



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 2021

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

From our Pastor

I'm going to tell you about one of my dogs today, and I need you to not judge me as a bad dog owner. Chi (pronounced like the Greek letter "kai") is a beagle mutt. While Chi does not share the common beagle traits of excessively digging and barking, he does like to run, and he runs away a lot. I have tried all sorts of containment methods, but he eventually beats them all. They work for some time, but he's like a virus, he grows and evolves and once he's figured out how to get out, he keeps getting out until I devise a new plan.

For a while in Crawfordsville, IN, the fence surrounding the backyard was enough, he stayed in. But one day he learned he could climb over the side fence that the shrubs had overgrown and he started running away every chance he got. So, I ran a metal dog run from one corner of the yard to another. At that point he's inside the fence, connected to a 20 ft. metal cable that traverses the length of the yard. Connecting Chi to the cable is a metal bolt snap. You know the spring-loaded clips you operate with your thumb. This dog doesn't have thumbs. He should be contained now, right? WRONG! I still have no idea how he did it, but he started getting himself unclipped from the bolt snap, climbing over the side fence, and running away.

So then I got a C-clamp that screws shut. At this point I'm losing my mind, because I really don't like the dog getting out. I don't want him to get hurt. My masculinity is under attack. It's a whole thing and I go all in. I study this dog to see which paw he usually scratches himself with; because I know that if I can figure out which paw he usually scratches himself with I can decide which way to orientate the C-clamp so that his scratching doesn't unscrew the clamp.

Here in Lexington, it took him a year before he found the weakest spot in the wooden fence to focus his efforts and now, he's gotten out multiple times before I could reinforce the fence.

Why does he run away? I don't know, but I can tell you what he does, and it's fascinating. In Crawfordsville we lived next to Wabash College. For a while every time he ran away, he would go to a different fraternity as if it was rush week. He wandered into a Walgreen's once as if he had a prescription to pick up. He weaseled his way into a movie rental store like he had a date that night. He was swimming in some family's pool – they told me that wasn't the first time.

This last week, Chi was gone for two days. I got a call on Thanksgiving from a woman who had found him. She was checking on her father's house and Chi came bounding out of the garage. How did he get into the garage? How long was he in the garage? I have no idea.

This is where I take a hard left turn and I don't want to lose you. But what if, what if, the Gospel is like Chi running away? What if as soon as we think we've got it figured out or contained, the Gospel finds a way to break out of our little backyards? What if no matter how hard we try to tie it up, the Gospel finds a way to get into the places we'd never take it ourselves.

When Chi runs away it's a hassle, I complain about it, I worry about him, I really don't want him to get away from me. Hopefully, that's where the comparison ends. Because we might feel like it's a hassle, we might complain about it, we might worry about the Gospel getting out and away from us, but we shouldn't.

The Gospel compels us to throw open the gate and follow it out into the world.

Blessings,

Peter

Annual Congregational Meeting

We'll hold our Annual Congregational meeting on December 5th in the sanctuary at approximately 12:00 noon, following worship.

Plan to attend this important meeting where we will vote on the proposed 2022 budget and elect board members, Elders and Deacons.

The proposed budget, list of nominations for the board, Elders and Deacons are posted on the bulletin board.

2021



You are invited to participate in our 2021 Angel Tree project to support four single-parent families with children. You can choose a card(s) from our tree to provide a gift(s), wrap and tag the gifts and drop them off at the church between 9:00 AM and 2:00 PM Mon-Thur. or bring them to worship on Dec. 19th.

Financial donations to provide additional items are also welcomed.

Additionally, we are providing holiday food boxes for these four families and need the following:

- Canned Ham or Meat • Yams • Cranberry Sauce • Gravy • Stove Top Stuffing
- Canned Fruit • Canned Chicken Broth • Dinner Rolls • Dessert

Happening at Providence in December

- December 5 12:00 PM – Annual Congregational Meeting immediately following Worship (*see also page 1*)
- December 6 5:30 PM – Providence Book Club meeting (*see below*)
- December 7 6:00 PM – J.O.Y. Group Christmas Party at the Paynes'. Drinks provided, everyone else bring an appetizer to share. All ladies are invited!
- December 12 12:00 PM – All Church Potluck
- December 12 12:45 PM – Providence Board Meeting
- December 15 Deadline to order poinsettias (*see below*)
- December 24 7:00 PM – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
- December 26 Last Sunday Worship of 2021 – This will be the last Sunday to make a donation to be counted for the 2021 tax year.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

