

Dear Friends,

So what can we learn from the atheist?

A religious woman upon waking up each morning would open her front door stand on the porch and scream, "Praise the Lord!"

This infuriated her atheist neighbor who would always make sure to counter back, "there is no Lord!"

One morning the atheist neighbor overheard his neighbor praying for food. Thinking it would be funny, he went and bought her all sorts of groceries and left them on her porch.

The next morning the lady screamed, "Praise the Lord, who gave me this food!" The neighbor, laughing so hard he could barely get the words out, screamed "it wasn't the Lord, it was me."

The lady without missing a beat screamed, "Praise the Lord for not only giving me food but making the atheist pay for it!"

So what can we learn from the atheist?

Atheism is a non-prophet organization.

Is there anything funny or ironic about an atheist?

They're always talking about God.

What can we learn from an atheist?

Penn Jillette, the atheist illusionist and comedian, has said: "I don't respect people who don't proselytize. I don't respect them at all. If you believe that there's a heaven and hell and people could be going to hell or not getting eternal life or whatever, and you think that it's not really worth telling them this because it would make it socially awkward. ...How much do you have to hate somebody to believe that everlasting life is possible and not tell them that?"

There is one thing that atheists do better than many of the believing Christians. It is that they truly believe that they don't believe... in God. In some ways the atheist does a better job believing that they don't believe than we do believing that we do believe. We can learn something from the atheist. We can learn to be more passionate about our faith and what we believe. Penn Jillette got it right. "How much do you have to hate somebody to believe that everlasting life is possible and not tell them that?"

Kenda Dean made an observation about what the church teaches her young people and a problem that results from that teaching. She observed that the problem doesn't seem to be that churches are teaching young people badly, but that we are doing an exceedingly good job of teaching youth what we really believe; namely, that Christianity is not a big deal, that God requires little, and the church is a helpful social institution filled with people focused primarily on "folks like us."

Wow...just think...to believe with the passion and conviction of an atheist.

More "food for thought."

Blessings,

Pastor Jim

Mark Your Calendars

Facebook Devotions 10:00 am.....	Feb 3
Facebook Devotions 10:00 am.....	Feb 5
Worship Facebook Live/Communion 10:30 am.....	Feb 7
Facebook Devotions 10:00 am.....	Feb 10
Facebook Devotions 10:00 am.....	Feb 12
Worship Facebook Live Sunday 10:30 am.....	Feb 14
Ash Wednesday Facebook Live 12:00 pm & 7:30 pm.....	Feb 17
Facebook Devotions 10:00 am.....	Feb 19
Worship Facebook Live/Congregational Meeting 10:30 am.....	Feb 21
Newsletter Deadline.....	Feb 22
Facebook Devotions 10:00 am.....	Feb 24
Session Meeting 7:00 pm.....	Feb 25
Facebook Devotions 10:00 am/Newsletter mailing.....	Feb 26
Worship Facebook Live 10:30 am.....	Feb 28

CURRENT EXPENSES



Amount pledged	\$140,352.00
Anticipated monthly contributions	\$11,696.00
Contributions to date:	\$15,455.00



PLEDGES: If you have not turned in your 2021 pledge cards, please do so as soon as possible. This helps with creating a budget for our church. We thank you for your continued support.

♥ Happy Valentine's Day ♥

First Presbyterian Church

Phone 908-689-2547 Fax 908-689-7911

Web site: www.washingtonfpc.org

Pastor, James Scovell; Directors of Music, Peter and Julie Stevenson;
Administrative Assistants Kerri Caldaro
Church School Coordinator, Jean Bowers.

Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Fellowship Time: 10:00 a.m.

March issue will be published on February 26th. The deadline is **January 18th**. Please submit articles to the church office or by email to: office@washingtonfpc.com



PREBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS

As 2021 begins, COVID-19 still prevents us from meeting in person. With the recent availability of vaccines, there may be some hope for meeting later this year. In the meantime, we are fortunate to have been able to remain spiritually connected through phone calls, prayer, and for many, by remotely participating in morning devotions and Sunday worship. Barbara Miller, our PW Treasurer, and I spoke about preparing the 2021 PW member booklets and setting the 2021 PW budget. We made the decision to cut our 2020 budget of \$1,055 down to \$730 for 2021. This amount still includes a \$600 goal for mission. Since we will not be meeting for a while to be able to collect our offerings, we are asking you to consider sending in the amount of your usual monthly contribution. Donations can be dropped off at the church office or sent to Barbara Miller, 125 McDonald Street, Washington, NJ 07882. If you are writing a check, please make it payable to Presbyterian Women. Thanks for your help!

The PW Booklets have been updated for 2021. Copies will be available in the church office or by email. If you need help obtaining one, please call Karen Graf at 689-4294 or the church office at 689-2547.

