



The VOICE of Providence

United Methodist Church

Loving God, Worshipping Boldly, Changing Lives

2810 Providence Road • Charlotte, North Carolina 28211 • 704.366.2823 • www.ProvidenceUMC.org

Traditional Worship

Sundays, 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. - Sanctuary

Contemporary Worship-The Net

Sundays, 11:00 a.m. - Wolfe Hall

Multicultural Worship

Sunday, 11:00 a.m. - St. John's Campus

APRIL 2018

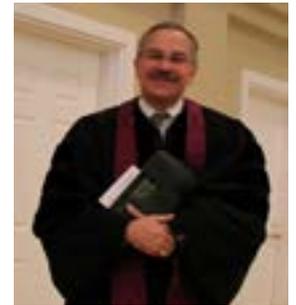
A Message From the Desk of the Rev. Dr. Dave Melton

APRIL 15

Crowders
Mountain Hike

Dear Providence UMC Family,

I must say I'm still basking in the light of what I believe to be one of the most transformational Easter seasons I've ever been a part of. We at Providence UMC seem to be working on all cylinders. Our Lenten pilgrimage and Easter services have drawn rave reviews. Thanks be to God, and to everyone who made it all possible.



APRIL 18

POW Dinner

So often when the season of Resurrection is over, we allow ourselves to blend back into who we were before, and not ask important follow-up questions, questions like: "Easter happened, and is over. So What?"; "What does it have to do with my present existence here and now?"; and not respond to observations like: "The music and preaching were good, and probably enough to tie me over 'til the next time."

APRIL 21

Youth Middle-School Lock-In

APRIL 22

Stephen Ministry
Information
Session

This year we are lingering with Easter a bit, asking ourselves the questions above, centered around: "So what? And by the way, what was it that Jesus came to do?"

APRIL 25

POW Dinner

How would you answer that in your own life? And would answers be helpful to you and those around you? I believe the strong answer is: "Yes," so that's what we are going to be dealing with in the coming weeks.

APRIL 28

Potato Drop or
'Spud Saturday'

This past week we answered the haunting question: "What was it that Jesus really came to do?" That will be followed up by: "What's so amazing about grace that Jesus brought?"; and "Even the Blind Can See."

APRIL 29

Confirmation
Sunday
(Traditional Service)

I've shared with you that Easter gives us one of the greatest opportunities to get favorable responses to inviting people to church. And with so much positive feedback on our Lenten and Easter services, people you know might have an interest in being helped to understand why it all happened, asking the: "What was it that Jesus brought to the table that changed the world, and could change my life?" question.

MAY 1

UMW Program
and Lunch

Please consider inviting someone to come hear the Gospel preached over the next weeks. I love our church, and look forward to seeing you there the coming Sundays.

MAY 4

Organ Concert

God's blessings,

Dave

Congregational Care

Discharged: Margaret Altany, Debbie Inman and Janet Sanunders

In Christian Sympathy



To **Marty Reynolds** and family on the death of her sister Marilyn on March 16.

To **Lanell Sumrow** and family on the death of her husband **Floyd Sumrow** on March 16.

To **Elaine Foster** and family on the death of her mother Miriam Chesham Borel who died on March 11. Miriam was 102 years old and lived in Southern Pines, NC.

To the family of **Bishop L. Bevel "Bev" Jones, III** who died on March 6. He served as presiding Bishop of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference from 1985 through 1996.

Marriage

Congratulations to Tiwana and Steven Cunningham who were married on Saturday, April 7.

2017 Annual Report

Our 2017 Annual Report, *Momentum*, is available now at the Welcome Desk and on the front page of our website, www.providenceumc.org. We have so much to celebrate and hope you will enjoy looking back at how God worked through us in 2017.

Website Resources Page

The Resource page on our website (www.providenceumc.org/resources) has valuable information. Most recently we have added our 2017 Annual Report, *Momentum*. You will also find our Church Calendar, our month at a glance report, *Snap Shot*, policies and request forms, Stephen Ministry contacts, a list of support groups, previous issues of *The Voice of Providence UMC*, our *Strategic Plan* and much more. We welcome you to visit soon and often!

