

# Old Providence News

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Old Providence ARP Church

Dear Old Providence Family,

March has finally arrived and I know that spring is right around the corner – not because of the calendar, but because the wind that blusters out the winter has started blowing shingles off of my little cabin roof - - a more reliable sign than Punxsutawney Phil’s shadow! With the changing of the seasons I’m always reminded of life’s cycles. In our beautiful Shenandoah Valley, we are blessed with four very distinctive, gorgeous seasons, and just as we’re perhaps getting a little weary of the present weather and scenery, God changes it into something fresh that renews our spirits. Unlike most folks, I actually prefer winter because the snow and cold brings an air of calm to the otherwise busy-ness of activities and noise. I also enjoy the comfort of the fires that warm our home. Life just seems a little quieter in winter. For those reasons I’ll be a bit sorry to see winter go, but I am now ready for the crocuses, daffodils and forsythia, which will surely give way to the tulips and red buds.

The author of Ecclesiastes tells us that there is a time and a season for everything. But he also concludes that all things are vanity. A generation comes and a generation goes. Regardless of what we do, says the author, the sun sets and afterwards rises. Like clockwork, we can depend on the inevitable cycles of life to turn. And all our labor is ultimately for naught, as we and our productivity return to the earth, dust to dust, only to be forgotten by future generations. He therefore concludes that life is meaningless, and that there is nothing new under the sun.

But we must not miss that phrase, “under the sun.” It is what distinguishes the vain labors of nature and man from the eternal things of God. The writer of Ecclesiastes is looking at the realities of the world through a human perspective – from a viewpoint of *under the sun*. But by the end of the book, he comes around to noting that the only things that matter – the only things that last – are heavenly things. And so we are encouraged to look at our life from God’s perspective. To labor and live according to His purposes of creation and redemption. We are to live in faith, viewing our existence, our motivations and our productivity as from “*above the sun*.” The way we do this is shown to us in Ecclesiastes’ conclusion: “Fear God and keep His commandments” (12:13a). Dear Old Providence, this is the only thing that has lasting value. Those things which we do for God, and by God. In love He tells us that His ways are wise. In love He commands that we follow them. But also in love, He blesses our work with everlasting worth, because our labors are done for His eternal glory.

Enjoy the spring ahead. No doubt, God will make it beautiful.

In Christ – James (your Pastoral Intern)



## March 2022 Announcements

As of publication of this Newsletter, there are two Worship Services each Sunday at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Sabbath School classes meet at 10:10 a.m. Children's Church is available during the 9:00 a.m. service only. Nursery is available during the 9:00 a.m. service and during Sabbath School. Youth Group meets on Sundays at 5:30 p.m. and Little Lambs meets the first and third Sundays at 5:30 p.m. Pastor Malphrus will continue broadcasting his sermons on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. through [Facebook.com/OldProvidenceARChurchSpottsvilleVa](https://www.facebook.com/OldProvidenceARChurchSpottsvilleVa), and will post the audio version of those sermons on [sermonaudio.com/oldprovidence](https://www.sermonaudio.com/oldprovidence). If you need help accessing online sermons, contact Patrick. You may access our Facebook page, [sermonaudio.com](https://www.sermonaudio.com), our church calendar, edited newsletters, announcements, and more by visiting our website at [www.oldprovidencechurch.org](http://www.oldprovidencechurch.org). To request a copy of a Sunday sermon on CD, call the office.

Daily Devotionals take place Monday through Friday with our pastor. They are available live at 7:00 a.m. through our church's Facebook page, or after through [sermonaudio.com](https://www.sermonaudio.com) or the sermonaudio app. Please see Pastor Malphrus if you need help accessing our Daily Devotionals.

Sunday Evening Worship in Acts is held Sundays at 6:30 p.m. with Frank. Weekly Bible Study and Prayer Services are on Wednesdays at 6:45 p.m. with our Pastoral Intern, James. Also, Pat and Susie are hosting a study of the book of Hebrews in their home on Tuesday evenings at 7:00. Contact Pat with questions.

### Little Lambs



Little Lambs will meet on Sundays, March 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 p.m. All children ages 3 to 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to attend. Contact Amanda with questions.

### Women's Ministries Window

Women's Ministries will meet on Thursday, March 3rd, at 7:00 p.m. with Bible Study following at 7:30 p.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 3 in March.



### Reminder

We are still taking orders for *Our Daily Bread* devotional. Please see Libby or Shirley to renew or start your subscription.

## Monday Mid-Day Program

Mark your calendars for the Monday Mid-Day Programs that resume on March 7<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. The presentations are followed by a light lunch. The cost of a meal is \$3.00 per person. If you are interested in helping provide a meal, a sign-up sheet is posted by the kitchen door in Providence Hall.

