

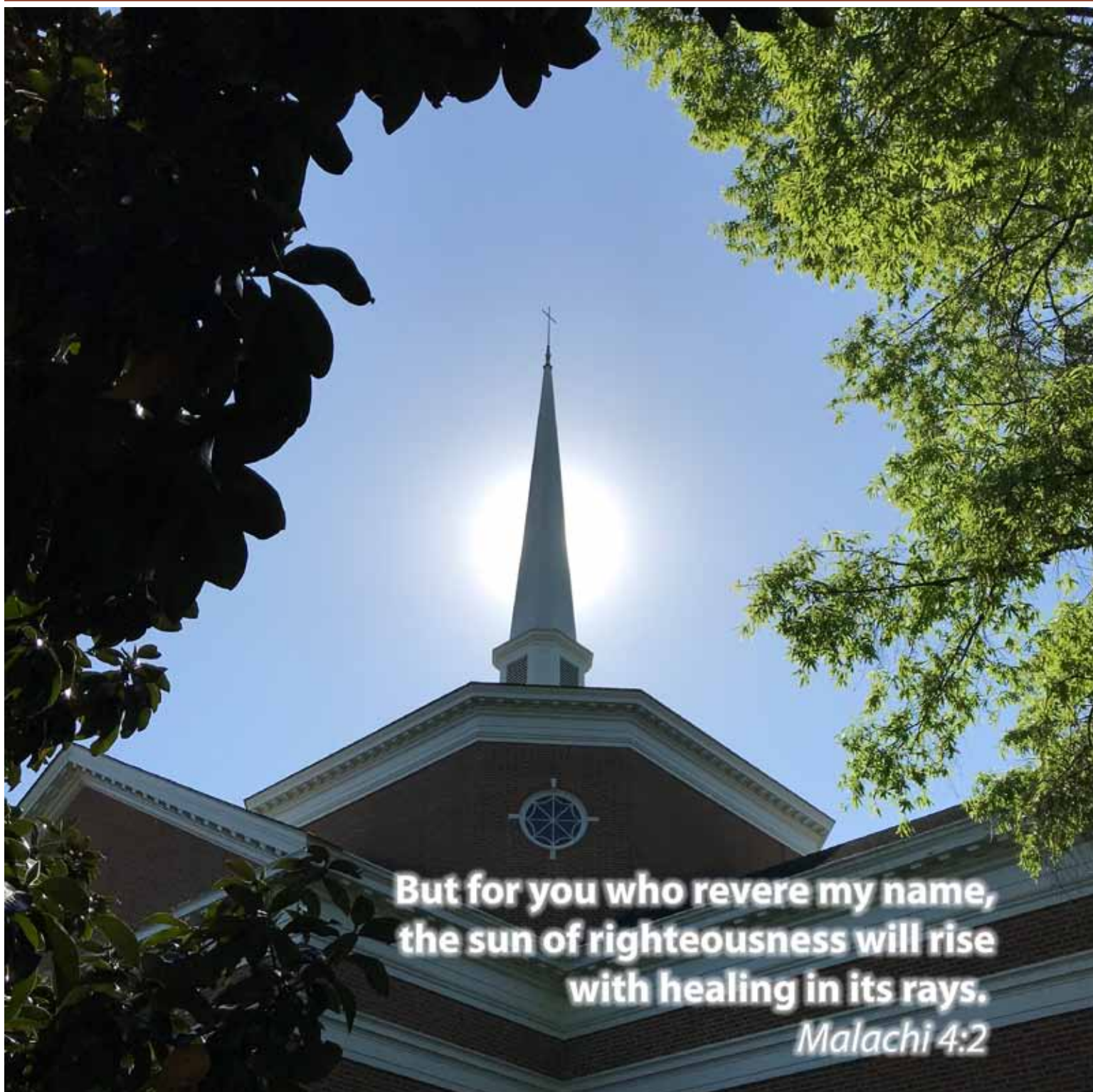
May 1, 2020



PROVIDENCE

BAPTIST CHURCH

Start Here



But for you who reverence my name,
the sun of righteousness will rise
with healing in its rays.

