

Old Providence News

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Old Providence ARP Church

Dear Old Providence Family,

With March comes the first signs of Spring. Before we know it, the whole world will be green again. Of course, I am writing this letter in the middle of February and by the time it reaches your hands the world may be white with snow! Even so, it's nice to think about warmer weather and the fact that Spring is on its way. It's also nice to think about the events and days that mark the season's change. For instance, I can't wait for the Highland County Sugar Maple Festival. I also can't help but love St. Patrick's Day. And no! Not because I am named Patrick. Instead, the true, historical figure of St. Patrick offers so much direction and encouragement.

Have you given much thought to the man commonly referred to as Saint Patrick, who is celebrated in March? What do you know about the missionary that brought Christianity to Ireland in the 5th Century? I haven't the space in this newsletter to give you his full history, but I will summarize his life by telling you that Saint Patrick brought Christianity to a part of the world that was not only ignorant of Christ but was hostile toward Him.

Saint Patrick's life was at risk on multiple occasions because he was adamant about sharing the truth of the gospel with lost people. On one such occasion the High King of Ireland, King Loegaire, set out to murder Saint Patrick and his followers. In response, Saint Patrick wrote what has been translated as "The Deer's Cry", comparing himself and his followers to deer that were being chased by hunters. Though poetic, what Saint Patrick wrote was really a prayer.

Again, I haven't the space to include all of what he prayed, but an accurate summary is contained in his prayer's last verse when he prayed: "Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ on my right, Christ on my left, Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down, Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me, Christ in the mouth of every man who speaks of me, Christ in the eye that sees me, Christ in the ear that hears me. I arise today through a mighty strength, the invocation of the Trinity, through a belief in the Threeness, through a confession of the Oneness of the Creator of creation."

Saint Patrick's heart is visible in his prayer. When faced with calamity, his only focus was Christ because he knew that Christ has dominion over all things. Do you know this? Will you turn to Christ in your time of need? As you see decorations for Saint Patrick's Day, try to remember that he was simply a man that loved the Lord. And remember your call to love the Lord, as well.

Your Pastor,

Patrick

March 2023 Announcements



As of publication of this Newsletter, we have Sunday Morning Worship Service at 10:00 a.m. and Sabbath School at 9:00 a.m. Children's Church is available during the Worship Service. Nursery is available during the Worship Service and during Sabbath School. Youth Group meets every Sunday at 5:30 p.m. Little Lambs meets the first and third Sunday monthly from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Pastor Malphrus will broadcast his sermons on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. on Facebook.com/OldProvidenceARChurchSpottswoodVa and will post the audio version of those sermons on sermonaudio.com/oldprovidence. Please contact Patrick for assistance. You may access our Facebook page, edited newsletters, sermonaudio.com, announcements, church calendar, and more by visiting our website at oldprovidencechurch.org. For a copy of a Sunday sermon on CD, or to add or update your information for notifications received through the One Call System, please contact the church office.

Daily Devotionals with our pastor are at 7:00 a.m. Monday through Thursday through our church's Facebook page via facebook.com/OldProvidenceARChurchSpottswoodVa or our website (www.oldprovidencechurch.org) by clicking on the Facebook icon. Recordings will be available afterwards through sermonaudio.com/oldprovidence, which may also be accessed from our website, or the sermonaudio app. For a copy of a devotional please contact Patrick.

Weekly Bible Study and Prayer Services are on Wednesdays at 6:45 p.m. with Pastor Malphrus.

Home Bible study at Susie and Pat's home takes place on Tuesdays, at 7:00 p.m. If you have any questions, contact Pat.

Monday Mid-Day Program

Our Monday Mid-Day Program resumes on March 6, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. with our guest speaker, Stephanie Crawford, from ComfortCare Women's Health, followed by a light lunch and fellowship. The program takes place in Providence Hall. The cost of lunch is \$3 and there is a sign-up sheet to help with meals by the kitchen door. The Spring Schedule is as follows:

March 20 – *Augusta County Court House*

April 3 – *My Journeys to the Ends of the Earth with the Holy Spirit as My Guide*

April 17 – *Israel and the Church*

May 1 – *Bowl Turning*

May 15 – *Buffalo Creek Boys School*

Bus Trip



The Spiritual Care Committee is sponsoring a bus trip to the Museum of the Bible in Washington, D.C. on May 23, 2023, providing we meet the minimum of 32 people. The cost of the trip is \$55 for members and regular attendees, and \$65 for guests. These prices include bus transportation and museum ticket. The meal will be Dutch treat. See Linda or Martha to get your name on the list by April 16th.



