



the INVITATION

Providence Season of Lent

Ash Wednesday: Meal, Reflective Exercise, and Communion, Wednesday, March 1, 6:00pm, Fellowship Hall

Service and Imposition of Ashes, Wednesday, March 1, 7:00pm, Sanctuary

Discipleship Class: Study "He Chose the Nails", Sundays, March 5 - April 16, 9:45am, Fellowship Hall

Soups and Rolls: Study "Mudhouse Sabbath", Wednesdays, March 8 - April 5, 6:00pm, Fellowship Hall

Maundy Thursday: Worship and Communion, Thursday, April 13, 7:00pm, Sanctuary

Good Friday: Worship Service, Friday, April 14, 7:00pm, Sanctuary

Easter: Sunrise Service, Sunday, April 16, 7:00am, Courtyard

Traditional Worship Service, Sunday, April 16, 11:00am, Sanctuary



The Season of Lent is a time of preparation for Easter and Holy Week. Lent, which was originally intended to imitate Jesus' forty days of temptation in the wilderness, begins on Ash Wednesday (March 1 - this year) and runs through Maundy Thursday (April 13).

The death and resurrection of Jesus the Christ are the very heart of the Christian gospel with Good Friday and Easter recognized by most as the two most significant days of the Christian year.

Please join us during this season as we focus on, explore and deepen our understanding of the importance of Christ's sacrifice for each of us.

It is only by walking through the darkness of Holy Week that we can truly understand the light and hope of Easter morning...

Support the JEANS Drive!



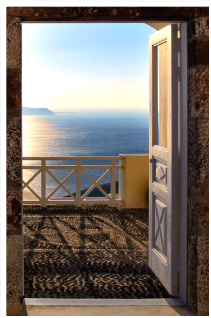
Recycle your gently used blue jeans by donating them to the homeless.

Providence Presbyterian is collecting jeans for the homeless during the Season of Lent. Place your jean donation on the Shoe/JeanTree located in the Fellowship Hall between now and Easter Sunday.

From My Open Door

Jeffery Bell, Pastor

As early as the Third Century, Christians devoted themselves to prepare for the celebration of Easter. From the end of worship on Good Friday to the celebration of the Resurrection (equal to the time Jesus spent in the tomb) Christians would fast.



History shows that the length of preparation for Easter increased from fasting after Good Friday to one week to three weeks and then to six weeks, excluding Sundays. In the Seventh Century the western church decided on a forty day preparation for Easter: six weeks of six days (again, excluding Sunday) for a total of 36, and then four days before that first Sunday of preparation (which is why Lent begins on Ash Wednesday). Forty days symbolizes the forty days that Moses dwelled on Mount Sinai (Exodus 24:18), the forty days Elijah journeyed to Mount Horeb (1 Kings 19:8), and the forty days Jesus fasted in the wilderness (Matthew 4:2).

The season of Lent provides an opportunity for Christians to prepare for the coming celebration of Easter. Lent is not comprised of several opportunities from which we pick and choose one or two, but a total length of time as one unit to prepare.

With that in mind it is my hope that each of us takes advantage of this six week opportunity to prepare to celebrate Easter. So that after six weeks of dedicated preparation, the Gospel proclamation of Good Friday and Easter Sunday will be that much sweeter to taste.



See you in church.

Support the Youth 2017 Summer Workcamp

Our annual **Workcamp** fundraising dinner will be hosted at Providence on Saturday, April 8 at 6:00pm.

Tickets go on sale March 12th!

Only \$10.00 per ticket

A great meal for a great cause!



Dinner provided by our friends from
**ABERDEEN BARN
STEAKHOUSE**

- God Time with the Guys - 2017 Summer Men's Conference

Folks don't think anything of a group of women from a church attending an event together. However, many think that the possibility of a group of men from a church gathering to focus on their faith and getting to know one another better, as unusual. This year, men have a wonderful opportunity to get away to break the stereotypes and enjoy some guy and God time!

