

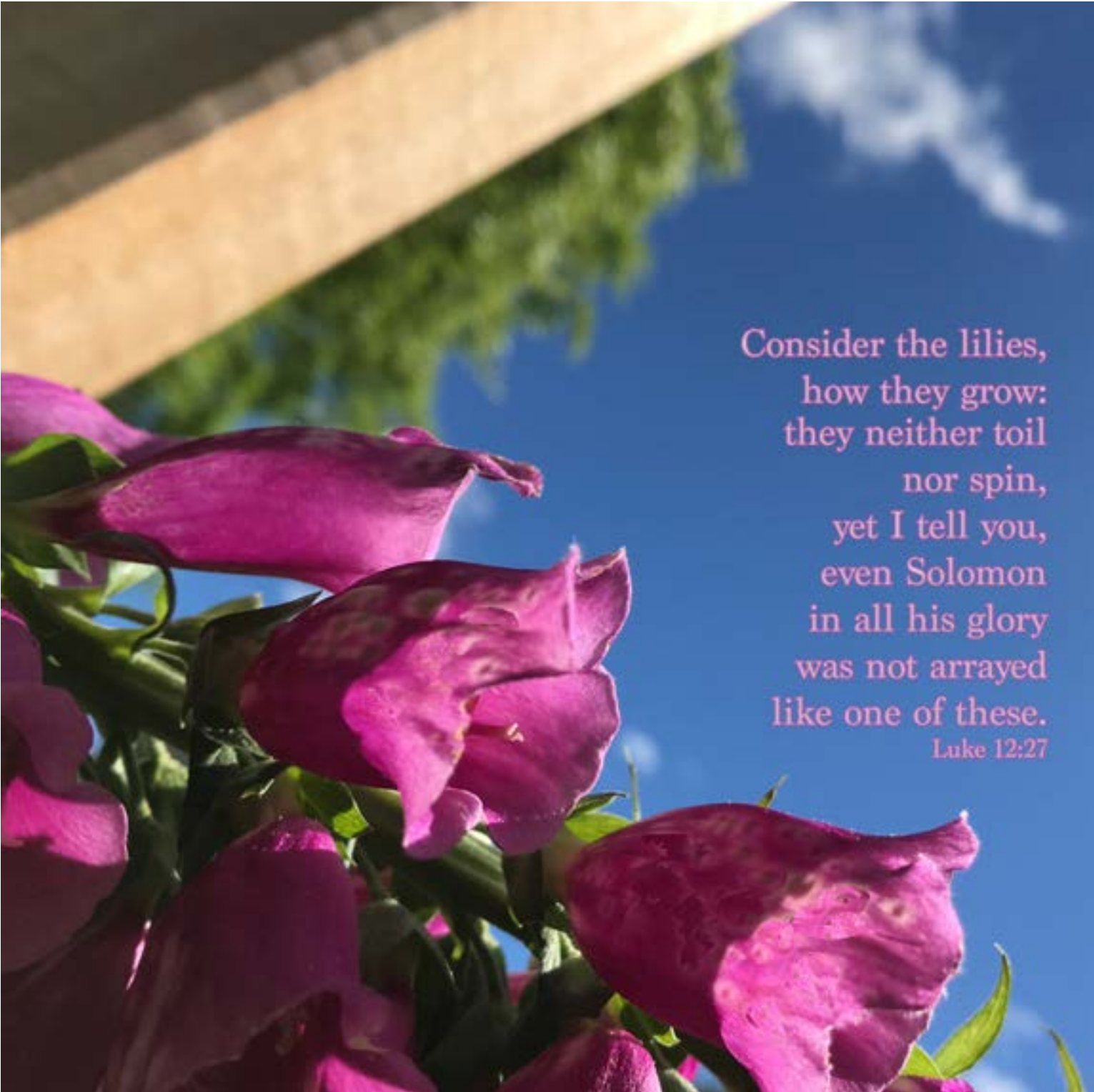
March 1, 2021



# PROVIDENCE

BAPTIST CHURCH

*Start Here*



Consider the lilies,  
how they grow:  
they neither toil  
nor spin,  
yet I tell you,  
even Solomon  
in all his glory  
was not arrayed  
like one of these.

Luke 12:27

## Getting to the Other Side



Lee Canipe

*Then I replied to them, "The God of heaven is the one who will give us success, and we His servants are going to start building."*

Nehemiah 2:20

Do you remember where you were on March 8, 2020?

I do. I was with 427 other members and friends of Providence Baptist Church who had gathered in our Sanctuary that morning to worship God—and to honor Randy Ballard on the occasion of his retirement after 23 years of service.

It was a great day. Most of us had probably, by then, heard in the news about something called a "coronavirus" that might be heading our way—and so, with that in mind, I remember offering fist bumps in the Rotunda that morning instead of handshakes and hugs. Then we all went down to the Crouch Fellowship Hall for a crowded reception where we rubbed elbows with some of our favorite people.

