

# PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BUSTLETON



**Providence Presbyterian Bustling's** 

Sunday, February 6, 2022 Issue No. 94

## February 6, 2022 - Fifth Sunday In The Epiphany

An Athlete's Prayer

Dear God, Today is game day and I place myself in your loving hands. Help me to be a good sport. I pray that I do not seek individual glory or accolades, but rather that I play for your glory and for the good of my team.



#### Closer Than My Own Back Yard

Bill Sears - Philadelphia, PA - 1950's



I remember once doing a television broadcast from a Philadelphia hospital. It featured a contest among the children who had been born there during the past several years. The winner was a 3-year-old boy, and as the gold cup was presented to him, we took a close up. He grasped the cup eagerly with both hands and raised it up to his lips to drink, and then surprised, he lowered

it and tearfully cried out, "It's empty!" This made me think how many times all of us have been offered cups, which seem to promise assurance, only to find them empty, too.

The more I talk with my fellow man, the more I realize that as eagerly as I, they too search for some sort of holy grail

whose contents can nourish all mankind. I'm beginning to understand the wisdom of Bacon's words: "If we are to transform the world, we must begin first by transforming ourselves." At the same time, I've come to realize that like the search for Maeterlinck's well-known Blue Bird, happiness is



not a matter of geography. I think it is found even closer than my own backyard: within myself.

It was a long struggle for me to understand that, actually, no one loved me—not my father, mother, wife, or children—and I believe that no one loves you either. By that I mean that people love the qualities that we possess—the kindness, the justice, the understanding—and as we add these qualities to our lives, their love for us increases, and if we lose these qualities, their love for us withers and falls away.

And what is true of individuals, I think, is true of nations. Respect, allegiance, and devotion—these can be won only by moral character. Anyone who lives in the sports world, for instance, recognizes the need for—the vital need for—authority and an overseeing guidance. When this law of order and authority is traced back to its source, it leads finally and inevitably to a belief in God.

To me, this is the only true basis for a peaceful society. True, this Supreme Being may be beyond my definition or description. Yet, this tremendous



force, which has been released to the world through all the great religions since the beginning of time, is a positive thing, I feel, and creates life.

Humbly before this force, I believe in meditation and prayer. But I believe in active living, too. I believe that I owe it to myself to extract all the throbbing wonder, joy, and thrill out of life, from my profession, from music, from the sciences, art—from all created things. In a wonderful, intimate way, the world is mine to fulfill the promise that lies within me.

I need only to remember one thing: nothing must come between me and my responsibilities to God and to my fellow man. Glory is not his who loves his country, his family, or himself alone. Glory is his who loves his kind. This, I believe, has helped me to look upon each dawn as a new adventure; a day wherein I may find the cup that is not empty.





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



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#### **Providence Presbyterian COVID Update**

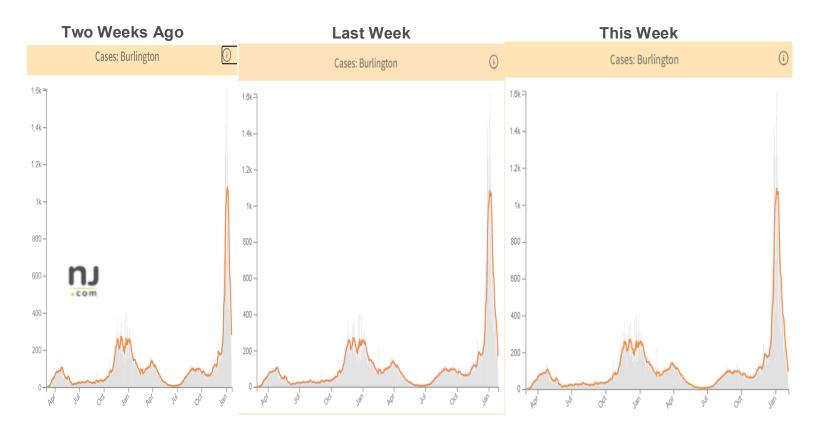
We are continuing to have In Person Worship this week. Cases in the County, the State, and the Northeast region continue to decrease. We are still asking that everyone entering the sanctuary to please be masked for a little while longer.

If you need COVID Testing, you can receive a free test from the State of New Jersey. The link for that is: <u>Vault Health</u> or if you need speedier results you can make an appointment for a drive-thru test via <a href="https://www.virtua.org/services/community-covid-19-testing">https://www.virtua.org/services/community-covid-19-testing</a>

You can also get four free home test kits per household from the U.S. government at https://www.covidtests.gov/

If you are not already fully vaccinated and boosted, please do so to reduce your chances of getting sick and to alleviate the severity of the virus if you do become ill.

## Stay Safe — Stay Warm — Stay Healthy



Click on either image to the right to connect to our presence on YouTube or Facebook.







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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, Hayley Morris & Jean Miller

For Barb & Dave Hammell, Joe Celkupa, Phil Leifels, and Ginny's sister Jan

For Jack Harkins, Karen Eckert, and Larry Fitzgerald

For Marleigh, the three year old daughter of Jane Cheslo's cousin, Becca and her husband Dee. She has had her tumor successfully removed and drain tap from her brain. Spinal tap results are expected on Monday, 2/7. There have been no complications and she and ther family have been allowed to go home where she is waiting to begin six months of chemotherapy. Each Friday at her pre-school is now known as Mighty Marleigh Friday. By all accounts she is a brave little girl.

#### God's comfort:

For those who serve as caregivers

For the family & friends of Mary Reither, who passed this week.

For the family & friends of Barbara Bunting who has also passed this week

#### 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 successful surgeries for Barbara York & her sister Pat

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





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 February. Drop off can be made either in church or I can pick them up. Just email me at: yorkie0401@gmail.com.

Thank you. Barbara York



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# **Happy Birthday**

**Randy York!** 

February 9
He Delivers Every
Time!



#### GRANDPARENTS - Submitted by Barb Hammell

As a grandparent, you can give the gift of wonder better than most. Why? Because you've seen enough of life's paradoxes and mysteries to understand that many questions don't have answers...and don't need them.

Trying to explain the inexplicable is the blight of a rational culture that has lost its sense of awe. Grandparents know that gazing at the stars and wondering what's out there is an activity worth sharing. Grandparents and grandchildren can share the wonder of a newborn baby, a field of wildflowers, a spider's web, or a soap bubble.

Part of the innocence of childhood is the ability to marvel at God's creation and al of its creatures, including ourselves. One of the greatest gifts a grandparent can give upcoming generations is a wide-eyed gaze that marvels at sunsets and sunrises, caterpillars and butterflies, falling stars and autumn moons.

As a grandparent, you can help preserve the innocence of your grandchildren – but there is a cost. You will have to give up any sheds of cynicism that may have crept into your heart, and you will need to open your eyes to the world of wonder as seen through the innocence of childlike faith.

Maintain your sense of awe. Gaze often at the sunrises. Meditate frequently on God's majesty. Grasp the wonder of creation and share your awe for an awesome God with your grandchildren.



If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in.



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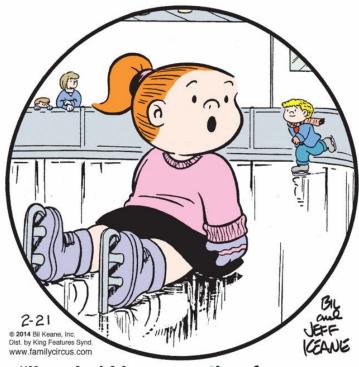
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"I'm glad I have another four years before the next Olympics."