The Synod of the Mid-Atlantic Presbyterian Men is sponsoring a men's conference from July 14 - 16, this year at the Massanetta Springs Conference Center (in Harrisonburg, Virginia). The conference will be based on the Micah 6: 8 text regarding the Lord's call for us to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with our God. The conference offers a Friday through Sunday opportunity to get away from the pressures of work and family, to make time to look more deeply at personal faith while enjoying activities like hiking, eating watermelon & ice cream and enjoying some good old-fashioned fellowship.

Additional information may be found at "www.midatlanticmen.org" or by contacting Tracy Gilbert (tracygilbert8@gmail.com).

THIS MONTH AT PROVIDENCE

WEDNESDAY, March 1

6:00pm Ash Wednesday Service

SATURDAY, March 4

7:30am Men's Fellowship Breakfast

SUNDAY, March 5

- First Sunday of Lent -

8:45am Merry Bells

9:45am Sunday School

11:00am Worship & Communion

12:15pm Congregational Care Meeting

12:30pm Youth Mission Matters

MONDAY, March 6

7:00pm Boys Scouts

7:00pm Committee Chairs Meet

7:30pm Committee Meetings

TUESDAY, March 7

12:00pm Gad-A-Bouts Meeting

7:30pm Bells of Providence

WEDNESDAY, March 8

9:45am Mary & Martha Circle

6:00pm Soup & Rolls

7:15pm Chancel Choir

THURSDAY, March 9

7:00pm Women's Bible Study

FRIDAY, March 10

- Couples Retreat -

SATURDAY, March 11

- Couples Retreat -

SUNDAY, March 12

- Second Sunday of Lent -

- Couples Retreat -

8:45am Merry Bells

9:45am Sunday School

11:00am Worship

MONDAY, March 13

7:00pm Session Meeting

TUESDAY, March 14

10:00am Dorcas Circle

7:30pm Bells of Providence

WEDNESDAY, March 15

- Newsletter Deadline -

6:00pm Soup & Rolls

7:15pm Chancel Choir

THURSDAY, March 16

7:00pm Care Team

SATURDAY, March 18

8:30am Courtyard Graces

SUNDAY, March 19

- Third Sunday of Lent -

8:45am Merry Bells

9:45am Sunday School

11:00am Worship

12:15pm PPWCT

MONDAY, March 20

7:00pm Boys Scouts

TUESDAY, March 21

7:30pm Bells of Providence

WEDNESDAY, March 22

6:00pm Soup & Rolls

7:15pm Chancel Choir

SATURDAY, March 25

6:00pm Italian Night

SUNDAY, March 26

- Fourth Sunday of Lent -

8:45am Merry Bells

9:45am Sunday School

11:00am Worship

12:15pm Care Team Tea

MONDAY, March 27

7:00pm Boys Scouts

TUESDAY, March 28

7:30pm Bells of Providence

WEDNESDAY, March 29

6:00pm Soup & Rolls

7:15pm Chancel Choir



HE CHOSE THE NAILS  MAX LUCADO

Sundays, March 5 - April 16,
9:45am, Fellowship Hall

BIRTHDAYS

03/01 Wendi Thomas

03/01 Ben Schroeder

03/01 Nancy Lindgren

03/01 Erin Flynn

03/02 Sue Bell

03/04 Jim Lytle

03/04 Abbi Boose

03/05 Beryl Fisher

03/05 Ted Salter

03/06 Jasmine Stewart

03/07 Cheul Kang

03/07 Mike Polychroni

03/09 Jonathan Hyslop

03/09 Dianne Stockmeier

03/10 Alice Sherman

03/10 Mary Ann Cook

03/14 Lisa Snell

03/15 Mike Flynn

03/17 Bob Sivigny

03/17 Frances Edwards

03/17 Marty Stephenson

03/18 Erin Sullivan

03/24 Bill Parker

03/24 Sue Gonzalez

03/25 Christine Ussery

03/27 Blake Birdwell

03/30 Gary Reese

03/31 Jessica Dorsch

03/31 Caitlin Dorsch

03/31 Nadine Olenych

03/31 Jeff Bell

LENTEN SOUP & ROLLS: USING NEW MATH

Back in the '60's, we were introduced to something called "the new math." When using new math, we sat aside the abacus, began to bring in personal calculators and entered a brand new way of looking at the complicated topics of math and science.

