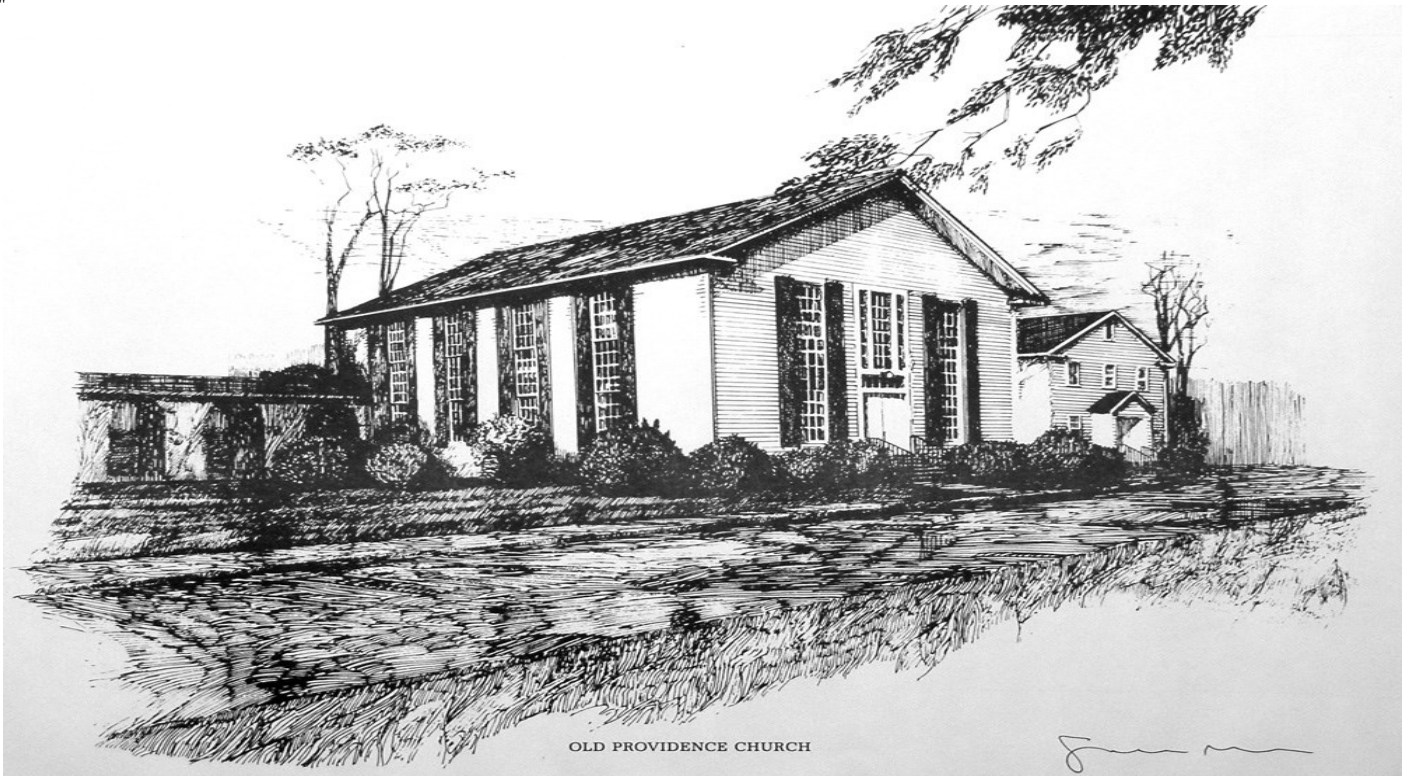


PROVIDENCE

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
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
February 2, 2025
10:30 am

The Rev. Dr. Jody Moore, Pastor
The Rev. Dr. Lal Rodawla, Associate Pastor
Sarah Clark, Children's Ministry Director
Ron Nice, Pianist/Organist

Officers of the Week
Glenn Holladay
Phyllis Edwards
Tom Kutz

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

“How Lovely Shines The Morning Star”

Siegfried Karg- Elert

Gathering as God’s People

Call to Worship

(From *When We Gather*, p.261 based on Psalm 148)

One: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise God in the heights.

