

# *Providence United Methodist Church*

*Belong. Be Transformed.  Make a Difference.*

## **3rd Sunday of Advent**

**CONNECTIONS—9:00 a.m.**

**Greeting and Welcome**

**Opening Prayer**

**Singing:** O Come Emmanuel

**Making Connections**

**A Time with the Children:** Derrick Parson

**Lighting of the Advent Candle, Joy**

**Scripture:** Matthew 3:1-12

**Singing:** Prepare the Way

**Message:** Sold Out for God

Pastor Derrick Parson

**Prayer Time**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

**Singing with Offering:** Even So Come

**Benediction**

# 3rd Sunday of Advent

11:00 a.m.

## THE CHURCH GATHERS

Prelude Listen to the Angels arr. Mark Hayes

### + Greeting\*

Leader: A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,

People: **make straight in the desert a highway for our God."**

Isaiah 40:3

+ Hymn UMH 220 Angels from the Realms of Glory REGENT SQUARE

## TO HEAR THE WORD

### Opening Prayer

Merciful God, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation. Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen!

BOW 250

Lighting of the Advent Candle

*Joy*

Betty & Carlton Gregory

Making Connections

A Time with the Children

Derrick Parson

Special Music

Longing for Light  
Providence Chancel Choir

arr. Joel Raney

First Reading\*

Isaiah 11:1-10

**Thanks be to God.**

+ Hymn UMH 211

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel  
Verses 1, 4, 6 and 7

VENI EMMANUEL

Second Reading\*

Matthew 3:1-12

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Sold Out for God

Pastor Derrick Parson

## **TO RESPOND IN FAITH**

Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Offertory

Emmanuel Comes

Mark Hayes

+ Response\*

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 94

+ Hymn UMH 206

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

HOUSTON

+ Benediction

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen!”

+ Postlude

**Thank you for silencing all electronic devices.**

**UMH** = United Methodist Hymnal (Red)

**FWS** = The Faith We Sing (Black)

\* = Words Projected

+ = Please stand as you are able

## Welcome, guests. We're glad you're here!

- Pick up a welcome gift in the foyer.
- **Children's age-appropriate activity bulletins, bags and boxes** are available in the foyer.
- **Restrooms** are located down the main hall turning to the left. A baby changing table is available in the handicap accessible restroom.
- **Assisted listening devices**, large-print hymnals and large-print bulletins are available. Ask an usher for assistance.
- A **nursery** with professional care is offered as an option for our children, newborn through age four (located downstairs).

The **flowers on the altar** today are given to the glory of God by Nickie Price to celebrate December birthdays, past and present, within her little family.

The **flowers in the narthex** today are given to the glory of God and to wish Jean Chappell a very Happy Birthday. Love, Jim

The **flowers in the narthex** today are given to the glory of God by Rob and Abby Heare in honor of their grandson, Jackson Hicks' 8th birthday.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

In the church year, this third Sunday of Advent is called "Joy Sunday". In the middle of our busy Advent season, we take this day just to be glad, to be grateful for all the blessings we

have received in our lives, and to look forward to that greatest joy, our Savior, soon to be born in Bethlehem. As you reflect on the joy in your life, give generously to Society of St. Andrew, using the coin box you received with your Advent devotional booklet. Today, spend time naming your blessings, and place a coin in your coin box for every blessing you name.

The forms for the **Christmas poinsettia and Bible dedications** are available today. The cost is \$10 for the poinsettia and \$10 for two Bibles. Today is the last day we can accept your order for poinsettias and Bibles.

The **Christmas Card mail box** is on the table near the chapel. Cards may be "sent" to church folks. Direct the money you would have spent on postage to the Advent offering or another mission. Be sure and check the mailbox each week for your own mail.

The United Methodist Women Leadership Team invites all women of Providence to a potluck luncheon and **Christmas Celebration** today at 12:15 p.m. in the Social Hall. Margaret Taylor and Jane Elbert will present a program on Christmas Carols.

Join us as we **spread Christmas cheer** to our shut-ins and neighbors next Sunday, December 20, 3:30-5:00 p.m. We will travel in groups and visit people who helped make Providence such a special church but who can no longer get here every week. They love our visits and we love honoring them with carols. Please sign up today on the sign-in sheet if you plan to go caroling next week. New this year,

we want to bring bags of Christmas cookies to give away so if you can package 6 cookies in a sandwich bag, please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex. Contact Susan Clark at [providenceryouth@yahoo.com](mailto:providenceryouth@yahoo.com) for more information.

Next Sunday, December 20, there will be a **Birthday Party for Jesus** in the Social Hall during the Sunday School hour. No birthday party would be complete without a cake, so there will be a birthday cake for Jesus. Children will have time to do crafts and learn about Jesus, the Greatest Gift!

