



## Providence Prophet July 2020

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

### From the Heart

A year out of seminary, Candy and I decided to take a trip of a lifetime (to us). We took a three-week tour of Europe. It was on that trip that I saw something I had never seen in the States, a restroom attendant. I was not a fan of the restroom attendant because I felt obligated to tip the attendant every trip I made to the restroom. I am embarrassed to say now that I even resented those attendants who were expecting money from me every restroom visit. I longed for the public restrooms of the USA where the restrooms were free to customers. I never did consider how public restrooms in America can be gross because there was no attendant keeping them clean. I never really thought much about those attendants beyond the fact that they wanted money from me and that I would hate to have their job. Can you imagine spending every workday cleaning restrooms?

This morning I am spending my workday sitting on my new Lazy-boy desk chair, typing away on my iPad, in my air-conditioned study in my house. There are no nasty toilets that I have to clean nor gagging smells that I have to endure, nor claustrophobic room in which I am trapped. I am blessed not to be a restroom attendant!

The pandemic reminded me of those restroom attendants back in Europe years ago. They probably didn't want to be stuck working in restrooms either, but for reasons such as poverty, inadequate education, racism, job availability, physical or mental issues they had to take such jobs to provide for themselves and their families. As I said earlier, I get to do my job safely in my study at home or my office at church. I am not forced to expose myself to the deadly virus which threatens our lives and our livelihoods. Most of our congregation is neither.

When we go to the grocery store or have our groceries delivered, we are dependent upon others who are exposed to the virus by serving us. We may not have noticed those people much in the past, but today I can't go to Kroger without thinking about those who are working there.

The virus is spreading quickly amongst farm workers who risk their health every time they go to work to pick the vegetables that we put on our table. I think of those people who have generally been invisible to me though I have been the daily recipient of their labors. I can't cruise through the drive thru without thinking of the person who takes my order, who cooks my food, and hands me my order with a smile. I doubt those employees are risking catching the virus because they want to. I bet those folk would prefer to be able to work safely in the comfort of their homes on their computers, like me. But they haven't had the privileges and opportunities that I have had in life. That is not fair, and frankly we need to be aware of such injustice and insist on change that levels the playing field for everyone. The protests across our country are in part, about the injustices in our nation which result in economic disparity and the limitations of opportunities for people of color.

How ironic it is, according to pastor Angela Denger, that "the people holding us together (in this pandemic) are those we too often erase: the health-care workers, the overnight grocery stockers, the child-care workers and teachers, and factory workers who make toilet paper." We are all dependent upon these "invisible" persons whose services make our lives safe and pleasant. We need to recognize these people who serve us and extend respect, appreciation and gratitude toward them every chance we get. Next time I go to Europe, I am going to joyfully tip the restroom attendant, but for now I can tip the waitress, smile and say thank you to the clerk, and let those folks who are in the trenches during the pandemic, know that what they do matters to me. God bless them all! I hope you will too!

Still learning,

*Jerry*

### Your Fair Share



Our new Mortgage Campaign begins with Commitment Sunday, July 12, 2020.

Please remember Providence in your prayers as you consider what God asks you to do to contribute "Your Fair Share" and bring your pledge card on Commitment Sunday, or mail it to the church. Information sheets and additional pledge cards are available on the Welcome Table in the narthex.

**Bob Bellman**  
Campaign Chairperson

### Guidelines for Congregation Worship

1. On-site – Adult Sunday School at 9:30 AM and Worship Service at 10:45 AM.
2. **ALL attending must wear a mask.** Masks will be available at the church, or bring your own if possible.
3. If you are sick or having symptoms, please stay at home. You can watch the service on Facebook Live at [www.facebook.com/Providenceccdoc/](http://www.facebook.com/Providenceccdoc/). You can listen to the service after 11:30 AM at [www.providenceccdoc.org](http://www.providenceccdoc.org).
4. Please follow your own heart and stay at home until you feel it is safe to worship in a church setting.
5. We will not congregate in the narthex before or after church.
6. Hand sanitizer will be available to disinfect your hands **before entering** and **after leaving the sanctuary**.
7. We have rearranged the sanctuary so you may sit with your family, staying 6ft. apart from the closest family.
8. Children will sit with parents. There will be no junior church or nursery at this time.
9. Disposable communion packets will be provided as you enter the sanctuary or feel free to bring your own.
10. Worship service bulletins will be on the table as you enter the sanctuary or print your own at home from email. We will continue to print the words to hymns in the bulletin so you will not need to use a hymnal.
11. The offering basket will be on a stand as you exit the sanctuary.
12. We will continue to wear masks throughout the service.
13. Our restroom facilities are cleaned regularly. Please wash and/or disinfect your hands before entering and leaving.
14. As you leave the sanctuary, please take your trash, including communion cups and place in the can by the door.
15. **We will dismiss one row at a time beginning from the back forward. Please do not congregate in the narthex, but rather continue on to the parking lot and your car.**

