



Providence Presbyterian Church

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



Providence Presbyterian Bustling's

6th Sunday of Easter - May 17, 2020



Greetings Everyone — Today is the Sixth Sunday of Easter. It also known as Sunday of the Man Born Blind. However, this week we will turn our focus to Thursday. Thursday is Ascension Day. Ascension Day is celebrated on the 40th day after Easter Sunday, and it commemorates Jesus Christ's ascension into heaven from Mt. Olive near Jerusalem.

Jesus promised the disciples that they would soon receive the Holy Spirit, and asked them to remain in Jerusalem until the Spirit had come. As he

blessed them he began to ascend into heaven to take his seat at the right hand of God. The Ascension is meaningful as it signifies the end of his work on Earth and allowed him to prepare a place for followers in heaven.

Whom Do We Thank? Thoughts on Healing and Thanksgiving.

Jim Kraft, May 9, 2020

I must begin by thanking those of you from the church who sent such beautiful cards wishing me a speedy recovery from my recent surgery. Thank you for your concern; it means so much.

On Friday, April 17, beginning at 9 PM, I began to have severe tightening in my chest that worked around to pain in my back, severe enough that at 1 AM in the morning, I had to ask our daughter to take me to the emergency room at our hospital. The symptoms were too similar to a heart attack to be ignored.

I could not have been more pleased with the professionalism and compassionate care I received in the emergency room. After blood tests, x-rays, a CT scan, and an ultra sound of my abdomen, I was diagnosis with the probability of a diseased gallbladder. Again at 9 PM – the same time as before – two days later, I had the same symptoms, only much worse. Since I had received no treatment in the emergency room two nights before, I decided to tough out the pain, and by 2 AM, it was gone.

On Thursday, April 30, I had emergency robotic, same day, gallbladder surgery. I was in the hospital at 6:30 AM and home by 2 PM. Although I was given 10 Oxycodone if needed, which I did not need, I did take Advil and Tylenol as a prophylactic precaution in case I did have pain. By the following day, I felt as if I had not had surgery at all. I joked that it was either because of robotics or because I was a tough old bird. A friend of mine joked that it was probably because I am a tough old bird. We both knew that, even with good medical care, it was by the grace of God.

So whom should I thank? In this note, I already thanked you who sent cards. I thank those who prayed for me before and after surgery. I thank my daughter for transportation to and from the hospital, I thank my surgeon and the medical staff at the hospital. I thank the engineers who developed the robotic surgical equipment. Moreover, I thank God.

I thank God based on this text, "Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits – who heals all your diseases" (Psalm 103:2-3). Behind all the means used to provide me with healing stands God who is the one who must ultimately 'heal all our diseases.'

We err if we seek the best medical care and, at the same time, do not seek the graciousness, the healing touch of God and the prayers of God's people. I always think of the sin of the great Judean King Asa. "In the thirty-ninth year of his reign, Asa developed a serious foot disease. Even when the disease became life threatening, he did not seek the LORD'S help but sought help only from his physicians. So he died in the forty-first year of his reign" (2 Chronicles 16:12-13). The key word in that text is 'only.' Certainly, seek the help of physicians, but also seek the help of the ultimate source of healing, the gracious Lord.

Paul, when he had come through a life and death experience in Ephesus, wrote to the Corinthian church in which he acknowledged the vital importance of the prayer of others. "We have set our hope that God will rescue us again, as you also join in helping us by your prayers, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many" 2 Corinthians 1:10b-11).

When we are sick, we seek the help of medical science, but also the grace of God, and the prayers of many. We give thanks to them all when healing comes. Most of all, we 'bless the LORD who heals all our diseases.'



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Wasted Time

Randy York

In the midst of the financial meltdown that led to the Great Recession in 2008, President Obama's chief of staff Rahm Emanuel was quoted as saying, "Never let a good crisis go to waste." It was his way of stating that policy items could be helped along during the collective search for legislative solutions to the current problem.

So how are we coping with Covid 19? Are we growing tired of the daily inability to do what we once could do? Are we anxiously waiting to get back to normal?

What if normal isn't God's plan? We need to at least consider the possibility and the cost involved.

I recall a newspaper cartoon back some ten years ago that pictured a discussion between two boys. The first boy thinking out loud says, "Sometimes I would like to ask God why he allows poverty, suffering, and injustice when He could do something about it." The second boy then asks, "Well why don't you?" The first boy replies, "I'm afraid He will ask me the same question."

The last few months stoked many arguments and opinions across the social map. The times have also caused a great deal of pain and suffering for a lot of folks. Do we distance ourselves from the suffering or is there a better path? Perhaps choosing instead a kinship with the suffering of others, an inability to continue to regard it from afar, to become involved, to reach out and offer ourselves in service. Most times we think that by protecting ourselves from suffering, we are being kind to ourselves. The truth is we only become more alienated, more distant. We find ourselves being separated from the whole of God's people. This separation can become like a bubble, a bubble that restricts us to our hopes and fears, into caring only for the folks we are comfortable with.

