop on resilience. On Monday, December 7, 2020 from 7-9pm, join a multi-church Zoom led by Becky Bryan on ways to understand and cope with the challenges of stress. See the flyer and sign-up information [here](#).



A SERIES OF 3 WORKSHOPS FOR AN UNPRECEDENTED ADVENT

How do we prepare for the Light to enter the world in 2020? Join these Zoom workshops from 6:30-7:30 p.m. on three Wednesdays in December. Wednesday, December 2, Naming What We Carry; Wednesday, December 9, Sensing the Divine Spark in Each of Us; Wednesday, December 16, The Power of Gratitude. [Click here](#) for details.

ADVENT FESTIVAL 2020 - AT HOME VERSION!

The season of Advent is almost upon us, and while we can't do our typical Sunday Night craft blitz, we hope we can still provide some Advent fun at home:

1. ADVENT FESTIVAL TAKE HOME KITS filled with family-themed crafts, supplies, and how-tos to be distributed on **11/29/20** after the church service. You can order your kits and customize some of the crafts by filling out the following Google form [HERE](#) [Advent Kit Order Form](#). **Please submit all orders by 11/26/20.** There is no cost involved!

2. ADVENT WREATHS will also be distributed after the service on 11/29/20. We have kits filled with the foam hoop, pins, advent candles and candle holders - all that's missing are the greens. If you would like an advent wreath kit, please contact Gabrielle Heimerling at gheimerling@haddonfieldpres.org.

ADVENT - GIVING BACK

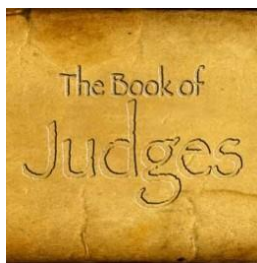
1. COLLECTING SOUP: Instead of serving soup this year we are going to be collecting soup to donate so please bring cans of soup to donate while picking up your Advent Festival Take Home kit or just because you're going through the donation drive.

2. GIFT CARD DRIVE: We will be sponsoring a gift card drive for Caring Hearts in lieu of filling their holiday stockings. Stay tuned for details!

Tuesday Morning Bible Study with Doug:

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, November 18** is 2 Corinthians 9:1-15. Here's the Zoom [link](#).

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



This Week In Sunday School - We are still in Canaan with the Israelites and things have not gone so well since Joshua's was in charge. They are breaking all sorts of rules and getting in all sorts of trouble. But God appoints special leaders, called judges, to take charge. People were caught in a vicious cycle....rebellion, punishment, repentance, God calls a Judge to help. Lather, Rinse, Repeat. Times Twelve. This week we learned about one of the judges, a strong and courageous leader named Deborah.

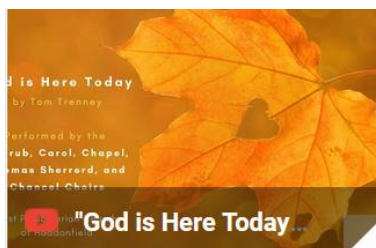
For me, the main takeaway from Judges was the people are continually getting it wrong. But God keeps trying by sending them another Judge to help guide them back to the right path. And...they keep getting it wrong. But God doesn't give up after the 3rd, 5th, or any of the times. You don't run out of chances with God, no matter how many times you get it wrong.

PLEASE REGISTER FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL: Registering for Sunday School may seem strange to do while we are all virtual, but I would appreciate it if you would please take the time to fill out this form for your Sunday School kids. It helps us keep track of the kids in so many different ways - Communion, Bible Sunday, Confirmation to name a few. The form can be found here: <https://forms.gle/F9pRSFygbLJgrSYa6> Questions? Feel free to reach out to Gab Heimerling at gheimerling@haddonfieldpres.org

CHORAL CELEBRATIONS – TWO WEEKS' WORTH

"God is Here Today"

Two weeks ago, all of our church's choirs participated in a virtual choir video in which they performed "God is Here Today" by Tom Trenney. For over a month, the youth and adult choirs met via Zoom to memorize their parts, and, eventually, they sent me their individual music videos to be edited into a unified work of art. The result is something beautiful that will lift your spirit and brighten your day. Enjoy! [God is Here Today](#)



"This is Who We Are"

During these unprecedented times, our church's ministries have had to think outside the box to find ways to continue to serve our community and our congregation. In this music video by the Chancel Choir, our ministries are featured as the choir sings an anthem that paints a picture of our church's mission. We hope you will give it a look: [This is Who We Are](#)

A MUSICAL GIFT FROM MARK: "We Gather Together," arr. Heather Sorenson
[Listen here](#)

Kremser was originally a Dutch patriotic song, written around 1600 to celebrate the freedom of the Netherlands from Spanish rule. Theodore Baker, an American music scholar, translated the text into English in 1894 for an anthem titled "Prayer of Thanksgiving."



*We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;
He chastens and hastens his will to make known;
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing.
Sing praises to his name; he forgets not his own.*

TURKEY DRIVE THIS WEEKEND!!



