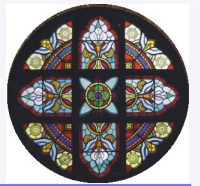


PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BUSTLETON



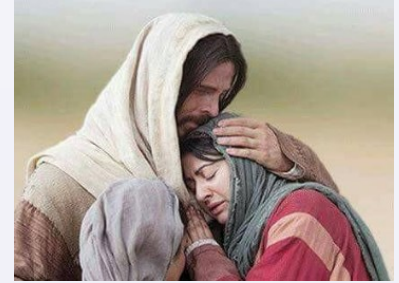
Providence Presbyterian Bustling's

Sunday, May 14, 2023 *Issue No. 156*

May 14, 2023 Fifth Sunday of Easter

**"As one whom his mother comforts,
so I will comfort you."**

~ Isaiah 66:13 ~



Evolution

Lauren LeBlanc — Philadelphia, Pennsylvania — May 8, 2020

I have come to a place not so much of peace but of understanding.

Once upon a time, I had delusions of grandeur. I believed—as many young people believe these days, I think—

that I was special, that I was different, that I was set apart. I truly believed that I was destined for richness and fame because of my talent and “specialness.” I was going to live the new American dream. I was not going to grow up to be a “normal” person, not just another number in the growing American census.

But time passed. Reality set in, as did age, and my perspective changed. The paradigm shifted. I am a schoolteacher. I am married to a salesman. We have a baby, a dog, a two-car garage, and a mortgage. Could my life be any more normal?

And yet, I am perfectly okay with this.

If I were to have a conversation with my eighteen-year-old self, I'm sure there is a lot she wouldn't understand. She wouldn't get why I'm not pounding the pavement in NYC, working to get an audition or that coveted part on Broadway. She wouldn't be able to accept that I haven't been to a real audition in four years. She wouldn't be able to fathom that my coworkers have never heard me sing.

She'd be curious about the baby, because she hasn't had much experience with babies. She would wonder about my teaching career, probably calling it “pedestrian.” She would look around my very suburban neighborhood and accuse me of selling out. If I'd bought a house, it should've at least been in an interesting, eclectic neighborhood with coffee houses and tapas bars on every corner. She'd probably scoff at the corner house in the painfully suburban neighborhood that I now call home.



But I know things she doesn't know. I know of the alchemy of loss. I understand that those volatile college years—both wicked and wonderful—are a mere microcosm of life, like a lens zoomed in too close on one object. Life is so much more rich and complicated and wonderful and terrible than those four self-righteous years in the bubble.

I know what it means to work for love, to not just sit back and let it happen the way it can when you're young. I know about bringing life into the world, and the complexity of emotions that brings: the confusion, the bone-deep exhaustion, the loss of sense of self, the love that doesn't know how big your heart is, so it splits it wide open.

My life is simple. It is small, and it may seem interchangeable with so many other lives out there. I may never make an impact outside my house, my community, my hometown.

But I've learned that importance is relative. Because to a small few, I am irreplaceable. When my little girl cries, she calls for “Mama.” When she reaches out, it's for me, and me alone.

So, a small life? It's perfectly fine by me. In fact, I think it's what I've wanted all along.





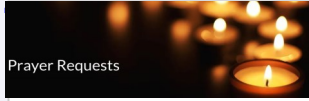
Providence Presbyterian Church

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



Providence Presbyterian Bustling's

Sunday, May 14, 2023



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:

Fritz Wainwright, Eleanor Hathaway, Jean Miller, Joseph Celkupa,
Polly's son-in-law Donald & her daughter Ava who has entered hospice,
Heidi Bonwell's father Robert and her brother-in-law Jimmy
Sheila Zier's daughter Brittany,
For Carol Shore's brother Dean who is home from the hospital on 6 weeks of IV antibiotics for a bone infection in his foot
For Carol Shore and her husband Steve
Chris Vitale's father Fred
Jack Harkins, Bea Ashmore, Jerrie Glass, & Alice Garman
For Michelle's Aunt Mary
For Sara's nephew, Tom Hendrickson after a cardiac event and surgery
For Alan's daughters, Krista progressing in rehab, and Jess who is seeking a job

God's comfort:

