

Old Providence News

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Dear Old Providence Family,

Freedom. Liberty. What beautiful words and concepts. If you look up freedom's definition, you'll find that freedom is the power to act, speak, or think as one wants without hinderance or restraint. If you look up liberty's definition, you'll find that liberty is the state of being free within society from oppressive restrictions imposed by authority on one's way of life, behavior, or political views. The reason I'm referencing these concepts is that it's July, and with July comes that singular day when we tend to focus on things like freedom and liberty.

That's right, I'm talking about Independence Day, the 4th of July, that day when we remember our nation declaring independence from British rule, thus noting the formation of a new nation. Additionally, as we consider our nation's independence, freedom, and liberty, we should also remember that freedom is never free. Much to the contrary, our nation enjoys independence and freedom based on the shed blood of those who fought to secure our freedom. Those who gave their lives made the ultimate sacrifice in order to overthrow a reign of tyranny and subjugation, and we are beneficiaries of their sacrifice. As a result, I hope you will remember freedom's cost, and that you will praise God with gratitude for His intervention in the course of our nation's history. I hope you will praise God for His intervention in the course of human history, as well. In the same way that our nation's freedom isn't free, neither is the freedom we enjoy in Christ.

Jesus has purchased our freedom with His precious blood, and he made all sorts of statements about the life and freedom He has secured for us. He has told us things in His Word like John 10:10 where He said that "I have come that they might have life, and have it more abundantly." He also said in John 8:36 that "If the Son of Man sets you free, you are free indeed." Paul would also testify to the freedom we enjoy in Christ by writing in Galatians 5:1 where we are told that "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free." In the same verse Paul would go on to write "Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery."

What is the yoke of slavery Paul referred to in Galatians 5:1? Ultimately, he's talking about sin, and the command of God's Word for you and me is to examine our lives in light of God's Word to ensure that we are seeking His Kingdom and righteousness first. And when we seek His Kingdom and righteousness first, all other things will be added to us, just as Jesus said in Matthew 6:33. While the freedom and liberty we enjoy as a nation is limited, in Christ we are truly free. Be sure to celebrate your freedom in Christ as you celebrate our nation's independence.

Your Pastor,

Patrick



July 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 Sundays from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., unless otherwise announced. Pastor Malphrus posts Sunday morning sermons on [Facebook.com/OldProvidenceARChurchSpottswoodVa](https://www.facebook.com/OldProvidenceARChurchSpottswoodVa) and audio versions on [sermonaudio.com/oldprovidence](https://www.sermonaudio.com/oldprovidence). To access our church Facebook page, edited newsletters, calendar, [sermonaudio.com](https://www.sermonaudio.com), announcements, and more, visit [oldprovidencechurch.org](https://www.oldprovidencechurch.org). For a copy of a sermon on CD, or to add or update your contact information for notifications received via One Call, call the church office. *We will be taking a break for the summer for Prayer Meeting and Bible Study, and Daily Devotionals. They will start back in August.* You may access recordings of Devotionals on our Facebook page and audio versions on [sermonaudio.com](https://www.sermonaudio.com). 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 Patterson's home every Tuesday, unless otherwise noted.

Women's Ministries Window

Women's Ministries will meet Thursday, July 3rd, at 10:00 a.m. for our Business Meeting and 10:30 a.m. for Bible Study. We will be studying Chapter 9 of *Lessons from the Upper Room, The heart of the Savior*, by Sinclair B. Ferguson.

Women's Ministries would like to thank everyone for your generous donations to the project to benefit Bonclarken Gift Shop. There were over 570 items donated! They appreciate your support!

Note from Comfort Care Women's Health: Thank you for participating in the 2025 Baby Bottle Campaign! Old Providence raised a total of \$1,133.81. A total of 8,307 baby bottles were distributed, and 196 churches and organizations participated. The grand total collected was \$177,356.03. Thank you... for speaking up for those who cannot speak for themselves. *Prov. 31:8*

Community Event

The Raphine Volunteer Fire Company Fireworks and Ice Cream Social will be on July 5th at the Firehouse with food and drinks on sale at 6:00 p.m. and the Band will start at 7:00 p.m.

