



reetings! Today is Sunday, December 27th. The Sunday After Christmas.

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



## Wring Out The Old, Ring In The New

Randy York

Years end affords a time for reflection. A time to look back and to look ahead. I heard a pastor on the radio comment regarding 2027, "We planned for the year, but the year did not turn out like we planned." That would be an understatement. After a quick look in the rear view mirror, one would have to agree with the ancient sage Jerry



Garcia, "What a long strange trip it's been." We ventured through an economic downturn, social and racial unrest, the questioning of established norms and authority, political and constitutional battles, and oh, there was that virus issue I remember reading about. All that turbulence packed into just 366 days. On some of the more challenging days, I would greet Barbara in the morning with a hug and say, "Well, we're still here!" And so we are. By God's providence, we have moved through this "interesting time" and by his grace, we are still here.

So what can we expect in the New Year, and how should we proceed? I will take the latter question first, since it was answered so eloquently by Minnie Haskins back in 1908. In her poem God Knows, Haskins wrote: "And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year, "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown." And he replied, "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than the known way." So I went forth, and finding the hand of God, trod gladly into the night." . Good, sound thinking. And as far as what we should expect in 2021, for that I will ask you to turn to Psalm 31, verses 1-15. In the opening verses, the psalmist is in turmoil, but by the time we reach verse



That confidence vanishes quickly in the next verse when he states, "I am in distress." If we are honest, that pretty much encapsulates our Christian walk. It seems there is always a reoccurrence of pain and disappointment, distress and difficulty. The issue becomes what do we do in these trying times? The answer is found in verses 14-15, "But I am trusting in you oh Lord, saying, "You are my God." My times are in your hands." And there you have it. Hard times will come, expect them. But also, hold fast to the truth that our times are in God's hands. God is in control. He will guide us. He will sustain us. He will lift us up. He is with us.



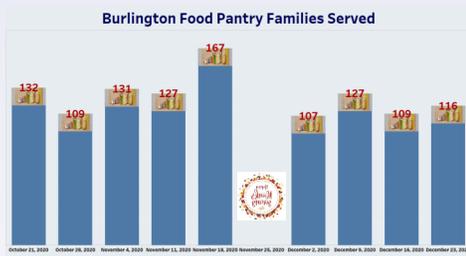
This Monday past was the winter solstice. The "darkest day of the year" was how the announcer on the radio pronounced it. Yet, if you stop and consider, every day after Monday has a bit more light in it. That just might be the best course for us as we ride through the year, get up each day and somehow bring a bit more light into someone's life.

We have been on a journey to Bethlehem, and we have arrived. God is indeed with us. The fact is he is always with us, we just need to live out that truth each day. In the words of a traditional hymn, "Leave your burdens, lay them down. Rise up shepherd and follow. For you that child will wear a crown, rise up shepherd and follow."

So as we look back on 2027, we give thanks for God's provision in the good times and his presence in the tough times. Now a New Year breaks on the horizon. Our times are in his hands. Rise up and reach out each day for his loving, guiding hand. Then, in gratitude, reach back your hand to someone who just may need you. Happy New Year Providence Presbyterian Church!



PS: The Burlington Food Pantry provided food to 116 families this past Wednesday.





## 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, December 27, 2020



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 had a successful procedure this past week. Prayers for a speedy and thorough recovery.

Carol Shore — Praise that her brother, Barry Eckert, his wife Helen, his son Jesse, & grandson Logan are all back to normal activities post-Covid. Also praise that her sister, Karen has been discharged from the hospital after completing her Covid treatment.

Roland & Janet Newell — Prayers for Kelsey Snively who is recovering from knee surgery.

From All Of Us — Continued prayers for Wendy Kasper.

From All Of Us — Prayers for Maritza Chambers who is trying to mend from sciatica.

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.



*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](mailto:yorkie0401@gmail.com).



### ***Blessings — Anniversaries — Birthdays***

Keep us posted on your blessings and special days.

**Happy New Year Providence Presbyterian Church!**





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**Providence Presbyterian Bustling's**

**Sunday, December 27, 2020**

### *Christmas, Joy and Peace Thank You*

Dear Friends in Christ at Providence Pres.,

Fran and I thank you for the kind gift you gave to us on Christmas Eve. It means so much to know that my ministry among you is appreciated. It has been my privilege and joy to be with you all these weeks.

I mentioned on Christmas Eve an incident that happened right after we retired. I was asked to fill in for three months for a pastor in who was on sabbatical leave from his church in New York state. About two thirds through my time there, an elder approached me at the end of a service and greeted me with, "We shouldn't be paying you." You may imagine my concern. What was I doing or not doing that the church expected? Then he said this, "You enjoy this too much!" He was right, we had grown to love those folks and it was indeed a joy to serve them.

Fran and I feel the same way about our time with all of you at Providence Church. You have been kind and warm to us, and we have grown to love you and to enjoy being with you. So this is a double thank you: Thank you for your kind gift, but also, thank you for asking us to be part of your lives and ministry.

*May You Be Blessed with a Peaceful  
and Joyful New Year.*

*Jim and Fran Kraft*





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