Each Sunday

9:30 AM Sunday School
10:45 AM Worship Service

Each Wednesday

6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal
6:30 PM *Simply the Solution* AA Group

Each Monday and Thursday*

10:00 AM Bodies in Motion Exercise Class
(*Will not meet Dec. 20 – Jan. 3; class will resume on Jan. 6)

Providence Book Club

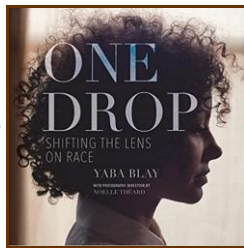
We will meet on December 6th at 5:30 PM at Bronte Bistro at Joseph-Beth Booksellers. Our book for discussion is “One Drop” by Yaba Blay.

What exactly is Blackness and what does it mean to be Black?

Who determines who is Black and who is not?

In the United States, a Black person came to be defined as any person with any known Black ancestry. Statutorily referred to as “the rule of hypodescent,” this definition of Blackness is more popularly known as the “one-drop rule” meaning that a person with any trace of Black ancestry however small or (in)visible, cannot be considered White. At a time when the one-drop rule functioned to protect and preserve White racial purity, Blackness was both a matter of biology and of law.

Featuring the perspectives of 60 contributors representing 25 countries and combining candid narratives with striking portraiture, “One Drop” explores the extent to which historical definitions of race continue to shape contemporary racial identities and lived experiences of racial difference. This book provides living testimony to the diversity of Blackness.



Food Pantry Needs

The Food Pantry will make up extra nice food bags for our Christmas deliveries. We will purchase hams, and are asking for donations of the following items to fill six bags:

Canned Yams • Stovetop Dressing • Cranberry Sauce
Green Beans • Idahoan Instant Mashed Potatoes

Youth Group Fundraiser

Remember to order your poinsettias in memory or in honor of loved ones, or for your personal use. All proceeds go to support our Youth Group.



The deadline to place your order is **December 15th**. We will list the names of your loved ones in the Sunday bulletin on December 19th.

See the order form in the Sunday bulletin or on the welcome table in the narthex. Please mark your check or envelope “poinsettias.”

Donate Christmas Decorations

As you “deck the halls” for Christmas this year are you finding items you no longer use? Donate them to the Women’s Service Group for our Holiday Room at next year’s Holiday Marketplace. Bring to the church between 9:00 AM and 2:00 PM Mon-Thur.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS ONLY, PLEASE.

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

Contact the church office to add your friends and loved ones to our prayer list. And, we love to hear when people on our prayer list are improving! Please review the list and give us updates.

MEMBERS, FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Apryl Tandy, Lena Rae Fern, Nancy Purdy (Anderson), Steve Fohl, Lesli Daughetee (Downs), Pamela Morel (Renfro), Gilbert “Buddy” Littrell, Martha Morrow, Barry Newcombe, Barry and Nora Brown, Kandi Gonzalez, Teresa Soard (Harper), Ethan Castillo (Morrow), Steven Newson, Breann Grissom (Lynch); Evan Whitaker (Walker), Chelsea Davidson, Tonya (Lanser); Kim Cowherd, Lewis Utz (Kinnard); Jong Family, Janet Gillespie (Draper), Barbara Travis (Schweitzer), Gayle Harney, Kim McNeal (Bellman), Sandy Hanson, Molly Reynolds, Beverly McNeal (Roberts), Brenda Holbrook, Jayne Mattingly, Bruce, Jackie B. Miller, Billy Jack Raybun (Waits); Rhonda Payne, Susie Branham, Wally Temple (Whitt); our Hospice families. We pray for the loved ones and families directly impacted by the COVID pandemic.

PRAYERS FOR THOSE SERVING OUR NATION:

We pray for peace, guidance for our country’s leaders, our military and all who serve our nation: Jonathan Haney, Dawson Simpson, Audrey Walden, Alex Pope, Michael Hagan, Shawn Davenport, Jason Rutherford, Trip Browning, Bobby McNeil, Ken Harney, Steven Russell, Noah Davenport, Stephen Rawlings, Takoda Hacker and First Responders.