Little Lambs

Little Lambs will meet on Sundays, March 5th and 19th, from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. There will be an **Easter Egg Hunt** at Old Providence on Saturday, April 8th at 10:00 a.m.

Women's Ministries Window



Women's Ministries will meet at **10:00 a.m.** on Thursday, March 2nd, for a business meeting, followed by Bible Study at 10:30 a.m. We will be studying Chapter 2 of the book entitled, **Revelation for You**, by Tim Chester, which relates to Chapter 2 and 3 of the Book of Revelation. All Women are welcome.

ComfortCare Baby Bottle Campaign

Come and be a part of the ComfortCare 2023 Baby Bottle Campaign. **Every year our theme is the same because every year it is important to SPEAK UP.** Scripture states, "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves" (Proverbs 31:8). **THE BOTTLES ARE LOCATED IN PROVIDENCE HALL. FILLED BOTTLES ARE DUE BY MARCH 19TH.**

Bonclarken Events

Bonclarken is the conference center of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian (ARP) Church and is in Flat Rock, N.C. Bonclarken's mission is "to provide and promote a Christian environment for inspiration and renewal, worship, education, fellowship, and recreation by the power of the Holy Spirit." There are several ARP events available this year which are as follows: ARP Women's Ministries Annual Meeting – July 24; Camp Bonclarken for Boys and Girls Grades 2-8 – July 16-21 and July 23-28; Camp Joy – June 4-9, June 25-30, July 2-7, and July 16-21; Family Bible Conference – July 24-27; Horizon for Senior High – June 19-24; Music Conference – July 9-14; Music/Drama Camp – July 2-7; Quest for Middle School – June 12-17; General Synod Meeting – June 6-8; Volunteer Work Week – Week of April 17; See the Leaves – October 24-26; and World Focus 2023 – June 8-9. For more information and to make reservations visit <https://www.bonclarken.org> or call [828-882-2735](tel:828-882-2735).

March 2023 Calendar of Events

Wednesday, March 1

No Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

Thursday, March 2

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

10:30 a.m. - Bible Study

6:30 p.m. - Refreshing Finance Committee Meeting



Sunday, March 5

8:45 a.m. - Nursery Helpers: Carol and Summer

9:00 a.m. - Sabbath School

10:00 a.m. - Worship

Children's Church Leaders: Carrie and Lois

No Little Lambs and Youth Group

Monday, March 6

11:00 a.m. - Monday Mid-Day Program resumes

Tuesday, March 7

7:00 p.m. - Home Bible Study

Wednesday, March 8

6:45 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. - Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

Saturday, March 11

7:00 a.m. - Session Breakfast

Sunday, March 12 - Daylight Savings Time Begins

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

9:00 a.m. - Sabbath School

10:00 a.m. - Worship

Children's Church Leaders: Amanda and Vicki

5:30 p.m. - Youth Group



Tuesday, March 14

7:00 p.m. - Home Bible Study

Wednesday, March 15

6:45 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. - Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

Saturday, March 18

10:00 a.m. - Virginia Presbytery Meeting - Johnson Creek ARP in Covington

Sunday, March 19

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

9:00 a.m. - Sabbath School

10:00 a.m. - Worship

Children's Church Leaders: Patcie and Sue

5:00 p.m. - Diaconate Meeting

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

Monday March 20

11:00 a.m. - Monday Mid-Day Program

Tuesday, March 21

7:00 p.m. - Home Bible Study

Wednesday, March 22

6:45 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. - Bible and Prayer

Sunday, March 26

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

9:00 a.m. - Sabbath School

10:00 a.m. - Worship

Children's Church Leaders: Dabney and Tina

5:30 p.m. - Youth Group

Tuesday, March 28

7:00 p.m. - Home Bible Study

Wednesday, March 29

6:45 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. - Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

April 2023



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| 2 Palm Sunday
Spring Special Offering - Synod
Little Lambs & Youth Group | 9 Resurrection Sunday/Sunrise Service/Breakfast |
| 3 Monday Mid-Day | 16 Diaconate Meeting
Little Lambs & Youth Group |
| 6 Women's Ministries/Bible Study | 17 Monday Mid-Day |
| 7 Good Friday - Office Closed | 23 Youth Group |
| 8 Easter Egg Hunt | 30 Breakfast for Local Missions
Youth Group |

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