

# Old Providence ARP Church

## Old Providence News

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Dear Old Providence Family,

By the time this newsletter reaches you I suspect that the outside will look greener and the weather will feel warmer! Spring is upon us, and with spring comes Easter and the celebration of Christ's resurrection. Let us all glory in the tangible reminders of the season that point to newness of life. In addition, let us turn our minds to the passion of our Savior's crucifixion, the glory of His resurrection, and what these things really mean for us.

God's Word tells us in I Corinthians 15: 16-19 that *"If the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. Those, then, who have fallen asleep in Christ have also perished. If we have put our hope in Christ for this life only, we should be pitied more than anyone."* When it comes to the core of who we are, as the people of God, and what it is we really believe, everything hinges on Jesus being raised from the dead. This is true to the point that, as verse 19 says, if Jesus was NOT raised from the dead then we are to be pitied above all others. Why? Think about Easter as it relates just to Old Providence.

Our plans for this year's Easter service are quite different than normal. Instead of having two services, a sunrise service and a morning service, we are having only one service which will be held outside, at the Stone Hall, at 7:00 a.m. How silly this must look to those who have not placed their faith in Jesus Christ! Loads of people gathered outside, in the cold, on what would otherwise be a perfectly good morning to sleep in? To those who do not know Jesus, this would be preposterous! And rightfully so, because ultimately, those who do not know Jesus view our devotion as silly. In I Corinthians 15 The Apostle is simply pointing out the obvious. Our faith would be worthless apart from the promise of the resurrection. Yet we make the commitment to worship, to live lives of devotion, to forsake the ways of the world, and yes, to even gather outside at 7:00 a.m. on Easter Sunday because we believe that Christ was raised from the dead and that this promise of the resurrection is given to His people. And let us not forget those brothers and sisters in Christ around the world who are persecuted, and who meet to worship the risen Savior and are in harm's way every single day as a result.

The risen Jesus being alive today, and the promise of the resurrection for those who trust in Him alone for their salvation, is what sets Christianity apart from every other religion on earth. We do not follow the ancient teachings of prophets or adhere to lofty philosophies declared by mere men, long since dead. Jesus is alive. God's Word continues in I Corinthians 15: 20-22 by saying *"But as it is, Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead also comes through a man. For just as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive."* Let these words encourage you as you consider Christ's sacrifice and glory. Also, please plan to worship with us during Easter and beyond.

Your Pastor, Patrick

## **Graduates Names and Information**

Please provide names and information for upcoming college and high school graduates by April 30<sup>th</sup> to Dana. They will be listed in the bulletin and newsletter in June.

### **Maundy Thursday Service**



We will have a Maundy Thursday Communion Service on the Thursday before Easter, April 1<sup>st</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. This will be done in the same manner as was done last December with prepackaged elements. If you are unable to attend the service but you wish to participate via on-line and partake of the elements, you should call the church first before coming to pick up the elements in advance.



### **Easter Sunrise Service**

We will have a Sunrise Service on Easter Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 a.m. which will be the ONLY service that day. The Sunrise Service will be held outside at the Stone Hall. Please bring your own lawn chairs, blankets, etc. If weather becomes an issue or if the forecast looks bad, adjustments will be made as necessary and everyone will be notified through the One Call system.

### **PreSchool Update**



Old Providence PreSchool plans to open their program in September for the 2021-2022 school year contingent upon the COVID-19 situation and guidelines. PreSchool registration is currently in process. Details are posted on [www.oldprovidencechurch.org](http://www.oldprovidencechurch.org), along with registration forms which are available to print. Forms may be picked up from the church office as well.



## April 2021 Calendar of Events

As of publication of this Newsletter, Sunday Worship Services are being held in an abbreviated format at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Youth Group is meeting on Sundays at 5:30 p.m. The Session has decided that it is best if everyone who is able to wear masks do so while inside the church facilities. The Session will meet on Wednesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. to decide how to proceed at that point.

Pastor Malphrus will continue broadcasting his sermons on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. through our church's Facebook page, and will post the audio version of those sermons on [sermonaudio.com/oldprovidence](http://sermonaudio.com/oldprovidence). If you would like a copy of any Sunday sermons on CD, please call the church office to let us know.

Our pastor's Daily Devotionals will continue at 7:00 each morning, Monday through Friday, for live stream on our church's Facebook page. It will remain available on Facebook to view any time, and it will also be available on [sermonaudio.com](http://sermonaudio.com).

### April 2021



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|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 Maundy Thursday Communion Service | 7 Session Meeting 7:00 p.m. |
| 2 Good Friday                       | 11 Youth Group 5:30 p.m.    |
| Church Office Closed                | 18 Youth Group 5:30 p.m.    |
| 4 <b>RESURRECTION SUNDAY</b>        | Diaconate Meeting 6:30 p.m. |
| Sunrise Service 7:00 a.m.           | 25 Youth Group 5:30 p.m.    |



### May 2021

2 Youth Group	16 Youth Group
Session & Diaconate Meetings	23 Youth Group
9 Mother's Day	30 Youth Group
Special Offering for Missions	31 Memorial Day
No Youth Group	Church Office Closed

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