Note: We are obligated to report to the Health Department any member who has attended church and tests positive for the virus. They would be subject to quarantine at home 14 days.

## Happening at Providence in July

- July 4 Independence Day
- There will be no Bible School at Providence this year.
- July 6 7:30 PM – Search Committee Meeting
- July 12 Commitment Sunday (see also page one)
- July 13 7:30 PM – Providence Board Meeting via Zoom
- July 29 9:30 AM – Providence Women’s Service Group

### Search Committee

The Search Committee continues to meet weekly and review profiles of potential candidates.

During the month of June, we interviewed two candidates. We will vote at our upcoming meeting to possibly select a candidate from those interviewed or continue our search. If a candidate is selected, said candidate will then be recommended to the Board for the decision to make an offer.

### JULY BIRTHDAYS

Paisli Neal	2
Caron Tandy	3
Pamela Hill Gardner	4
Todd Wells	5
Alex Jacobs	5
Dona Renfro	8
Marti Bullock	14
Ethan Whitt	14
Tevy Toleman	15
Jiaan Burford	15
Jesse Rhianna Coy	17
Carllen Bullock	19
Rose Hall	21
Beth Hufford	22
Seth Draper	26
Maddie Toleman	26
Ann Rea Anderson	28

### Congratulations!



2020 Providence graduate, **Blake Roberts**, was awarded a \$500 scholarship by the Ray E. Miller American Legion Post 63 in Nicholasville, for his high GPA and exceptional essay submission. Blake was also awarded a bowling scholarship at Campbellsville University where he will begin attending online in the fall of 2020.

### Neighbors Feeding Neighbors

The Providence food ministry continues to grow! With your donations of food, funds, books, magazines and the little extras you add, we feed not only bodies, but minds, spirits and souls.

We recently collected 20 bags of food from neighbors in Brannon Estates, many with notes thanking us for the opportunity to participate in this important ministry.

**Jennifer Sumeracki**, with the help of **Erin Roberts** and **Nathan Sumeracki** assembled and delivered 34 bags of food to our Ashgrove Road neighbors.

Jennifer (not pictured) said, “My car was packed! They worked really hard.”



### Prayer Concerns

We continue our prayers for all those on our prayer list, as well as all those on the front lines of the COVID19 pandemic – our courageous health care workers, first responders and military personnel called in to assist, and our leaders: Ben Hack, Sarah Walker’s girls Hannah and Carol, Darlene Shepherd (Marie’s niece), Jenifer Payne, Amanda Rawlings and Whitney Heet (sister and cousin of Josh Hamilton), Michael Wade and Cole Wade (Pam Gardner’s sons.) Larry and Susan Kinnard have children, a grandchild and in-laws in healthcare and police enforcement. They are Chrystal and Jeff Mackey, Larry and Tria Kinnard, Trisha and Lee Garrett, Presha and Scott Hall and Courtney Hall. Please contact us if you know of others to add to the list.

#### MEMBERS, FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Jackie Bellman, Larry Kinnard, Jamie Forschner (Shepard), Claude Carter (Fern), Barry Brown, Gayle Harney (Bellman), Roy and Dollie Payne, Jackie B. Miller (Waits), Molly Reynolds (Roberts), Tim Lam (Kinnard), Ben Lyons, Bobbie Scrimshaw (McCarter), Jayne Mattingly, David Cowan, Mary Marshall (McCord), Beverly McNeal (Roberts), Jean Christian (Hufford), Billy Jack Raybun (Waits), Kim McNeal (Bellman), 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.

### 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.