

# Old Providence ARP Church

## Old Providence News

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Dear Old Providence Family,

What a difference a month makes! Who could have anticipated things would be as they are now? When I wrote to you last month, we had all probably at least heard about COVID-19, or Coronavirus, or whatever you want to call it, but I doubt anyone could have predicted that life as we know it would be so dramatically altered. And the fact of the matter is that I am writing this on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. By the time this reaches you will one of the new terms we've been learning apply to you? Will you receive this newsletter as you "shelter in place"? Will you be practicing "social distancing"? It is my greatest hope that very positive things will have happened by the time you receive this, but that may not be the case. Who really knows what will happen in the next few weeks and beyond?

Well, I'll tell you who knows. God knows. It is in times such as these that we have a choice. Yesterday I did something new. I preached a sermon on Facebook Live due to the fact that regular services were cancelled. I plan to continue preaching every Sunday at 9:00 a.m. on our Facebook page until we are back to our normal routine. You can also find the audio version of my sermons at [sermonaudio.com/oldprovidence](http://sermonaudio.com/oldprovidence). But in my sermon yesterday I referenced the choice that lies before us. If God's Word is true (and

it is), and if God really is who He said He is (and He is), then we can choose to either trust that God is in control and place our faith in Him, or we can live in hopeless doubt and fear.

The scripture passage for my sermon yesterday was Psalm 46 and it is there, in verses 8-11, that God's people are invited to "Come, behold the works of the Lord". After seeing God's hand at work in the world around us, we are also given both the invitation and the command to "Be still, and know that I am God." I do not know how you have been spending these last weeks. I do not know what the future holds. But I do know that God knows, and that we can and should trust Him. He is still seated on high, reigning over all things, and doing what is best for His people. Instead of living in fear, live in faith. Turn to God in this, our hour of need. He will not disappoint.

Your Pastor,

Patrick



## April 2020 Announcements

(Please keep in mind, these dates are tentative and could be cancelled or rescheduled after publication of the Newsletter which took place earlier in March.)

After much prayer and consideration, the Session has decided that it is in our church's best interest to cancel all church activities until Easter Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, including worship services on March 29<sup>th</sup> and April 5<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Malphrus will still be broadcasting his sermons on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. through our church's Facebook page, and will also still be posting the audio version of those sermons at [sermonaudio.com/oldprovidence](http://sermonaudio.com/oldprovidence). Lord willing, on Easter Sunday we will have an outdoor Sunrise Worship Service at 7:00 a.m. on the Stone Hall lawn where there is plenty of room for us to spread out. Please bring lawn chairs, blankets, etc. Some extra chairs will also be available at the church. We will not be having the church breakfast or any other services or activities on Easter Sunday. Also, please understand that our Sunrise Worship Service is contingent upon both the development of the Coronavirus pandemic and the weather forecast for April 12<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to listen for One Call messages, and watch our Facebook page and church website ([oldprovidencechurch.org](http://oldprovidencechurch.org)) for congregational news and cancellations. If you are in need of any assistance, please do not hesitate to call either the church office (540-377-2911) or our pastor (540-480-6474). Remember, God is in control and will continue building His Church and intervening in the world around us! Do not stop praying! If you would like to receive One Call messages, please contact the church office.

### Women's Ministry Window

Update: The Women's Weekend has been rescheduled to October 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> at Camp Bethel in Fincastle, VA. Susan Blackwell Jones, author of *God of Wonder* and *God of Grace*, will speak on "Finding balance in an unbalanced world". More details to follow.

### Little Lambs and Youth Group



The Easter Egg Hunt has been cancelled. Little Lambs and Youth Group are scheduled to meet on Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 p.m. beginning with a light supper. Youth Group will meet additionally on Sundays, April 26<sup>th</sup>. Invite your friends to join us for study and fellowship!

### Monday Mid-Day Program

The currently scheduled Monday Mid-Day Programs are April 13<sup>th</sup>, and April 27<sup>th</sup>. More information will be posted on One Call, the church website, and upcoming bulletins. \*(All Programs for this spring have since been cancelled.)

### **Bus Trip**



The bus trip to the Wohlfahrt Haus Dinner Theatre on Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> has been cancelled.

### **Community Events**

The Raphine Volunteer Fire Company BBQ Chicken Dinner Fundraiser is scheduled for Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. at the firehouse. (Check their website and Facebook page for updates.)

Weekday Religious Education Event: Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. – Praise Night at the Raphine Christian Church.



### **PreSchool Update**

PreSchool will remain closed for the remainder of this school year. PreSchool Registration is in Process for the 2020/2021 School Year. Applications and details are available on the church website [www.oldprovidencechurch.org](http://www.oldprovidencechurch.org) and in the Church Office.

### **2020 Bonclarken Events**

For a list of all 2020 ARP Events at Bonclarken, and to register for Camps and lodging visit [www.bonclarken.org](http://www.bonclarken.org). There is a Bonclarken calendar posted on the church bulletin board as well.

### **Vacation Bible School Help Needed**

Volunteers are needed for Vacation Bible School this summer, June 21 – June 25. If you would be willing to help please sign up on the sheet in Providence Hall or contact David L.



## April 2020 Calendar of Events

Thursday, April 9 – Monday, April 13

Church Office Closed

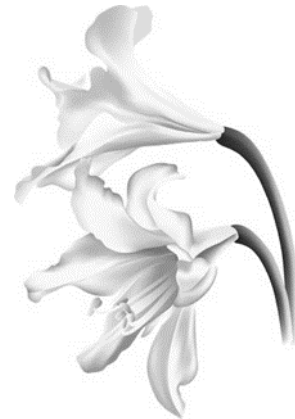
Friday, April 10 – Good Friday

Sunday, April 12 – RESURRECTION SUNDAY

7:00 a.m.. – Sunrise Service (see announcements)

Monday, April 13

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



Wednesday, April 15

No Prayer Meeting

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Sunday, April 19

10:00 a.m.. – Sabbath School

10:45 a.m. – Nursery Helpers: Carrie and Kayla

11:00 a.m. – Worship

Children’s Church Leaders: Stacy, Dana , and Kristin

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

6:00 p.m. – Diaconate Meeting

Wednesday, April 22

No Prayer Meeting

Sunday, April 26

10:00 a.m.. – Sabbath School

10:45 a.m. – Nursery Helpers: Connie and Scott

11:00 a.m.. – Worship

Children’s Church Leaders: Karleen , Tina ,and Dabney

5:30 p.m.. – Youth Group

Monday, April 27

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

Wednesday, April 29

6:45 p.m.. – Prayer Meeting

Thursday, April 30

7:00 p.m.. – Women’s Ministries visits Beulah Land - TBD

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## May 2020



3 Youth Sunday

Little Lambs/Youth Group 5:30 p.m.

Session & Diaconate meet separately 6:00 p.m.

Session & Diaconate meet jointly 7:00 p.m.

7 Women’s Ministries 7:00 p.m.

Women’s Bible Study 7:30 p.m.

10 Mother’s Day

Special Offering

17 Little Lambs & Youth Group 5:30 p.m.

24 Communion

25 Memorial Day – Church Office Closed

31 Breakfast for Young Life 9:00 a.m.

Youth Group 5:30 p.m.

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