PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BUSTLETON

Providence Presbyterian Bustling's **Sunday, June 4, 2023** *Issue No. 159*

June 4, 2023 Trinity Sunday

**"May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God, and
the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. "
~ 2 Corinthians 13:14 ~**

Aha!

Randy York — Florence, New Jersey June 3, 2023

Ever have something fall right in place? A mystery solved, a plan comes together, that final piece of a jigsaw puzzle right in your grasp? Imagine Archimedes in the bathtub watching the water level rise or Beethoven finding those first four notes, Dah Dah Dah DAH, Dah Dah Dah DAH, on the way to giving birth to his Fifth Symphony. Perhaps even better, riding along with Jack Palance and the cattle herd in City Slickers,

having him tell you that "Life was all about finding one thing." And then a few scenes later, Bam! you realize what that "one thing" is.

Well, this story is about just such a discovery. You see a few weeks back I was talking with a church member about Polly Grobelny. That person commented on being amazed on how Polly has dealt with all that she has had on her plate lately. Between her own health, taking care and worrying about her daughter Ava's illness, while also having her son-in-law Donald's health in the mix, they said it had to be her "faith" seeing her through this tough time. Yes, I'm sure that's right, but it's also just a tad too simplistic.

I'm fairly certain I possess faith. So, what does my sister Polly have that I don't. God gave me his great Aha! moment a few days back. See, within my faith, I go to God in prayer. In my faith, I come to God in worship. I move from my somewhere to where God is. Not so for Polly. I believe a long while back she fell into God's loving arms of grace, and just stayed there. My faith is a faith of knowing. I'll take The Bible for $600 please Alex. Polly lives a faith of experience. She has been in the trenches with her Lord. My walk of faith has kept me remarkably unblemished. Polly has the scuffmarks of trial, tribulation, and need on hers. When God comes walking in the cool of the garden evening, Polly has her shoes on waiting. Me? Sorry to say I'm not available to him a lot of the time.

When it comes to faith, God does not seek those who can reel off a definition. No, I believe he looks to a person's heart for demonstration. God isn't overly excited that you're attending church. He cares, but he's not impressed. He's not concerned with religious busyness. First and foremost, he wants that heart of yours spiritually alive. He desperately wants in. He desires painstaking commitment to seeking his heart, not his hand, and knowing and following his will. Unless God is integral in our lives, unless his hesed, his steadfast love permeates the hard pan of our worldly hearts and minds, our Christianity becomes mere ritual and appointment. Some of us make use of devotionals as a way to grow our spiritual relationship. Nothing really wrong with that. Unless it becomes just "our hour" of prayer and bible reading. A check off as we move on with "our day". God instead seeks lives of devotion. He desires that we infuse him in every aspect of our lives. Polly has immersed her life in God's living water. It is where she finds her hope, her strength, her will to keep on going. She simply abides with her Lord.

I've heard it said that the hardest part of the Christian life is the "dailiness" of it. Our faith is not just some badge that we bring out every Sunday to remind us of the glory we've earned. No, it's a truth that we must wake up to and celebrate each new day. It's the majesty of God's creation. It's the miracle of God's grace. It's the magic of shared fellowship. And it's the wonder. The wonder of a prodigal welcomed home. The wonder of a leper made clean. The wonder of the paraplegic picking up his mat.

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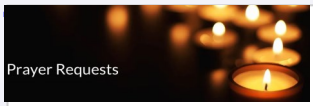
Providence Presbyterian Church

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

Providence Presbyterian Bustling's

Sunday, June 4, 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,
Strength for Polly caring for her 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 Chuck & Ginny's son Eric
For Liz's mom Cynthia
For Carol Shore's brother Dean and his caring family
For Carol Shore after her procedure and her husband Steve
Jack Harkins, Jerrie Glass, Alice Garman, & Annette Slaney
For Alan's daughters, Krista progressing in rehab

God's comfort:

