

Old Providence ARP Church

Old Providence News

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Dear Church Family and Friends,

I don't know about you but it is hard for me to believe that Christmas time is upon us once again. I have found that Christmas means lots of different things to lots of different folks. Even so, I would encourage you this Advent season to focus God's love for you—a love that resulted in the greatest Christmas gift of all, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

There are many ways to focus on God's love this Christmas but allow me to suggest a few. First, consider changing your normal time in God's Word to include passages that focus on Christmas like Isaiah 9 or 52. Second, as you go to the Lord in prayer, spend some time reflecting on His great love for you and thank Him for sending His only begotten Son. Third, if you are able to attend, make the commitment to be in church. I am excited about our coming Christmas sermon series on the Advent and I believe it will be a blessing to you. Fourth, participate in the life of the church throughout the Christmas season. We will be having special programs for Christmas that will point you to God's Love and will provide excellent fellowship with one another. While we celebrate Christ throughout the year, it is at Christmas time that we focus on the fact that God drew near to us while we were still at enmity with Him.

In closing this letter, I'd like to express my heartfelt gratitude for the kindness, support, and overall welcome you have shown my family. Thank you to all those who worked so hard for my Installation Service and those who were able to attend. We are blessed beyond measure. Amanda, Isabella, and I are so excited about our first Christmas with you at Old Providence.

Merry Christmas!

Rev. Patrick Malphrus



December 2017 Announcements

Women's Ministry

Women's Ministries will meet Thursday, December 7th, 2017, at the Church for the business meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m. Bible study begins at about 7:30 p.m. Please join us.

Little Lambs and Youth Group

Little Lambs and Youth Group will meet on Sunday, December 3rd, at 4:30 p.m. with dinner at 5:30 p.m. This will be the last meeting until 2018. Everyone is welcome!

Christmas Breakfast

The Spiritual Care Committee and Women's Ministries have the annual Christmas Breakfast scheduled for Friday, December 15th, at 9:30 a.m. at the Hometown Grill & Buffet in Staunton. The buffet cost is \$7.50. This does not include drink, tax or tip. This is Dutch treat and everyone is invited. Questions, contact Martha.

Young Adults Christmas Party

There will be a Christmas Party for the Young Adults and Young Families on Saturday, December 2nd. At 6:00 p.m. It will be a covered dish meal at the church.

Community Events

The Staunton Choral Society invites you to its 2017 Christmas Concerts on Saturday, December 2nd, at 4:00 p.m., at Bethel Presbyterian Church, and Sunday, December 3rd, at 7:00 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church. A free will offering will be received. For questions call 540-294-5970. Everyone is welcome.

The Raphine Volunteer Fire Company will host Santa at the Christmas tree on Sunday, December 24th, at 6:00 p.m.

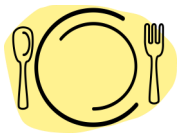
Salvation Army Bell Ringing



Old Providence will be participating in ringing the bell for the Salvation Army again this year! We are scheduled for Saturday, December 16th, at Kroger on Lew Dewitt (right side door) in Waynesboro from 10:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m. We will need to ring for that entire time and would like people to ring for at least a one-hour shift. For questions and to sign up, please contact Carol. What a great way to spread Christmas cheer!!!

Bus Trip

The Spiritual Care Committee is sponsoring a bus trip to West End Assembly of God Theater in Richmond, VA on Saturday, December 9th, to see the production of "Glorious Christmas Nights". The Play begins at 10:30 a.m. The bus will leave Old Providence at 7:30 a.m. and return around 4:15 p.m. We will stop for lunch after the performance. The cost of the trip is \$30.00 for members and regular attendees, and \$35.00 for guests. Contact Martha or Linda to check on availability of tickets.



Christmas Dinner

The annual congregational Christmas Dinner will be on Wednesday, December 13th, at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is invited for this covered dish meal and a time of singing carols.

Cantata/Christmas Program

The Christmas Cantata "Repeat the Sounding Joy! by Wayne Haun and Dave Clark" will be on Sunday, December 17th. The evening will begin with the Children's Nativity at 6:00 p.m. A Christmas reception sponsored by Old Providence Women's Ministries will follow in Providence hall.

Poinsettias

It is time to order Poinsettias to be used in the Sanctuary during the Christmas Season. If you would like to order, please see Dot. They may be given in honor of or in memory of someone, if you would like, or just to grace the sanctuary. The cost is \$12.00 each and they will be placed in the Sanctuary on the first Sunday in December which is December 3rd.

December 2017 Calendar of Events

Sunday, December 3

10:00 a.m. – Sabbath School

10:45 a.m. – Nursery Helpers: Stacy and Kayla

11:00 a.m. – Worship

Children's Church Leader: Carrie

4:30 p.m. – Children's Fellowship and Youth Group



Wednesday, December 6

6:45 - Bible Study

Thursday, December 7

7:00 p.m. – Women's Ministries

7:30 p.m. – Women's Bible Study

Sunday, December 10

10:00 a.m. – Sabbath School

10:45 a.m. – Nursery Helpers: Kay and Marvella

11:00 a.m. – Worship

Children's Church Leader: Karen

Noon – Deacons Meeting

Wednesday, December 13

6:30 p.m. – Congregational Christmas Dinner

Friday, December 15

9:30 a.m. - Senior Christmas Breakfast

Sunday, December 17

10:00 a.m. – Sabbath School

10:45 a.m. – Nursery Helpers: Lois and Katie

11:00 a.m. – Worship

Children's Church Leader: Dana

6:00 p.m. – Christmas Program/Cantata

Wednesday, December 20

6:45 p.m. – Bible Study

Sunday, December 24 - **Christmas Sunday**

10:00 a.m. – Sabbath School

10:45 a.m. – Nursery Helpers: Vicki and Carrie

11:00 a.m. – Worship

Children's Church Leader: Karleen and Kristin

Monday, December 25 - **Christmas Day**

Church Office Closed December 25 – December 27

Wednesday, December 27

6:45 p.m. - Bible Study

Sunday, December 31

9:00 a.m. – Breakfast for Young Life

10:00 a.m. – Sabbath School

10:45 a.m. – Nursery Helpers: Karleen and Emma

11:00 a.m. – Worship

Children's Church Leader: Laurin or Kristi