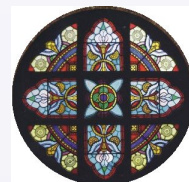


# PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BUSTLETON



Providence Presbyterian Bustling's

Sunday, December 5, 2021 Issue No. 85

**Greetings! Today is Sunday, December 5, 2021**

**The Second Sunday of Advent**

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the ways of Thine only-begotten Son, that through His coming we may be worthy to serve Thee with purified minds. Who livest and reignest, with God the Father, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, God, world without end. Amen.



## *Pardon Me, Is This Seat Taken?*

Randy York - Florence, NJ - December 5, 2021



Barbara and I both come from Polish ethnic backgrounds. We grew up rooted in the customs our parents and grandparents gave to us. One such tradition is the

Christmas Eve vigil supper. It is a meatless meal consisting of fish, soup, pierogi, vegetables, and bread. One other practice was to leave an empty chair near the head of the table for Jesus. As a young lad, I watched a few Christmases pass and the chair ultimately remained empty. Finally, one year I decided to ask my grandma, "Why do we keep putting the chair out if Jesus never shows up?"

Well, as the years have gone by and I have gotten older and wiser (Barbara would agree with the older part, but the wiser, not so much. But I digress) I have learned that Jesus most certainly shows up if you leave that empty seat. He shows up in our blessings. He shows up in our trials. He shows up in folks sharing our journeys. He shows up in the ordinary liturgy of our lives. If, that is, we have eyes to see, ears to hear and time to spare. If we leave that chair open for Him to come join us.

More often than not, I look at Jesus as a reliever out in the bullpen. I'm cruising along, doing the pitching, in control of the game. He's out in the distance watching. That is until I find myself in a jam, first and third, nobody out, top of the order coming up. Then the call goes out, "Hey Jesus, could you get in the game now!"

Truth is, Jesus insists on an ongoing relationship. Its "Follow Me" not "Hey, give me a call sometime." He looks not to be a reliever, but more like a caddy. He stands ready to walk with us along the course of life, sharing our burdens, directing strategy, present in our trials, embracing us in joy, consoling us in sorrow, willing to point the way. If we let him. If we listen. If we abide.

Back some years ago, I was inspecting a rural mail route in Robbinsville. My job was to follow and time the letter carrier as they delivered the mail. A glorified scorekeeper. While the employee was engaged in doing the work, I was sitting behind, following in my car, feeling like I was watching paint dry. In the afternoon, as we moved through the open land, I found myself next to a large piece of farmland, looking out at a seemingly endless expanse of blue sky dotted with white clouds. My imagination took control and I pictured myself sitting in a chair in the open field. As I drank in the scenery, I sensed someone walking toward me carrying a chair. He placed it down, took a seat next to me, put His hand on my shoulder and said, "Mind if I join you my son?" A touch of heaven right here in Jersey. Too soon I was back to inspecting the letter carrier, but God had delivered.



*Continued On Page 4...*



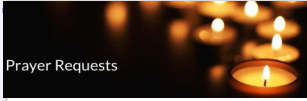
# Providence Presbyterian Church

*I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord*



## Providence Presbyterian Bustling's

Sunday, December 5, 2021



Prayer Requests

Prayer Requests will be added each week by your requests, and will run for two weeks unless a request to continue is received.



### God's healing presence:

- For continued prayers for **Wendy Kasper, Barney Barnes, & Eleanor Hathaway**
- For **Dick Glass, Fritz Wainwright, Jean Miller, & Dave Hammell**
- For **Joe Celkupa**. Who is currently in Virtua Hospital in Mount Holly after a fall, and will soon be transferred to a rehab facility.
- For the **Doug Wolman Family** who are engaged in difficult times
- For **Jane Cheslo's sister, Carrie** who has tested positive after both her children tested positive and recovered

### God's comfort:

- For those who serve as caregivers
- For the **Kroh Family** following the passing of **Mary Beth's Mom, Carol**
- For the **Taylor family** in their time of grief and need

### For God's guidance & understanding:

- For family members in need of God's presence and fellowship

### In Thanks and Praise to God:

- For good shepherds in our pulpit
- For teachers & staff working in a stressful time
- Congratulations to **Charlie Hudak** who has recently become a Certified Alcohol & Drug Counsellor.

