



## Providence Presbyterian Bustling's

Sunday, August 2, 2020



**Greetings Everyone** — Today is Sunday, August 2. The 18th Sunday in ordinary time. This Thursday is the Transfiguration of Jesus. Jesus and three of his apostles, Peter, James, & John, go to a mountaintop to pray. On the mountain, Jesus begins to shine with bright rays of light. Then the prophets Moses and Elijah appear next to him and he speaks with them. Jesus is then called "Son" by God the Father. See Matthew 17 for the rest of the story...

### Centered Clay In The Potter's Hand

**Reverend Richard Herman**

<sup>1</sup>The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: <sup>2</sup>"Come, go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words." <sup>3</sup>So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. <sup>4</sup>The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he re-worked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him.

<sup>5</sup>Then the word of the Lord came to me: <sup>6</sup>Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the Lord. Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. ~ Jeremiah 18:1-6 (NRSV)

One image we find in Scripture to describe how God works with us as His people is that of a Potter working at his wheel with a lump of clay to fashion a vessel—a cup, bowl, jar or pot. To the observer, it almost looks like magic as a lump of wet clay turns quickly into a shapely vessel.



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### You Must Remember This

**Randy York**

If we are not careful, we can allow circumstances to take us places physically and emotionally that we need not visit. Recently, I confided to Barbara that I was feeling depressed and that it made no sense to me. I could not think of any cause for my state of mind. I had plenty of time on my hands, but I stayed busy. I had no major issues of concern to drag me down. I have good neighbors, great friends, belong to a great church, I keep my hands in the soil, I stay involved and informed, yet somehow I felt that I had bottomed out.

My search for a reason highlighted a problem. There was too much "me and you" thought in my mind and not enough "He" thought. When time and consideration is centered on ourselves, and we think everything orbits round me, we can become depressed or despondent when life deals us certain cards. We can fall into the "why me?"



"why now?" pit. Additionally, if our focus is on someone else and how their world is chugging along, we can fall into envy or discontent. Look at Mr. X, he has it together. Look at all he does or can do with or in his spiritual life, compared to him I feel like a second class Christian.

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### Potter's House... continued from Pg. 1

In fact, it's not all that easy, according to a friend of mine who makes pottery. He describes how the potter must throw the lump of clay — which must be the right consistency to be worked without crumbling or flopping over—onto the wheel. Before any shaping can be done, the clay must be “on center,” at the middle of the wheel. If the clay's off center, the vessel becomes “wonky” and quickly collapses or just flies apart. If that happens, the potter must gather up the pieces and begin all over again.

**Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.**

**Isaiah 64:8**

**20 But who indeed are you, a human being, to argue with God? Will what is molded say to the one who molds it, “Why have you made me like this?” 21 Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one object for special use and another for ordinary use?**

**Romans 9:20-21**

The likes of Jeremiah, Isaiah and Paul tell us that this is exactly how God works to molded and re-shaped us.

Like the vessel on a potter's wheel is shaped by a process (not instantly), so God shapes and reshapes us over time. It's a process theologians call “sanctification” in which we take on more and more the shape of Jesus Christ in how we act, think and speak.

Yet, unlike inanimate clay, we have a tendency to get off-center on our own. Or, as some deduce from Paul's comment in Romans 12:1 about our being living sacrifices, “we have a tendency to crawl off the alter.”

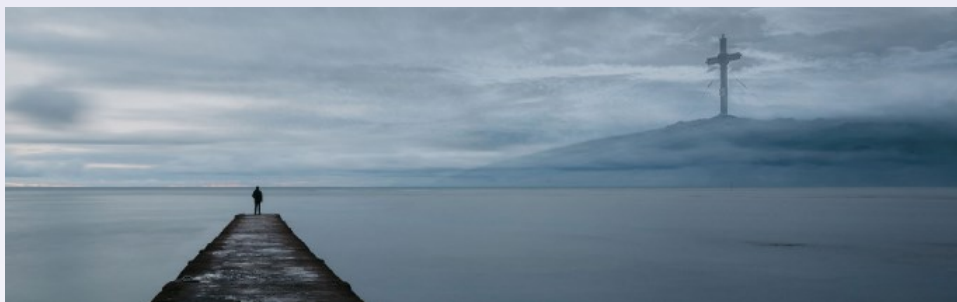
When my friend spoke of the necessity of being centered on the Potter's wheel, my mind immediately turned to the spiritual practice of Centering Prayer; which is *not* about navel-gazing and looking into ourselves but *is* about focusing on God and God alone. It's about giving Jesus the freedom to shape us as He would instead of His jumping to do what we want Him to do. Rather than telling God our laundry list of what we think He should do; it's to simply listen for the soft sound of sandaled feet walking with us. Like Elijah in the wilderness, it's to realize that God comes to us not in earthquake, wind or fire, but in “a sound of sheer silence” (1 Kings 19:2, NRSV) or “a still small voice” (RSV).

