



OUR MISSION:

TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE BY LOVING ONE ANOTHER AND BY LOVING OUR NEIGHBORS AS OURSELVES.
NURTURING FAITH • SUPPORTING CHURCH • SERVING NEIGHBORS

Providence Prophet December 2020

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<http://providenceccdoc.org> | Rev. Peter Harper, Pastor

From our Pastor

I've been reading the second book of Isaiah a lot recently for a couple of reasons. Isaiah deals primarily with the Babylonian Exile. The first book, chapters 1-39, chronicles the events preceding the exile including the prophet's oracles against the people. The second book, chapters 40-55, addresses the people living in exile on the eve of their return to the land of Judah. The third book, chapters 56-66, addresses the people after their return and chronicles and informs their rebuilding.

These words in second Isaiah were picked up by the people waiting for the coming Messiah, and Jesus' followers detailed how his life reflected and affirmed these words as they understood them. Therefore, we read these words a lot during this time of Advent. The people found a connection between the words in second Isaiah and their experience of Jesus' life and teaching.

But I also feel like we've been in a sort of exile ourselves. While the tone of the second book is slightly more forgiving than in the first (after all the people have been through the harsh reality of exile) the prophet still doesn't pull any punches. Verses 42:18-20 makes clear that while there were plenty of signs to see and hear, the people did not understand. All that has befallen them can be traced back to this inability to heed the warnings and change their ways.

Hindsight is 20/20, but looking back to last spring it's clear that there were plenty of signs and opportunities for us as a nation to respond to the spread of Covid-19 in better ways. Things could have been different; how different? We'll never know.

Despite all their limitations, God promises to use the people. In fact, it's the same limitations that God calls upon to make them a light unto the nations. Each day is a new opportunity to do better. Each day is a new choice to see and to hear and heed warnings and do better. The end of the exile is near, the journey back will still be perilous and difficult. We can choose to take the hard-fought wisdom we have earned and do better, or we can continue on our blundering way until we're ripped out.

Isn't Advent fun?

Peter

Annual Congregational Meeting

The Annual Congregational meeting is now scheduled to take place on December 13th in the sanctuary at approximately 12:00 noon, following worship.

This schedule is contingent upon COVID-19 restrictions regarding in-person worship.

We will vote on the proposed 2021 budget and election of Board members:

Gary Anderson
Pam Gardner
Bryan Roberts
Beth Waits
Carl Waits
Keith Wilson

2020



In a recent email we invited all to participate in our 2020 Angel Tree project to support three single-parent families with children.

If you signed up to provide a gift, wrapped and tagged gifts can be dropped off at the church between 9:00 AM and 2:00 PM Mon-Thur or bring them to worship on Dec. 13th. Financial donations to provide additional items are also welcomed.

Happening at Providence in December

- December 2 9:30 AM – Providence Women’s Service Group
- December 7 5:30 PM – Providence Book Club meeting via Zoom
(see also below)
- December 13 12:00 PM – Annual Congregational Meeting following
Worship (See also page 1)
- December 14 7:00 PM – Providence Board meeting via Zoom
- December 24 7:00 PM – Christmas Eve Service
- December 27 Last Sunday Worship of 2020 – This will be the last
Sunday to make a donation to be counted for the
2020 tax year.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Sandy Veltkamp	4
Jerry Shepard	4
Jordan Anderson	9
Chris Jones	17
Jerry Ward	18
Caroline Hulsing	22
Kennan Coy	25
Anne Allen	28
Lena Rae Fern	28
Tina Sidebotham	29
Mary Lee Mattingly	31

Providence Book Club

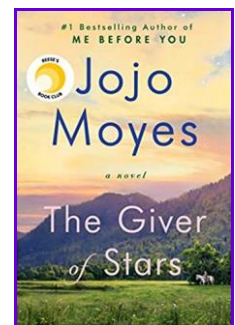
We will meet on December 7th, at 5:30 PM via Zoom this month, as some regular members are in quarantine. Our book for discussion is *The Giver of Stars* by Jojo Moyes.

Alice Wright marries handsome American Bennett Van Cleve, hoping to escape her stifling life in England. But small-town Kentucky quickly proves equally claustrophobic, especially living alongside her overbearing father-in-law. When a call goes out for a team of women to deliver books as part of Eleanor Roosevelt’s new traveling library, Alice signs on enthusiastically.

The leader, and soon Alice's greatest ally, is Margery, a smart-talking, self-sufficient woman who's never asked a man's permission for anything. They will be joined by three other singular women who become known as the Packhorse Librarians of Kentucky.

What happens to them – and to the men they love – becomes an unforgettable drama of loyalty, justice, humanity, and passion. These heroic women refuse to be cowed by men or by convention. Though they face all kinds of dangers in a landscape that is at times breathtakingly beautiful, at others brutal, they’re committed to their job: bringing books to people who have never had any, arming them with facts that will change their lives.

Based on a true story rooted in America’s past, *The Giver of Stars* is unparalleled in its scope and epic in its storytelling. Funny, heartbreaking, enthralling, it is destined to become a modern classic – a richly rewarding novel of women’s friendship, of true love, and of what happens when we reach beyond our grasp for the great beyond.



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

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 and in-laws in healthcare and police enforcement: Chrystal and Jeff Mackey, Larry and Tria Kinnard, Trisha and Lee Garrett, Presha and Scott Hall and Courtney Hall.

MEMBERS, FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Jackie Bellman, Mike and Patti McCord, The Waits Family, Rebecca, Jake and Jerry (Morrow), Ellie Cole (Walker), Bobby and Linda Casey (Brown), Kim Cowherd, Jim Rop (Kinnard), Utz Family, Jong Family, Janet Gillespie (Draper), Bess Wilson, Barbara Travis (Schweitzer), Barry Brown, Gayle Harney, Kim McNeal (Bellman), Roy and Dollie Payne, Sandy Hanson, Molly Reynolds, Beverly McNeal (Roberts), Brenda Holbrook, Jayne Mattingly, Mary Marshall (McCord), Jean Christian (Hufford), Jackie B. Miller, Billy Jack Raybun, Missy Hagman (Waits), Joyce Hack, Roberta DeHaven (Heathman), Rhonda Payne, Susie Branham, Wally Temple (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, Takoda Hacker and First Responders.