PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BUSTLETON

Providence Presbyterian Bustling's **Sunday, June 18, 2023** *Issue No. 160*

June 18, 2023 Third Sunday After Pentecost

"Hear, my child, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching."
~ Proverbs 1:8 ~

Finding A Different Way

Bob May — Springfield, Missouri March 28, 2007

Dads who have special-needs children understand that even small accomplishments mean a lot. We've learned to respect people who work extra hard to do simple things, like learning to tie shoes.

My eight-year-old son, Brian, wanted to earn a Cub Scout merit badge by learning to tie his own shoes. He was given a week to accomplish this goal. Because Brian has Down syndrome, our whole family participated, working tirelessly to teach him the knotty art of "tie-man-ship." Strangers found Brian squatting at knee level studying their shoes. While watching TV, he honed in on foot scenes, squinting for hints. Days passed and he could not seem to master it. We started to worry that he might miss the deadline. He became somber and moody. The cats avoided him.

Frustrated, he cried because he couldn't master it. We cried with him. The day came for the scout meeting and he still sat in the same spot with a furrowed brow, fussing over the complexity of it all. We fretted over our lack of ability to teach such a simple task and spoke quietly about not taking him to the den meeting that night, to spare him—and ourselves—embarrassment. I nearly opened my mouth to tell him that it wasn't important for him to learn to tie his shoes, and I fully intended to let him off the hook. But before I did that, his older sister spoke up and suggested a new idea.

"Brian," she softly asked, "why don't you try closing your eyes? Loop your laces over one another and see if you can tie your shoe in your imagination. That way, if you get up to go someplace early, before the sun comes up, you can tie your shoes in the dark."
It worked. Brian sat, with eyes tightly shut, and tied a perfect knot on his right shoe. Without looking up, he crossed laces on his left shoe and tied another perfect knot.

His mother quickly dressed him in his scout uniform, and we all raced to his meeting.
Brian went first. A dozen other scouts and their families sat quietly, almost reverently, and watched in awe as Cub Scout Brian Lewis May, with eyes closed and tongue out, earned a badge that may well have been the Congressional Medal of Honor and an Olympic Gold Medal rolled into one. Congratulatory hugs commenced and tears of joy fell.

Brian won more than a merit badge that day; he turned something complex and difficult into something ordinary, small, and simple. When he found a new way to solve the problem, it became a significant event, a milestone act of greatness. Brian still ties his shoes with his eyes closed, the way his big sister suggested so many years ago. And he taught his little sister to tie her shoes in the dark just like him.

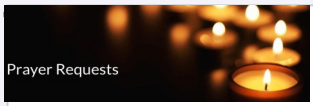
Since then, I believe that when things get tough and I can't find the solution to a problem, I just close my eyes and find a different way.

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 18, 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 daughter, Krista progressing in rehab
For Marge Hull recovering from a fall

God's comfort:

For the people of Ukraine
For Marge Hull & Family after the passing of her sister, Lynn Reeder

For God's Guidance and Assistance:

