

Old Providence News

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Dear Old Providence Family,

If you haven't heard it yet, let me be the first person to wish you a very Merry Christmas! I know...I know... it's hard to believe that it's Christmas time again and that 2025 is coming to a close. But what a glorious time of the year it is! The Christmas season is that wonderful time when we celebrate the fact that God the Son took on flesh and made His dwelling among us. The Christmas season is that time of the year when we turn our attention to the message given to those shepherds in the fields nearby Bethlehem, keeping watch over their flocks at night some 2000 years ago. The same message that proclaimed, "Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth, peace and goodwill to all men on whom His favor rests." As I write this newsletter I've just returned from Israel and I had the opportunity to see the caves where those shepherds were living, just outside of Bethlehem. Just the thought of the Heavenly Host appearing to them fills me with awe and wonder. But let's be honest. The Christmas season can bring less pleasant sensations, too.

What comes to mind when you think of the Christmas season? Is it spending time with family and friends? Is it all the Christmas treats and goodies? Is it the Christmas carols and wonderful, old Christmas tunes? Christmas, or if I wanted to adopt the language of the day, I suppose I should say, the "Holiday Season" has become its own cultural machine. But as we ponder this season together, is it really all of the trappings expressed in our culture that makes Christmas so glorious? Perhaps you find yourself in a different setting this year, facing different circumstances than those of years past. Perhaps you are facing problems that are new or the same problems that have troubled you for some time. Maybe this year you're just not in a Christmasy (if you'll allow me that word) kind of mood and you don't see Christmas as glorious, at all. If this is where you find yourself then allow me to encourage you.

Of course, it isn't all the cultural trappings that make Christmas such a wonderful time. Nor is it even nostalgia from times past or the hope of things to come that makes Christmas so wonderful. What makes Christmas the most wonderful time of the year (cue Andy Williams or Johnny Mathis singing in the background as you read this) is not the "much mistletoeing and hearts that are glowing", but rather, that Christmas is the tangible reminder that there was a time when the world was full of darkness and without hope. Yet into that darkness came light, the True Light that gives life to all people—Jesus Christ, as John 1 says.

It is because of Jesus Christ that we have hope for the future no matter what we face. It is because of Jesus Christ that we can celebrate Christmas with the boldness of those who know the greatest gift ever given wasn't wrapped and placed under a tree, but instead, was hung upon a tree so that all those who would trust in Him would have life in abundance, even throughout eternity.

Know that the Lord is with you no matter what you are facing, whether it is the happiest of happy times or a time of sadness, or maybe even somewhere in between. Remember the promise of Christ, that He will never leave or forsake His people. This Christmas, focus on the promises of God and Jesus Christ, the greatest gift of all.

Merry Christmas! Patrick



December 2025 Announcements

As of publication of this Newsletter, Sunday Morning Worship Services are at 10:00 a.m. and Sabbath School is at 9:00 a.m. Children's Church and Nursery are available during the Worship Service. Youth Group meets on Sundays at 5:30 p.m. and Little Lambs for ages 3 to 5th grade meets on Wednesday nights during our Family Night. Family Night normally takes place each Wednesday with dinner provided from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and then continues with activities for the whole family. Daily Devotionals take place at 6:00 a.m. Monday through Friday each week on facebook.com/OldProvidenceARPCChurchSpottswoodVa. You may access recordings of Devotionals on our Face-book page and audio versions on sermonaudio.com. Pastor Malphrus posts Sunday morning sermons on Facebook.com/OldProvidenceARPCChurchSpottswoodVa and audio versions on sermonaudio.com/oldprovidence. To access our church Facebook page, announcements, edited newsletters, calendar, sermonaudio.com, and more, visit oldprovidencechurch.org. For a copy of a sermon on CD, or to add or update your contact information for notifications received via One Call, contact the church office by calling 540-377-2911 or emailing adminassist@oldprovidencechurch.org. For a copy of a devotional on CD, contact Patrick. Home-based Tuesday night Bible study meets at 7:00 p.m. at Susie and Pat's home every Tuesday, unless otherwise noted.

On October 19th the congregation elected four deacons: Jason, Ryan, Lenny and Frank. We thank them for their willingness to serve the church.

Our Annual Congregational Business Meeting will be held after worship on December 7th for the purpose of approving the 2026 Proposed Budget and electing Congregational Officers. (Changed to Dec. 14th.)

If anyone who **does not** currently receive offering envelopes, would like to have them for 2026, please call Terri, by December 14th. Everyone is welcome to receive them.

Year End: Treasurers of all church organizations are reminded to submit their yearly reports by Thursday, January 15, 2026, so the annual report to Synod and Presbytery can be prepared. Please leave them in the Administrative Assistance's mailbox in the hall next to the office. Committee Chairman, please provide event dates for the 2026 Church Calendar to the church office as soon as they are available and any changes for bulletin backs no later than January 15, 2026.

