

Old Providence News

Est. February 2001

Volume 24 Issue 1 January 2024



Old Providence ARP Church

Dear Old Providence Family,

Happy New Year! It's hard to believe, but 2023 has come and gone and 2024 is here. How can this be? I don't even feel like I've gotten used to writing "2023", and now 2024 is here? Life moving by so fast only points to the fact that the passing of time is inevitable. And not only that, we can't speed time up or slow it down. Even so, we can ponder what we will do with the time we have. As you think about the year ahead, what will you do this year? Do you have plans for something you'd like to accomplish? Maybe you've even made a "New Year's Resolution" (and by the time you get this newsletter you might have already broken it)! While there's nothing wrong with making plans and being prepared, let me encourage you to remember what the Bible says about how we should plan for 2024 and life in general.

James 4: 13-16 says: **13 Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." 14 Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. 15 Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." 16 As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes. All such boasting is evil.**

Don't miss what God has revealed in His Word. In this passage both the brevity of life and the scope of our knowledge is revealed. And what shall we take away from what has been revealed? We need the Lord, that's what! It's just that simple. As James wrote, if we were to proceed into the future as if we were the masters of our own destiny, with no regard for God, we become evil boasters. Instead, as verse 15 says, our focus should be on God and our desire should be for His will to be done. It all comes down to the simple truth that what God wants for you is what's best for you. And you can find what God wants for you through His Word. This truth applies to all of us, no matter what circumstances we are facing.

As you enter into 2024, do so with the full assurance that God will be with you no matter what you face. Hold on to the promise Jesus made in Matthew 28:20 when He said **"I am with you always, to the end of the age."** And remember, the only way to really have a "Happy New Year" is to rejoice in Christ. If you make New Year's resolutions, make sure that you are seeking God's will and relying on His strength alone to do what it is you have set out to accomplish.

Your Pastor, Patrick

January 2024 Announcements



As of publication of this Newsletter, we will be relocating worship services beginning Sunday, January 7th, as the Sanctuary will be closed for the next phase of work. We will worship in Providence Hall with two services. At 9:00 a.m. we will worship with the Choir, and Children's Church and Nursery will be provided. Sabbath School will begin at 10:10 a.m. and conclude at 10:45 a.m. A second service will be held at 11:00 a.m. for those choosing the later hour, but the choir will not be present at this service, nor will there be Children's Church or Nursery. Pastor Malphrus will post his Sunday morning sermons on [Facebook.com/OldProvidenceARPCChurchSpottswoodVa](https://www.facebook.com/OldProvidenceARPCChurchSpottswoodVa) and will post the audio version of those sermons on [sermonaudio.com/oldprovidence](https://www.sermonaudio.com/oldprovidence). You may access our Facebook page, church calendar, edited newsletters, [sermonaudio.com](https://www.sermonaudio.com), announcements, and more by visiting our website at: [oldprovidencechurch.org](https://www.oldprovidencechurch.org). For a copy of a Sunday sermon on CD, or to add or update your contact information for notifications received through the One Call System, please call the church office.

Daily Devotionals with our pastor will resume on January 15, 2024, at 7:00 a.m. through our church's Facebook page via [face-book.com/OldProvidenceARPCChurchSpottswoodVa](https://www.facebook.com/OldProvidenceARPCChurchSpottswoodVa). Recordings are available through our website (www.oldprovidencechurch.org) by clicking on the Facebook icon. They are also available through [sermonaudio.com/oldprovidence](https://www.sermonaudio.com/oldprovidence), which may also be accessed from our website, or the [sermonaudioapp](https://www.sermonaudioapp.com). For a copy of a devotional on CD, please contact Patrick.

Wednesday night Prayer Meeting and Bible Study with Pastor Malphrus to resume January 10, 2024.

Home Bible Study meets at Susie and Pat's home at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday evenings. They will not meet on Tuesday, January 2nd.

The Cemetery Trustees will be cleaning the cemetery on Saturday, February 24, 2024. 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 24th will be discarded.

Year End and New Year Reminders: Treasurers of all church organizations are reminded to submit their yearly reports by January 15th 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 2024 Church Calendar to the office as soon as they are available along with any changes to the bulletin backs. Reminder: Please turn off flood lights if you are the last one to leave the church at night.

