

PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN NEWS

May 19, 2020



Who is that masked band? It's the Session and Worship leadership from Providence. Left to right, Henry Clark, Nedra Bloom, Mary Clark, Pam Fredelake, Lynn Faggard, Leslie Rey, Laura Anderson, Becky Baker and Barry South. Karen Ball had to leave moments before the photo was taken. James Vann, also masked, presented detailed information about the pandemic, helping the Session learn how best to keep us safe. Photo by an also masked Ken Gadomski.

Home Sunday but Pentecost in the Parking Lot

Playing it safe, Providence Presbyterian Church will continue to conduct virtual worship services, available via Facebook, through at least mid-June.

Guidance from the Presbytery urges us to make choices from an abundance of caution, especially since nearly 85 percent of the PPC membership is of an age to be in the extra-danger zone.

PENTECOST PLANS

But Pentecost, May 31, marks the 30th birthday of Providence.

So, with every safeguard the session can imagine, we will do an instant replay of Mother's Day, worshipping from our cars in the parking lot, while the praise band plays on the patio and Mary preaches from the pickup. This time we'll add communion and installation of elders (without the group laying on of hands).

Here are some of the safety protocols we'll be following:

- ✓ Park in alternating parking spaces. Ushers will be on hand to guide you to the right spot.

- ✓ If you want to sit in the parking lot, bring your own lawn chair. You might bring a parasol, too, since it's likely to be hot.
- ✓ Keep the distance – six feet at least from anyone who doesn't live in your house.
- ✓ Session members will serve communion, but they'll be masked and gloved. And they will hand you the elements.
- ✓ If you're sick, please don't come. The service will be available via live video as usual.

IN THE MEANTIME

If you come to the church:

- ✓ Wear a mask
- ✓ Keep your distance
- ✓ Sanitize everything you touch

We will keep these rules in place once we're worshipping together again. And when we're back together, we will skip greeting time, children's time and passing the plates for offerings. You can still submit your offering by electronic banking or by mail.

Election of Elders — Class of 2023

Elder nominees for the Providence Presbyterian Church Class of 2023 are Steve Green, Buildings and Grounds; Wanda Green, Discipleship, and Linda Proudfoot, Missions.

Earlier this year, the session voted to increase its number from nine to ten members, asking Becky Baker to extend her term as missions elder for one more year, so mission — an enormous responsibility at Providence — is always the responsibility of an experienced and an incoming elder.

For the past two Sundays, we have announced plans for a congregational meeting to elect new elders. Since we still aren't worshipping together, the session approved a plan in which each member will be contacted by his or her shepherd to cast a vote.

Be ready to vote when your shepherd calls, between now and May 27, so that we can install elders on Pentecost, as is the custom at Providence.

DIRECTORY UPDATE

We're creating a new church directory for members and friends of Providence. Here's how you can be part of it.

If you haven't already had your picture taken or submitted one to the office, please submit one now. A favorite family photo is fine.

If it's digital send it to the church office:

office@providence-pc.org
or to Nedra Bloom: nedrabloom@comcast.net.

If your photo isn't digital, send it to the office. We'll scan it and return it.

You'll also be able to get a new photo taken after worship on Pentecost, if you prefer.

When your shepherd calls to get your vote for the new class of elders, also take a moment to verify the name, address, phone and email you want to appear in the directory.

Members and friends of Providence will be included. If you worship with us, we want to know you. However, if you don't want to be included in the directory, please tell your shepherd that, too.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

May 22 — Mask giveaway

On the church patio

May 24 — Sunday worship via Facebook

May 31 — Pentecost

Worship in the parking lot @ 9:15
Communion during worship
Ordination and installation of elders

May 31 — Providence birthday party

After worship we'll have a low-key, socially distant, but really pleasant birthday party for Providence.

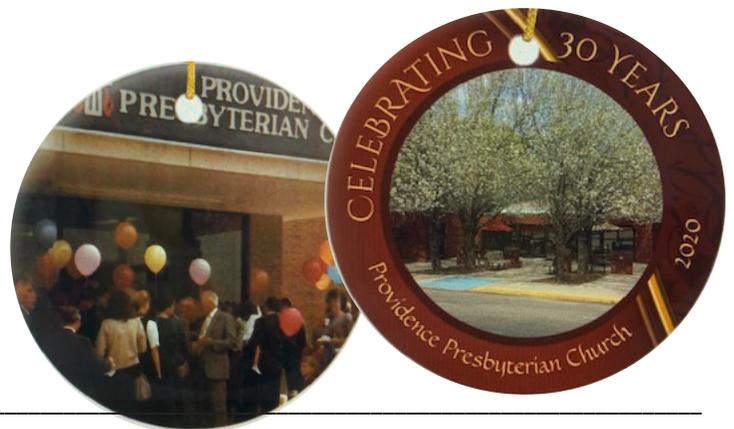
June 7 — Blood drive

Watch for details

June 14 — Session meeting

CHRISTMAS IN MAY

In celebration of the 30th Birthday of Providence on Pentecost, May 31, we have commissioned a new Providence ornament. You can order yours now by filling out this form and returning it to the church, with a check for \$15 per ornament. Ornaments will be available on Pentecost.



Name _____

Number of ornaments _____

Phone Number or email _____

Please return this form and your check to the church:
2320 Schillinger Road South, Mobile, Alabama 36695.