



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 2025

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

From Our Pastor

There is a term that I've heard more and more of recently. It's called Shifting Baseline Syndrome. The idea is that over time, particularly generation to generation, what we "know" as the normal baseline changes. I first ran across this term in wildlife circles.

So, for example: imagine a species of gamefish. As the species is overfished the biggest, fastest growing individuals get caught first and their genetics are removed from the gene pool. Over time as more and more of the largest fish are caught, only the smaller, slower growing fish are left to reproduce. What results is a population of fish that is, on average, smaller. From the perspective of anglers, the change is often so incremental and long term that it doesn't register. There might be myths of success from years gone by, but they're usually just stories and not an individual angler's lived experience. Understanding this is important to how fish stocks are managed by agencies and anglers.

How does Shifting Baseline Syndrome apply to other aspects of our lives, including the Church?

There is the direct example of worship attendance. What we consider a "big" attendance number in the year 2025, would be a "lite" Sunday 30 years ago. Sure, numbers are nice but they're not the most important thing; after all Jesus promised that "where 2 or more are gathered he would be also." And Jesus spread his gospel with just 12 disciples.

What I think is more damaging is the shifting baseline of our rhetoric. So many things feed into this. When it comes to segments and articles, the most outrageous and inflammatory headlines and remarks get the most views (and views equals \$\$\$\$\$). Our politicians seem to be following the same trajectory. There seems to be a shift going on in what is and is not acceptable behavior in many aspects of our lives.

The good news I think is this shift hasn't affected our daily personal lives too much yet. We certainly are affected by all the media and political shifting, but our interactions with one another face to face is still generally positive. This is because we stay tethered to our humanity. We interact with real people, each with their own real blessings and burdens. The talking heads and pundits are removed from reality, and they get your views and votes by removing you from the humanity around you, making you afraid and angry.

This tether to humanity is so important God made sure to experience it! "The Word became flesh and lived among us." Jesus wasn't dragged into the mob of angry villagers wanting to stone the woman caught in adultery. He grounded himself in the dirt, embraced the humanity of both the woman and the crowd, and everyone left better than they arrived.

Hopefully our expectations of basic human decency never shift so far we are unrecognizable.

Blessings,

Peter

Happening At Providence in October

- October 14 Potluck @ 11:30 PM
Board Meeting @ 12:30 PM
- October 17 Prodigy Parents Night Out @ 5:30 PM
- October 22 Women’s Service Group @ 9:30 AM
- October 24 Prodigy Fall Festival @ 5:30 PM

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

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Sydney Robbins	4
Pauline Burger	12
Debbie Lynch	14
Triston Cox	15
Jenifer Payne	15
Josh Sumeracki	23
Kristi Newton	27
Emily Lanier	30
Shon Newton	30
Brad Sumeracki	30

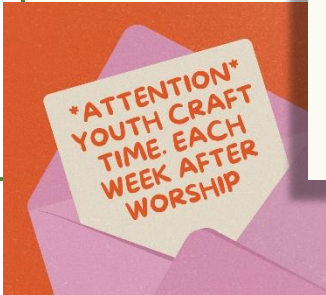
We are now collecting “gently used” items for **Granny’s Attic AND Little Elves**. Items may be brought to church, Monday – Thursday 10 – 2 and Sundays.

Items Needed:

Christmas Items, home goods, children’s games & toys, adult games, jigsaw puzzles, sports stuff, kitchen supplies, etc.
NO SHOES, CLOTHES, OR ELECTRONICS PLEASE.

Fall Work Day at Camp WaKan’Da-Ho

Join us on Saturday, October 25 as we have a workday at camp WKDH. We will be preparing the camp for winter as well as completing some small repair projects. The workday will be held 9 am – 2 pm, and lunch will be provided.



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: The family of David Anderson, baby Aspen Lynn Patty (Lynch), Dianne Sparrow, 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.