

# Old Providence ARP Church

## Old Providence News

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Dear Old Providence Family,

Greetings to you all in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! It is summertime in Spottswood and as I write, I do so with such joy at the prospect of more and more things returning to normal. Part of this return to normal means Homecoming and Special Services at Old Providence! I am excited to announce that Rev. Kyle Sims, pastor at Lancaster First ARP Church in South Carolina, will return and be our guest speaker.

Our Homecoming service will be Sunday morning, July 25<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00 a.m., and will be followed by a covered dish meal in Providence Hall immediately after. We will have Sabbath School at 10:00 a.m., our regular time, but there will be no 9:00 a.m. service on July 25<sup>th</sup>. Special Services begin the same day at 7:00 p.m. and will continue Monday through Wednesday night at 7:00 p.m. And yes, we will enjoy an ice cream/ dessert social on Wednesday night, after our closing service. I hope that as you read this you are as excited as I am about returning to some form of normalcy. But even more so, I hope that you will commit yourself to prayer for these services and that you are looking forward to spending this time together.

While the time of Covid has been difficult in many ways, Covid's affect on many churches has been near disastrous. Many studies have been released, but what seems to be the case is that most churches have seen major decreases in attendance. According to the newest studies, and speaking in general terms, most churches have seen one third of their people stay and be committed to worshipping in person, and are still an active part of the church, while another third of the congregation has participated online and pledges to return to church at some time. But what about the final third of the typical congregation? Studies have shown that most churches have lost one third of their congregation. People have left the church and most likely won't be coming back.

While every case is unique, and while I would not presume to paint with too broad of a brush stroke, the results of these studies point to an undeniable fact. I don't know who said it first, but I have found it to be true that one of the biggest dangers of missing church is that soon enough you won't be missing it. Church is not only important, it is irreplaceable. God has commanded that his people gather together to worship Him. Furthermore, God has commanded that we unite together in spreading the gospel. The promise of our Savior is that He would build His Church. But very practically speaking, you need to be in church. You need the fellowship and encouragement of other believers. You need to hear the preaching and teaching of God's Word. You need to worship God and focus on His greatness.

Praise be to God that Old Providence has continued to grow, even throughout Covid. We have not seen decreases in attendance, but rather, an increase. Even so, with Homecoming and Special Services coming, now is an excellent time to commit yourself anew to being a regular part of the life of the church. If you can't attend Old Providence, be sure to align yourself with a Bible believing church, and make attendance and participation a priority in your life. If you can attend Old Providence, know that you are welcome and that we look forward to seeing you soon

Your Pastor,  
Patrick



## **July 2021 Announcements**

As of publication of this Newsletter, there are two Worship Services each Sunday at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Sabbath School classes for adults meet at 10:00 a.m. Our full Sabbath School program for all ages will resume in August. Children's Church is available during the 9:00 a.m. service only. Nursery is available during the 9:00 a.m. service and 10:00 a.m. Sabbath School hour. Masks are now optional. Youth Group meets on Sundays at 5:30 p.m. except on July 4<sup>th</sup>, July 25<sup>th</sup>, and August 1<sup>st</sup>. The Senior High Beach Retreat will be July 31<sup>st</sup> - August 7<sup>th</sup>.

This summer we are doing something a little different in Children's Church. Since our church will not be having Vacation Bible School this year, we will be doing some of the Bible stories, songs, and activities from the VBS curriculum titled "Concrete and Cranes" which is about building and construction. The theme is "Jesus! Our Strong Foundation!" Thank you to all who have volunteered to lead. We only need two more leaders to commit to one Sunday a month. For more information, please contact Patcie.

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](http://sermonaudio.com/oldprovidence). If you would like a copy of any Sunday sermons on CD, please call the church office.

We are taking the summer off for Daily Devotionals and we plan to resume on August 9, 2021.

### **Women's Ministries Window**

Women's Ministries will meet on Thursday, July 1<sup>st</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. with Bible Study following at 7:30 p.m. All women are invited. We will be studying Daniel 6 and 7 in Chapters 7 and 8 of our study book "Daniel" by Iain Duguid. Women's Ministries is sponsoring a project to help Kingsway families by collecting canned fruit (peaches, pears, fruit cocktail, applesauce, etc.) in small or large cans. The collection will run through July 18<sup>th</sup>. Collection boxes are located in Providence Hall. For questions, contact Gail.