If all this *seems* like it happened a long time ago, that's because it *did*. It's been a whole *year*, in fact, since we last gathered as a congregation for in-person, indoor worship in our Sanctuary. There will be plenty of occasions this month for reminiscing about the days before phrases like *social distancing*, and *remote learning*, and *contact tracing* became regular parts of our everyday vocabularies.

We've learned how to do old things in new ways since last March 8. We've also learned how to do a lot of new things—*period*. Raise your hand if you'd ever Zoom-ed prior to March 8, 2020. We've had to be innovative, because innovation has been necessary.

We've also had to be patient, because patience has been necessary as well. Though Providence will resume in-person, indoor worship on March 14, the fact that many churches in Charlotte decided to do this long before now has been a source of frustration for some of us. I understand that. The truth, though, is that *all* of us have had our patience tested during these twelve months apart. We *all* know what it's like to wait.

Now, it appears that our long wait is over, and our diaspora (dispersed) days are coming to an end. With more people receiving vaccines each day and warmer weather on the way, we have good reason to be optimistic about what lies before us.

With hopeful spirits, then, let us look ahead together. As the spring progresses, we will gradually regather on Randolph Road to worship, learn, serve, pray,

and fellowship with one another. But we need to understand: The church we'll come back to will not be the same church we left last March. Some members have died. Others have drifted away. A few new members have joined. People now have the option of engaging in worship from their bonus rooms instead of in our Sanctuary. Things will look different when we come back to church.

Bill Wilson, director of the Center for Healthy Churches, estimates that it might take two to three years for churches to settle into a rhythm that resembles a "new normal." Returning to church will be less like flipping a switch, and more like the beginning of a process. Our Covid-19 Task Force is already testing our plan for safely resuming in-person, indoor worship. Our staff is working on plans for rebooting our ministry programs. Seasoned volunteers will need to get the rust out after a year off. People who've never volunteered to serve at Providence will need to step up. All of us who call Providence home will need to continue giving generously. We will be rebuilding for a while.

That sounds daunting. But it's not unprecedented. God's people have rebuilt before, under more difficult circumstances and with more challenges to overcome. We think *one* year has been tough. The Old Testament book of Nehemiah recounts how God's people returned to Jerusalem after spending more than *seventy* years exiled in Babylon. The city they came back to was not the city they left. There was a great deal of rebuilding to do. Many doubted it could be done.

Read the story of Nehemiah. I predict that you'll hear me refer to it frequently in 2021—and maybe into 2022—so you might as well get familiar with the story. Here's how it ends: God's people rebuild Jerusalem. To get it done, they had to be innovative and they had to be patient. We've proven over the last twelve months that we possess these virtues. Rebuilding also required effort, commitment, tenacity, and courage. We've seen these qualities in action at Providence before.

Nehemiah and his fellow builders understood, however, that enduring success would come not as a result of their own effort but, rather, as a consequence of God's blessing. This truth is a consistent message throughout Scripture. So, let us begin *now* praying for God's blessing as we look forward to what lies ahead on the other side of this pandemic. It's getting closer every day.

May the peace of Christ be with you!

## Planning for the Future



The Providence Covid-19 Task Force met on February 24 after the governor of North Carolina announced revised safety recommendations for indoor gatherings. Public health officials now say that indoor spaces such as movie theaters can open to either 30% capacity or 250 people, whichever number is smaller. Because the Task Force had been waiting for an announcement allowing 150 people, Providence has begun the process of regathering in our Sanctuary with the goal of resuming indoor, in-person worship on Sunday, March 14.

We began running trials of our safety protocols on February 28 with a group of deacon volunteers serving as "pioneers" for this regathering process. These deacon pioneers will also be part of the second trial run on Sunday, March 7. Assuming that all goes well in these trial runs, we will open the Sanctuary for up to 150 people (a number slightly below 30% of our capacity) to worship together the following week. Between now and March 14, we will be communicating our safety protocols via email (and also with a special paper mailing) in order to advise everyone about what to expect when coming to worship. We will also share instructions for making worship reservations, a practice that will help keep our numbers below the safety threshold. Individuals who have ongoing health concerns, or are members of a vulnerable population, should still use their best judgement about whether or not to attend worship in the Sanctuary.

Regathering for in-person, indoor worship is the first step in our reopening process. The next step will be resuming in-person, indoor Sunday school classes. It will likely be awhile before we will be ready to take this next step—but when the time comes, we will communicate that information as clearly and quickly as we can.

From the beginning of the pandemic, the Task Force's goal has been for Providence to regather as soon as we believe it's safe to do so. It's been hard to wait so long for something that we all want so much, but the time has finally come for us to begin regathering with grateful hearts and joyful spirits. As we do so, let's continue to love our neighbors by doing our part to limit this virus by following responsible safety practices, whether we're at church or in the community.

## Minister on Call

Although Covid-19 restrictions keep us from being **PHYSICALLY** present for our members, we can always be emotionally and spiritually present!

Our ministers continue to find new ways to support the Providence congregation amid Covid-19 restrictions. If you have a need, please call the number below and be connected to one of our ministers any time, day or night.



**Minister on call:**  
704.366.4030x147





Julia Wright

## Getting Ready Class

**Sundays in March**  
Grades 3 – 5

Our Getting Ready series is for older children who are thinking about becoming Christians.

