

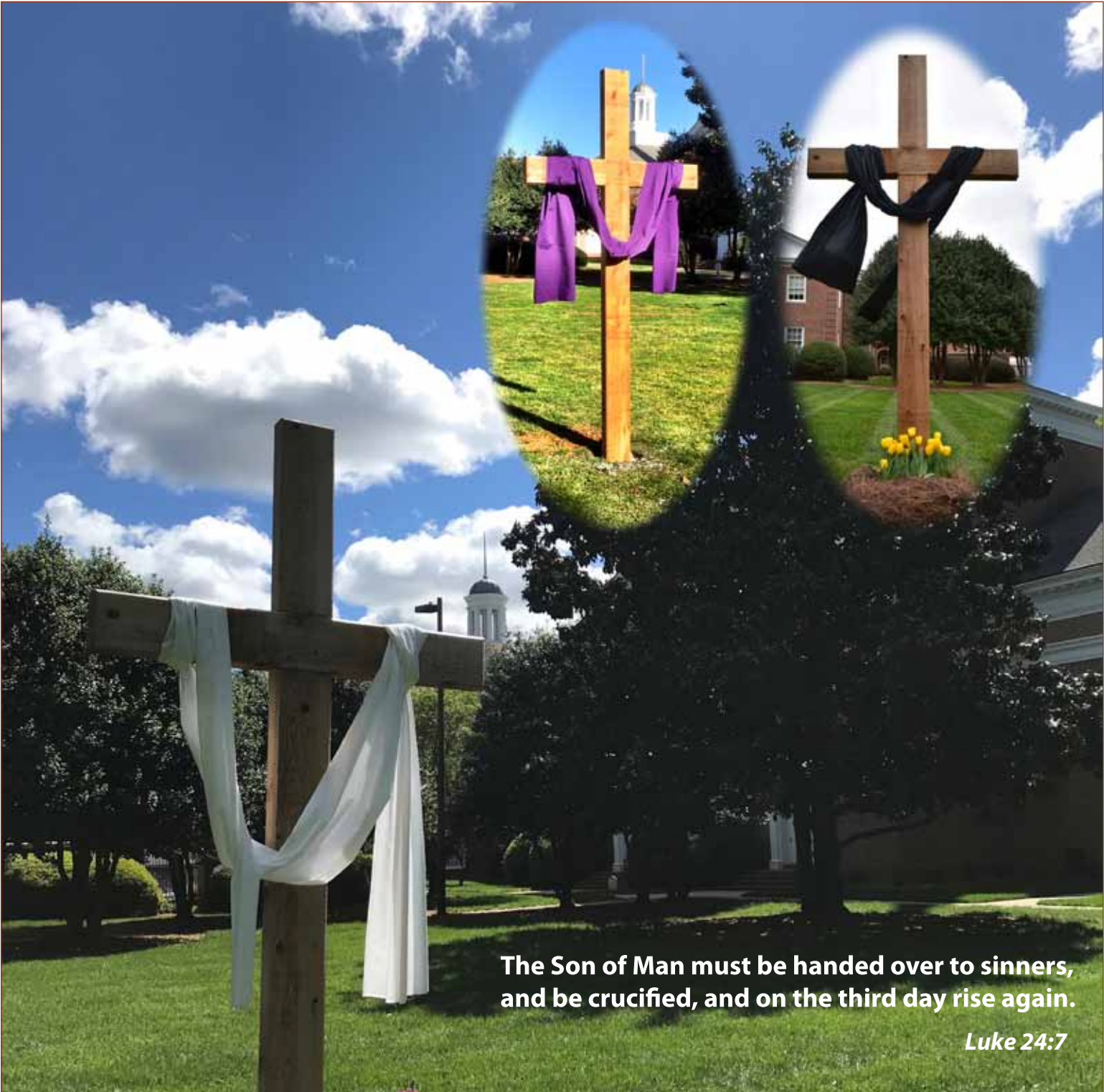
April 1, 2020



PROVIDENCE

BAPTIST CHURCH

Start Here



The Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.

Luke 24:7

Preparing for Easter



Lee Canipe

"I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ."

Philippians 1:3-6

The apostle Paul wrote these words from prison around the year 60. While physically separated from his Christian brothers and sisters, he nevertheless found a way to maintain a close spiritual connection with these friends in Philippi. As the calendar turns to April, I'm finding Paul's words from prison particularly poignant this year.

It's hard to imagine that we might not be able to gather in our Sanctuary to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday. I know I'm not the only one who feels this way. So many of you have said the same to me in phone calls, texts, and emails over the past few weeks. We may not be languishing in prison as Paul was, but we certainly understand better now than we used to what it's like to be separated from our Christian community. The prospect of welcoming the risen Christ from a safe social distance makes that separation seem even more stark.

So, what shall we do? What can we learn from Paul here in Philippians? I detect three specific invitations in these verses: To gratitude, to joy, and to hope. Paul is actively practicing all three of these Christian virtues while in prison. Could we do likewise? If so, how?

We've got some time between now and Easter. Let's put it to good use finding ways to make gratitude, joy, and hope part of our daily routines while we are separated from one another. Be intentional about it. Ask yourself: "What will I do to cultivate gratitude (or joy, or hope) in my life today?"—and then do it. I can think of no better way to prepare our souls for Easter this year.

