

# THE PROVIDENCE POST

*Providence Church - an Evangelical Presbyterian Church congregation  
Located at 1400 Old Clyde Road, Clyde*



## April 2020

Unprecedented. Unheard of. We are flooded with so many words to describe this crazy season of Covid-19, in which we don't know how long social distancing, isolation, economic hardship (or collapse!) and fear of overwhelming the health care system will last.

We have become all too familiar with new vocabulary, or maybe words with vivid and visceral new significance. Take self-quarantine for example. It has an Italian root and was first used to describe the literal 40 day period in which a widow was allowed to live in her deceased husband's home free from fear of seizure of said property. Soon it came to mean the 40 day period that a ship and cargo (that was suspected of carrying disease) was isolated. Think about Lent now, we're in the middle of a 40 day period of reflection on the suffering of Christ leading up to his death and resurrection. This season seems especially appropriate considering what we are going through now as a country, a community, a church. We're not even meeting because of Covid-19. Lent: a time of reflection, of isolation, of death, and of new life. We are reminded of the words of Jesus to trust in Him. Trust is counterintuitive. We are wired to fret, to self protect, and many of our behaviors are based on looking out for number one--ourselves and our loved ones. In these quarantine days of uncertainty, let us look up and pray. Our faith is built on the foundation of the truth that God is sovereign and He directs our steps. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart", the writer of Proverbs tells us. Set your heart on the Lord; keep your eyes on Jesus. "Lean not on your own understanding" is an invitation to see the world from God's perspective and not just our own. This does not mean we park our common sense or our rational and intellectual faculties. It just means that they are not ultimate. So by all means, wash your hands often, practice social distancing, avoid crowds, and do what you can to practice proper hygiene. But ultimately know that God is in control. And yeah, it's okay to have the larder full of food, but know also that Jesus cares for you, you will not lack for any good thing, and that ultimately He provides for us—not we ourselves. I pray that this time of absence from each other will help us grow fonder of one another and we'll look upon this time as one of preparation and anticipation.



Contact us:

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### **Directions to Providence 1400 Old Clyde Road**

From Waynesville: 19/23 to exit 105, right on Hospital Drive for 0.1 miles, right on Jones Cove Road to end (0.3 miles), right on Old Clyde Road for 0.1 miles, church is on the right.

From Clyde: 19/23 to exit 105, right on Jones Cove Road, then as above.

### **Worship and Church Activities**

#### **Sunday**

10:00 am - Sunday School for all ages

10:45 am - Morning Worship with  
Nursery & Children's Church

#### **Tuesday**

12:00 pm - Pastor's Circle

#### **Wednesday**

10:15 - Women's Prayer Group

#### **Thursday**

6:45 am - Men's Prayer Group  
and breakfast

#### **Every Other Thursday**

7:00 pm Men's Group Study

7:00 pm Women's Group Study

*Pastor Edward*

# Providence Happenings



## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The session met by means of Zoom last week. Our time was spent discussing how best to continue to feed our flock and fellowship during this unusual time. We also spent time praying for our individuals in the congregation. If you have a special prayer request, please let one of the elders know so we can lift it up.

We hope you were able to join us for worship on Sunday. We noted several small glitches that we hope to correct in future services. If you had trouble with the Zoom program please contact an elder for assistance. It was a real blessing to see everyone and worship together.

We had internet installed in the church today in the event this situation runs for an extended duration. We may at some point try broadcasting from the church building, but for now we will abide by the "stay at home" mandate and encourage others to do the same.

Everybody hang tough--- for we are a truly blessed people and we have a great and sovereign God

### **From the Mission Committee: Yard Sale, Workshops, Open Door Meals and Mission Opportunities**

**Yard Sale:** At this point, the mission committee has voted to place the yard sale "on hold". However, the good news is that you can use all this time at home to clean out those unused tools in your garage, peruse your "junk drawer" and purge your closets. Passing your extras to someone else who can use and treasure them, clears clutter, reduces stress and is better stewardship! (At this point, I am talking to myself, as I have a "junk room" not a "junk drawer".) Remember also to save your clothing to take later to the consignment shop in Hazelwood. Our intent is to still have the yard sale and neighborhood hot dog luncheon in the future at the opportune time.

