



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

May 2018

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

MAY 25

Senior Scholars at
Queens

Dear Providence Family,

As I sit at my desk the reality that I will step into our Providence pulpit three more times before I prepare to take my ministry and leadership skills to First United Methodist Church in Lenoir is direct. It's hard not to be nostalgic at such a time, as I recall both the successes and challenges of what has seemed to me to be a quick three years.



MAY 26

St. John's Campus
Garden Cleanup

I will forever remember the loving spirit of so many Providence members who appreciated my own spirit and my care for our congregation, and reached out and surrounded me with loving arms. I will also remember tough decisions we made as a congregation that enabled us to move through some trying financial times.

May 27

No Children's
Sunday School

MAY 28

Church Offices
Closed

A highlight for me was the mission excursion to Sicily. It was a privilege to serve with other Christian pastors and lay people there as we helped those communities deal with the influx of refugees.

May 29

Deadline to Order
Maine Lobsters

I will always recall with joy the opportunity to re-engage with fellow Methodist leaders in Kenya who both need us and inspire us by serving on the front lines of God's Kingdom work, including bringing people to Jesus by the thousands, and serving the poor (including those living and dying due to epidemics of both HIV/AIDS and malaria).

JUNE 2

Providence Place

I will never forget a wonderful trip to our Church's long-standing mission in Cap Haitian, Haiti; and the miracle offering that raised almost \$100,000 for fresh water wells there (that ended with the digging of 36 wells, providing fresh water for hundreds of thousands of people).

JUNE 5

What's Next
Ministry Dinner

After that miracle offering a member of our Haiti mission team said: "Dave, this miracle of God has your stamp all over it. It wouldn't have happened had you not championed it as you did." I was humbled by that observation. I'll never forget it. God has certainly blessed that ministry.

JUNE 18 - 22

Middle School
Mission Trip

Too I will never forget connecting our three worship services at Providence by directing the use of the same worship themes in all of them. That certainly wasn't easy, but it united us in special ways, and helped us grow closer to God and one another.

JUNE 22

Flourish - Women's
Evening

Working with our lively and creative staff to serve our congregation and lead us in glorifying and worshipping God was a weekly joy and honor.

Another bright spot for me is that we grew in membership as people were drawn to worship God with us here. And that attendance in our congregation, unlike other struggling churches, remained strong.

JUNE 25 - 28

Vacation Bible
School

Those and many other memories will forever be etched in my mind and heart. Thank you for your love and support during my ministry here.

Forever, in God's love, I remain committed to Christ with you.

Dave

Congregational Care

Discharged: Jennifer Littlefield and Maurice Waddell

CMC Main: Deb Petty and Len Bullock (ER)

In Christian Sympathy



To the family of **Walt Grubb** who died April 17.

To the family of **Corinne Evans** who died April 20.

To **Randy Broome**, on the death of his brother, Samuel "Neal" Broome who died April 20.

To **Nancy Curl** on the death of her mother, who died April 22.

To the family of **Becky Smith** who died May 3.

To the family of **Mory Om**, a member at our St. John's Campus, who was in a severe accident in Cambodia. Mory is the sister of **Sam Om**. To make a donation to help pay for medical expenses, make checks payable to Providence UMC with Mory Om on the memo line.

To our custodian, **Plin Kpa** who recently lost his father. Please pray for his family during this time of sorrow.

To **Elaine Levi** and family on the death of her mother, **Eugenia Warner** who died May 17.

To **Stephanie Morgan** on the death of her sister who died recently.

To **Carol Olson** and family on the death of her husband, **Mike Olson** who died May 21.

Birth

Congratulations to **Cristy and Seth Ratchford** on the birth of their son Graham Addison Ratchford born April 14. He is also the grandson of **Donna and Mike Bishop**.

Baptism



Jackson Anthony Adler was baptized on May 13. He is pictured with his parents **Brittny and Derek Alder**.

Missions

St. John's Campus Community Garden Cleanup Day

Saturday, May 26

9:00 am

"The best place to find God is in a garden. You can dig for him there." -George Bernard Shaw

All ages, families and friends are welcome to help weed and prepare garden beds for planting. The Latin American Coalition and some members of the congregations at St. John's Campus will help manage, plant and harvest the garden through the summer. See you Saturday at 4305 Monroe Road, Charlotte, NC 28205.

Don't Miss One of The Best Opportunities To Make a Difference in the Lives of Children Living in Fragile Communities in Charlotte!

VOLUNTEER FOR FREEDOM SCHOOL PARTNERS

Freedom School is a six-week program held each summer. It promotes the long-term success of at-risk children in grades K-8 by providing a culturally rich curriculum, exposure to the broader community and to enrichment opportunities. Providence UMC partners with St. Gabriel's Catholic Church at Oakhurst S.T.E.A.M. Academy on Monroe Road near the St. John's Campus.



Fun Ways to Serve our Scholars from July 9 - 27.

1. Our biggest need is for 50 volunteers on our Great Day of **D.E.A.R. (DROP EVERYTHING AND READ)**. Sign up to read one-on-one with a child on Wednesday, July 18 from 12:45 - 1:45 pm at the Oakhurst S.T.E.A.M. Academy. Register on our website under events.

