



Providence Presbyterian Bustling's

Sunday, December 20, 2020

Issue No. 40



reetings! Today is Sunday, December 20th. The Fourth Sunday of Advent. This morning, we light the fourth candle of our Advent wreath in the name of love, as an invitation for the Holy to dwell within us, deepening our capacity to love, and to be watchful of Love's presence among us. May we open to the love that awaits us in the weeks to come. *And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. 1 Corinthians 13*



It's a Wonderful Night

Randy York

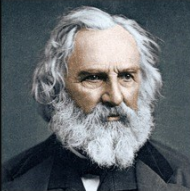
Candlelight as the flame was passed person to person, then the solemn singing of Silent Night. Heavenly peace indeed!

My own church scrapbook dates back only to 2008, but my two favorite Christmas reminiscences are the time recently when we concluded our Christmas Eve service by becoming a group of concerned carolers. We called Jack Harkins, who was away in a hospital, and by cell phone joined in singing Joy to the World for him and wishing him a Merry Christmas. It was an extraordinary moment of amazing grace. Rewinding the tape a few more years, I will never forget walking into the church with Barbara on a Christmas Eve night and what to my wondering eyes should appear but Santa Claus himself sitting in the pew across the aisle from me. It seems even Santa knew that our church was the place to be on Christmas Eve.

I'm sure each of us has a moment that holds a special place among our holiday memories. So as we prepare for this Christmas, do recall all those sights and sounds that have meant so much over the past years because they are wonderful moments and dearly important to cherish. Above all though, keep the significance of the night close in your heart. There was a child born that night. A child who was the creator of the world. A child who was the long promised redeemer. God with us. A child who as a man would teach us in simple parables, not lofty religious language. Stories for farmers, bankers, and teachers about a God seeking a relationship with them. This child who as a man welcomed sinners. This child who went to the cross for those welcomed sinners, for me and for you. This child who is risen indeed. This child of hope and love. This child of mercy and grace. It is a wonderful night. Merry Christmas Providence Presbyterian Church!



Henry Wadsworth Longfellow



I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

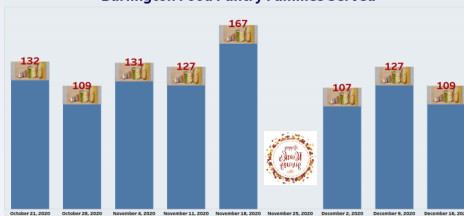
AZ QUOTES

Ah! Christmas is near. It comes with light. It comes with song. It comes with the new and the old. It comes with memories that warm the spirit like a hot cup of cider. Memories like that of pulling in a dark parking lot to see a path of luminarias leading to the church steps, then coming out of that cold, bleak, winter night into the warmth of our church. The sanctuary framed in the hanging greens, glowing in the light of candles, adorned with a blanket of festive red poinsettias, and crowded with folks bustling in anticipation. Then to hear the choir filling the air with Christmas melody, and enjoying the solo voices of Regan Gillespie, Hannah Kroh, Annette Slaney, Wendy Varga, and Karen, Pam, and Pat Meilands lift our spirits with their gifted talent. Thinking about Anna Freck's lemon meringue pie. (Wait! What does that have to do with Christmas? Sorry but every time I tasted that pie it was wonderful and it certainly felt like Christmas inside me.) Experiencing the darkening of the church and then the slow procession of multiplied



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

Burlington Food Pantry Families Served





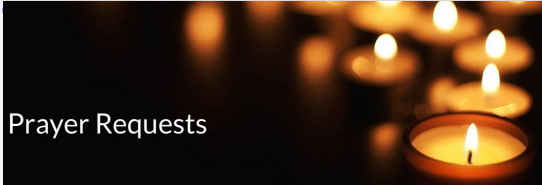
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Prayer Requests

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

From All of Us — For Brynna. A 7 year old fight lymphoma cancer.

From All of Us — For Jack Harkin, who is undergoing a procedure tomorrow and will be in the hospital for the next 2-3 days. Prayers for a speedy and thorough recovery.

Carol Shore — For her brother, Barry Eckert, his wife Helen, his son Jesse, & grandson Logan. All have Covid. Also prayers for Jesse's wife Lauren and their three other children that they stay Covid free and healthy.

From All Of Us — Continued prayers for Wendy Kasper.

From All Of Us — Prayers for Margo Mattis, who is still recovering from foot surgery.

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

Michelle Cox — Prayers of healing, comfort, encouragement & strength for her mother, Jennifer as she is battling serious long term illnesses.

Margo Mattis — For her Mother, Jean Miller, who is had a cardiac procedure this past Wednesday.

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

For All of us — Safety and God's blessing as we continue live worship services.

Bring your Requests to Services On Sunday



Giving a child a new coat positively impacts that child's self-esteem and self-worth. We believe—and school principals, nurses, and social workers agree—that the impact on kids that receive coats from CFK is dramatic, as evidenced by heads held high, smiles, and fewer missed days of school because of illness.

This year has been one of extreme challenges for everyone, which in turn, has exasperated the hardship of those already in need. Barb York is reaching out to those who may have the ability to provide a basic necessity to children in our community. The Sisterhood ministry is in need of new or gently used winter coats for kids. All sizes are welcomed, either for a boy or girl, as the demand is great. They could also use gloves, scarves or hats. Coats will be collected through the end of January. Drop off can be made either in church or arrangements can be made to pick them up. Just email Barb at: yorkie0401@gmail.com.