Grateful, joyful, and hopeful Christians always find it easier to recognize the risen Christ when he shows up in unexpected places. Even—and this year, especially—at a distance.

Welcome New Members



Allison Daniels joined Providence on March 22. Allison is the daughter of Mark and Lisa Daniels and is a Junior at Myers Park High School. As always, Allison breaks the mold. She was the first to join during "virtual worship." We are so very grateful for Allison and her profession of faith!

Mable Christian joined Providence on February 23. She is transferring her membership from Trinity Baptist Church in Raleigh, NC. She is a member of the Kerygma Sunday School class and is Michael Christian's mother (and mother-in-law to Holly and grandmother to Camille and Margot).



Edna Strickland also joined Providence on February 23. She is transferring her membership from First Baptist Church in Rocky Mount, NC! She is a member of the Kerygma Sunday School class. Welcome, Edna!

Facebook LIVE

It's a group effort! The ministry team at Providence is sharing a lighter side with the "Providence Daily Show," a FaceBook LIVE event every Monday through Friday at noon. Check out these topics:

- Monday - Cooking with Dane
- Tuesday - Music with Tim
- Wednesday - Midweek Prayer with Blake
- Thursday - Story Time with Julia
- Friday - Art with Caitie/Fitness with Brandon

You are really going to enjoy "The Show!"
www.facebook.com/providencebccharlotte

Providence Diaspora

Diaspora means “DISPERSEMENT.” As the Providence Congregation is dispersed, we will continue to “gather” together in spirit. Check out our re-tooled homepage at www.providenebc.org for easy access to important information during this time of dispersement. **Remember:** Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, we send an email at 6:00pm. The email includes a devotional thought from a minister, a summary of important information, the Pastoral Care Corner (listing births, deaths, hospitalizations, and immediate prayer concerns), and other important links.

Are you receiving Providence emails? If not, we need to hear from you so we can get you connected!
Email Summer Sneed: ssneed@providenebc.org

The Sunday Bundle

Every Sunday, precisely at 8:30am, an email is sent to the Providence family with links to our virtual worship and Sunday School lessons, our student



Sunday Night Live events, children’s Bible Drill and more. It’s called the **Sunday Bundle**, and it will be distributed for as long as it is helpful. We are

making SURE Sunday continues to be our day of worship and learning. And we can experience it together, even if we aren’t in the same spaces.

Giving

Remember, our ministry costs don’t stop. We continue to have shared responsibilities with our missions partners, our employees, our facilities, our grounds, and our service providers.

Your ongoing offerings during this time are much needed and will be greatly celebrated.

See all giving options below:

www.providenebc.org/why-give

Minister on Call

Our on call protocol has changed during this season, with our ministers being “on” one week at a time. Although we are not allowed to visit members in the hospital, and our personal contact must remain at a minimum, we are still ministering, praying and supporting.

Minister on call: 704.366.4030x147

March 31 - April 7: Blake Kendrick

April 7 - 14: Dane Jackson

April 14 - 21: Lee Canipe

April 21 - 28: Julia Wright

May 1 - 4: Timothy Hill



Our Ministries at Work

Adult Discipleship - Blake Kendrick is spearheading our studies. He’s taking his Thursday adult Bible study virtual, and making sure we have our Sunday School lessons available online, too.

www.providenebc.org/adult-studies.

Music Ministry - Tim Hill is planning, coordinating and editing our virtual worship service. He and his staff are reaching out to choir members and checking in to make sure everyone is cared for.

www.providenebc.org/music

Children’s Ministry - Julia Wright is asking her Sunday School teachers to touch base with their children, she’s calling children on their birthday, and she’s sending FAITHTalks to our young parents, reminding them how to talk about faith with their child. Young families are plugged in and connected!

www.providenebc.org/cherish-the-gift

Student Ministry - Dane Jackson hasn’t skipped a beat. His fusion and SNL programming went live and his social media Lenten campaign is continuing to minister to students and their families.

www.providenebc.org/students

Weekday Education Ministry - Ursula Taylor and her staff are reaching out to their Weekday families and children, ministering to them through emails, phone calls and cards.

www.providenebc.org/preschool



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Holy Week



Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunday. Each of these days holds tradition, comfort, and deep spiritual meaning to us as Christians. As of this printing, we at Providence have no idea what Holy Week will bring. Regardless of whether or not we are able to physically gather, we WILL be able to worship together. Yes, it will most likely be

different than what is typical. This will be a Holy Week to remember, whether or not we are “gathering” or “isolating.” Stay tuned.

Easter Photos

It's a long-held tradition at Providence to take a family photo in front of the flower cross Easter Sunday morning. Let's keep that tradition moving forward, only THIS year, step outside, take a family photo in front of your home, or a blooming azalea, or sit on a blanket in your front yard. Post your Easter photo to your favorite social media site and tag Providence! That way we can all connect with one another!



Next Connections is May 1, 2020.

Deadline for submitting articles, photos, or announcements is **Noon, Wednesday, April 15th.** Articles should be 350 words or less. Email your submissions to: ssneed@providencebc.org.

Thank you!



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Providence Baptist Church -
Charlotte, NC



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www.providencebc.org

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