

Old Providence News

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Old Providence ARP Church

Dear Old Providence Family,

The Holy Scriptures are unlike anything ever written in the history of the world. Foremost, they are the Word of God, and as such are perfect. God, Himself, is Scripture's ultimate author and from Him flows the Bible's ultimate authority. This is why we say that the Bible is *sufficient*, because there is no other source worthy, or additionally necessary to reveal what God wants us to know about Him and about ourselves.

In 1521, in defense of his biblical teachings before the Roman Catholic Emperor Charles V, Martin Luther boldly proclaimed himself to be captive to the Word of God as his final authority and interpreter. The Reformers' cry of *Sola Scriptura* (Scripture Alone) declared that the Bible is the only infallible rule for faith and practice. And Paul's letter to Timothy attests to this, telling us that, "All Scripture is breathed out by God, and profitable for teaching, for correction, and for training in righteousness," (2 Tim. 3:16). And so that is why we will be meeting weekly (w/o live-stream), on Wednesdays at 6:45 p.m. beginning September 8th... so that we may understand and apply our Lord's Word as we live out our lives to His glory. During this hour (or so) we will also be sharing prayer requests and praying together.

We are starting this season's Bible study with the topic of *Covenant Theology* because that is how God started with us in the Garden of Eden. Covenant Theology is for everybody. It's the practical doctrine of Scripture that shows us how God enters into relationship with humans. It expresses His love for His creation and epitomizes His glory by revealing throughout history who is saved and who is not; and how that assured salvation occurs. Covenant Theology is the framework for the entire Bible, unfolding God's redemptive plan throughout its pages, from Genesis to Revelation. Just about every doctrine, story, and theme in the Bible relates to Covenant Theology, and it is the lens through which we may read God's Word for a fuller understanding.

This season we will see how Covenant Theology organizes Scripture and explains the gospel, and also how the Word clarifies why we are to live in faith and obedience. When Jesus teaches in His Sermon on the Mount that you must be perfect (Matt. 5:48), in what sense did He mean that? Is Jesus merely telling us that we are to be blameless, as in being above reproach in our behavior? Or is He literally saying that you must be without sin? Is that even possible on this side of heaven? Why does Old Providence baptize infants, yet some denominations don't? Why did Jesus have to shed His blood in death? Our studies in Covenant Theology will look at all of this, and so much more. As we conclude our summer and enter into the beauty of autumn and the longer nights of winter, I hope that we can gather regularly to experience God's Word together.

In Christ – James (your Pastoral Intern)

September 2021 Announcements



As of publication of this Newsletter, there are two Worship Services each Sunday at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Sabbath School classes for adults meet at 10:00 a.m. Our full Sabbath School program for all ages will resume on September 19th. Children's Church is available during the 9:00 a.m. service only. Nursery is available during the 9:00 a.m. service and 10:00 a.m. Sabbath School hour. Youth Group meets on Sundays at 5:30 p.m. and Little Lambs will begin meeting on Sunday, September 19th, at 5:30 p.m.

Pastor Malphrus will continue broadcasting his sermons on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. through Facebook.com/OldProvidenceARPChurchSpottswoodVa, and will post the audio version of those sermons on sermonaudio.com/oldprovidence. You may access our Facebook page, our church calendar, edited newsletters, announcements, and more by visiting our website at www.oldprovidencechurch.org. If you would like a copy of any Sunday sermons on CD, please call the church office.

Daily Devotionals take place Monday through Friday with our pastor. They are available live at 7:00 a.m. through our church's Facebook page, or after through sermonaudio.com or the sermonaudio app. Please see Pastor Malphrus if you need help accessing our Daily Devotionals.

Prayer Meetings will resume on Wednesday, September 8th, at 6:45 p.m. with our Pastoral Intern, James MacDougall, leading our time of study.

Pat and Susie are hosting a study of the book of Hebrews in their home near Brownsburg on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. We are using the Christ-centered Exposition series commentary on Hebrews and a book is available for you. Come join us anytime, or contact Pat with any questions.

Women's Ministries Window

Women's Ministries will meet on Thursday, September 2nd, at 7:00 p.m. with Bible Study following at 7:30 p.m. All women are invited. We will be studying Daniel 9 in Chapters 11 and 12 of our study book "Daniel" by Iain Duguid.