Sincerely,
Karen Graf



PRAYER CORNER

Merciful Savior, you loved the world so much that you gave your life for us. We often receive your wonderful gift imperfectly, forgetting the abundance of it, and living instead in a spiritual poverty. As we pray, help us to understand that the healing of mind, body, and spirit, comes only by your grace and made known through the prayers of the faithful. Let us claim your wonderful promise, even now as we pray for the stranger, friend, and loved one.



those ill or recuperating at home: Linda Walsh, Ruth Dilts, Dj Pesaniello, Carley Miller Heatley, John Westlake, Esther Wasser, Grace Sweet, Sue Wiedman, Bob Anderson, Tempe Schramm, Vickie Brown, Nancy Penman, Bob Schuch, Ralph Martin, Charlie Wright, Marion Kingsbury, Kerry Webb, Peggy Westlake, Grace Murphy, Joan Anderson.

relatives of church members: Maddy Pennello's son Kristofer, Fred Kulick's brother-in-law Jon, Bob & Joan Anderson's son Robert Scott, Tami Phelp's cousin Jimmy, George Van Veldhuisen's brother Bill, Peggy Westlake's brother Dave, Elaine Boreman's mom Florence, Jean Scovell, Sarah McLeod's son Lawrence Lewis, Barbara Miller's cousin Kayla Norvis, Jolene Foley's cousin Dan, Stacie Ulrich's husband Rick, Martha Kenny's cousins Bob, Eleanore Jensen's son and daughter-in-law, Phyllis & Warren Kearns' son, Melanie Plenge's mom, Joan Miller's brother & sister in-law, Cindy & Rich Reilly's son Kevin, Nancy Vlossak's niece, Ken Dirkes' wife & great grandson, Betty Ann Roseberry Wright's sister, Vicki Tensfeldt's mother & niece;

those in care centers: Connie Allen.

those in mourning: The family and friends of Kathy Borrman with the loss of her mother Betty Stano, Pastor Jim's mom with the passing of her cousin.

friends of the church Marion Hoskin's daughter Michelle, Joan Miller's friend Sarah Armbricht, Philip Hagemann's mother Florence Hagemann, Barbara Miller's friend Carlo Magelli, Joan Miller's friend Patty Fratticcioli, Joan Miller's friend Charlotte Olsen, Christine Otto, Jason Ford, Michelle, Lisa Groff, Ostrander Family, Hoskins & Gerard Families, Anna Leyburn, Bill Trachin, Hunter Page, Fred Mosher, Gale Soler, Ellen Gulick, Bob Sinnott, Christopher Cassinni, Jessica Yerance, Robin Halozan, Marge Foster, Bruce Mannon, Tori Reade, Kris Miller, Betty Ramsland, Mrs. Cook, Valeria Turnbull, Nicole Smith, Sandra Torres, Bob Best, Larry Friedman, Kevin Hynhos, Leah Woods, Jason Lance, Grace Maricovich, James Henderson, Markie DeVoe, Christian Smith, Chris Carnahan, Rita Fennell, Ken & Karen Mattison, Brendon Hydock, Mark Christie, Vlossak family's friend Hallie, Angie Haydu, Gary Palmer, Frank Vitale, Shirley Pulsinelli, Barbara Kries, George Stevens, Ann Teeter, Michael Deresky, Johanna Cognato, Eva Oliver, Beatrice Gillis, Debbie Gabor, Evelyn Reese, Becky Long, Janet Beck.

also, pray for our servicemen and women and their families: Albrecht's nephew Captain Kyle Mogensen, Vimp Smith's grandson Cory, D.J. & Bob Pesaniello's grandson Ryan, Stephanie Farley's nephew John, Kathy Perry's nephew Jimmy, Cindy & Rich Reilly's son Sean, Bob & Barbara Schuch's, grandson Adam, Elaine Boreman's nephew Drew, Linda Darwin's friend Sean Devine.



BIRTHDAYS

THIS MONTH



Feb 3	Gavin Volckmann
Feb. 8	Bonnie Gardner
Feb. 11	Fred Kulick
Feb. 12	Luke Hanshaw
Feb. 16	Elaine Boreman
Feb. 18	Albina Nicholas

Feb. 21	Liz Buwen
Feb. 24	Bob Sanders Nicholas Vlossak
Feb. 25	Elly Kresser



February 2021 MUSIC NOTES

It is a fact that no two snowflakes are alike. Each one is carefully, beautifully crafted in a unique pattern by God. This is amazing to me! I bet the same is true of grains of sand, or blades of grass. As a whole, they all “look alike.”

