

Old Providence News

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Old Providence ARP Church

Dear Old Providence Family,

Well, it's official...Fall is here! And the leaves aren't the only things changing around Old Providence. After much prayer, planning, and waiting, the time has finally arrived for our sanctuary refreshing project to get underway. What does this mean for Old Providence? This means we need to be in prayer for all aspects of the refreshing project, including those who are serving on church committees related to the work. This means we need to be flexible when we are not able to use our sanctuary. This means we need to be gracious and loving toward one another as we vote on things like carpet and wall colors in congregational meetings. In short, this means we need to do our best to exercise patience and keep the proper perspective as we move forward together.

Last month we were blessed to celebrate Homecoming at Old Providence. The Lord has been faithful to our congregation for 281 years. In terms of American Christianity, Old Providence is ancient! Even so, our church is thriving. One of the biggest challenges we face with the refreshing project is being out of our sanctuary. The Project Implementation Committee, Worship Committee, and the Session are doing our best to ensure that our time out of the sanctuary will be limited, but we know that there will be some Sundays that require us to use Providence Hall for worship services. Given the number of regular attendees, there's just no way we can fit everyone into Providence Hall for one service. But what a wonderful problem to have! Sadly, we are surrounded by churches who could fit their entire congregation in a Sunday School classroom. Having the proper perspective includes recognizing that the Lord has blessed us with a thriving and growing church, and again, being flexible and gracious.

To that end, the Worship Committee would like to inform the congregation of plans the Session has made concerning the need to relocate worship services during the upcoming refreshing project. When the Sanctuary is closed for construction, we will worship in Providence Hall with two services much like we did during the COVID response. At 9:00 a.m. we will worship with the choir, and Children's Church and Nursery will be provided. Sabbath School will begin at 10:10 a.m. and conclude at 10:45 a.m. A second service will be held at 11:00 a.m. for those choosing the later hour, but the choir will not be present at this service, nor will there be Children's Church or Nursery. We are planning to seat slightly over one hundred congregants at each of these services, and the first service could be the most crowded. Again, the Lord has blessed us in so many ways. Let's be a blessing to Him and one another.

Your Pastor,

Patrick

October 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. During the school year Youth Group meets every Sunday at 5:30 p.m., and Little Lambs meets the first and third Sunday monthly from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Pastor Malphrus will post his Sunday morning sermons on [Facebook.com/OldProvidenceARChurchSpottswoodVa](https://www.facebook.com/OldProvidenceARChurchSpottswoodVa) and will post the audio version of those sermons on [sermonaudio.com/oldprovidence](https://www.sermonaudio.com/oldprovidence). You may access our Facebook page, church calendar, edited newsletters, [sermonaudio.com](https://www.sermonaudio.com/oldprovidence), announcements, and more by visiting our website at www.oldprovidencechurch.org. For a copy of a Sunday sermon on CD, or to add or update your contact information for notifications received through the One Call System, please call the church office.

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

Wednesday night Prayer Meeting and Bible Study with Pastor Malphrus are at 6:45 p.m. Our study is an in-depth study of the book of Hebrews.

Sanctuary Project Implementation

Be on the lookout for some exciting changes! Work on the Sanctuary Project implementation and safety improvements will begin in October and continue for several months. You will notice some paint and carpet color options being presented. Portions of the sanctuary walls will be painted with the color options so you may view them in a larger format and under different lighting conditions. The congregation will be given the opportunity to choose the paint colors and carpet color from the options presented. Look in the bulletin for additional information.

Total work on the sanctuary and narthex will take several months to complete. The first phase will be the pulpit reconfiguration, balcony safety railings, Narthex and bathroom renovation, and electrical rewiring. The second phase will be the plaster repair, painting, and carpet. The sanctuary will be closed periodically during the work. The session has made arrangements to relocate worship activities during those times. Please continue to be in prayer for the project and the safety of the workers.

Little Lambs and Youth Group



Little Lambs will meet on Sundays, October 1st and 15th, from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Please contact Amanda M. with questions. Youth Group will meet on Sundays, October 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd, at 5:30 p.m. Please see Patrick with questions.

Please join us for our annual Trunk or Treat/Fall Festival on Sunday, October 29th, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome! More details coming soon.

