



Providence Presbyterian Church

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



Providence Presbyterian Bustling's

Sunday, June 28, 2020

Greetings Everyone — Today is Sunday, June 28th. Matthew 10:40-42

Jesus said, "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple-- truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward..



PROUD AND SELFISH

Rev. Dr. James Kraft, June 24, 2020

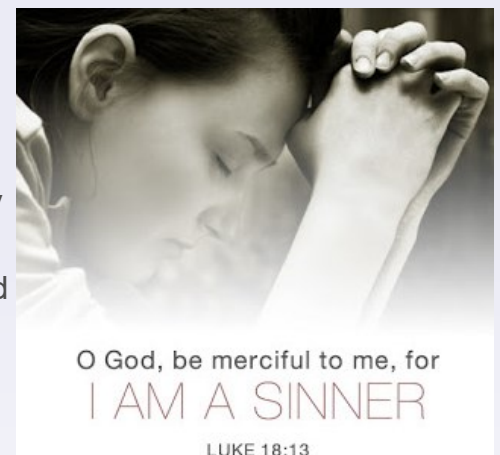


Participating in demonstrations for "Black Lives Matter," most of us in the Northeast have been faithful in wearing our masks. There have been counter-demonstrations where not wearing masks seems to be making a political statement. I always thought that the person refusing to wear a mask was just ignorant and thought the mask was for his or her protection. They just did not understand that it really was for the protection of others. Then, seeing a TV interview of one of those counter-demonstrations, I observed a young man carrying a sign that read, "Proud and Selfish."

My first reaction was anger – anger at his indifference to others, and, given the context in a counter-demonstration against the "Black Lives Matter" movement, implied racism. As I thought further about the implications of the sign, "Proud and Selfish," I realized that the young man was more to be pitied than despised.

To be "Proud," is to cut oneself off from a relationship to the living, loving God. The simplest most direct prayer that each of us must pray to be accepted into a relationship with God is to bow in humility and to cry, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner" (Luke 18:13).

Humility before God must be reflected in our relationship to others as well. As Peter reminds us, "All of you must clothe yourselves with humility in your dealings with one another, for 'God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.' Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you" (1 Peter 5:5b-7). This admonition makes clear the necessity of humility before God and before others.



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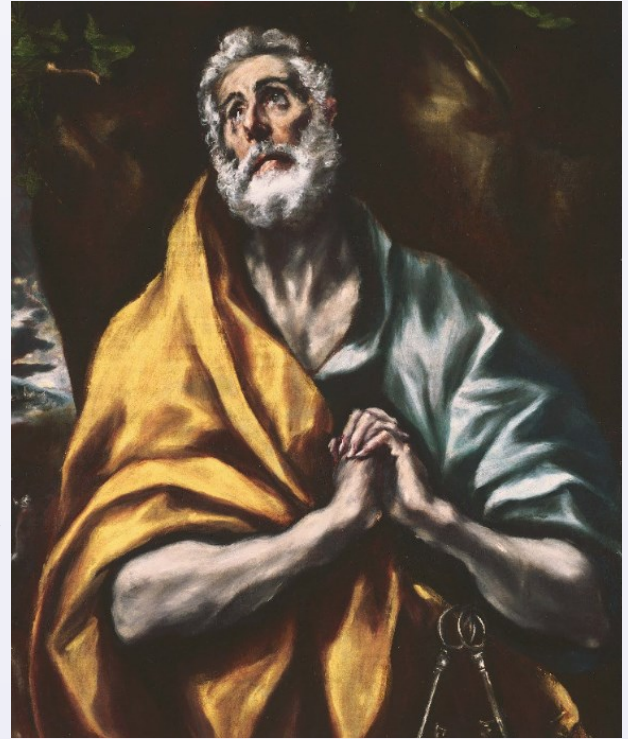
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Continued—Proud & Selfish

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In coming humbly to God, we are simply responding to the gracious invitation of Jesus, "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30). Jesus does not shirk from calling himself "gentle and humble in heart."



But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

James 3:17-18



To be "Selfish" is to cut yourself off from a love relationship with others. That seems obvious. Love, to qualify as love at all, is, in some way, to put the other first. It may be considered 'smart' to put oneself first, but that kind of 'wisdom' is not wisdom at all. As James puts it so well, "If you are bitterly jealous and there is selfish ambition in your hearts, don't brag about being wise. That is the worst kind of lie. For jealousy and selfishness are not God's kind of wisdom. . . . For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and every kind of evil. But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and good deeds. It shows no partiality and is always sincere" (James 3:14-17, NLT).

May God's love in Christ, keep us from the double sin of pride and selfishness. May God fill us with his love

for all – a love that will show itself in caring and good works as we respond to the times through which we are living.



