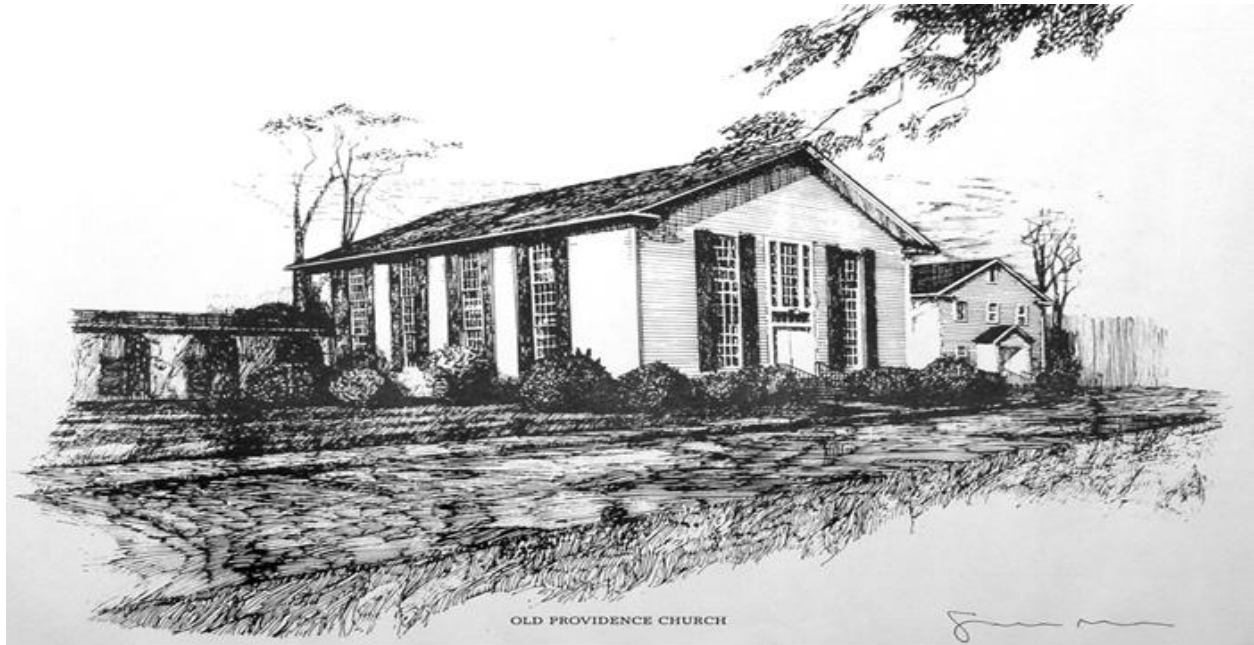


PROVIDENCE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH • EST. 1767



Our Vision

As we boldly proclaim the transformative power of God's word, we will inspire with our past, care for all in our present, and nurture disciples for our future.

The Church at Worship

18th Sunday after Pentecost

September 27, 2026

10:30 am

The Rev. Dr. Jody Moore, Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Lal Rodawla, Associate Pastor

Genie Richards, Youth Director

Sarah Clark, Children's Ministry Director

Alex Sims, Director of Music

Ron Nice, Pianist/Organist

Roy Phillips, Finance Administrator

Ruth Welch, Office Administrator

Officers of the Week

Cindy Howard

Skyler Holden

Wendy Felker

Welcome and Announcements

Moment for Mission

World Communion Sunday PCUSA Offering
Laura Grayson

Prelude

“Prelude in C Minor (Well Tempered Klavier)”

J.S. Bach

Gathering as God’s People

Call to Worship

(From *Glory to God resource*, Sept 27, 2026)

One: We share the stories of our ancestors,

All: things we have heard and known—

One: how the Lord divided the sea and let the peoples pass through;

All: how God split open rocks to give us drink in the desert.

One: We will not hide these stories from our children;

All: we will tell the coming generations about the glorious deeds of the Lord.

* Sharing of the Peace of Christ

One: Christ is our peace. He has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross.

All: We meet in Christ’s name and share his peace.

One: The peace of the Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

* Opening Hymn

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven

#619

* Opening Prayer

(From *Call to Worship resource*, Sept 27, 2026)

God of living water, we gather, thirsting for you. Your well is deep; your spring ever-flowing. Complete our joy; refine our desires. Fill our cup with love for one another as we travel your paths of salvation. Amen.

Act of Confession

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession:

God of the universe, creation is groaning and suffering. If we are honest with ourselves, we are to blame, at least in part. We have consumed the earth’s resources in ways that have been most convenient to us. We have given little thought to the long-term consequences of our behavior to our planet, especially the legacy we will leave to our children and our children’s children. We have not been good caretakers of the planet that has been entrusted to our care. Have mercy upon us Lord. Inspire us to live in better harmony with your creation. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

* Gloria Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me (Verse 1) #582

Glory to God, whose goodness shine on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

Hearing God's Word

Moment for Stewardship: John Garver

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Lesson: Romans 8:22-30 p. 158, NT, Pew Bible
One: This is the Word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God!