Join us on Wednesday, December 23, **Miracle of Christmas** at the Metro Zoo. Bring a can of food to donate and the event is free. Be sure to dress warmly for the nativity because it is all outside. We will meet at the Zoo (8300 Beaver Bridge Road, Moseley, VA 23120) at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend. (Overflow parking is available at Grange Hall School with free shuttle service to the zoo.)

There is still time left to order some Christmas gifts using **UMCMarketplace Shop**. You can shop online and give to Providence at the same time. Just go to [umcmarket.org](http://umcmarket.org) and let the shopping begin. Since July, over 5,500 people have established UMCmarket accounts and more than \$330,000 has been purchased generating donations to ministries and churches, all within just a few months.

It's almost time for us to be thinking about **snow removal** here at church. If you are able and willing to assist, please sign up on the sign

-in sheet today or contact Billy Walton (334-6777). He can answer any questions and let you know what is involved. As a general guideline, if Chesterfield County schools are closed, then the church office is closed and all planned activities are cancelled.

**"Alice in Wonderland"** is coming to the stage at Providence in January. The Alpha Theatre and Arts Company (a Christian youth theater group) has been rehearsing here for many weeks to prepare for the performance. In appreciation for the use of our facilities, they repaired and roped the curtain pulleys on our stage. We are grateful for their presence at Providence and their gift of the repairs! Be sure to watch for more information about their performance of "Alice in Wonderland" which will be in January 2016.

### Holiday Services and Events

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>December 20</b> | <i>Sing Glory!</i> Providence Chancel Choir presenting Antonio Vivaldi's <i>Gloria</i> |
| <b>December 20</b> | Happy Birthday Jesus Party, during the Sunday School hour                              |
| <b>December 23</b> | Miracle of Christmas at the Metro Zoo  |
| <b>December 24</b> | <b><u>Christmas Eve Services:</u></b>  |
| 5:00 p.m.          | Family Service and Children's Musical  |
| 7:30 p.m.          | Candlelight and Communion Service  |
| 11:00 p.m.         | Candlelight and Communion Service  |
| <b>December 27</b> | One Service at 10:00 a.m.<br>No Sunday School.   |

The **2016 Flower Calendar** is in the hallway. If you would like to provide flower arrangements for the altar or narthex for a particular Sunday,

1. Reserve date on Flower Calendar
2. Complete Blue Flower Order Form
3. Submit form **with payment** to the office or put in offering plate.

If you have any questions, please contact Linda Collins at 276-4289 or by email: [Linda.Collins@providenceumc.net](mailto:Linda.Collins@providenceumc.net).

Your **Financial Commitment Cards for 2016** are still being received. You may place yours in the offering plate or mail to/drop by the church office. Extra cards are available in the foyer.

Do you know someone in our congregation who is unable to attend church, who might like to have a visit and receive communion? If so, please call Jane Elbert (675-0534) or email her at: [janeelbertquilts@gmail.com](mailto:janeelbertquilts@gmail.com).

Are you thinking about being baptized or becoming a member of Providence? Speak with Pastor Derrick who will guide you in the next steps, (804)-276-4289.

## **PRAYER MINISTRY**

Hand-knitted **prayer squares are available** in the foyer to take or mail to someone for whom you are praying.

To connect with our email prayer ministry, you may send a prayer request to Tom and Nancy Coffman at [tlcnlc@verizon.net](mailto:tlcnlc@verizon.net). If you would

like to be added to the list to receive prayer requests, contact the Coffmans.

**Our service men and women, wherever they serve, and their families:** Hunter Blankenship, Jennifer Collins, Matt Latimer, Wayne Lee, Bob Muchow, Megan Thomas.

### **Our gathered prayer concerns:**

Brian Bilski, Ed Blackwell (knee surgery on 12/4), Nan Blackwell, Shirley Collins (knee surgery 11/19), Mary Carolyn Gwinn (battling cancer, friend of Judy Miles), Lori Hudson, Mildred Isbell, Ronnie Justice, Tristen Kellam, the family of Norma Kidd (who died on 11/15), Diane King, Brian Krane (nephew of Amy & Ethan Palmer, has cancer), Buddy Lindsey (surgery on 12/1, son of Hilda Lindsey), Patricia Logan-Reilly (needs a new heart, friend of Linda Collins), Cindy Lowe (battling cancer, niece of Eula Phillips), **Sarah Morris** (at JW, fell 12/8), Nancy Segal (friend of the Collins family), **Mary Steele**, Stuart Watkins, Rita & Leroy Williams (friends of Nickie Price), James Yeatts.

