

PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BUSTLETON



Providence Presbyterian Bustling's

Sunday, January 17, 2021 Issue No. 44

Greetings! Today is Sunday, January 17, 2021, and it is the Second Sunday of Epiphany. On Monday our Nation honors the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and on Wednesday we inaugurate our new President. It will be an event filled week, and we pray it is so for all the right reasons. In the turmoil of our time, we pray for peace and share one simple message”



*Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that.
Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.*

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Well, That Didn't Last Very Long

Randy York

Annette offered one of the first intentions this Sunday past during our prayer time. She requested prayer for peace, understanding and grace in light of the chaos in our nation's capital the previous Wednesday. I remember thinking, "Wait a second, the paint on the New Year isn't even dry yet, so much for a fresh start." Come to think of it, our Christmas Eve service was less than 3 weeks ago, so what happened to the "heavenly peace" we sang about in the candlelit glow?

The problem is there are two types of peace: earthly and heavenly. Earthly peace is seen as mutual harmony between people or groups. Heavenly peace or peace with God is a reconciliation between a heavenly Father and his earthly child made possible through the sacrifice of his beloved son Jesus Christ. Again, it's peace with God. God is not at war with us. We have separated ourselves by our selfishness and disobedience. You remember that whole sin thing. We go our own way, do our own thing, and tell God we'll be in touch from time to time. Meanwhile, our Abba Father refuses to retaliate, waiting instead for us to return. Why? Because "We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 5:1). God waits for us prodigals to reconsider and return. To fully realize his offer of a restored relationship and come home.

And what about earthly peace? Well there's bad news and good news. The bad news is there is no certain peace in this life. There will always be issues and problems. And the good news? We are told by Jesus to "Be of good cheer because I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). Hold it a second Jesus, what kind of crazy talk is that? You want me to look at rioting and chaos and smile? When I see anger and hatred I should be happy? No, not happy about what's going on. Happy instead to know that God is in control, and we have been redeemed through his son. So, as you finish putting Christmas back in the boxes, make sure you don't put Christ away. Don't just come to church to learn more about him. Bring him with you in your heart, as someone you have spent all week with. In fact, don't be satisfied with just attending church or simple prayer. Hold onto the glory, the majesty, the wonder, the hope and love, the promise that is Christ's birth. It was that birth, when he put aside his Godly position that gave us peace. Peace with God.

There can be only one way to bring these thoughts home. I'll need Marge to sit down at the organ and start in with the melody. And now I'll ask Brother David Ruffin to take his place in the choir. Because the best way to explain this Christian paradox of peace amid the storm is to remember I have a relationship that is not affected by what is going on outside. I may be in a difficult situation. I may have a cloudy past. I may be anxious in these troubled times. Outside the circumstances may be dark. But I can have sunshine on that cloudy day. I may be cold and shivering because of loneliness, emptiness, or discomfort. But when it's cold outside, I can still have the month of May. Now, I know what you may be thinking. I guess, you say, what can make me feel this way? My God, I'm talking about my God. I don't need no money, fortune, or fame. I've got all the riches any man could claim. Because of my God. I'm talking about my God, and the peace he alone provides.



PS: The Burlington Food Pantry provided food to 89 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 — For Brynna. A 7 year old fight lymphoma cancer.

From All Of Us — Continued Prayers for Wendy Kasper.

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

From All Of Us — Prayers for Brittany Zier who is battling a serious long term disease.

From All Of Us — Prayers for Jack Harkins who continues to recover from his recent procedure.

From All Of Us — Prayers for Kathy Owens for her upcoming knee surgery this week.

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

Betsy Reeder — For Joel, who is in need of a bone marrow transplant.

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 for a healthy and joyous 2021.

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.

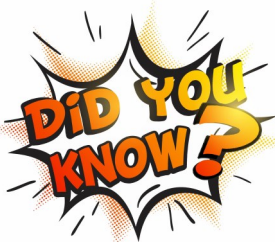


Don't Forget!

You can Pre-register for your COVID-19 Vaccination!

