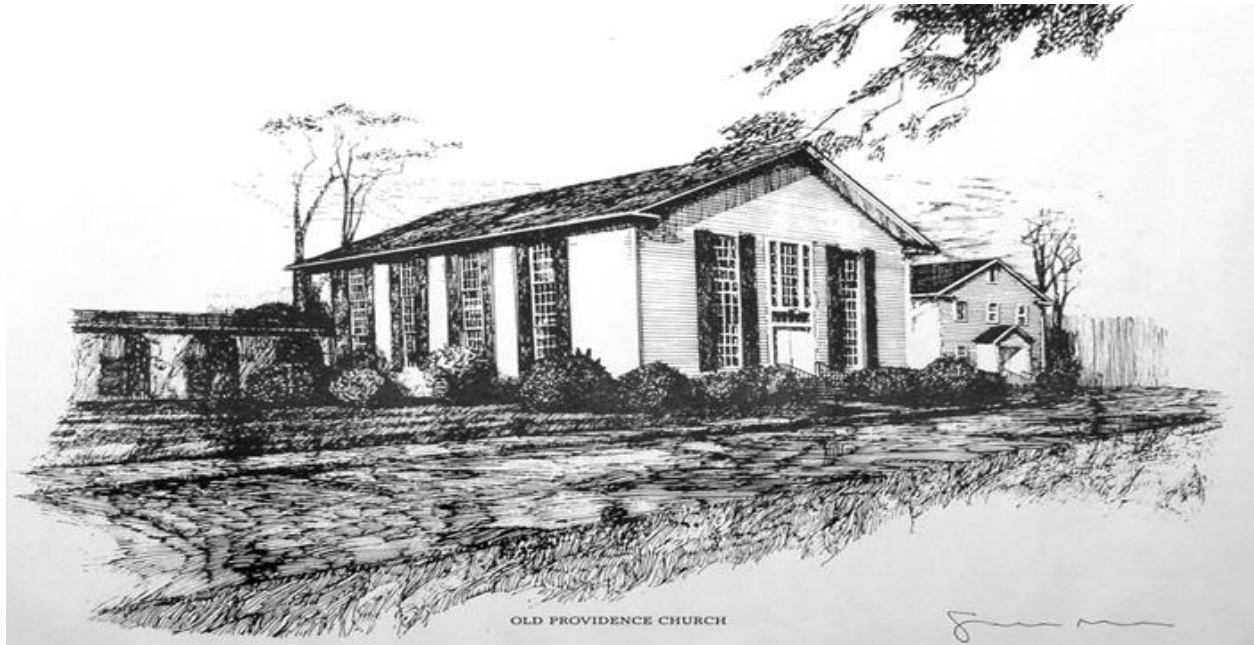


PROVIDENCE

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 **13th Sunday after Pentecost & Blessing of the Backpacks**

August 23, 2026

10:30 am

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

Officers of the Week

Jo Hardin
John Garver

Welcome and Announcements

Moment for Mission:

Stephen Ministry Class, Jay Witherspoon

Prelude

“When Thou Art Near”

J.S. Bach

Gathering as God’s People

Call to Worship

(From Glory to God resource, August 23, 2026)

One: If the Lord had not been with us

All: our enemies would have destroyed us and the floods would have swept us away.

One Blessed be the Lord,

All: who has not forsaken us.

One: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

All: maker of heaven and earth.

* Sharing the Peace of Christ

One: Christ before us, Christ behind us, Christ under our feet.

All: Christ within us, Christ over us, let all around us be filled with Christ’s presence.

One: May we show Christ’s compassion as we greet one another.

All: May Christ’s peace dwell in our hearts and fill us with compassion and joy.

One: Let us share Christ’s peace with one another.