***The Suscipe Prayer of St. Ignatius of Loyola***  
**You have given all to me.**  
**To you, Lord, I return it.**  
**Everything is yours; do with it what you will.**  
**Give me only your love and your grace,**  
**that is enough for me.**

The invitation, now and always, is to stay centered on God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Prayer, listening prayer, that centers us in the Lord is what allows God the Holy Spirit to do His best work of shaping us into the kind of persons we are meant to be and that we want to be—those who are more like Jesus.

Grace and Peace in the Grip of God's Love

*Dick Herman*





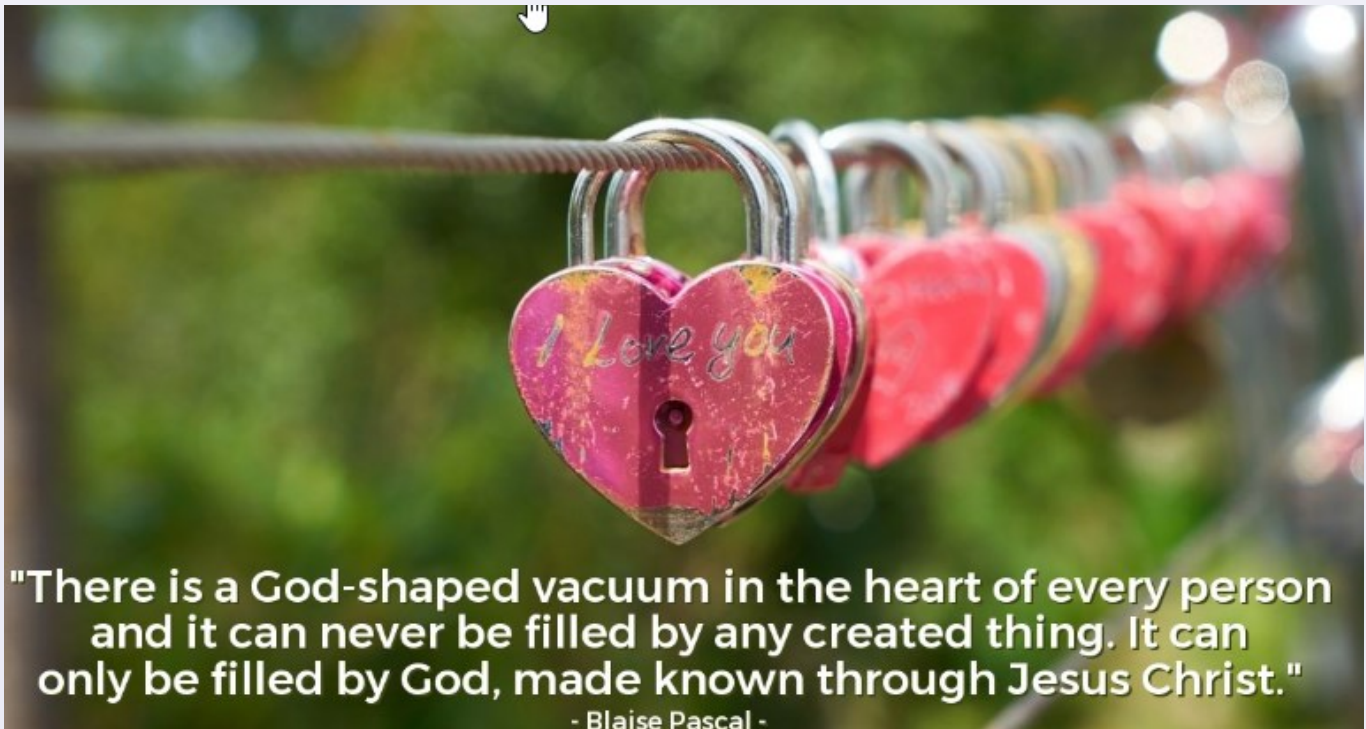
**Remember This... continued from Pg. 1**

We must remember however there are no second class Christians. There are no first class Christians either. There are only sinners in need of a savior. Truly, as we watch times change around us, two things remain constant, we are all sinners in need of God's grace and mercy and the fact that a God of unconditional love waits for us daily to come to him, to have him join in our journey.