Learn About Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry will have their tenth training class in 22 years for new Stephen Ministers Friday, August 17 – Sunday, October 28. When the training is finished, the class will be commissioned for their work as Stephen Ministers in a morning worship service. Applications are available at the Welcome Desk beginning Sunday, April 15 and current Stephen Ministers will be in the Atrium that morning to answer questions.

A congregational information meeting will be held on Sunday, April 22 at 9:00 am in the Chapel. Participants will watch a video called "The Heart of Stephen Ministry," receive information about the 50 hours of training and have a chance to ask questions. We encourage you to pick up an application form and prayerfully consider if God is calling you to be a Stephen Minister here at Providence UMC.

Missions



2018 'SPUD SATURDAY'



Don't miss "Spud Saturday," one of our great outreach events of the year in conjunction with Society of St. Andrew's potato drop project. At 8:30 am, volunteers, friends and families will meet outside the Mission Center to sack approximately 43,000 pounds of potatoes into bags. The potatoes will then be picked up by local food pantries who will distribute them to combat food insecurity among children, families and seniors in Mecklenburg County. Childcare is available for infants and children up to three years old by contacting Anna Smith at asmith@providenceumc.org. Please join us by registering on our website or at the Welcome Desk.

APRIL MISSION TO SUPPORT LOCAL NEEDS

Think about how you begin your morning before heading off for the day. You take a shower, brush your teeth, put on deodorant and get dressed. Now, what if you didn't have the essential tools needed for proper hygiene? When men and women enter Charlotte Rescue Mission, they are often in need of the basics.

Together we can help these individuals who are recovering from addiction by collecting:

- full-size tubes of toothpaste
- full-size soap for both men and women
- full-size deodorant for both men and women

Collection bins are located in the Atrium. Thank YOU for making a difference!

LEARN ABOUT MISSIONS at PROVIDENCE UMC

The Mission's committee produced their first quarterly newsletter in March. It is full of information on how the congregation supports local and global ministry partners and missionaries around the globe. Do you feel called to become more involved in missions? Contact Missions Director, Brian Mateer for more information.

Mental Health Awareness

Providence UMC often partners with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) in Charlotte. Be sure to mark your calendar to attend the following events
On Saturday, May 5, the award-winning documentary film *Resilience: The Biology of Stress and the Science of Hope*, will be shown from 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm in the Cosstalkers classroom. The documentary has the endorsement of our Mayor and the post-riot Leading on Opportunity Task Force for its focus on the profound impact of adverse childhood experiences. Following the film, there will be a panel of medical and counseling professionals to lead conversation and answer questions.

Two weeks later, on Saturday, May 19 there is a fund-raising NAMI Health Awareness Walk and picnic at Freedom Park. There is no registration fee, but participants are encouraged to build teams, share stories and raise funds. For more information, contact Linda Phillips at linda.phillips4866@gmail.com.

Mark Your Calendar

Hike Crowders Mountain

Sunday, April 15 / Meet at 12:30 pm / Church Parking Lot



Excited to get outdoors now that spring weather has arrived? Meet outside the Mission Center in the parking lot to carpool to Crowders Mountain for a Sunday hike. Pack a lunch or pick one up along the way. Come enjoy the outdoors and a time for fellowship. (If we have April showers, the event will be

rescheduled.) For more information, contact Caroline Briggs at 304.767.5485.

Centering Prayer

Mondays / Noon - 1:00 pm / Chapel

Centering Prayer is a method of meditation used by Christians placing a strong emphasis on interior silence. Start the week by calming your inner voice. Many find this time of stillness with God replenishing and soothing.

Providence on Wednesdays

Wednesday, April 18 and 25 / 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm / Wolfe Hall

Don't miss the final POW's of the season. The cost is a reasonable \$7.50 per adult and \$4.00 per child (ten years and younger), with a maximum of \$25.00 per family (one family living at the same address). Make your reservation via our website, in the Atrium or by calling 704.714.9380.