Join us Sunday March 7, 14, and 21 at 9:00am in Room 2232. Class size is limited.

Connect with Julia Wright to register.  
jwright@providencecbc.org

## It's Recognition Time!

**Sunday, March 14**  
5:00pm Gazebo

It's time to celebrate our Bible Drillers and our Bible Buddies.



Make Disciples

Wear your mask and bring your lawn chair to the Gazebo. We'll be sitting outside socially distanced so that our children can show their parents and grandparents what they've learned!

## RA Racer Day

**Saturday, March 13**  
4:00pm Gazebo

They have painted and prepped their race cars.



Now it's time for our Royal Ambassadors to put their cars to the test.

We are moving the track **OUTDOORS** so we can race! Join us at the Gazebo as we cheer on our RAs.

Hey, RAs: please arrive at 3:30pm with your race car so we can check you in.

For more information about the Children's Ministry, contact Kristen Hendrix at 704.366.4030x125 or khendrix@providencecbc.org.

## From Mrs. Ursula's Desk



Ursula Taylor

I can hardly believe that we are already headed into spring! It will be here before we know it. When I think about spring, I think about new life and growth. We tend to think of growth in terms of baby animals, trees, and plants, but not always in terms of personal growth.

Several years ago, I read a book entitled "StrengthsQuest" by Drs. D. Clifton, C. Anderson and L. Schreiner. The book is about the identification and utilization of one's strengths/growth. The book's premise is that we focus so much on what is "wrong" that we have a difficult time seeing what is "right." We are so busy trying to fix our flaws that our strengths are underutilized. This causes us to stifle our growth potential.

If I were to ask you for a list of your weaknesses, most of you would be able to give me a list as long as your arm, but if I asked for a list of your strengths most would probably struggle to even come up with five. At times, we see ourselves in a very harsh light. But this is not how God sees us. He sees us as He created us, with all our God-given talents. He sees us for what we can be! Psalm 139:13-14 comes to mind. "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well."

In studying the book, I found that successful people consistently adhere to the following:

1. They build their lives around their strengths.
2. They manage their weaknesses.
3. They invent ways to take their strengths into the area of their lives that they want to improve.

When these tactics for living are brought under the lordship of Jesus Christ, great growth can happen. Our human strength and our human plans will fail us, but not the Lord's. Zechariah 4:6 tells us "'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the LORD Almighty."

I encourage you to take a good look at how you view yourself. Do you focus on your weaknesses or do you maximize your strengths? How does this translate into how you raise your child? For me, it was a sobering reality. I want my children and the children here at Providence Weekday Ministry to be raised with the knowledge that God has endowed them with a purpose, and that He has provided them with the gifts to accomplish His plans for their lives. I want them to grow and mature into all that God would like them to be. Let's teach them together!

*Ursula S. Taylor*

## Best Playdough Recipe

- |                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1 cup of flour        | 1 tbsp cooking oil |
| 2 tsp cream of tartar | 1 cup water        |
| 1/2 cup salt          | Food coloring      |

Mix food coloring with water first. Then add the vegetable oil and water mixture to a large pot. Add the dry ingredients to your pot and mix well. Cook over low to medium heat until the dough starts to form and becomes dry. Once it starts to form a ball, remove from heat. Once cool, knead for 5 minutes. Voila!

## St. Patrick's Day Fun

**Wednesday, March 17**

March 17 is St. Patrick's Day and our Weekday Education Ministry children and staff will be wearing all shades of green! And to top it off, our classes will be participating in school-wide hands on activities.

Sounds like we've got the "luck of the Irish!"



## Save the Date!

**Hometown Nazareth**  
Vacation Bible School 2021  
June 21 – 25  
9:00am - 12:00pm

Our Vacation Bible School Leadership Team is making plans for a wonderful week of Bible learning for our children.

This year, we will spend the week in Nazareth, the hometown of Jesus.

We will experience Bible times food, go to the marketplace to see the shopkeepers, and hear from Mary, the mother of Jesus. Stories of Jesus will be at the forefront of our week!



Engage Cotswold

We encourage all children ages rising K – 5th grade completed to participate. Space is limited this year due to Covid guidelines. Providence families can take advantage of early registration from March 25 – 31.

Register at [www.providencevbs.org](http://www.providencevbs.org).

Want to help with Bible School? We need you! Connect with Julia Wright.  
jwright@providencecbc.org

## Weekday Fall Registration

**Open Now**

It's an exciting time for our Weekday Education Ministry as we prepare for this fall. That means enrollment is open for the 2021 - 2022 school year. We've got a few slots remaining, so spread the word.



Online registration is available at:  
[www.providencecbc2.org](http://www.providencecbc2.org)

(Click on Providence Baptist Church for Weekday registration form.)

