



The Providence Press

*'Come Worship With Us
as We Grow in Wisdom and Grace'*

Volume 24: Issue 5 ~ Powdersville, South Carolina 29611

May, 2018

Covenant Living

As God's faithful people at Providence, we promise to worship regularly, pray faithfully, serve willingly, give cheerfully, live joyfully, and love unconditionally.

For six weeks this spring, we are examining the covenants that we repeat each Sunday at the end of worship. These words pass easily through our lips, but I wonder how much thought we really give them? How much do the words really mean to us? What, exactly, are we promising to do?

I invite you to join me as we explore each of these covenants more closely. We have looked at worship and prayer, and we will examine the remainder throughout May. I've noted the key scriptures that we will study for each covenant along with a brief statement for your study. I invite you to share what you have learned with me and with other members of our community.

Worship

"Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe; for indeed our God is a consuming fire" (Hebrews 12:28-29).

Why do we worship? Because it is worship that draws us into the presence of God. It is worship that reminds us who we are and whose we are.

Prayer

"Pray then in this way: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one" (Matthew 6:5-13).

"And this is the boldness we have in him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have obtained the requests made of him" (I John 5:14-15).

Notice that Jesus doesn't set forth any requirements about our own spiritual status in teaching this prayer. He doesn't say we have to be perfect or even good before we talk to God. In her book *Help! Thanks! Wow!* Anne Lamott reminds us that "Prayer is taking a chance against all odds and past history, we are loved and chosen, and do not have to get it together before we show up."

Service

"So Jesus called them and said to them, 'You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many'" (Mark 10:35-45).

We don't want to be anyone's slave. Like Peter, Jesus' service is an affront to our concept of authority (Richard Foster, *Celebration of Discipline*, 136). And we're fairly certain that if we do help folks out, they're going to take advantage of us.

Giving

"He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, 'Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on'" (Mark 12:41-44).

Have you ever given away all that you had? Have you ever given even a major portion of your wealth? We each regard our personal situation as peculiarly hard, our finances as peculiarly tight. Did you know that in 2012, the median household income in the U.S. was \$43,585, while the median household income in Liberia was only \$781? That comes out to just a little more than \$2 a day, if you're lucky enough to live in Liberia.

Live Joyfully

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this" (I Thessalonians 5:12-24).

Life and circumstances are largely outside of our control, but happiness – now that's a choice. Can we choose to be happy in any circumstances? Can we choose to live joyfully, despite the problems that may plague us?

Love Unconditionally

"But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful" (Luke 6:27-36).

It's easy to love our family and friends – most of the time, anyway! But Jesus is pretty clear that we get no credit for loving the people who are close to us. No, love is a commodity that we should give away without question, without waiting to see what a person might be able to do for us, without *condition*. We should even extend our love to our enemies – to people who have wronged us, who are out to get us, who seek nothing but bad for us. How, exactly, are we supposed to love people who are unlovable?



Making a Difference in Missions

Hi Folks, not too much to report. First off, I'm really excited to report the "One Great Hour of Sharing" Offering we received.....drum roll.....\$903.00! How supreme great is that!

Also, next month is Rise Against Hunger, which we hope everyone of all ages will participate. This will be held **Saturday, May 19** at Eastminster Presbyterian Church on Woodruff Rd. from **9:00am - 11:00am**. They need over 200 volunteers and Providence CAN help. We will help package meals for hungry children around the world. Their goal is to pack 30,000 meals! Or, you can donate money towards the event. \$29.00 will take care of 100 meals or \$58.00 will provide 200 meals.

It would be nice to meet at the church and car pool! More on this later. This is a great Mission project for the whole Church!

Thanks, the Missions Group

Parish Nurse - May is National Stroke Awareness Month

What is a Stroke?

Stroke kills almost 130,000 Americans who die of cardiovascular disease each year-that is 1 in every 19 deaths from all causes.

A stroke, sometimes called a brain attack, occurs when a clot blocks the blood supply to the brain or when a blood vessel in the brain bursts. You can greatly reduce your risk for stroke through lifestyle changes and, some cases, medication.

Are you at Risk?

Anyone, including children, can have a stroke. Every year, about 610,000 people in the U.S. have a stroke.

