



the INVITATION



THE DAYS OF LENT AND EASTER



THE 2018 SOUP & ROLLS SERIES

Nearly a decade ago, Phyllis Tickle wrote a book called *The Great Emergence*. Tickle observed that massive transitions in the church seemed to happen every 500 years or so (the Great Schism, the Reformation, etc.). Her book looks at social upheaval, existing culture and current events as they relate to the future of the church in America.

This year, you're invited to join us as we consider the future of the mainline church during the Lenten season's Soup & Rolls Series. To help us best move towards the path of our calling, we'll spend the Wednesdays of Lent examining where we are, where we're going and who we're being called to be in God's Kingdom.

February 21 Church Lifecycle Exercise

General Presbyter, Liza Hendricks, will lead us through a series of exercises designed to help us visualize how we became who we are as a church.

February 28 "21st Century Reformation"

We'll experience Rodger Nishioka's amazing explanation of how "immigrants" and "tribal members" are to co-exist in our modern churches.

March 7 "Emergence 101"

During this session, we'll take some time to hear Phyllis Tickle begin to explain what this new look at theology is all about and discuss what it might mean for Providence.

March 14 "How Shall We Live?"

We'll hear from Phyllis Tickle about what she believes faith in America will look like in the future. We'll discuss Tickle's presentation before answering some questions that will help us adjust to the 21st Century Reformation.

March 21 "Landing the Plane"

On this final Wednesday of Soup & Rolls, we'll wrap up what we've heard during previous Soup & Rolls events and talk specifically about changes that we might need to consider to be engaging not just for ourselves (*the tribe*) but for all who might be called to be a part of Providence in the future.

During the five weeks of Lent, we'll meet in the Fellowship Hall for our traditional Soup & Rolls programming based on the 21st Century Reformation starting at 6:00pm.

— 2018 Lenten Worship Opportunities —

**February 14
Ash**

Wednesday
7:00pm starts in the Fellowship Hall before moving to the Sanctuary

**March 25
Palm Sunday**
11:00am in the Sanctuary

**March 29
Maundy Thursday**
7:00pm in the Sanctuary

**March 30
Good Friday**
7:00pm in the Sanctuary

**April 1
Easter Sunday**
7:00am in the Courtyard and 11:00am in the Sanctuary

FROM MY OPEN DOOR

Jeffrey Bell, Pastor

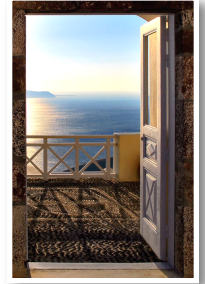


Volunteers Needed

The Fellowship
Committee
is seeking
volunteers
to bring soup
and rolls
for our Lenten
Wednesday
evening
study.

A sign-up sheet
is posted in the
Information
Hall.

Items are
needed each
Wednesday
evening
beginning
February 21
through
March 21.



The story of Jesus began long before the manger and even before the angel Gabriel's startling announcement to Mary. Before God said, "Let there be light," and "Let there be stars and moon, fish and birds, cows and caterpillars," God said, "Let there be Jesus."

Truth is, God creates in order to embrace. To stand in our midst. To be one of us. To invade our personal space with overwhelming, life-giving love. And after speaking "Jesus," God spoke each one of us into existence in order to be in relationship with us. An irreplaceable, irresistible, infinite, unique relationship.

By starting a Gospel with the words "In the beginning," John invites us to understand Jesus from the perspective of creation. In turn, he hopes to shape our grasp of God's love for us and show us the path toward a new and radical depth in our love for one another.

John opens his Gospel with echos of the first creation story, and at the same time unpacks a second creation story we rarely see. The first creation story is about Adam and Eve where God formed Adam out of the dust and breathed life into what would have otherwise remained a mud pie.

But in the second creation story, God said, "Let there be Sam." Let there be this one, unique person called Sam. God said, "Let there be Jill." And there was Jill. "Let there be Jerry." And there was Jerry. God's second creation story is for each of us, formed in His love, created in and with His image. And God loves His creation.