## Lent and the Pigeon's Nest



Dane Jackson

*“There is a whole sensible world around me that I should be able to turn to Your praise; but I cannot do it. Yet at some insipid moment when I may possibly be thinking of floor wax or pigeon eggs, the opening of a beautiful prayer may come up from my subconscious and lead me to write something exalted. I am not a philosopher or I could understand these things.”*

Flannery O'Connor, A Prayer Journal

Spending A LOT of time at home during the pandemic has afforded me time to engage in budding hobbies, one of which is bird watching. And in this season of Lent, I have become fascinated with biblical ornithology (the study of biblical birds.) One thing I learned is that the dove of the Gospels, the bird whose form the Spirit takes at the Jordan River, is none other than a Palestinian rock pigeon.

A pigeon. The kind of bird you'd meet at the park bench or under a concrete bridge. I don't know what I thought it was before. Something holier, perhaps, a bit more polite—or at least something clean.

The dove that I remember is the champion of all things soapy and delicate. It belongs on bulletins or in stained-glass windows. Just search for clip-art of our ecclesial mascot and you'll find the image is always the same: safe, pristine, and creamy white. It's the Holy Spirit of God, after all. Don't call it a pigeon.

Pigeons are gawky, obnoxious creatures. When they're not weighing down power lines or snooping around trashcans, they're flying into pedestrians, carrying disease, and making a general mess of the structures we've worked so hard to erect. Occasionally you'll find the spotless variety, but most are a filthy mix of brown, green, and gray. “Rats with wings.”

I could think of better options ... the mighty eagle of Exodus and Isaiah, the resourceful ravens sent to Elijah—why not one of these for the Spirit whose power raised Christ from the dead? I'm still discovering the answer.

But this Lenten season I'm struck by a God who enters the world ash-colored and pigeon-faced. Maybe I need this God. Maybe that's what Lent was always about. The Holy Spirit, fluttering from trashcan to trashcan, finding her way past the park bench and into a crevice of concrete. Maybe she's building a nest there, and in the words of C. S. Lewis, “we are like eggs”—flightless, fragile, and profoundly dependent.

Lent, it seems, is the time of year we come clean about our “eggishness.” In this season of repentance, we confess the hard shells that perpetually keep us from others, surroundings, and selves. The walls, when we're honest, are all that we've ever known; yet each day we feel them close in a little tighter. We cannot stay in them forever.

Now and again we feel a peculiar pressure coming from somewhere else, the faintest sensation of warmth. Sometimes we hear what seems to be a song in the night, though it may be mere imaginings. Nevertheless, we lean into it. We thrash toward it. We know not yet if these walls can be broken, but we have no choice if we want to keep living. And so we try.

Meanwhile, a mother pigeon coos over her eggs. Something exalted is being born.

*\*For more information on the Palestinian rock Pigeon, check out Debbie Blue's “Consider the Birds: A Provocative Guide to Birds of the Bible.”*

## Zoom Hangouts

Wednesdays and Sundays



Enjoy mid-week and weekend hangouts  
Sundays at 5:00pm and  
Wednesdays at 6:00pm.  
Catch up, play, share,  
and hear from God's

Word in a relaxed call with your friends.

## Student Devotionals

Each Sunday Morning

Watch a video  
devotional each  
Sunday morning on  
the website or Student  
YouTube channel.



For more information about the Student Ministry, contact George Mulley at 704.366.4030x116 or gmulley@providencebc.org.

## Driveway Hangouts

Thursdays at 4:00pm

Sign up to hang out with Dane after school (socially distanced, of course). He'll bring along your favorite snack and beverage!



Sign-up required.  
Go to the website for details.

## Backyard Bonfires

Select Fridays at 6:00pm & 7:30pm

Join in for a night of socially distanced fun, food, and bonfire at host family homes. These events have limited space and registration is required to attend. Visit the website for more details.



## What's Next

Sunday, March 28 at 7:00pm | Virtual

The transition from high school to college is not only daunting for our students, but it is a huge life change for parents and families as well. What makes it better? Knowledge! Because knowledge is power!

Parents AND Students: Caitie and Dane Jackson will combine knowledge and expertise for this seminar designed to equip you for “What's Next” in the transition from student ministry to college ministry. Sign up on the Student page.



## Parent Town Hall

Look for it this month! Virtual

This meeting is open to parents of current and future students. At this meeting you will have the opportunity to:

- Hear Dane's report on the “State of Student Ministry,” both in the context of Providence and the broader country.
- Hear a brief report on upcoming and past events.
- Ask questions of Dane (and of each other) that pertain to parenting, ministering to students and families, or visioning for the future.



Relationships are built and sustained by trust, honesty, and communication. The goal of these meetings is to create a

safe space for conversations to happen, questions to be asked, and for our faith and trust in each other to be built. Let us continue to build each other up as partners in the faith formation of our students. For more information, please visit the website.

## Meet Dr. Stephanie Kemper

Look for it this month! Virtual

Parents of students are invited to a special conversation with Dr. Stephanie Kemper, founder of Foundation Family Care, on the subject of how the pandemic is affecting the development of today's teenagers.



For more information, please visit the website.

To sign up for events, go to the Student Ministry page on the website at [www.providencebc.org/students](http://www.providencebc.org/students).

