



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 2025

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

## From Our Pastor

What is your favorite Christmas tradition?

During Advent we do a lot of different things to help prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ.

One of the most prominent changes is our color palette. To symbolize our faith in Christ resurrection and ever-presence in our lives we bring evergreen boughs and trees into our homes and sanctuary. We change the color of the paraments to purple to symbolize Christ royal position in our lives. We decorate the sanctuary with beautifully red poinsettias. The poinsettia tradition comes from Mexico where the story is told of a young girl with no gift who lays a humble bouquet of roadside weeds on the alter. The sincerity of her offering was received and the weeds transformed into a beautiful flower.

Another important decorative tradition of Christmas is the Nativity Scene or creche. The oldest nativity scene is a 4th century fresco found in a catacomb if St. Valentine in Rome. The first living nativity was prepared by St. Francis of Assisi in the year 1223.

Of course the Nativity Scene is not biblical. Luke tells the story of Jesus' birth in a manger and the arrival of shepherds; while Matthew tells the story of the Magi visiting around 2 years after Jesus' birth. But the nativity scene is "like a living Gospel rising up from the pages of sacred Scripture; showing God's tender love: the Creator of the universe lowered himself to take up our littleness." – Pope Francis.

★ Other traditions help us mark the passing of time such as the Advent Wreath. When all 4 candles are lit we know Christmas is that week. The exact same practice follows Advent Calendars on a more direct daily basis.

We give gifts to our friends and loved ones remembering and honoring the gifts the Magi brought to the Christ child in the Gospel of Matthew.

So, what's your favorite Christmas tradition?

Blessings,

★  
*Peter*

Happening At Providence in December

- December 7 All Congregation Board Meeting Following Worship
- December 10 Women’s Service Group @ 9:30 AM
- December 12 Prodigy Parent’s Night Out
- December 14 Potluck @ 11:30 PM
- Board Meeting @ 12:30 PM
- December 24 Christmas Eve Service @ 7:30 PM
- December 25 Office Closed
- December 24-26 Prodigy Closed
- December 31 Prodigy Closed

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



Thank you to everyone who helped make the 2025 Holiday Marketplace such a warm and welcoming event. Your time, creativity, and generosity made it a wonderful success. We’re grateful for the many hands and hearts that brought this event together.

Marketplace Numbers:

Little Elves ----- \$529  
Vendors ----- \$2,018  
Lunch ----- \$965  
Bake Sale ----- \$832  
Granny’s Attic -- \$1,012

-- EXPENSES -- \$165

Total Proceeds - \$4,654

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Jerry Shepard	4
Sandy Veltkamp	4
Jordan Anderson	9
McKenzie Thornton	11
Caroline Hulsing	22
Michael Harney	27
Anne Allen	28
Lena Rae Fern	28
Greg Widener	30

Month of December Serving Schedule

December 7, 2025

Matthew 3: 1 – 12 “Firewood”

Liturgist: Carl Waits  
Elder: Caron Tandy  
Deacons: John Downs, Ertel Whitt  
CWW: Ann Rea Anderson  
Offering: Jan Downs

December 14, 2025

Matthew 11: 2 – 11 “See For Yourself”

Liturgist: Ann Rea Anderson  
Elder: Jenifer Payne  
Deacons: Kathryn Drydyk, Pam Gardner  
CWW: Ashley Waits  
Offering: Eddie Dean Cox

December 21, 2025

Matthew 1: 18 – 25 “Life Comes at You Fast”

Liturgist: Caron Tandy  
Elder: Carl Waits  
Deacons: Bill Gardner, Arline Wilson  
CWW: Michelle Roberts  
Offering: Ertel Whitt

December 28, 2025

Matthew 2: 13 – 23 “That’s Familiar”

Liturgist: Jeanne Widener  
Elder: Gary Anderson  
Deacons: Jeanne Widener, Keith Wilson  
CWW: Michelle Roberts  
Offering: Debbie Lynch

Communion Prep for December: Worship Committee



**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 Connie Lowry (Gardner), The family of Hester Hardwick (Lisa Young), Joyce McGee, malaria vaccine clinic in Kakamega, Kenya on December 12, Albert Smith (Bratton), Jane Rothwell (Slack), Jack Hudson (Doane), Amy (Waits), Mike (Gardner), Albert Smith (Bratton), Miranda (Kinnard), baby Aspen Lynn Patty (Lynch), Dianne Sparrow, Courtney Burton, Scott Godsey (McGee), Jaime Lee (Waits), Mike Wilson (Waits), 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, 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.