Thank you Notes



Thank you to everyone who participated in the Operation Christmas Child shoebox campaign this year! We collected 59 shoeboxes. Please continue to pray for the children who will receive boxes and for their families.

Thank you to all who participated in this year's project to help Kingsway by collecting dressing and gravy for Thanksgiving. We collected 200 boxes of dressing, 108 jars and cans of gravy, and 50 packages of gravy.

Cemetery Cleaning

The Cemetery Trustees will be cleaning the cemetery on Saturday, February 28, 2026. All flowers/decorations that you wish to save need to be removed prior to this date. Any flowers/decorations remaining in the cemetery on Saturday, February 28, 2026, will be discarded.

Women's Ministries Window

Reminder: Women's Ministries will meet Thursday, December 4th, at 10:00 a.m. for a potluck brunch. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to share, and beverages will be provided. This will also be a time of fellowship as well as making some business decisions for the coming year, such as budget, new projects for fundraising and other projects, synopsis of our new Bible Study, *Learning to Love the Psalms* by W. Robert Godfrey, officer and committee chairs for 2026 and anything else that needs to be addressed. Every woman is invited to attend.

Women's Ministries invites the congregation to a Christmas Breakfast on Friday, December 5th, at 9:00 a.m. We will gather in Providence Hall for a catered meal (\$10). In lieu of a gift exchange, a Love Offering will be received for KINGSWAY. Please RSVP (for meal prep) to the church office by Monday, December 1st. (Cancelled due to weather.)

Baja House Building Mission Trip Fundraiser

Still available, Tidal Wave Auto Spa car wash tickets for a \$30 wash costing \$10 to use at any Tidal Wave Auto Spa. To order, please contact Dan.

Christmas Calendar



The Malphrus Family will have an Open House for our Old Providence Church family at the manse on Sunday, December 14th. Please stop by anytime between 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Our Congregational Christmas Dinner will be held on Wednesday, December 17th, 6:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to this covered dish meal and a time of singing carols. Beverages will be provided. Meat and meat casseroles are welcome.

Our Cantata and Children's Christmas Pageant will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 21st. Join the choir as they present "Beautiful Star".

Youth Group: Angel Tree Shopping – December 7th, Christmas Party – December 14th, Lock-In – December 31st.

Kingdom Choir: Christmas Party – December 10th, Christmas Play – December 21st.

YAMS: Christmas Party – TBD, Bonfire Night – TBD.

Raphine Volunteer Fire Company: Santa at Raphine Christmas tree on December 24th at 6:00 p.m.

DECEMBER 2025 Calendar of Events

Tuesday, December 2

7:00 p.m. - Home-based Bible Study

Wednesday, December 3

6:00 p.m. - Family Night



Thursday, December 4

10:00 a.m. - Women's Ministries and Potluck Brunch

Friday, December 5

9:00 a.m. - Congregational Christmas Breakfast

6:00 p.m. - Session Dinner

Sunday, December 7 - Congregational Business Meeting

9:00 a.m. - Sabbath School

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

10:00 a.m. - Worship

Children's Church Leaders: Carrie and Elizabeth

11:00 a.m. - Youth Group Angel Tree Shopping

Tuesday, December 9

7:00 p.m. - Home-based Bible Study

Wednesday, December 10

6:00 p.m. - Family Night

Kingdom Choir Christmas Party

Sunday, December 14

9:00 a.m. - Sabbath School

9:45 a.m. - Nursery Helpers: Cindy and Gratia

10:00 a.m. - Worship

Children's Church Leaders: Amanda and Vicki

3:00 -5:00 p.m. - Open House at the Manse

5:00 p.m. - Diaconate Meeting

6:00-8:00 p.m. - Youth Group Christmas Party

Tuesday, December 16

7:00 p.m. - Home-based Bible Study

Wednesday, December 17

6:30 p.m. - Congregational Christmas Dinner

Sunday, December 21

9:00 a.m. - Sabbath School

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

10:00 a.m. - Worship

Children's Church Leader: Patcie

6:00 p.m. - Cantata & Children's Christmas Pageant

Tuesday, December 23

7:00 p.m. - Home-based Bible Study

Wednesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

Church Office Closed

Thursday, December 25 – Christmas Day

Church Office Closed



Sunday, December 28

9:00 a.m. - Sabbath School

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

10:00 a.m. - Worship

Children's Church Leaders: Dabney and Tina

5:30 p.m. - Youth Group

Tuesday, December 30

7:00 p.m. - Home-based Bible Study

Wednesday, December 31 – New Year's Eve

Church Office Closed

Youth Group Lock-in

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