Anthem: "Lead Me, Lord" Samuel Sebastian Wesley
Chancel Choir

Time with Children: Bret Myers

Second Scripture Lesson: Romans 8:31-39 p. 158, NT, Pew Bible
One: This is the Word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon "God's Grace Comes First" Rev. Dr. Jody Moore

Responding to God's Word

* Hymn of Response Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound #649

Prayers of the People and 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Invitation to Giving

Offertory

“Here Am I Lord”

arr. Mark Hayes
Helen Finch, piano
Ron Nice, piano

* Doxology

#606

* Prayer of Dedication

(From the Presbyterian Outlook, Sept 27, 2026)

Holy God, bless these gifts for your good use. May these tokens of our gratitude be of service in blessing the poor, feeding the hungry, clothing and sheltering those struggling to survive. Use these gifts to further Christ’s mission and ministry in a hurting world. Amen.

Being Sent Out in God’s Name

* Affirmation of Faith:

From A Declaration of Faith (Ch. 10.2)

All things will be renewed in Christ. In Christ God gave us a glimpse of the new creation God has already begun and will surely finish. We do not know when the final day will come. In our time we see only broken and scattered signs that the renewal of all things is under way. We do not yet see the end of cruelty and suffering in the world, the church, or our own lives. But we see Jesus as Lord. As he stands at the center of our history, we are confident he will stand at its end. He will judge all people and nations. Evil will be condemned and rooted out of God’s good creation. There will be no more tears or pain. All things will be made new. The fellowship of human beings with God and each other will be perfected. Amen.

* Closing Hymn

Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory

#354

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude

“Seasons (Autumn)”

Antonio Vivaldi

The Ushers today are Jo Hardin and Cindy Howard.

The flowers in the sanctuary today are in Honor of Ron Nice, PPC Organist Emeritus.
With Love and Gratitude from The Music Committee

World Communion Sunday: World Communion Sunday is held annually on the first Sunday of October, which is October 4th this year. More Christians gather around the Lord’s Table on World Communion Sunday than on any day of the year. World Communion Sunday was actually started by a Presbyterian congregation in Pittsburgh, PA in 1933 as a visible sign of our unity in Christ.

Being Presbyterian in Dysvangelical America

Join the pastors of Providence Presbyterian Church and Sardis Presbyterian Church for a seven-week study of *Being Presbyterian in Dysvangelical America: A Guide to Reclaiming the Goodness of God's Grace*. The class begins Wednesday, September 2, and meets at 1:00 p.m. in the church office, with both in-person and Zoom participation available. Everyone is welcome!

Providence in Prayer

Acute Concerns

Emily McCanless, Baxter Price, Joyce Pate, Mechele Hill (Tandy's niece), Gary Sikes, William Dixon, Darwin Collins, Roger Nussman, Judith Arey, Barbara Conner, Julie Brock, Kathy Cathey, Bob and Yasmin Craig, Willie Rea, Betsy Peace, Jaiden Dean, Morgan Jeffares, Everette, Jenny Gidaro, John Gidaro.

Chronic Concerns

Nell Kilpatrick's daughter, Isabel Kilpatrick, Bo Hardee, Kim Hintz's mother, Sandy, Zachary Coger, Yo Yee Chacko.

Grieving

Ken Reilly and family on the death of his brother, Charles Reilly, on July 29.

Phyllis Long and family on the death of her brother, Stephen Willetts, on July 30.

Patsy Price and family on the death of her brother, James "Jimmy" Rinehardt, on August 4.

Please don't forget to mention the availability of Stephen Ministers to those who are hurting. To request a Stephen Minister, contact E. Lynn Finlon, elynnfinlon@gmail.com or Lal Rodawla, lal@ppc1767.org

Special Christian Education Opportunity: Trust the Whisper

On Sunday, October 18, at 9:30 a.m., we will welcome Kathy Izard, Charlotte author, speaker, and community advocate, for a special Christian Education program in the Fellowship Hall.

Kathy is the author of Trust the Whisper: How Answering Quiet Callings Inspires Extraordinary Stories of Ordinary Grace, which our Providence Book Club is reading this fall. Her work has included homelessness, affordable housing, and mental health, while Trust the Whisper explores the broader themes of discernment and calling, paying attention to where God may be leading us and having the courage to respond. This special program also connects with Providence's ongoing Matthew 25 efforts as we consider how God calls us to notice, listen, and respond faithfully to the needs around us.

