



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 2026

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

From Our Pastor

Growing up in Florida it felt like most weekends we were either at the beach, a lake, one of the springs, or someone's pool. And so applying sunscreen was a task that was done regularly. But never quite regularly enough. Nine times out of ten we'd end the weekend with a least a bit of a sunburn. Maybe a spot or sliver of skin got burned because we missed it, sometimes we got so busy playing we forgot to reapply and got burnt all over.

Because of this, the need for sunscreen to prevent a sunburn became deeply associated, in my mind, with water and summer activities around water. Even after moving away from Florida the association persists: go to a pool... sunscreen; fish at the lake... sunscreen; paddle down the river... sunscreen. I just assume I'm going to get a sunburn when I'm hot and swimming or around the water if I don't put on sunscreen.

Unfortunately, this gets me in trouble. I'll be out in the sun all day and get a terrible sunburn and be completely surprised because I wasn't doing anything around the water. For some reason the association with sunscreen and sunburns and the water has precluded other activities.

I've gotten terrible sunburns at outdoor festivals, football games, and even snow skiing. Which makes total sense: I was outside all day under the sun doing those things, of course I was going to get sunburned. But I'm baffled every time wondering why I didn't think to put sunscreen on. All I can guess is that my brain didn't make the connection I was in danger of a sunburn because I wasn't around the water. It's like I forgot you can get sunburns other places doing other things.

I wonder if you've ever felt this way about God? It's easy to do. I get so used to how I've experienced God that I forget God can be experienced outside of my limited way. We get caught up in this when we worry or fuss over church music, or what folks are wearing to worship.

I get so used to thinking about God a particular way that I forget God can be thought of in different ways. This is what's happening when folks get upset about using anything other than male pronouns for God or deviating too far beyond "Father" images.

Sometimes I get so used to the truth that I was created in the image of God that I assume God looks like me. That can morph, consciously or unconsciously, into the belief that anyone who doesn't look like me wasn't made in the image of God (because God looks like me... it's very circular if you follow). Different races, genders, sexual orientation etc. can be easily dismissed as other when we get stuck in this mindset.

My limiting assumptions about sunburns does a great job keeping me lathered up in sunscreen around the water, but I have to work harder to remember that the sun doesn't stop burning because I forget about it. Our beliefs about God can serve us well and have wonderfully deep meaning for us, but God isn't limited to the little boxes we set them into. And we ought to always work harder to see and understand the depth of God in places and ways outside of our understanding.

Blessings,

Peter

Happening At Providence in September

- September 7 Labor Day (Office & Prodigy Closed)
- September 9 Choir Practice starts back
- September 13 Potluck @11:30 AM
Board Meeting @ 12:30 PM
- September 18 Prodigy Parent’s Night Out @5:30 PM
Lexington Table Tennis Set Up @ 9 PM
- September 19 Lexington Table Tennis Tournament @ 8 AM
- September 23 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



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

Month of September Serving Schedule

September 6, 2026

Matthew 18: 15 – 20 “Boundiful”

Liturgist: Caron Tandy
Elder: Michael Doane
Deacons: Jesse Downs, John Downs
CWW: Ann Rea Anderson
Offering: Jan Downs

September 13, 2026

Matthew 18: 21 – 35 “Forgive Us, As We Forgive Others”

Liturgist: Bryson Anderson
Elder: Theresa Draper
Deacons: Kathryn Drydyk, Bill Gardner
CWW: Ashley Waits
Offering: Eddie Dean Cox

September 20, 2026

Matthew 20: 1 – 16 “Home Depot Parking Lots”

Liturgist: Carl Waits
Elder: Jenifer Payne
Deacons: Pam Gardner, Mary Lanser
CWW: Michelle Roberts
Offering: Ertel Whitt

September 27, 2026

Matthew 21: 23 – 32 “Words and Deeds”

Liturgist: Zoey Downs
Elder: Linda Schweitzer
Deacons: Debbie Lynch, Mike Sparrow
CWW: Michelle Roberts
Offering: Debbie Lynch

Communion Prep for September: Caron Tandy

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: Joyce McGee, Kendall Dues, Case (Gardner), Jenifer Payne, Lindi Campbell (Gardner), The Charles Family, Debbie Hamilton, Rev. Bill Watson (Anderson), Roy Payne, Gabby Birchwell, Roger (Waits), Kysyn (Walker), Carl Williamson, Debbie Hardin, Darel Young (Lanser), Rev. Ted Faulkner (Whitt), Charlotte Haney (Downs/Payne), Dillon Lynch (Lynch), Tonya Wells (Waits), Tammy Rankin Goodaker (Lynch), Ashley Waits, Danny Arvin, Bridgette (Kristi), Martha Morrow (Schweitzer), Caroline M (Anderson), Kevin Van Wert, Chartorn Renfro, Shannon Richmond (Waits), War in the Middle East, David Brooks (Lynch), Toby Counts (Waits), Mike Downs, Mary Boswell (Dues), Glenda Harper, Randy (Anderson), Mary (Kristi’s mom), Stephanie (Cox), Mia Anderson, Nancy Purdy, Melinda Johnson, Mike Bossey, Beth Waits, Albert Smith (Bratton), Jane Rothwell (Slack), Jack Hudson (Doane), Mike (Gardner), Miranda (Kinnard), baby Aspen Lynn Patty (Lynch), Dianne Sparrow, Courtney Burton, Scott Godsey (McGee), Cheryl Wright (Lynch), Mildred Lansaw (Lynch), Iva Clay (Anderson), Gaines Womac, Darrel Malcom (Widener), Jackie Miller (Waits), Jenny Vanderpool (Lanier), Pamela Morel, Marcia Davis, Mike Harney (Bellman), Loretta Mullins, Don Thornton (Whitt), Lucy Widener, Debbie Hamilton, David Reynolds (Slack), Denia Tackett (Bellman), Lena R. Gregory (Fern), 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.