Consider that God uses overwhelming circumstances to draw us to himself and to becoming the image of his Son. So as we wait to be able to return to our "regular" worship, consider that God is calling us individually and as a church family to share in someone's suffering, to open our eyes of faith and rend our unfocused hearts, to move to a higher spiritual place and make a difference for a fellow soul in need and grow our own soul at the same time.

We will gather again soon, no doubt with some distancing requirement. Hopefully, we will not have let time be wasted, we will not be the same, and the distance will be due to the basins and towels we bring along.

P.S. The Burlington Food Pantry served 86 families this past Wednesday.



Please help us reach everyone!



If you are aware of anyone that is not receiving our Newsletter or if you would like to gift someone with a free subscription to our newsletter, please contact me at my e-mail, RickCheslo@Gmail.com, so I can add them to our distribution.



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PRAYER REQUESTS

From All Of Us — For **Joe Celkupa** who was admitted to the hospital this week.

From All Of Us — For **Wendy Varga** who is recovering from a fall.

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.

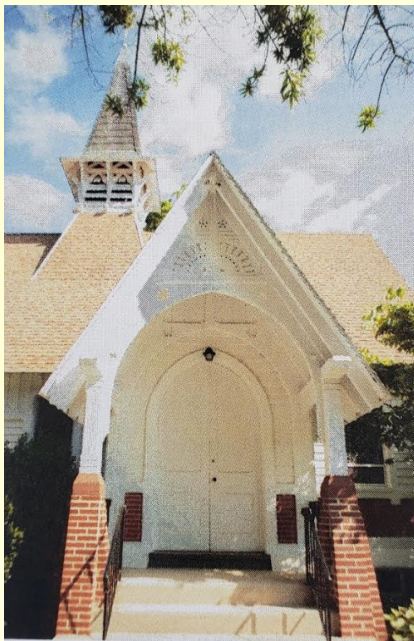
Sheila Zier — Prayers for healing and strength and encouragement for her daughter, **Brittany** as she is battling a serious long term disease.

Betsy Reeder — For **Mary Kyle**, for healing and that she will be able to attend her granddaughter's wedding in July

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.

Bustleton's Best—Church Cookbook Recipe of the Week

Well, we began with an appetizer and then jumped straight to dessert as is our shelter in place prerogative. Naturally our thoughts should next turn to our main course, but we will save that for next week. Since we have a full week before that recipe, we need to plan ahead with a side dish that we can make ahead so we are not overwhelmed for next Sunday's pre-Memorial Day feast. Let's dive into a big heaping helping of "Make Ahead Party Mashed Potatoes" courtesy of Wendy Varga. Get well Soon Wendy!



Make-Ahead Party Mashed Potatoes

Wendy Varga

"I make these ahead and freeze them (not cooked). Just use smaller containers if it's just for two. They heat up great in the microwave, just place a wet paper towel over them."

7 ½ cups water	and softened
12 tablespoons unsalted butter (1 ½ sticks)	1 (12 oz) can evaporated milk
2 teaspoons garlic salt	1 (16 oz) container sour cream
2 teaspoons onion salt	1 (15.3 oz) package instant potatoes or 9 cups
2 (8 oz) pkgs cream cheese, cubed	Paprika

Heat ovens to 350°. Heat water, butter, garlic salt, and onion salt to boiling. Add cream cheese, evaporated milk and sour cream, stirring until cream cheese is dissolved. Stir in potato flakes. Pour into prepared sprayed pan. (I just use a disposable pan.) Cook time: 1 hour. Serves 20.



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Graduations!

May

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



Birthdays!

Your Name Here!



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.

Did you forget to send in your Photos this week? Don't Worry. You still have time to make our next edition. In fact we our having a contest for our next edition!

Just send in a photo of you or your family or both all decked out in your finest shelter at home apparel. Don't forget to Mask Up! Contest winners will receive the adulation of all your Church Friends and Family as well as widespread renown as far as our readership spans.

Send your Entry to RickCheslo@Gmail.com



Classifieds

Excellent Caregiver Available

If anyone in your circle of family or friends has the need for an elderly care provider, Barb York highly recommends Kate who cared for her Dad before he passed. Kate also cared for Doug & Dorothy Ruck before they moved to Florida

Kate has excellent experience and a medical background. She is caring, compassionate and a truly loving person. She is looking for a 24/7 hour position. She has a license to drive, which many agency caregivers do not have.

If you're interested, please call Kate at 908-413-1324.

Refrigerator

Free to a Good Home!

Currently in the Manse.

Contact Bob Lee for details.



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Clean Up Day — 5/16/2020



I don't have a license to push this thing!



What do you mean there are mice living in here!



Master Mulch Man Practicing His Craft



Stop!
I get the point!

In the end

They do great work!



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!

