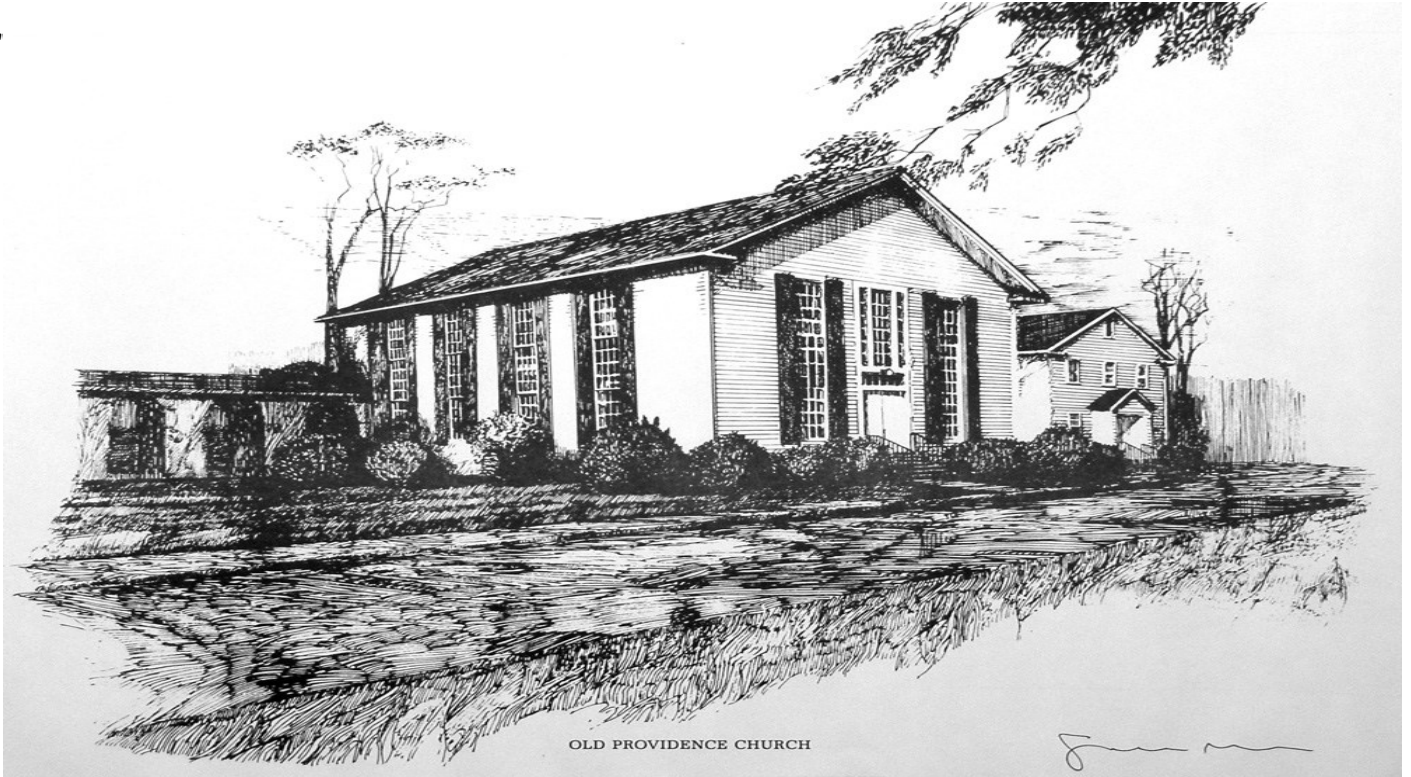


PROVIDENCE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH • EST. 1767



Our Vision

As we boldly proclaim the transformative power of God's word, we will inspire with our past, care for all in our present, and nurture disciples for our future.

The Church at Worship
2nd Sunday of Advent and
Blue Christmas / Healing Service
December 7, 2025
10:30 am

The Rev. Dr. Jody Moore, Pastor
The Rev. Dr. Lal Rodawla, Associate Pastor
Genie Richards, Youth & Communications Director
Sarah Clark, Children's Ministry Coordinator
Alex Sims, Director of Music
Ron Nice, Pianist/Organist
Roy Phillips, Director of Finance
Ruth Welch, Office Administrator

Officers of the Week
Keeley Etter
Jack Randolph
Susan Chase

Gathering as God's People

Welcome and Announcements

Moment for Mission

Endowment

Kathy Dannels & Bill Clewis

Prelude

"Sleepers Awake, A Voice Is Calling"

J. S. Bach

Liturgy of the Advent Wreath: The Candle of Peace

*During Advent, we light candles to prepare for the coming of Christ.
This Sunday, we light the Candles of Hope and Peace.*

Call to Worship

Phyllis and AE Long

One: Children of God, what are we waiting for?

