


Providence United Methodist Church

Belong. Be Transformed.  Make a Difference.

CONNECTIONS — 9:00 a.m.

First Sunday of Advent

Greeting and Welcome

Opening Prayer

Singing: The Heavens Shall Declare

Making Connections

A Time with the Children

Lighting of the Advent Wreath
Parson Family

Singing: He Came Down

Scripture: John 1:1-14

Message: “Don’t Miss the Big Story of Advent”

Prayer Time

Singing with Offering: Song of Hope (Heaven Come Down)

Benediction

First Sunday of Advent

11:00 a.m.

Hanging of the Greens

Welcome Guests! We're glad you're here!

- Please pick up a welcome gift from an usher in the foyer.
- **Children's activity bulletins, bags and boxes** are available in the foyer.
- **Restrooms** are located down the main hall turning to the left. A baby changing table is available in the handicap accessible restroom.
- Assisted listening devices, large-print hymnals and large-print bulletins are available. Ask an usher for assistance.
- A **nursery** with professional care is offered as an option for our children newborn through age four (located downstairs).

UMH = United Methodist Hymnal (Red)

FWS = The Faith We Sing (Black)

* = Words Projected

+ = Please stand as you are able

Thank you for silencing all electronic devices.

THE CHURCH GATHERS

Prelude

"Deck the Hall"

arr. by Dan Coates

+ Call to Worship *

Leader: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of the King?

People: With branches of cedar, the tree of royalty.

Leader: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of the eternal Christ?

People: With garlands of pine and fir, whose leaves are ever living, ever green.

Leader: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of our Savior?

People: With wreaths of holly and ivy, telling of his passion, death and resurrection.

Leader: How shall we prepare our hearts for the coming of the Son of God?

People: By hearing again the words of the prophets, who foretold the saving work of God.

December 3, 2017

Leader: For God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved.

People: Glory to God in the highest!

Leader: When we look at the world around us, we see the darkness of war, captivity, greed, and broken relationships.

People: We long for Christ to come again and bring light to our world.

Leader: The Word of the Gospel is that Jesus Christ lives among us, bringing truth and light as a present reality.

ALL: We worship as those who have a glimpse of that reality, and we long for its fullness. We are those who labor to make Christ's light more visible on earth. Let us praise God, that the light of Christ shines on in the darkness, which has never overcome it. To God be the glory in Jesus Christ and in the church forever and ever. Amen.

Opening Prayer

The Meaning of the Service

+ Hymn "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" UMH #196

The Sanctuary Evergreens

Piano Solo "The Holly and the Ivy" arr. by John W. Schaum
John Csukor, pianist

The Christmas Tree

The Chrismon Tree

Interlude "O Christmas Tree"

The Christmas Poinsettia

+ Hymn * "We Three Kings — Star of Wonder, Star of Light" (lyrics projected)
(refrain two times)

The Paraments and Advent Colors

The Advent Candles

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|------------------------|
| Lighting of the Advent Wreath | <i>Hope</i> | Mike & Cathy Patterson |
| + Hymn * | “Light The Advent Candle” (vs 1) | (lyrics projected) |
| The Nativity | | |
| + Hymn | “O Little Town of Bethlehem” (vs 1 & 4) | UMH #230 |
| Special Music | “Start at the Manger” The Chancel Choir | by Robert Sterling |
| The Gifts of Christmas | | |
| Christmas Caroling | | |
| + Hymn | “It Came upon the Midnight Clear” (vs 1 & 4) | UMH #218 |
| The Christ of Christmas | | |
| Offering/Offertory | “O Come, O Come Emmanuel with Moonlight Sonata” by Beethoven; arr. Tom Fettke | |
| + Response * | “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” | UMH #94 |
| + Benediction | Now may the God who has called us to live in hope and expectation, go with you as you journey in Faith toward that new future created by God’s love that has dwelt, and continues to dwell among us and in us. Go, in His grace and in His peace. | |
| + Postlude | | |

ANNOUNCEMENTS

All guests, visitors and members (adults and children), **please sign in** on a clipboard today and include your contact information. Please continue to sign in each Sunday and especially tell us if you have changes to your personal information that the church maintains.

Come Celebrate the Joys of Christmas

Family Pancake Brunch & Festivities

Saturday, December 9th
10:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

Experience the Holiday Sights,
Sounds and Smells

Story Time — Games — Bell Ringing

Cookie Decorating
Ornament Making

Plus a visit with Santa!



