

Old Providence ARP Church

Old Providence News

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Dear Old Providence Family,

Happy New Year! It's hard to believe that 2021 is upon us. And what can be said of 2020? We need to be careful here. God is sovereign over all things, including the course of human history and existence. While many things in 2020 have not gone according to our plans, God has not stopped being our sovereign Lord. Even so, I think it's safe to say that this year has been a real doozy. And here we are in a new year! This is a time when folks almost inevitably look back on the previous year and forward to the next. There is nothing magical about flipping the calendar's page, but it is, nonetheless, sobering and thought provoking.

I wonder, as you think back on this time a year ago, what were your thoughts then? Were you filled with hope and excitement at the prospect of new opportunities? Perhaps you were on the other end of the spectrum and looked at the year ahead with less optimism. Or maybe you started 2020 with the simple notion of taking things one day at a time. No matter what your outlook was last year, 2020 has come and gone and 2021 stretches before us.

With the New Year in mind, let me encourage you to embrace the Biblical mindset of moving forward into the future. In James 4, God's people are warned against the arrogance of proceeding boldly into the future with no regard for God. James wrote that the correct way to proceed into the future is by seeking God's will. The question we all face, then, is one of discerning God's Will for our lives.

Thankfully, God does not leave us wondering about His will and how to discern it. In Romans 12 God's people are commanded to not be conformed to the pattern of the world around us, but instead, to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. The only way this renewal is achieved is through studying God's Word, spending time with God in prayer, participating in the life of the Church, and continually evaluating your relationship with the Lord. If you will do these things, God's Will for your life will become apparent and His direction for 2021 will become abundantly clear.

But don't take my word for it. After offering the command previously mentioned, God's Word then gives the promise that if you will do these things, "Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will." What a wonderful promise this is! What a wonderful God we serve. Let us proceed forward into 2021 with every hope for God's blessings. But let us also proceed forward into 2021 with the renewed commitment to seek God's Kingdom first.

Your Pastor, Patrick

Beginning of the Year Matters

All organizational Treasurers are reminded to submit your yearly reports by Sunday, January 17th, so the annual report to the General Synod and Presbytery can be prepared by February 1st. Please leave them in the Administrative Assistant's mailbox.

January is the month in which we take orders for **Our Daily Bread**. This devotional can be ordered through the Women's Ministries on a donation basis. Available in regular and large print, this monthly publication includes a daily scripture and devotional reading, as well as a plan for reading through the Bible in a year. Please see Libby or Shirley to renew or start your subscription.

Officers and Committee members please start thinking about updates for the bulletin backs and any 2021 Calendar dates you may have.

Bad Weather Closings



We make our decisions on cancellation of service based on safety concerns. We evaluate conditions at the church and in the immediate area around the church as well as on the weather forecasts available to us. When we cancel Sunday morning services or other major events, we will announce these closings by:

One Call System (phone, text and email) on the

Web Page: oldprovidencechurch.org, or

TV: Channel 3 (Sunday Service or major events only)

To add or update your information for notifications received through the One Call System, please contact the church office, or place a note in the offering plate.

Reminder

Please remember to turn off flood lights, if you are the last one to leave the church at night.

Directory Update

We have had several changes to the last pictorial directory so an updated directory that can be used along with your pictorial directory will be available at the end of January. This will be a printed supplement, not an update to the pictorial directory so no photos will be inserted. Please provide any new or corrected addresses, phone numbers, and emails to the church office no later than Sunday, January 17, 2021.

Election Update

The Elders who were elected Sunday, November 29th, are Gary, Frank and David. The Deacons who were elected Sunday, December 13th, are Jason , Pat , Kevin , and Frank . We thank those who were willing to serve the Church and allowed their names to go on the ballot. The proposed Budget and the candidates for Congregational Offices were approved. We thank Congregational Chairman – Finley; Vice Chairman – Glenn; Congregational Secretary – Amanda; Receiving Treasurer – Terri; Disbursing Treasurer – Carrie; and Memorial Treasurer – Kay for your willingness to serve.

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 available in the sanctuary near the breezeway.



January 2021 Calendar of Events

As of publication of this Newsletter, we have two Sunday Worship services, one at 9:00 a.m. and the other at 11:00 a.m. Please choose the time that suits you best. If you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or believe you have been exposed, please refrain from attending. 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. We will continue to hold church services and youth group, but due to the rise of COVID-19 cases, the Session has decided that it is best if everyone who is able to wear masks do so while inside the church facilities. While wearing masks is not ideal, this will allow us to return to singing in our worship services. In order to aid in social distancing, worship services will still be abbreviated, and children's church and nursery are still cancelled. The Session will meet on January 20th at 7:00 p.m. to decide how to proceed at that point. If you would like a copy of any Sunday sermons on CD, please call the church office to let us know.

All other church activities except Youth Group are cancelled until further notice. Youth Group will meet every Sunday at 5:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

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.

January 2021



Sunday, January 3

No Youth Group

Sunday, January 10

5:30 p.m. - Youth Group

6:30 p.m. - Diaconate Meeting

Sunday, January 17

Officer Ordination/Installation Service

5:30 p.m. – Youth Group

Wednesday, January 20

7:00 p.m. - Session Meeting

Sunday, January 24

5:30 p.m. - Youth Group

Sunday, January 31

5:30 p.m. - Youth Group



February 2021

7 Youth Group

14 Camp Joy Special Offering

21 Youth Group

14 Youth Group

Diaconate Meeting

28 Youth Group

(Please keep in mind, these dates are tentative and could be cancelled or rescheduled after publication of the Newsletter.)