All: All the shining stars praise you, O God, for you commanded and they were created.

One: Praise the Lord from the earth, young men and women alike, old and young together.

All: Let everyone praise the name of the Lord, for your glory is above earth and heaven.

One: Let us worship almighty God!

*Sharing of Christ’s Peace

One: God calls us to be in community with one another as the body of Christ.

All: We all come with different personalities, gifts, and backgrounds, but are united through our common faith.

One: Jesus intends for all people to be welcome in God’s house.

All: Let us share Christ’s welcome and joy with one another.

*Opening Hymn

“All Creatures of Our God and King”

#15 (verses 1-4)

*Opening Prayer

(From *Call to Worship* resource, 2024–2025, p.46)

God of jubilee, in Jesus Christ, you are always bringing good news to the poor and liberty for the captives, You grant sight to the blind and freedom for the oppressed. You declare the year of holy favor. Help us this day as we, your people, gather to hold this vision of jubilee. Teach us this day to both receive and embody the fullness of your Spirit’s vision. Amen.

Act of Confession

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

(From *Call to Worship* resource, Jan 30, 2022)

All: Generous God, when we set our tables, we imagine who belongs. We are satisfied to welcome those who we call our own. Our boundaries are drawn from our own family, our own congregation, our own neighborhood. We limit the seating to those who make us comfortable, and lay out the welcome mat for those who we choose to welcome. But your kingdom has no boundary. Before our birth, you have known, loved, and claimed each and every one. Soften our hearts to those we rage against. Restore us to the vision of who belongs at your table. Renew us with your abundant mercy and love, which knows no end. Amen.

Assurance of God’s Forgiveness

*Gloria Patri:

“Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me”

#582 (verse 1)

Hearing God’s Word

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Lesson

Luke 4:14-21

p. 61, Pew Bible NT

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Anthem "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" Gloria Davis
Chancel Choir

Time with Children Charles Humphreys

Second Scripture Lesson Luke 4:22-30 p. 61, Pew Bible NT
One: This is the Word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon "Jesus' Clear Mission" Rev. Dr. Jody Moore

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

*Communion Hymn "Seek Ye First" #175

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

All: 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.

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."

Prayers after Communion

Being Sent Out in God's Name

Invitation to Giving

Offertory "Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love" Tom Colvin

*Doxology #606

*Prayer of Dedication (From the Presbyterian Outlook, Feb 2, 2025)

Holy One, you are the giver of our lives. You know us completely, and you accept from us no weak excuses. Take these gifts, offered from our labors, our commitments, and our collections of interest. Transform them from temporal potential into your love at work in this tired world that thirsts for your Word. Amen.

*Affirmation of Faith:

(From *A Declaration of Faith* (Excerpts from Ch. 8.4))

God sends us to exercise compassion. We acknowledge that God is at work here and now when people show personal concern for each other and work to make helping agencies, including the church itself, more compassionate. We believe God sends us to risk our own peace and comfort in compassion for our neighbors. We are to give to them and receive from them, accepting everyone we meet as a person; to be sensitive to those who suffer in body or mind; to help and accept help in ways that affirm dignity and responsibility. We must not limit our compassion to those we judge deserving, for we ourselves do not deserve the compassion of God. Amen.

- * Closing Hymn "Live into Hope" #772
- * Charge and Blessing
- * Postlude "Glory To God In The Highest" arr. Diane Bish

Providence in Prayer

Acute Concerns

Sarah Clark, Roy Phillips, Moira Alair, June Wiese, Emily McGuire, Everette, Richard Dickey, Morgan Dixon Jeffares, Jenny Gidaro, John Gidaro, Maria McGill Beardall, Ali Byrum.

Ann Arentz, Barbara Connor, Frank Archer, Lynda Hunley's friend Evan & his family, Emily McCormick, Julia Brammer, Brenda Rorie's friend, Jen Adkins, Frances Hill's parents-Louis & Joyce Pate, Martha Gilbert's mother, Tim Good's friend, Sean Byrd, and Ann Harkins.

