

Old Providence News

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Old Providence ARP Church

Dear Old Providence Family,

Happy Thanksgiving! And greetings from Namibia. At least that's where I am as I type this article for our newsletter. If you're wondering why I'm writing from Namibia (located north of South Africa and west of Botswana), it's because I am representing our denomination, the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, at the International Conference of Reformed Churches. Practically speaking, this means I am in Africa with representatives from 47 other Presbyterian and reformed denominations from all over the world. Last night I ate supper with a pastor from Uganda and another from South Sudan. Just now, at lunch, I ate with a pastor from Indonesia. I've also had the privilege of meeting with pastors from India, South Korea, Northern Ireland, Holland, Scotland, and too many other places to list. While our conversations have varied, the common theme present throughout all of my interactions has been rising persecution toward Christianity around the world.

Brothers from India spoke of radical Hindus finding their churches and beating Christians to within an inch of their lives. These Christians have to worship in secret and must hide their numbers in order to protect themselves from genocide. Brothers from South Sudan spoke of the horrors of their civil war with Sudan and how radical Islam wants to destroy Christianity. Still others spoke of government sponsored persecution and being denied the opportunity of buying land and operating churches. The pastor I met from Indonesia spoke of worshipping in silence when Muslim radicals were in their area and were looking for Christians to murder. One delegation from the Republic of the Congo was intercepted at the border and could not even make it to the conference. While I knew that persecution was a reality for many Christians, this conference has made persecution all too real.

Perhaps you noticed that I began this article by saying "Happy Thanksgiving!" You may be wondering why I am so joyful as I write about the persecution that our brothers and sisters in Christ face on a daily basis. The answer is simple. I can't remember the last time I have been with this many joyful people. I mentioned that the common theme present in all of my interactions was the reality of persecution. Even so, the common attitude exhibited by these brothers is that of pure joy. Why? How? Again, the answer is simple. They have chosen to remember to count their trials as pure joy, as James 1 says. They have remembered what our Lord said in Matthew 5 when he said "Blessed are you when others insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me." They have remembered what the apostle Paul wrote in Philippians 4 when he said, "Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say rejoice!" They have remembered Psalm 107 and the call to "give thanks to Jehovah, for He is good." And they have remembered that Jesus commands his people to rejoice, for our treasure is in Heaven.

In light of the fact that Thanksgiving is just around the corner, will you remember these things? Will you rejoice in the Lord always? Will you take the time to consider all that the Lord has done for you and the fact that you enjoy freedoms that so few in the world have ever experienced? Before you say “yes, absolutely!”, remember that the biblical concept of remembering always includes action. How will you give thanks? How will you show your gratitude? Let me suggest that you start with joy and being characterized by gratitude. And let me further suggest that you commit yourself anew to worshipping the Lord and walking in His ways, including being a regular part of worship in church, with God’s people. This is just a start, but it’s a good start. Thanksgiving falls flat without actually giving thanks. But having an attitude of thanksgiving results in real joy.

Again, Happy Thanksgiving!

Your pastor, Patrick

November 2022 Announcements



As of publication of this Newsletter, we have Sunday Morning Worship Service at 10:00 a.m. and Sabbath School at 11:10 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 will meet 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. If you need help accessing online sermons, please contact Patrick. 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, call the church office.

Live 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.oldprovidence church.org by clicking on the Facebook icon. Recordings will be available afterwards through sermonaudio.com, 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.

2022 Officer Election: November 6th - Session to submit nominees for Deacons to the congregation; November 13th - Congregational Meeting to select four Deacons. Please pray for our Officer Elections.

Women's Ministries Window

Women's Ministries will meet at **10:00 a.m.** on Thursday, November 3rd. Bible Study will follow at **10:30 a.m.** Our Bible Study is based on the book, "Faith in the Face of Apostasy: The Gospel According of Elijah & Elisha", by Raymond B. Dillard. We will cover Chapter 11 in November. All women are welcome to the meeting and/or the Bible Study.

Women's Ministries is sponsoring this year's project to help Kingsway by collecting dressing and gravy to be given out before Thanksgiving. The collection will run through November 13th. There are collection boxes in Providence Hall for anyone who would like to participate. If you have any questions, contact Gail.

