



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 January 2026

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Page 2: Calendar • Birthdays • Prayer Concerns • and more

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

## From Our Pastor

As the calendar turns and a new year begins, many of us feel the familiar pull toward New Year's resolutions. We resolve to exercise more, eat better, manage our time wisely, or finally tackle that long-delayed project. While these intentions often begin with hope, they can quickly become another list of expectations we struggle to meet, another measure by which we feel we fall short.

I had a Facebook memory last week from 6 years ago in which I shared a screenshot of my phone's screen time which averaged around 6 hours a day for the week. I lamented at the time how terrible that was and how I wanted to lower that number. I'm not sure how well I did that year but my current screen time hovers around almost twice that now. OUCH

In our faith, fortunately, beginnings are not rooted in pressure or perfection, but in grace.

The Christian story is full of new starts: creation emerging from chaos, liberation breaking through oppression, resurrection rising from despair. Again and again, God meets people not with demands for self-improvement, but with invitations into deeper love, justice, and compassion. What if our approach to the new year reflected that same spirit?

Rather than resolutions that ask: "How can I fix myself?" We might consider intentions that ask: "How can I open myself?" Open to growth, to healing, to community, and to the movement of God already at work in and around us.

A faith-centered resolution might look less like a checklist and more like a posture. We might resolve to listen more deeply. More deeply to one another and to the quiet nudges of the Spirit. We might resolve to practice kindness. Kindness towards ourselves, and to those our culture casts aside. We might resolve to stay engaged with the world's pain without becoming hardened by it, trusting that hope is an act of courage.

For a community of faith resolutions can also be communal rather than individual. What would it mean for us, together, to resolve to be a more welcoming church? To deepen our commitment to justice, equity, and inclusion? To show up more faithfully for our neighbors near and far? These are not goals we accomplish once and check off; they are commitments we renew again and again.

The good news is that our worth is not dependent on how well we keep our resolutions. God's love does not fluctuate with our productivity or discipline. Even when our intentions falter, grace remains. Each day offers another chance to begin again. (And a new day to turn my phone off.)

As we step into this new year, may we release the pressure to become "better" versions of ourselves and instead embrace the call to become more loving, more honest, and more present. May our resolutions be gentle enough to sustain us and bold enough to transform us. And may we remember that every new beginning, whether marked on a calendar or in our hearts and souls, is held in the steadfast love of God.

Blessings,

*Peter*

## Happening At Providence in January

- January 11 Potluck @ 11:30 PM
- January 19 Board Meeting @ 12:30 PM
- January 23 Martin Luther King Jr. Day – Office/Prodigy Closed
- January 23 Prodigy Parents Night Out
- January 28 Women's Service Group @ 9:30 AM

### 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



**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 Bobby Mackey (Kinnard), The family of Chris Jones (Kinnard), Betty Coward (Kinnard), Charlie Slack, Nancy Purdy, Melinda Johnson, Mike Bossey, Ernie Fitzpatrick, Kenton Cantrell (Lanser), Joyce McGee, Beth Waits, Carol Lanier, 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.

### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Tammy Durham	4
Charlie Payne	9
Joyce McGee	12
Gary Anderson	17
Glen Payne	20
Bryan Roberts	23

## Sanctuary Poinsettias

### In Memory of:

Emmett Purdy, Jr. & Alma Anderson	Ann Rea & Gary Anderson
Jackie, Donnie, Brian, D'Ann,	
Cindy, Billy & Debbie	Ann Rea & Gary Anderson
Evelyn & Charles Marshall	John & Shirley Bratton
Mary & Ray Bratton	John & Shirley Bratton
Ivan & Ethel Doane	Michael & Jennie Doane
Emma Claire Doane	Michael & Jennie Doane
Cloyd & Margaret Barriger	Michael & Jennie Doane
Papa Ruel Hardin	The Dues Family
Harold & Helen Lynch	Debbie Lynch
Cathie Slack	Charles Slack
Cathie Slack	Howard Slack
Cathie Slack	Mandy Slack
Shaina Leigh Whitt	Ertel Whitt
Gloria Whitt	Ertel Whitt
<u>In Honor Of:</u>	
Joyce McGee	Dona Renfro
Josh Hamilton	Dona Renfro