

Old Providence News

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Dear Old Providence Family,

With March comes the first signs of Spring. Before we know it, robins will be in our yards and groundhogs will be rooting around. Watch your dogs because skunks are already out and about! Of course, I am writing this letter in the middle of February and by the time it reaches your hands the world may be white again with snow! As it is, snow is still piled up in the parking lot just outside my office window. Even so, it's nice to think about warmer weather and that Spring is on its way. It's also nice to think about the events and days that mark the season's change. For instance, I can't wait for the Sugar Maple Festival. I also can't help but love St. Patrick's Day. And no! Not because I am named Patrick. Instead, the true, historical figure of St. Patrick offers so much direction and encouragement.

Have you given much thought to the man commonly referred to as Saint Patrick, who is celebrated in March? What do you know about the missionary that brought Christianity to Ireland in the 5th Century? I don't have the space in this newsletter to give you his full history, but I will summarize his life by telling you that Saint Patrick brought Christianity to a part of the world that was not only ignorant of Christ but was hostile toward Him.

Saint Patrick's life was at risk on multiple occasions because he was adamant about sharing the truth of the gospel with lost people. On one such occasion the High King of Ireland, King Loegaire, set out to murder Saint Patrick and his followers. In response, Saint Patrick wrote what has been translated as "The Deer's Cry", comparing himself and his followers to deer that were being chased by hunters. Though poetic, what Saint Patrick wrote was really a prayer.

Again, I don't have the space to include all of what he prayed, but an accurate summary is contained in his prayer's last verse when he prayed: *"Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ on my right, Christ on my left, Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down, Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me, Christ in the mouth of every man who speaks of me, Christ in the eye that sees me, Christ in the ear that hears me. I arise today through a mighty strength, the invocation of the Trinity, through a belief in the Threeness, through a confession of the Oneness of the Creator of creation."*

Saint Patrick's heart is visible in his prayer. When faced with calamity, his only focus was Christ because he knew that Christ has dominion over all things. Do you know this? Will you turn to Christ in your time of need? As you see decorations for Saint Patrick's Day, try to remember that he was simply a man that loved the Lord. And remember your call to love the Lord, as well.

Your Pastor,

Patrick

March 2026 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 Kingdom Choir 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/OldProvidenceARPChurchSpottswoodVa. You may access recordings of Daily Devotionals on our Facebook page and audio versions on sermonaudio.com. Pastor Malphrus posts Sunday morning sermons on Facebook.com/OldProvidenceARPChurchSpottswoodVa and audio versions on sermonaudio.com/oldprovidence. To access our church Facebook page, calendar, announcements, edited newsletters, 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 at 540-377-2911 or 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.

Women's Ministries Window

Women's Ministries meets monthly, typically on the first Thursday, at 10:00 a.m. for our Business Meeting and 10:30 a.m. for Bible Study. On Thursday, March 5th, we will be studying Chapters 9-11 (pages 47-62) in *Learning to Love the Psalms* by W. Robert Godfrey. All women are invited to join the meeting and/or the bible study.

The Women's Ministries is sponsoring a **Soup Sunday** Fundraiser on Sunday, March 15th, following the Morning Worship Service. More details and sign-up information coming soon.

Save the Date: Saturday, April 25 - Women's Ministries Spring Retreat at Fairlea ARP Church in West Virginia

The last day to order *Our Daily Bread* devotionals is Sunday, March 1st. Please see Libby or Shirley to renew or start your subscription.

Monday Mid-Day

Our Monday Mid-Day Program Spring Session sponsored by the Spiritual Care Committee will resume March 9th beginning at 11:00 a.m. with a program followed by a time of fellowship and lunch. Our guest speaker will be Nancy S sharing on the topic, Augusta County in the American Revolution. The cost of lunch is \$4.00 and there is a sign-up sheet to help with meals by the kitchen door. Following are the upcoming dates, speakers and topics: March 23rd - Finley L - Revolutionary War Veterans at Old Providence; April 13th - Dorothy G- Greenland Trip; April 27th - Joyce N, Valley Program for Aging Services - Dementia Education; May 11th - Deputy Chandler, Augusta County Sheriff Department - Protecting yourself against Fraud & Scams.



Easter Egg Hunt

Everyone is invited to the Easter Egg Hunt at Old Providence on Sunday, March 29th, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. to include hunt, craft, bible lesson and fun snacks! Hope to see you there!

Maundy Thursday Dinner and Communion

We will have a covered dish meal on April 2nd that will begin at 6:30 p.m. Drinks will be provided by the Women's Ministries and meat dishes are welcome. As we prepare to celebrate the resurrection of our Savior, we will observe the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper following the Dinner. The service will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Easter Sunday



On Easter Sunday, April 5th, there will be a Sunrise Worship Service at 7:00 a.m. outside at the Stone Hall so please bring lawn chairs/blankets. Immediately following that service, breakfast will be available in Providence Hall. Sabbath School will be at 9:00 a.m. and Worship Service at 10:00 a.m. Children's Church will meet, and Nursery will be available during Sabbath School and the 10:00 a.m. service. In the event of inclement weather, Sunrise Service will be held in the sanctuary.

March 2026 Events for Youth and Children

March 8: Family Game Night & Dinner (Youth Group & Kingdom Choir Families)

March 29: Kingdom Choir to sing during Worship Service

March 29: Easter Egg Hunt (3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.)

SAVE THE DATE for Vacation Bible School:

Sunday, May 31 - Thursday, June 4, 2025

Bus Trip



The Spiritual Care Committee will sponsor a bus trip to Wohlfahrt Haus Dinner Theater in Wytheville to see "A Gospel Jubilee" on May 6, 2026. Price is \$85 for church members and \$95 for guests. Price includes cost of bus, dinner and show. Contact Linda to reserve your spot and make payment before March 29th.

MARCH 2026 Calendar of Events

Sunday, March 1

9:00 a.m. - Sabbath School

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

10:00 a.m. - Worship

Children's Church Leaders: Carrie and Elizabeth

Tuesday, March 3

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

Wednesday, March 4

6:00 p.m. - Family Night

Thursday, March 5

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

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

Sunday, March 8 – Daylight Saving Time Begins

9:00 a.m. - Sabbath School

9:45 a.m. - Nursery Helpers: Katie and Lois

10:00 a.m. - Worship

Children's Church Leaders: Amanda and Vicki



Monday, March 9

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

Tuesday, March 10

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

Wednesday, March 11

6:00 p.m. - Family Night

Sunday, March 15

9:00 a.m. - Sabbath School

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

10:00 a.m. - Worship

Children's Church Leader: Patcie

11:00 a.m. - Soup Sunday Lunch

5:00 p.m. - Diaconate Meeting

Tuesday, March 17

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

Wednesday, March 18

6:00 p.m. - Family Night

Saturday, March 21

Virginia Presbytery Meeting

Sunday, March 22

9:00 a.m. - Sabbath School

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

10:00 a.m. - Worship

Children's Church Leaders: Dabney and Tina

Monday, March 23

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

Tuesday, March 24

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

Wednesday, March 25

6:00 p.m. - Family Night

Sunday, March 29 – Palm Sunday - *Spring Special Offering for Synod Causes*

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

9:00 a.m. - Sabbath School

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

10:00 a.m. - Worship

Children's Church Leaders: Gratia and Kristi



Monday, March 30 & Tuesday, March 31 - Church Office Closed

Tuesday, March 31

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

*Youth Group meets every Sunday at 5:30 p.m.

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