

Old Providence News

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Old Providence ARP Church

Dear Old Providence Family,

Maybe you've heard it already, but if not, let me be the first to say, "Merry Christmas!" Advent, that time when we celebrate God sending his one and only Son, is upon us. I wonder how you are approaching this Advent season. Is it a surprise that 2022 is almost over? This past year sure seems to have gone by quickly. Are you entering the Christmas season with great joy and happiness? Many wonderful things have happened over this past year. Couples have been married, others have welcomed new children (which means new grandchildren, too), and maybe situations in your life have improved or you are simply enjoying what the Lord has done for you.

But, at the same time, I recognize that the Christmas season can also be difficult. The holidays can serve as a reminder of the way we think things ought to be. Christmas, particularly, can dredge up memories from the past. Some of these memories may be good, and some not so good. There's no doubt about it, the holidays are an emotionally charged time of year. But no matter what you are facing or what you've been through, whether you are in a time of great joy or a time of sadness, let me encourage you to focus on God's love this Advent season.

There are many ways to focus on God's love 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 chapter 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, make the commitment to be in church. I am excited about our coming Christmas sermon series on the Advent of our Lord, 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 opportunities for fellowship with one another. Christmas even falls on the Lord's Day this year! So, make it a point to be at church on Christmas Sunday. Our worship service will focus on singing Christmas carols and the sermon will even be short (and I really mean it!).

While we celebrate Christ throughout the year, it is at Christmas that we focus on the fact that God drew near to us while we were still at enmity with Him. God the Son took on flesh and made his dwelling among us. As John 1 says, Jesus came as the Light of the World. We are called to be people of the Light, reflecting the glory and majesty of Jesus Christ. As Christmas steadily approaches, make sure that your focus is on Jesus Christ, the greatest gift of all. And as you plan your Christmas activities, make sure that you remember the Lord first, and that you testify to His greatness.

Merry Christmas!

Your Pastor,

Patrick

December 2022 Announcements



As of publication of this Newsletter, we have Sunday Morning Worship Service at 10:00 a.m. and Sabbath School at 11:10 a.m. Children's Church is available during the Worship Service. Nursery is available during the Worship Service and during Sabbath School. Youth Group meets every Sunday at 5:30 p.m. Little Lambs will meet the first and third Sunday monthly from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Pastor Malphrus will broadcast his sermons on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. on [Facebook.com/ OldProvidenceARChurchSpottswoodVa](https://www.facebook.com/OldProvidenceARChurchSpottswoodVa) and will post the audio version of those sermons on [sermonaudio.com/oldprovidence](https://www.sermonaudio.com/oldprovidence). If you need help accessing online sermons, please contact Patrick. You may access our Facebook page, edited newsletters, [sermonaudio.com](https://www.sermonaudio.com), announcements, church calendar, and more by visiting our website at [oldprovidencechurch.org](https://www.oldprovidencechurch.org). For a copy of a Sunday sermon on CD, call the church office.

Live Daily Devotionals with our pastor are at 7:00 a.m. Monday through Thursday through our church's Facebook page via [facebook.com/OldProvidenceARChurchSpottswoodVa](https://www.facebook.com/OldProvidenceARChurchSpottswoodVa) or our website www.oldprovidencechurch.org by clicking on the Facebook icon. Recordings will be available afterwards through [sermonaudio.com](https://www.sermonaudio.com), which may also be accessed from our website, or the sermonaudio app. For a copy of a devotional please contact Patrick.

Weekly Bible Study and Prayer Services are on Wednesdays at 6:45 p.m. with Pastor Malphrus.

2022 Officer Election: Our newly elected Elders are Stanley, Doug and Randy. Our newly elected Deacons are Warren, Kenny, Dean and Ricky. We thank them for being willing to serve the church.

Treasurers of all church organizations are reminded to submit your yearly reports as early as possible in January so the annual report to Synod and Presbytery can be prepared. Please leave them in the Administrative Assistance's mailbox in the hall next to the office.

Committee Chairman, please provide event dates for the 2023 Church Calendar the church office as soon as they are available.

If anyone who **does not currently have** offering envelopes but would like to have them for 2023, please contact Terri by Sunday, December 11th.