PUMC Social Hall
A Free Event

Interested in volunteering?

Email: Sherry Jeter
sherry.jeter@providenceumc.net or

Sign up on the pew clipboard.

There will be a luncheon in the social hall after the 11:00 a.m. Hanging of the Greens service today. Everyone is invited.

Christmas Cookie Cooks Needed! Let's help Sherry Jeter plan a fun party for our children on December 9 by providing the cookies! I'm going to bake cookies on Friday, December 8, 2:00-4:00 p.m. in Room 309. Won't you join me? We can have Christmas music, sing carols, share recipes and get into the Christ Spirit, together! See you soon! Cathy Patterson

“THE FIRST NOEL”

Our Christmas Cantata will be presented at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, December 17. Invite your friends and neighbors to experience the beauty of the Christmas story told through music by our PUMC vocalists, musicians, and guest instrumentalists!

Please note the **Christmas Poinsettia or Bible** order form insert in today's bulletin. Poinsettias and Bibles are \$10 again this year. Please complete the form and include your donation. You can place the form and your check in the offering plate or drop it off in the office. There are additional forms in the narthex if you need another. The last day to submit your order is Sunday, December 10.

The “**Christmas Card Exchange Box**” will be on the table near the Chapel beginning Sunday, December 3. Address your cards, put them in the appropriate mail slot and check for cards addressed to you as well. This is an opportunity to save a little postage and perhaps use it in another meaningful way.

The **2018 Flower Calendar** is in the hallway, near the water fountain. The **BLUE** flower forms are there too. Please remember: *payment should accompany the blue form*. Complete the form and put it and your check in the offering plate or bring it to the office. Please do not put your name on the calendar until you submit your form and check.

The Youth are selling **“2018 God’s Creation” calendars**. Price is \$7 each and are available in the Library.

Are you thinking about being baptized or becoming a member of Providence? Speak with Pastor Derrick (804-276-4289) who can guide you in the next steps.

PRAYER MINISTRY

December 3, 2017: We pray for the families of Metropolitan Richmond: for single-parent families, adoptive families, foster families, and for households that are communities of friends; for elderly persons living in their own homes, in retirement communities, and in nursing institutions.

Handmade **prayer squares are available** in the foyer to take or mail to someone for whom you are praying. To connect with our email prayer ministry, you may send a prayer request to Nancy Coffman at nlctlc73@gmail.com. If you would like to be added to the list to receive prayer requests, contact Nancy. Please check your email address book to make sure you have this email address.

Our service men and women, wherever they serve, and their families:

| | |
|--------------------|--------------|
| Jessica Ammon | John Harper |
| Harrison Bailey | Wayne Lee |
| Hunter Blankenship | Matt Latimer |
| Terrance Brunson | Megan Thomas |
| Jennifer Collins | |

Our gathered prayer concerns:

- * Dot Ashburn
- * Curtis Bailey
- * Nan Blackwell
- * The family of Bursell Bradshaw Jr. (died 11/9; brother of Natalia Parson)
- * Ronnie Brooks (home)
- * Lois Butler (mother of Brenda Woodward)
- * Charles Clarke (blood clots; brother of Beverley Brooks)
- * John Curtis (son of Uldine Curtis)
- * Uldine Curtis
- * Bob & Fran Fitch
- * Emma Fleenor
- * The family of Myrna Hartley (Janet Goode’s sister)
- * Kelton Honeycutt (grandfather of Danielle Hellams)
- * Jill Gueswelle (very good friend of Elizabeth Kyser)
- * Diane Huchingson (sister-in-law of Diane King)
- * Earl Jennings (cancer; friend of Paul Martin)
- * Joyce (friend of Jane Elbert)
- * Jack & Linda Keery
- * The family of Anne Klotz (died 11/12; mother-in-law of Christine Forte Klotz)
- * **Wayne Latimer** (hip replacement, 11/28)
- * **Blanca & Jose Mera**
- * Anne Middleton (rehab, Lucy Corr)
- * Leigh Middleton
- * The family of Lewis Miller (died 11/8)
- * **Matthew Moyer** (Crohn’s surgery 11/29 in Florida)
- * **The family of Monique Turner** (died, 11/26; sister of Isaac Nedd)
- * The family of Ursula (Sue) Pickeral (a member of PUMC, died 11/9)
- * **Sheila Scott** (cancer)
- * Jean Slaven (Barbara Robertson’s mother)
- * Gary Smallwood (brother of Brad Smallwood)
- * Barbie Vest (upcoming surgery, 12/4)
- * **Ron White** (hip replacement surgery on 12/20)
- * Tracy (recovering from fall, surgery on 11/13; friend of the Fleshmans)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, December 3 — First Sunday of Advent