Old Providence PreSchool Update



The 2021/2022 PreSchool Classes will begin on Tuesday, September 7th, for the 3-year-old class and Wednesday, September 8th, for the 4-year-old class. Currently, there are openings in both classes. Please call Robyn or the church office for availability.

Rally Day and Sabbath School Picnic

On Sunday, September 12th, we will have only one morning Worship Service at 11:00 a.m. so that we can all celebrate Rally Day together. Immediately after the Worship Service we will enjoy games and lunch on the grounds. Meat will be provided but we ask that our folks bring side dishes and desserts. Our full Sabbath School program for all ages will resume the following week on September 19th at 10:00 a.m. - CANCELLED

Monday Mid-Day

The Fall series of the Monday Mid-Day program resumes on Monday, September 13th, at 11:00 a.m. with a guest speaker. A light lunch is served following each program (volunteer sign-up sheet to prepare meals on wall outside kitchen). The cost of the meal is \$3.00 per person. Meetings will be held on September 27th, October 11th, October 25th, and November 8th. More details to follow in upcoming bulletins and newsletters. Everyone is welcome.

Little Lambs



Little Lambs will begin on Sunday, September 19th, at 5:30 p.m. This class is offered for children ages 3 to 5th grade and typically meets on the first and third Sundays of each month, September through May. Amanda will be leading the class as they learn about various Bible stories and learn how to grow in God's word. The class will last from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. with snacks provided. Parents are invited to stay and participate as well. For more information, please contact Amanda!

Weekday Religious Education

The Riverheads Weekday Religious Education council met last Monday, August 16th. Things in the classroom are as close to "normal" as they can be. Dana has a full classroom nowadays with approximately 80 to 85% of the students attending her class. Her assistant Cathy returned this year and is a major asset to keeping the children, supplies, and class in order. The council decided not to pursue any fund-raising events right now, with the COVID numbers rising. Donations are always welcome: Riverheads WRE, PO Box 352, Greenville, VA 24440. The next meeting is Monday, November 15th, at the WRE classroom at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome.

Carol

Community Events

There will be a Raphine Volunteer Fire Company BBQ Chicken fundraiser on Saturday, September 11th, at the firehouse at 11:00 a.m., and a Raffle Drawing at the firehouse on Saturday, September, 25th, at the firehouse at 5:00 p.m.

September 2021 Calendar of Events

Thursday, September 2

7:00 p.m. - Women's Ministries

7:30 p.m. – Women's Bible Study

Sunday, September 5

8:45 a.m. – Nursery Helpers: Amanda and Isabella

9:00 a.m. – Worship

Children's Church leaders: Carrie and Lois

10:00 a.m. – Sabbath School

11:00 a.m. – Worship

No Youth Group



Monday, September 6

Labor Day

Church Office Closed

Tuesday, September 7

9:00 a.m. – PreSchool begins

Wednesday, September 8

6:45 p.m. – Prayer Meetings resume

Thursday, September, 9

7:00 p.m. – Session Meeting

Sunday, September 12 – Rally Day and Sabbath School Picnic - **(Cancelled - 2 Services 9:00 an 11:00)**

9:45 a.m. – Nursery Helpers: Lois and Shirley

10:00 a.m. – Sabbath School

11:00 a.m. – Worship

Children's Church leaders: Amanda and Vicki

No Youth Group - **(Will meet)**

Monday, September 13

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

Sunday, September 19

8:45 a.m. – Nursery Helpers: Terri and Vicki

9:00 a.m. – Worship

Children’s Church leaders: Patcie and Sue

10:00 a.m. – Sabbath School

11:00 a.m. – Worship

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

Sunday, September 26

Special Offering for WRE

8:45 a.m. – Nursery Helpers: Kevin and Tonya

9:00 a.m. – Worship

Children’s Church leaders: Dabney and Tina

10:00 a.m. – Sabbath School

11:00 a.m. – Worship

5:30 p.m. – Youth Group

Monday, September 27

11:00 a.m. – Monday Mid-Day Program

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

October 2021



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| 3 Little Lambs and Youth Group | 16 Virginia Presbytery at Wellspring ARP |
| Special Offering for Foreign Missions | 17 Little Lambs and Youth Group |
| 7 Women’s Ministries & Bible Study | 24 Reformation Sunday |
| 10 Youth Group | Trunk or Treat |
| Diaconate Budget Meeting | 25 Monday Mid-Day Program |
| 11 Monday Mid-Day Program | |