



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

Volume. 48 No. 1

February 6, 2018

*This Month We will Begin the Lenten Season
 on Ash Wednesday , February 14.*

FEB 13
 SHROVE TUES-
 DAY DINNER &
 WEDNESDAY
 NIGHT LIVE

FEB 14
 ASH
 WEDNESDAY
 SERVICES AT
 PROVIDENCE

FEB 16
 DEADLINE TO
 ORDER
 CATERPILLARS

FEB 23 & 24
 PROVIDENCE ON
 BROADWAY

MARCH 6
 UMW MEETING

MARCH 16 & 17
 BOY SCOUT BBQ

MARCH 19
 FUNDRAISER
 FOR WHAT'S
 NEXT MINISTRY

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

Dear Providence Family,

We will move into Lent next week with the observation of Ash Wednesday. I will have the privilege of helping to lead at least three of four different imposition of the Ashes services here at Providence UMC, beginning with members of our Executive Committee at 7:00 a.m.

One of the highlights of the day will be presenting the case for why we mark ourselves as followers of Christ with ashes on the developmental level of our 3-5 year old children in our Weekday School.

Two years ago after teaching, I asked: "So now are you excited about having the sign of the Cross made on your foreheads?" Most of the children nodded "yes," but one little girl shouted: "No!"

Actually I knew I shouldn't have asked that question as soon as the words left my mouth, because no one really wants the sign of the Cross marked on his or her forehead; because it is a sign of our finitude, our needfulness, and our mortality.

"From ashes to ashes, and dust to dust," means that we came from nothing and will return there, at least physically. But that doesn't include God in the equation.

God through Jesus makes everything in us new, including our bodies. That is the beauty of Lent, as we prepare for being made new through Easter.

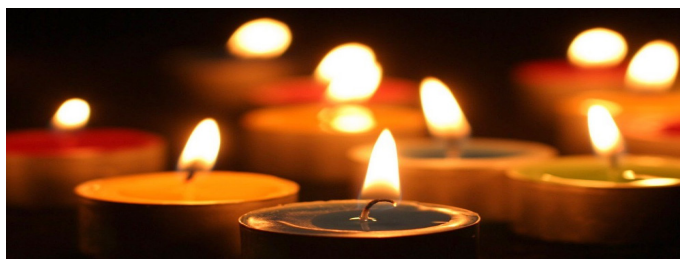
I pray that you will be with us in worship through this season, as we worship through a series entitled: "The 'I Am' Sayings of Jesus." In that series we will talk about how Jesus saw Himself to be.

This week our theme is: "The Alpha And Omega." I'm excited about the series, and hope you will be too. Bring a friend with you.

Blessings on you,

Dave

In Christian Sympathy



To **Kevin Ellis and family** on the death of his father Jim who died on February 4.

Deaths of Parishioners

To Walt Hamilton and family on the death of his wife, **Haddie Hamilton**, who died on February 5.

To the family of **Sue Huffstetler** who died January 16.

To the family of **Ann Tilley** who died on December, 28, 2017.

To the family of **Ed Younghans** who died on December 28, 2017.

To the family of **Billie Reed** who died on December 23, 2017.

Births

To Jessica and Travis Phifer on the birth of their son, Robert Edgar, on January 1, 2018.

To Natalie and Rob Kabel on the birth of their son, Josiah Aaron, on December 16, 2017.

Congregational Care

CMC Main
Gaylord Snyder

Discharged
Bette Arnold to Home
John Schultze to Home
Pat Waddell to Home

Baptisms



Chandler Elizabeth Williams was baptized on January 28. She is the daughter of Mary Margaret and Jeremiah Williams and sister to brothers Rivers and Dent.



Kyle Thomas Leonard was baptized on January 14. He is the son of DeAnn and Doug Leonard. He is the grandson of parishioner Brenda Leonard.

