

# Old Providence ARP Church

## Old Providence News

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Dear Old Providence Family,

I was a school teacher once. It seems like ages ago. I taught middle and high school science at a small school in a place called Six Mile, South Carolina. Every year that school would organize a trip for middle schoolers and the year I was a teacher happened to be when a trip was organized to Philadelphia. The purpose of the trip was to see the historical sights that were integral to the formation of our great republic. We saw all sorts of places and things. The Liberty Bell. Various Museums. Betsy Ross's home and even the room where she sewed the first American flag. But among the sights and experiences, my favorite place to visit was Independence Hall.

It was amazing to witness the almost eerie sense of reverence that fell over the students as our tour guide (who was dressed in colonial garb, I might add) walked us through the grounds and then into Independence Hall itself. Our Guide described the men that had gathered to write our nation's Constitution. He described how the group was diverse in terms of backgrounds and even stations in life. So diverse, in fact, that the Constitutional Convention, which is the name given to the meeting of those who came to revise and produce a governing document for our republic, threatened to break up. The result of a failed convention would have been a fragmented America, as opposed to a constitutional republic.

On Thursday, June 28, 1787, at a particularly challenging time in the convention, the Founding Father known as "The First American", Benjamin Franklin himself, addressed the Constitutional Convention and said the following: "Mr. President...In this situation of this Assembly groping as it were in the dark to find political truth, and scarce able to distinguish it when presented to us, how has it happened, Sir, that we have not hitherto once thought of humbly applying to the Father of lights to illuminate our understandings? In the beginning of the contest with Great Britain, when we were sensible of danger we had daily prayer in this room for the Divine Protection. Our prayers, Sir, were heard, and they were graciously answered. All of us who were engaged in the struggle must have observed frequent instances of a Superintending providence in our favor. To that kind providence we owe this happy opportunity of consulting in peace on the means of establishing our future national felicity. And have we now forgotten that powerful friend? Or do we imagine that we no longer need His assistance.

I have lived, Sir, a long time and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth -- that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without his aid? We have been assured, Sir, in the sacred writings that "except the Lord build they labor in vain that build it." I firmly believe this; and I also believe that without his concurring aid we shall succeed in this political building no better than the Builders of Babel: We shall be divided by our little partial local interests; our projects will be confounded, and we ourselves shall be become a reproach and a bye word down to future age. And what is worse, mankind may hereafter from this unfortunate instance, despair of establishing Governments by Human Wisdom, and leave it to chance, war, and conquest."

The quote I've just included is only a portion of Benjamin Franklin's address but it captures the point perfectly. In the midst of our nation's turmoil, we should remind ourselves of God's providence, care, and presence. As Franklin referenced in his address, so we should apply to our daily lives: We must remember to pray. For what has our nation become, as of late, then seemingly another Babel? People are clawing and striving to destroy that which is and build something anew that rises to the level of God Himself, thus removing God from His throne. Even Franklin's address has been called a myth and many challenge its authenticity. Make no mistake about it, the political upheaval in our nation finds its roots in the desire to destroy everything our nation was founded upon and remove any semblance of our great republic.

Even so, we need not be surprised by the degradation of the world around us. Fools do foolish things. Yet we who claim to be followers of Jesus Christ are given a higher calling. We are called to trust in the Lord. We are called to turn to the Lord for guidance and healing for ourselves and our nation. As Franklin indicated in his address, without the Lord we will fall. But with the Lord we will rise. No situation is too far gone. No group is above redemption. As we celebrate our independence this July 4<sup>th</sup>, let us once again spur one another on in turning to the Lord.

Your Pastor,  
Patrick



## July 2020 Announcements

Worship services resumed on Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup>. We have two 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. The services are an abbreviated worship style to minimize the risk of transmission. The 9:00 a.m. service will be streamed on Facebook and will be available to view on sermonaudio.com, that day, hopefully by 10:30 a.m. We request everyone practice social distancing and we invite you to bring any protective gear you deem necessary for yourself.

All other church activities are cancelled until further notice. 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.

### Friday, July 3

Church Office Closed

### Saturday, July 4

Independence Day



### Sunday, July 12

6:00 p.m. Diaconate Meeting  
7:00 p.m. Session Meeting

## PreSchool Registration Reminder



PreSchool Registration is in Process for the 2020/2021 School Year. Applications and details are available on the church website [www.oldprovidencechurch.org](http://www.oldprovidencechurch.org) and in the Church Office.



## August 2020

(Tentative)

6 Women's Ministries 7:00 p.m.

Women's Bible Study 7:30 p.m.

9 Diaconate Meeting 6:00 p.m.

18-20 Synod 2020

23 Special Offering for WRE

Communion

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