

Old Providence News

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Old Providence ARP Church

Dear Old Providence Family,

It's a beautiful day in Spottswood. I'm looking out my office window and see white everywhere. That's right, snow! And as you can tell, I'm pretty excited. I can't help it. I'm 42 years old but it's like I'm a kid again whenever it snows. I realize that as I say this some of you may scoff. Snow may be something you dread and don't like dealing with. Some of you may be indifferent to snow. But I love it. And not just for its novelty. I love the snow because it points us to God.

Most folks are familiar with the story of Job. After losing everything, three friends came to Job and brought anything but comfort and wise counsel. Later a fourth man came into Job's life and offered a response to Job's suffering that proclaimed God's greatness and sovereignty—a much needed message for Job in his time of hurt and suffering.

As an example of God's sovereignty, Elihu said in Job 37: 5-10 that "God's voice thunders in marvelous ways; he does great things beyond our understanding. He says to the snow, 'Fall on the earth,' and to the rain shower, 'Be a mighty downpour.' So that everyone he has made may know his work, he stops all people from their labor. The animals take cover; they remain in their dens. The tempest comes out from its chamber, the cold from the driving winds. The breath of God produces ice, and the broad waters become frozen." And in Job 38 God himself responds to Job's questions by rhetorically asking Job if he had ever "entered the treasuries of the snow". All of these references point to the fact that God is sovereign over all things, even the weather, and that sometimes God uses weather to give us the opportunity to stop, and turn our attention toward Him.

Let us be grateful, dear friends, that God is in control. As we see the wonder of the world unfolding around us, let us remember that God is over all things. And let us not forget that in His love and mercy, He cares for us more than we could ever imagine.

Having come from a place that receives very little winter weather, my family and I marvel at the snow whenever it falls. Perhaps snow has become common to you over the years. But let none of us ever view God's power as common, and let none of us ever forget His mighty love.

Your Pastor,

Patrick

February 2024 Announcements



As of publication of this Newsletter, we have relocated worship services as the Sanctuary is closed for the next phase of work. We worship in Providence Hall with two services. At 9:00 a.m. we worship with the Choir, and Children's Church and Nursery are provided. Sabbath School begins at 10:10 a.m. and concludes at 10:45 a.m. A second service is held at 11:00 a.m. but the choir is not present at this service, nor is there Children's Church or Nursery. Pastor Malphrus will post his Sunday morning sermons on **Facebook.com/OldProvidenceARPChurchSpottswoodVa** and will post the audio version of those sermons on **sermonaudio.com/oldprovidence**. To access our Facebook page, church calendar, edited newsletters, sermon audio.com, announcements, and more, visit our website: **oldprovidencechurch.org**. For a copy of a Sunday sermon on CD, or to add or update your contact information for notifications received via the One Call System, call the office.

Daily Devotionals with our pastor are live at 6:00 a.m. through our church's Facebook page and recordings are available there and via our website. Audio versions are available through sermon audio.com, the sermonaudio app or our website. For a copy of a devotional on CD, contact Patrick.

Wednesday night Prayer Meeting and Bible Study with Pastor Malphrus meets at 6:45 p.m.

Home Bible Study meets at Susie and Pat's home at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday evenings.

Women's Ministries Window

Women's Ministries will meet on Thursday, February 1st, at 10:00 a.m. for a meeting, followed by Bible Study at 10:30 a.m. We will be studying the Introduction, and Chapters 1 and 2, in the book entitled, *The Next-To-Last Word* by Michael P.V. Barrett. All women are invited to join us.

We are still taking orders for *Our Daily Bread* devotional. Please see Libby or Shirley to renew or start your subscription.

Sanctuary Refreshing Update

The sanctuary refreshing project is moving along well. The painters have erected scaffolding and are working on the ceiling. The balcony safety railings are being upgraded, the bathroom and lounge are getting their finishing touches, and carpet will soon be installed in the old Sunday School rooms and balconies. By now you've probably heard about or seen the unfinished hardwood flooring in the sanctuary when we removed the carpet. There are many questions we need to answer before we can make a wise decision on how to proceed. Once we have estimates to finish the floor, the session will review it and make a recommendation to the congregation about how to proceed. Please be in prayer for wisdom and unity as we make decisions going forward. Please continue to pray for the safety of the work crews.

Thank You Note



The PreSchool Committee would like to extend our thanks for the many donations to our preschool program. The Willing Worker's Class, Open Door Class, Women's Ministries, and the many individuals who have generously donated this past year, have made it possible to keep this program going. Thank you.

Operation Christmas Child Year-Round Shoebox Shopping

As noted in last month's newsletter, each month there will be a reminder to keep looking for items for your shoebox. This month's suggestion from the year-round guide to maximize your impact for the Gospel: Fashion Accessories to include watches, jewelry, sunglasses and hair accessories.

February 2024 Calendar of Events

Thursday, February 1

- 10:00 a.m. - Women's Ministries
- 10:30 a.m. - Women's Bible Study



Sunday, February 4

- 8:45 a.m. - Nursery Helpers: Amanda and Isabella
- 9:00 a.m. - Worship
Children's Church Leaders: Carrie and Lois
- 10:10 a.m. - Sabbath School
- 11:00 a.m. - Worship
- 3:00 p.m. - Valentine's Day Cookie Decorating Party (Little Lamb's)
- 5:30 p.m. - Youth Group

Monday, February 5 – Wednesday, February 7

Church Office Closed

Tuesday, February 6

- 7:00 p.m. - Home Bible Study

Wednesday, February 7

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

Sunday, February 11

- 8:45 a.m. - Nursery Helpers: Laurin and Carol
- 9:00 a.m. - Worship
Children's Church Leaders: Amanda and Vicki
- 10:10 a.m. - Sabbath School
- 11:00 a.m. - Worship
- 5:30 p.m. - Youth Group

Tuesday, February 13

- 7:00 p.m. - Home Bible Study

Wednesday, February 14

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

Sunday, February 18

8:45 a.m. - Nursery Helpers: Terri and Sally

9:00 a.m. - Worship

Children's Church Leaders: Patcie and Sue

10:10 a.m. - Sabbath School

11:00 a.m. - Worship

4:00 p.m. - Diaconate Meeting

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

Monday, February 19

6:00 p.m. - Session Meeting

Tuesday, February 20

7:00 p.m. - Home Bible Study

Wednesday, February 21

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

Saturday, February 24

Cemetery Trustees Cleaning Cemetery (remove all flowers/decorations prior)

Sunday, February 25

8:45 a.m. - Nursery Helpers: Cindy and Karleen

9:00 a.m. - Worship

Children's Church Leaders: Dabney and Tina

10:10 a.m. - Sabbath School

11:00 a.m. - Worship

5:30 p.m. - Youth Group

Tuesday, February 27

7:00 p.m. - Home Bible Study

Wednesday, February 28

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

Thursday, February 29

7:00 p.m. - Women’s Ministries Visits Beulah Land

March 2024



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| 4 Monday Mid-Day Resumes | 18 Monday Mid-Day | 29 Good Friday |
| 7 Women’s Ministries | 24 Palm Sunday | Church Office Closed |
| Women’s Bible Study | Synod Spring Offering | 31 Resurrection Sunday |
| 10 Daylight Savings Time Begins | Easter Egg Hunt 3:00 p.m. | Sunrise Service |
| 16 Virginia Presbytery Meeting | 28 Maundy Thursday | Easter Breakfast |
| 17 Diaconate Meeting | Communion & Dinner 6:30 p.m. | |