Women's Ministries Window

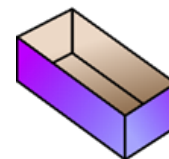
Women's Ministries will meet on Thursday, October 5th, at 10:00 a.m. for a meeting, followed by Bible Study at 10:30 a.m. We will be studying Chapter 9 in the book entitled, *Revelation for You*, by Tim Chester, which covers Revelation 19:11-21:8. **Potato Bar Fundraiser** will be October 15th.

Monday Mid-Day 2023 Fall Program

Please join us for our Monday Mid-Day Program on the following dates: October 9th - Frank S. - "New Providence Mission Trip to West Virginia 2002 and 2003"; October 23rd - Paul P. - "The Instruments & Procedures Used in Colonial Land Surveying" – (equipment from mid-1700s owned by a VMI cadet); November 6 - Rev. Patrick Malphrus - "The ARP Church Today".



Operation Christmas Child



" Christmas Already!" - Yes! It's time to think about Operation Christmas Child - OCC! A table will be set up in Providence Hall with boxes and supplies starting October 8th. Please help yourself to these items. There is a \$10 shipping charge per box. If you don't want to fill a box but would like to support OCC, you may make a donation through the church, just make a note on your check that you want it to go to OCC. There are opportunities to build a box online as well. The deadline for turning the boxes in is November 19th. Let's reach for a goal of 75 boxes in 2023!!! For more information contact Carol. Log on to www.samaritanspurse.org for helpful links like: "How to pack a box", Amazon Storefront for OCC, gift suggestions, find out if something can/cannot be packed, Build a Box online and Volunteering.

Community Event

Raphine Volunteer Fire Company will have a BBQ Chicken Fundraiser at McCormick Farm on Saturday, October 7th, at 11:00 a.m.

Prayer Requests

Please pray for Old Providence PreSchool, the teacher, the students, the parents, and the committee members as they begin a new school year. Also, pray for Gather Around Spottswood Homeschool Co-op, the teachers, the students, and the parents.

Please continue to be in prayer for our Officer Elections. The 2023 Election Process for Elders and Deacons is in process. On Sunday, October 15th, the Session will submit names of the nominees for Elder to the congregation. In a congregational meeting on Sunday, October 22nd, the Congregation will select three Elders.

October 2023 Calendar of Events

Sunday, October 1 – COMMUNION

Special Offering for Missions

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

9:00 a.m. - Sabbath School

10:00 a.m. - Worship

Children's Church Leaders: Carrie and Lois

5:00 p.m. - Little Lambs and Youth Group

Wednesday, October 4

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

Thursday, October 5

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

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



Sunday, October 8

8:45 a.m. - Nursery Helpers: Laurin

9:00 a.m. - Sabbath School

10:00 a.m. - Worship

Children's Church Leaders: Amanda and Vicki

5:15 p.m. - Men's Signing Group

5:30 p.m. - Youth Group

Monday, October 9

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

Wednesday, October 11

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

Sunday, October 15

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

9:00 a.m. - Sabbath School

10:00 a.m. - Worship

Children's Church Leaders: Patcie and Sue

Women's Ministries Potato Bar Fundraiser After Worship

5:00 p.m. - Diaconate Budget Meeting

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

Wednesday, October 18

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

Sunday, October 22

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

9:00 a.m. - Sabbath School

10:00 a.m. - Worship

Children's Church Leaders: Dabney and Tina

5:15 p.m. - Men's Singing Group

5:30 p.m. - Youth Group

Monday, October 23

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

Sunday, October 29 – Reformation Sunday

8:00 a.m. - Breakfast for Local Missions

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

9:00 a.m. - Sabbath School

10:00 a.m. - Worship

Children's Church Leaders: Laurin and Kristi

4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. - Trunk or Treat



The Women's Ministries will host a Potato Bar after worship on October 15th to raise funds for their ministry.

November 2023

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| 2 Women's Ministries 10:00 a.m. | 19 Fall Special Offering for Synod Causes |
| Women's Bible Study 10:30 a.m. | Diaconate Meeting 5:00 pm. |
| 5 Daylight Savings Time Ends | Little Lambs & Youth Group 5:30 p.m. |
| Little Lambs & Youth Group 5:30 p.m. | 23 Thanksgiving Day |
| 6 Monday Mid-Day Program 11:00 a.m. | 23 & 24 Church Office Closed |
| 12 Youth Group 5:30 p.m. | 26 Communion |
| 18 Community Holiday Dinner | Youth Group 5:30 p.m. |

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