**Metro Richmond at Prayer for December 6, 2015:** We pray for the families in Metropolitan Richmond: for persons who are lonely or have no family; for persons who are estranged from their families; for persons who are grieving the loss of a loved one; and for all who need to feel the love of God.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Sunday, December 13

- 9:00 Connections
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 Traditional Worship
- 12:15 UMW Christmas Celebration Lunch (SH)
- 2:00 Disciple 3 (205)
- 4:00 Girl Scouts (309)
- 4:00 Youth Choir
- 4:45 Youth Handbells
- 5:30 Youth & Inukshuks

### Monday, December 14

- 10:00 Line Dancers (309)
- 10:30 A. M. Davis Teachers' Luncheon
- 11:30 Providence Retired Club (Cracker Barrel)
- 3:00 Alpha Theatre (SH)
- 6:30 Trustees (205)
- 7:00 Vivaldi Choir Workshop
- 7:00 Finance (L)
- 7:00 Ruritan Board Mtg. (309)

### Tuesday, December 15

- 11:00 Bible Study (L)
- 12:00 Whitt Circle
- 6:30 Christian Believer Class (205)
- 6:30 Cub/Boy Scouts (SH/309)

### Wednesday, December 16

- 7:00 Men's Breakfast (Shoney's)
- 6:30 Chancel Choir (Choir room)

### Thursday, December 17

- 5:30 Ministry in Motion
- 6:15 Men's Bible Study (L)
- 6:30 AA Group (205)

### Friday, December 18

- 9:15 Cooks for Christ
- 6:30 Gregory Circle
- 8:00 AA Group (309)

### Saturday, December 19

- 8:30 Chancel Choir Dress Rehearsal
- 9:30 Chancel Choir with Orchestra

## Prayer Requests

Pray for:

\_\_\_\_\_

Place in Bulletin: Yes / No

Specific Request:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Meal Needs: Yes / No

Transportation Needs: Yes / No

Desire Card: Yes / No

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Your Contact Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address:

\_\_\_\_\_

Drop this sheet in the offering plate or at the church office.

To direct an urgent concern for yourself or a family member to our email prayer group, please contact the church office by phone or email.

## Those Serving Today

### Acolyte:

11:00 Carrie Ostrum

### Greeters:

9:00 Diane King (Library)  
Mike Patterson (Narthex)  
11:00 Nickie Price (Library)  
Tracey Kellam (Narthex)

### Nursery:

9:00 Jennifer Clemmons  
SS Jennifer Ostrum  
11:00 Laurie Breeden

### Counters:

Jimmy Sculthorpe (captain)  
Paul Martin, Hugh Miles

### Ushers:

9:00 Bill Blankenship  
Chris Healy, Carolyn Bilski  
11:00 George Winstead  
Linwood Hudson, Jack Waters  
T L Jenkins, Stuart Watkins  
Pam Asbury, Melvin Watkins

**Reader:** 11:00 Tracey Kellam

### Audio/Media Shout Team:

9:00 Ron Wootten (A)  
Tyler Griggs (MS)  
11:00 Ron Wootten (A)  
Tyler Griggs (MS)

### Sanctuary Organizers:

Flora Scott, Jean Winfree

### Advent Readers & Candle Lighters:

9:00 Cathy & Mike Patterson  
11:00 Betty & Carlton Gregory

CCLI License #1495687  
CCVLI License #502817990

Providence United Methodist Church  
901 S. Providence Road  
N. Chesterfield, VA 23236-2649

### Office Hours:

Monday—Thursday 10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.  
Friday Office Closed

### Contact us at:

Church Telephone: (804) 276-4289  
Fax Number: (804) 745-2501  
Website: [www.providenceumc.net](http://www.providenceumc.net)  
E-mail: [providenceumc@providenceumc.net](mailto:providenceumc@providenceumc.net)  
Wi-Fi Connection Password [praisegod1](#)

### Church Staff:

**Pastor** (ext. 201) Derrick Parson  
[derrickparson@vaumc.org](mailto:derrickparson@vaumc.org)

**Secretary** (ext. 203) Linda Collins  
[Linda.Collins@providenceumc.net](mailto:Linda.Collins@providenceumc.net)

**Youth Ministries** (ext. 205) Susan Clark  
[Susan.Clark@providenceumc.net](mailto:Susan.Clark@providenceumc.net)

**Music Ministries** (ext. 207) Margaret Taylor  
[M.E.Taylor003@gmail.com](mailto:M.E.Taylor003@gmail.com)

**Young Adult Ministries** Daniel Burch  
[Daniel.Burch@upsem.edu](mailto:Daniel.Burch@upsem.edu)

**Children's Ministries** Joy Wagner  
[joyinthepottershands@gmail.com](mailto:joyinthepottershands@gmail.com)

**Audio Visual** Tyler Griggs  
[Tgriggs87@gmail.com](mailto:Tgriggs87@gmail.com)

**Custodial Service** Bill Duganne  
**Nursery Attendant** Cynthia Liverpool  
**Our Covenant Missionary** Kim King Torres