Family Ministry July Events

We are so excited for our first summer here at Old Providence! It has been off to a great start with VBS and our weeks at Bonclarken for Horizon & Quest. July is going to be just as great with many different events offered for all aspects of Family ministry at Old Providence!

Youth Group 4th of July Cookout & Pool Party - We are kicking off July with a 4th of July cookout and pool party. Youth Group and their families are invited to join us from 12:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. on Friday, July 4th, to enjoy a time of hamburgers, hot dogs, & swimming. Please RSVP to Elizabeth by July 2nd.

Youth Group Game Night at Will & Elizabeth's - We are excited to open our home to our youth on Sunday, July 13th, from 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.! We have plenty of games and you can even bring your favorite board or card game! We'll be providing food, snacks, and drinks. Please let us know if you or your youth student plans on being there!

Camp Joy Virginia Day - We have the wonderful opportunity to head down to Camp Joy Virginia on Thursday, July 24th, to experience a day at camp as well as help serve them. Any youth or young adult member is welcome to join us for the day. If interested, please let Will or Elizabeth know.

Movie Night - Little Lambs and Youth Group and their families are invited to join us at the church for a movie night on Wednesday, July 30th, from 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.! But the twist is that we are bringing Christmas in July to Old Providence! We will be showing *Klaus* the movie, with freshly popped popcorn, pizza, and drinks. But we also invite you and your family to bring your favorite snack to share!

For any more information or clarification on any event happening in July, please reach out to either Will or Elizabeth. We look forward to fellowshiping with you all this summer!

Vacation Bible School Thank You

Thank you to everyone who helped with Vacation Bible School last month. We had a wonderful week sharing the Good News of Jesus. There were many volunteers who helped with every aspect. We had an amazing week and could not have done this without each one of you. The total amount collected at VBS for Children's Hunger Fund through Answers in Genesis to provide food and the hope of the gospel to children facing food insecurity in the US and around the globe was \$1,344.17.

JULY 2025 Calendar of Events

Tuesday, July 1

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

Thursday, July 3

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

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



Friday, July 4

Church Office Closed - Independence Day Observed

12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. - Youth Group Cookout and Pool Party

Sunday, July 6

9:00 a.m. - Sabbath School

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

10:00 a.m. - Worship

Children's Church Leaders: Carrie and Elizabeth

No Little Lambs & Youth Group

Tuesday, July 8

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

Sunday, July 13

9:00 a.m. - Sabbath School

9:45 a.m. - Nursery Helpers: Carol and Laurin

10:00 a.m. - Worship

Children's Church Leaders: Amanda and Vicki

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

5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. - Youth Group Game Night

Tuesday, July 15

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

Sunday, July 20

9:00 a.m. - Sabbath School

9:45 a.m. - Nursery Helper: Sally and Stephanie

10:00 a.m. - Worship

Children's Church Leaders: Patcie and Sue

4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. - Little Lambs & 5:30 p.m. - Youth Group

Tuesday, July 22

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

Thursday, July 24

Camp Joy Virginia Workday at Smith Mountain Lake

Sunday, July 27

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

4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. - Little Lambs & 5:30 p.m. - Youth Group

Monday, July 28 - Thursday, July 31

Family Bible Conference at Bonclarken

Tuesday, July 29

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

Wednesday, July 30

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. - Little Lambs & Youth Group Movie Night at the Church

Thursday, July 31

7:00 p.m. - Women's Ministries Visits Beulah Land

AUGUST CALENDAR

3, 10, 17 & 24	Little Lambs & Youth Group	24	Communion
7	Women's Ministries & Bible Study 10:00 a.m.		Special Offering for WRE
10	Diaconate Meeting 5:00 p.m.	31	Breakfast for Local Missions 8:00 a.m. TBD

Save the Dates

September 7 - Rally Day and Picnic

September 14 - HOMECOMING & Covered Dish Meal

September 14 to September 17 - Special Services 7:00 p.m.

September 17 - Ice Cream Social 8:00 p.m.

November 12 - Day Trip: Riverside Dinner Theater in Fredericksburg "White Christmas"

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