



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 February 2026**

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

## From Our Pastor

We need to talk about Christian Nationalism. And I want to do so in a meaningful and helpful way. So lets start with some definitions:

Christian Nationalism is “a cultural framework – a collection of myths, traditions, symbols, narratives and value systems - that idealizes and advocates a fusion of Christianity and American civic life.”

At a cursory glance that doesn’t sound too bad. I’m a Christian, and following Christ has had a profoundly positive impact on my life. I’m also a patriotic American who loves my country. What could be the harm in fusing the two?

Of course any deeper dive than a surface level reading makes the issue clear. On the American side, one of the things that makes our country great is our religious freedom. On the Christian side, while my ecumenism can accommodate many differing beliefs, my faith is vastly different from what is claimed by Christian Nationalism.

“The ‘Christianity’ of Christian Nationalism represents something more than religion... it includes assumptions of nativism, white supremacy, patriarchy, and heteronormativity, along with divine sanction for authoritarian control and militarism.”

Nationalism takes our patriotism (our love for our country) and distorts it into “identifying that country with a historically dominant ethnic, cultural, and/or religious group and a fierce loyalty to protecting that national identity.”

For most of my life the two have been more or less separate. Of course a person’s beliefs would inform how they voted and a politician’s personal beliefs would inform how they execute their political power. But that was the extent of it.

In fusing the two, Christian Nationalism makes the two inseparable and both are incumbent on the other. To be a good Christian means to be a good Nationalist and, conversely, to be a good Nationalist means to be a good Christian.

The evil brilliance of this world view is the fact that both our faith and patriotism are singularly powerful, but marrying the two grows that power exponentially. To question the assumptions of nativism, or white supremacy is, in the eye of Christian Nationalist, a question of my patriotic love of America. To question the political application of white supremacy, patriarchy, and heteronormativity or the divine sanction for authoritarian control and militarism is, in the eye of the Christian Nationalist, a question of my Christian faith.

It is truly frightening.

How do we get out from under the boot of Christian Nationalism?

I believe the first step is to reject the coupling from every angle. We can believe different things and still love our country. We can want different political outcomes and still worship together. Christians should not be led to believe that they must vote a certain way or support a particular candidate in order to be considered faithful Christians. As Americans our diversity in thought and belief has been our greatest strength historically.

We must reject the absolutism that Christian Nationalism demands and return to our roots of grace and tolerance. Throughout our history as the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) this has been one of our primary north stars. So it shouldn’t be that difficult for us as long as we dedicate ourselves to making it a reality.

Blessings,

*Peter*

\*The quotes and definitions above were taken from one of two books:

- 1) Taking America Back for God by Andrew Whitehead & Samuel Perry
- 2) The Psychology of Christian Nationalism by Pamela Cooper-White

## Happening At Providence in February

- February 8 Potluck @ 11:30 PM  
Board Meeting @ 12:30 PM
- February 15 & 22 Week of Compassion Special Offerings
- February 16 President's Day – Prodigy Closed
- February 18 Ash Wednesday Service
- February 25 South Elkhorn Christian Church @ 7:30 PM  
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

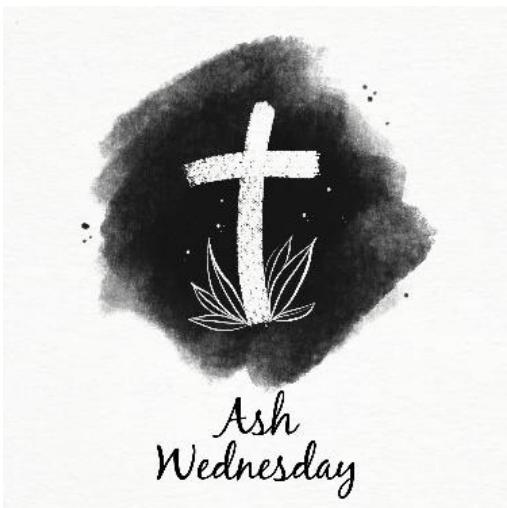
10:00 AM Bodies in Motion Exercise Class  
6:00 PM Boy Scouts (Monday ONLY)  
7:00 PM Table Tennis Club (Thursday ONLY)

### Each Saturday

10:00 AM Table Tennis Club

### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Jennie Doane	14
Shirley Bratton	15
Erin Roberts	16
George Dean	21
Bobby Payne	28



South Elkhorn Christian Church  
February 18 - 6:30 PM  
Main Sanctuary  
Childcare Provided

The JOY Group is organizing an opportunity for us all to participate in a community outreach program sponsored by the Fayette County Sheriff's Dept. called "Books and Badges". In this program, deputies go to preschools and elementary schools and read a book to a classroom of students. And when they leave, they give each child in the class a book to take home with them. The purpose of the program is two-fold: first, to help children develop a love of books and reading, and second, to help children develop a comfortable and trusting relationship with law enforcement officers.

A lot of books are needed for this project, of course, so the Sheriff's Dept. relies heavily on donations of new and gently used books, or money to help purchase those. We will have a donation station set up in the narthex for the next three Sundays of February. You are invited to bring as many books as you want. They should be appropriate for children ages 3 to 11. If you prefer to leave the shopping to someone else, we will have a donation jar available or you can simply put a marked envelope in the offering plate. If you write a check, please designate the Books and Badges project in the memo line.

**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 Jeffery Nelson (Waits), the family of David Harrison (Lanser), the family of Clara "Tooti" (Lanser), Don Brandon (Lanser), Traci Dutaz (Lanser), Stephanie (Cox), Mia Anderson, Tina (Lanser), 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.