MENU for APRIL 18: Garden Salad / Pasta with Chicken / Tomatos and Spinach / Fresh Fruit Salad / Caramel Cake

MENU for APRIL 25: Fried Chicken / Rice and Gravy / Green Beans / Oriental Slaw / Brownie and Ice Cream

Senior Scholars at Queens

Fridays / 10:00 am - 11:00 am / Chapel

This weekly event is a platform for thought-provoking and entertaining individuals to discuss a variety of subjects. New members and first time guests are encouraged to arrive at 9:30 am to check in, socialize and enjoy coffee. Visit our website for details on the weekly programs.

Middle School Lock-In

This month the Middle School Youth will enjoy a night of sports activities and fellowship while learning more about God and living in community. There will be a Church lock-in on the evening of Saturday, April 21. Earlier in the evening, students will take busses to Sports Connection and then return to the Church to spend the night. The Youth will close out this annual event by attending the 8:30 am worship service. Register on our website under events before the deadline on Wednesday, April 18.



Confirmation Sunday

Sunday, April 29 / 11:00 am - Noon / Sanctuary

We are pleased 19 sixth-grade students will be confirmed in the Sanctuary the final Sunday in April. Confirmation is the first public occasion in which a person affirms her or his personal response to divine grace and proclaims faith in Christ. It is also the first public expression of the individual's affirmation of the baptismal covenant. The response of faith in confirmation involves:

1. Repentance: turning away from sin and looking to faith in God.
2. Conversion: a process of transformation, not just an event. Part of the life long journey of sanctification.
3. Decision: to accept (receive) God's grace and to commit one's life to God.

Missions

Choral Performance

Sunday, April 29 / 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm / Aldersgate

The Encore Choir will be leading the choral portion of worship at Vespers.

United Methodist Women

Tuesday, May 1 / 10:30 am / Chapel



Liz Foster, Community Relations Coordinator for Dove's Nest at Charlotte Rescue Mission will be the

UMW program speaker this month. Dove's Nest is a free Christian-based residential recovery program that help women struggling with the disease of addiction achieve long-term sobriety. Graduating residents from Dove's Nest will share their personal "Stories of Hope" at the meeting. This topic has impacted so many families. All are welcome to bring friends to this inspiring program and our final luncheon before summer break. Please make your lunch reservations by Friday, April 27, by calling 704.714.9382.

Yoga

Wednesday, May 2 / 12:15 pm - 1:00 pm / Room B214

May can be a "crunch month" for families as children have final exams and end-of-school events. Begin the month by enjoying the health benefits of free yoga! Register via Sign Up Genius per the events page on our website by noon on Tuesday, May 1. There will be a break from the monthly Yoga during the summer, but classes will be back in the fall!

Organ Concert

Friday, May 4 / 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm / Sanctuary

Christopher Young, Professor of Organ at Indiana University, will provide the final recital of the 2017 -2018 David Bashor Memorial Organ Concert Series.

Providence Place

Saturday, May 5 / Noon / Mission Center

Join us the first Saturday of the month for an uplifting time of free food, fellowship and fun! All who are affected by mental health challenges including friends, family member, caregivers are welcome to attend.

Chamber Music Recital

Sunday, May 6 / 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm / Sanctuary

The Madison Park String Quartet (Kari Giles and Jenny Topilow violins, Kirsten Swanson viola, and Mira Frisch cello) performs Dmitri Shostakovich's (1906-1975) *String Quartet No. 1 in C Major, Op. 49* and *String Quartet No. 1, Op. 21* by Paul Ben-Haim (1897-1984). These two lesser known Quartets, composed within a year of each other, cover a broad range of styles incorporating Israeli folk tunes, French Impressionism, and Neoclassicism.

