



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, July 5, 2020

Greetings Everyone — Today is Sunday, July 5th. I am thankful today for all of you in our audience. You all make our church community



wonderful through so many thoughtful words and deeds I see and hear of in my correspondence. I am

sharing today this piece from the Brynn Mawr, PA Presbyterian Church. Blessings to all!

The Fourth of July is one of our two quintessential American holidays along with Thanksgiving Day of course. Many of us will be at home hosting family gatherings, picnic suppers, and looking for places to watch the fireworks. Others of us will be heading to the shore or some other vacation destination. Small towns and large cities across the country will gather along parade routes to watch and cheer as the bands march, the flags are waved and the joy of living in "the land of the brave and the home of the free" is celebrated.

As Christians we treasure our freedom as one of the primary blessings of God, and we trust the ancient promise made to Abraham and Sarah that "all the families of the earth" would come to know God's blessing. It is an inclusive promise for every race and land.

A couple of years ago, when the General Assembly of the PC(USA) was meeting during the first week of July, Presbyterian and Rear Admiral Mark Tidd led the whole church in prayer for the Fourth of July. May his prayer be our prayer this holiday weekend:

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Those Who Worked The Soil

Randy York



As we continue to work our way through the current health situation, we too quickly resort to "why" questions: Why did this have to happen God?...Why can't we return to worship?...Why can't we get back to normal? Perhaps it might be more profitable to ask "what" questions: What are you trying to teach me Lord?...What can we as a church do to make a difference at this difficult time?...What have you provided over the years Lord that I have been too busy to appreciate and build upon?

This latter question is especially timely to reflect upon. The train of life chugs past us all 24 hours at a time and most days we just feel the breeze as it passes by. Critical events give us pause, allowing for time to ponder how we have arrived at our current station and what the path forward can be.

You may have come upon books with titles such as, "5 Ways to Spiritual Growth" or "7 Steps to Draw Closer to God". Lord knows I have bought some in years past. That was before I realized that the best spiritual growth lessons were played out right in front of me.

Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?

—John 4:29

Ten years ago, I tried to start a John 4:29 group; a small group meeting based on coming together and meeting Christ more fully. ***Continued Pg. 3***



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Everlasting God of righteousness and grace, as our nation celebrates this Independence Day, remind us of our complete dependence upon you. We look to you for your wisdom and mercy as important issues are discussed. On this day, we ask you to keep this nation, and all nations, under your care, that we may be peoples who are at peace, and who are a blessing to others in this earth. Grant our nation's leaders wisdom, that there would be times of peace and justice in our land and in our world.

On this day, we lift up to you all who serve in our Armed Forces, who serve as the centurion did as ones who are under authority—brave men and women who risk their lives for their country. Remind us of those who are far from home and loved ones, who on this day sail or fly or walk in harm's way, and keep them always close to you. Where there is combat, grant them compassion for their enemies, and keep them brave in the face of evil. Hold in your loving hands the families of those who are far away. Grant them comfort in their anxieties. And comfort those who grieve, because they have received the dreaded message that their loved one has died. Strengthen those who carry the wounds of war, visible and invisible, and be to them a sure presence.

On this day keep all of us grounded not in our strength but in yours, ever relying upon the promise that "those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength ... They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

All of this we pray in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.



And in these troubled times across the globe, may we also be ever vigilant to pray for the freedom of all God's children, trusting that the day is surely coming when the ancient promises of faith may indeed be a blessing to all the families of the earth.

Providence Presbyterian COVID-19 Congregational Survey



Thank you to everyone who participated and completed our survey. As of early Saturday morning we have 30 replies more than doubling out input from the first week. The survey is open for the rest of the day, and because of the holiday, I am going to take a couple of days to compile the results and build a nicely formatted presentation that I will share with everyone as a separate attachment next week. As a reminder this survey is a baseline of our collected opinions on how to proceed with reconvening our worship services. The ultimate decision for when and how

to do so safely and effectively will be made by Session in accordance with Presbytery and State guidelines.



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Those Who Worked The Soil

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You don't remember it because it only lasted one meeting. We publicized it, and announced and prepared for it, and when the night came only one person showed up. That person was Leo Forsberg. For nearly 2 hours, Leo took Barbara and me on a journey through his life, from young lad in Kansas, to first jobs, to wartime service, to meeting his late wife Barbara, to veterinary school, to a call to ministry, to stops in various churches, to how God had guided and provided, and finally to Providence Presbyterian Church. The group never met again, but the "meeting" that night served its purpose. Through time spent with Leo, I came to know Christ more richly and that evening was a blessing to Barbara and me.