2. Another great need is for volunteers to help each of our 50 children pick out a book from the **Scholastic Book Fair**. The book fair for our scholars will be on July 13 from 12:15 pm - 2:15 pm. Please note that this is a field trip and volunteers will not go to Oakhurst S.T.E.A.M. Academy. The event will be held at the Highland School. Sign up to volunteer on our website.

Donate Items to Make Freedom School a Success!

- Canisters of cleaning wipes
- Hand sanitizer (12 oz. or larger)
- Boxes of tissue
- Packages of baby wipes
- Packages of small Dixie cups
- Rolls of paper towels
- Beach towels (for field trips to Ray's Splash Planet)

Reception for Pastor Dave Melton

On Sunday, June 10 following the 11:00 am services, we will honor Senior Pastor Dave Melton as he prepares to serve his new congregation at First United Methodist Church in Lenior. A reception in the Atrium will follow Dave's final sermon at Providence UMC.

To participate in a love offering for him, please write "Dave Melton Love Offering" on your check's memo line or on the offering envelope.

Mark Your Calendar

Senior Scholars at Queens

Friday, May 25 / 10:00 am - 11:00 am / Wolfe Hall

Dr. Beth Whitaker is Associate Professor and Honors Program Director at the Department of Political Science and Public Administration at UNC Charlotte. She will speak on the topic of *Peace vs. Justice: The International Court in Africa*. This is the final program of the season. Senior Scholars at Queens will resume in September. For more information on the programs and additional events, please visit their website at seniorscholars.net.

Children's Sunday School and Childcare

Sunday, May 27

There will be no Sunday School for children on Sunday, May 27. Childcare will be available for the 11:00 am services.

Church Offices Closed

The Church Offices will be closed on Monday, May 28 in observance of Memorial Day. Offices will open at 9:00 am on Tuesday, May 29. Please have a safe and enjoyable holiday weekend!

Order Your Fresh Maine Lobsters

Providence UMC Chancel Choir is again selling LIVE MAINE LOBSTERS! To order your lobsters (\$18.50 each), please complete the order form located online or at the Welcome Desk. Make your check payable to Providence UMC Chancel Choir Lobsters. Place check and order form in Lisette Helveston's mailbox in the workroom, or mail them to 2810 Providence Road, Charlotte, NC 28211, attn. Music Ministry. Lobster pick up is from 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm on Friday, June 1 in the lower level, basement area on the Providence Road side of the Church. (Bring a container in which to store them for their ride home!) **Order Deadline: Noon, Tuesday, May 29.**

Providence Place Luncheon and Social

Saturday, June 2 / Noon - 2:30 pm / Mission Center

Join us for an uplifting time of food, fellowship and always fun! Come enjoy a delicious free lunch and then learn new crafts with special guest, Beth Spillman. Consumers, as well as friends, family members, caregivers and all who care about assisting those living with mental health conditions are welcome to attend this monthly event.

Senior Sunday

Sunday, June 3 / 11:00 am / Sanctuary

Congratulations to our Providence UMC Senior Class of 2018. We look forward to honoring and blessing each student on Senior Sunday. The Seniors will also take part in the contemporary service. The Senior banquet for students, family members and mentors will follow the services in Wolfe Hall.

Youth Middle School Mission Trip

Monday, June 18 at 10:00 am to Friday, June 22 at 2:00 pm

This mission trip, destination unknown, will be spent serving others and being the hands and feet of Christ. Students will do a variety of mission activities including working with kids and helping sort items at food banks. These mission experiences show and give great love. Get ready for a load of service and fun! Register on our website under events.

Flourish- A Women's Spiritual Evening

Friday June 22 / 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm / Wolfe Annex

"Those who seek the Lord lack no good thing."

Psalm 34:10

Women are welcome for a night of prayer and blessings.

We will be joined by guest speaker Joanne Lowry, Associate Director at the Charlotte Mecklenburg Dream Center. Light refreshments and desserts will be provided for this free event. No reservations required. If you have questions, please contact Anna Egler at annamargaret.bill@gmail.com.

Centering Prayer

Centering Prayer will NOT meet on Memorial Day, but will resume on Monday, June 4. This is a method of meditation used by Christians placing a strong emphasis on interior peace. Many find this time of stillness with God replenishing and soothing. For more information, please contact Pam Bashor.

Chancel Choir

May is the month of recruitment for the Chancel Choir. One common phrase we hear is, "Oh, the choir is so good, and I don't sing that well." While it may seem intimidating, what you truly need is a love of singing and the desire to praise God in song. New participants are always welcome and there are many opportunities for the entire family to become involved in our Music Ministry. There are many families with multiple generations participating in Encore Choir and Chancel Choir and all the way down to the Cherub Choirs made up of four and five year old children. For more information, contact Adam Ward at award@providenceumc.org.