**Moments for Music**



Timothy Hill

The ways in which we make music have certainly changed this past year. We cannot simply gather in a room to sing our favorite hymn, and even our best efforts to make music together (safely) can be difficult. However, music remains a much-needed vehicle for hope and inspiration. Songs have a way of evoking fond memories, allowing us to recall better days, which, in turn, can fill us with renewed hope. When your favorite song comes on the radio, do you ever say, “turn that down”? I think not. We all love to sing along to our favorites, because they bring us great joy.

One of my favorite hymns is one I’d call an “oldy but goody,” and it answers that age-old question: *how did Jesus take his tea?* That’s right, little do most know, but Jesus did not use sugar, or Equal, or even Splenda ... he used Sweet and Low. (OK, that was a full on Dad Joke, but I do love this hymn.) Check out these wonderful lyrics and sing along with those nearby ... be sure to harmonize on the refrain!

“He Keeps Me Singing” (Luther Bridgers, 1910)

**There’s within my heart a melody; Jesus whispers sweet and low,  
“Fear not, I am with you, peace, be still,” in all of life’s ebb and flow.**

*Refrain*

Je - sus, Je - sus, Je - sus— Sweet - est name I know,  
Fills my ev - ery long - ing, Keeps me sing - ing as I go.

Indeed, this hymn is a great reminder of where to place our hope and trust—especially during difficult times. The promise of God isn’t that everything will be perfect, but that Jesus will walk with us, giving us strength for each day. The third stanza reminds us again of that promise.

**Though sometimes He leads through waters deep, trials fall across the way;  
Though sometimes the path seems rough and steep, see His footprints all the way.**

I hope you’ll take some time to reflect on this wonderful hymn, and then to sing it! Grab your sweet tea, raise your voice, and keep on singing as you go! May the peace of Christ be with you.

For more information regarding the Music Ministry contact Caitie Jackson at 704.366.4030x121 or [cjackson@providencebc.org](mailto:cjackson@providencebc.org).

**Sunday Worship**

**Virtual at 10:30am**



**March 7**

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

**March 14**

Numbers 21:4-9

**March 21**

Blake Kendrick Preaching  
Jeremiah 31:31-34

**Palm Sunday, March 28**

Isaiah 50:4-9a

**Easter Sunday, April 5**

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

**“Sharing the Word”**

**Every Wednesday in Lent**

9:00am

Website and Facebook LIVE

Find peace mid-week as you consider Scripture and ponder the journey to the cross. Our ministers will share a weekly reading from the Lectionary on Facebook LIVE.

These Wednesday readings will be short and contemplative. We invite you to “share the Word” with your friends by sharing the video on your social media pages.



**Production Teaming**



Worshiping in new ways creates opportunities for service. As we continue to refine our live-stream platform, helping Providence extend the Word of God to *all the world*, volunteers are needed for the ongoing production of this new arm of ministry. Training for these new teams will begin soon. For more information, or to express your interest in serving, contact Tim Hill. [thill@providencebc.org](mailto:thill@providencebc.org)

**Holy Week**

**\*\*In Person Options\*\***

**Maundy Thursday**

Thursday, April 1 at 7:00pm

**Good Friday Worship**

Friday, April 2 at Noon  
Front Lawn

(Also available on Facebook LIVE)

**Rock Hunt**

Saturday, April 3 at 10:00am  
Activity Center

**Easter Worship**

Sunday, April 4  
Sunrise at the Gazebo at 6:45am  
Easter Worship at 10:30am



**\*\*Virtual Options\*\***

**Good Friday Worship**

Friday, April 2 at Noon  
Facebook LIVE

**Easter Worship**

Sunday, April 4 @ 10:30am  
[www.providencebc.org/providence-virtual-worship](http://www.providencebc.org/providence-virtual-worship)

**Bake the Bread of Life**

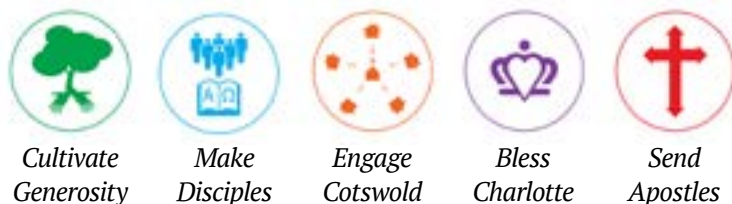


Blake Kendrick

Just imagine a warm, wholesome loaf of bread fresh out of the oven. It engages all the senses, and it nourishes the soul. Are you an experienced bread baker? (Or perhaps you have a bread machine at home collecting dust on the bottom shelf of your pantry.) Do you enjoy hands-on ministry projects? Then I say: “Join me!” Bread bakers of Providence, unite!