- 9:00 Connections Service
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 Hanging of the Greens Service
Luncheon (SH)
- 3:00 Girl Scouts
- 4:30 Youth Choir
- 5:15 Son Rise Sisters
- 5:30 Youth & Inukshuks
- 6:00 Bells of Providence

Monday, December 4

- 10:00 Line Dancers (309)
- 7:00 Staff Parish (L)
Young Adults

Tuesday, December 5

- 11:00 Bible Study (L)
- 6:30 Cubs/Scouts (SH/309)
- 7:00 Newton Circle

Wednesday, December 6

- 7:00 Men's Breakfast (Shoney's)
- 6:30 Cantata Rehearsal (Sanc)
- 7:15 Chancel Choir

Thursday, December 7

- 9:30 Prayer Team (L)
- 6:15 Men's Study (L)
- 6:30 MIM
- 6:30 AA (205)

Friday, December 8

- 2:00 Christmas Cookie Cooking (309)
- 8:00 AA Group (309)

Saturday, December 9

- 10:30 The Joys of Christmas (SH)

My family and I are extremely grateful to the wonderful members of Providence UMC for your thoughts and prayers; cards; phone calls; and other generous expressions of care and love that were afforded to us as we mourn the loss of my brother, Brad. May the Lord continue to bless and keep you.

Natalia and Family

Prayer Requests

Pray for:

Place in Bulletin: Yes / No

Specific Request:

Meal Needs: Yes / No

Transportation Needs: Yes / No

Desire Card: Yes / No

Comments:

Your Contact Information:

Name:

Telephone Number:

Email Address:

Drop this sheet in the offering plate or at the church office.

To direct an urgent concern for yourself or a family member to our email prayer group, please contact the church office by phone or email.

Those Serving Today

Acolyte:

11:00 Kyle & Meagan Ostrum

Greeters:

9:00 Diane King (Library)
Mike Patterson (Narthex)
11:00 Shirley Collins (Library)
Nickie Price (Narthex)

Ushers:

9:00 Bill Blankenship
Chris Healy
11:00 George Winstead
Linwood Hudson, Pam Asbury
Melvin Watkins

Nursery:

9:00 Kelly Horne
SS Wendy Collins
11:00 Carol Urso & Wendy Collins

Counters:

Gary Wright (captain)
Wayne Smith, Anne Baird

Reader:

Audio/Visual Team:

9:00 Tyler Griggs (A)
Jimmy Schulthorpe (V)
11:00 Tyler Griggs (A)
Jimmy Sculthorpe (V)

Sanctuary Organizers:

Flora Scott & Jean Winfree
(December 1-31)

Providence United Methodist Church
901 S. Providence Road
N. Chesterfield, VA 23236-2649
804-276-4289

Office Hours:

Monday—Thursday 10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
Friday Office Closed

Contact us at:

Church Telephone: (804) 276-4289
Fax Number: (804) 745-2501
Website: www.providenceumc.net
E-mail: providenceumc@providenceumc.net

Church Staff:

Pastor

Derrick Parson (ext. 201)
Derrick.Parson@providenceumc.net

Intern

Isaac Nedd
Isaac.Nedd@providenceumc.net

Music Ministries

Allison Stowers (ext. 207)
Allison.Stowers@providenceumc.net

Children's Ministries

Sherry Wright-Jeter
Sherry.Jeter@providenceumc.net

Secretary

Linda Collins (ext. 203)
Linda.Collins@providenceumc.net

Audio Visual

Tyler Griggs
Tgriggs87@gmail.com

Youth Ministries

Mary & Greg Elliott (interim)

Young Adult Ministries

Terrence Jeter (interim)

Custodial Service

Bill Duganne

Nursery Attendant

Cynthia Liverpool

Our Covenant Missionary

Kim King Torres

Presiding Bishop

Sharma Lewis