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Prisoners

I was singing along with the Eagles "Hotel California" and heard this line,
"We are all just prisoners here of our own device"

And it got me thinking.

First, I thought of our addiction to our phones and other devices. You can't go anywhere that people are clustered without seeing heads bent over phones. We are so consumed that we take them on our wrist so the distance is shortened from pocket to face.

Prisoners of our own devices, indeed!

Then I started thinking of all the other ways we are prisoners of our own making. Shame, fear, anxiety, worry, resentment: these are all ways that we imprison ourselves. We pray for prisoners every Sunday, just as Jesus taught that we should. I wonder if we are aware that we are praying for ourselves when we do that.

Trust in Christ frees us from these imprisoning thoughts and feelings.

I recently had a moment of anxiety that would have had me fretting and locked into the feeling for days, but consciously turned over my anxiety to Jesus, asking him to take my fear and do something good with it. I was calmed by the prayer and able to go about my business with a clear mind. How much of our lives are consumed by these emotions and mind-filling cares.

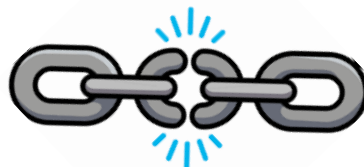
I wish you all the Peace of Christ.

Phillippians 4:6-7

⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Isiah 61:1

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is upon me, for the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to comfort the brokenhearted and to proclaim that captives will be released and prisoners will be freed.



Summertime 2024



By Elaine Peacock

This is the time of year where everyone slows down a bit and catches up on things we let slide the rest of the year. Yes, even the PRC Newsletter takes a break. Up in the corner it says July/ August so now it's official. Now we got all the important stuff out of the way we can concentrate on what fun things there are to keep us and our families having a "summer" to remember.

Of course, the first place is the Jersey Shore – just the name brings visions of sea, sand, hot dogs and walking the boardwalk. OK, the shore is not your thing – the Parkway gives you hives. OK – let's head north; New Jersey has some very pretty parks where you can hike, have a yummy lunch and not spend your whole bank account. OK – so far, my suggestions haven't been well received – I have one more up my sleeve – check out the museums that are very close to home. I think the best way to enjoy all the areas I have mentioned is for every member of the family to have a turn – to pick their favorite – I don't want to hear any groaning – everyone gets a turn. So have a wonderful summer PRC – make some memories.

Cas & Jean Stark would like to thank their PRC family for the prayers, cards and calls they received during Cas' surgery and recuperation.

Birthdays

Caroline Winter
Happy Birthday, America! 248 years old!

In memory of Lois Sterns on her July birthday given by Caroline Winter.



In Memory Of

In memory of Albert Peacock on Father's Day from Elaine
In memory of Pastor Mel Van Hattem from Ollie Hague, Caroline Winter, and Lorna Carroll



Scholarships 2024

On Behalf of the Scholarship Committee and the entire congregation, scholarships were presented to the following members as they pursue a higher education:

MADISON CONKLIN

DANIEL DUTCHES

JACOLYN VENEZIA



While we hope these scholarships will help ease the financial burden of obtaining a higher education – it is also important that each of the recipients know that we offer an even greater gift – that gift is the blessing, prayers and support from the entire congregation as they pursue their individual educational goals.

In Christ's Service,

The Scholarship Committee





History Room Help Needed

Several months ago, the history room in our main office wing next to Pastor John's office was converted to a small conference room with plans to relocate it back to its original location in room 227 upstairs near the entrance to the sanctuary.

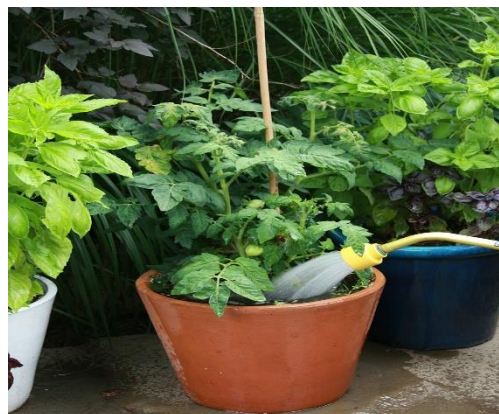
One of the reasons for this change was because it had become overly cluttered over several years, nearly rendering the space unusable. Following the installation of some shelving in the new location, we will begin curating a very large number of historic photographs, documents and other memorabilia from PRC's long and rich history. The space we have to work with is limited, as it was downstairs, given the volume of material we have.