New Jersey will roll out COVID-19 vaccines in a phased approach to all adults who live, work, or are being educated in the State. Within six months, New Jersey aims to vaccinate 70 percent of the adult population. Pre-Register for the Vaccine today! Click on this Link: <https://covidvaccine.nj.gov/>

[Enroll in the State's vaccination registration portal.](https://covidvaccine.nj.gov/)





Your Stories

This week we are continuing with the second installment of our new feature called "Your Stories." These are stories from you, that you may wish to share with your Friends and Church Family. This section will come and go periodically going throughout the year, but for the next few weeks or so, we are sharing a serialized short story from Marie Celkupa describing her time volunteering with the Christian Appalachian Project in 2008 and 2009. Let's pick up where we left off with:

Appalachian Adventures - Marie Celkupa

Eventually, the room was cleared out and the floor was repaired. Young people volunteering for Youth Fest came in and painted the rooms. This was probably the first time the teens had ever painted, and also the first time the rooms had ever been painted. The living room furniture was put in the front yard, where it is to this day. I found a pretty sofa and matching chair in our warehouse and brought them out to Miss Margie's house. I previously had bought a recliner for Margie, and all of this furniture was brought to the storage unit, waiting to be retrieved after the rooms were painted. The lack of furniture bothered Miss Margie not at all, and she very cordially invited us to sit on the coffee table in the living room, which was the only piece of furniture left, with the exception of the television.

When the bedroom was painted and the floor repaired and new linoleum installed, we found a hospital bed in our warehouse and brought it into Miss Margie's new bedroom. I bought a mattress pad, pillows, comforter, sheet sets, and my friend and I had such fun making up this bed! I told her, "I am so happy that you now have a nice pretty bed!" and she replied, "Not as happy as I am, I never had a new blanket or new sheets in my whole life." Unfortunately, this story will not have a happy ending. Margie does not have long to live. She still goes to the hospital every week to have her abdomen drained, more than 6 liters were drained last week. Her house will never be neat and dean. It will always be cluttered, She had an exceedingly poor childhood, and was married at 15. Before that, she shared a bed with her four siblings. She told me that she had never had anything that was new, and whenever she gets anything, she cannot let it go. That explains why everything is so cluttered.

The good news is that Margie now has a bed of her own at last. She has clean sheets and a pretty new comforter. Her portable potty has been moved into her bedroom, to give her a small modicum of privacy. We planted some flowers, and she now has a nice view of petunias and pansies from her bedroom window. I thought to myself, this will have to be enough.

...To Be Continued

[Click the image to learn more about the Christian Appalachian Project](#)





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HELPDESK



I have been asked to provide instructions on how you can view our Church Services on YouTube on your own TV. I will attempt to do that here with the caveat that like many things, there are multiple ways that it can be done. I will explain how to do this if you are a Comcast subscriber with one of their X1 Set-top boxes.

To begin make sure your television and cable box are turned on.

Next press the XFINITY button on your remote control.

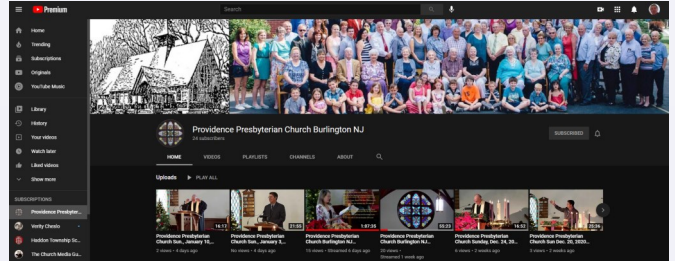
When the menu appears on the bottom of the screen,

Use the arrows to select "Apps"

When the new Menu appears, use the arrows again to navigate

To YouTube and press the center button.

If you have a Voice Remote, you can also open the App and find our service by speaking,



"Search for Providence Presbyterian Church of Burlington on YouTube."

Once the App is open you can continue to search for videos using your voice remote, or you can select Search to find videos using the on screen keyboard.

I hope this is helpful to everyone that has Comcast service. If you have a different Cable Provider and need assistance, just let me know, and I will research the answer for you. Thanks for tuning in, and we'll see you on YouTube!