*Opening Hymn

“Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation”

#394

* Opening Prayer

(From Call to Worship resource, Aug 23, 2026)

Son of God, Son of Man, you offered your body on the cross. Help us to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice of thanksgiving, that we may be transformed and reformed by your word, in the name of our Sovereign Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Act of Confession

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of mercy, we look at the world and at our own lives and we see that things are not the way that they should be. Injustice rules, the innocent suffer, and the poor go hungry. You have filled us with divinely-inspired dreams of justice, peace, and full stomachs for all people. We confess that we become too satisfied with how things are and that we fail to pursue the goals that will make this world a better place. When we face setbacks and are tested, we abandon our lofty aims and high ideals. Forgive us and inspire us to remain committed to working for what is good. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of God’s Forgiveness

*Gloria

“Our God Is an Awesome God”
(Sing twice)

#616

*Our God is an awesome God who reigns from heaven above
With wisdom, power, and love; our God is an awesome God!*

Blessing of the Backpacks and the Upcoming School Year

Liturgy

One: Holy God, the time has come when school begins. As your children begin their studies,

All: we ask a blessing on their backpacks in which they carry the notebooks, Chromebooks, pencils, and air pods they will use to learn.

One: Bless all who will teach our children in the coming days and weeks and months.

All: Give them the wisdom to find inspiration for each child. Give them the energy and creativity and love that will make their work a blessing to our children.

One: Bless all school administrators that they may be faithful stewards of the resources entrusted to their care.

All: Make them fair and merciful, able to do their crucial work with a spirit of grace and compassion.

One: Bless each one of us gathered here today,

All: that we will seek every opportunity to grow in our knowledge and love of you – in our Sunday School classes, our children’s ministry, our Youth Group, and all of our committees.

One: And bless these our cherished children, those whom we have promised to love and nurture.

All: Keep them safe, keep them excited, keep them ever seeking to learn more and to develop their gifts. Grant that through their study, they may gain the tools to grow in love and faith and service, all their days.

One: Oh, God, our own teacher - bless these backpacks and the children who carry them.

All: Amen.

Passing of Pins

Sarah Clark

Blessing of the Backpacks

Closing Prayer

(Children are dismissed to children’s church)

Hearing God’s Word

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Lessons

Genesis 37:1-11

p.34, Pew Bible OT

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Anthem

“This is My Song”

Jean Sibelius

Second Scripture Lesson

Genesis 37:17b-28

p.245, Pew Bible NT

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

“God-Given Dreams”

Rev. Dr. Jody Moore

Responding to God's Word

*Hymn of Response

"Be Thou My Vision"

#450

Prayers of the People and 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; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Invitation to Giving

(Thank you for keeping your giving current.)

Offertory

"This Land Is Your Land"

Arlo Guthrie

*Doxology

#606

*Prayer of Dedication

(From *Presbyterian Outlook*, August 23, 2026)

God of Abundance, we have received blessings from you and today we hear your call to share our time, our talent and our treasure with your beloved community. May these gifts bring your light, love and hope to all who need them. Amen.

Being Sent Out in God's Name

*Affirmation of faith

(From *The Confession of 1967*, inclusive language ed.)

9.24 The new life in Christ finds its direction in the life of Jesus, his deeds and words, his struggles against temptation, his compassion, his anger, and his willingness to suffer death. The teaching of apostles and prophets guides men and women in living this life, and the Christian community nurtures and equips them for their ministries.

9.25 The members of the church are emissaries of peace and seek the good of all in cooperation with powers and authorities in politics, culture, and economics. But they have to fight against pretensions and injustices when these same powers endanger human welfare. Their strength is in their confidence that God's purpose rather than human schemes will finally prevail.

9.26 Life in Christ is life eternal. The resurrection of Jesus is the sign that God will consummate the work of creation and reconciliation beyond death and bring to fulfillment the new life begun in Christ.

*Closing Hymn

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

#14

*Charge and Blessing

*Postlude

"Postlude in G Major"

J.S. Bach

The Ushers today are Jo Hardin and Dave Dickey

Classroom Central Final Update

Our sincere appreciation to the PPC congregation for your overwhelming support of the Classroom Central outreach. Your financial and physical donations provided over \$11,400 in school supplies for our Teachers and students in our communities. In addition, volunteers packed backpacks with school supplies that were distributed by Second Harvest with food to support students starting the school year. Hopefully, many of you will continue to donate your time and resources to this worthy organization throughout the coming school year.

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.