All: We wait for peace where conflict rages, for gentleness where harshness prevails.

One: We wait for swords to be reshaped into plows, for walls to crumble and bridges to rise.

All: We wait, longing for the Prince of Peace, who stills our storms and guides our feet.

Lighting of the Candles of Hope and Peace

Advent Prayer:

One: O God, of still waters and quiet strength, we confess how often our lives are restless. Our hearts race, our hands grasp, our voices quicken with fear.

All: Yet you breathe calm into chaos; you steady our steps on uneven ground. Grant us your peace, O Christ, not as the world gives, but as you alone provide. Amen.

* Congregational Response

"He Came Down"

#137 (verse 3)

He came down that we may have peace;

He came down that we may have peace;

He came down that we may have peace;

Hallelujah, forevermore!

* Sharing of Christ's Peace

One: During Advent, we light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love.

All: We light these candles because we desperately need these spiritual qualities in our lives and in the world.

One: We pray, Lord, for you to shine your light into the darkness this Advent.

All: As we share the peace with one another, may we spread some hope, peace, joy, and love to one another.

* Opening Hymn

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

#82

Act of Confession

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

(From the Presbyterian Outlook, Dec 7, 2025)

God of Grace, we confess that we are not ready for you to come into our world — not quite yet. We cling to the known and familiar, afraid of the transformation your grace will bring. Yet you are always a step ahead of us, a voice crying out in the wilderness, inviting us into bold new ways of being disciples. Humble us, O God, and teach us to do the work of repentance so that, fully reliant on your grace, we may know the richness of restored relationship with you and one another. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of God’s Forgiveness

* Gloria

“Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine

#839(Verse 1)

Hearing God’s Word

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Lesson:

James 5:7-11

p.231, N.T. Pew Bible

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Anthem:

“O Come, O Come”
Chancel Choir

Trevor Manor

Time with Children:

Bret Myers

Second Scripture Lesson:

Isaiah 11:1-10

p.641, O.T. Pew Bible

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

“Seeking God’s Hope and Peace”

The Rev. Dr. Jody Moore

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

* Communion Hymn

Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread

#500

Invitation to the Lord’s Table

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Sharing of the Bread and the Cup

The Communion of the People

- As you pass the bread, you may say, "The bread of heaven."
- As you pass the cup, you may say, "The cup of salvation."

Prayer after Communion

A Time for Healing and Wholeness

* Hymn of Response

There Is a Balm in Gilead

#792

Intercession for God's Healing Presence

One: May grace and peace be abundantly ours in the knowledge of God and Jesus our Lord.

All: We lift up those who seek God's healing. Let those who seek God's healing open their hearts to the Spirit of the Lord.

One: Let us pray together.

All: God our creator, your will for us and for all your people is wholeness and salvation: have mercy on us. Jesus Christ, Son of God, you came that we might have life and have it in abundance: have mercy on us. Holy Spirit, dwelling within us, you make us temples of your presence: have mercy on us.

For all who are in need of healing . . .
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all who are disabled by injury or illness. . .
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all who are troubled by confusion or burdened by pain . . .
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all whose increasing years bring weariness. . .
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all about to undergo surgery. . .
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all who cannot sleep. . .
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all who practice the healing arts . . .
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer. Amen.**

Anointing and/or Blessing

You are welcome to come forward to one of the two stations where you may ask for an anointing and/or a blessing. If you ask to be anointed, please indicate whether you prefer for the oil to be placed on your forehead or the back of one of your hands.

Music for Prayerful Reflection

Words for Prayerful Reflection:

You are invited to silently pray this prayer during this time of reflection.

Gracious God, source of all healing, in Jesus Christ, you heal the sick and mend the broken. By your Spirit, come to all upon whom we anoint and bless, that they may know your healing touch and be made whole, to the glory of Jesus Christ our redeemer. Amen.

Closing Prayer:

Mighty God, you rise with healing in your wings, to scatter all enemies that assault us. As we wait in hope for the coming of that day when crying and pain shall be no more, help us by your Holy Spirit to receive your power into our lives and to trust in your eternal love, through Jesus Christ our Savior, Amen.