To help us with this process of proudly and tastefully displaying this material, we're looking for a few volunteers with particular skills. Since all these photos and documents cannot possibly be displayed properly in the limited space, we're looking for someone who enjoys scrapbooking to assist us in displaying them in one or perhaps a few well-designed albums. Additionally, we're looking for someone with a knack for photography. There are several items in our collection that we very much want to retain a history of, but don't have room for the object itself. The idea in this case is that a quality photograph and print of these objects can be preserved and displayed for future generations in the albums. Our overall goal is to end up with an inviting and uncluttered space that can be enjoyed for years to come.

If you or someone you know has the skills noted above and are willing to help with this project, please let either Mark Warner or Eva Terhune know. Thank you.

Gardeners/Plant lovers needed

The Container Garden on the front porch needs watering weekly (or more if it stays this hot!) Any additional volunteers can reach out to Nancy Shimmel, our Master Gardener.



New Ministry

Hi Friends!

I am expanding our Card Ministry and calling our latest project "Adopting a Nursing Home." For our first nursing home I have chosen the Lakeview Rehabilitation and Care Center. It is located on Terhune Drive in Wayne. I chose this nursing home for two reasons. It is small and it is close by. When beginning a project, I believe in starting out small and growing when we have the volunteers needed to do the job correctly. The Pompton Lakes Woman's Club will be partnering with us on this project. I met with the Activity Director to see what was needed. I mentioned sending Birthday Cards, Thinking of You Cards, and Holiday Cards to the residents. She thought this was a very good idea, but she mentioned something else. She asked us if we could make monthly placemats for the residents who eat in the dining room. She gave me 8.5 by 14 size computer paper and asked if we could draw pictures on the paper showing holidays or events that go on each month. I also bought decorations such as stickers that will go with each month. Once the placemats are brought back to me, I will take them over to the activity director and she will laminate the placemats. At this time, I have people working on placemats for July. They will be due back to me on June 25th, so she has time to laminate them. She mentioned how much joy the residents feel when they receive pictures from children. This would be a great family project for you and children and grandchildren to do together. If you are interested in participating in this project, I will have the paper and decorations on a table in Fellowship Hall every Sunday. I will also have cards on the table and decorations if you would like to decorate the cards for the residents. Everything will be brought back to me and I will take it over. If you want to participate in this project but can't get there on Sundays let me know and I will come over when it is convenient for both of us and you can pick out the cards, decorations, and paper. Of course, you can use your own cards and 8.5 by 14 computer paper. This project will cost you nothing but your time. And I pray that the time it takes to do this project will fill you with God's love and peace because please remember we are God's eyes, God's ears, God's arms, and God's legs. And most of all we are God's heart! God Bless You All and Thank You For All You Do! Jo-Ann Sisco

It is with joy and sadness that we learned of the Warner's plan to move to Michigan to be closer to family. Joy, that they will be able to spend significant time with Michael's family but sadness that we are losing two very special people to PRC. Joanie has been a member of this church her whole life. She has been involved in all aspects of the running of the church, as has Mark, since his marriage to Joanie. We have been blessed with their skills and gifts for these many years.

Wishing you all the best as the process of wrapping up your Kinnelon life speeds along and you begin the emotional journey of becoming Michiganites. We will miss you more than you will miss us, I suspect!



Wishing a very HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Marge Hubert!



Stepping down

This is my last newsletter for PRC. I took over the newsletter when Beth Burke stepped down in 2015. Nine years has passed very quickly for me. I have enjoyed putting together what I hope have been informative and enjoyable issues. Thank you for your kind words of encouragement over the course of 9+ years. I don't know what direction Consistory will go- there had been talk a while back of changing the format, whatever it is, please know I received so much (joy, faith, and communion) from the work of the newsletter that I am forever grateful for the opportunity. My faith journey was deepened with each issue. Keep on keeping on, PRC!

