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Welcome

Greetings. As we move in these uncertain times, we are beginning this newsletter to keep everyone informed on the latest Church news bits, prayer requests, and informational items.

SOME THOUGHTS ON SURVIVING THE COVID19 VIRUS.

When we began to realize how dangerous the virus was going to be, as weird as it may seem, I thought of comparing this 'pestilence' with the plagues that God visited on Egypt when Pharaoh refused to let God's people go. For instance, when God sent the plague of hail that destroyed crops, Pharaoh said, "'This time I have sinned; the LORD is in the right, and I and my people are in the wrong. Pray to the LORD!' . . . But when Pharaoh saw that the rain and the hail and the thunder had ceased, he sinned once more and hardened his heart." This incident reminds me of how often we seek God when we are in trouble and then promptly ignore him when all is well (Read Exodus 9:27-35).

The second passage I thought of was in Psalm 91, "You who say to the LORD, 'My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust.' He will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence." If you read the entire Psalm, there seems to be the promise that God's people are immune from facing something like a 'deadly pestilence.' In fact, some Christians have ignored the precautions we should all take to avoid the virus, thinking they are under God's protection. Of course, God can, if God wills, protect us. But this was also the passage Satan quoted when tempting Jesus to jump to his death. Jesus replied, "You shall not test the Lord your God" (Read Psalm 91 and Matthew 4:5-7).

God does not always spare his own from suffering. I pray that none of us will succumb to the Covid19 virus, but we have this assurance from Isaiah that "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you." There is more in Isaiah 43:1-3, a passage that reminds us that God is with us when we go through tough times.

My favorite reminder of this is where the Apostle Paul assures that, "In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Read Romans 8:31-39.)

You are all in Fran and my prayers.

Stay safe, but most of all, keep trusting our Lord, from whose love, nothing can separate us.

Jim

Rev. Dr. James Kraft
March 21, 2020

Your Thoughts

Our Session Moderator, Rev. Rebecca Gresham-Kresner (Becca) from Faith Presbyterian Church in Medford has kindly allowed us to link to her personal thoughts on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/writerevwrite/> Browse on by & leave her a ❤️

"It's great to be in touch with one another, glad to have TV and phone and that the kids can still get educated. This will work out. -Marge Hull

Prayer Requests

Barbara York — For her Dad who came home from the hospital in the past few days but is still feeling weak.

Sara Goff -- for her friend Eleanor who had a stroke recently. Prayers that she will recover well.

Becky Jensen — She would like prayers for the PNC - she says they are at a real standstill!

Margo Mattis — For her Mom, Jean Miller.

Julie Olsen — For her Mom who has MS. She was recently in the Hospital with kidney stones & is in highly susceptible group.

Good To Know

• **Vintage Services can be viewed online at our Facebook Page at** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ppchurch/> or at <https://provpresch.org/>

• **Offerings can be sent via US Mail to:**

**Providence Presbyterian Church
2087 Old York Road
Burlington, NJ 08016**

• **Or on Sunday Mornings, Jack will be present in the Church Parking Lot if you wish to drop your offerings off in a Drive-Thru fashion. Stop on by from 8:30 to 9:00 or from 11:00 to 11:30**