



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 March 2022

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

From our Pastor

Each week I stand at the Lord's Table inviting us to partake in communion and say some version of: "all are welcome to this table." This week felt different. By worship time last Sunday morning Ukraine was on their third day of repelling a Russian invasion. By then news and images of the horror and destruction of war were already on our televisions and in our phones.

Sure, we've been at war for the majority of my life. But, rightly or wrongly, the cultural prejudices imbedded by our society led me to expect such conflict in the Middle East. Europe was supposed to be past this. They'd already fought the two deadliest wars in history to end all wars; and now evil was trying to get a foothold to spread across the content again. "All are welcome to this table?"

There was one other thing making Sunday different for me. I have a Russian friend.

We're close enough that we've had some intense conversations the past couple of weeks. My friend is positive that Russia is justified in this invasion, that Putin was backed into all this by the West, and the US and NATO bear full responsibility for everything that has and will transpire. When my friend speaks, I hear nothing but Russian propoganda. Every comment is clearly so blatantly false.

During these conversations I try to remind myself of a few things. First, I'm not really any different. I don't personally know that much about what's happening, I'm relying on my government and others to inform me. Hearing an oppositional point of view is never a bad thing. Second, I love and respect my friend. If he's ever put into a tough spot simply for being Russian, I'll be the first to stand beside him and back him up.

I don't know if this is remotely close to anything Jesus taught. But I know God's heart is broken, like ours, at this war. I know that Jesus was relational; building connections with people no matter who they are is one of the Gospel's main tenets. It's not much, but making sure that all are welcome to the Lord's Table is as good a place to start as any.

Blessings,

Peter

A Lenten Q and A

Q: What is Lent?

A: Lent is the 40 days prior to Easter. Beginning on Ash Wednesday and running through Holy Week. It is generally a somber time of prayer, self-reflection, and growth, all in preparation for the death and resurrection of Christ. Traditionally, Christians have "given up" something as a spiritual discipline during Lent. The idea is that while craving for something they are abstaining from, a practitioner is reminded to engage in other disciplines such as prayer or bible study.

Q: I thought Lent was a Catholic thing?

A: The Catholic church has certainly carried on the tradition of Lenten practices the longest, but there has been a recent resurgence among Protestants to reengage such practices.

Q: Wait. Ash Wednesday is more than 40 days before Easter?!!?

A: True. We do not include the Sundays in that count. Looking forward to Easter and the resurrection of Christ, each Sunday is considered a "mini-Easter" and is itself a time of celebration.

Q: What can I do for Lent?

A: So many options. Some people give up small things like chocolate or soda, others give up things such as meat. Others go in the opposite direction and make a commitment to add something into their lives such as a new prayer practice or scripture reading.

Q: Does the church have any specific ways I can do this?

A: Absolutely! You can join us for a joint Ash Wednesday service at South Elkhorn Christian Church at 6:30 PM. You can follow along as we read the Psalms. Each day during Lent Pastor Peter will read four Psalms live on Facebook and give a brief reflection on them. This allows us to read the entire book of Psalms by Easter.

If you give up something during this time, consider donating the money you would have spent to the church. Our goal each year is to raise enough for one mortgage payment.

Blessings on your Lenten Journey!

Welcome New Members!



John and Shirley Bratton joined Providence on February 20th.

Happening at Providence in March

- March 2 6:30 PM – Joint Ash Wednesday Worship Service with South Elkhorn Christian Church, 4343 Harrodsburg Road, Lexington.
- **March 13** **SPRING FORWARD! DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS – SET YOUR CLOCKS ONE HOUR AHEAD ON SATURDAY NIGHT, 3/12**
- March 13 12:00 PM – All Church Potluck and Baby Shower for Josh and Marybeth Hamilton
- March 13 12:45 PM – Providence Board Meeting
- March 20 10:45 AM – Sunday Worship will include Acting Associate Regional Minister, Molly Smothers and her husband.
- March 23 9:30 AM – Providence Women’s Service Group Meeting
- March 28 5:30 PM – Providence Book Club meeting (*see also below*)

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

Providence Book Club

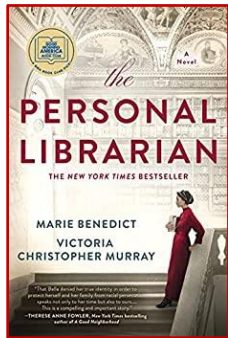
We will meet at Bronte Bistro at Joseph-Beth Booksellers, to discuss “*The Personal Librarian*” by Marie Benedict.