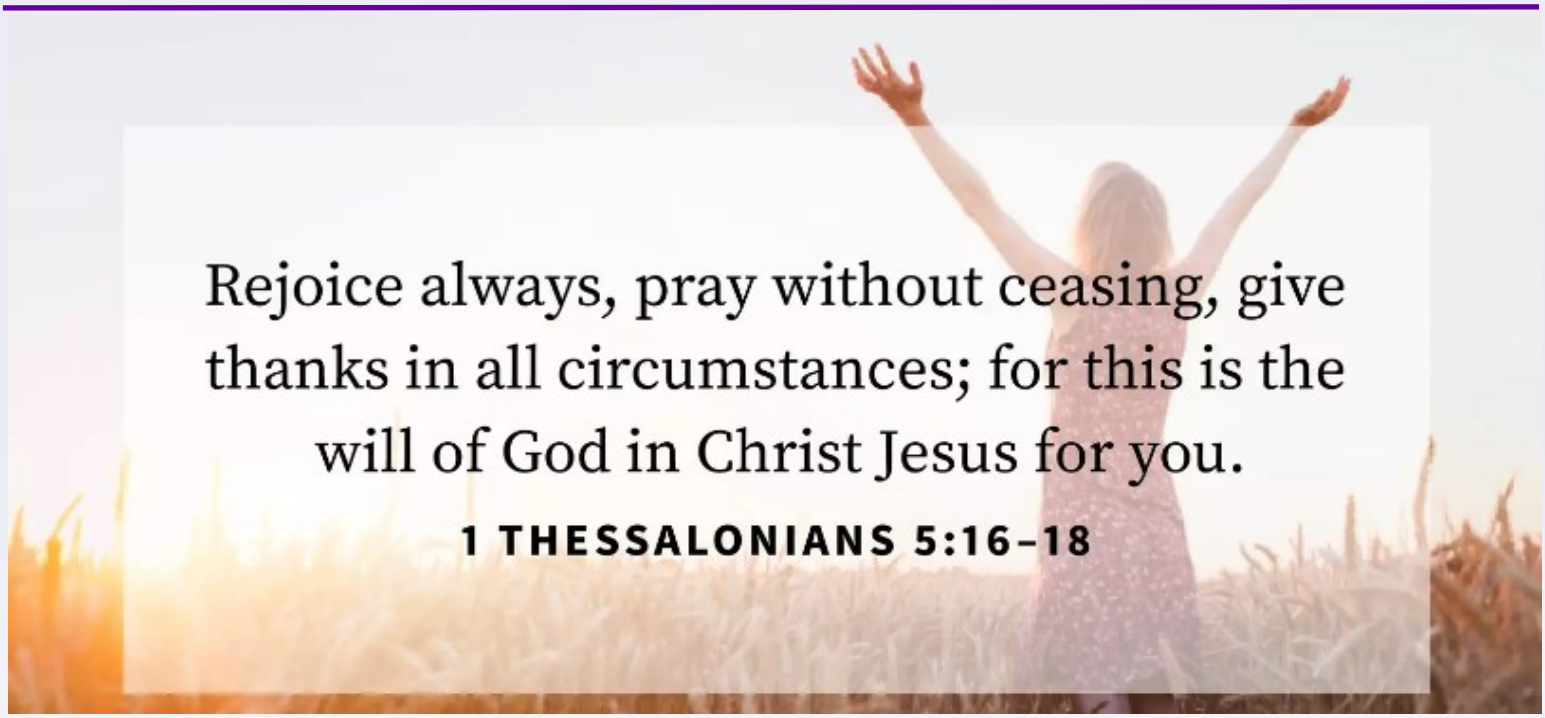
For the people of Ukraine

For God's Guidance and Assistance:

Pastor Inna's mom and family in Kiev
For Pastor Inna & our Session
For a successful job search for Jess
For Heidi's son Avery strengthening his relationship with God
For our confirmation candidates Ethan, Victor, and Vaughn
For the Holy Spirit to continue to move in our daily lives

In thanks and praise to God:

For Chris Vitale's dad Fred's continued recovery
For service members sacrifice for our freedom