I was asked to read at my Uncle Bennie's memorial service two weeks ago. I read from Lamentations chapter 3. It contains those great verses stating that God's love never ceases, his mercies never come to an end, that they are new every morning and great is His faithfulness. They are verses 22 and 23. We forget that the first 20 verses paint a very discouraging picture about how very hard life can be. In fact, just reading those verses will cast a dark cloud over you.

Then comes verse 21, "But there's one other thing I remember, and in remembering I keep a grip on hope." Yes, the answer is to stop and remember.

Blaise Pascal, a philosopher from the 17th century is often quoted as saying, "There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of every person, and it can never be filled by a created thing. It can only be filled by God, made known through Jesus Christ."



**"There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of every person and it can never be filled by any created thing. It can only be filled by God, made known through Jesus Christ."**

- Blaise Pascal -

Sometimes we forget God's presence and provision. We think that as we bounce and bump around on our way through each day that God says "Hang on the best you can." No, he is there each day waiting to strap us in, to keep us close to his heart, he calls us to himself and waits to hold us fast. We must remember to start each day before him.

So if your feeling a bit low or perhaps over burdened today, consider the words of that great minister from the seventies, Carole King, and call out God's name, because you know wherever he is, he'll come running, to see you again. All you have to do is remember to call and he will be there.

**PS: The Burlington Food Pantry provided food to 122 families this past Wednesday.**



**PRAYER REQUESTS**



From All Of Us — Prayers for Barney (Edwin) Barnes who is in the hospital.

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

From All of Us — For Reverend Richard Herman, who will be undergoing shoulder replacement surgery on the 11th. Blessings for a successful surgery and speedy recovery!

From All Of Us — Continued prayers for Jeffrey Caron & the Caron Family as they adjust to Jeffrey's diagnosis of diabetes in the midst of planning their move to New York State.

Margo Mattis — For her Mother, Jean Miller

Margo Mattis — For Jean Miller who has had knee replacement surgery.

From All Of Us — Continued prayers for Wendy Kasper

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

Betsy Reeder — Prayers for recovery for her niece Molly.

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

From All Of Us — Prayers for All Our Families, Friends, Loved Ones, & Neighbors whose needs and concerns we know not of

*Please e-mail [RickCheslo@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://ProvPresCh.org)*



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

**Salmon Steaks**

Bea Ashmore

- 1 C water
- 1 C white wine vinegar
- 1 C orange juice
- 1 C lemon juice
- 2 t salt

- 1 t peppercorns
- 1/4 t ground allspice (optional)
- 1 t dried dill weed or tarragon
- 4 salmon steaks

Combine 1<sup>st</sup> 8 ingredients in a large heavy casserole. Bring to a boil and simmer for 10 minutes. In it put salmon steaks. Simmer 10 more minutes or till salmon flakes when tested with fork. Don't overcook. Remove from heat. Serve immediately with hot melted butter; decorate with dill weed.

Some of Jesus's disciples were fishermen and He ultimately made them fishers of men. Still their early stock in trade would have led them to have a diet with plenty of fish. I can't imagine their fish was ever served as tasty as this recipe.

Thank you Bea!





# 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, August 2, 2020

### Blessings

For the safety and good health of everyone in our Church and our extended Church Family

### Anniversaries

### Birthdays

Please send in your blessing or special news!



Boy Scout Troop 36 in Mt. Holly honored Ethan Walker as their newest Eagle Scout. Eagle Scout is the highest achievement of rank attainable in the Boy Scouts of America. Since its inception in 1922, only four percent of Scouts have earned this honor after a lengthy review process. Requirements including at least 21 merit badges. The Eagle Scout must demonstrate Scout Spirit, an ideal attitude based upon the Scout Oath and Law, service, and leadership. This includes an extensive service project that the Scout plans, organizes, leads, and manages. Eagle Scouts are presented with a medal and a badge that visibly recognizes the accomplishments of the Scout. Additional recognition can be earned through Eagle Palms, awarded for completing additional tenure, leadership, and merit badge requirements. Beyond the rank of Eagle, Ethan also earned the Bronze and Gold Palms. **Congratulations Ethan!!**



### Jack's Drive Thru Blessings

**Come by on Sunday & take advantage of the drive-thru offering!**

Seeing Joe Celkupa's Smile!

#### 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!

