



Providence Presbyterian Bustling's

4th Sunday of Easter - May 3, 2020

Greetings Everyone — Today is the Fourth Sunday of Easter also known as Good Shepherd Sunday. It is named for the Gospel reading for the day which is from the tenth chapter of John. This is where Jesus is described as the “Good Shepherd” who lays down his life for his sheep. The Psalm for the Day is Palm 23 which also makes use of shepherd imagery. The image to the right is titled “The Good Shepherd” and was painted by Bernhard Plockhorst, who was a 19th century German painter and graphic artist with a talent for religious themes. His pictures are still very popular today in the United States and reproductions can be found in many American homes and churches. We have a lot of content this week, so sit back and enjoy the read!



Should We Pray? From Jim Kraft, May 2, 2020

“Our thoughts and prayers are with you.” That is the response, hopefully heart-felt, passed on by politicians and most of us these days to those who are suffering through some crisis. Unfortunately, these words often seem like valueless panaceas.

Philosophers and theologians wrestle with the logic of praying. After all, if God knows everything, why do we think we have to tell him anything? If God is sovereign – having his own will in everything – what difference is it going to make if we pray? There are valid answers to these philosophical/theological questions, but to give those answers is not my purpose here.

The scriptures never raise questions about the validity of prayer, rather, over and over, we are admonished to pray. I have become more and more convicted that the powerlessness of each of us as Christians and together as a church is our lack of devoted prayer.

The apostle Paul gives many important and helpful instructions about prayer.

First, there are these strong admonitions to pray: “Persevere in prayer;” Devote yourselves to prayer;” “Pray without ceasing” (Romans 12:12, Colossians 4:2, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). These are strong, uncompromising statements.

Then, Paul gives these specific guidelines as to what to pray:

- Pray to comprehend the sure hope that is ours: “I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you” (Ephesians 1:15-22).

- Pray to fully appreciate God’s love: “I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God” (Ephesians 3:14-20)
- Pray to know God’s best in making decisions, in choosing paths: “This is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best” (Philippians 1:9-11).
- Pray so we may know God’s peace in the midst of crisis: “In everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6-7).
- Pray so we may know we may know how to live productive, God-honoring lives: “We have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God’s will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work” (Colossians 1:9-12).



These passages are a sampling of the many and clear admonitions to pray in Paul. There are many other examples and instructions elsewhere in the New Testament from Jesus in the Gospels to Jesus through John in Revelation. In this current crisis, we have the time and the isolation to make use of this, our most neglected resource, to see real changes in ourselves, our church, our world. May God help us. My thoughts and prayers are with you – and I mean it.



Providence Presbyterian Church

I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord



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Dear Friends,

As our frustration grows over stay-at-home orders, many already are asking, "Is it over yet?" But, as much as we'd like it otherwise, the truth is: "No, it's not over yet ... and the pandemic is not going to finally be over for a while yet." Which has me wondering: in light of this, *are we ready to persevere in love?*

Many of us have not had to endure a long period of difficulty. We're used to hunkering down for a winter nor'easter that shuts things down for a couple of days ... or maybe a week or so, as when I was in seminary in Boston during the winter of 1978. Hurricanes devastate and so do tornados but they're pretty localized and, with just a few notable exceptions, we come out of our houses to start cleaning-up the next day and get right back into community

This is different. It's not local. It's not even regional or national but global. Nor is it brief. The discipline and perseverance this will demand has not been encountered by most of us except in the stories our parents and grandparents told us about the Great Depression and World War Two. Feelings of discontent continue to grow as the CDC director warns of a likely second wave of coronavirus which could be far more deadly than the first as it's liable to coincide with the usual flu season next fall and winter.

Knowing that our culture likes to see things resolved quickly and (if possible) painlessly, I see this as a time of true testing. *Can we persevere in love for others?* In Galatians 6 Paul calls us to "not become weary in doing good" and, as we have opportunity, to do good to all people. But, when this culture is about microwave meals ready to eat in 5 minutes and having the world's major crises resolved in a 43-minute TV drama (that's an hour minus commercials) each week, I fear we lack the necessary stamina to live in love over the long-haul.

Recently, a friend put me on to a piece by the folks at Praxis called *Leading Beyond the Blizzard: Why Every Organization Is Now a Startup*. Their analysis caused me to ponder the reality of the paschal/Easter mystery in which crucifixion precedes resurrection and death gives way to life. Their point is that this event is not a week-end blizzard but more like a long winter or even "mini-ice age" which changes things for us all. Nothing can be or will be the same—even in the body of Christ, the church.



