



**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 September 2025**

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101 Providence Way | Nicholasville, KY 40356 | (859) 272-3655

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

## From Our Pastor

Mahatma Gandhi is quoted as saying: “I like your Christ, I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ.” In researching that quote to make sure I got the verbiage correct it seems that the quote is a bit disputed and Gandhi may not have actually said those words. Nevertheless, the sentiment is real and attributing the words to a respected historical figure isn’t uncommon.

I’ve expressed in the past my personal reluctance to self identify as a Christian when introducing myself outside of church circles. There are many movements and personalities that loudly claim to be Christian who hold beliefs and ideologies that I believe to be antithetical to Christ’s teachings. I have found it more beneficial to introduce my true self in word and deed rather than wear the assumptions that the Christian label brings with it these days.

However, I’ve discovered that this attitude has led to building an identity out of the negative. Meaning my identification sounds something like “I’m a Christian, but...” and I go on to say what I don’t believe; which is usually something that those loud Christians proclaim. It feels like I’m always playing defense, trying to distance myself from a label or course correct from assumptions. So let me flip it and proclaim my beliefs, not what I don’t believe.

As a Christian I believe that everyone is created in the image of God and that everyone is beloved by their creator regardless of their age, race, gender identification, place of birth, wealth, sexual preference, political affiliation, religious beliefs, or any other label that we as humans have created.

As a Christian I believe that the life, teachings, death, and resurrection of Jesus provide to me a reconciling path of relationship with God and my fellow humans. Following Christ’s teachings is my foundational and guiding task.

To narrow down, I am an ordained minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). As a member of this movement, I believe in the centrality of scripture and recognize that each person has the freedom and responsibility to study God’s Word.

I believe that our community should be structured around the biblical idea of covenant, emphasizing not obedience to human authority but accountability to one another because of our shared obedience to Christ.

That’s a good start. I will no longer be describing what I am NOT. What I am is a beloved child of God who has found love and grace in the teachings of Christ through the study of Scripture and relationship with other believers. I strive to share that love and grace freely with all I meet the same way I found it, by building relationships and studying scripture with others.

Blessings,

*Peter*

Happening At Providence in September

- September 8 Holiday Marketplace Planning Meeting @ 6 PM
- September 14 Youth Sunday School Back Potluck @ 11:30 PM Board Meeting @ 12:30 PM
- September 24 Women’s Service Group @ 9:30 AM
- September 28 Reconciliation Special Offering

Each Sunday

9:30 AM Sunday School  
10:45 AM Worship Service  
6:00 PM Mattingly Basketball

Each Wednesday

6:30 PM Simply the Solution AA Group  
6:30 Girl Scouts  
6:45 PM Choir Practice

Each Monday and Thursday

10:00 AM Bodies in Motion Exercise Class  
6:00 PM Boy Scouts (Monday ONLY)  
7:00 PM Table Tennis Club (Thursday ONLY)

Each Saturday

10:00 AM Table Tennis Club

VBS 2025!

Thank you to all the volunteers!



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Barry Brown	6
Arline Wilson	6
Peter Harper	11
Mary Lanser	12
Chartorn Renfro	19
Judi Jones Toleman	20
Aiden Downs	29

August Youth Sunday!

Thank you to all the youth who helped!  
You all did a wonderful job!



**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:

Prayers for Members, Family and Friends: Dianne Sparrow, Stephanie Moore (Lanser), Courtney Burton, Scott Godsey (McGee), Jaime Lee (Waits), Mike Wilson (Waits), Connie Lowry (Gardner) Shon Newton, Cheryl Wright (Lynch), Faye Hampton (Lynch), Mildred Lansaw (Lynch), Rhonda Irgang, Don Thornton (Whitt), Iva Clay (Anderson), Gaines Womac, Jennie Doane, Dianne Sparrow, Darrel Malcom (Widener), Jackie Miller (Waits), Beth Waits, Jenny Vanderpool (Lanier), Clay Bell (Lanier), Pamela Morel, Marcia Davis, Mike Harney (Bellman), Loretta Mullins, Don Thornton, Ruth Acuff (Lanier), Lucy Widener, Debbie Hamilton, David Reynolds (Slack), Denia Tackett (Bellman), Lena R. Gregory (Fern), Triston Cox, Brent Gardner, Jack Switzer, Jerry Roberts, Stuart Kearns (Roberts), Barry & Nora Brown, Nan Brown, Susan Bourdain, Jack Morris, Billy Gayheart (Waits). We pray for our Food Pantry, hospice families and for all those serving our nation and community.

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, Jason Rutherford, Bobby McNeil, Steven Russell, Noah Davenport, Stephen Rawlings, Takoda Hacker, Keven Widener, Austin Beetlestone, Aaron Farrar and First Responders.

## **Month of September Serving Schedule**

### **September 7, 2025**

*Luke 14:25 – 33 “Calculations”*

Liturgist: Ann Rea Anderson  
Elder: Jenifer Payne  
Deacons: Eddie Dean Cox, Mike Sparrow  
CWW: Ann Rea Anderson  
Offering: Jan Downs

### **September 14, 2025**

*Luke 15: 1 – 10 “Lost and Found”*

Liturgist: Carl Waits  
Elder: Caron Tandy  
Deacons: Michael Doane, Beth Waits  
CWW: Ashley Waits  
Offering: Eddie Dean Cox

### **September 21, 2025**

*Luke 16: 1 – 13 “Fired”*

Liturgist: Caron Tandy  
Elder: Carl Waits  
Deacons: Jesse Downs, Ashley Waits  
CWW: Michelle Roberts  
Offering: Ertel Whitt

### **September 28, 2025**

*Luke 16: 19 – 31 “Poor Lazarus”*

Liturgist: Jeanne Widener  
Elder: Gary Anderson  
Deacons: John Downs, Ertel With  
CWW: Michelle Roberts  
Offering: Debbie Lynch

**Communion Prep for September: Pam/Bill Gardner**