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



Date	Time	Event
Thursday, November 25, 2021	10:00 AM	Thanksgiving Lay Service
Friday, November 26, 2021	7:00 PM	Hanging Of The Greens
Sunday, November 28, 2021	9:00 AM	1st Sunday of Advent
	4:00 PM	Christmas Vespers
Sunday, December 5, 2021	9:00 AM	2nd Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 12, 2021	9:00 AM	3rd Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 19, 2021	9:00 AM	4th Sunday of Advent
Friday, December 24, 2021	7:00 PM	Christmas Eve Service
Sunday, December 26, 2021	9:00 AM	Sunday Service
Sunday, January 2, 2022	9:00 AM	Sunday Service



*Providence Presbyterian Church*

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**Providence Presbyterian Bustling's**

**Sunday, December 5, 2021**

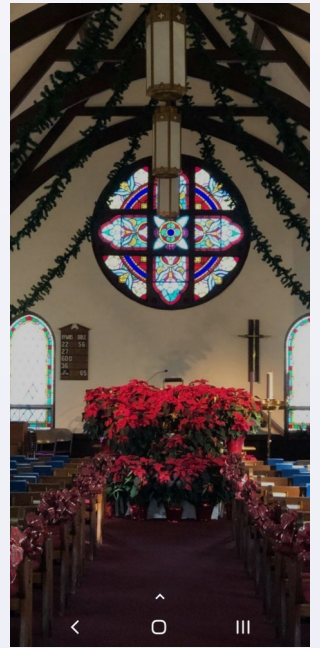


### **Poinsettias for Christmas**

**If you wish to provide a Poinsettia for  
Christmas Eve Service.  
Please plan to drop it off at the sanctuary before  
noon on December 23rd. Days for flower drop-off  
will be announced later in the bulletin and in this  
space.**

**Please contact Barbara about flowers given in  
memory of or in honor of...**

**(609) 499-2753 or [ppch1@provpresch.org](mailto:ppch1@provpresch.org)**



**This year marks the 3rd annual "Coats for kids" collection.**

**So I am reaching out to those who may have the ability to provide a basic necessity to children in our community that aren't as fortunate as we are.**

**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 I can pick them up. Just email me at: [yorkie0401@gmail.com](mailto:yorkie0401@gmail.com).**

**Thank you.  
Barbara York**



# Providence Presbyterian Church

*I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord*



Sunday, December 5, 2021

## *Pardon Me, Is This Seat Taken?...*

Life comes at us at the rate of 60 minutes per hour and lately it feels a whole lot faster than that. Sometimes it seems like all our strength is vested in holding on and trying to keep our small craft afloat. God offers a better way. He offers relationship. He offers grace. He offers life. He knocks and asks for a seat at our table. Trouble is that seat too often is taken up with self, schedules, and stuff.

Well, Christmas is on the way. The Advent season affords an opportunity to pause and clear off that seat. After all a King is coming. Put aside self, He wants service. Rethink that schedule, He's looking for surrender. And all that stuff, merely clutter. He points to sacrifice. Be ready to welcome Him, a much needed Savior. Have an open and willing spirit. He offers peace. Peace with God. True peace. Isaac Watts suggested, "Let every heart prepare him room." Jesus is coming. Make straight the way. Come to the table and prepare His chair.



The Missions committee is asking members to buy a gift for one of the 27 men who reside at Dogwood Cottage at the New Lisbon's

Developmental Center. Their requests are posted on gift tags located on the bulletin board in the back of the church. They are not on the trees in front of the sanctuary. If you take a tag, please make sure the gift is wrapped and placed in the back of the church by Sunday, December 19th. Please put a tag on the package so that we know who it is for. The gifts will be delivered to the cottage before Christmas, along with goodies and refreshments for a party. Thank you for your generosity!



Wednesday, December 15th is Alice Garman's birthday! Please take a moment to send her a card and well wishes at:

Alice Garman  
c/o Severino  
23958 Kinnairds Point Drive  
Worton, MD 21678



Sunday, November 28, 2021—First Sunday of Advent



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Sunday, December 5, 2021