What's become imbedded in me this Easter season is that resurrection is *not* resuscitation. Resurrection is not going back to the way things were, to life as it was before—which would be merely resuscitation. Rather life on the other side of death and resurrection—*resurrected life*—is altogether different and new. Yes, there are hints of what was before—Jesus' resurrected body was somewhat familiar—but it was still radically new and different. It could pass through locked doors. It wasn't until Jesus called her name that Mary realized her beloved wasn't just the gardener. The two disciples on the road to Emmaus didn't recognize his appearance or even the sound of his voice or the gait of his walk until they were at a table and Jesus broke the bread.



i.e., I think something will come out of all this that is radically new, and maybe even unrecognizable. What will that be? I don't know ... and I think none of us does. But we'd better not hold onto the past and look for a time "when things go back to normal." Real resurrection means going *forward* into something new, not going back to the way they were. It's like Jesus said to Mary in the garden, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father." I.e., the way is forward not back.

I recently was reminded of the dialogue between Frodo and Gandalf in *The Fellowship of the Ring* when Frodo bemoans perilous time in which they find themselves. He says, "I wish it need not have happened in my time." To which Gandalf responds, "So do I; and, so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us."

What is God calling us to do with this time we've been given? In some ways it's the same as any other time—to *love*. To *love God* with everything we are and have (Mk. 12:30). To *love our neighbor* (Mk. 12:31). To *love one another* (Jn. 13:34,35). We're even to *love* those we don't even like and who don't like us (Mt. 5:43-46).



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While God's desire is the same, it's also very different. We must learn to love at a distance, to be together-apart, to touch one another without touching. And what about the days after the storm finally is passed? Then, too, it will be all about love—but I suspect that *how* we love may have to look a lot different.

Different how? We really don't know ... at least not yet. But whatever it is, the way of God for us is forward not backward, it's to new resurrection life and to mere resuscitation of the old. After all, as Paul says in 2 Corinthians: *if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation (2. Cor 5:17f).*

Friends—right now these are Good Friday and Holy Saturday dark times. It's OK to name them. But the Good News is that *resurrection will come*. That's God's promise—and He is faithful to all His promises.

What will it look like? I don't know. No-one really does. All we know is that it will be a new and different kind of life for us individual disciples and as a church. But we know that in the meantime we're to *not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up. Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith (Gal. 6:9-10 NLT).*

Grace and Peace to you all, in the Grip of God's Love.

Dick Herman

Rev. Dr. Richard Herman





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Mayday! Mayday! - Randy York



The international distress call Mayday began in 1923. Frederick Mockford, a radio officer in London, came up with the idea because it sounded like the French word m'aider which means "help me".

Today would have been communion Sunday for us and though we are unable to share the elements of bread and juice, we still are in communion: with each other and with God. Communion is what we receive together as a church family, but more importantly, it is also what we give together. In essence taking our Sunday worship and growing that into a richer involvement in the needs of our church family and our community through using our individual time and our shared church resources.

Two thoughts on communion; I always recall when Reverend Leo Forsberg would assist Pastor Ivo. Leo would raise the cup and remind us of its significance, "For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes again." What always struck me was the smile on his face and the shine of joy in his eyes as he did so. Secondly, we should remember that before the meal was shared on that Thursday, Jesus humbled himself in service as he washed the feet of his friends.

So even though we are apart at this time, we still share communion. May we have the joy of Leo in our hearts and the eyes of service in our minds as we stay vigilant to make a difference for those who may be in need. Let us always be ready to answer any mayday call placed in our paths, be it come from our church family or our greater community.

Retired veterinarian loves to bake

By THOMAS A. BERGHAUER
For the Courier-Post

Dr. Leo A. Forsberg is 80 years old and loves to share his cooking recipes. "Cooking is fun, cooking is chemistry, it brings people and things together, and cooking can be creative," the retired doctor of veterinary medicine says.

Also a retired Presbyterian minister, Forsberg has been sending recipes to the *Courier-Post* for more than a year and specializes in baking things such as cinnamon rolls, pies, cakes and biscuits.

"Recipes are constantly on the move, and everybody has a favorite one," Forsberg claims. "My love for cooking started with my mother back in the Depression. This was a time when things were scarce, and my mother could make something practically out of nothing."

"I can remember the time I first baked a cake for the Ottawa County Fair in Kansas, which is held every July. I told my mother that I would like to enter a cake, so we started from scratch, and I baked a chocolate cake with chocolate icing, and I received a blue ribbon for my entry."