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Get Busy Being Still

Randy York

There have been countless reports of statues being pulled down recently. An inconvenient truth however needs to be recognized. The most significant toppling was not covered by any major news organization. It happened slowly over time. Simply put, it was the removal of God from the central point of our lives.

I recall being an altar boy in the late sixties (that's right Millie Lincoln; I once was an altar boy). Whenever I served at the 6am Mass, there would be eight people in church, myself, the priest, and six elderly Polish women praying fervently in the first two pews. They were there day in and day out, rain or shine, hot or cold. To them it was important to begin their day with God. Those ladies are long gone, and there is no 6am Mass anymore. It was a simple act of faith on their part, but the memory still inspires me to this day.

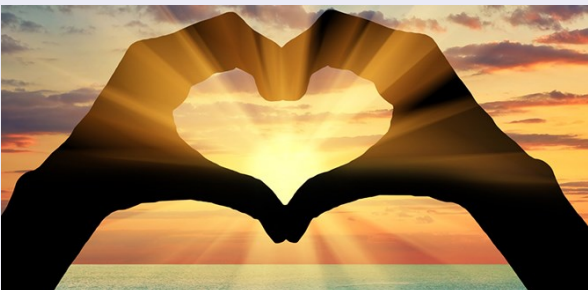


On Christmas Eve 1968, Apollo 8 entered lunar orbit. That evening the astronauts did a live television broadcast in which they shared pictures of the earth and moon as seen from the command module. They ended the broadcast by reading the creation account from Genesis; fast forward to our recent days of turmoil where any mention of God was noticeably absent from the national conversation.

We should not indict our nation. America is a democratic republic not a theocracy. God has blessed each citizen with free will and the founding fathers enshrined that freedom. Nor is the church totally at fault. It has certainly turned away from its "first love" as John states in Revelation, and became entwined in politics. The church is not in the world to reform the world. Our encouragement should not come from being able to call Christmas by its name or from a man holding up a bible in front of a burned out church. We also need to recognize that those in need require a rending of our hearts not legislation and that the right to life is sacred period. The mandate of the church is not political, or social, or economic. Those concerns have become so central to our thinking, that we feel that if we could just fix this or that, then we would be fine. The church is called to proclaim the good news, that although we have turned our back on God, in His mercy He has offered a way back through Jesus Christ.

And so the spotlight falls on me and perhaps you, to return to a place where God is central. Where we wake up each day like the aforementioned Polish women and realize God's place and ours, humble ourselves, and walk in His presence throughout the day; where we acknowledge His greatness and glory, and our need of His amazing grace.

Before moving to Florence, I served on the Planning and Zoning Boards in our hometown, when properties had become dormant or unused, we would speak of our need to "repurpose" them. The same is true for us. As this time of national reflection proceeds, perhaps we should quietly come before God and repurpose ourselves.



In 1997 Bob Dylan wrote, "It's not dark yet, but it's getting there." We are called to be the light in the world's darkness. Let us come before God and rekindle the fire of faith and service, a fire that will provide to a searching world that much needed light.

PS: The Burlington Food Pantry provided food to 124 families this week.



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PRAYER REQUESTS



Roland & Janet Newell — Continued Prayers For **Ginny Heal**, as she continues to recover from shoulder surgery

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

From All Of Us — Continued prayers for **Jeffrey Caron & the Caron Family** as they adjust to Jeffrey's diagnosis of diabetes.

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

From All Of Us — Continued prayers for **Wendy Kasper**

From All Of Us — Prayers for **Jean Wainwright**, that she will be feeling better and her test results are good.

Wendy Varga — Continued prayers for her nephew, **Sean**.

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

Randy & Barb York — Prayers of thanks for God's provision of a suitable transplant liver for **Wendy Pearl**, and His comfort and healing strength for some tough days ahead.

The Presbyterian Women — Remembers their members who are in need of prayers as they have been unable to get out and remain housebound : **Anna Freck, Polly Grobelny, Jerrie Glass, Alice Garman, & Jean Miller**. They look forward to resuming their meetings

Please e-mail RickCheslo@gmail.com with your prayer requests, or pass them on to those reaching out to you.



Don't Forget We Are On YouTube!