Moment for Mission at Providence Presbyterian Church

>September 13: Apiary and Garden

>September 20: Habitat for Humanity / Tim Lipka Golf Tournament

PPC Fall Kickoff Brunch & Ministry Fair

Sunday, September 13 | 9:00–10:20 a.m. | Christian Life Center (CLC)

Join us as we kick off a new season of ministry with a light brunch at 9:00 a.m. and our annual Ministry Fair beginning at 9:30 a.m. Enjoy a relaxed time of fellowship over brunch, visit displays from our many ministries, and discover opportunities to grow, serve, and connect at Providence. As you enjoy brunch, take time to explore the Ministry Fair, meet ministry leaders, and learn how you can become involved in the life of our church.

Empathy Study

Tuesday Evenings October 13 – November 17

Sponsored by PPC Stephen Ministry

Offering empathy to someone who is struggling is like giving a cup of water to a thirsty traveler – similar to the descriptions given by Jesus in Mat 25:35-36. Empathy is a skill with extraordinary potential for increasing care, deepening understanding, strengthening trust, and transforming relationships. Like any other skill, growing in your ability to empathize simply takes practice and deliberate attention.

Beginning October 13 through November 17 PPC's Stephen Leaders will lead a study using The Gift of Empathy (\$15.00). In six weekly Tuesday sessions 6:30 – 8:30pm, two small groups divided into women and men, will explore what empathy is and how to develop this skill. This study is open to anyone who wants to grow in listening, caring, and building stronger relationships at home, at church, and in the community. For more information and/or sign-up please contact one of PPC's Stephen Leaders. (David Llewellyn, Jay Witherspoon, Lynn Finlon, and Becky Boeschel)

Providence in Prayer

Acute Concerns

Baxter Price, Catherine Howard, Joyce Pate, Michael Helmick, Mechele Hill (Tandy's niece), Gary Sikes, William Dixon, Darwin Collins, Roger Nussman, Judith Arey, Barbara Conner, Kathy Cathey, Bob and Yasmin Craig, Willie Rea, Betsy Peace, Jaiden Dean, Morgan Jeffares, Everette, Jenny Gidaro, John Gidaro.

Chronic Concerns

Nell Kilpatrick's daughter, Isabel Kilpatrick, Bo Hardee, Kim Hintz's mother, Sandy, Zachary Coger, Yo Yee Chacko.

Grieving

Ken Reilly and family on the death of his brother, Charles Reilly, on July 29.

Phyllis Long and family on the death of her brother, Stephen Willetts, on July 30.

Patsy Price and family on the death of her brother, James "Jimmy" Rinehardt, on August 4.

Please don't forget to mention the availability of Stephen Ministers to those who are hurting. To request a Stephen Minister, contact E. Lynn Finlon, elynnfinlon@gmail.com or Lal Rodawla, lal@ppc1767.org

Sermon Series on Joseph and his Brothers Late August and Early September 2026 Providence Presbyterian Church

General Information about the Sermon Series:

The story of Joseph and his brothers in Genesis 37-50 is one of the most important narratives in the entire Old Testament. These chapters teach us about our dreams, jealousy, envy, love, hatred, family dysfunction, sin, forgiveness, second chances, and reconciliation. Joseph faces many setbacks in his life, but we see that God ultimately has a plan for Joseph and for us.

August 30: Genesis 42:1-8, 12-25, 35-38: After facing great adversity, Joseph rises in Egypt and he becomes Pharaoh's right-hand man. There is a famine in the land and Joseph's brothers go to Egypt because they need food. By God's providence, Joseph's brothers appear before Joseph looking for help. This story testifies that God is in control and had a plan for Joseph and his brothers, just as God has a plan for our lives.



COMMUNITY
CULINARY SCHOOL
OF CHARLOTTE

Mark your calendars !!

POP UP EVENT

BAKED POTATOES WITH A TWIST!

\$25 PER PERSON

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16
5:30-7:00PM @ CCSC**

**YOUR CLASSIC
COMFORT FOOD,
ELEVATED.**

VISITOR COFFEE & INFORMATION SESSION – Discover and Connect

Sunday, August 30, 2026

9:30–10:15 a.m.