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

Inna Moment

Unfathomable Mystery: An excerpt from the Companion to the Book of Common Worship


Trinity by Kelly Latimore, Divinity Library, Vanderbilt University

Unlike other festivals in our church calendar, Trinity Sunday centers on the *doctrine* of the church, rather than on an *event*. However, Trinity Sunday, in a sense, synthesizes all we have celebrated over the past months which have centered on God's mighty acts:

- Christmas-Epiphany celebrating God's taking flesh and living among us in Jesus Christ.
- Easter celebrating Christ's death and resurrection for us.
- Pentecost celebrating the Holy Spirit becoming our Guide and Teacher.

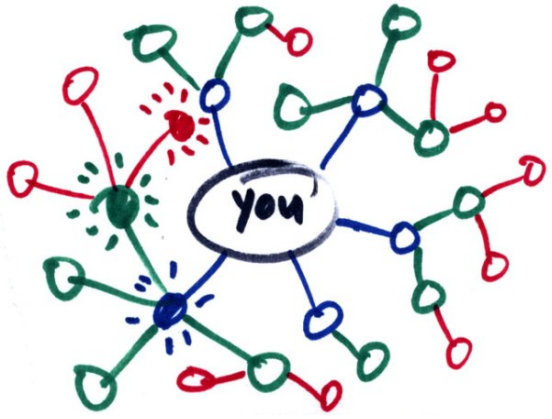
The Triune God is the basis of all we are and do as Christians. We are of the family of the Triune God. We affirm this parentage when we pray *to* God the Father, t*hrough* Jesus Christ, *by* the Holy Spirit.

Every Sunday is a day of the Holy Trinity:

- On the first day of the week, God began creation.
- On the first day of the week, God raised Jesus from the grave.
- On the first day of the week, the Holy Spirit descended on the newly born church.

After Trinity Sunday, we will enter the longest period of Ordinary Time that does not have a dominant event. Enjoy the extraordinary beauty of the Ordinary Time of summer and early fall, the period filled with rich shades of green, the color of our continuing growth in faith and service!