Community Conversation on Race

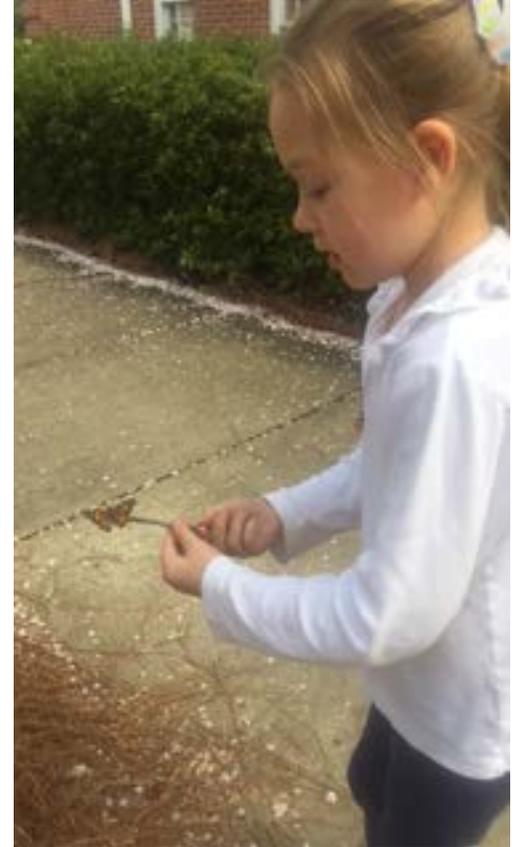
Sunday, May 20 / 9:45 pm - 10:45 pm / Chapel

Rabbi Judith Schindler will discuss racism from the story of Noah who cursed the descendants of his son, Ham, with servitude to modern day events. Rabbi Schindler is a twenty-one-year veteran of the pulpit.

Vacation Bible School

It's Vacation Bible School (VBS) 2018! Sign your children/child up to join us from June 25 - June 28 from 9:00 am-noon. Music, Bible stories, the recreation of Biblical teachings, and crafts will help children to know that God is always with them as they 'Ride the Rapids' of amazing grace. We look forward to filling our halls with children ages four years old (by 1/1/2018) through rising 6th-grade students. The cost is \$15 per child and spaces are filling up fast! Register today on our website.

Holy Week and Easter at Providence UMC



A Note From An Easter Visitor

"On Easter morning, my family and I attended your 8:30 am service. Although we were visiting and had to choose sight unseen out of a very large number of churches, it was the best decision we've made in a long time. From the stunning interior of the sanctuary to the beautiful formality of the Easter service, together with an exquisitely glorious choir and orchestra adding to the experience.. the sun streaming through the upper windows and spilling across the parishioners.. we felt privileged to partake in such richness. The finest earthly trappings and selfless offerings designed to give glory to God for His amazing gift of Christ our King.

I am a lifelong Baptist about to turn 70 years old..and I can honestly say that yours was the best Easter church service I have ever witnessed. Your pastor, Rev. Melton, completed the picture with his heartfelt message which conveyed the true Spirit of unrestrained Joy that He Is Risen! Beautifully delivered..eloquent in its clarity. We thank you for such a memorable worship time with fellow believers on a perfect Easter morning."

-ANN BROOKS JOHNSON

The Net Sermon Series -Rooted

The first Sunday after Easter, The Net began the sermon series Rooted: Living the Resurrection. When God plants a seed, He begins a process, it is the beginning of *life*. First we must do things to make our roots strong by joining Christian groups such as Life Groups or Sunday School classes. Together there is 'root building' through encouragement in Christian living. This also may include a devoted prayer life, the reading of the Bible or daily devotions, and helping those in need in the community.



On Sunday, April 22, The Net will have a 'Pastors Platform' including The Rev. Joe Hamby and the Rev. Jonathan Coppedge-Henley. Together, with interactive participation from the congregation, we will discuss how to make our faith roots strong. All are welcome and please invite a guest who may need to hear this message.

Life Groups



To get involved, a complete list of groups can be found on the Providence UMC website under the 'Ministry Tab' by clicking on Life Groups (<http://providenceumc.org/groups/>).