

# PRESBYTERIANS AT THE CROSSROADS

Providence Presbyterian Church

February 2021



## From the Pastor's Study...

“Are We There Yet?”

No doubt anyone who has ever travelled more than ten miles with a fidgety child, youth or adult has heard those dreaded words, “Are we there yet?” It’s the mile marker that the trip is beginning to take its toll on the passengers and they are ready to be done with it. But just as “Are we there yet?” is a sign that we’re *not* there yet, so is the fact that just because people want the trip done, it doesn’t mean that they want to forgo going to the destination at all. See, everyone in the car wants to be wherever the car is going: grandma’s house, the Grand Cannon, the beach. The problem is that when someone says, “Are we there yet?” it means they’ve lost sight of the goal.

Providence has been in a year of transition; from coming into the EPC, changing of pastoral leadership, and COVID, we have experienced a great deal of movement. Many of us may be saying, “Are we there yet?” We feel so close to the end that we can almost taste it, but the wait is getting difficult. The apostle Paul understood what it meant to be so close but so far away to a desired destination. **Paul says in Philippians 3:14-16, “I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. Only let us live up to what we have already attained.”**

Our church is on the verge of some very exciting things. **Session is planning that as soon as Presbytery approves our Church Information Form (CIF) we will elect our Pastor Search Committee. This is an important step as we look towards the preferred future which God has planned.** Please keep on the lookout as Session will be making copies of the CIF available as well as the requirements for someone to serve on the PSC through email and post mail.

I would ask that we all would be in prayer, asking God if he is calling you to serve on the PNC and praying for those who are called. We, like Paul, are pressing on towards the goal which God has called us heavenward in Jesus Christ. We have come far from where we began, but there is still some distance between where we are and where we want to be. I hope that as we number the miles between “here” and “there” that we take time to enjoy the scenery; get to know our fellow passengers better so that we might serve them better; and seek direction from our Driver and Lord Jesus.

We know the good that comes when Christ drives all our actions and decisions. Pray for the Session and the PSC that we would see where our Lord is driving us, so that our hearts cry isn’t “Are we there yet?” but “Look where we get to go!”

To God be the glory forever,

Pastor Nadia

## CHURCH OFFICE



Pastor's Office Hours  
Monday thru Thursday, 9:00 am –  
12:00 pm and by appointment.  
Office phone number is 919-894-4063.  
If you would like to reach Rev. Nadia Stropich after office hours, please call  
937-903-9487.

## SECRETARY

*Cindy Lynch is available Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.  
Please send your bulletin prayer requests, updates, announcements, email  
distribution additions/deletions or other messages for broadcast via email  
to the congregation to: [ppchurchsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:ppchurchsecretary@gmail.com)  
or call the office number, 919-894-4063.*



The Book of Order  
*of*  
THE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (EPC)  
The Book of Government  
The Book of Discipline  
The Book of Worship  
2018-2019



Now Available On PPC Website  
<http://www.providencepresb.org/>  
Look for link "EPC BOOK OF ORDER"

**EPC BOOK OF ORDER**



**Andrew and Norine Brunson  
Q&A Town Hall on February 7 at 9:45  
Guest Speaker at 11:00 am Service**

Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> we will have guest speakers Andrew and Norine Brunson joining us for a Q&A town hall at 9:45 am and worship at 11 am. If you plan to attend the Q&A, please RSVP to the church secretary and submit any questions before hand to Pastor Nadia. The Brunson's became household names when Andrew was held for 2 years in a Turkish prison falsely accused of terrorism. Andrew and Norine's new ministry – WaveStarters - is focused on the Muslim world, persecuted church, and preparing believers to stand in difficult times. For more information see [wavestarters.org](http://wavestarters.org). Join us for worship as we hear from Andrew and Norine about what God has done and is continuing to do in their lives and ministry.