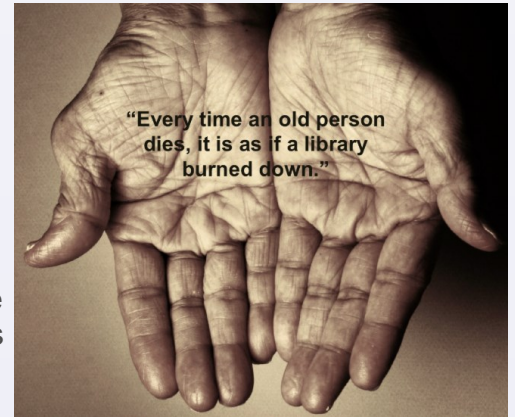
As I have ventured to build my spiritual house upon the Rock, a lot of folks in our church have supplied much needed building material over the years.

There is Judy Bramble, who showed me the meaning of true faith and strength amid suffering and Marion Constable, who guided me to the benefit of quiet time contemplation with God centered on a simple word (we chose "abide"). Also Carol Merten, a neutron bomb of a lady, who exploded onto you with a hug and her smiling, upbeat personality and Jim Freund, who proved to me that Santa Claus indeed exists and he worships on Christmas Eve in our church. There is Esther Barnes with her simple way and kind words and John Lincoln holding court as we entered the church on Sundays and his constant interest in how we were doing.

Bruce Springsteen once sang in regard to education, "I learned more from a three-minute record than I ever learned in school." Well, I have read books and listened to tapes. I have tried to read through the Bible (Leviticus and Numbers always cut me down). But any true growth in my spiritual life came from being sowed into soil that others

have made fertile by their lives lived simply before God and before us. These folks were ordinary evangelists, one and all. They shared the ride with us, and made our journey a little bit richer.

You might not know much about Senegal, but I heard a news report which noted that when a Senegalese person dies, the community says that a library has burned.



That's quite a statement "A library has burned". Our lay services have given us glimpses of the "library" of stories that fill our sanctuary. Some stories hover in the air as history, and others continue to be written in our hearts in real time.

The greatness of our church is not determined by if we just preached the word. You don't need a church for that you can just buy a tape. You need a church to have the opportunity to learn of and express the love of God, so you will experience more of it yourself.

This week, why not pray about those who have mattered, those who have left their fingerprints on your Christian journey. Give gratitude to God for those who have passed on and maybe reach out to those teachers and farmers, elders and young folks who continue to till the soil of your spiritual life and tell them how they have made a difference. I'll be golfing on Tuesday with someone who over the years has proved to be my spiritual mentor, and I apologize Governor Murphy, but I will give him a hug of thanks.

PS: The Burlington Food Pantry provided food to 109 families this past Wednesday



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PRAYER REQUESTS



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

Pat & Ivo Meilands — Prayers for their daughter, **Pam** as she goes through the process of moving from Michigan to Hershey, PA to start her new call as Associate Pastor for Youth & Families at Derry Presbyterian Church.

Robin McCarter — For her **Mother**, who is residing in the Masonic Home.

Jane & Rick Cheslo — For Jane's Sister, **Carrie**, for positive news from her dermatologist regarding her skin tests.

Jane & Rick Cheslo — For Jane's Aunt **Nancy** upon the passing of her husband, **Warren**.

From All Of Us — Prayers for **Barb Hammell**, who was admitted to Deborah. Get well soon **Barb**!

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*



**Bustleton's Best
Church Cookbook Recipe of the Week**

The weather has been very hot this week with temperatures some days in the 90's. There is no better way to beat the heat than with this sweet treat! It is light and fluffy and it just seems right on a hot summer day. I am betting that this recipe would also work well with any fresh summer berry.

Thank you Bea!

Blueberry Mousse

Bea Ashmore

2 1/4 C blueberries
1/2 C sugar
1/2 T. Gelatin

2 T. lemon juice
1 C heavy cream
1/2 t cinnamon

Combine blueberries, sugar, gelatin, lemon juice. Cook low until gel dissolves and berries are soft. Blend or process and refrigerate until syrupy. Whip cream until stiff. Fold into berry mix. Spoon into stemmed glasses. Serve with whipped cream, cinnamon and few berries on top.



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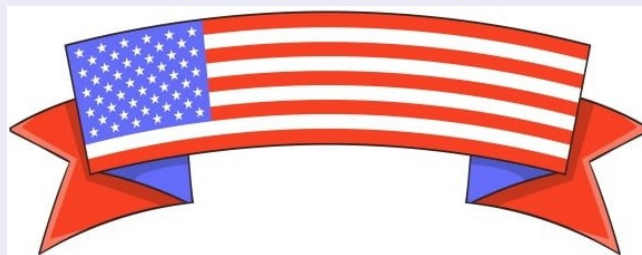
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Birthdays!

Janet Newell — July 2 Happy 80th Janet!!



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

Come by on Sunday & take 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 or Ring Your Bell on your way out!