See vintage services from our archives. There is a new posting each week. The direct link is: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxLAXFkRJWgH8pLkGX988Bg/videos> The Link is nerdy, but you can also Google "Providence Presbyterian Church Burlington YouTube" and we rise to the top of the list. Accept no imitations! *Also Get Past Issues of this Newsletter at ProvPresCh.org*



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Providence Presbyterian COVID-19 Congregational Survey

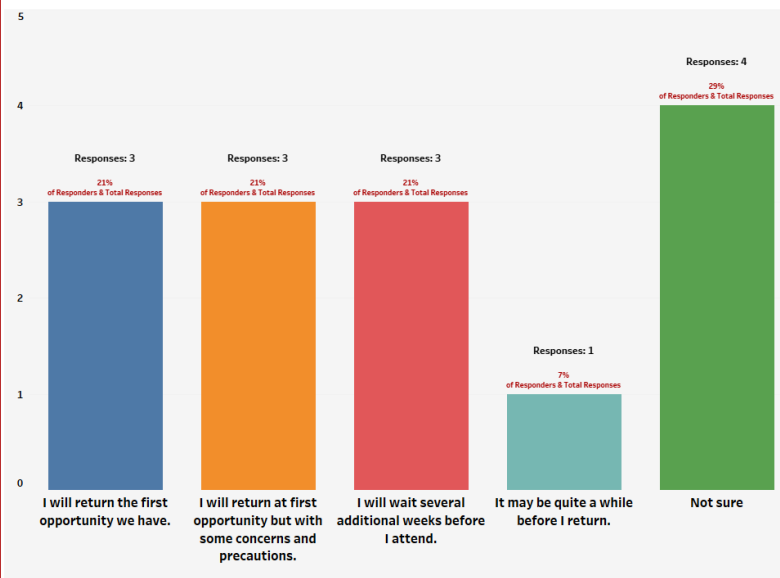
SURVEY SAYS Did you fill out your survey online? It's easy (even I can do it), it is quick (typical response time is 5 minutes 27 seconds), and it is anonymous. This is meant to be a survey of individuals not households. So that means that spouses should each fill out a separate survey. Our goal is to have every individual complete a survey to obtain as big a sample size as possible. The planning committee for reopening will prepare recommendations for Session based on Presbytery and Governmental guidelines. The survey responses here will help us to understand congregational attitudes and readiness to come back together. If you missed the survey link in last week's E-mail, here is the link again and a QR Code if you would like to scan it and complete it on your smartphone.



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/N38VJKP>

The Survey will be open for one more week and then we will do a final tabulation of all ten questions and report the results the following week. We have had 14 Responders so far, an I know we can get a lot more.

Q1 - When our local government lifts its ban or guidance against churches meeting, which best describes your attitude toward returning to a worship service at church? Select one:



To entice participation, I am going to tease out a little bit of the results so far. For the first question on how soon you expect to return once we are able to open:

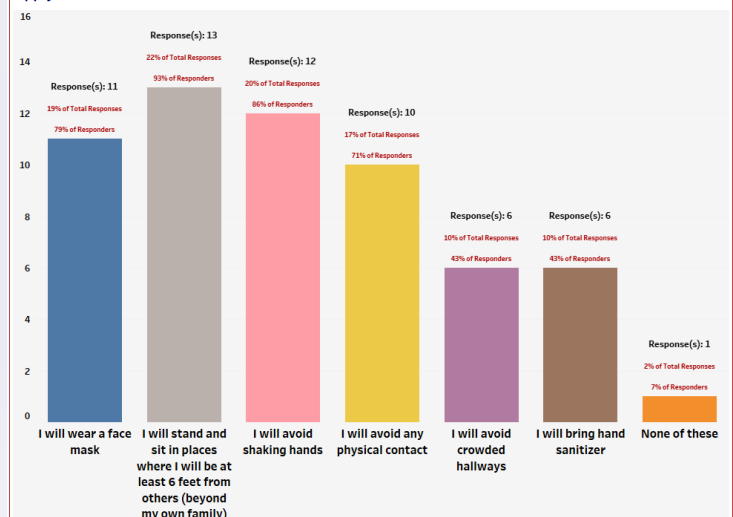
- ◆ 42% say they will come back at the first opportunity with half of those saying they will do so with some concerns and precautions.
- ◆ 28% indicate they will wait some additional time before returning.
- ◆ 29% are not sure.

For the question regarding what precautions, if any, do individuals plan on taking when they return:

- ◆ 79% say they will wear a face mask.
- ◆ 93% will social distance
- ◆ 86% will avoid shaking hands & 71% will avoid physical contact
- ◆ 43% say they will avoid crowded hallways
- ◆ 43% will bring hand sanitizer
- ◆ And one Responder (7%) indicates they will follow none of the above.

Please Fill Out Your Survey Today—Open Through July 4th

Q3 - What precautions, if any, do you plan to take when you return to a worship service? Select all that apply:





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Bustleton's Best Church Cookbook Recipe of the Week



This dish is great! It is a side salad that eats like a meal. In our house, give us any meal that has chili powder in it and we are good to go. With this dish the basics are all there. Add your own flair like guacamole and fresh squeezed lime and you have pure Cielo

Muchas Gracias Annette!