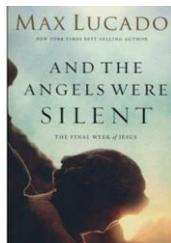


**PPC Youth Group  
Souper Bowl of Caring  
Carryout Lunch**

PPC's Youth Group will be hosting a Souper Bowl of Caring carryout lunch on February 7<sup>th</sup> after Worship. All donations received will go towards the purchase of food supplies for the West Johnston Food Pantry. The youth are taking pre-orders through February 6<sup>th</sup>. Please complete the order form below to pre-order your soup. Soups may be picked up in a drive through after worship on February 7<sup>th</sup> from the lower fellowship hall. Thank you for supporting our PPC Youth and the West Johnston Food Pantry.

<http://bit.ly/Souperbowl2021>

## Lenten Bible Study



The purpose of the Lenten season is to set aside time for reflection on Jesus Christ, to consider his suffering and his sacrifice, his life, death, burial, and resurrection. As part of the Lenten Season PPC will be offering a study of Max Lucado's book, *And the Angels were Silent - The Final Week of Jesus*. This will be a 7 week study, February 18 - April 1. There will be a morning and evening session offered in the choir room, as well as a virtual option. (Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.) If you are interested in participating, please sign up at [bit.ly/lent2021](http://bit.ly/lent2021) or contact the church office.

Note: A donation of \$5.00 is requested to help cover the cost of the book.

## Mission & Outreach

During the months of February, March, and April, we will be accepting financial gifts for Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic Missionaries, Asaph and Lynn Din who are ministering in Pakistan. Please consider making a donation to help Asaph and Lin spread the Gospel in this region of the world. If you would like to make a donation, please write out a check to Providence Presbyterian Church. **Designate your gift by writing Asaph and Lynn Din on the memo line.**

*And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to all creation. Mark 16:15*



## PPC BLOOD DRIVE

**Was a success!**

We received 44 pints.

**We would like to thank everyone that came out and gave blood and those who helped set up and take down.**

**Please mark your calendars for our next Blood Drive June 4<sup>th</sup>.**



**American  
Red Cross**

## Fellowship & Fitness Walking Group

We would like you to walk and fellowship with us on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 11:00 in the UFH.

All are welcome!



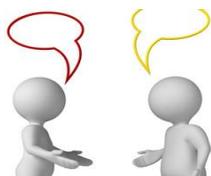
## Prayer Shawls Available

The Congregational Care Committee supplies Prayer Shawls for anyone who may be in need of physical warmth during the Worship Service. The shawls are located in the Narthex.

*\* After the service, please leave the used shawl in your chair - they are cleaned after each use.*



If there are members of the congregation or regular attendees that would like a member of the Congregational Care Committee to visit with them, please get that information to Kent Walton at [kw Walton1@nc.rr.com](mailto:kw Walton1@nc.rr.com)



## Men's Fellowship Group Assistance

Small chores & household assistance is available by the Men's Fellowship Group. To schedule, contact Eric Faircloth at [aefaircloth70@gmail.com](mailto:aefaircloth70@gmail.com), or 919-201-2696.



## 2020 General Fund Financial Summary

Providence experienced a successful year in 2020! We refinanced our mortgage with favorable terms and implemented on-line giving. With help from receipts from using the Upper Fellowship Hall as an election polling location, General Fund receipts increased by nine percent (9%) from the previous year with 2020 Annual General Fund Giving of \$312,608.37. We also came in under budget by \$39,973.71 with 2020 Annual General Fund Expenses of \$310,588.98. For more information, please contact Sam Stephenson at 919-757-5869.



## Donation Option

Providence can accept donations of stocks and other securities.

To make a donation or obtain more information, please contact Ann Benson, Collections Treasurer.