Location: Foyer of the Christian Life Center (CLC)

If you're new to Providence, or if you'd like to learn more about our church and its many ministries, we invite you to join our pastors and Membership Committee for a relaxed time of coffee, snacks, and conversation. It's a wonderful opportunity to ask questions, meet others, and discover ways to get connected. Current members are also welcome! Childcare will be available. Please RSVP to Elyse Williams at ewprod@gmail.com, though walk-ins are always welcome!

Being Presbyterian in a Dysvangelical America Class

Wednesdays at 1:00 pm, September 2–October 14

Meeting in Person at Providence Presbyterian Church and on Zoom

Offered by Providence and Sardis Presbyterian Churches

The seven-week class will be taught by pastors from both congregations: Rev. Dr. Jody Moore of Providence Presbyterian Church; Rev. Dr. Joe B. Martin and Rev. Dr. Allysen Schaaf of Sardis Presbyterian Church; and Rev. Dr. Lal Rodawla of Providence Presbyterian Church.

In-Person Location: Second-floor conference room of the two-story office building next to the sanctuary at Providence Presbyterian Church.

Sessions will also be recorded so that those who are unable to attend can watch them later.

Class Description

Being Presbyterian in a Dysvangelical America: A Guide to Reclaiming the Good News of God's Grace is written by Ted Foote and Alex Thornburg. The book seeks to define positively what we believe as Presbyterians to share with a wider culture that is desperate to hear some good news. They define core Presbyterian beliefs as: 1. God's grace and the claims of God's grace are the primary characteristic of God's interactions with the world. 2. When we experience this unmerited grace, we live in gratitude and awe. 3. Community is central for our shared human well-being.

Foote and Thornburg came up with the word dysvangelical as a play on the word evangelical, which means sharing good news, with the prefix dys to describe how the gospel has been turned into something problematic and even dangerous. They define dysvangelical as "a theology that is distorted, dysfunctional, dystopian, turning the good news into the opposite of what it means to be evangelical." (p. 3)

Throughout the book, they explore how our faith leads us to interact with the world, what it means to seek the kingdom or kin-dom of God, how we are called to have humility and openness, how Presbyterians have changed our minds and evolved on questions of evolution, women's ordination, and inclusion of LGBTQIA+ siblings, and our commitment to being involved in public life and a discussion of Christian nationalism.

Fall Class Schedule

Sept 2: Intro and Chapter 1 "Grace Is Our Word" and "The Bible Is Authoritative, Not Literal" (Joe B)

Sept 9: Ch 2 "Faith and Salvation Are Gifts, Not Transactions" (Lal)

Sept 16: Ch 3 and 4 "Discipleship Is a Lifelong Conversion, Not a Rule Book" and "Shaped for Community, Not for Individuality" (Jody)

Sept 23: Ch 5 "The Future Is Hopeful, Not Something to Fear" (Lal)

Sept 30: Ch 6 "God's Truth Is Evolving, Not Stagnant" (Allysen)

Oct 7: Ch 7 "Presbyterians Are Reformed, and Always Reforming" (Allysen)

Oct 14: Ch 8 and Conclusion "Democracy (Not Authoritarianism) Is the Presbyterian Way" and "Grace Is our Resistance" (Jody)

Zoom Information

The same Zoom link will be used for all seven Wednesday sessions.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87620065904?pwd=SWGrYegFaXnmZYZQyANa4rcMm6g2Xo.1>

Meeting ID: 876 2006 5904

Passcode: 639845

2026 Tim Lipka Memorial Golf Classic
25th Anniversary
November 6, 2026



Carolina Lakes Golf Club
located in Indian Land, SC



Proceeds to benefit
Habitat for Humanity



Friday, November 6, 2026
10:00 am shotgun start

Carolina Lakes Golf Club
23012 Kingfisher Drive
Indian Land, SC 29707

Prizes for the first four winning teams.
Gross and net scores will apply.
Plus a chance to win lots of other prizes.

Cost per foursome is \$700
Cost per person is \$175
(Cost includes a box lunch and post tournament

Please pick up details to participate in the Narthex.