Being Sent Out in God's Name

Invitation to Giving

Offertory "Mary, Did You Know?" arr. Ron Nice

* Doxology #606

* Prayer of Dedication (From Feasting on the Word, Year A, Vol 1, p 8)

We give you thanks, O Holy One, for all good things: for this universe and the Earth itself, for creatures and plants, for water and food for light and darkness. For Jesus, who set himself before us as the bread and wine of abundant life. Turn our offerings to be used for your good purposes, and turn us always to you in gratitude. Amen.

* Closing Hymn "My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout" #100

*Charge and Blessing

*Postlude "Swiss Noel" Louis Daquin

Providence in Prayer

Acute Concerns

Darwin Collins, Roger Nussman, Jan Hargett, Judith Arey, Barbara Conner, Julie Brock, Sharon Starks, Kathy Cathey, Stef Good, Bob and Yasmin Craig, Willie Rea, Betsy Peace, Jaiden Dean, William Dixon, Morgan Jeffares, Ava, a friend of Carleen Clewis, Charlie Starks, Everette, Richard Dickey, Jenny Gidaro, John Gidaro, Joyce Pate, Tim Good's friend, Sean Byrd
Addison Day, Laura Beth, Hampton (newborn), Michele Day.

Chronic Concerns

Ann Arentz, Nell Kilpatrick's daughter, Isabel Kilpatrick, Bo Hardee, Kim Hintz's mother, Sandy, Zachary Coger, Yo Yee Chacko, Martha Gilbert's mother,

Grieving

Friends and family of Betty Boeschel, Bob's mother, on her passing on November 26, 2025
Friends & family of Tom Fairman (Dave Dickey's maternal uncle) on his passing on October 27, 2025.
Friends & family of Ivan (Jo Hardin's brother), on his passing in early October.
Friends & family of John Sisson (Tim's brother), on his passing early in October.

Today's ushers are Kat Mandujano and Dave Dickey.

The Literary Group is now reading the short story "A Christmas Memory" by Truman Capote. It is an American holiday classic set in the early 1930s in Alabama. The evocative narrative focuses on country life, friendship, and the joy of giving during the Christmas season. Join us, on zoom, on Tues. Dec. 9 at 11 am for discussion. For more information contact Adèle Daniels (adanielscs@gmail.com).

Join us in worship on Sunday, December 14, as our choir offers special music for the Christmas season. We hope you'll join us for this meaningful time of song and celebration as we prepare our hearts for Christ's coming.



HOLIDAY OUTREACH EFFORT

One of our seasonal outreach efforts is collecting toys for the Matthews Help Center Holiday Support Drive. Please bring unwrapped, new toys to the church beginning this week thru Dec. 10. They will be placed in a special store set up in the Matthews Town Hall to provide toys for children in need for Christmas. (About 700 served last year). Parents who apply for assistance are given vouchers for shopping. Items can be as small as a box of crayons on up, for infant to 12 years. Walmart and Target gift cards are given for teens so these are also welcome contributions.

There will be a collection box in the Narthex starting this Sunday. For questions call Mary Lee Hayes 704 846-1748 or email mlhayes1446@gmail.com.



This year's Guest Speaker for the PPC Women's Retreat will be The Reverend Katelyn Gordon Cooke. She currently serves as a co-pastor at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Augusta, GA, with her husband. Her first call out of seminary was as an associate pastor at Providence Presbyterian Church, and the PPC congregation holds a special place in her heart. She's looking forward to being with the women of the church in February!

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS

We are using the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary Advent devotionals again this year. It's easy to access these Advent devotionals. All you have to do is just go to pts.edu/devotional_1 and it will take you right to the devotionals. You will also see directions for subscribing to the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary if you are interested in receiving the daily devotionals in your email.

**You're invited to a special Christmas Brunch!
Sunday, December 21 at 9:30 a.m. in the CLC**

Bring your favorite brunch dish and come enjoy food, fellowship, and Christmas joy with your church family and friends.





As part of our Christmas celebration of God's gift, we will be collecting **the Christmas Joy Offering on December 21st**. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) reflects God's gift to us, and through the Christmas Joy Offering, we can ***Prepare the Way*** by supporting church leaders among us, retired, present and future, who have pointed us to God. Even as we support our current and former church leaders, God is calling new leaders for our Church and world, through the ministry of Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color — offering students the means for a brighter future and enhanced opportunities to use their talents and skills to serve God, the Church and the world for years to come.