Offering envelopes for 2024 are available for pickup in Providence Hall near the breezeway.

The sanctuary refreshing project is entering the next phase of work! The old Sunday School rooms are painted, the expanded choir loft and stage steps are in place, and the bathroom and lounge are nearing completion. In January and February, we will paint the sanctuary ceiling and walls, improve the balcony safety railings, install new carpet, and continue the electrical work and lighting up-dates. Please continue to pray for the safety of the workers, as well as the Lord's guidance throughout this program.



Little Lambs and Youth Group

During the school year Youth Group typically meets every Sunday at 5:30 p.m., and Little Lambs meets the first and third Sunday monthly from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Little Lambs will resume on Sunday, January 21st at 5:30 p.m. Youth Group will resume on Sunday, January 14th, at 5:30 p.m.

Women's Ministries Window

Women's Ministries will meet on Thursday, January 4th, 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.

January is the month in which the Women's Ministries takes orders for Our Daily Bread devotionals 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.

Mission/Outreach



The Mission/Outreach committee is teaming up with the Youth Group on Sunday, January 28th, to serve a meal at the Valley Mission. The menu will be baked spaghetti, salad, bread and dessert. If you would like to help by preparing baked spaghetti or purchasing items for this meal, please see the sign-up sheet in Providence Hall. For more information see Carol.

Riverheads Weekday Religious Education

At the November meeting, Dana reported that the classes were going well, and the children seem to enjoy coming. A Cake Walk is in the works for March and a Praise Night in April. The Virginia WRE met and reported on some schools: Craigsville Elementary now has a board; Shenandoah County registration has tripled; Staunton and Waynesboro are after-school programs with Waynesboro going from 4 students in April to 20 students in November. The next meeting will be February 19, 2024.

Operation Christmas Child Year-Round Shoebox Shopping

It's never too early to start Shopping for shoebox gifts. By preparing all year long, you can send the Good News of Jesus Christ and the great joy of receiving an Operation Christmas Child Shoebox to more boys and girls around the world. Each newsletter will have that month's suggestion from the year-round guide to maximize your impact for the Gospel: January – Hats, Gloves, and Scarves.

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); Web Page: oldprovidencechurch.org; 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.

January 2024 Calendar of Events

Tuesday, January 2

No Home Bible Study

Wednesday, January 3

No Prayer Meeting and Bible Study

Thursday, January 4

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

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

Sunday, January 7

8:45 a.m. - Nursery Helpers: Ashlie, William and Blake

9:00 a.m. - Worship

Children's Church Leaders: Carrie and Lois

10:10 a.m. - Sabbath School

11:00 a.m. - Worship

Tuesday, January 9

7:00 p.m. - Home Bible Study

Wednesday, January 10

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

Sunday, January 14

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

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 resumes

Tuesday, January 16

7:00 p.m. - Home Bible Study

Wednesday, January 17

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

Sunday, January 21 – Special Offering for WRE

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

9:00 a.m. - Worship

Children's Church Leaders: Patcie and Sue

10:10 a.m. - Sabbath School

11:00 a.m. - Worship

5:00 p.m. - Diaconate Meeting

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

Tuesday, January 23

7:00 p.m. - Home Bible Study

Wednesday, January 24

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

Sunday, January 28

8:45 a.m. - Nursery Helpers: Amanda and Isabella

9:00 a.m. - Worship

Children's Church Leaders: Dabney and Tina

10:10 a.m. - Sabbath School

11:00 a.m. - Worship

Tuesday, January 30

7:00 p.m. - Home Bible Study

Wednesday, January 31

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



February 2024

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| 1 Women's Ministries | 18 Diaconate Meeting |
| Women's Bible Study | 20 Home Bible Study |
| 6 Home Bible Study | 21 Prayer Meeting and Bible Study |
| 7 Prayer Meeting and Bible Study | 27 Home Bible Study |
| 13 Home Bible Study | 28 Prayer Meeting and Bible Study |
| 14 Prayer Meeting and Bible Study | 29 Women's Ministries Visits Beulah Land |

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