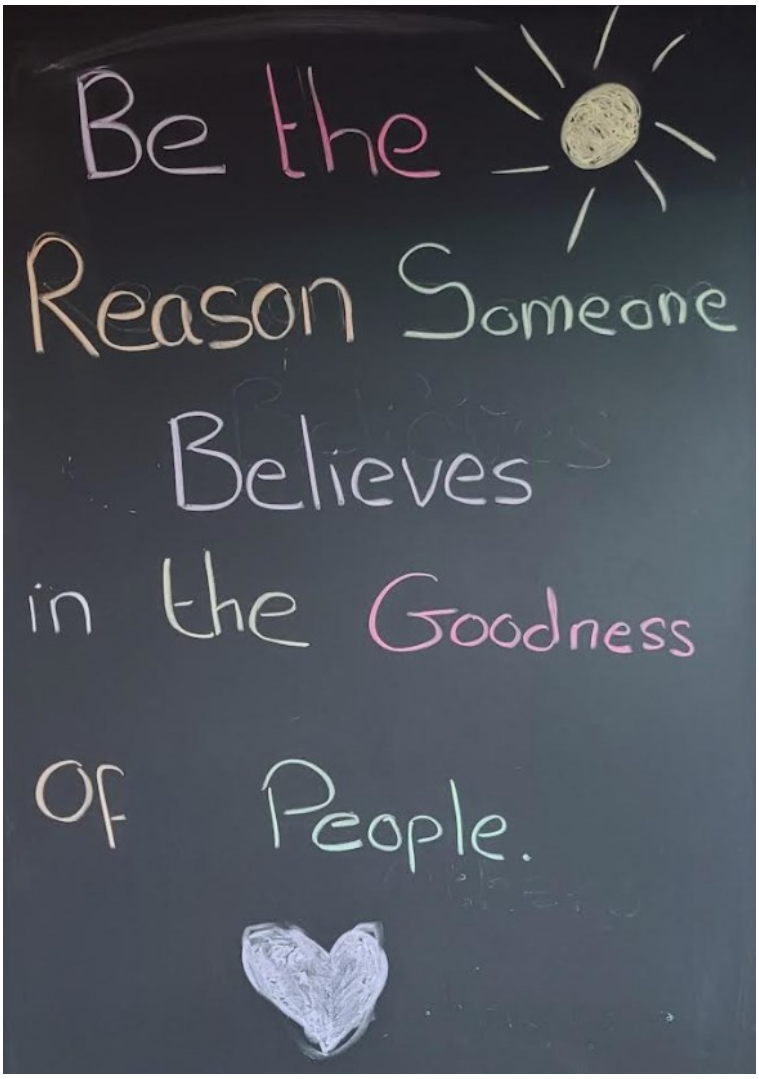
...Aha! Continued

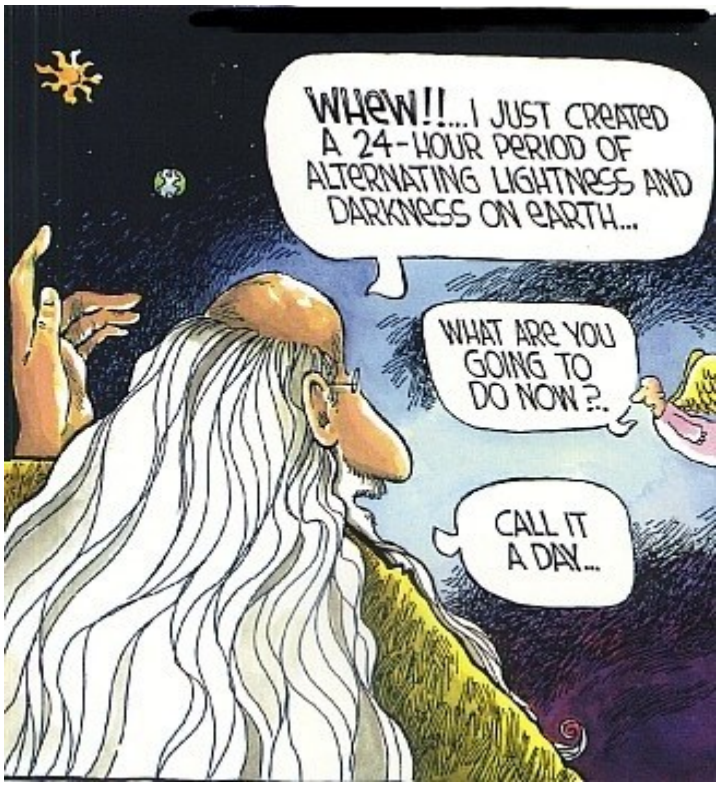


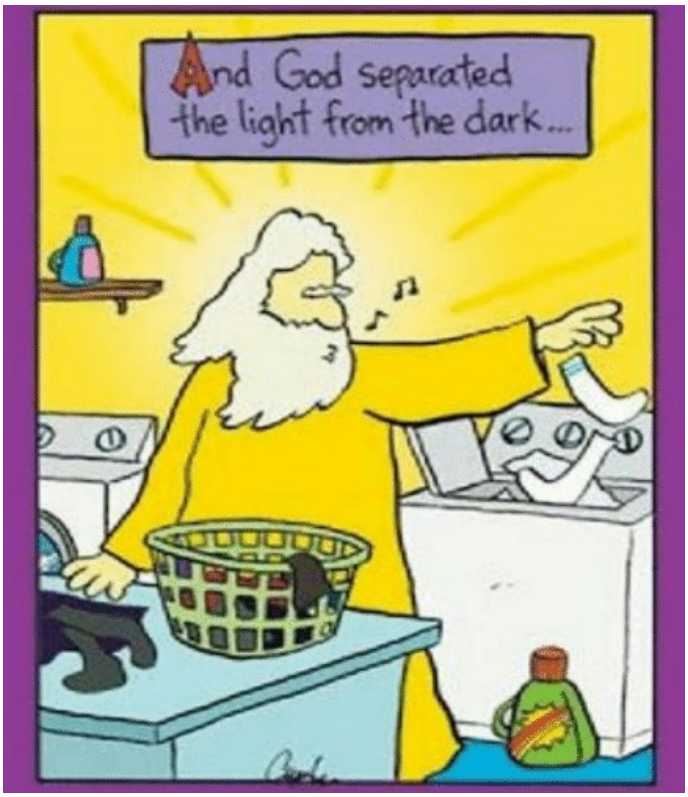
The wonder that a Catholic guy from central Jersey would move south with his wife and hear the preaching of a first-generation Latvian bartender who would introduce him to a Jesus that he never knew, which would lead to him to join a congregation where he would meet Polly Grobelny, who would teach him that faith is not a word on a page but a movement of the heart. You see, words merely go to the brain, then the mind figures them out. Faith, true, lived out, tangible faith is God's work of beauty, and beauty goes to the soul. It speaks and cuts through the barriers of self. It uplifts and changes the way we look at our lives. It restarts our world-weary hearts. Yahweh has his own wonderful way of connecting our dots.