Mission Announcements

From the Desk of Missions Director, Brian Mateer

Haiti and Mission Attic Sale Announcement - Our Attic Sale continues to impact our Haiti and local missions, provides an incredible opportunity of engagement for our congregation and brings many people into our building for the sale. At the same time it is an all-consuming effort for the attic sale chairs, our facility, staff and volunteers. After a time of conversation and discernment we have decided to pause the sale in 2018 to access how we may work better together to determine if we may be able to shorten and streamline the processes. An Attic Sale task team is being formed to begin discussions and redesign the ministry. If you would like to serve on this team please contact me. Furthermore, our focus will be on continuing to serve the Haitian people, those in our community and to provide opportunities for our congregation to serve in meaningful ways.

A huge "THANK YOU" to outgoing Mission Council chairs Tom and Elaine Foster for their dedication and support of the mission efforts of Providence UMC. Both have been supporters of missions both locally and abroad. We appreciate your leadership of the Missions Council! Our new chair is Chris Sutherland.

Haiti Update - CHANGING LIVES! Twenty-eight wells have been completed from the Christmas Miracle Offering from 2016! We have enough funds to complete eight more wells which will be completed in the first quarter of 2018. The impact of clean water to Northern Haiti will be significant for years to come. Our trusted partner, Dr. Eugene, attributes a decline of cholera cases to our efforts and dedication to providing clean, safe water.

From funds raised by the 2017 Haiti and Mission Attic Sale, a roof was completed in early 2018 at the Annex School of the College of John Wesley. The school is located in a very challenged area of Cap Haitien. The roof will complete the construction of the school and will keep standing mosquito infested water from pooling on the upper level. It also created space for four more classrooms which will be utilized to begin a secondary school on site. To date, Providence UMC has provided a well, a flushing latrine system and a roof for the Annex School. The principal of the school and a pastor in the community said "Glory to God and Thank You! This is a dream come true!"

Upcoming Spring Opportunities:

Thursday, March 8 - Sunday March 11. Disaster Recovery Trip to Lumberton, NC. Per person cost is \$40. Participants are responsible for their personal food costs.

March 11 - March 18 - Sager Brown UMCOR Depot
Have you ever wondered where the cleaning buckets, hygiene kits and school kits go after they leave Providence UMC? UMCOR's relief supply depot, Sager Brown, is located in Baldwin, Louisiana. Volunteers assemble, verify, and pack relief-supply kits so that they can be sent to the areas where they are needed most. Participants also help with outreach programs in the depots' local communities. Per person cost is \$300 per person plus airfare to Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport.

The evening of Monday, March 19 - What's Next Ministry Fundraiser. Join us at the restaurant Pizza Peel in Cotswold. Enjoy delicious pizza, salads, sandwiches, and Italian food. Both dine-in or take-out are available! A portion of all proceeds will benefit our What's Next Ministry!

Mark Your Calendar

Senior Scholars at Queens

Fridays / 10:00 am - 11:00 am / Wolfe Hall

Come hear wonderful speakers on various topics each Friday.

February 9: Chef Peter Reinhart from Johnson & Wales University. He is considered to be one of the most respected bakers in America.

February 16: Ella Scarborough, Chair, At-Large, Board of County Commissioners. Learn about how Local Government Works.

February 23: Dr. Kandi Deitemeyer, President of CPCC. Learn about changes occurring at Central Piedmont Community College.

Scout Sunday and Scouting for Food

Sunday, February 11 / All Services

As part of our annual Methodist Tradition, Providence UMC Scouts will participate in all services on Scout Sunday. This is also the final day for Scouting for Food. Please bring your non-perishable food items to the Church and place them in one of the collection bins in the Atrium or Wolfe Hall.

Weekly Centering Prayer Service

Mondays / noon - 1:00 pm / Chapel

Begin your week with Centering Prayer. Many find this time of stillness with God replenishing and soothing. For more information, contact the Rev. Dr. Bill Jeffries, 704.714.9368 or Pam Bashor, 704.614.0282.