Blessings — Anniversaries — Birthdays

Keep us posted on your blessings and special days.

December 25th — Jesus Christ Our Savior Is Born





Bustleton's Best — Church Cookbook Recipe of the Week



Cranberry Nut Pie

Bea Ashmore

2 C Cranberries (or other fruits)
½ C Walnuts, chopped
½ C Brown sugar
1 C Flour

1 C Sugar
¾ C. Melted butter or margarine
2 eggs
2 t Almond extract

Mix the 1st 3 ingredients together and spread in the bottom of greased 10" pie plate. Mix together the remaining ingredients and pour over cranberry mixture. Bake 55-60 minutes in a pre-heated 325 oven. Serve with whipped cream or ice cream.

Christmas! Like a child, I can hardly contain myself! So many desserts, sop little time, so few notches left in my belt. When perusing the cookbook for this week's entry I was of course drawn to the desserts where I sped this entry from Bea. It was everything I needed. Festively seasonal and delicious. It is recommended to serve with whipped cream or ice cream. I say it is Christmas, so why not both! Enjoy!

Thank you Bea!



Kudos to Carol Shore, who has hand embroidered more than 100 tea towels! In addition to showing and selling them at our Craft Fair, many of these beautiful towels were sold on-line. The remainder were donated to nurses at the nursing home where Carol's sister resides. Ginny Heal reports that this year alone she has sewn "at least" 40 quilts, many of which were special order. Marie Celkupa has sewn over 100 tote bags for the Craft Fair and for donation to Newborns in Need, a group that our church supports to help needy mothers of newborns. Eileen Hill, Bea Ashmore & Wendy Varga have also contributed by creating many Christmas decorations as well. We appreciate the encouragement of our congregation in supporting our endeavors.



This week our Craft Club is featuring a sale! We have been unable to go to local craft shows, and we still have several Christmas wreaths and arrangements. We are selling these wreaths and more for only \$10.00! You can come to the CE Building mornings on Monday, Wednesday & Thursday, and choose from our collection. These wreaths can decorate rooms all over the house, (How about your kitchen?) and every one has been lovingly crafted with love from us to you!





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There WILL BE an in person Christmas Eve service this year. We will have a single service at 7:00 pm.

Due to COVID-19 precautions, our seating is limited in both the sanctuary for main seating (34) and in the CE Building (30) for overflow seating.

For this reason Reservations MUST be made using the phone number we use for Sunday services. In order for everyone to have a chance for seating, we will begin taking Christmas Eve reservations beginning on Monday, December 14.

Please call or text our reservation line at (609) 534-0833

That line may still be used to make reservations for the regular Sunday service at any time.

We are also requesting poinsettias for the church on Christmas Eve. Please purchase your own and deliver them to the church on Sunday Dec 20 through Noon on Dec 24. If the door is locked, please leave the plants on the porch, someone will be checking regularly to bring any plants inside.



Christmas at New Lisbon

This has been a year like no other. But Christmas is coming, and with it new hope for better and healthier times. For the past twenty years, a cottage at the New Lisbon Developmental Center has depended on our little church to provide a happy holiday for their residents. We have never failed them - we have always granted every one of their Christmas wishes. This year will be no different. The New Lisbon family - both residents and employees - were hit hard by the coronavirus.

Cottages were combined, and what used to be Azalea House, and then Dogwood House, has closed. The men who resided in Azalea spread to other cottages. So this year, we will be providing holiday wishes for 30 men who now live in Fern Cottage, because it has the most men who used to live in Azalea/ Dogwood.

Because we would never ask members to shop during this time, the missions committee generously provided the funds for all of the wishes to be granted. The shopping is



Complete, the gifts are wrapped, and the makings of a holiday party will be delivered to New Lisbon for Christmas!

Even through these uncertain times of a pandemic and being without the leadership of a full time pastor for the past 3 ½ years, one never ceases to marvel at the generosity of our congregation. If you had thought about purchasing a gift, as you had in the past, how about writing a check to the missions committee instead? You can be sure that the money will be used to help people in need. **Thank you!**



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Remember! "Annette Slaney's daughter, Emma, has started an Etsy shop selling her beautiful resin art craft items. Please take a visit to the shop and keep it in mind for your last minute Christmas shopping this year!" If you are reading this online simply click on her ad to link straight to her shop.



Check out Emma Slaney's new shop for handmade resin homegoods and gifts!



[ELSware.etsy.com](https://www.elsware.etsy.com)



[@resin.from.elsware](https://www.instagram.com/resin.from.elsware)



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Church Calendar For Advent

Date	Time	Event
Sunday, December 20, 2020	9:00 AM	4th Sunday of Advent
Thursday, December 24, 2020	7:00 PM	Christmas Eve Service
Sunday, December 27, 2020	9:00 AM	Christmas Lay Service
Sunday, January 3, 2021	9:00 AM	Sunday Service

Daily Verses For Advent — Fourth Week

Sunday: Isaiah 11:1-10 *1 There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ...*

Monday: Zephaniah 3:14-17 *14 Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! ...*

Tuesday: Matthew 1:18-25 *18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; ...*

Wednesday: Luke 2:8-20 *8 And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ...*

Thursday: Matthew 4:14-16 *14 that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: ...*

Friday: Isaiah 2:1-5 *1 The word which Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. ...*

Saturday: Luke 2:25-33 *25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ...*

