

Old Providence News

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Dear Old Providence Family,

As I pondered what to write for the July newsletter, it seemed only fitting to focus on that one day that people tend to think of more than any other in the entire month...the 4th of July! Independence Day! That day when we remember our nation declaring independence from British rule, thus resulting in the formation of a new nation. Independence Day is when we remember the glory of liberty, but also that freedom is anything but free. The 4th is that day when we celebrate our nation and take pride in who we are as a country, and should be the day when all Americans put aside their many differences and just focus on being Americans!

Alas...were it only that way. Please don't consider what I've written thus far as intentionally offensive. I wasn't being sarcastic. I wish our Independence Day was celebrated in the way that I described. And let me be clear, our nation's independence ought to be celebrated. God has blessed us in so many ways. In fact, we would not exist apart from His providential care and sustaining Hand of mercy. Even the fact that our nation wasn't overwhelmed by British forces in the American Revolution shows God's faithfulness to us. Consider also America's meteoric rise as the most powerful nation on earth. Despite the problems we face, America is still seen as the land of the free and the home of the brave.

There was a time when a large majority of Americans prayed "God Bless America". And they meant it. People understood how blessed we are and appreciated the freedoms we have. Sadly, it seems as though that time has passed. The question, then, is what do we do about it? How can our nation's problems and disunity be addressed? The answer to all of our problems really is Jesus Christ. There are no problems America faces that He can't transform.

Some would argue that America is too divided and too far gone. But this is not the case. Jesus Christ is the great unifier of humanity for it is only in Jesus that, according to Galatians 3:28, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." Remember too that we serve the God of the ages Who never changes. He has intervened throughout human history to form new nations and draw nations back to Himself. Again, God never changes but He changes the seemingly unchangeable.

Do you believe these things? If so, let me encourage you to remember God and our dependence on Him this Independence Day. Pray that He would intervene in the course of our nation, as He has in the past. Pray that others would come to know Jesus Christ and look for opportunities to testify to His greatness, and make sure you take the time to celebrate God's faithfulness this Independence Day, enjoying the freedoms God has provided, and praising Him for His love and mercy.

Your Pastor, Patrick



July 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 Worship Service. Youth Group and Kingdom Choir will take a break for the summer. Our Wednesday Family Night will not meet during the summer. We will also take a break from Daily Devotionals, but you may access recordings of them on our Facebook page at [facebook.com/OldProvidence ARPChurchSpottswoodVa](https://facebook.com/OldProvidenceARPChurchSpottswoodVa) and audio versions on sermonaudio.com/oldprovidence. Pastor Malphrus posts Sunday morning sermons on our Facebook page and audio versions on [sermon audio.com](https://sermonaudio.com). To access our church Facebook page, edited newsletters, calendar, announcements, 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 the One Call system, 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. Our next meeting will be on Thursday, July 2nd, and we will be studying Chapters 26-29 (pages 137-155) in *Learning to Love the Psalms* by W. Robert Godfrey. All women are invited to join the meeting and/or the bible study.

Joni and Friends Retreats are getting ready for Summer 2026. They will make custom candles and photo frames to create a lovely event for Ladies (moms and wives) who experience disability themselves or through family. They need castoffs of costume jewelry, beads, broken jewelry, pendants and small pretty bowls. Judi will take donations from Old Providence to the Bonclarken Conference Center in North Carolina for the retreats in August. Please drop off your donations to Providence Hall by Sunday, July 19th. For more information, please visit their website at joniandfriends.org.

JULY 2026 Calendar of Events

Thursday, July 2

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

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

HAPPY



Friday, July 3

Church Office Closed – Independence Day Observed

Saturday, July 4

Independence Day

Sunday, July 5

8:45 a.m. - Nursery Helpers: Stacy and Gratia

9:00 a.m. - Sabbath School

10:00 a.m. - Worship

Children's Church Leaders: Carrie and Jenny

Tuesday, July 7

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

Sunday, July 12

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, Vicki and Kelley

5:00 p.m. - Diaconate Meeting

Tuesday, July 14

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

Sunday, July 19

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 and Laura

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

Tuesday, July 21

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

Sunday, July 26

9:00 a.m. - Sabbath School

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

10:00 a.m. - Worship

Children's Church Leaders: Dabney and Katie

Monday, July 27 - Thursday, July 30

Family Bible Conference at Bonclarken

Tuesday, July 28

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

Thursday, July 30

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

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

August Calendar



August 06 Women's Ministries 10:00 a.m.

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

August 16 Diaconate Meeting 5:00 p.m.

August 23 Communion

Special Offering for WRE

August 30 Breakfast for Local Missions 8:00 a.m.

Community Event

The Raphine Volunteer Fire Company Fireworks and Ice Cream Social (sponsored by City National Bank) will be held on July 11th beginning at dark. Food and drinks will go on sale at 6:00 p.m. and the band will start playing at 7:00 p.m.