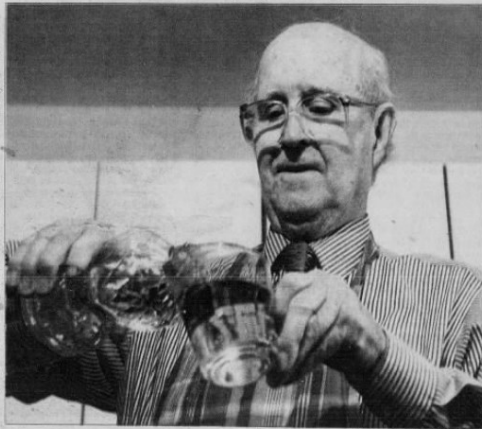
This started Forsberg on the road to cooking. His collection of recipes includes some from his mother and some from newspaper, friends, etc.

Native of Kansas
Forsberg, who was born and raised in Kansas, started working as a veterinarian in 1953 in Minneapolis, Kan., a small town. He received his degree from Kansas State University.

"He was not your typical dog and cat guy," says the Rev. Ivo Mellands, pastor of Providence Presbyterian Church in Florence. "He was involved with cows and sheep and horses. His main thing was dealing with the farm animals. He was the farmer's veterinarian."

Forsberg moved east in 1987 to attend Princeton Theological Seminary. While there, he worked part time at veterinary medicine in Lawrence Township until he was ordained in 1990. He served in several New Jersey parishes until he retired in 1999, after spending 25 years at the pulpit.

In the kitchen, Forsberg says he and his wife, Barbara, 77, collaborate on holiday dinners.



Leo Forsberg of Florence measures cooking oil as he prepares to oven-fry his taco chicken recipe at his home. Forsberg cooks the chicken (right) in flavored breadcrumbs.

WHERE TO CALL

To share recipes with Dr. Leo A. Forsberg, call him at (856) 439-4105.

He and his wife visit their daughter Ann in Omaha, Neb., quite frequently, and he says she is a master cook.

"We work together," Leo Forsberg says. "We trade recipes all of the time."

"I made a coffee cake out there with buttercotch pudding, and you would frost it with a maple frosting that would knock your socks off. That recipe took first prize at the Ottawa County Fair in July of 2004, and the lady who made that cake was from Kansas."

He claims many of his recipes come from Ottawa County and are published in the *Salt Creek News*, a weekly newspaper.

"These recipes came out of the

kitchen of farmers' wives and they are excellent," he points out. "They were excellent cooks, and you have to remember that when you have a bunch of workers coming in for harvest, there is a lot of cooking going on."

In 1935, I went to visit an uncle in Ottawa County, and in those days they picked up the wheat bales with a team of horses and a wagon. I drove the horses. When it came time to eat, the women had tables strung together with every conceivable recipe dish that you can think of, like chicken, beef and pork."

Forsberg remembers how his aunt would awaken at 6 a.m. to feed the men before they began their farming chores.

"They would come back at 10 a.m., and she would feed them coffee and cake. They would return at noon, and she would feed them lunch — and again at 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. Then they would have a

snack before they went to bed. That is the way those people ate. They worked hard and did not worry about things like cholesterol."

Helps at church

In New Jersey, Forsberg has done some baking of his own for the Providence Presbyterian Church, where he sometimes offers assistance.

"He is a super chef and a super baker and is not afraid to try something new. He is just a wonderful guy," Mellands says. "When I am away on vacation, I just know the congregation is in God's hands because he (Forsberg) is always willing to step up to the plate."

"He bakes bread for our Holy Communion service, and Leo and I go to nursing homes. We give them a worship service and song, and he bakes bread for Communion for that service."

Mellands says Forsberg occasionally baked and baked

Leo's Pumpkin Pie
1/2 cup brown sugar
1/2 cup granulated sugar
2 tablespoons flour
1/2 teaspoon salt
2 teaspoons pumpkin pie spice
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
3/4 cup pumpkin puree
2 eggs, separated
3/4 cup of milk
3/4 cup light cream or evaporated milk
1 unshaded 9-inch pie shell
Stir sugars, flour, salt, and spice together. Add vanilla, pumpkin and egg yolks, and stir until smooth.
Heat the milk and cream (or evaporated milk) until hot, and stir into pumpkin mixture. Beat egg whites until stiff, and fold them into the mixture. Pour into pie shell.
Bake at 350F for 15 minutes. Turn oven to 325F and bake for 15 minutes longer.