Shrove Tuesday Dinner

Tuesday, February 13 / 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm / Wolfe Hall

Let them eat panCAKES! Bring family and friends to our Shrove Tuesday Dinner. Enjoy this wonderful and delicious tradition before Lent. The cost is \$7.50 per adult and \$4.00 per child (10 and younger who eat dinner) with a maximum of \$25.00 per family. We encourage people of all ages to fellowship together.

Childcare will not be provided. Reservations are due

Monday, February 11 at noon. Please make your reservations for Shrove Tuesday as you do for POW. **(There will be no POW dinner on February 14, Ash Wednesday.)**

MENU

Pancakes
Bacon and sausage
Fresh fruit medley
Orange juice, milk and coffee

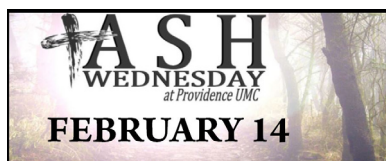
Wednesday Night Live after Shrove Tuesday

Tuesday, February 13 / 6:30 pm and 7:30 pm / A106

Topic: TEDTalk "It's time to Reclaim Religion," by Rabbi Sharon Brous

Enjoy our popular, educational discussion group that normally meets each Wednesday evening through March 21. This week is an exception and the meeting will follow Shrove Tuesday Dinner.

Ash Wednesday Services



Please join us for one of our many services. See all service times listed on the last page.

Annual Easter Prayer Vigil

The annual Easter Prayer Vigil will be held in the Chapel beginning at 8:00 pm on Good Friday, March 30 and will continue through 6:00 am on Easter, April 1. Beginning Ash Wednesday, February 14 there will be a sign-up sheet with prayer times located at the Welcome Desk.

Order You Caterpillars for Easter

Order dates: Now - February 16 on our website

Pick-up date: March 7 in Breezeway

Now is the time to order your caterpillars online. Then enjoy watching their metamorphosis into butterflies. All are welcome to release them at our annual "Butterfly Celebration" on Easter, April 1. Caterpillars are \$5.00 for three, and pop-up butterfly homes are available for \$10.00.

Providence on Wednesdays (POW)

Wednesday, February 21 and 28 / 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm / Wolfe Hall

No stress and no dishes! Just an opportunity for delicious food, fun and fellowship. 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 a weekly or standing reservation now on our website, in the Atrium or by calling 704.714.9380. Spring POW menus available at the Welcome Desk and online.

Providence on Broadway Youth Choir Cabaret

Friday, February 23 and Saturday, February 24

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm / Atrium

See details on the last page.

Free Yoga

Wednesday, March 7 / Noon - 1:00 pm / Room 214

Come relax and rejuvenate at our free yoga classes taught by Claire Rose. The classes are on the first Wednesday of the month. Reserve your spot via Sign-Up Genius (<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0845a5ad29a2f49-free>) **All reservations must be made before noon on the day prior to class.** Should fewer than three people sign up for class, it will be cancelled and individuals will be notified via email.

United Methodist Women



Tuesday, March 6 / 10:30 am / Chapel

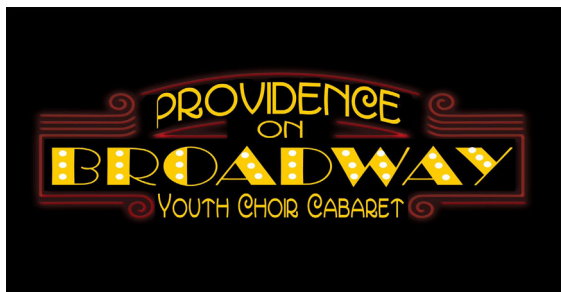
Join us for a monologue by the Rev. Valerie Wilson, a Providence UMC member. The program is entitled "Joanna: A Good Friday Story." Joanna, the wife of King Herod's steward, was one of the women who went to the tomb on Easter morning. Lunch follows the program and reservations may be made by calling 704.714.9380.

Boy Scout Troop 11 BBQ

Sale Dates are Friday, March 16 from 11:00 am - 8:00 pm and Saturday, March 17 from 8:00 am - noon

Get your tickets soon for some awesome BBQ by the Providence UMC Boy Scouts. Don't miss out on this annual event! Purchase your tickets in the Atrium on Sunday February 11, 18 and March 4.