## Flowers for 2021

If you are interested in providing flowers to adorn our sanctuary on any given Sunday in 2020, please see the sign-up sheet in the "bulletin board alley." Beth Pickens has been our Flower Coordinator for many years. Where someone has signed up to purchase flowers, Beth calls that person (that week), to remind them to call the florist and place their order. Your message regarding the celebration for which the flowers were purchased will be included in the header of the printed bulletin on that Sunday. At the end of worship service that day you are free to then take your flowers home. Contact Beth Pickens at 919-697-5663, or at <[bpickens80@gmail.com](mailto:bpickens80@gmail.com)> for help or further information. Thank you to all who participate in this ministry that contributes to the beauty of our sanctuary!



## Food Pantry

Please bring your food donations for these worthy ministries and place them in the blue bins near the foyer doors leading into the Upper Fellowship Hall.

While all donations are appreciated, the most needed items are given below.

### BACKPACK BUDDIES MOST NEEDED ITEMS:

- 1) individual serving/packets of 100% fruit juice
- 2) fruit cups (applesauce, peaches, pears)
- 3) individual serving packets of oatmeal/grits
- 4) soup

### FOOD PANTRY MOST NEEDED ITEMS:

- |          |                 |                              |
|----------|-----------------|------------------------------|
| 1) sugar | 3) paper towels | 5) clothes washing detergent |
| 2) flour | 4) toilet paper | 6) dish washing detergent    |



## Highlights of the Minutes of the January 11, 2021 Stated Session Meeting

**Finance:** Session reviewed and approved the December 2020 financial report. General Fund giving improved with receipts exceeding expenses.

General Fund Receipts		General Fund Expenses	
December 2020	\$28,497.00		\$24,440.99
Year to Date	\$312,608.37		\$310,588.98

- Annual dismissal payment in the amount of \$12,000 was submitted to PC (USA) New Hope Presbytery December 2020.
- The church received a donation of fifty (50) shares of Lowe's Stock with a current estimated value of \$8,000. The donation was placed in the church's Money Market Fund.
- Homecoming offering for 2020 totaled \$30,330.00.
- Financial pledges for 2021 totaled \$144,760 comprised of thirty (34) donors.

**Personnel Committee:** Session approved a committee motion to grant Pastor Nadia Stropich study leave February 1<sup>st</sup> through February 6<sup>th</sup> 2021.

**Christian Education Committee:** Session approved a committee motion to conduct Youth Group "Souper Bowl" fundraiser after worship service February 7, 2021. Financial donations are designated to purchase food items for the West Johnston High School Community Food Pantry.

**Mission & Outreach Committee:** Session approved a committee motion to solicit financial gifts for Missionary Outreach during the months of February, March, and April 2021. The donations will be designated for Asaph and Lin Din conducting outreach ministries in Pakistan.

**Church Information Form:** Session finalized the Church Information Form. The information is used to assist with finding a full-time Pastor. The church information ("CIF") form will be submitted to the Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic later this month. Once the CIF is approved by the Ministerial Committee, the church can establish a Pastor Nominating Committee.

**Examination of New Church Member Candidates:** Chas and Brittany Davidson were examined by the Session for the purpose of becoming new church members. Chas and Brittany provided their walk of faith testimonials and why they wanted to become members at Providence. A motion was presented to receive Chas and Brittany Davidson into the membership of Providence Presbyterian Church. The motion was unanimously approved by Session. Welcome Chas and Brittany.

**Commissioners for the Presbytery Meeting:** John Mott and John Pickens were elected by the Session to be Commissioners for the Zoom PMA Presbytery meeting January 30, 2021.

Next Stated Session Meeting is scheduled for February 8, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

## Prayer List of Joys and Concerns

### Members of the Providence Family in Long-Term Care:

**Marilyn Johnson** at *Barbour Court Nursing, Rm 214 in Smithfield*; **Bobbie Langdon** at *Litchford Falls in Raleigh*.