Every year during Lent, we take on the complicated task of thinking about trying to identify something that we might subtract (give up) during the Lenten season to help us better prepare for and focus on Easter. It's not unusual to see folks giving up chocolate, cell phone use or something else that's extremely hard to live without during Lent.

This year, you're invited to join us as we use some new math! Instead of (or in addition to) giving up something that's beloved, maybe it's a good time to add something to our life of faith. During the coming season, you'll be encouraged to add a spiritual discipline to your life.

To help us along the way, Lenten Soup & Rolls will be focused on Lauren Winner's wonderful book "Mudhouse Sabbath." Each week, we'll take a look at a different spiritual discipline.

March 1 Ash Wednesday The focus of Ash Wednesday is threefold: (1) to meditate on our morality, sinfulness and need for a savior; (2) to renew our commitment for daily repentance in all of life; and (3) to remember with confidence and gratitude that Christ has conquered death and sin.

This evening starts with a very simple dinner in The Fellowship Hall at 6:00PM where we begin to observe the most somber day in all of the church year. We are brought face to face with our need for forgiveness.

After dinner and a table exercise focused on the season of Lent, we'll move from the Fellowship Hall to the Sanctuary where our community of faith will be given the opportunity to receive the imposition of ashes, silently pray and reflect on the coming season.

March 8 "Sabbath Keeping" The fourth commandment reads: "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it, you shall do no work" (Exodus 20: 8-10). Sabbath embraces a special twenty-four hour rest time that's different from every other day. Other days of the week are given over to work, but the sabbath reminds people that they are finite. They cannot constantly be on the go. There are limits to their energy.

March 15 "Hospitality" Safe places and safe people are few and far between! True welcome and nurture seem a long-lost dream. Because we've been welcomed into the love of Christ and received as dearly loved children, we can offer the world a place of safety and healing.

The early church shaped their lives together around the practice of hospitality. "They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all people" (Acts 2: 46-47). Our world desperately needs safe people and safe places. Hospitality is one way that we become God's welcoming arms in a big and often hostile world.

March 22 "Fasting" Fasting has been part of the Judeo-Christian tradition for millennia. Fasting isn't a spiritual way to lose weight or control others. However, fasting does open us up to intentionally seeking God's will and grace in a way that goes beyond normal habits of worship and prayer.

Fasting also reminds us that we care about "soul" things. We care about the church. We care about others. We care about the world. So, we willingly set aside our appetite for food, for media, for shopping, etc. so that we can listen and attend to the voice and nourishment of God alone.

March 29 "Grief" How were you taught to grieve or mourn? Is it an individual or private process? Too often, we're taught that we should be brave; don't ever cry or look down-in-the-dumps! Truth be told, maybe the healthiest thing that we can do is to "grieve." Should our faith community develop a way to help brothers and sisters through the process of grief?

April 5 "Prayer" Prayer is a word that describes a relationship between God and ourselves. It's a relationship that we complicate by feeling badly if our words to God don't sound like they were spoken by Billy Graham. During this evening, we'll consider ways that simplify our conversations with God.

During the five weeks of Lent, we'll meet in the Fellowship Hall for our traditional Soup & Rolls programming based on the idea of new math. Make plans to spend Wednesdays in Lent with PPC Brothers and Sisters as we prepare for Easter!

ADDITIONAL HOLY WEEK & EASTER WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

April 9 Palm Sunday This day marks the beginning of Holy Week. On this day, we observe the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. It was marked by crowds, who were in Jerusalem for Passover, waving palm branches and proclaiming Him as the messianic king. We also know that the parade was short-lived. The one hailed as the Messiah would die as a criminal in less than a week. Worship, on this first day of Holy Week, begins at 11AM in the Sanctuary.

The reality is that we gather on this day knowing that the journey to the cross has begun...