Music Ministry - Providence on Broadway



**Friday, February 23 and Saturday, February 24
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm / Atrium**

Come support our Youth Choir as they present Providence on Broadway cabaret. You will hear selections from *Kiss Me Kate*, *The King and I*, *Dear Evan Hansen*, *Sweet Charity*, *Into the Woods* and many others. Tickets are on sale on Sundays in the Atrium, through the Music Ministry office during the week, on the website and at the Welcome Desk. The ticket price (\$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children/youth) includes the show and desserts at intermission. Ticket profits support our Youth Choir trip to Montreat Music and Worship Conferences this summer.

March Mission - Welcome Home Kit Challenge



"If you move people into permanent supportive housing first, and then give them help, it seems to work better," Nan Roman, the president and C.E.O. of the National Alliance for Homelessness.

When individuals who have experienced long-term homelessness finally move into their home, it can be very overwhelming! We want to provide kits to help ease their transition into housing and provide them with basic items that address everyday needs. A list of items for the kits may be found online. We challenge each Sunday School Class, Life Group or other small groups to donate funds or collect items for one Welcome Home Kit. **Completed kits are due by February 28 and may be placed in the Missions Center**, at a location designated by a poster. If a group decides to fund a kit, the cost is \$200. The check should be written to Providence UMC with "Welcome Home Kit" written on the memo line. Contact: Chris Litaker at 704.714.9392.

The Word of God is full of accounts describing the power of prayer in various situations.

The power of prayer has overcome enemies (Psalm 6:9-10), conquered death (2 Kings 4:3-36), brought healing (James 5:14-15) and defeated demons (Mark 9:29). God, through prayer, opens eyes, changes hearts, heals wounds (James 1:5).

At Providence UMC, we are here to pray for your needs, health and concerns. This is a vital part of our Church ministry. Here are several ways available for you to request prayer: prayer cards are located at all services and may be filled out and placed in the offering plates, contact a member of our Prayer Ministry team via our website or send your prayer request to Natalie Scott. Confidential prayer requests will be handled by Pastors only; otherwise your prayer will be sent to a group of faith-filled people who have volunteered to devote time to pray for your concerns.

Additional prayer opportunities at the Church include organized prayer on Sunday mornings prior to the Net service and our new Centering Prayer Group that meets each Monday at noon in the Chapel. Please reach out to us with your prayer needs. We have a team of parishioners who want to be called upon to pray to our Father on your behalf.

Providence Place



Providence Place, a group associated with the National Alliance on Mental Illness – NAMI - Charlotte, meets on the first Saturday of the month for an uplifting time of free food, fellowship and definitely fun! The individuals who attend are consumers, as well as friends, family members and caregivers who care about assisting those living with mental health challenges.

Elaine Foster recently attend an event and said, "When I volunteered to help prepare and serve a chili lunch with UMW Circle 11 for Providence Place, I had thought that I would sit back and observe the program. Little did I know that I would be drawn in and get in the true spirit of it all. What a wonderful experience! As a result, our UMW Circle has signed up to return. When you just show up, God does the rest!"

February 14 - Ash Wednesday Services

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. All are welcome to come for the administering of ashes from our Pastors. We have three Ash Wednesday Services in the Sanctuary for your convenience. The first service is at 10:00 am and is designed as a child-friendly service, our second service is mid-day and begins at 12:30 pm and our final service is in the evening at 6:30 pm.

What is Ash Wednesday and the Season of Lent?

Ash Wednesday, February 14, marks the beginning of Lent, a period of penitence that commemorates Jesus' 40 days of fasting and temptation in the desert. The season of Lent ends on Easter, April 1, as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. The purpose of the Lenten Season is to focus one's mind and heart on Christ. Often, individuals "give something up" during the 40 days. While the act of self-denial serves as a means of remembering Jesus' fasting, it serves a deeper purpose in making one mindful of those things which are more holy.