Malachi 4:2

Finishing Strong



Lee Canipe

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9

There aren't a whole lot of ways to encourage people who are running a long race. As a former cross-country runner, I know that the list of appropriate cheers is limited. "Way to go! Don't stop! Looking good! Keep going!" That's it. Really, though, these four cheers are enough.

So, here we are in May—when, hopefully, we can begin relaxing the social distancing restrictions that have been in effect since mid-March. Until that happens, we'll keep grinding it out in this strange long-distance race, measured in days instead of miles, that has us going nowhere, yet feeling exhausted. Because God is good all the time, however, we do have some things to cheer about as we move forward.

Way to go! Providence people have been amazingly flexible, resilient, and positive—adjusting on the fly to new ways of worshiping, giving, learning, connecting with one another, and caring for our community. These are not easy things to do, but I have witnessed a remarkable amount of grace and gratitude over the last two months.

Don't stop! The Lord continues to work through Providence even though our campus is closed. Ministry committees have been meeting online to make decisions for our church. We've helped feed neighbors in Charlotte through our partners at QC Family Tree and Second Harvest Food Bank. Our deacons are keeping in touch with our seniors and Sunday school leaders are figuring out how to teach the Bible from a distance.

Looking good! Our online worship services have nearly doubled the number of people we're reaching every week. Just about all of us have taken an economic hit as a result of the coronavirus, and yet we continue giving generously to support God's work through our church. There is a great deal of prayer happening in midst, and I'm confident it will bear fruit.

Keep going! When the time comes to begin opening back up, things won't immediately return to the way they were. Every institution is going to handle this "re-entry" process in its own way. At Providence, we will take a slow, safe, and sustainable approach to finding our new normal. This means that other churches might begin worshiping together in person before we do. Although I am eager to be back together with you all on Randolph Road, I'm also determined to come back in a way that is smart and responsible.

The last leg of any race is usually the hardest. Let's finish this one strong. May the peace of Christ be with you!

Stephen Ministry

Do you feel called to be a Stephen Minister? Training classes start in September. Your commitment is for one night a week for 10 weeks, plus two retreat weekends. If you are interested in learning more, contact Martha Haigler at 704.608.7947 or Bill Griffin at 704.651.2569.



Deacon Nominations

It's time for deacon nominations. If you have a candidate in mind, please email Nominating Committee Chair Alvin Schmidt (address below) by Anniversary Sunday, May 17. Those not eligible are deacons from the past 5 years and those who have been members for less than two years. alvinschmidt@bellsouth.net



Diaspora and Bundle

We email the **Diaspora** every M/W/F at 6:00pm, which details important information, pastoral care announcements, and service opportunities. Then, we send the **Sunday Bundle**, which gives links to the day's worship materials. Missing out? We can help! Email Summer Sneed. ssneed@providencecbc.org

Facebook LIVE

Join us for the "Providence Daily Show," a Facebook LIVE event at noon every Monday through Friday.



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

Get in on "The Show!" It's a ton of fun!
facebook.com/providencebccharlotte

Still Growing and Serving

It's late spring, and that means our Friendship Garden is producing, well ... PRODUCE! Leslie Jones, one of our faithful gardeners, met with a church member (who has been hit hard by the financial crisis due to Covid-19) to help her gather some fresh vegetables for her family. Then another nine pounds was delivered to QC Family Tree, so that our mission partner could distribute to their neighbors.

If you need access to fresh vegetables, reach out to our ministry team and we will get you in touch with our garden team.



Raspberries bloom and cauliflower heads ripen. Our garden is a winner.

Q2 Conference

The second quarterly church conference of 2020, originally scheduled for May 20, has been postponed. Our church moderator, Steve Jarrett, has contacted ministry committee chairs for updates on their recent work, and will send the information he receives out to the congregation by email on May 20. Be on the lookout for his report.

