

# Old Providence ARP Church

## Old Providence News

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Dear Old Providence Family,

Maybe you've heard about it already, but if not, let me be the first to inform you that we have a little thing called a "presidential election" right around the corner. Obviously, I'm writing in jest. Of course you've heard about the election! If you've used any sort of media, whether it be your television, or social media, or if you've read a newspaper, I'm quite certain that you are well aware of the fact that November 3<sup>rd</sup> is election day. I'm also sure that you have heard much of the sentiment floating around this election, too—that this is the most important election of our lifetimes. We have been told to vote as if our lives depend on it! That this election is a matter of life or death! If \_\_\_\_\_ wins, life is over as we know it! Or if \_\_\_\_\_ wins, all of these horrible things will come to pass!

Please understand that I am not trying to position myself as a naysayer. I am not saying that the presidential election at hand is unimportant or inconsequential. On the contrary, I believe the presidential election is of vast importance. Also please understand that I am doing my best to ensure that my own political opinions remain my own, and that they do not enter into this article. I maintain the importance of voting, fulfilling civic responsibility, and being a good citizen. I hope that you will vote, and I pray that you are prayerfully considering your choice in the matter. Also, I have and will continue to pray for whomever the Lord wills to be our next president.

All of these things being said, allow me to offer a reminder of what God reveals in His Word. In Psalm 146: 3-4 God says "3 Do not put your trust in princes, in mortal men who cannot save.

4 When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish." What a fitting reminder this is! In the past I have preached about the lack of spirituality in our nation. I've talked about how religion is vanishing and what is left is a mass of immorality. I was wrong.

The problem we face isn't a lack of religion in the United States (and the world around us). The problem we really face is that, for some, politics *is* religion, and I happen to believe it's the biggest and fastest growing religion in the world. Political religion leads people to conclude that salvation and hope comes from political candidates. Political religion leads people to despair and hopelessness when one political candidate wins and the other loses. Political religion destroys Christian testimony. God's Word offers an alternative. After giving His command in verses 3 and 4, in Psalm 146: 5 God says "5 Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord his God,". Again, please understand that I am not

negating the importance of our political process. I am not saying that the office of president is unimportant. In fact, forget about what I've said. Listen to God's Word. Make sure your hope is in God, and God alone. He is the sovereign One. No matter what happens November 3<sup>rd</sup> and after, no matter who is president, Jesus is and always will be King. Make sure you are trusting in Him.

Your Pastor,  
Patrick

### **Women's Ministries**

The Women's Ministries will still be sponsoring this year's project to help Kingsway by collecting dressing and gravy to be given out before Thanksgiving. The collection will run through Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup>. There are collection boxes in Providence Hall for anyone who would like to participate. For more information, contact Gail.

### **Youth Group Project**

The Youth Group is once again collecting shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Boxes and brochures are available in Providence Hall. Please return boxes to Providence Hall by Friday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. If you are unable to pick up a box at the church or unable to shop for the items, there is an option to "virtually" pack a shoebox online at [samaritanspurse.org/buildonline](http://samaritanspurse.org/buildonline). Also, new this year is the ability to Follow your Box to discover the destination of your shoebox. Look for more information on your box or online at [samaritanspurse.org](http://samaritanspurse.org). Thank you for your participation in this fun and worthy project. If you have any questions, please contact Carrie.

### **Elections**

The Congregational Meeting to elect Elders will be held November 29<sup>th</sup>. Our stated Congregational Meeting to approve the Budget and to elect Deacons will be held on December 13<sup>th</sup>. The Congregational Meetings will begin after the 9:00 a.m. Worship Services, the meeting will go into recess, and will be completed after the 11:00 a.m. Worship Services. Please be in prayer for Officer Elections and our Annual Stated Meeting. Check the church website and watch sermons for more



## November 2020 Calendar of Events

As of publication of this Newsletter, we have two Sunday Worship services, one at 9:00 a.m. and the other at 11:00 a.m. Please choose the time that suits you best. If you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or believe you have been exposed, please refrain from attending. The services are an abbreviated worship style to minimize the risk of transmission. The Session met on October 14th and decided to keep following the current worship format. They will meet again on November 4th to decide how to proceed at that point. The 9:00 a.m. service will be streamed on Facebook and will be available to view on sermonaudio.com, that day, hopefully by 10:30 a.m. We request everyone practice social distancing and we invite you to bring any protective gear you deem necessary for yourself.

All other church activities are cancelled except Youth Group until further notice. Youth Group will meet every Sunday at 5:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 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.

Sunday, November 1	Wednesday, November 25
Daylight Savings Time ends	Tentative Plan for
No Youth Group	Community Thanksgiving Supper
Wednesday, November 4	(drive-through only)
7:00 p.m. – Session Meeting	Thursday, November 26
Sunday, November 8	Thanksgiving Day/Church Office Closed
6:30 p.m. – Diaconate Meeting	Friday, November 27
Sunday, November 22	Church Office Closed
Fall Special Offering for Synod Causes	



## December 2020

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| 6 Youth Group                           | 25 Christmas Day – Church Office Closed  |
| Diaconate Meeting                       | 31 New Year's Eve – Church Office Closed |
| 24 Christmas Eve – Church Office Closed |  |

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