Farmers' Almanac
SPINACH QUICHEZ cups shredded sharp cheddar cheese
2 tablespoons flour
1 16-oz. package frozen spinach, cooked and well drained
1 cup of milk
1 can chunk ham
1/2 teaspoon salt
Dash of pepper
1 9-inch unbaked pastry shell (optional)
Mix cheese with flour.
Add spinach, milk, eggs, ham, salt and pepper; mix well.
Pour into pastry shell or greased casserole dish.
Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour or until set.
Serves 6.
Wendy Madara



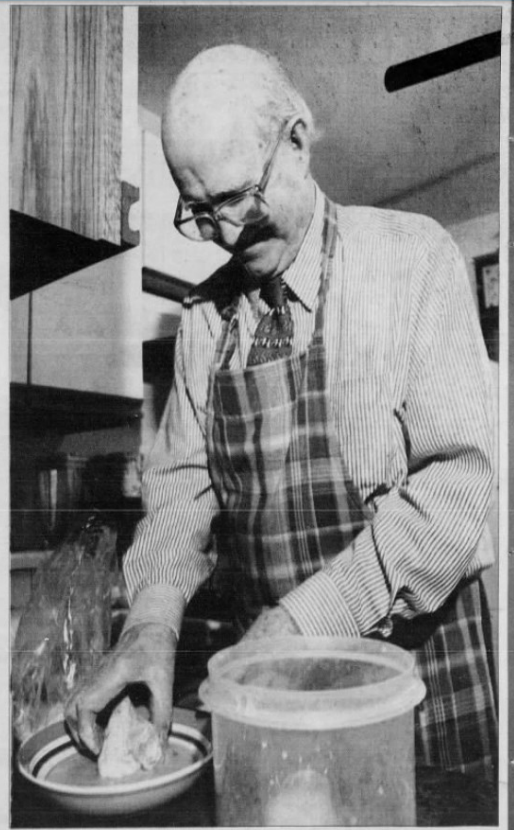
his home orange-cinnamon rolls that "you could absolutely die for."

He also bakes regularly for the church's Sunday and vacation Bible schools.

Forsberg credits the creators of his recipes if he can identify them. But he does admit that some people do steal recipes, and sometimes people will not share them. One of his favorite recipes is Chinese Chicken in a Bag.

"Chicken is one of my favorite foods," he admits. "I am not crazy about beef, but I enjoy pork, turkey and all poultry."

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Leo Forsberg, also a retired Presbyterian minister, prepares oven-fried taco chicken. He says chicken is one of his favorite foods.

<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/30462864/spinach-quiche-recipe/>

Courier-Post - Monday, January 17, 2005

Green Olives (Sevilla Style) - Leo Forsberg (Pg. 6 Church Cookbook 150th Anniversary Edition)

- 1 (7 oz.) Jar Large Green Spanish Olives
- 1/2 tsp Thyme
- 1/2 tsp Ground Cumin
- 2 Bay Leaves
- 1/2 tsp Fennel Seed
- 1/2 tsp Oregano
- 4 Cloves Garlic, Peeled Lightly Crushed
- 1/4 tsp Crushed Rosemary
- 4 Tbsp Vinegar

Place the olive in a glass jar in which they just fit. Add all other ingredients, the fill with water. Shake well and marinate at room temperature several days. They will keep weeks in the refrigerator, but bring them to room temperature before serving.



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PRAYER REQUESTS

The Entire Church Family — **Barb York & Family** upon the passing of her Father, Raymond Stavish

The Entire Church Family — **Pastor James Kraft** as he recovers from a successful Gall Bladder surgery

Marge Hull — Her Son, Lee is doing much better. It's a miracle he is slowly improving. Please pray for his continued recovery.

Becky Jensen — For continued prayers for the **PNC** as they carry on their mission.

Margo Mattis — For her Mother, **Jean Miller**

Wendy Kasper — Asks for prayers for healing and strength in the midst of her chemotherapy.

Sheila Zier — Prayers for healing and strength and encouragement for her daughter, **Brittany** as she is battling a serious long term disease.

Betsy Reeder — For her cousin, **Tom Ryan** who was diagnosed with ALS

Bill Buckley — For the family and friends of **Dean Guse**, who used to attend our church. **Dean** passed on this week from a non-Covid related illness.

All: We have a small team of volunteers reaching out for prayer requests. If they cannot or are unable to reach you, then please e-mail RickCheslo@gmail.com so we can include your in our prayers in future editions.



