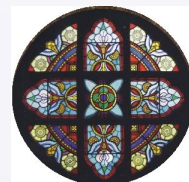


# PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BUSTLETON



Providence Presbyterian Bustling's

Sunday, December 25, 2021 Issue No. 88

## Merry Christmas!

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16



### Come On, Rise Up

Randy York - Florence, NJ - December 25, 2021

*Piglet sidled up to Pooh from behind. "Pooh?" he whispered.*

*"Yes, Piglet," said Pooh.*

*"Nothing," said Piglet, taking Pooh's paw, "I just wanted to be sure of you."*

As you read this it is December 26th, the day after Christmas. One way or another a choice has been made, to either move on from Christmas or to carry Christmas onward. The Brits celebrate



the twenty-sixth as Boxing Day, a holiday where traditionally servants and the poor were presented with gifts. Because the work of servants was needed on Christmas day by their employers, the workers were allowed the following day as their holiday. They were given boxes of gifts for their service throughout the year. Members of the church clergy would also mark the day by distributing donations to needy citizens within the community. Christmas was carried on and carried out.

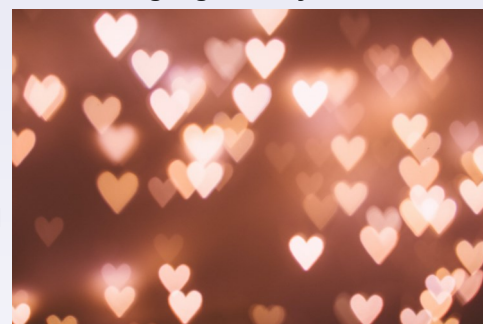
We reflected on hope, love, joy, and peace as we lit the candles of Advent. Our thoughts culminated on Christmas Eve in the lighting of the Christ candle. We then watched the flame of that candle multiply within the church, as it passed from candle to candle, during "Silent Night." We left that sweet, sacred light and walked out into the bleak winter night. Into a world of darkness. Where hope is frustrated. Where love is covered over by hatred. Where joy is forced aside by temporary happiness. Where peace is a casualty of division. Closed minds and hearts quickly quench that blessed light.

Truth is the world overall is a wicked place and we can't do much about it. However, the world right in front of us, our family, our neighborhood, our community, our church, that's our mission field.

Isaiah clearly told us that "the people walking in darkness have seen a great light." That light was not extinguished at midnight. We are called to be that light, to carry that light to others every day. The needy folks that people rallied around in "the spirit of the season" will still be in need next week. We need to bring them light. The folks who endured loss, who had family and friends flock to comfort them, will still grieve when the attention passes. We need to bring them light. The folks accustomed to loneliness, who garnered our holiday thoughts and greetings, will slowly return to emptiness. We need to bring them light. Jesus came to restore our relationship with an Abba Father God. In faith, we are called to be His hands of restoration to our broken sisters and brothers.

There are many characters mentioned in the Christmas story: A given son, a holy family, shepherds, angels, and wise men. But, the story is our story. God is with us. Not in a selfish sense. Like, God is with me, so what can he do for me. Rather, He is with me and it's an opportunity to draw close and know His heart. A time to return and rebuild the defining relationship of our lives. To bring Him the gift of ourselves, and let Him pass that gift on to others.

Starting today people in darkness will sorely need a great light. They have seen decorations celebrating a birth. They have heard songs proclaiming heavenly peace, hope, and good will to men. They desperately need light. Tangible, comforting, light. They will reach out seeking something sure. May they find that light, the living light of His unconditional love and amazing grace, the peaceful nearness of Christ, in each one of us.





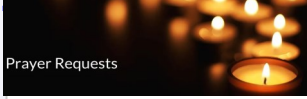
# Providence Presbyterian Church

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



## Providence Presbyterian Bustling's

Sunday, December 25, 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 **Fritz Wainwright, Polly Grobelny, & Jean Miller**
- For **Jack Harkin & Dave Hammell**
- For **Polly's brother, Fred & his wife, Caroline**
- For **Marvel Carrol**
- For **Jim & Maritza Chambers son Tim**

### God's comfort:

- For those who serve as caregivers
- For the **Conley & Wolman families**
- For the friends & family of those killed/injured in the Kentucky tornadoes

### 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 safe & holiday homecomings
- For **Heidi** finding our church in her walk of faith
- For a bountiful harvest season

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

Courtesy of Reverend Dick Herman, the following prayer of 19th century Scottish novelist, essayist and poet, Robert Louis Stevenson as a Christmas petition that is right as well in our time and for us all:

*"Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men.*

*"Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world.*

*"Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.*

*"Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.*

*"May the Christmas morning make us happy to be your children, and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen!*



Date	Time	Event
<b>Sunday, December 26, 2021</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Sunday Service</b>
<b>Sunday, January 2, 2022</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Sunday Service</b>





*Providence Presbyterian Church*

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



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Thank you to everyone who participated in purchasing Christmas gifts for the gentleman of Dogwood House at New Lisbon! Because of your generosity, we were able to again grant all of their holiday wishes. Along with individual gifts, money from the Missions Committee was used to purchase all of the fixings for a party. Everything was delivered this past week and will be given to the men on Christmas morning.



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 25, 2021

**“Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable Gift.”**

**– 2 Corinthians 9:15**

**“Christmas will always be as long as we stand heart to heart and hand in hand.” — Dr. Seuss**

**“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!” —  
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow**

**“It’s not how much we give, but how much love we put into giving.” — Mother Theresa**

**“Christmas, my child, is love in action. Every time we love, every time we give, it’s Christmas.” — Dale Evans Rogers**



**“As long as we know in our hearts what Christmas ought to be, Christmas is.” —  
Eric Sevareid**

**“God never gives someone a gift they are not capable of receiving. If He gives us the gift of Christmas, it is because we all have the ability to understand and receive it.” — Pope Francis**

**“If you want to experience the true meaning of Christmas, give something to someone who can offer nothing in return.”  
— Toni Sorenson**

**“Seeing is believing, but sometimes the most real things in the world are the things we can’t see.” — The Polar Express**

**“And so this is Christmas... what have you done?”  
— John Lennon**