



## Providence Prophet April 2020

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<http://providenceccdoc.org> | Rev. Jerry Shepard, Interim Pastor

### **The Heart of the Matter**

*This has been a rather unusual Lenten season hasn't it? We have begun living like hermits, separating ourselves from each other in order to avoid catching or spreading the Corona virus. We have had to stay home on Sunday mornings and worship in our homes with the help of audio worship and video worship. Throughout history, when the church has been thwarted by a hostile government or community, the church has found a way to gather for worship. We don't have to worship in stained glass sanctuaries. The church can worship anywhere and at any time, for God is present everywhere and in every time. Thank goodness, in today's circumstances, the church can still worship together online while we are separated from one another. I loved seeing on Facebook when people joined us during the taping of last week's service, their names came up on the screen. We could see with whom we were worshiping in that moment. There was a special connection there.*

*With Lent coming to a close we now will move into unique days of Holy Week. This Sunday is Palm Sunday. Usually Palm Sunday in church is a bit chaotic as children and/or the congregation line up to process into the sanctuary while waving palm branches and shouting Hosanna! This Sunday will be a bit quieter. You will have to use your imagination of what it must have been like when Jesus entered into Jerusalem. There was an air of expectation and excitement as the people celebrated the One whom God had sent to free them from oppression. I hope you will tune in to our service with a sense of expectation of what it means for Jesus to ride into our town. Why did Jesus come? What did Jesus say? How would Jesus be received today? Sunday's sermon will be, "When Jesus Comes to Town."*

*Frances and I have been calling church members to check in. We haven't gotten to everybody, but we will soon. Elders are also checking with people in their flocks. If you need help don't hesitate to call on your church. Contact the church office, an elder or me. We are determined to be there for you.*

*With you in Spirit,*

*Jerry*

*P.S. We ordered palms for this Sunday. If you would like a palm or two to put on your mailbox or a door as a reminder to your neighbors of Palm Sunday, drop by the office weekdays, 10-2 to get some.*

*P.P.S. Barry and Nora Brown have purchased sealed communion cups with bread and grape juice in them. If you want some for your home worship, come by the office. Marie is in the office 10-2 Monday-Friday.*

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## Easter 2020 at Providence



*Cross behind the Providence parking lot. Photo taken at Sunset by Leigh Mattingly.*

- Maundy Thursday, April 9, 2020

*“As often as you do it, do it in remembrance of me.” You recognize those words from Jesus as he instituted the Lord’s Supper. The command to remember Jesus through the Lord’s Supper was given by our Lord on the night before his crucifixion. We get the word “maundy” from Latin which means mandate.*

*Therefore, on the Thursday of Holy Week, we remember Jesus’ gift of his life, through our observance of communion. On Thursday, April 9 at 7:00 pm we will video our service on our Facebook page. You can join us live or you can view the service later. An audio of the service will also be available on our webpage ([providenceccdoc.org](http://providenceccdoc.org)) by 8:00 pm that night.*

- Good Friday, April 10, 2020

*We are offering a new service this year for Good Friday. The service will be a Tenebrae service. In a Tenebrae service scriptures will be read and candles, representing the disciples will be extinguished until the only candle left is the Christ candle. At the end of the service the Christ candle is extinguished. It is a very moving service. I hope you will tune in to the church Facebook page anytime after 3:00 pm Friday, the hour that Jesus died on the cross.*

### Prayer Concerns

*Please continue prayers for all those on our prayer list, as well as all those on the front lines of the COVID19 pandemic – our health care workers, first responders and military personnel called in to assist, and our leaders. If you have family or friends in the medical field who are serving COVID-19 patients, we would like to pray for them. Please give us their names to share.*

- Benjamin Hack (Carol Devine’s son) is a nurse and lost three patients in one night.
- Prayers for Ertel Whitt whose oldest sister died in West Virginia
- Linda Schweitzer’s cousin, Bruce Gosney, has died after a long illness.
- Jackie Bellman still suffers discomfort but continues to heal after her surgery.
- Mary Lee Mattingly continues to improve after surgery.
- We continue to pray for Glen Payne’s father and mother, Dollie.
- Ben Lyons (McCarter) is home but is in pain.
- Rose Hall’s sister, Joan, is home from the hospital.
- Barbara Faulconer (wife of Ted, former pastor of Jerry), is at Tanbark Nursing Home with a broken hip from a fall.

#### MEMBERS, FAMILY AND FRIENDS

*Barry Brown, Gayle Harney (Bellman), Eddie Payne, Jackie B. Miller (Waits), Molly Reynolds (Roberts), Tim Lam (Kinnard), Barry Newcombe, Margaret Ann Milburn (Mattingly), Bobbie Scrimshaw (McCarter), Jayne Mattingly, David Cowan, Mary Marshall (McCord), Beverly McNeal (Roberts), Jean Christian (Hufford), Billy Jack Raybun (Waits), Kim McNeal (Bellman), Nina Fashchuk (Lanser), Joyce Hack, Roberta DeHaven (Heathman), Rhonda Payne, Susie Branham (Whitt), our Hospice families.*

#### PRAYERS FOR THOSE SERVING OUR NATION:

*Let us pray for peace, guidance for our country’s leaders, our military and all who serve our nation: Alex Pope, Michael Hagan, Shawn Davenport, Ricky Highnote, Jason Rutherford, Trip Browning, Bobby McNeil, Ken Harney, Steven Russell, Bradley Clark, Noah Davenport, Stephen Rawlings and First Responders.*

### APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Allene Fielder	4
Veda Hodges	7
Susan Kinnard	7
Toby Anderson	8
Courtney Draper	9
Betty Mattingly	14
Kade Jones	21
Judi Reed	21
Presli Neal	28

### **Providence Legacy Fund**

*We invite you to prayerfully consider becoming part of our church legacy this year by designating Providence in your Will or as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy and adding your name to our Legacy Book.*

*You can designate a percentage of your estate or specific amount to go to the church upon your death. Everyone can participate and there is no minimum participation level.*