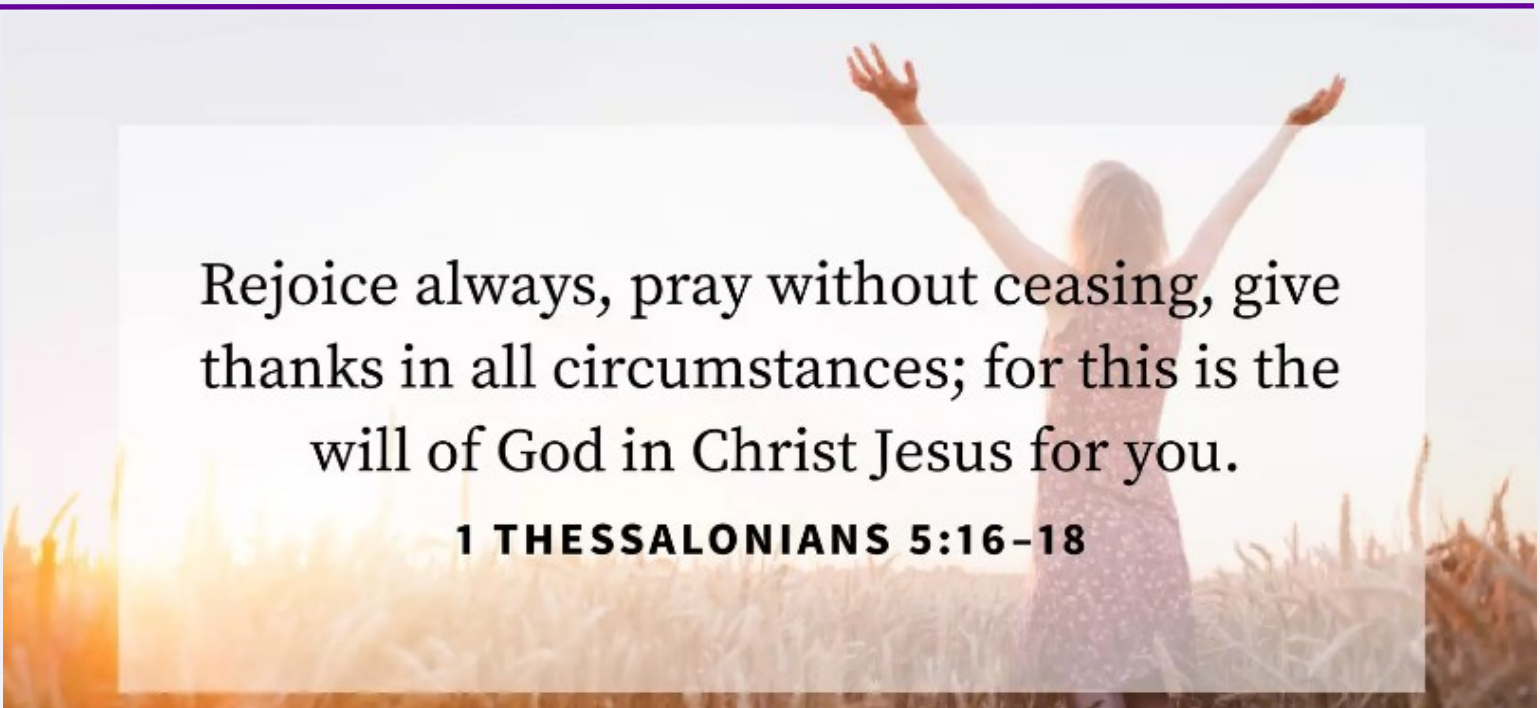
For Betsy and her son, Alex. Alex is in hospice
[For the people of Ukraine](#)

For God's Guidance and Assistance:

Pastor Inna's mom and family in Kiev
For Pastor Inna & our Session
For our confirmation candidates Ethan, Victor, and Vaughn
For individual who committed theft at BTHS

In thanks and praise to God:

The loving kindness of the children in our community to right wrongs that have been done
For Joseph on his return and continued healing



Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18



Inna Moment



Mother Hen Mosaic, Church of Dominus Flevit, Jerusalem



Thus says the Lord:

“Can a mother forget her nursing child and have no compassion for the child she has born? I will not forget you! See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands.”

~Isaiah 49:15-16

“How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings!”

~Mat. 23:37

“I was to them like those who lift infants to their cheek, and I bent down to them and fed them.”

~Hosea 11:4

“As an eagle stirs up its nest, and hovers over its young, I will spread my wings to catch you and carry you aloft.”

~based on Deut. 32:11

“You shall nurse and be carried on her arm and dandled on her knees. As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you.”

~Isaiah 66:12-13

“God will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.”

~based on Psalm 91:4

As a Mother Hen, may God enfold us, her vulnerable hatchlings, into the protective shelter of her wings!

Happy Mother's Day!