Please continue to lift Polly, Ava and Donald up in prayer. But while we have God's attention, we should add a few words for ourselves. Let us be grateful for the gift of having people among us who live their lives before God, and in plain sight. Their lived-out faith leaves its fingerprints on ours. Let's also ask the Spirit to fill our souls anew and lead us to the kind of relationship our sister Polly enjoys. To wonder in the sacred blessedness of an Abba father's presence. To rest in his welcoming arms. To find peace for our tired souls. And then to stay right there. Aha! amen.

PS: The Burlington Food Pantry served 126 families this past Wednesday. Although Covid may be in our rearview mirror, folks in need remain right in front of us.



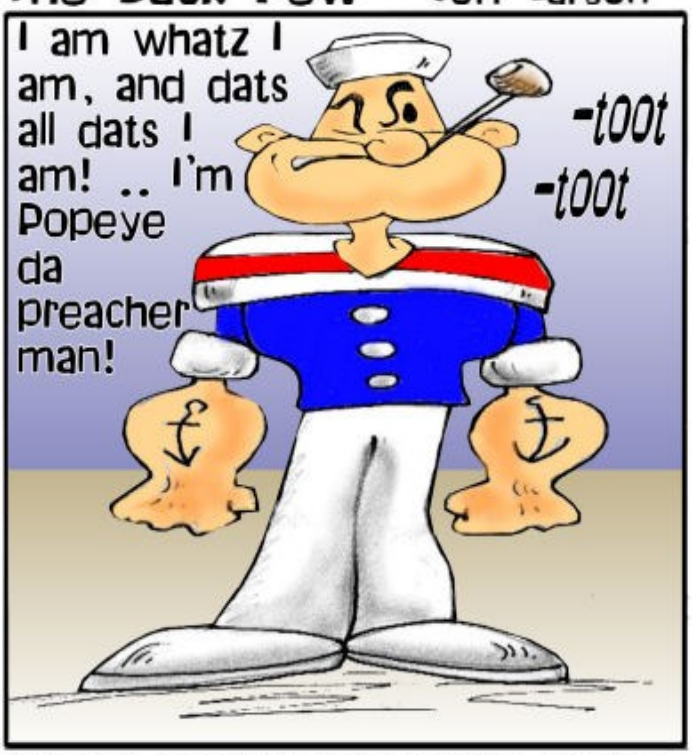




PRAYER PUPS BY JEFFREY SMITH

"THE WORD" MEANS THE BIBLE, OR "THE WORD OF GOD." IT'S NOT A SECRET WORD YOU HAVE TO LOOK FOR.

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



There was something about the words from God to Moses in **Exodus 3:13-15** *"I AM WHO I AM"* that resonated with Popeye inspiring him to leave his life at sea and go into ministry.