Career Transitions

Each Monday / 11:00 am / Room A106

Our Career Transition Group provides confidential, Christian fellowship for those making job or career changes. The emphasis of this group is on networking, assistance in writing a resume and cover letters, and input from experienced facilitators. Please spread the word to those who may benefit from this ministry. No reservation required. For additional information, or to volunteer your skill set, contact the Rev. Dr. Bill Jeffries at bjeffries@providenceumc.org.

Yoga

Our free Yoga class has been a welcome addition at Providence UMC this year. The final class was in May and classes will resume in August.

Vacation Bible School

June 25 – June 28 / 9:00 am - Noon / Children's Wing

Registration for Vacation Bible School is closed. If you would like to volunteer to share your love of God with children attending VBS, please contact Anna Smith at asmith@providenceumc.org.

Garden City Beach Retreat

Sunday, July 15 at 10:00 am - Friday, July 20 at 2:00 pm

Providence UMC students in grades 6 - 12 look forward to this annual summer event at Garden City. It is definitely one of the best activities of the year! The dates are July 15 - July 20. The theme for Garden City 2018 is Royal Christian! Students will learn about what it means to follow Christ to the ends of the earth and the skills they need to live this lesson in their daily lives. Their relationship with God and one another will also be strengthened on this spiritual retreat. The fee is \$240 if paid before June 12. The fee then goes up to \$260 if paid by the registration deadline, July 12. Registration may be completed on our website under events. See you at the beach - we will have blast!

Acolyte Training

Monday - Wednesdays, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

July 23 - 25 and August 6 - 8 / Sanctuary

Youth who will be in grades 8 - 12 for the 2018 - 2019 school year, and have never attended training to serve as an acolyte, are invited to attend the next training session for acolytes at Providence UMC. Young people who have attained Confirmation and completed training serve as acolytes for the 8:30 am and 11:00 am traditional Sunday worship services and at other special services. Many find this a meaningful way to serve in the Church. If you are interested, contact the Music Ministry office by email at lhelveston@providenceumc.org.

The Potato Drop

The Potato Drop on Saturday, April 28 was quite an accomplishment! 39,500 pounds of potatoes were provided to individuals, families and food banks. Spuds that were "Duds" were gathered together and given to local farmers for a variety of uses. Thank you to Providence UMC members of all ages who attended. We are also grateful to our partners who helped with the event: Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, Myers Park High School and Randolph Middle School.



Youth Ministry

The Middle School Students of Providence UMC Youth enjoyed the annual lock-in at the Church. The evening began with busses full of kids headed to Sports Connection for exciting games and attractions that were perfect for this age group.



Everyone then returned to the Church for more games and a movie night. The kids stayed up late and gathered with friends creating meaningful memories. The lock-in ended the next morning by attending the 8:30 am worship service.

What's Next Ministry Dinner



Registration is now open for the inaugural What's Next Ministry dinner. Due to the generous contributions of sponsors, there is no charge for this exciting new event which will feature personal stories from young men living in the at-risk Grier Heights neighborhood whose lives have been changed. Attendees will also see how this program helps to reverse the trends of poverty and hopelessness as well as change the dynamic of upward mobility.

When: Tuesday, June 5 – 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Where: Wolfe Fellowship Hall

Come and help us grow this ministry to provide educational, social and life opportunities for the young men and women of Grier Heights that they will otherwise never receive.

Go to <http://providenceumc.org/events/whats-next-ministry-dinner/> to register, give online or learn more about this special ministry.

Mental Health Resource

MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

WANT TO TALK ?



We're Listening Carolinas

704-375-5354

#endthestigma

sanctuarycounselinggroup.org

Life is full of ups and downs and sometimes we need professional help, or just a listening ear. Please share this resource with anyone who would find it helpful!

Music Ministry

Farewell Concert to be Given by Chancel Choir Tour Singers

The singers who will represent Providence UMC in Central Europe in July will sing their tour concert here in Charlotte on **Sunday, July 1 at 4:00 o'clock** in the afternoon in our Sanctuary. Please come and support these travelers as they prepare to share the gift of music with our neighbors in Prague, Salzburg and Vienna!

Chancel Choir European Tour

Members of our Chancel Choir will represent Providence UMC in Central Europe during the first week of July. Thirty-eight singers and twelve other travelers will depart on July 2 to perform in Prague, Czech Republic, and Vienna and Salzburg in Austria. The choir will sing in venues to include the St. Nicholas Church in Prague; Melk Abbey in Melk, Austria; St. Peter's Church in Vienna and a benefit concert at the St. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Brno, Czech Republic. The group will return on July 11. Please keep our travelers in your best thoughts for traveling mercies.

Conversation about A Way Forward



Thank you to all who attended the Healthy Conversations Part 1 meeting on Sunday, May 20 in Wolfe Annex after the 11:00 am services. If you were unable to attend the meeting, we encourage you to prepare to join in the conversations the entire United Methodist Church is having about "A Way Forward". The video that was shown presents the framework for these Healthy Conversations that we will continue in the fall. We encourage everyone to watch the video once, reflect on it, and watch it again at a later time. The link to the video is: <https://vimeo.com/217081225>.