April 13 Maundy Thursday This day commemorates the last day before Jesus was arrested. Events of this day included His last meal with the Disciples; the institution of communion; the betrayal by Judas and Jesus praying in Gethsemane (as the Disciples slept). Worship begins at 7:00PM in the Sanctuary.

When we share communion on Maundy Thursday, we share the memory of the act of deliverance that unfolds on the last days of Holy Week...

April 14 Good Friday On this day of mourning, we focus on Jesus' arrest, trial, crucifixion and suffering, death and burial. It is on this day that the saving work that Christ set forth to do, in obedience to the Father's will, is brought to completion. The Good Friday service begins at 7:00PM in the Sanctuary.

While Jesus' enemies appear to seize control and cause His death, it is God who is in control and God's will that is being fulfilled...

April 16 Easter Sunday The restrained tone of Lent and Holy Week gives way to the exuberant celebration of God's victory over sin and death on Easter morning. On this day we give witness to the conviction that by the power of God at work in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus the Christ, the way that things are, is not the way that they will always be. The power of sin and death does not have the last word – God does!

Pastor Jeff Bell leads us in this day of unfettered celebration on Easter morning with services with a Sunrise service at 7AM (in the outdoor courtyard) and a more traditional worship service (in the Sanctuary) at 11AM.

He is risen. He is risen indeed.

SESSION

The Session met on Monday February 13, 2017 and concluded the following business:

1. Approved a request by the Tidewater Bichon Frise Rescue to use the building for a bingo "Purse Party" fundraiser on April 22, 2017 from 4:00 to 9:30 PM.
2. Approved a one-time transfer of \$1,500 from the "DFLM Special Fund" line item to the "Telephone/Internet" line item for the express purpose of upgrading the church phone system.
3. Approved Tom and Rachel McMahan to serve as Enrichment leaders.
4. Approved removing John Wood and Michelle Morrison from the active membership roll.
5. Examined Elders elect Susan Ayers, Nick Bolton, Tracy Gilbert, Ashley Polychroni, and Glynn Rogers and set the date for ordination and installation on February 26, 2017 during worship.

MISSION MATTERS YOUTH GROUP

Middle and high school students from our Mission Matters youth group helped out with the distribution of goods to homeless folks on Sunday, February 5. Everyone participated in what can be considered difficult circumstances as we tried to meet the needs of those without homes as they gathered in the JCOC parking lot, before a 3P meal.

This month, we'll be building (50) easter baskets as a Lenten activity. We'll assemble them at our March gathering and then distribute them to families who are living in hotels on the Saturday before Easter Sunday. We did this last year. Participants found this to be especially rewarding as kids who would otherwise not have anything on Easter morning, received a gift - a day early. We also gave some Easter baskets to adults who had never received a basket before, in their lives.



Holy Land Classic

10 days - September 5-14, 2017



Join Pastor Fred McCall on this 10-day Holy Land Classic program that will expand our knowledge of the Bible and this sacred land.

Register Early & Save!

Call the church office for more details.

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

Please e-mail newsletter items no later than the 15th of each month for the following month's edition to:
office@provpres.org

Providence Presbyterian Church

5497 Providence Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23464
757-420-6159 • www.provpres.org • office@provpres.org

Church Staff

Pastor	Rev. Jeffrey S. Bell
Pastor of Family Life Ministries	Pastor Billy Ricketts
Director of Music	Valetta Fellenbaum
Organist	John Dixon
Administrative Assistant	Lisa Nixon
Nursery Supervisor	Michelle Wofford
Treasurer	Carolyn Knowles
Financial Secretary	Ted Salter
Sextons	Gus and Mary Ann Villies

The Session

Moderator: Rev. Jeffrey S. Bell • **Clerk of Session:** Gary Reese

Administration

*Mike Schroeder
Glynn Rogers

Christian Education

*Karen Moore
Dianne Stockmeier

Congregational Care

*Ray Maxwell
Ashley Polychroni

Fellowship

*Susan Ayers
Ray Hall

Mission/Outreach/ Evangelism

*Cecilia Daley
Nick Bolton

Property

*Riley Hensly
Tracey Gilbert

Worship

*Rich Lindgren
Cathy Polychroni

*committee chair

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