God urges us to love what He loves. That's part of what it means to be created in His image. And if you're anything like me, loving at this depth is something you're still learning to do.

Too often we see people in passing. From habit or for convenience, sometimes from fear or prejudice, we lump people into one group or another and then assume that we know all we need to know about them.

Martin Buber said that when we size people up in this way we form an "I-It" relationship with them. We depersonalize others. Condescension, disrespect, and even hatred become much easier when "those people" are an "It".

God doesn't sort people into groups like we do. God recognizes each person's unmistakable scent, feels the unique rhythm of each person's pulse, hears the tones and cadences of each person's voice.

God embraces each person's radical particularity. No one can be exchanged for someone else. Martin Buber calls this an "I-Thou" relationship. You can't hate, objectify, exploit, debase, or ignore the suffering of a "Thou".

God does not love humanity. "Humanity" is an abstraction. God loves people. Each one of us. God loves Sam and Jill and Jerry. God loves the twinkle in their eyes, the rasp of their voice, the shyness of their smile. No two laughs, no two souls, no two hearts, no two life-stories are alike.

God loves real flesh and blood people. Like you. And me. And all of "them". And if we seek to love God, truly love God, then we need to work to love the people God loves. That's the only way forward in life. See you in church.

THIS MONTH AT PROVIDENCE

Saturday, FEBRUARY 3

9:00am Women's Mission Day

Sunday, FEBRUARY 4

8:45am Merry Bells Rehearsal

9:45am Discipleship Classes

11:00am Worship and Communion

Monday, FEBRUARY 5

7:00pm Boy Scouts

7:00pm Committee Chair Meeting

7:30pm Committee Meetings

Tuesday, FEBRUARY 6

7:00pm The Why Team Prayer Group

7:30pm Bells of Providence

Wednesday, FEBRUARY 7

6:00pm Kirk Nite

6:30pm Kirkmusik

7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, FEBRUARY 8

7:00pm Women's Bible Study

Saturday, FEBRUARY 10

6:30pm Valentines Dinner

Sunday, FEBRUARY 11

8:45am Merry Bells Rehearsal

9:45am Discipleship Classes

11:00am Worship

Monday, FEBRUARY 12

7:00pm Session Teleconference

7:00pm Boy Scouts

Tuesday, FEBRUARY 13

10:00am Dorcas Circle

7:00pm The Why Team Prayer Group

7:30pm Bells of Providence

Wednesday, FEBRUARY 14

9:45am Mary & Martha Circle

7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service

Thursday, FEBRUARY 15

Newsletter Deadline

7:00pm Care Team

Friday, FEBRUARY 16

JCOC Meal Day

Sunday, FEBRUARY 18

First Sunday of Lent

8:45am Merry Bells Rehearsal

9:45am Discipleship Classes

11:00am Worship

Monday, FEBRUARY 19

Office Closed - President's Day

7:00pm Boy Scouts

Tuesday, FEBRUARY 20

7:00pm The Why Team Prayer Group

7:30pm Bells of Providence

Wednesday, FEBRUARY 21

ODU Ministry Meal Drop Off

6:00pm Soup and Rolls

7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, FEBRUARY 25

Second Sunday of Lent

8:45am Merry Bells Rehearsal

9:45am Discipleship Classes

11:00am Worship

12:15pm PP Women's Council

Monday, FEBRUARY 26

7:00pm Boy Scouts

Tuesday, FEBRUARY 27

7:00pm The Why Team Prayer Group

7:30pm Bells of Providence

Wednesday, FEBRUARY 28

6:00pm Soup and Rolls

7:15pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

BIRTHDAYS

02/01 Melissa Yurasko

02/02 Katie Dixon

02/02 Noell Reed

02/03 Larry Walter

02/05 Tracy Gilbert

02/05 Floyd Gilbert

02/06 Ed Easton

02/07 Karen Cagni

02/07 Edith Lytle

02/07 Hilda Dayrit

02/07 Lucy Fitzgerald

02/08 Lee Anderson

02/09 Ray Maxwell

02/09 Sally Parsons

02/12 Carsten Ashcraft

02/15 Sue Passarella

02/17 Majrorie Hill

02/18 Louann Biemann

02/19 Carolyn Knowles

02/21 Linda Baker

02/22 Jodi Deck

02/24 Meredith Hill

02/26 Sean Grady

02/27 Gary Parson

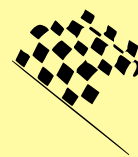
02/28 Jane Everton

02/28 Sue Shepard



Want to have some fun?