Fellowship Friday

Join us for Fellowship Friday on November 4th and 18th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. November 4th we will have dinner and play games (Fishbowl & Mennonite Madness). We ask that you RSVP by 9:00 p.m. the Tuesday before to, FellowshipFridays@oldprovidencechurch.org. Please let us know if you need child-care. Contact Joanie with questions.

Little Lambs and Youth Group

Little Lambs for children ages 3 to 5th grade will meet on Sundays, November 6th and 20th, from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact Amanda.

Youth Group will meet on Sundays, November 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th, at 5:30 p.m. Please contact Patrick if you have any questions.

Monday Mid-Day

Our final Monday Mid-Day Program for the fall will meet on November 7th. Our guest speaker will be Renee L., Senior Regional Director for Latin America at Advancing Native Missions. A light lunch will be provided after the program. Everyone is welcome.

Missions Outreach Committee

The Mission Outreach Committee would like to know if anyone in the congregation is interested in helping with a meal at the Valley Mission in Staunton. If interested, please call Karen.

Operation Christmas Child

We are once again participating in the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry. Boxes are available in Providence Hall. Make sure you pick up a label to go on your box. The cost for shipping the box this year is \$10. You may pay online with a debit/credit card, or you may enclose your payment of cash or check in the envelope provided. Make checks payable to Old Providence Church Youth Group so one payment can be sent to Samaritan's Purse for shipping. Please return boxes to Providence Hall by Sunday, November 20th. If you have any questions, please contact Carrie.

Community Holiday Dinner

We will have our Community Holiday Dinner on Saturday, December 3, 2022, from 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. This will be done as a Pre-order Drive Thru at the church. Dinners must be pre-ordered by Sunday, November 27th, by calling the church office at 540-377-2911 or by texting Carrie or Kristi. Please specify if you would like to come eat your dinner in person. There will be some seating available.

November 2022 Calendar of Events

Wednesday, November 2

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

Thursday, November 3

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

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



Friday, November 4

6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. - Fellowship Friday

Sunday, November 6 - Daylight Savings Time ends

Session to Submit Names of Nominees for Deacons

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

10:00 a.m. - Worship

Children's Church Leaders: Carrie and Lois

11:10 a.m. - Sabbath School

4:00 p.m. - Session Meeting

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

Monday, November 7

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

Wednesday, November 9

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

Sunday, November 13

Congregational Meeting to Select Deacons

9:45 a.m. - Nursery Helpers: Stacy and Karleen

10:00 a.m. - Worship

Children's Church Leaders: Amanda and Vicki

11:10 a.m. - Sabbath School

5:30 p.m. - Youth Group

Wednesday, November 16

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

Friday, November 18

6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. - Fellowship Friday

Sunday, November 20 - Fall Special Offering for Synod Causes

9:45 a.m. - Nursery Helpers: Terri and Vicki

10:00 a.m. - Worship

Children's Church Leaders: Patcie and Sue

11:10 a.m. - Sabbath School

4:00 p.m. - Session & Diaconate Meeting

5:00 p.m. - Diaconate Meeting

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

Wednesday, November 23

No Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

Thursday, November 24 & Friday, November 25

Church Office Closed for Thanksgiving



Sunday, November 27 - Communion

9:45 a.m. - Nursery Helpers: Amanda and Shirley

10:00 a.m. - Worship

Children's Church Leaders: Dabney and Tina

5:30 p.m. - Youth Group

Wednesday, November 30

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



December 2022

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| 1 Women's Ministries 10:00 a.m. | 14 Christmas Dinner 6:30 p.m. |
| Women's Bible Study 10:30 a.m. | 18 Christmas Program/Cantata 6:00 p.m. |
| 2 Fellowship Friday 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. | 23 & 26 Church Office Closed |
| 3 Community Holiday Dinner 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. | 25 Christmas Day |
| 4 Little Lambs & Youth Group 5:30 p.m. | 30 Church Office Closed |
| 11 Youth Group 5:30 p.m. | 31 New Year's Eve |