Taco Salad

Annette Slaney

"This quick and easy dish was found by my son at a potluck dinner at Burlington Township High School. He asked me to search out the recipe and we have modified it a bit and enjoyed it ever since."

Chopped romaine lettuce
Shredded Mexican cheeses
Chopped tomatoes
Tortilla chips broken into pieces (use any kind, but we like whole grain Tostitos)

Ground turkey or pork or beef – browned and spiced to your liking with salt, pepper, adobo seasonings, red pepper flakes or any other spice you enjoy.

Wishbone Robusto Italian Dressing

Mix all these ingredients together and enjoy!



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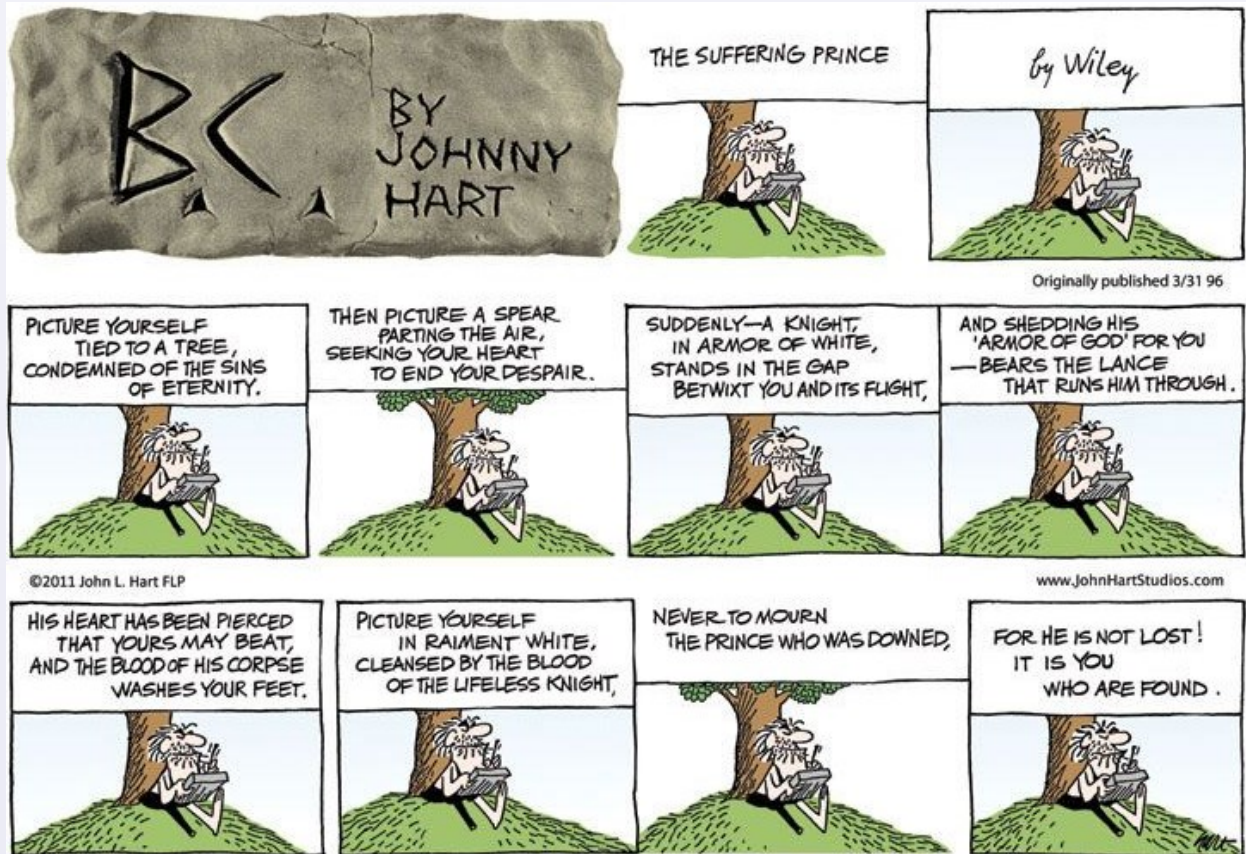
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Birthdays!

Rick Cheslo — June 28



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.



Notices

Barbara Hammell has placed 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! This clever young couple rode their bikes!

Church Office Hours

Barb Hammell is manning our Church Office to keep us on top of all our Business needs & obligations. Thank you Barb!

Her hours are Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays from 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM. The office telephone is (609) 499-2753

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 or Ring Your Bell on your way out!