To some, the keys on a piano all look alike. The notes on a page all look alike. For me however *each key* and *each note* holds a very unique significance. It is endlessly enthralling to play around with these notes/keys, discovering new combinations, new sounds, new emotions. Playing music fascinates me! When was the last time you were fascinated? You most certainly have many reasons to be fascinated....you just need to look with an open mind and appreciate what you have.

Each of us is created as a one-of-a-kind being by God our Father. Each of us has our own flair, our own talents, our own special way of seeing and doing things. We don't always like what we are. We know our strengths and weaknesses. We shy away from stretching ourselves to reach our maximum potential. It takes work becoming what God intends for us! It also takes real effort to truly get to know another person. It is far too easy to “assume we know” them.

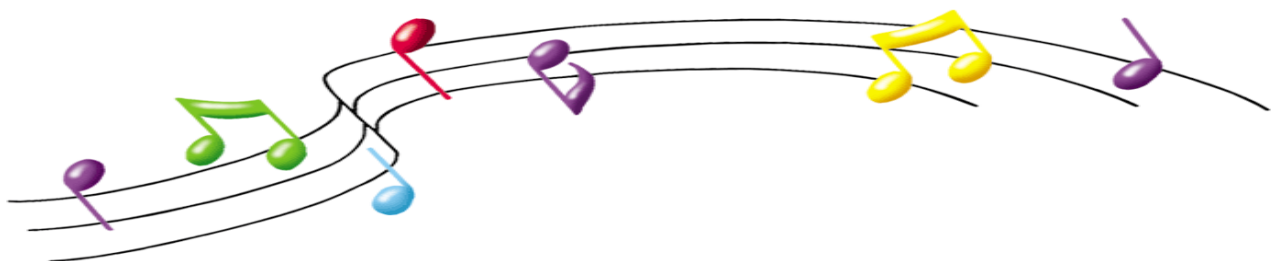
Uncovering truths about ourselves is the business of life. Trying to become a better person is the business of life. Serving others by using our God-given gifts is the business of life. Making memories is the business of life. Connecting with others is the business of life. Each of us has a purpose and we spend our days and nights, year after year, unfolding that purpose and constantly finding new meaning as we learn more about ourselves.

The next time you are out walking on a snowy day, remember the uniqueness of each and every flake that touches your face. Imagine yourself to be one of those flakes and go about your day letting your own unique gifts enhance your life and the lives of others.

Peace and Love,
Julie Stevenson

MUSIC! MUSIC! MUSIC!

It's music for our ears! Our church is full of beautiful music every Sunday and throughout the Christmas Season. The Music Continuation Fund provides the additional funds needed to support the special programs like the string concert on December 13th. We need your help to finance these programs. Please remember The Music Continuation Fund when making donations to our church. All monies given to the fund will be matched by the Kathryn Smith Memorial Fund.



thank you!

THANK YOU to the chancel choir and Carrillonaires for their generous gifts. Peter and I are very grateful and feel blessed to be able to continue to provide music ministry during this challenging year. *We will be together again* in time and we will sing with a much greater appreciation for the gift of our voices.

Julie and Peter Stevenson



John & Peggy Westlake want thank everyone who provided meals for us through John's recent surgery and recovery. All your meals were wonderful and I could tell a lot of effort went into each one. With gratitude,



BABY NEWS: A great-great grandson named Greysen was born January 11, 2021 to Jeanne Bowlby's great -granddaughter Brianna Hockenbury Garcia and her husband Eduardo making five generations for the Bowlby family.

Sincerely,
Jeanne Bowlby.



Thank you to the Deacons for decorating the church and for the beautiful Christmas card. Thank you to Julie and Family and everyone involved (bell choir) in the concert. Also the White Gift Service, Christmas Eve Service. Even though we were not in Church, it kept us all connected with one another. Thank you Lord for all of these special people.

Sincerely,
Dawn Keenan

**One Great Hour Of Sharing
February 17 – April 4, 2021**

In a world of disaster, hunger, and oppression

Millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity.

The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Please consider giving a donation to Blanket Sunday. Your contribution can make a difference.

Checks should be made out to the First Presbyterian Church with One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) in the Memo.

Thank you,
The Stewardship Committee

February 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Deacons Meeting 7:00 pm	3 Facebook Live 10:00am	4	5 Facebook Live 10:00am	6
7 Worship/ Communion Facebook Live 10:30 am	8	9	10 Facebook Live 10:00am	11	12 Facebook Live 10:00am	13
14 Worship 10:30 am HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY 	15	16	17 Ash Wednesday 12:00 pm & 7:30 pm Service Facebook Live	18	19 Facebook Live 10:00am	20
21 Worship 10:30 am Congregational Meeting 11:45 am	22	23	24 Facebook Live 10:00am	25	26 Facebook Live 10:00am	27
28 Worship 10:30 am						

