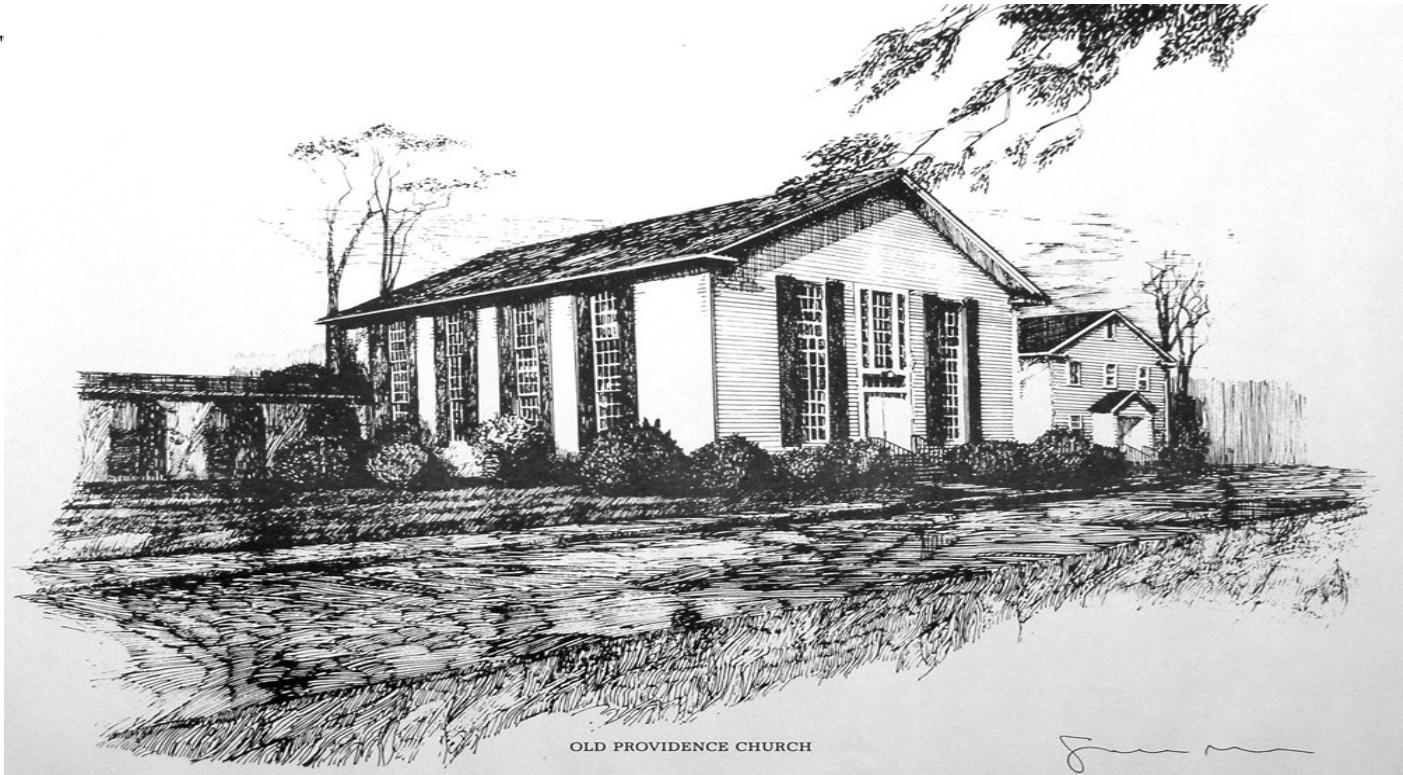


# PROVIDENCE

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 Christmas**  
January 4, 2026  
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 Director  
Alex Sims, Director of Music  
Ron Nice, Pianist/Organist  
Roy Phillips, Finance Administrator  
Ruth Welch, Office Administrator

## Officers of the Week

Linda Hunley  
Bret Myers  
Gale Kinney

## Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

“The Old Year Has Passed Away”

J. S. Bach

### Gathering as God’s People

Call to Worship

(From Call to Worship Resource, Jan 6, 2026)

One: Come! Let us seek the upside-down kingdom of God

**All: Where there is no king—except an infant child.**

One: How do we get to this upside-down kingdom of God?