**Workshops:** Sarah Altman's workshop which was held in March was a great success. There was a nice mixture of church and non-church members who attended and the material which was presented was a blessing to many. Due to the nature of this type of small group atmosphere, the workshops will also be suspended until further notice.

**Church Library:** While you are on a cleaning spree, do not forget to set aside books for our fledgling Providence library.

**Open Door:** The Open Door is not preparing meals until at least April 20th. Mountain Projects is providing 100 bagged meals each day to be handed out and Open Door is distributing food boxes as needed. We will let you know when our services for cooking and serving will be needed in the future.

**HOWEVER:** Scripture reminds us in Hebrews 13:16, "And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased." Even in these challenging times, we can still find ways to extend the gospel to others, next door and even around the world. Now is a good time to call a neighbor especially those living alone. You can still make a big pot of soup and drop it off on the front door of a mom trying to work from home while taking care of three housebound school children. Consider, if you do absolutely have to go to the store, call a shut in and see if you can pick up essentials for them and drop them at their door. Read the mission updates from our missionaries and keep them in your prayers. Continue to financially support your local church and missions whether local or globally. Pray for all those who are still on the "front lines" serving in hospitals, nursing homes, grocery stores and other essential business. Lift up those here and around the world who are persecuted, suffering and oppressed.

**REMEMBER:** Deut: 31:6 Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.

**The Well will not meet in April**



# Mission News



## From the McKays March Newsletter

We hope you and yours are doing well and are healthy! Sam and Ian have the last day of school today for at least one month. They will do online schooling for the next weeks at home. It has never been done here before so it remains to be seen if it will work out ( and if parents will survive it). There have been some restrictions and we are waiting to see if all of Germany will be shut down as well and force us to stay home. Some people are quite nervous and are buying a lot of food and toilet paper! Must be a global thing :-)



I have long stated that a sure sign of the Lord's kingdom coming upon us here will be when we are able to get Arabs and Persians (from Iran) together in His name... without a fight breaking out! We were so privileged to see that in an International Gathering one recent Friday night. Two Syrians and two Iranians blessed us with their presence and what a sight it was to share from His Word and listen to the ensuing ruckus of a Farsi translation and an Arabic translation going on along with the English and German discussions. Three of the four are not (yet) believers and we look forward to seeing the Lord's work in them. Pray for M., M. and M., (no really, you can't make this up!)

In the midst of the major world virus concerns, there is still a massive refugee crisis brewing on the borders with Greece and Turkey, and Europe's leaders are deliberating about future actions. His kingdom come and His peace prevail,

*Adger, Sandra, Sam and Ian*

## From the Roes March Newsletter

"Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners..."  
(James 4:8 NIV)

In other words, don't live in fear, trust in God . . . and be sure to wash your hands a lot! This has become the modus operandi for our mission these last few weeks as COVID-19 has affected the areas we work in.

### Season of Renewal

After 15 years with Greater Europe Mission (11 years of those in leadership roles), we have had many joyful seasons and many stressful seasons. Through it all we have enjoyed watching God's hand at work here in Europe, seen ministries grow more effective through their use of technology, and seen our missionaries grow in their skills and spiritual lives. So at this point in our lives, our sending church, Lake Forest, and GEM have decided it is a good time for us to take a sabbatical. While our plan for this time is forever changing (thank you COVID-19), we have some particular objectives that include an extended spiritual retreat, some more German language learning, some leadership development, and some refreshing by doing things we don't normally get to do

# April 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Will Roberts	2 Sidney Indgin	3 Lisa Lawrence Ian McKay	4
5 Art Altman	6	7	8	9 Eric Lizarazu	10	11 Calvin Allsbrook Eric & Emily Lizarazu
12	13	14 Kari Morgan	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		