The Cemetery Trustees will be cleaning the cemetery on Saturday, February 25, 2023. All flowers/ decorations that you wish to save need to be removed prior to this date. Any flowers/decorations remaining in the cemetery on Saturday the 25th will be discarded.

Operation Christmas Child

Thank you everyone who participated in the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child shoebox collection. Old Providence collected 59 filled shoeboxes!

Women's Ministries Window

Women's Ministries will meet at **10:00 a.m.** on Thursday, December 1st, for a business meeting, followed by a time of fellowship. Please bring pot-luck dish or finger food to enjoy afterwards. All Women are welcome.

Fellowship Friday



Join us for Fellowship Friday on December 2nd from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. This will be our last Fellowship Friday until after winter. We will have dinner and a movie, showing the classic Christmas movie, "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever". Please bring your favorite Christmas cookies to share. We ask that you RSVP to FellowshipFridays@oldprovidencechurch.org by 9:00 p.m. Tuesday, November 29th. Please let us know if you need childcare. Contact Joanie with questions.

Little Lambs and Youth Group

Little Lambs for children ages 3 to 5th grade will meet on Sunday, December 4th, from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Little Lambs will sing during the Christmas Program on December 18th at 6:00 p.m.

Youth Group will meet on Sundays, December 4th, and 11th, at 5:30 p.m. Please contact Patrick if you have any questions.



Christmas Dinner

The annual congregational Christmas Dinner will be held on Wednesday, December 14th, at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is invited for this covered dish meal and a time of singing carols.

Old Providence Christmas Program



Our annual Christmas Program will be held on Sunday, December 18th, at 6:00 p.m. Join the children and choir as they present the Christmas story through Scripture and song.

Homeschool Co-op Christmas Program

The Homeschool Co-op would like to invite Old Providence members to their Christmas program. It will be held on Tuesday, December 6th, at 6:00 p.m. The program will be in the sanctuary and a potluck dinner will follow in Providence Hall. Please see Amanda for questions.

Community News



The Raphine Volunteer Fire Company will host Santa's visit at the Raphine Christmas Tree at the Post Office on Saturday, December 24th, at 6:00 p.m.

December 2022 Calendar of Events

Thursday, December 1

10:00 a.m. - Women's Ministries

10:30 a.m. - Fellowship and Meal



Friday, December 2

6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. - Fellowship Friday



Saturday, December 3

3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. - Community Holiday Dinner

Sunday, December 4

Annual Stated Congregational Business Meeting

9:45 a.m. - Nursery Helpers: Carol and Summer

10:00 a.m. - Worship

Children's Church Leaders: Carrie and Lois

11:10 a.m. - Sabbath School

5:30 p.m. - Little Lambs and Youth Group

Wednesday, December 7

6:45 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. - Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

Sunday, December 11

9:45 a.m. - Nursery Helpers: Cindy and Amanda

10:00 a.m. - Worship

Children's Church Leaders: Amanda and Vicki

11:10 a.m. - Sabbath School

5:30 p.m. - Youth Group

Wednesday, December 14

6:30 p.m. - Congregation Christmas Dinner

Sunday, December 18

9:45 a.m. - Nursery Helpers: Terri and Stacy

10:00 a.m. - Worship

Children's Church Leaders: Patcie and Sue

11:10 a.m. - Sabbath School

6:00 p.m. - Christmas Program

Wednesday, December 21

6:45 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. - Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

Friday, December 23 & Monday, December 26

Church Office Closed

Sunday, December 25 – Christmas Day

9:45 a.m. - Nursery Helpers: Amanda and Isabella

10:00 a.m. - Worship

Children's Church Leaders: Dabney and Tina

11:10 a.m. - Sabbath School

*Merry
Christmas*

Wednesday, December 28

No Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

Friday, December 30

Church Office Closed

Saturday, December 31

New Year's Eve

January 2022



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| 1 New Year's Day | 18 Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 6:45 p.m. |
| 4 Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 6:45 p.m. | 22 Youth Group 5:30 p.m. |
| 8 Youth Group 5:30 p.m. | 25 Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 6:45 p.m. |
| 11 Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 6:45 p.m. | 29 Youth Group 5:30 p.m. |
| 15 Little Lambs & Youth Group 5:30 p.m. | |

*Please keep in mind, calendar dates are tentative and could change or cancel after publication of the newsletter.