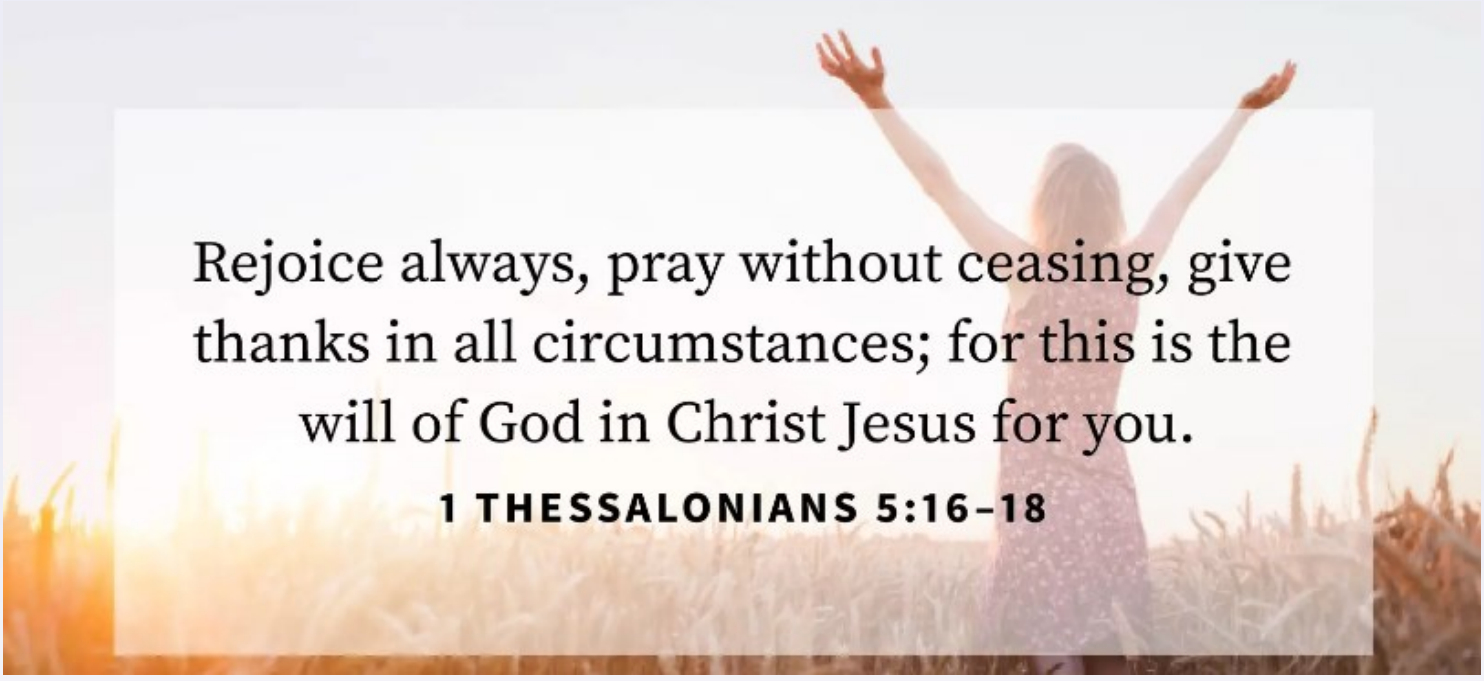
Pastor Inna's mom and family in Kiev
For Pastor Inna & our Session
For a successful job search for Jess
For our confirmation candidates Ethan, Victor, and Vaughn

In thanks and praise to God:

For Liz's recent promotion

Traveling Mercies:

For Randy & Barb York



Inna Moment

Dad's Coming! 1873 painting by Winslow Homer, Washington National Gallery, DC

Only a Dad by Edgar Albert Guest

Only a dad, with a tired face,
Coming home from the daily race,
Bringing little of gold or fame,
To show how well he has played the game,
But glad in his heart that his own rejoice
To see him come, and to hear his voice.

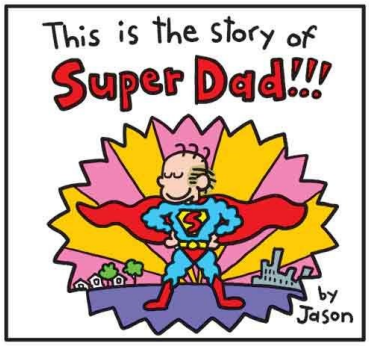
Only a dad, with a brood of four,
One of ten million men or more.
Plodding along in the daily strife,
Bearing the whips and the scorns of life,
With never a whimper of pain or hate,
For the sake of those who at home await.

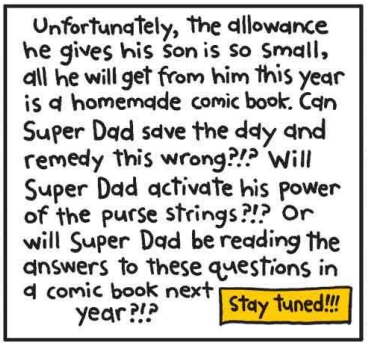
Only a dad, neither rich nor proud,
Merely one of the surging crowd
Toiling, striving from day to day,
Facing whatever may come his way,
Silent, whenever the harsh condemn,
And bearing it all for the love of them.

Only a dad, but he gives his all
To smooth the way for his children small,
Doing, with courage stern and grim,
The deeds that his father did for him.
This is the line that for him I pen,
Only a dad, *but the best of men*.

"The Lord waits to be gracious to you, and blessed are all those who wait for the Lord."
~ Isaiah 30:18

"Those who love me will be loved by my Father." ~ John 14:21





'Father' in varying languages