March 7 - Augusta Co. EMS: Anthony Patrick, & Greg

March 21 - History of Dr. Horatio Thompson: Finley

April 4 - Holy Land Tour: Dorothy & Gary

April 18 - Rockbridge Regional Jail: Derek

May 2 - Hospice – overview: Lori

May 16 - Sowing, Growing & Sharing: Valerie & Jane

### Update from Mitchell



Old Providence family,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! I hope this letter finds you well and able to move around without too much trouble from the weather. We always keep an eye on things back home and have noticed that you all have had your fair share of winter weather recently. All of God's creation is beautiful in its own way, but Oklahoma snow is not near as beautiful and serene as Virginia snow. Here, it just blasts you in the face at 50 miles per hour and NOBODY can drive in it!

It is hard to believe that this is our first update since last July...my apologies for the lag in communication. We are all doing well and staying busy with our various projects and interests. Dylan is furiously working on finishing up his high school classes. He will attend Cameron University here in OK in the fall. He'll complete a year of college here before transferring somewhere for his sophomore year. His plans are to commission into the US Air Force upon graduation, but he'll have to start out in Army ROTC here since that is all that is offered. Incidentally, I told him the only thing he would learn in his first year was how to march, how to wear his uniform, and how to do early morning physical training...and the Army will teach him those things better than the Air Force anyway (no offense to my Air Force brothers and sisters)!

Harper Grace continues to enjoy taking riding lessons and being a big sister. She is also in the process of learning how to ride a bike without training wheels, so keep her in your prayers! Callie Mae is now walking and we can no longer keep up with her. She is developing quite the personality and loves to give hugs, which brightens even the gloomiest of days. Holly continues to be Super Mom, taking care of the girls (and me) and being involved with chapel activities and Battalion functions. We also recently learned that we are now expecting

another little one to arrive sometime in July – yes, you read that right– God is great! Mom and Dad are still close to us here and have been enjoying the challenges of RV living. They are doing well and send their love to all.

Ministry opportunities continue to abound here at Fort Sill. Basic Training never takes a break when you have 5 different Batteries cycling through at a time. I have seen God do some awesome things in the lives of both Trainees and our permanent party Soldiers over the past 12 months. The military is a unique ministry opportunity, but I can assure you that He is at work here as much as He is anywhere else...it just doesn't always make front page news here. The military community really is quite a small world. I have been blessed to be able to see and visit with Mikey Wyatt from Old Providence as he attended Basic Training, Rev. Bob Gordon's grandson who is with a Marine Corps unit here at Fort Sill, and Zachary Hughes, the son of Rev. Ike Hughes from Fairlea ARP in Lewisburg, who is also in BCT here right now.

We want to sincerely thank you all for your continued support through your calls, texts, letters and prayers. Please continue to pray for diplomacy in the midst of such uncertainty and tension in our world. Pray for those who are being deployed to various locations, that they may serve courageously and return safely to their families. We miss you all, we love you all, and we think fondly of you always. May God continue to bless you all richly and may He also bless the ministry and mission of Old Providence Church!

Yours in Christ,

CH (CPT) Mitchell A. Sutton, United States Army

## March 2022 Calendar of Events

### Tuesday, March 1

7:00 p.m. - Home Bible Study

### Wednesday, March 2

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

### Thursday, March 3

7:00 p.m. - Women's Ministries

7:30 p.m. - Women's Bible Study

### Sunday, March 6

8:45 a.m. - Nursery Helpers: Kevin and Tonya

9:00 a.m. - Worship

Children's Church Leaders: Carrie and Lois

10:10 a.m. – Sabbath School

11:00 a.m. - Worship

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

6:30 p.m. - Sunday Evening Worship in Acts

### Monday, March 7

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

### Tuesday, March 8

7:00 p.m. - Home Bible Study

### Wednesday, March 9

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

Don't Forget To



Spring Forward

Sunday, March 13

**Sunday, March 13 - Daylight Savings Time begins**

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

9:00 a.m. - Worship

Children's Church leaders: Amanda and Vicki

10:10 a.m. – Sabbath School

11:00 a.m. - Worship

5:30 p.m. - Youth Group

6:30 p.m. - Sunday Evening Worship in Acts

**Tuesday, March 15**

7:00 p.m. - Home Bible Study

**Wednesday, March 16**

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

**Sunday, March 20**

8:45 a.m. - Nursery Helpers: Lois and Shirley

9:00 a.m. - Worship

Children's Church leaders: Patcie and Sue

10:10 a.m. - Sabbath School

11:00 a.m. – Worship

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

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

6:30 p.m. - Sunday Evening Worship in Acts

**Monday, March 21**

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

**Tuesday, March 22**

7:00 p.m. - Home Bible Study

**Wednesday, March 23**

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

## Sunday, March 27

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

9:00 a.m. - Worship

Children's Church leaders: Dabney and Tina

10:10 a.m. - Sabbath School

11:00 a.m. - Worship

5:30 p.m. - Youth Group

6:30 p.m. - Sunday Evening Worship in Acts

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

## April 2022



3 Youth Group & Little Lambs

4 Monday Mid-Day

7 Women's Ministries & Bible Study

10 Palm Sunday

Spring Special Offering for Synod Causes

Youth Group

Diaconate Meeting

15 **Good Friday**

17 **RESURRECTION SUNDAY**

Sunrise Service

18 Monday Mid-Day

24 Youth Group