### Persons Living with Cancer, including:

**Scott Barnes, Ricky Baskett**, (*Carolyn Johnson*); **Joanne Boyle**, (*Bob Zattiero*); **Lisa Bradshaw, Dede Bumgarner**, (*Brittany Parks*); **Frank Camarda**, (*Nicole Hughes*); **Ann Hargis, Jamie Harris**, (*Andrea Jones*); **Robert and Pam Holding, John Husuley**, (*Carolyn Johnson*); **Nancy Lange**, (*John Mott*); **Terasha McChann** (*Bob Reed*); **Doug Parvin**, (*Steve Wolak*); **Bill Rice**, (*Carolyn Johnson*); **David Ryan**, (*John Pickens*); **Tammy Sullivan**, (*Frank Hugh*); and **Abby Stanley**, (*John Pickens*).

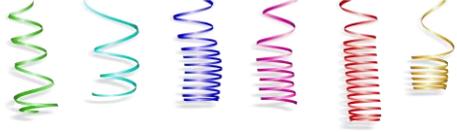
### Persons with Ongoing Health Concerns, including:

**Ashley**, (*Donna Stolle*); **Nancy Allen**, (*Sheila Dupree*); **H. Andrews**, (*Andrea Jones*); **Donna Adams and Family**, (*Wendy Stephenson*); **Sara Barber**, (*Vickie Faircloth*); **Lauren Bellissimo**, (*David and Pamela Collier*); **Wilburn Berrier**, (*Patricia Forren*); **Worth Bowman, Joe Champion**, (*Carolyn Johnson*); **Patricia Chapin**, (*Carolyn Johnson*); **Elise Corona**, (*Sue Bryant*); **Larry Creech**, (*Kevin Creech*); **Chris Darden and wife**, (*Cathy Simmons*); **Barbara Ellis**, (*Georgeanna Phillips*); **Norma and Charles Evans**, (*Carolyn Johnson*); **Chic and Mary Lou Folkman, Patricia Forren, Ronda Fullenkamp**, (*Rick and Margie Taylor*); **Courtney & Jeff Gulley**, (*Kent Walton*); **David Guss**, (*Andrea Jones*); **Willie Hardisen**, (*Carol Sawyer*); **John Harris**, (*Andrea Jones*); **Brian Johnson**, (*Don Dupree*); **Laura Kershaw**, (*Jonathan & Carole Kershaw*); **Harley Kremer**, (*Andrea Jones*); **Glen Langdon**, (*Wayne Langdon*); **Brianna Langreder**, (*John and Arline Mott*); **Tern Lee**, (*Lauren Bellissimo*); **Bill McClandless**, (*Bob Zattiero*); **Ken McGee**, (*Ann Benson*); **Judy Nemeth**, (*Rich & Miriam Lambert*); **Dorothy Nesselrodt, Eunice Newnam, Daphne Noles**; **Tim Nooney**, (*Christiane Wright*); **Mary Tyler Nordan**, (*Tyler and Natalie Nordan*); **Zachary Parks**, (*Brittany Parks*); **Ed & Lou Penny, Laura Polfuss**, (*Arline Mott*); **Page Powers**, (*Lamberts*); **Caleb Reese**, (*Andrea Jones*); **Lycia Reese**, (*Andrea Jones*); **Becky Roberts, John Rogers**; **Mitch Sonderfan**, (*Doug Sonderfan*); **Stephen Southers, Ann K. Stephenson, Wayne Stephenson and Debbie Jernigan**, (*Sam Stephenson*); **Debbie Sturgis, Charles Tadlock**, (*Pam Collier*); **Angie Walker**, (*Eunice Newnam*); **Rusty Weaver**, (*David and Pam Collier*); **Austin Williamson**, (*Carolyn Johnson*); **Jean Yeager**, (*Rich Lambert's sister*); and **Eva Younts**, (*Nadine Reed*).

Our Christian sympathies are extended to the families and friends  
who lost loved ones this past month.