## Old Providence PreSchool Update



We are getting excited about preschool starting back and there are still openings for this fall. For details, please call the church office or visit [www.oldprovidencechurch.org](http://www.oldprovidencechurch.org).

### Community Event

Raphine Volunteer Fire Company's Fireworks and Ice Cream Social will be held on Saturday, July 10<sup>th</sup>. Food and drink sales will begin at 6:00 p.m. and the band will start at 7:00 p.m.

### Homecoming and Special Services

Please make plans now to attend Homecoming on Sunday, July 25<sup>th</sup>, during our 11:00 a.m. Worship Service which will be the only service that day. Nursery will be available during Sabbath School at 10:00 a.m. and the 11:00 a.m. service but there will be no Children's Church. Rev. Patrick Malphrus will lead our Homecoming Service. Join us after the Homecoming Service for a Covered Dish Meal in Providence Hall.

Also, plan to attend Special Services in the evenings on July 25<sup>th</sup> to July 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Rev. Kyle Sims, pastor of the First ARP Church of Lancaster, South Carolina, will be leading our special services. Kyle led our special services in 2019 and we are excited about him returning to lead them again. He will be focusing on the theme "Psalm 84 and The Love of The Church". In 2005, Kyle accepted a call as minister to the First ARP Church. In 2010, he graduated from the Erskine Theological Seminary's Institute on Reformed Worship with a Doctor of Ministry degree. Kyle is currently the Principal Clerk of The ARP Church. He is also a volunteer Chaplain with the Lancaster City Fire Department which allows him to minister to the community as well his congregation. As a former basketball player, Kyle has enjoyed coaching youth basketball in the Moriah Church League and Hope on the Hill League. He resides in Lancaster with his wife Kelly and their four children. Kyle and our pastor have become very good friends over the years and have worked together on various denominational committees. We are grateful that the Lord has brought Kyle back to us for special services. The series of services will conclude on Wednesday evening following the service with a time of fellowship, and homemade ice cream and desserts provided by the congregation.

### ARP News

Congratulations to our pastor for becoming Moderator of our denomination, the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church! The office of Moderator brings with it a one-year term in which Rev. Malphrus will serve as chief officer (akin to that of president) of our denomination and represent the ARP Church in various matters, along with leading meetings, attending presbyteries, and many other responsibilities aside. Being elected to serve as Moderator is a great honor for our pastor and for Old Providence. Please keep our pastor in your prayers!

## July 2021 Calendar of Events

Thursday, July 1

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

7:30 p.m. – Women's Bible Study

Sunday, July 4

8:45 a.m. – Nursery Helpers: Laurin and Isabella

9:00 a.m. – Worship

Children's Church

10:00 a.m. – Sabbath School

11:00 a.m. – Worship

Monday, July 5 – Independence Day Observed

Church Office Closed

Friday, July 9 & Monday, July 12

Church Office Closed

Sunday, July 11

8:45 a.m. – Nursery Helpers: Lois and Katie

9:00 a.m. – Worship

Children's Church

10:00 a.m. – Sabbath School

11:00 a.m. – Worship

6:30 p.m. – Diaconate Meeting

Tuesday, July 13

7:00 p.m. – Christian Education Meeting

Children's Church

10:00 a.m. – Sabbath School

11:00 a.m. – Worship



Wednesday, July 14

7:00 p.m. – Session Meeting

Sunday, July 18

8:45 a.m. – Nursery Helpers: Terri and Karleen

9:00 a.m. – Worship

Children’s Church

10:00 a.m. – Sabbath School

11:00 a.m. – Worship

Sunday, July 25 – HOMECOMING

9:45 a.m. – Nursery Helpers: Amanda and Isabella

10:00 a.m. – Sabbath School

11:00 a.m. – Worship

Noon – Covered Dish Meal

Sunday, July 25 – Wednesday, July 28

7:00 p.m.. – Special Services

Monday, July 26

ARP Women’s Ministries Annual Meeting at Bonclarken

Monday, July 26 – Thursday, July 29

Family Bible Conference at Bonclarken

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

## August 2021



5 Women’s Ministries & Bible Study

8 Diaconate Meeting

Rally Day & Sunday School Picnic

22 Special Offering for WRE

Communion