Form a team and sign up for a Road Rally!



On Saturday, April 28 from 3:00-7:30, your team will compete in a friendly, fun outing solving clues and puzzles, driving from the church to a hidden destination. Along the way you'll get to know each other better, test your knowledge of trivia and history, and - well - have fun! The cost of the Road Rally is \$15.00 per person (that pays for dinner at the hidden destination). A list of items that might help you along your way will be available in the March Invitation!

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Thank you to all the men that attended the dinner and fellowship at Frankie's Place of Ribs in Fairfield Shopping center.

Our next big event is the **Valentines Dinner** on Saturday, February 10th.

10:00am – Decorating Fellowship Hall
4:30pm – Set up
6:00pm – Social time
6:30pm – 8:30pm – Dinner and Entertainment

Tickets are available now at \$30/Couple, \$15 Single. Tickets include a dinner entree of either Beef Tenderloin or Glazed Salmon, plus a salad, rice pilaf, a vegetable medley and dinner roll.

Childcare is available upon early request.

Upcoming Men's Events:

March 1st – Dinner at Providence – Howard Boose coordinating.

April 4th – Dinner at Aberdeen Barn – Tracy Gilbert coordinating. Over the past 5-6 years, Aberdeen Barn Restaurant has been gracious to provide food at Providence for our youths fund raising opportunity for work camp and we thought it would be a good idea to give back to them. So we are looking to go there for dinner and invite your spouse or significant other. More information will be provided as we get closer.

May 5th – Breakfast out and a community project - Kevin Daley coordinating

June 7th – Cookout at Providence

Admirals Hockey Game - TBD

If you have any questions or would like more information please Contact Kevin Daley at (757) 572-3977.

***Come join us for the
Presbyterian Men's
Fellowship and Conferences!***

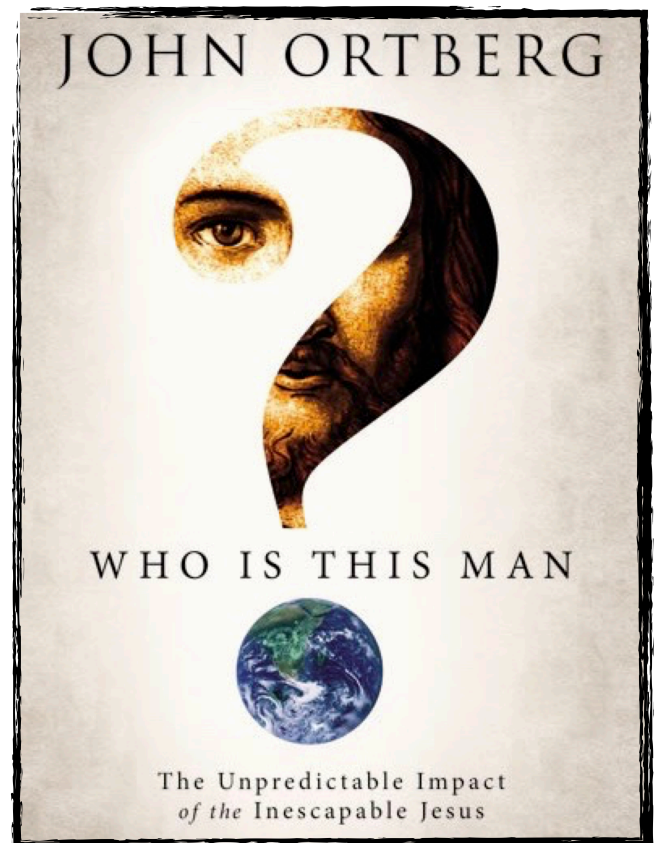
PROVIDENCE WOMEN



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

Nominations for the 2018 Presbyterian Woman Life Membership Award are now being taken. This Award is in honor and recognition of faithful service in some area of the church such as; leaders, teachers, moderators, elders, bells, choir, mission, etc... If you have someone you want to nominate, please fill out the nomination form. Forms may be found on the stand in the Information Hall. Completed forms may be given to our 2017 recipient, Nancy Whitaker, no later than February 18th.