Doris Krieger, a life-long member of Providence Presbyterian Church, passed away peacefully into God's loving and eternal care on Saturday April 18, 2020. She was 106 years old. She loved to attend our church services every week. She was an active member of the church PW group, and also liked to attend the Good Neighbors Senior Citizens Club in Florence,

Doris was born July 10, 1913, at home on her family's farm located on what is now known as Cedar lane Extension. She attended the Bustleton Country School where kindergarten through 8th grade were all taught in one building. After graduating from high school in Burlington City, Doris worked her way through Trenton State College by waiting tables. She graduated in 1935 and went on to teach both kindergarten and first grade at the Roebling Elementary School for 42 years. Many of the senior citizens in Florence fondly remember being in her kindergarten classes. Doris took daily rides on her bicycle around town until the age of 90 and continued driving her car until she was 100. She remained articulate, vigorous and independent and lived alone with only some part-time aides until age 105.

Doris will be deeply missed and remembered fondly by all of us at Providence Presbyterian Church.



Our Manse & Church Circa 1900

*"In the towns of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem that are deserted, inhabited by neither man nor animals, there will be heard once more the sounds of joy and gladness, the voices of bride and bridegroom, the voices of those who bring thank offerings to the house of the Lord, saying,
'Give thanks to the Lord Almighty,
for the Lord is good;
his love endures forever.'*

For I will restore the fortunes of the land as they were before, says the Lord."

Jeremiah 33:10b-11



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Marie Hudak

The Craft Club of our church started five years ago, by a group of like-minded church ladies who enjoy sewing, knitting, and all kinds of crafts. We always have a grand time, sitting on the floor, laughing, talking, and along the way, creating wreaths, centerpieces, quilts, and whatever else we can think of.

Over the years our small group of dedicated crafty ladies has raised more than \$5,000, all of which has been given to the Church mission fund. During this current pandemic lockdown all of the craft shows which we had scheduled have of course been cancelled, but Carol Shore and Ginny Heal have worked tirelessly sewing well over 500 face masks. These masks have been donated to many nursing homes, police stations and individuals. Ginny and Carol have both promised that face masks are still available to any member of the church, just ask them.

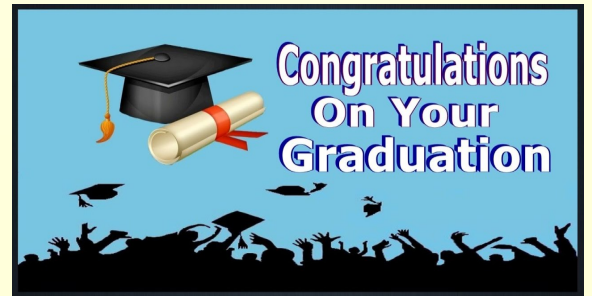
Although the church is closed, you can still order a quilt made to order by Ginny, and you can still buy lovely tea towels hand embroidered by Carol and you can continue to support our sister group, Newborns In Need, by donating baby clothes and essentials

Hats off to our senior crafty person, Eileen Hill, (especially well known for the snowman wreaths which were so popular last Christmas), and many thanks to Bea Ashmore, Janet Newell, and Barb Hammell, who are always willing to lend a hand when needed. We also are grateful for the ladies at PW for helping to make items to be donated to Newborns in Need.

Graduations!

May

- Jane Cheslo — Rowan College of Burlington County
- Verity Cheslo — University of Rhode Island
- Hannah Kroh — Belmont University, Nashville, TN
- Malcolm Slaney — University of Las Vegas, Masters Degree



Birthdays!



Margo Mattis — April 27

Please e-mail RickCheslo@Gmail.com if there are others who are graduating, celebrating a birthday or any other life event, and we will recognize you here.

Don't Forget to send in Photos of how you are spending some of your time. The Vitale's managed an outing to the Pocono's for some fresh air and a hike in the woods. They are doing great and say hello to everyone!

Sound Off & Give a Shout Out Too!





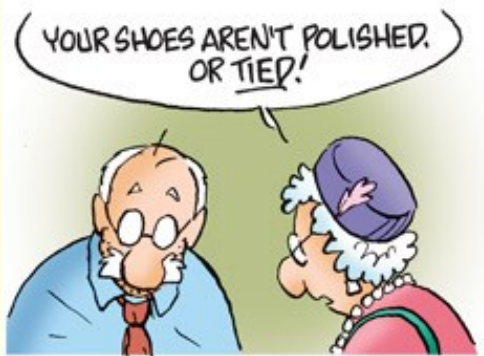
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© Brian Crane.



Barbara Hammill has place copies of the May/June Upper Room devotional in the back of the Church. Come by on Sunday & pick up a copy while taking advantage of the drive-thru offering!

Reminder - Save a Stamp!

Come to the Drive - Thru Offering from 8:30 am to 9:00 AM and 11:00 to 11:30 AM each Sunday morning.

We average 12 to 14 cars each week. Come join the parade and Say Hey to Jack! Also don't forget to Honk on your way out!