Jesus, the Light of the World, brings hope. Perhaps, together, we can bring hope to others who receive the Christmas Joy Offerings. We are but one of thousands of congregations whose gifts unite to help prepare the way for Christ and ease the paths of those who need us.

Every year the Christmas Joy Offering, one of the four Churchwide Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), prepares the way to bring hope through education and emergency assistance. Please look for the special Christmas Joy Offering envelopes in worship on Sunday December 21st. Please put your gifts for the Christmas Joy offering in the special offering envelopes or put "Christmas Joy Offering" in the memo line with your gift.



Hat, Glove, Scarf Drive

To benefit Crisis Assistance

Drop off in the CLC

During the month of December

Or in the Narthex on Sunday

Our Christmas Decorations

The decorations at Providence during Advent and Christmas have a history. Many have been made by hand by members and friends. They add to the beauty of the season and to our sanctuary.

The lanterns that hang under the balcony were fashioned from Wesson oil cans, spray painted, and inserted with candles by Henry Campbell decades ago. His daughter, Grace McBride, was a lifelong member and knew all the work he put into them. Mrs. Hilda Hudson, mother of Joe and Dick Hudson, designed the lanterns and also the sconces on the walls. Mr. Campbell made the sconces from pieces of tin and tuna fish cans. To prevent a fire hazard, battery operated candles are used.

Heather Wehr, a member of the worship committee, oversees the hanging of the garlands and the greenery wreaths on the exterior doors around the campus. She also orders the poinsettias for the front of the sanctuary.

The paraments that are used on the pulpit and the communion table were cross stitched and sewn by Beverly Howard, Nancy Chambers, Betty Scarborough, Jack Howard, and Penny Harpoottlian many years ago. They also made the other sets of paraments that are used throughout the liturgical year.

The Advent banner that hangs on the wall at the front of the sanctuary was made by church member Martha Gilbert. She has made many of the other banners that adorn the church throughout the year.

The beautiful stained glass nativity piece that sits on the piano was handmade in honor of Providence by Richard Rommich, father-in-law / father of Stacey and Mark Rommich.

In the lobby of the Christian Life Center there is a Christmas tree with Chrismons hanging from it. Chrismons are Christmas ornaments that symbolize Christ and Christianity. For years, the ornaments at Providence were made from blocks of styrofoam. As they aged, a church member, Judy McClanahan, took on the project to make new ones from white felt. Judy gave the patterns and felt to be cut out, stuffed, and stitched by hand. One afternoon women and teenagers sat in the parlor of the CLC, and together they decorated the ornaments with sequins, beads, pearls, and braids.

Lots of love and God-given talents have gone into the decorations at Providence Presbyterian. Women and men have created the decorations to enhance our appreciation of this special time of year in the life of the church. Many of the people are no longer living, but their gifts will last for a long time to come. Enjoy the season and worship with us!



Update on Moment for Missions

Many of us recognize that Providence Presbyterian Church is very active reaching out to the community and sharing our blessings with those in need. We regularly have Moments for Mission in worship so that the congregation can hear about the opportunities we have to serve. **We ask those who are providing a Moment for Mission to speak for three minutes or less.** We schedule those Moment for Missions in advance. **If you are interested in scheduling a Moment for Mission, please contact one of the pastors.** Here is the schedule of the upcoming Moments for Mission that have been planned .

Moment for Missions at Providence Presbyterian Church

December 14: Alternative Christmas Gifts

December 21: Joy Gift Offering

PROVIDENCE

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★ ALTERNATE CHRISTMAS ★ GIVING 2025

This Christmas, Providence Presbyterian Church invites you to celebrate the birth of Christ in a meaningful way by giving gifts that reflect the true spirit of the season. Instead of traditional presents, honor a friend or loved one with a donation to one of five Matthew 25-focused charities. Your gift will share Christ's love with those in need while blessing someone special in your life.

THIS YEAR'S MATTHEW 25 RECIPIENTS:

1. **Nourish Up** – Providing food and essentials to families facing hunger in our community.
2. **Crisis Assistance Ministry** – Offering financial assistance, clothing, and household support to neighbors striving for stability and dignity.
3. **Roof Above** – Providing shelter, housing, and hope for those experiencing homelessness in Charlotte.
4. **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance** – Bringing relief and long-term recovery to communities affected by natural and human-caused disasters around the world.
5. **Refugee Support Services** – Helping refugees, asylees, and other displaced people make themselves at home in the Charlotte area

HOW TO GIVE:

Step One: Complete this short form. One form response for every contribution.



