

Old Providence ARP Church

Old Providence News

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Dear Old Providence Family,

With March comes the first signs of Spring. Before we know it, the whole world will be green again. 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 with snow! Nevertheless, Spring is on its way. 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 haven't the space in this letter 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 haven't the space in this letter to include all of what we 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 2020 Announcements

Don't forget to Spring Forward on March 8th for Daylight Savings Time!



Women's Ministry Window

All women of the church are invited to attend Women's Ministries at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 5th, followed by Bible Study at 7:30 p.m. Hope you can join us.

There are registration forms available in Providence Hall for Women's Weekend to be held April 17th and 18th 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". Contact Sylvia for more information and questions.

Little Lambs and Youth Group



Little Lambs and Youth Group will meet on Sunday, March 1st and 15th, at 5:30 p.m. beginning with a light supper. Youth Group will meet additionally on Sundays, March 8th, 22nd, and 29th. Invite your friends to join us for study and fellowship!

Monday Mid-Day Program

The Monday Mid-Day Program will resume on Monday, March 2nd, at 11:00 a.m. Our speaker's topic will be Scams and he will give a refresher on the Defibrillator System. The program will be followed by a light lunch. The cost of the meal is \$3.00 per person. We will post a sign-up sheet for help with the meals. The March 16th topic will be about the history of the B & O Railroad. The programs will continue on March 30th, April 13th, and April 27th. If you have suggestions on possible speakers, please let us know. Everyone is invited!

Young Life

Please join us for Breakfast in Providence Hall on Sunday, March 29th, at 9:00 a.m. to support Young Life. This event is sponsored by the Open Door Sunday School Class. There will be a Young Life presentation during morning worship that day as well.

Church Clean Up Day

Church Clean Up Day is scheduled for Saturday, March 21st, starting at 8:00 a.m. It will consist of general yard cleanup; such as raking of leaves, picking up sticks, and clipping hedges. Any help would be greatly appreciated. Please bring rakes, leaf blowers, and any other yard tools that might be useful.

Mission Outreach Committee

The Mission Outreach Committee was formed a few years ago to reach out to those in our church family and local community who need assistance: this could include small home repair, yard work, or firewood. Please contact the committee if you or someone you know could use a helping hand. The Committee would also like to invite anyone who is interested to join us. The work this committee does is a blessing to those we help and to those of us who are involved. Contact Karen or Frank if you know of someone we can help.

Bonclarken Work Week is scheduled for the week of April 19th. This is a week of hard work to get Bonclarken ready for the summer, good food, and good fellowship. There is a flyer on the bulletin board outside the sanctuary if anyone is interested.

Sanctuary Committee

The Session has appointed a committee for "refreshing" the sanctuary. The following are members of the committee: Chairman: John; Vice Chairman: Jeff ; Deacons: Todd and John ; At Large Members: Barbara, Dana, Dot, Kristi, Carlton, and Hedley; Pastor-Advisory Member: Patrick. If you have suggestions, please contact one of the committee members or put your suggestion in the suggestion box in the sanctuary on the table near the passageway.

Bus Trip

The Spiritual Care Committee is sponsoring a bus trip to Wohlfahrt Haus Dinner Theatre in Wytheville, VA on Thursday, April 2nd to see "Down Memory Lane". This is their 20th Anniversary Season for the theatre. The program will highlight the best moments of the last 20 years. The bus will leave Old Providence at 9:00 a.m. and return around 7:00 p.m. The cost of the trip is \$45.00 for members and regular attendees and \$55.00 for guests. Money is due by March 22nd. See Martha or Linda to get your name on the list. The schedule to sign up is as follows:

Seniors plus 1 guest and all members and active attendees – February 23rd - March 15th

1 guest per member or active attendee as available – March 16th - March 22nd

Guests as room is available –until bus is filled



Cemetery Cleaning

Reminder: The Cemetery Trustees will be cleaning the cemetery on Saturday, March 7th. 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 7th will be discarded.

Community Events

The Raphine Volunteer Fire Company BBQ Chicken Fundraiser will be held on Saturday, March 14th at 11:00 a.m. at Raphine Christian Church.

Weekday Religious Education Fundraisers:

Saturday, March 14th, at 4:00 p.m. - Chili Cook-Off fundraiser at the American Legion near Beverley Manor Middle School. Please bring chili to be entered in the cook-off by 3:45 p.m.

Saturday, March 21st, at 6:00 p.m. - Cake Walk at the Mint Spring Ruritan Bldg. Please support us by walking for a cake, baking a cake, or donating a 12pk of soda.



March 2020 Calendar of Events

Sunday, March 1

10:00 a.m. – Sabbath School

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

11:00 a.m. – Worship

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

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

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

6:00 p.m. – Session and Diaconate Meet separately/7:00 p.m. –Meet jointly



Monday, March 2

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

Wednesday, March 4

6:45 p.m. – Prayer Meeting

Thursday, March 5

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

Sunday, March 8 – Daylight Savings Time Begins

Special Offering Camp Joy

10:00 a.m. – Sabbath School

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

11:00 a.m. – Worship

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

5:30 p.m. – Youth Group

Wednesday, March 11

6:45 p.m. – Prayer Meeting

Sunday, March 15

10:00 a.m. – Sabbath School

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

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

Monday, March 16

11:00 a.m. – Monday Mid-Day Program

Tuesday, March 17

St. Patrick's Day

Wednesday, March 18

6:45 p.m. – Prayer Meeting



Saturday, March 21

Virginia Presbytery at Timber Ridge ARP

8:00 a.m. - Church Clean Up Day

Sunday, March 22

10:00 a.m. – Sabbath School

10:45 a.m. – Nursery Helpers: Laurin and Adam

11:00 a.m. – Worship

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

5:30 p.m. – Youth Group

Wednesday, March 25

6:45 p.m. – Prayer Meeting

Sunday, March 29 – Young Life Presentation

9:00 a.m. – Breakfast for Young Life

10:00 a.m. – Sabbath School

10:45 a.m. – Nursery Helpers: Shirley and Joy

11:00 a.m. – Worship

Children's Church Leaders: Kristi and Laurin

5:30 p.m. – Youth Group

Monday, March 30

11:00 a.m. – Monday Mid-Day Program

April 2020



- 2 Women's Ministries 7:00 p.m.
Women's Bible Study 7:30 p.m.
- 5 Palm Sunday
Synod Spring Offering
Easter Egg Hunt 5:30 p.m.
- 8 Pre-Easter Dinner 6:30 p.m.
- 10 Good Friday
- 12 Resurrection Sunday

- 13 Monday Mid-Day Program 11:00 a.m.
- 17 & 18 Presbyterian Women's Retreat
- 19 Little Lambs & Youth Group 5:30 p.m.
Diaconate Meeting 6:00 p.m.
- 26 Youth Group 5:30 p.m.
- 27 Monday Mid-Day Program 11:00 a.m.
- 30 Women's Ministries Visits Beulah Land