God can use your baking skills to further the mission of Providence Baptist Church. This spring, you can be a part of a meaningful new ministry that will take common ingredients like flour, oil, salt, sugar, baking soda, and yeast, and turn them into fresh loaves of Christ’s love. This ministry will highlight all five of the Providence Will initiatives: Cultivate

Generosity, Make Disciples, Engage Cotswold, Bless Charlotte, and Send Apostles. Once we coordinate our efforts, we will begin baking fresh bread for our homebound church members, our neighbors here in Cotswold, and those near us who need to be reminded of God’s grace and comfort. Bread will become for us a visual, tangible prayer, a gift of God’s love for others. With fresh baked bread, we will help Providence nourish relationships, invite others to join our church, welcome our new neighbors to Cotswold, and remind our city that we care because God cares. For every one loaf of bread that we bake for a member of Providence, we will also bake a loaf for one of our surrounding neighbors in the community. You’re invited to join with Christ, Himself, who took bread, blessed it, broke it, and shared it with others. To learn more about this new opportunity for direct, community-impacting outreach, email Blake Kendrick today ([bkendrick@providencebc.org](mailto:bkendrick@providencebc.org)).



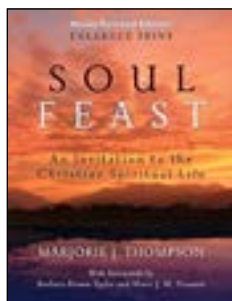
**“Soul Feast” Update**

**Prayer Retreat**

Saturday, March 27 at 10:00am

We are concluding our 10-week study of this great book with an outdoor, socially-distanced prayer retreat. Haven’t been a part of the study? It’s ok. Join us anyway!

[bkendrick@providencebc.org](mailto:bkendrick@providencebc.org)



**Thursday Bible Study**

Every Thursday, Providence adults are invited to learn and grow together in Christian discipleship. We are in the midst of an 11-week journey through Matthew’s Gospel, retracing Matthew’s account of Jesus’ life and public ministry, culminating with the saga of Holy Week and Easter.

If you haven’t joined us already, consider “tuning in” as we dig deep into God’s Word. Watch for the video link in each Wednesday edition of the Diaspora email. Join at any time and do the study on “your” time!



Make Disciples

**Cooking with Kendrick**

Wednesday, March 17

12:00pm

Don’t forget Blake’s Facebook LIVE event, where he’ll demonstrate how to make Cajun Chicken & Sausage Alfredo Pasta. Don’t miss his trademark smile and chef skills. Mark your calendars for upcoming shows: April 21, and May 19

For more information regarding Adult Discipleship contact Blake Kendrick at 704.366.4030x126 or [bkendrick@providencebc.org](mailto:bkendrick@providencebc.org).

**Share Your Joy**

What do you do with your used Sunday School materials? Recycle them? Don’t! Share the joy!

The Missions Committee will be partnering with Love Packages to send gently-used, out-of-date Sunday School materials into the mission field.

A big thanks to Teresa Moore and the Christian Lifestyles Sunday School Class for this innovative idea.

Love Packages is a non-profit ministry that sends over 1,000 tons of Bibles, out-of-date Sunday School books, and used devotional materials to English-speaking people all over the world. This is a great way to “recycle” your gently-used Sunday school booklets.

**You Can Help**

Want to participate? Drop off your gently used, out-of-date Sunday school booklets at the church. (A weatherproof bin will be placed outside the Rotunda entrance near the end of March.) The Missions Committee will take care of the rest.

**Drive Through Event**

**March Mission Collection**

Sunday, March 14  
1:00pm - 2:00pm

It’s time to Bless Charlotte! We will be driving through once again and bringing in items for our missions partner Families Forward Charlotte.



Drive through the Sanctuary parking lot as we collect:

- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels
- Food Lion Gift Cards
- Walmart Gift Cards
- Small Tool Kits



Bless Charlotte

Let’s Bless Charlotte while we support our friends at Families Forward!

**“Cultivating Faith”**



Natie Lodato

Two of our favorite people are helping us cultivate faith during this season of Lent. Natalie Lodato (member since 1993) and Sarah Blackwell (member since 2003) are employing their amazing talents to give us different ways to look at our faith with “Cultivating Faith: A Lenten Art Series.”

Natalie will be creating seven original pieces of artwork that will be featured during the seven Sundays of Lent. Her images build upon the theme of an acorn; first it cracks open, then a small seedling emerges, then finally it grows into a majestic oak. The artwork will move from darker tones towards lighter tones, from “despair” toward resurrection!

Sarah will be taking these images, and the words associated with them, and using them to create poems or word art that will help us dive deeper as we journey closer and closer to the Easter cross.

We will feature these pieces on our social media platforms ( Facebook and Instagram), so follow Providence for first looks.



Sarah Blackwell

## In Sympathy

Our love and prayers surround those who have lost loved ones. With sympathy we remember:



- Deborah Bass, who lost her husband, Marion Bass, Jr. (1.27)
- Dorothea Compton, who lost her nephew, Steven Burl Compton (1.26)
- Bernice Evans, who lost her husband, Tom Evans (1.29)
- Rusty Haigler, who lost his mother, Sarah Bolger Haigler (1.31)  
Sarah was Martha Haigler's mother-in-law.
- Harold DeVoe Jordan (2.14)
- Don Preston Jones (2.17)

## A Note of Appreciation

*I cannot find the words to express my appreciation for the outpouring of love you've shown Anne and me through the many cards, letters, and meals we have received. I am not accustomed to being on the receiving end. Hooah!* *Harold Eddins*

## Be Sure. Get Notified!



We have developed a new way to communicate losses in our church family.

