

Old Providence ARP Church

Old Providence News

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Dear Old Providence Family,

Before writing for this Newsletter, I decided to look back on what I wrote for February of 2020. Don't worry, what you are reading right now has not been copied and pasted. After all, I'm terrible at recycling, especially when it comes to sermons and written publications. But there is another reason for my refusal to recycle last year's material. As I looked back at what I wrote, it seems almost comical how blissfully unaware I was of how 2020 would unfold. Last year I wrote about Valentine's Day and the subject of love. I maintain that these are fitting subjects for a February newsletter, but so much has happened over the past year.

In February of 2020 we had just started to learn of something called the corona something-or-other virus. All we knew was that people had gotten sick in China. Then we heard something about someone eating bat soup (to which I said "Now that's something I'd like to try!") in the province of Wuhan. And then? Well, you probably remember what happened. By March we were locked down and we at Old Providence weren't even holding in-person services. Toilet paper and hand sanitizer vanished from store shelves. Statements like "flatten the curve" were used. We were also told that we just needed to stay locked down for a few weeks. How little we knew. COVID-19 was far more dangerous than we initially thought and, at this point, we probably all know of several people who have been affected by this sickness. To top it all off, we have now reverted to online only worship services as COVID is booming in our area. At this point you may be wondering what the future holds.

Let me encourage an alternative. As the saying goes, instead of focusing on what the future holds, focus on Who holds the future. Thinking back to March of 2020, the first sermon I preached from lockdown was on Psalm 46 which tells us in verse 1 that "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble." Psalm 46 ends by saying that "The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress." What lies in between the first and last verse are the promises of God that no matter what should happen, God is in control. Everything on earth may seem to be off (shouldn't that be the case, though, for Christians who are not supposed to be of this world?). Everything may seem to be headed toward disaster. Even so, God is in charge and watches over those who know and love Him. Remember this as you make your way into 2021. Remember this as we watch current events unfold before our eyes. And as a result of remembering, as the Scripture so often says, "Fear not!"

Your Pastor,

Patrick

Beginning of Year Reminders

Cemetery Cleaning



The Cemetery Trustees will be cleaning the cemetery on February 27th. **All** flowers/decorations that you wish to save need to be removed prior to this date. Any flowers/decorations remaining in the cemetery on the 27th will be discarded.

Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for 2021 are at the church on the table in the sanctuary near the breezeway.

2021 Calendar and Bulletin Backs

Officers and Committee members please provide updates for the bulletin backs by February 29th, and any 2021 Calendar dates once you have them.



Directory Update

Lifetouch Church Photography has permanently stopped operation. Old Providence members may access the Mobile Directory online by visiting www.oldprovidencechurch.org/members until June 30, 2021. You may download and create a PDF copy. Contact the church office with questions. If you had pictures taken by Lifetouch in the past, you may still place orders from them by emailing lcdcs@lifetouch.com until June 30, 2021.

Bonclarken Upcoming Events

Bonclarken has posted their 2021 event dates and details on their website. Please visit their website at www.bonclarken.org or call the church office for camp and conference information.



February 2021 Calendar of Events

As of publication of this Newsletter all church activities are cancelled until further notice. COVID-19 cases are on the rise in our area. Please be in prayer for those who have been affected and ask for the Lord's protection for those who are at risk. The Session will meet periodically to decide how to proceed.

Pastor Malphrus will continue broadcasting his sermons on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. through our church's Facebook page, and will post the audio version of those sermons on sermonaudio.com/oldprovidence. If you would like a copy of any Sunday sermons on CD, please call the church office to let us know.

Our pastor's Daily Devotionals will continue at 7:00 each morning, Monday through Friday, for live stream on our church's Facebook page. It will remain available on Facebook to view any time, and it will also be available on sermonaudio.com.

February 2021

Sunday, February 14

Camp Joy Special Offering
6:30 p.m. - Diaconate Meeting



March 2021

14 Daylight Savings Time Begins

28 Palm Sunday

Spring Special Offering
for Synod Causes