

## Old Providence ARP Church

## Old Providence News

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Dear Old Providence Family,

It is February and love is in the air! Or at least it's advertised all over the shelves at Walmart and CVS. Boxes of chocolate, greeting cards, and all sorts of other items point to the importance of love's proclamation. But what do you think about love? Have you ever pondered love and how it works? Love is a term that has been applied to so many things that its true definition has, in some ways, been forgotten.

In commercials and other advertisements, we hear everything from "I'm lovin' it" about McDonalds to "Love. It's what makes a Subaru a Subaru". But do people *really* love McDonalds? I'm the first to admit that there is something magical about their hot French fries and that I enjoy them way more than I should, but is enjoyment what love is all about? And what about Subaru? Up until just a few months ago my wife, Amanda, drove a Subaru. I praise the Lord that she never got in a traffic accident but if she had would plastic hearts and confetti have deployed instead of airbags? Please understand that I write this in a joking manner, but this does point to a bigger question. What is love really all about?

Thankfully, as in all areas of life, the Bible does not leave us wondering. We are told and shown what love is throughout the Scriptures. While there is an emotional side to love, its authenticity rests in what you actually do, not just what you feel. Love, in its truest form, involves sacrificing one's self for the sake of the other. The ultimate demonstration of love can be found in Romans 5:8 which says "But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." This is why husbands are told in Ephesians 5:25 to love their wives as Christ loved the Church.

Real love isn't about conjuring feelings and navigating the waves of emotion. Real love is cherishing and protecting that which is loved, even at your own expense. As Valentine's Day comes and goes, and as you are surrounded with sights and sounds about what the world calls love, remember what true love really is. Remember God's amazing love for you and his command to love others.

Your Pastor,

Patrick



## **February 2020 Announcements**

### **Women's Ministry Window**

All women of the church are invited to attend Women's Ministries at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, followed by Bible Study at 7:30 p.m. Hope you can join us.

### ***Coming Soon! Women's Weekend***

**April 17 & 18, 2020**

**"Finding balance in an unbalanced world"**

**Susan Blackwell Jones**

*Author of God of Wonder and God of Grace*

Camp Bethel, Fincastle, VA

328 Bethel Rd, Fincastle, VA 24090; <https://www.campbethelvirginia.org/>

*Sponsored by Virginia Women's Ministries of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Churches*

### **Super Bowl Party**

All young couples, singles, youth, and non-retired folk are invited to Patrick and Amanda's annual Super Bowl party at the manse. No children please. It will be held on Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, starting at 6:00 p.m. until the game ends. Please bring your favorite football/party dish to share. If you have any questions, please see Amanda or Patrick.

### **Little Lambs and Youth Group**

Little Lambs and Youth Group will meet on Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 p.m. beginning with a light supper. Youth Group will meet additionally on Sundays, February 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Invite your friends to join us for study and fellowship!



### **Upcoming Bonclarken Events**

General Synod (June 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>) and Family Bible Conference (July 27<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>) housing registration can be processed online this year at [www.bonclarken.org](http://www.bonclarken.org) beginning February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Music Drama Camp (July 5<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>), and Camp Bonclarken (July 19<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> and July 26<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>). Both are for grades 2-8, and offer overnight or day camp. Registration started January 15<sup>th</sup>.

Volunteer Work Week 2020 (April 19<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>). Contact Michael Dill at 828-692-2223.

Music Conference (July 12<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup>) Mail in registration deadline postmarked by May 29<sup>th</sup>.

Details at [www.bonclarken.org](http://www.bonclarken.org) for all their events.

### **Church Directory**

The Church Directories are here! They are available for pickup in Providence Hall. Every family/individual who has their photo in the book gets one copy free. Please refrain from taking additional copies until we know everyone gets their free one. A Mobile Directory will be available for download soon. Instructions will be given at that time. Call the office if you have questions.

### **Cemetery Cleaning**

The Cemetery Trustees will be cleaning the cemetery on Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>. All flowers and decorations that you wish to save need to be removed prior to this date. Any flowers/decorations remaining in the cemetery on the 7<sup>th</sup> will be discarded.

## **February 2020 Calendar of Events**

Sunday, February 2

10:00 a.m. – Sabbath School

10:45 a.m. – Nursery Helpers: Tina and Emma

11:00 a.m. – Worship

Children's Church Leaders: Carrie, Connie, and Lois

5:00 p.m. - Men's Vocal Group Practice

6:00 p.m. – Young Adults Super Bowl Party

Wednesday, February 5

6:45 p.m. – Prayer Meeting

Thursday, February 6

7:00 p.m. - Women's Ministries/7:30 p.m. – Women's Bible Study

Sunday, February 9

10:00 a.m. – Sabbath School

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

11:00 a.m. – Worship

Children's Church Leaders: Karen, Holly, and Justine

5:30 p.m. – Youth Group

6:00 p.m. – Diaconate Meeting

Wednesday, February 12

6:45 p.m. – Prayer Meeting

Sunday, February 16

10:00 a.m. – Sabbath School

10:45 a.m. – Nursery Helpers: Marvella and Kay

11:00 a.m. – Worship

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

5:00 p.m. – Men’s Vocal Group Practice

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

Wednesday, February 19

6:45 p.m. – Prayer Meeting

Sunday, February 23 - **Communion**

10:00 a.m. – Sabbath School

10:45 a.m. – Nursery Helpers: Lois and Katie

11:00 a.m. – Worship

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

5:30 p.m. – Youth Group

Wednesday, February 26

6:45 p.m. – Prayer Meeting



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

Session & Diaconate 6:00 p.m. / 7:00 p.m.

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

5 Women’s Ministries 7:00 p.m.

Women’s Bible Study 7:30 p.m.

8 Daylight Savings Time begins

Special Offering Camp Joy

Youth Group 5:30 p.m.

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

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

21 VA Presbytery at Timber Ridge ARP

22 Youth Group 5:30 p.m.

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

Youth Group 5:30 p.m.

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