In her twenties, Belle da Costa Greene is hired by J. P. Morgan to curate a collection of rare books, manuscripts, and artwork for his newly built Pierpont Morgan Library.

Belle becomes a fixture in New York City society and one of the most powerful people in the art and book world, known for her impeccable taste and shrewd negotiating for critical works as she helps create a world-class collection.

But Belle has a secret, one she must protect at all costs. She was born not Belle da Costa Greene but Belle Marion Greener. She is the daughter of Richard Greener, the first Black graduate of Harvard and a well-known advocate for equality. Belle’s complexion isn’t dark because of her alleged Portuguese heritage that lets her pass as white—her complexion is dark because she is African American.

Based on actual events, this book tells the story of an extraordinary woman, famous for her intellect, style, and wit, and shares the lengths she must go to—for the protection of her family and her legacy—to preserve her carefully crafted white identity in the racist world in which she lives.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Beth Waits	2
Randy Cox	3
Aaliyah Walker	13
Keith Wilson	15
Patsy Samples	17
Anneliese Jones	18
Bryson Anderson	21
Charlie Slack	22
Matt Anderson	24
Jennifer Robbins	24

Lenten Offering 2022

In the tradition of giving up something for Lent, you are asked to place a monetary value on what you give up and set that amount aside each day of each week. You are then invited to bring that amount to church each week through the season of Easter as we celebrate the resurrection. Our goal for this special offering is one mortgage payment of \$5,183.

For example: Give up that daily “designer” coffee during the work week: \$4 x 5 days x 6 wks = \$120. Or give up eating out, watching cable TV, or buying new clothes: \$25 x 6 wks = \$150. Whatever you choose to give up, the greater your sacrifice, the more meaningful it will be for you.

As we remember the ultimate sacrifice of Christ, let’s each sacrifice something and pay down our mortgage debt.



Easter Lilies Youth Group Fundraiser

We continue our tradition of offering Easter Lilies for sale to decorate the sanctuary and narthex, or for your personal use. Each potted lily may be purchased for \$15.00.

We will include a list of loved ones you wish to honor or remember by your purchase in the Easter Sunday bulletin. An order form will be in the Sunday bulletins. The deadline to place your order is **March 20th**.

All proceeds from the sale of Easter lilies will go to our Youth Group Mission Trip Fund.



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

Patsy and Charles Samples, Charthorn Renfro, Anne Allen, Don Thornton, Lena Rae Fern, Apryl Tandy, Lee Walker, Lynn Minke (Prodigy), Nancy Purdy, Carla Amic (Anderson), Steve Fohl, Lesli Daughetee (Downs), Pamela Morel, Noriah (Renfro), Connie and Thelma Johnson, Wally Temple (Whitt), Gilbert “Buddy” Littrell, Martha Morrow, Barry Newcombe, Kandi Gonzalez, (Harper), Ethan Castillo, Gloria Landen (Morrow), Steven Newson, Breann Grissom (Lynch); Evan Whitaker (Walker), Kim Cowherd, Lewis Utz (Kinnard); Jong Family, Cole Brasfield, Janet Gillespie (Draper), Barbara Travis (Schweitzer), Kim McNeal (Bellman), Sandy Hanson, Molly Reynolds, Brenda Holbrook, Jayne Mattingly, Barry and Nora Brown, Bruce, Jackie B. Miller, Billy Jack Raybun, (Waits); Rhonda Payne, Susie Branham; 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: Oliver Jackson, Jake Mackey, 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.