Chronic Concerns

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

Grieving

Family and friends of Pete Davis, the son of Francis Davis, on his passing 01/27/2025

Family and friends of Emily McCormick, on her passing 01/23/2025

Family and friends of Elizabeth Hart, on her passing 12/25/2024

Family and friends of Jim Day, on his passing 12/11/ 2024

Family and friends of Gonzalo Andres Jijon, Banks Helm's stepson, on his passing 11/30/2024

Please don't forget to mention the availability of Stephen Ministers to those who are hurting.

celebration

Join us for a celebration!!

Jody and his family have been here a year!

To let them know how much we appreciate them there will be a reception on **February 16th** in the Fellowship Hall following the worship service.

Mark your calendar and plan to join us!

Winter Tuesday Pastor's Bible Study

Beginning on January 21 st , we will have a Bible Study for eight consecutive Tuesdays from January 21 st until March 11 th . We will gather at 11:00 am and plan to meet for an hour. We will meet in person in the conference room in the Administration Building and also provide a Zoom link for those who want to join on-line. We will be studying the same passage on Tuesday that we will hear in worship the following Sunday.

The Bible Study this winter will primarily focus on the Gospel of Luke. However, the first week, we will study the classic text on love from 1 st Corinthians 13. Here is the schedule of what we will be studying for the Bible study class each week:

Date Scripture Passage We are Studying

January 21 1 st Corinthians 13

January 28 Luke 4:14-30

February 4 Luke 5:1-11

February 11 Luke 6:17-26

February 18 Luke 6:27-49

February 25 Luke 9:18-36

March 4 Luke 4:1-13

March 11 Luke 12:22-40

Here's the Zoom link if you want to join these Bible studies on-line:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85080818061?pwd=4Mv1q2a7Nj3oXj3k1Moy0Lbiux9hnD.1>

Meeting ID: 850 8081 8061

Passcode: 573955

Annual Report Available

Just prior to this worship service we had our Annual Congregational Meeting. We handed out the 2024 Annual Report booklets. If you were not able to attend the meeting extra copies of the Annual Report will be available today in the Narthex and in the Church office for the rest of the week.

Providence Presbyterian Church Extends Our Christian Sympathy to the Family and Friends of Emily McCormick

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Eleanor (Ellen) Reed, William Edward McCormick, and their family and friends on the passing of their beloved mother, Emily McCormick, on January 22, 2025.

Celebration of Life Service
Wednesday, February 5, 2025, at 11:00 A.M.
Heritage Funeral Home
3700 Forest Lawn Dr, Matthews, NC 28104

In honor of Emily's dedicated service to PPC, a reception will be held at Providence Presbyterian Church's Fellowship Hall on **Wednesday, February 5th, at 12:30 PM.**

2024 Contribution Statements

Statements will be emailed this week. If you have any questions, please call Roy at (704) 846 1079 x 13 or email roy@ppc1767.org.

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. Providence has a long history with both of these organizations. 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 and home delivery of groceries by volunteers. **They also** deliver 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.

Volunteer Opportunity:

Nourish Up receives food donations from individuals and corporations all over Mecklenburg County. The food is then inspected, sorted and loaded into boxes for delivery to food pantries or home delivery of groceries by volunteers. We have been told that Nourish Up's greatest volunteer need is for drivers to deliver a week's worth of food to individual homes. Dudley Stone has been delivering food to homes for Nourish Up periodically for a few years. He does not mind driving around town making deliveries and finds the work fulfilling. Some of the recipients are Hispanic, so Dudley will call and say, "Comida el frente de casa" which basically translates to "Food at your home's front". Even with Dudley's poor Spanish and southern accent, by repeating the phrase a couple of times, they usually understand, and when they do he can hear the smile in their Spanish response.

Here is how it works: Pick up groceries from 10:00 -12:00 at the Nourish Up warehouse in Charlotte. Boxes are loaded into your car and you are given a list with the names, addresses, and phone numbers of the recipients. Deliveries take about two hours. You must be comfortable lifting 25 pound boxes and have a vehicle that can carry 10-20 boxes. This is not a recurring commitment. You can volunteer on a week by week or month by month basis as often as you like and signing up is easy.