Beginning March 1, we will be notifying our church family of deaths using Constant Contact. (This is the same way we send our churchwide Diaspora email.) The loss will be emailed to the entire church family as soon as we learn of it. The email will include a link to an information sheet which will be updated continuously as we receive additional information.

In other words, as soon as we know of a death we will pass it along to everyone who is on our church email list. Once we know funeral arrangements and memorial requests, we will update the information sheet attached to the email. All you have to do is return to the original email and click the link provided to receive updated information.

**If you do not receive our current church email and would like to be included in our communications, please contact Summer Sneed.**

ssneed@providencebc.org | 704.366.4030x127

## Is This YOUR Ministry??

Could Stephen Ministry be YOUR Ministry?

Stephen Ministers reach out with God's love to people who are hurting—both congregation members and non-members alike.

- Pray for God to bring hope and healing to people through Stephen Ministry.
- Accept Care from a Stephen Minister during your time of need. God doesn't expect you to bear your burdens alone.
- Tell a friend, neighbor, coworker, or relative who is hurting about Stephen Ministry.

Ephesians 4:12 tells us that our responsibility is to "equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up."

If you are a good listener and a compassionate person, prayerfully consider becoming a Stephen Minister.

*Submitted by Bill Griffin*



For more information contact:  
Martha Haigler  
mhaigler@providencebc.org  
or 704.608.7947

## From the Senior Adult Committee



Earlier this month, I found myself walking down memory lane by re-reading the Connections from 2016. (Go to the church website. You can find the last four year's worth of newsletters!) I found a list of past members of the Senior Adult Committee, which would not exist without church members who volunteer for their three years of service. We owe a big "Thank You" to these people for sharing their time and experience over the years:

Inez Arant, George Crouch, Donna Eason, Jean Hyman Nelms, Pike Jones, Linda McConnell, Tom O'Neal, Jesse Oxendine, Vivian Philson, Ray Partain, David Pyatt, Dan Simon, Sylvia Stockard, Martha Swain, and Louise Warren

You and those before you laid a solid foundation for this committee.

Our current committee wants to maintain this foundation and keep our PrimeTimers/senior adults involved at Providence. Current committee members include Bonnie Adams, Pauline Bethea, Sylvia Case, Maxine Dunn, Darren Griffin, Marlyn Morton, Glenn McConnell, Dawn O'Neal, and Wilna Eury (along with staff liaison Rev. Blake Kendrick). We meet monthly, working on ideas to engage our senior adults.

We hope everyone enjoyed our virtual program on February 18th ("The Art of Lent") and we look forward to our next virtual program on Thursday, March 18th ("Saint Patrick, the Celts, and the Scottish Isles"). Stay tuned for details regarding this presentation and our April 15th event (which hopefully will be held at the church Gazebo).

Each year, three members rotate off and three rotate on most every committee at Providence. The Nominating Committee will soon begin its search for volunteers to serve, not only for our committee, but for all church committees. Give some thought to getting involved with the Senior Adult Committee and enjoy our fellowship, good food, and entertainment. Please say "Yes" when you are contacted to serve!

*Submitted by Wilna Eury*

## PrimeTimers Online

Thursday, March 18

12:00pm

"Saint Patrick, the Celts, and the Scottish Isles"  
presented by Blake Kendrick.

Details will appear  
in our Diaspora email mid-March.

Are you out of the loop? Get IN it!  
Contact Summer Sneed.

ssneed@providencebc.org | 704.366.4030x127

## DST Spring Forward

Sunday, March 14

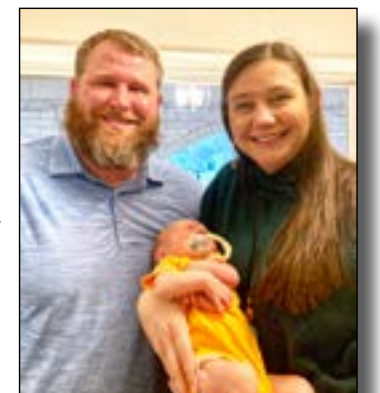
Daylight Saving  
Time begins.

Set your clock ahead  
one hour before bed  
Saturday night!



## New Members

**Greg and Margaret Thompson** joined Providence on February 7. Margaret found Providence through our Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPs) group. Their son, George, was born January 14. Welcome to Providence, Thompson family!



## On Second Thought

Every Monday morning, Lee Canipe sends a sermon "follow up." The timely email arrives in your inbox with a question, a challenge, or a point to ponder based on the previous day's sermon.



Think of it as a step further in your ongoing conversation with God.

Want to give it a try? Subscribe by emailing connections@providencebc.org and ask for "On Second Thought."



## CROP Walk Follow Up

The city-wide Charlotte CROP Walk raised \$160,000 this year, which is outstanding in light of the difficulties of contacting people due to coronavirus. The Charlotte Teams ranked 2nd out of approximately 700 walks throughout the country.