You are invited to join church and community members in support of our annual turkey drive **Sunday, November 22 from 9:00 AM until noon**. We will be collecting frozen turkeys (double bagged please) to help those in need celebrate Thanksgiving. Giving is good for the heart – and we are so grateful for many church members who continue to donate to this drive each year. Please allow us to remove the turkeys from your car to limit contact. Cash donations are also accepted – and needed – even just a little bit can help. There will be a special tab on the Church's website for this donation. (This limits personal contact). New this year will also be accepting donations on **Saturday, November 21**. Our trailer will be in the parking lot from noon on – and we will have people helping from 3-4PM. (Again – allow us to remove the bird). The week leading up to Thanksgiving you can also leave your frozen bird on my porch at 127 Linden Ave Haddonfield. A corporate donation has been secured and made to Your Food shelf in anticipation of Church support. Questions? Call Margot @ 609-238-0694

EQUAL EXCHANGE PRODUCTS FOR CHRISTMAS

The Presbyterian Women will continue selling some Equal Exchange products for Christmas giving. We will be ordering olive oil, chocolate candy bars and hot cocoa mix. Why not make up a "Christmas bag" for friends and relatives, with these goodies. The sale of these products helps to support the fair trade small co-operative farmers from various countries. If you are interested contact Bonnie Manskopf, via email, bonniemanskopf@yahoo.com, no later than December 1st. Hot Cocoa Mix is \$5.50, Extra Virgin Olive Oil, from the West Bank of Palestine, is \$12.50, Candy Bars (organic) are \$3.00 each—Flavors: Caramel Crunch, Orange, Mint Crunch, Almond. Thank you!



FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN AND CHRISTMAS



Feed My Starving Children has partnered with Lynch Creek Farms to help you decorate for Christmas. Lynch Creek Farms, located in Washington State, offers organizations like Haddonfield's "It Take A Village," FMSC Mobile Pack the opportunity to earn 15% on all sales of their beautiful holiday wreaths and centerpieces. Most of their products cost approximately \$45-\$75, which includes shipping. Use the campaign #246058 to be certain that FMSC gets credit. Orders can be made up until Dec. 15th. Here's how it works: Online orders may be made by going to www.lynchcreekfundraising.com/c/246058. Just make your selection and provide the information required. Please note that the date you are asked to provide will be the approximate shipping date-not the arrival date of the item. You can also order by phone at (888) 426-0781 if you would prefer.

A SHOPPING REMINDER - USE AMAZON SMILE - If you use Amazon to do online buying, do so using Amazon Smile and Amazon will donate .5% of your purchase price to the church. Go to <https://smile.amazon.com> and select "First Presbyterian Church of Haddonfield" as your charity.

ST. WILFRID'S OPEN DOOR CLINIC

Report from the Open Door Clinic

Food Donation: On Tuesday, we were alerted to a large donation of food at the bin:

"it's overflowing." An overreaction: it wasn't. But the bin was pretty full of donated food: well over 300 cans of vegetables, 16 boxes of cereal, instant mashed potatoes, rice, peanut butter, tuna. And there were labels: Bishop Eustace Boys and Girls Cross Country Team. Very generous. We have emailed the athletic department thanks, but if anyone know more, please let us know. A wonderful gesture from some wonderful youth. That's a full day...thinking of others.



November 14, we distributed **108 food bags**. This was the **35th** straight week of the pandemic that we have distributed food which you have supplied us: **3,037 bags** or well over 75,000 pounds of food and dry goods. Thank you for your humble service- you are the best.

As you can see, we had extra donations last week but we use them up quickly so still need peanut butter, tuna, pasta, sauce, diapers (2's, 4's, 6's and adult medium and large) AND.....Socks for all ages and clean winter coats or jackets-all sizes but especially for men. OR gift cards from Shoprite or Aldi's can always be used! These may be dropped off after church on Sundays at the Drive Through (11-12) or any weekday in the bin behind Grace Church. Thanks SO much!

One of the woman who lived in the fire damaged apartment building at 3416 Cramer St appeared for food Saturday. We had a backpack made up with women's jeans, and new underwear, new socks, shirts, and toiletries ready to go. Thank you for helping us help.

All love the peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. Thanks to the PBNJ ladies.....we can always use more sandwiches if anyone as a family or individual would like to help, please call Jill Mascena 856-428-7342 And check the website....opendoorcliniccamden.org

"For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: Love your neighbor as yourself."
(Galatians 5:14)"

WEEKLY CALENDAR

- Nov. 19 – 6:30 p.m. Nikki's Bible Study
- Nov. 19 – Adult Choirs
- Nov. 21 and 22 - TURKEY DROP-OFF
- Nov. 22 - 9 a.m. Matthew 25 Conversation
- Nov. 22 – 10 a.m. Worship - Baptism and New Members
- Nov. 22 - 5 p.m. Youth Group
- Nov. 24 – 8 a.m. Doug's Bible study
- Nov. 26 - Deadline for ordering Advent Festival kits
- Nov. 26 – THANKSGIVING
- Nov. 29 - 9 a.m. Matthew 25 Conversation
- Nov. 29 - 10 a.m. Worship - First Sunday of Advent
- Nov. 29 - Pick up Advent kits and wreaths after worship