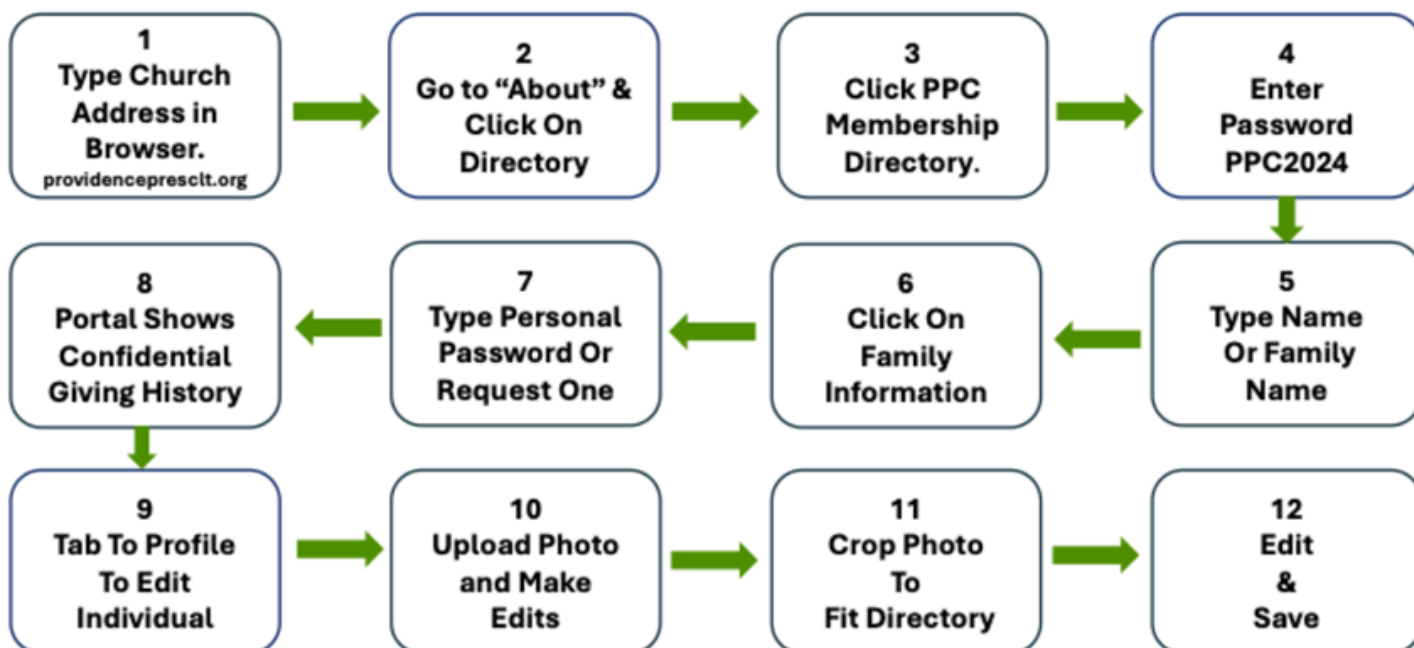
Step Two: Make your financial gift.

- Pay via check by 12/16
- Pay via online portal:



If donating online:
Scroll to
"Misc/Designate"
under the "Your Gift"
tab. Under "Gift Note"
write "ACG"

Step Three: Share the card with the friend or loved one you honored.



Sunday, December 7th, will be the last day to edit your contact information before the NEW PPC directory prints. Please see the link below on how to easily edit your information. The online directory can be updated in real time using the same steps.

Put the Providence Presbyterian Endowment Fund into your estate plans...

It's easier than you think. And helps more than you know.

STEWARDSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

Thanks to everyone who has sent in their Estimate of Giving pledge to financially support PPC's ministries, mission, and facilities heading into 2026.

All additional pledges will gladly be received as we work toward exceeding our total from last year of \$611,500. Estimate of Giving cards can be placed in the offering plate, dropped in the office, or completed online.

As of November 30th, we have 91 pledges for a total of \$569,790.

Open Your Heart
Share your Treasure