

October 8, 2020

“When they deliver you up, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour;” Matthew 10:9 19



God answers prayer. Occasionally it's not what the petitioner hopes for. There are times when the answer is no. Even though I tell people, “if strange things didn't happen I'd be out of work,” our day to day existence depends on a certain regularity. If things get too abnormal humans can't cope but, sometimes prayer is answered by an interruption of normal expectations we call miracles. What would you call an answer to a prayer that wasn't consciously spoken?

We Presbyterians have a profound understanding of calling. Whatever profession you pursue is your calling but, special callings for work in the church require confirmation by church officers. That is why I was standing before my home presbytery. The calling to ordained ministry I felt when I was sixteen had to be brought to the church for their prayerful consideration. Many of you have experienced stage fright. It is reported fear of public speaking is second only to fear of death for most people. In the presence of a room full of strangers I recounted my spiritual journey up to that point. This is part of the process to be *taken under care*, (approved for seminary.) Following my presentation there was a question from the floor. Later I learned that it was an inappropriate question to ask someone with no seminary experience but, no one told me I didn't have to answer it.

At the time I was working as support staff for a number of people who had Cerebral Palsy, (C. P.). C.P. is most often a result of birth trauma. Unlike many other sources of disability it is a stable condition. The question, “If you say you believe in miracles; why doesn't God heal the people you work with?” The next thing I remember was applause. As I was being led from the podium I asked a Preparation for Ministry Committee member, “What did I say?” He assumed I wanted to understand what the Presbytery found praise worthy in my answer not that I was suffering amnesia. This event caused me to cherish the Matthew passage above even if my inquisitors were actually on my side. So, I have it on good authority that I said, “I work with people who overcome obstacles to live more fulfilling lives as they learn new ways to cope with things that are easy for most of us. Each gain is a miracle so I see healing miracles every day.” That seems like good advice to me, even if I've never been sure exactly how it came to be said.

We get so used to business as usual that we don't realize how unusual business as usual is. At least one good thing out of the pandemic is our ability to marvel at how marvelous life can be. Our exploration of space has made us realize how rare life is. We are living in miracles.

Upcoming Events:

The Presbyterian Woman continue to participate with the ***Girls on the Run*** shoe drive. There is a bin in the back hallway of the CE building and another one in the narthex. Please donate any type of shoe - men's, women's, children's - in clean, decent shape. The bins will be emptied on a regular basis so that we do not have a stinky shoe smell in the church.

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The Presbyterian Women are planning a Picnic gathering, as well as planning an upcoming meeting. As soon as information is available, we'll be sure to share it via this newsletter, email, and the weekly bulletin. Stay tuned!

They will also be having their monthly meeting in the next few weeks. We'll be sure to notify you when the date/time have been set. The meeting will be held via ZOOM so if you're interested in participating be sure to let Maggie Della Fera know and she will be sure to provide the meeting information to you.

We continue to be a great resource for members of our community through our **Food Pantry**. Non-perishable donations are always needed. Some suggestions include: fruit, pasta, mac and cheese, drink boxes, canned chicken, white and brown rice, salad dressing, noodles, cereal, pancake mix, syrup, and paper towels. If you need to get in touch with Ginny Sodano, her phone number is 570-476-9393 and her email address is gsodano@ptd.net. A big "thank you" to Ginny for all she does with this important ministry!

Prayer Concerns: Please pray for the following people:

Tom and Mary Bartha, and Family –

The in-laws of Tom and Mary's daughter, Katy, were killed in an automobile accident near Fargo, North Dakota, on Friday, October 2nd. Their names are Steven and Diane Christenson. Please lift this family in prayer: *Trevor and Katy Christenson, and their children, Soren, Thomas, and Walter, and Trevor's brother, Titus Christenson, and his wife Mindy.*
204 Sunrise Drive, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

Tim and Diane Bowman –

Tim has been hospitalized with pneumonia. He had covid-19 earlier this year as well. He is currently living at Slate Belt Nursing Home because of his Parkinson's. Diane is well. Prayers for strength for her would be appreciated.
104 Kistler Street, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

Jil Hawk –

As many know, Jil broke her foot before our move to Shawnee on Delaware. She has gotten permission to wear a tennis shoe around the house for a few hours a day, but she still has to take it easy!
PO Box 305, Shawnee on Delaware, PA 18356

Linda Jennings -

Linda fell, hurt her shoulder, and is doing better, thanks to physical therapy. Continued prayers for the healing process.
151 Naomi Lane, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

Kiki Pollack –

Kiki has been diagnosed with brain cancer and has been undergoing chemotherapy.
1109 Woodland Xing, East Stroudsburg, PA 18302

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Mary Resh –

She fell and broke her femur. Surgery resulted in a pin being implanted in her leg. She is currently in stable condition in the hospital and will be going to a rehab facility as soon as they are able to move her.

Grace Park, Apt. 119, 1170 West Main St., Stroudsburg, PA 18360

The Wolbert Family –

Prayers of peace and healing at Mary's passing.

Office Hours:

You can reach me a number of ways:

- call the church office, leave a message, 570-421-5518,
- call the manse, 570-664-6829,
- email to my attention at shawneechurch@verizon.net,
- on the porch (Jil and I haven't been on the porch quite as much with the cooler weather), or
- stop by my office in the CE building on Tuesday or Thursday morning from 9 AM-12 PM!

It's great to be connected!

God Bless!

Darcy