Faithful Giving



Please continue to give faithfully ... our ministries are still active. Consider scheduling your giving directly through your bank, saving us processing fees.

See all giving options below:
providencebc.org/why-give

Minister on Call

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 our church family. Please call if you need anything.

Minister on call: 704.366.4030x147

April 28 - May 5 : Timothy Hill
May 5 -12: Blake Kendrick
May 12 - 19: Dane Jackson
May 19 - 26: Timothy Hill
May 26 - June 2: Julia Wright



Families Forward Thanks

"We are so thrilled by the \$900+ in SouperBowl of Caring donations! Especially during this time of uncertainty, the funds are crucial in allowing us to continue providing support to the families we serve."



That's a personal word from ministry partner Families Forward Charlotte. Thanks to all who donated! Be sure to check out ways you can continue to help our ministry partners by visiting providencebc.org/serve.

Adult Bible Study

Throughout the month of May, Blake Kendrick will lead an online Bible Study for adults on the book of Philippians. The study will be posted on our Adult Studies page.



providencebc.org/adult-studies

Our Ministries at Work

Adult Discipleship - Sunday School lessons are online. Look for a study of Philippians throughout the month of May and a virtual prayer retreat on Anniversary Sunday (5/17).

providencebc.org/adult-studies

Music Ministry - Worship continues to be engaging and meaningful. Plans are evolving for upcoming choir presentations and choir members are engaging through ZOOM.

providencebc.org/music

Children's Ministry - Snuggle up on Thursdays at noon for our weekly storytime on Facebook, watch for your FAITHTalks email, and download our Sunday children's worship guides from the Sunday Bundle.

providencebc.org/cherish-the-gift

Student Ministry - Students are congregating online each Sunday night for SNL. Watch for Dane's Zoom invites and weekly challenges (could be a scavenger hunt). Timely parent resources are also available.

providencebc.org/students

Weekday Education Ministry - Our program remains closed, but our outreach to Weekday families is active. Our teachers are posting online interactions for our Weekday families and are staying in touch.

providencebc.org/preschool



Postmaster, Send
Address Corrections to:
CONNECTIONS
4921 Randolph Road
Charlotte, NC 28211-4002

•
CONNECTIONS
USPS 979-940
Published monthly
plus two special editions
in April and October.

•
Providence
Baptist Church
4921 Randolph Road
Charlotte, NC 28211-4002
www.providencebc.org
704.366.2784

Periodicals
Postage
PAID
Charlotte, NC
USPS 979-940

Anniversary Sunday, May 17

Although we don't quite know what our 66th Anniversary Sunday will look like, we DO know it will be something special. Stay on top of developments by checking out our weekly email.



Virtual Prayer Retreat

As part of Anniversary Sunday, Blake Kendrick is offering a virtual prayer retreat. This will be a special time of contemplation and prayer. The visually esthetic video invites you to pray with prompts as you are shown pictures of special locations on the Providence campus. The link will be available on the Sunday Bundle for May 17. Contact Blake Kendrick with questions at bkendrick@providencebc.org.

Celebrating Our Charter Members



Mr. Howard M. Byrum
Mr. Joe M. Helms
Dr. Martha S. Iley
Mrs. Juanita (Nita) C. Moss
Mrs. Lorraine Starnes
Mrs. Bernice (Jo) H. Taylor

Next Connections is June 1, 2020.

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

Thank you!



"LIKE US" on FACEBOOK!
Providence Baptist Church -
Charlotte, NC



"FOLLOW US" ON TWITTER
[@pbccommunity](https://twitter.com/pbccommunity)



Check Out Our Website!
www.providencebc.org

Mailing Address:
4921 Randolph Road
Charlotte, NC 28211-4002

Telephone contact: Media Ministry 704.366.4030 x127
Email contact: Connections@providencebc.org