Lenten Discipleship Study



**Sunday Mornings
February 25 - March 25
9:45am in the Media Room**

WHERE DID THE YOUNGER ADULTS GO?

It's difficult to look at modern church congregations on a Sunday morning and not ask the question "Where did the younger adults go?" Many of them (18 - 33 years old) grew up as active participants in the life of the church. They (and even their parents) might even say that their participation in church youth ministry was a very important part of their lives. Then, where are they? If their youth ministry was as effective as we think, why aren't they still in church today? What happened to them? Where are they on Sunday mornings?

According to a recent Barna survey (and many others like it), church attendance and impressions of the church are the lowest in recent history and most drastic among millennials described as 22-35 year olds, where:

- Only 2 in 10 Americans under 30 believe attending a church is important or worthwhile (an all-time low).
- 59% percent of millennials raised in a church have dropped out.
- 35% of millennials have an *anti-church* stance, believing the church does more harm than good.
- Millennials are the least likely age group of anyone to attend church (by far).

Polls show that millennials are saying:

- Nobody's Listening to Us
- We're Sick of Hearing About Your Values & Mission Statements
- Helping the Poor Isn't a Priority For Your Church
- We're Tired of You Blaming the Culture
- The "You Can't Sit With Us" Affect (the church is *cliquey*)
- Distrust & Misallocation of Resources
- We Want to Be Mentored, Not Preached At
- We Want to Feel Valued
- We Want You to Talk to Us About Controversial Issues (Because no one else is doing it)
- The Public Perception
- Stop Talking About Us (Unless You're Actually Going to Do Something)
- You're Failing to Adapt



Solutions for returning this demographic to the church community are not the exclusive responsibility of church staff members. It will only be through the efforts of parents, grandparents, adults who made (or are making) a difference in the lives of younger adults that we'll begin to see this group become an active part of the life of the church.

For more info on this process, please attend the 2018 Soup & Rolls series or contact Pastor Billy at familylife@provpres.org.



Virginia Beach - June 24 - 30th

Hello everyone from the Workcamp 2018 Committee! In just four months, Providence will be hosting an exciting week of Workcamp. Over 460 youth and adults are currently signed up to attend camp!

We are still working to find homes to repair. As of today we have received approximately 51 applications for repairs and we are required to find 70-80 homes for the campers to work on. If you are interested or know of someone that may need repairs to their home, applications are available from the church office, church web site, and on the Workcamp bulletin board. Keep in mind Workcamp teams are able to perform the following repairs; interior/exterior painting, weatherization, step repair, wheel chair ramp construction/repair, porch repair/construction, and mobile home skirting. It is also important to note that the Workcamp program prohibits us from conducting plumbing, electrical, or HVAC repairs.



Stay tuned for notification of upcoming volunteer meetings where we will discuss coordination of the extra activities involved with hosting Workcamp.

A sincere thank you to everyone for your continued prayers for this great event. For more information contact Kevin Daley at workcampvb@provpres.org or (757) 572-3977.

OBX COUPLES RETREAT

March 9 -11



We have space for one more couple!
See Billy Ricketts for more information.

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

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Church Staff

Pastor
Pastor of Family Life Ministries
Director of Music
Organist
Administrative Assistant
Nursery Supervisor
Treasurer
Financial Secretary
Sextons

Rev. Jeffrey S. Bell
Pastor Billy Ricketts
Valetta Fellenbaum
John Dixon
Lisa Nixon
Michelle Wofford
Carolyn Knowles
Ted Salter
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

Tracy Gilbert

Worship

*Rich Lindgren

Cathy Polychroni

*committee chair

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