If you are interested please contact Dudley Stone at dudleydstone@gmail.com or phone/text him at 704-564-9812.

The Faith and Justice group at Providence invites you an introduction to Immigration 101. Join us in the parlor on **Sunday, February 23 at 4PM** , to learn about the different categories of non-citizens. Pamela Dellinger of Refugee Support Services will speak and answer questions about the refugee community , many who are very new to America and many have been here long enough to begin the process of becoming citizens. There are many statuses and if we know what they are , it can help us understand their needs. We welcome any who are interested to come and have refreshments and hear Pam. Please let Anne Wood know if you can attend but come , even at the last minute. anniebduck@windstream.net

The Christian Education Committee invites you to gather with one of the Adult Sunday School classes at Providence. The Sunday School hour is 9:30 AM on Sundays. The following classes meet in the fellowship hall:

-The Faith Foundations class

This group has begun reading and discussing “The Greatest Prayer” by John Dominic Crossan. It is an in-depth study of the Lord’s Prayer. (Contact John Heiskell, jheiskell@ix.net.com)

-The Providence class and the Sojourners are meeting together in a study of the parables by John White. The book is entitled Parables: The Greatest Stories Ever Told. Contact Bret Myers (agmyers4@gmail.com) or Phyllis Edwards, (phyllis2000@bellsouth.net)

Gen X&Y class meets in the parlor of the CLC. They are doing a series created by the group called The Messy Gospel. They’re taking a look at all the drama, scandal and intrigue found in the Bible. (Contact Jessica and Nick Turkas, (jacksturkas@gmail.com))

Annual Attic Sale

March 15th

Keep an eye out for upcoming details for PPC’s Annual Attic Sale on March 15th. Volunteer opportunities starting on Saturday March 9th. Mark your calendar!!!

UPDATE!

**Pathways to
Generosity**

Our total for 2025 is now \$611,500 given by 116 households.

Thanks to all who have been so generous and pledged to support the vital ministries and missions at Providence Presbyterian Church. We exceeded our total for 2024 by

\$18,000 but did not have as many households pledging. The total for 2024 was

\$593,500 given by 119 households.

You can still join the giving for 2025 by completing an Estimate of Giving card, available in the Narthex, or in the church office. You can also pledge online through our website

at www.Providencepresclt.org.

Stewardship Committee

February's Community Outreach effort will benefit Carolina Refugee Resettlement Agency (CRRRA).

A refugee is someone who is unable to return to their country of origin owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion. Working under the national organization HIAS, the local office works assisting immigrant families resettling in the Charlotte area. HIAS, originally Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, was founded over a century ago to aid Jews fleeing persecution and poverty in Eastern Europe.

During the 2024 fiscal year, CRRRA received over 300 refugees through the US Department of State's Refugee Admissions Program. Those people were from 15 countries, with the largest number of arrivals from Afghanistan, Venezuela, and Myanmar. Additionally, during the fiscal year CRRRA worked with over 100 Cuban and Haitian entrants and over 200 Ukrainian entrants through Initial Services programs.

As of this week, in light of recent executive orders, memos, and policy changes, the US Refugee Admissions Program has been suspended for a minimum of 90 days. As such, there will be no refugee arrivals during the upcoming months.

A drive to collect cleaning supplies had been our plan for February. The recently arrived refugee clients within the resettlement program at CRRRA have all received housing and furnishings, and without upcoming arrivals there is no longer a need for cleaning supplies. However, due to the suspension of activities, funding for recent arrivals is uncertain.

CRRRA has asked us, instead of cleaning supplies, to please focus the donation drive on gift cards which will be given directly to clients for food and clothing purchases. Specifically, gift cards for easily accessible and low-cost grocery stores such as Walmart and Food Lion, or Visa gift cards that can be used at any store to buy those needed items.

Please place gift cards in envelopes labeled CRRRA, and either send to the church office or put them in the Sunday offering plates. They will be collected and taken to CRRRA at the end of February. Please contact Glenn Holladay at gcholla54@gmail.com or 704-661-9764, with any questions.