



**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 October 2022**

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

## ***From our Pastor***

At the end of September, I attended the Scott Clergy Conference at Christmount. Our theme was "Rituals: The Practices that Shape Us."

We first looked at some broad, secular rituals such as the padlocks on the bridges in Paris. If you're unfamiliar with this, couples will meet on the bridge, "lock" their love and relationship together, and throw the key into the river. So the question came up: Why do we do things like this? Does a ritual DO anything? Recently the Parisian authorities had to remove the locks because their weight threatened to destabilize the bridges. Thousands of relationships didn't end overnight because their locks were cut off; so why do we participate in these rituals?

Rituals may not have any power to assure or change an outcome in physical space and time; but there are (at least) two important things that rituals do.

The first is that a ritual is often an outward expression of an inward belief. That outward expression has a "cost" that changes those involved. Marriage is a great example. Two people can certainly have a loving, committed life together without getting married but beyond the legal distinctions that we've tied to marriage, the ritual, the wedding has a profound impact on everyone involved. Two people have publicly expressed their love and commitment to one another, the relationships *with* their families changes, the relationships *between* their families changes. The very essence of who these people are is changed. This is why weddings can be so joyous or messy, and why divorce is so painful.

The second is that rituals offer a sense of belonging. Think about bedtime rituals with your children. Madeline and I always say "goodnight, I love you, don't let the ugly bugs bite!" That's our thing, we know we're in a place we belong when we hear that from one another. Even if we're camping or traveling away from home, those words signify that we're safe and together. Suppose your partner always kisses you before they go to work or says I love you before you get off the phone (these are rituals!) and then one day they don't? Something feels wrong; that sense of belonging is threatened.

How does this fit in with what we do at church? (I'd love to hear your ideas!) I'd say we're pretty good at the belonging aspects with our rituals. The way we greet each other, the way we pray for one another, the way we care for one another. We have countless rituals (we may not even recognize as such), that fill us with feelings of connection and belonging. I know that every single person who walks through our doors is welcomed here at Providence! But I'm not so sure we're great at the outward expression of that. How do others who are not already a part of our community know this about us? In what ways do we express welcomeness to the world? And how can we be louder?

Blessings,  
*Peter*

## Happening at Providence in October

- October 2 Sunday worship
- October 9 12:00 pm – All-Church Potluck  
12:45 pm – Providence Board Meeting
- October 26 9:30 AM – Women’s Service Group Meeting

### 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

### OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Sydney Robbins	4
Stacey Rogers	8
Pauline Burger	12
Debbie Lynch	14
Triston Cox	15
Jenifer Payne	15
Kysyn Patton	23
Josh Sumeracki	23
Kristi Newton	27
Shon Newton	30
Brad Sumeracki	30
Evan Bullock	31



The Joy Group is sponsoring an October outreach project for Veterans. The organization will provide sturdy backpacks and we are asked to provide socks (male and female), soap, trial size shampoo, toothpaste, and non-perishable snacks. Please leave your donations on the table in the Narthex and include a written note thanking them for their service!

## SAVE THE DATE!

Holiday Marketplace is on Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup>! Invite your family and friends and plan to do lots of shopping!



**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. We love to hear when people on our prayer list are improving! Please review the list and give us updates.

### **MEMBERS, FAMILY AND FRIENDS**

The family of Cherye Brandenburg (Lynch), Jack Morris, Martha Morrow, Sandy Henson, (Roberts), Chelsey, Crosby (Lanser), Virginia Long, Dora Sweaney (Doane), Mike Murphy (Anderson), Wally Temple (Whitt), Barry Newcombe, Gloria Landen (Morrow), Steven Newson, Breann Grissom (Lynch), Bert Wayne Walker, Neva Jean Allison, Ann Glass, Evan Whitaker (Walker), Billie Short (Cox), Brenda Holbrook, Jayne Mattingly, Barry and Nora Brown, Hadley Gayheart, Bruce, Jackie B. Miller (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, Jonathan Haney, Dawson Simpson, Audrey Walden, Alex Pope, Michael Hagan, Jason Rutherford, Bobby McNeil, Ken Harney, Steven Russell, Noah Davenport, Stephen Rawlings, Takoda Hacker and First Responders.