## ***Birthdays & Anniversaries***



### **February Anniversaries:**

- 6 Ron and Pat Forren  
12 Worth and Patsy Bowman  
24 Payton and Angie Searcy

### **February Birthdays:**

- 1 Payton Searcy  
2 Ava Wood  
4 Kristy Stephenson  
5 Johnny Wood  
6 Becky Kleaver  
7 Lily Martin  
8 Philip Cross  
Wayne Langdon  
Mark Nelms  
9 Kevin Creech  
10 JoAnn Creech  
14 Linda Roberts  
15 Andy Dupree  
Joyce Lamm  
Beth Wolak  
16 Cooper Nordan  
Jimmy Stuart  
18 Beth Pickens  
21 Wade Johnson  
Edsel Penny  
23 Donna Stolle  
24 Kelly Daniel  
25 Tony Bryant  
Barbara Walton  
27 Carly Hughes



### **Pastor**

Rev. Nadia Stropich

### **Session**

#### ***Class of 2021***

Kent Walton - Congregational Care  
Scott Martin - Long Range Planning  
Sam Stephenson - Financial

#### ***Class of 2022***

Vickie Faircloth - Worship  
John Kopanski - Mission & Outreach  
Donna Stolle - Fellowship

#### ***Class of 2023***

Kristy Stephenson - Christian Education  
John Pickens - Personnel  
John Mott - Property



### **Church Staff**

#### *Custodial*

Ray and Jamone Johnson

#### *Music Director/ Organist/Pianist*

Brittany Jones

#### *Pianist*

Angie Searcy

#### *Secretary*

Cindy Lynch



#### *Accounting Treasurer*

Sam Stephenson

#### *Clerk*

John Kopanski

#### *Collections Treasurer*

Ann Benson

#### *Newsletter*

Cindy Lynch

#### *Sunday School Superintendent*

Kristy Stephenson

#### *Website*

David Nelms

# FEBRUARY EVENTS AND SCHEDULES

## ACOLYTE

7 William Stephenson  
 14 Meadow Creech  
 21 William Stephenson  
 28 Meadow Creech



## CHILDREN'S TALK

7 Rev. Nadia Stropich  
 14 Annah Creech  
 21 Kay Dry  
 28 Kristy Stephenson

## ELDER OF THE MONTH

Scott Martin

## GREETERS

Session

## SECURITY

Steve Newnam

## USHERS

7 David Collier, John Kopanski and  
 Pete Booth  
 14 Jeff Wood, Pete Booth, and  
 David Collier  
 21 Pete Booth, Kevin Creech and  
 Tony Bryant  
 28 John Mott, David Collier and  
 Vickie Faircloth

## CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

7 Miriam Lambert  
 14 Annah Creech  
 21 Miriam Lambert  
 28 Kristy Stephenson



## February Upcoming Events



Feb 1 Rev. Nadia on Study Leave this week  
 Feb 2 Fellowship & Fitness Group 11:00 am  
 Feb 3 Adult Virtual Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm  
 Feb 4 Fellowship & Fitness Group 11:00 am  
 Feb 7 Communion Sunday  
 Guest Speaker  
 Youth Souper Bowl Fundraiser Drive -  
 through after Worship Service  
 Feb 8 Session Meeting 7:00 pm Choir Rm  
 Feb 9 Fellowship & Fitness Group 11:00 am  
 Feb 10 Adult Virtual Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm  
 Feb 11 Fellowship & Fitness Group 10:00 am  
 Feb 14 Sunday Worship  
 New Member Induction  
 Corporation meeting after Worship  
 Youth Meet LFH 6:00 pm  
 Feb 15 President's Day, PPC Office Closed  
 Feb 16 Fellowship & Fitness Group 11:00 am  
 Feb 17 Ash Wednesday Service  
 Adult Virtual Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm  
 Feb 18 Fellowship & Fitness Group 11:00 am  
 Lenten Bible Study Begins through 4/1  
 Feb 21 Sunday Worship  
 Corporation meeting after Worship  
 Youth Meet LFH 6:00 pm  
 Feb 22 M&O Comm. Meet 11:00 am  
 Feb 23 Fellowship & Fitness Group 10:00 am  
 Feb 24 Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm  
 Feb 25 Fellowship & Fitness Group 10:00 am  
 Feb 28 Sunday Worship