

Old Providence ARP Church

Old Providence News

Est. February 2001

Volume 20 Issue 10 October 1, 2020



Dear Old Providence Friends and Family,

I hope that this newsletter finds all of you doing very well and enjoying the change of seasons. October is a special month to me. Not only does October usher in the autumn season (my own personal favorite), it also reminds me that God is active in our world today. October reminds me of this because of one day in particular—October 31. And no, I'm not talking about Halloween. I'm talking about Reformation Day, the day that we remember God's work through the Protestant Reformation. We celebrate Reformation Day in October because on October 31, 1517, a German monk named Martin Luther nailed a list of 95 propositions to the door of All Saints' Church in Wittenberg, Germany. In his list of 95 items, Luther questioned many tenants of the Roman Catholic church and the corruption that was pervasive throughout both its practices and its theology. The Lord used this simple act of faithfulness, along with others of its kind, to spark a revolution that changed the course of human existence as we know it. 500 years later, we can still appreciate the fact that the Lord intervened in the events of our world.

I have a question for you. Do you believe the Lord still intervenes in the events of our world? Do you know that God can still change the unchangeable? Not only *can* God still change the unchangeable, He does so every day. I say this because of the beautiful promise Jesus made in Matthew 16:18 to build His Church. When Jesus made this promise, he was not talking about buildings, denominational distinctions, or programs. Instead, the Church (spelled with a capital "C" for a reason) that Jesus promised to build is made up of those who are trusting in Jesus Christ alone for their salvation. Similarly, Jesus made another promise in John 6:37 saying "All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out." (English Standard Version).

The reason promises like the ones found in Matthew 16 and John 6 are so important is that they point to the fact that God is active in our world today. God is still saving people and Jesus is still building His Church. Do you see how miraculous and wonderful this is? I hope so, because as we survey the landscape of current events, both on a national and worldwide scale, it would be very easy to lose heart. The temptation we face is to think the world has spiraled out of control and that the only solution is for Jesus to come back.

In fact, much of the prevailing sentiment present among God's people, though many wouldn't say it this way, is that things are going to get so bad that Jesus has to come back. This is not the message of the Bible and does not represent the hope of God's promises. Certainly, Jesus returning would fix everything. But do not forget the hope of the Gospel or the character of God. God has changed the unchangeable. If you're trusting in Jesus Christ alone for your salvation, then you're living proof that God is still bringing hope in the midst of hopelessness. I'm proof of that too. Dwell on these things and do not lose heart. Bask in the hope and power of God's faithfulness.

Your Pastor, Patrick

College Students

The Women's Ministries would like to have the names of all Old Providence college students. Please provide those to the church office by November 1st. Also, if you know of an O.P. college student who would like to receive a monthly copy of "Old Providence News" or if they have an address change, please call the church office at 377-2911.

Diaconate Budget Meeting

The Diaconate will have a budget meeting Sunday, October 11th. Committees, please consider your budgetary needs for 2021 and refer them to the Diaconate. The Budget Request Forms are on the table in Providence Hall and the table in the sanctuary. Please leave your completed form in the Diaconate Chairman's mailbox before the meeting date.



October 2020 Calendar of Events

As of publication of this Newsletter, we have two Sunday Worship 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 Session met on September 23rd and decided to keep following the current worship format. They will meet again on October 14th to decide how to proceed at that point. 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 except Youth Group until further notice. Youth Group will meet every Sunday at 5:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 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.

Sunday, October 4

Special Offering for Rebekah Carson

Sunday, October 11

6:00 p.m. – Diaconate Budget Meeting

Wednesday, October 14

7:00 p.m. – Session Meeting

Saturday, October 17

10:00 a.m. - VA Presbytery Virtual Meeting

Sunday, October 25

Reformation Sunday



November 2020

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1 Daylight Savings Time ends | 26 Thanksgiving Day |
| 22 Fall Special Offering for Synod Causes | 26 & 27 Church Office Closed |
| 25 Community Thanksgiving Supper - TBD | |

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