**All: We follow a star to society’s outskirts. We dare to dream impossible dreams. We worship a baby born to those deemed “least.”**

One: What is it like, the upside-down kingdom of God?

**All: There the oppressed are precious and oppressed no more. There outsiders are welcomed in not as guests, but as kin.**

One: When we worship together, we practice what it will be like

**All: to live in the upside-down kingdom of God!**

\* Sharing the Peace of Christ

One: As we begin a new year, let us commit ourselves anew to what matters most.

**All: May we seek to follow Christ in the year ahead.**

One: May we also form bonds of friendship with our siblings in Christ.

**All: Let us greet one another with joy and peace in our hearts.**

(The congregation will share the peace of Christ with one another.)

\*Opening Hymn

“We Three Kings of Orient Are”

#151

\*Opening Prayer

(From Call to Worship resource, Jan 6, 2026)

**Jesus, of the guiding star, defender of the defenseless, let us revere no human leader, bow down to no king but you, who relinquished your crown to live among your people. As we seek you, illuminate our way until we realize your guiding light shining out from every face we meet and proceed to worship you by loving them. Amen.**

## Act of Confession

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

(From the *Book of Common Worship*, p.205)

God of glory, you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world, to reveal your love for all people. We confess that our sin and pride hide the brightness of your light. We turn away from the poor; we ignore cries for justice; we do not strive for peace. In your mercy, cleanse us of our sin, and baptize us once again with your Spirit, that forgiven and renewed, we may show forth your glory shining in the face of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

Gloria

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

#132 (verse 2)

*Good Christian friends rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall. Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!*

## Hearing God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Lesson:

John 1:1-9

p.91, O.T. Pew Bible

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Anthem:

Chancel Choir

Time with Children:

Susan Patterson

Second Scripture Lesson:

John 1:10-18

p.91, N.T. Pew Bible

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

"The Eternal Light Shines"

The Rev. Dr. Jody Moore

## The Sacrament of Holy Communion

\* Communion Hymn

As with Gladness Men of Old

#150

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

#### Being Sent Out in God's Name

### Invitation to Giving

### Offertory

\* Doxology #606

\* Prayer of Dedication

(From the Book of Common Worship, p. 210)

God of majesty and light, you hold the world in your hand. We praise you that in Jesus Christ all people may see your glory. By your Spirit, may peace descend upon us that we may follow him with grateful hearts. Take us and all we have to be useful in your service, God of all nations, in the gracious name of Jesus Christ, your Son, Amen.

\* Affirmation of Faith

(Selected lines from A Declaration of Faith, Ch. 6.5)

The Sacraments confirm the Word of God. Out of the life and ministry of Jesus, the church received Baptism and the Lord's Supper as special Sacraments of God's saving action. We believe that at the Lord's Supper the community of believers is renewed by the memory of Christ's life and death, by his real presence in the power of the Holy Spirit, and by the promise of his coming again. Christ makes himself known to us in the breaking of bread. He offers his body broken for our sake and his blood shed for the forgiveness of our sins. We accept his promises and gifts and depend on his life to sustain ours. In turn we offer ourselves in thanksgiving to the risen Lord who has conquered death. So we celebrate his victory here and now and anticipate the joyous feast in his coming kingdom. Reunited around the one loaf and cup, we receive strength and courage to continue our pilgrimage with God in the world. Amen.

\* Closing Hymn

The First Nowel

#145(verses 1-5)

• Charge and Blessing

"In Thee Is Gladness"

Marcel

• Postlude  
Dupre

• The Usher today is Jo Hardin.