Providence Presbyterian Church

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



Dear Friends in Christ,

Please come and help us in planting our church garden on Friday, May 19th at 5:00 pm.



God called us in Genesis 2:15 to keep and till the garden of our lives. As we grow in relation to faith throughout our lives, starting a communal garden will allow us to respond to this call and bond together over growing vegetables, herbs, and flowers. “Tilling the soil of welcome, weeding fields of loneliness, and cultivating tender shoots of friendship” will help us to harvest the feeling of connection and belonging.

This is especially important for the youth in our community. We take responsibility for helping children in their growing. We nurture them until they are ready to make a profession of faith. At the confirmation, we confirm our youth’s special gifts for ministry and active church membership.

We have three teen-age boys among us who would like to be confirmed and take an active part in the church’s worship and mission. They are Vaughn Vitale, Victor Vitale, and Ethan Olsen. These young men are currently taking a 12-session confirmation course. It is not a crash course in Christianity, but an opportunity for us to welcome Vaughn, Victor, and Ethan into the intentional time of conversations about our faith.

The word confirm, from the Latin confirmare, means “to strengthen.” Vaughn, Victor, and Ethan’s readiness for becoming active church members is strengthened by the diverse service projects and ministries. One of them is creating and keeping our church garden.

Please come on Friday, May 19th at 5:00 pm and bring with you one plant of vegetable, herb, or flower for the confirmands to plant. Come and help them in the planting, the cultivating, the weeding, and the nurturing of our communal life of service to God.

“We are each other’s harvest,” wrote an American poet and the Pulitzer Prize winner Gwendolyn Brook in one of her poems.

May the Lord bless the garden of our communal life!

Love in Christ,

Pastor Inna





Providence Presbyterian Church

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



"Wow! Your church services are addictive, I just love them.... Last night I couldn't sleep and I thought it would be a good time to listen to your church service and the whole service from the beautiful flowers, your announcements, the hymns and my favorite part is listening to your pastor speaking God's word as it brings tears to my eyes and joy to my heart ...When she was speaking about Doubting Thomas it was so much more than just words it was incredible and I can't thank you enough, for introducing me to your little church as it has brought new light into life."

Joanne - Views our services on YouTube from Ocean City, Maryland

COVID-19 vaccines available in the United States are effective at protecting people from getting seriously ill, being hospitalized, and dying. As with other vaccine-preventable diseases, you are protected best from COVID-19 when you stay up to date with the recommended vaccinations, including recommended boosters.

Updated (bivalent) Pfizer or Moderna boosters are a single dose vaccine available and recommended for individuals age 6 months and older at least two months after their previous COVID-19 vaccination.

Children ages 6 months through 5 years who previously completed a Moderna primary series are eligible to receive a Moderna bivalent booster 2 months after their final primary series dose.


Children ages 6 months through 4 years who are currently completing a Pfizer primary series will receive a Pfizer bivalent vaccine as their third primary dose.

The updated (bivalent) booster provides increased protection against Omicron variants.

Getting a COVID-19 vaccine after you have recovered from COVID-19 infection provides added protection against COVID-19.

People who are moderately or severely immunocompromised have different recommendations for COVID-19 vaccines.

COVID-19 vaccine and booster recommendations may be updated as CDC continues to monitor the latest COVID-19 data.



VACCINATION FRIDAYS

Beginning Friday, April 14, 2023

The Burlington County Health Department will be offering COVID-19 vaccinations to Burlington County residents 6 months and older. Primary series doses, as well as booster doses, will be available for eligible age groups.

PLEASE NOTE: As of April 21, 2023 the Pfizer and Moderna Bivalent Vaccines are the only mRNA vaccines authorized and available for Primary Series doses, as well as Booster doses.

WALK-INS ONLY EVERY FRIDAY 2:00 TO 4:00 PM

15 PIONEER BOULEVARD WESTAMPTON, NJ 08060

PLEASE USE SIDE CLINIC ENTRANCE

Vaccines Offered

Primary Series

Pfizer Bivalent Vaccine
6 mths - 4 yrs | 5-11 yrs
12 yrs and older

Moderna Bivalent Vaccine
6 mths - older

Booster Doses

Pfizer Bivalent
6 mths and older

Moderna Bivalent
6 mths and older

If you have any medical concerns regarding the vaccine, please consult with your physician or child's pediatrician.

If you have any questions about the clinic, please contact the health department at 609-265-5548.

Public Health

BURLINGTON COUNTY NEW JERSEY

UPDATED 4/24/2023





Providence Presbyterian Church

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