Providence Presbyterian Book Club will meet on Tuesday, September 29 at 7pm in the parlor. We will be discussing Trust the Whisper: How Answering Quiet Callings Inspires Extraordinary Stories of Ordinary Grace by Kathy Izard. Izard is a Charlotte author and has won awards for her five books. Come Join Us! Contact Leigh Myers@lmyers0727@gmail.com with any questions.

World Communion Offering

The World Communion Offering works to ensure all God's people flourish as God intends through ministries working for racial justice, gender justice, peacemaking, global witness, and ecumenical and interfaith relations.

If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!

Ways to give:

1. Through donation envelopes available next Sunday, October 4th.
2. A check made out to PPC with "World Communion Offering" in the memo line.

Empathy Study

Tuesday Evenings October 13 - November 17

Sponsored by PPC Stephen Ministry

Offering empathy to someone who is struggling is like giving a cup of water to a thirsty traveler – similar to the descriptions given by Jesus in Matt 25:35-36. Empathy is a skill with extraordinary potential for increasing care, deepening understanding, strengthening trust, and transforming relationships. Like any other skill, growing in your ability to empathize simply takes practice and deliberate attention.

Beginning October 13 through November 17 PPC's Stephen Leaders will lead a study using The Gift of Empathy (\$15.00). In six weekly Tuesday sessions 6:30 – 8:30pm, two small groups divided into women and men, will explore what empathy is and how to develop this skill. This study is open to anyone who wants to grow in listening, caring, and building stronger relationships at home, at church, and in the community. For more information and/or sign-up please contact one of PPC's Stephen Leaders.

PPC and Habitat for Humanity

This year, PPC is again partnering with Habitat to sponsor a Critical Home Repair project. We will repair Mrs. Abraham's home at 3930 Bearwood Avenue in Charlotte. The work will include replacing flooring systems, making major kitchen and bathroom repairs, installing an accessibility ramp, and completing other needed improvements. We also need volunteers to provide lunches for the repair crews.

We will work on the house on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday for three consecutive weeks: November 4-6; November 11-13; November 18-20. Whether you sign up for 1 day or for 9 days we welcome your help. Sign up is a little different this year using the Habitat signup app. To sign up to work on the house or prepare lunches, please go to the Habitat Volunteer Hub using this link <https://vhub.at/providencepresbyterianH4H>.

If you have any questions or have trouble signing up, please call or text Dudley Stone at 704 564 9812 or email dudleydstone@gmail.com.

The Three “G”s: Grace, Gratitude, and Generosity

Our 2026 Stewardship Campaign will get down to the basics of what motivates our giving. 1 st John tells us that we love because God first loved us. God’s grace, God’s free gifts of love, forgiveness, and blessings come before we have done anything to earn God’s mercy. As we spiritually reflect on the meaning of God’s grace, it leads us to gratitude. C.S. Lewis once noted that praise seems to be spiritual health made audible. When we prioritize our spiritual life, when we grow closer to God, it leads us to gratitude: not because our lives are perfect or because we get everything we want, but instead because we see God’s goodness and are strengthened by God’s presence. Generosity is the way that we can express our inner emotion of gratitude. By being generous, we show our trust in God and our belief that God can use the offerings of our time, talent, and financial treasures for the sake of building up God’s kingdom here on earth. We will reflect on the meaning of grace, gratitude, and generosity through this year’s Stewardship Campaign.

September 27: Grace—Romans 8:31-39:

There is nothing in all creation that can separate us from God’s love in Jesus Christ. Romans teaches us that God’s love is unstoppable and is stronger than anything else in creation that seeks to destroy us or brings us down. God’s grace claims us as God’s children, gives us purpose, and lets us know that we are dearly loved by our Creator.

October 4: World Communion Sunday—Gratitude: Philippians 4:4-14

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say rejoice. (v. 4)

“I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances, I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” (v. 12-13)

In Philippians the apostle Paul teaches us that we can express our gratitude in all circumstances. Remembering to thank God and other people regularly is part of a healthy spiritual life. We can focus on what we lack with grumbling and complaints or we can focus instead on the blessings and the opportunities that God has placed before us. God invites us to live with gratitude.

Providence Welcomes the Presbytery of Charlotte

Saturday, October 24

On Saturday, October 24, Providence will welcome the Presbytery of Charlotte for its fall meeting, alongside our co-hosts Matthews-Murkland and Matthews Presbyterian Churches. We anticipate about 140 participants for worship, Communion, Presbytery business, lunch, fellowship, and a Ministry Fair.

Many hands are needed to help us extend a warm Providence welcome! Volunteer opportunities include Friday setup (4:00–6:00 PM) and Saturday parking, breakfast, registration, greeting, lunch service, and cleanup. You can serve for as little as an hour—every helping hand makes a difference.

SCAN TO SIGN UP TO SERVE



Thank you for helping us practice generous hospitality and welcome our Presbytery family to Providence!