The Providence Baptist Church Team raised \$10,115 and ranked 2nd highest out of all the Charlotte Teams! (Well done!) In addition, the Missions Committee provided a sponsorship of \$1,500. That helped cover all administrative costs so that virtually all the money raised by the Teams went to support individuals and families dealing with hunger and poverty issues both here in Charlotte and around the world. Thanks to all those who did a virtual walk, those team members who solicited the donations and those who gave! Bravo!



Karen and David Miller

Submitted by David Miller

## Providence Prayer Team

Need Prayer?

Unleash the power of prayer. We have prayer warriors just waiting to pray for you, your friend, your spouse,

your child, your co-worker. This dedicated group will stand in the gap for anyone who asks. All information is kept strictly confidential and each need is treated with great respect and importance. And no request should be considered too small! Reach out to a minister with your need or follow this link:

[www.providencebc2.org/prayer-request](http://www.providencebc2.org/prayer-request)

Add our voices to yours.  
Let us pray for you!

## 2021 Conference Dates



Upcoming  
Quarterly  
Conference  
Dates

Stay active and connected by planning to participate in each quarterly conference in 2021.

### Q2 Conference

Wednesday, April 14 at 7:00pm

### Q3 Conference

Wednesday, July 14 at 7:00pm

### Q4 Conference

Wednesday, October 13 at 7:00pm

## CBF Annual Gathering

More than Enough

March 18-19 | Virtual



Always wanted to “go” but never found the time? This year, just “go” to your computer.

It isn't a very long journey!

Register NOW!

[www.cbfnc.org/annual-gathering/registration](http://www.cbfnc.org/annual-gathering/registration)

## Endowment Requests

The Providence Baptist Church Endowment Committee is accepting Endowment Grant Requests until March 31st.

Have you seen a need at Providence? Make an endowment request and help us address it!

The Endowment Committee will meet in April to determine which requests will be approved for 2021.



Requests should be made in writing using the Grant Request Form available online:

[www.providencebc2.org](http://www.providencebc2.org)

## The Gym Is OPEN!

Need to get fit? Come to church!

Our indoor track and fitness room are open. And we are taking all the precautions to keep you safe during Covid. Simply sign up online for your time in the gym.

Look for the weekly link in the churchwide Diaspora email.



Need to ask questions? Call or email Katelyn DeVane.

[kdevane@providencebc.org](mailto:kdevane@providencebc.org)  
704.366.4030x103

## Are YOU a Pilgrim?

How about joining us for the Providence Virtual Pilgrimage! There is still time for you to be a part of this unique experience!



Are you looking for an excuse to get outside as the weather gets warmer? Come walk on the outdoor track or go for a run in your neighborhood. Keep track of your distance and be a part of our collective journey through Lent.

If you want to join, email Katelyn DeVane to find out how to log your miles.  
[kdevane@providencebc.org](mailto:kdevane@providencebc.org)  
Let's see how far we can go together!

## The Realm Advantage

Providence has been on “Realm” for more than two years now. We've discovered more ways to engage, easier options for finding information, and faster forms of communication. “What's THIS?” you say! Realm.

**\*\*The greatest tool you don't know you have!\*\***

Realm is a ministry tool just for our church. It offers many great features, allowing members to find other member information, check out committee assignments and view upcoming events. Members can also view graphs of their online giving versus pledges, see their giving statements and make online gifts.

So, how do YOU start using this great tool? Contact the church office. We will send you an email invitation to create a Realm account. There is a link at the bottom of the email. Click the link and it will take you to the “Create an account” page. Our church logo is on the page. **The Link is active for 24 hours.**

Once you have your account set up, you can return to your Realm account online at [WWW.ONREALM.ORG](http://WWW.ONREALM.ORG), or download the Realm app on your smart phone.

Here's how to download the app:

1. The first step is to get the Realm app, so DOWNLOAD it from the APP Store.
2. Type in “REALM” in the APP Store search box and look for “CONNECT - Our Church.” The icon looks like this: 
3. Then, click the “GET” box and download the app.
4. First things first, set up your profile. You can add as much or as little information as you like. (You can update it at any time.)
5. Questions? Call us. We can help.

And there. You're done. You can even make payments through the Realm app. Say you want to pay for your PrimeTimers' luncheon. Use the app. Sending your student to summer camp? Pay through the app. Use the app! Sounds good, right? It IS!

Questions?

Amy Shoemaker / 704.366.4030x141.





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704.366.2784



### RA Racer Competition

Saturday, March 13 at 4:00pm  
Gazebo



### Drive Through Blessing Event

Sunday, March 14 From 1:00pm - 2:00pm  
Sanctuary Parking Lot



### PrimeTimers' Virtual Special

Thursday, March 18  
Online



### Church Prayer Retreat

Saturday, March 27 at 10:00am  
McDowell Nature Preserve

Cover photo credit: Hartley Sneed - Easter Cross on the Providence Front Lawn

## Next Connections is April 1, 2021.

Deadline for submitting articles,  
photos, or announcements is  
**Noon, Monday, March 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



**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