## Providence in Prayer

### Acute Concerns

Bruce Robinson, Darwin Collins, Roger Nussman, Jan Hargett, Judith Arey, Barbara Conner, Julie Brock, Sharon Starks, Kathy Cathey, 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

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 George Hall, brother of Mary Lee Hayes, on his passing on December 13, 2025.  
Friends and family of Betty Boeschel, Bob's mother, on her passing on November 26, 2025

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](mailto:elynnfinlon@gmail.com) or  
Lal Rodawla, [lal@ppc1767.org](mailto:lal@ppc1767.org)

### Community Outreach for January: Nourish Up

**January's Community Outreach Committee focus is on Nourish Up.** Nourish Up is a merger of Loaves and Fishes and Friendship Trays, as these two local, stellar organizations have joined forces and are now under one roof and one name. Nourish Up provides a week's worth of groceries to individuals and families experiencing a short-term crisis with a network of pantries throughout Mecklenburg County or home delivery of a week of groceries by volunteers. Volunteers also deliver daily nutritious meals to the elderly or infirm individuals who are unable to obtain or prepare their own meals, while also providing a human connection to the isolated and lonely and peace of mind to their families.

Providence Presbyterian Church (PPC) has a long history with Nourish Up (Loaves and Fishes & Friendship Trays), contributing both money and many volunteers over the last few decades. Today there are many opportunities to volunteer with Nourish Up, and in January, we will focus on three of these opportunities.

#### Volunteer Opportunity #1

Nourish Up provides groceries to families in need through a network of pantries and home delivery. All non-perishable food contributed must be sorted, inspected and packed into boxes, ready for delivery to food pantries or to people's homes.

We have scheduled two opportunities for Providence volunteers in the Nourish Up warehouse, 901 Carrier Dr., in Charlotte, from 9:00am–11:00am on **January 15, 2026 AND January 28, 2026**. We need a minimum of 10 volunteers for each session. Please contact Brenda Stone at [brendaruthstone@gmail.com](mailto:brendaruthstone@gmail.com) or by telephone / text at (704) 614-1830 if you would like to help your neighbors in need. She will compile a list and assist with signing up the group and carpooling to the warehouse. Those who wish can go to lunch with the group afterwards.

**THANK YOU FOR HELPING!**

New Year, Same Promises  
January and February Sermon Series

Rev. Dr. Jody Moore at Providence Presbyterian Church

Every time the calendar changes to a new year, we feel we have the opportunity for a fresh start. A number of us will make new year's resolutions, such as changes to our diet, exercise, habits, or lifestyle, but in spite of those resolutions, most things stay the same for us. This may be a cause of disappointment, but there are some constants that we can celebrate. God's promises to us do not change when the calendar moves to a new year. We can depend on God, day by day, year after year. Many of the promises that we read in the Bible are relevant to us today. We will reflect together in the new year on celebrating God's consistent and dependable promises. This sermon series is inspired by the book *A Preacher's Guide to Lectionary Sermon Series* (this section is written by Katherine Willis Pershey).

**January 11: Matthew 3:13-17: God's Promise of New Life.** On this Baptism of the Lord Sunday, we will read the story of Jesus' baptism by John. Jesus sought out baptism as a mark of God's grace at the beginning of his ministry. Through the waters of baptism, God gives us new life. What does our baptism mean to us as Christ's followers? What promises do we make as a congregation when someone is baptized?

Hello PPC family!

As you may know, we have a small group of dedicated members who lead our kids in the weekly Sunday Children's moment. I want to extend the invitation to everyone at PPC to help in this wonderful ministry.

It's really easy! Lessons typically follow the passages being preached each week. There are online resources available for ideas and guidance. And you can always ask one of us "regulars" too if you need a little help. All that really matters is you're there with the kids (and that you

keep it SHORT 😊 )

Please take a look at the signup and volunteer where you can.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0F4FAEA929A6FB6-ppctime#/>