Several factors beyond your control can increase your risk for stroke. These include your age, sex, and ethnicity. But there are many unhealthy habits that you can change. Examples include smoking, drinking too much alcohol, and not getting enough exercise.

Having high cholesterol, high blood pressure, or diabetes also can increase your risk for stroke. However, treating these conditions can reduce the risk of stroke. Ask your doctor about preventing or treating these medications.

What are the signs and symptoms?

The five most common signs and symptoms of stroke are:

- Sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm, or leg.
- Sudden confusion or trouble speaking or understanding others.
- Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes.
- Sudden dizziness, trouble walking, or loss of balance or coordination.
- Sudden severe headache with no cause.

If you think that someone you know is having a stroke, call 9-1-1 immediately.

Just a Friendly Reminder

FACE Look for an uneven smile

ARM Check if one arm is weak

SPEECH Listen for slurred speech

TIME Call 911 at the first sign

Another tip that helps is to act F.A.S.T.

Remember the signs and symptoms.

Pick up a Wellness Word for more info on strokes.

Stay well, Julia Palmer

Presbyterian Women

Morning Presbyterian Women will meet **Tuesday, May 1, 2018 at 11:00 am** in the private dining room at Foothills Retirement Community. Ann Broom, Christian Educator, will teach our lesson.

Providence Preschool

All those April showers are sure to bring us beautiful May flowers! The air is a bit warmer and the birds are chirping. This can only mean one thing...summer is coming soon! We had a wonderful month of April learning all about the true meaning of Easter. We are gearing up for a super busy last month of school. We'll be celebrating our teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week and our moms during the annual Morning with Mom event. Water Day will be a big hit to get all of our wiggles out and tease us a bit for soon-to-be summer fun. Our K4 and Kindergarten graduations are scheduled for the last week of school. It will be an eventful May!

~ Sheree Beal, Director

Worship

The Presbyterian Book of Order states: "The Church in its worship and service is a living sign of the reign of God, which is both a present reality and a future promise. The Church's activities do not bring about God's realm; they are our grateful **response** to the grace of God at work in the world. We seek to worship and serve God faithfully, with the confidence that God's reign has already been established and the hope that it will soon be revealed in fullness and glory."

Reminders:

- If you wish to donate fresh flowers to the church, please sign up on the flower calendar or call the church office and let them know if the flowers are in honor/recognition, birthday, a special occasion or for the Glory of God. All flowers that remain in the sanctuary following the worship service will be a

donation for church use unless otherwise communicated.

- A donation to the flower fund can be made by writing a check to Providence Presbyterian Church and designating on the check that it is for the flower fund. These flower arrangements from this fund will be provided on the Sundays when flowers are not scheduled on the flower calendar or through the church office.
- If you have any suggestions or questions about worship, please see Shane or I and we will communicate the information to the Worship Committee for discussion.
- If you would like to serve on the Worship Committee, Shane or I can be contacted or call the church office.

Romans 10:17 – *Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.*

Come join us in Worship. We miss you!

Blessings, Shane Metcalf & Robin Bell

young
at heart

The YAH will go to Dozo Sushi & Hibachi Restaurant, 6606 Calhoun Memorial Hwy, Easley, SC 29640 on **May 22, 2018** at 5:00. Friends and Family are invited to join us. Call Julia Palmer at **(864) 630-5030** if you are planning on going so the restaurant can set up a table.



The 6-for-Life Health Assessment measures your risk of developing 6 chronic diseases, including heart disease, congestive heart failure, stroke, diabetes, COPD, and lung cancer. A customized report will determine which risk factors

contribute most to your disease risk and are within your control to change. Finger-stick blood tests along with biometric measurements are included with this assessment. These are separate from our vascular screenings.

Providence Presbyterian Church will be hosting a Life Line Screening preventive health event on **Saturday, May 5, 2018**.

Protect your health by registering today for the 6 for Life Health Assessment for \$79. Call **1-888-653-6441** or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle or text the word **circle** to **797979** to schedule your appointment. Take control of your health, knowledge is empowering.

Serving the Church in May



Liturgists

May 6 Leah Bagwell
May 13 Suzanne Goodman
May 20 Robin Bell
May 27 Lewis Clapp

Acolytes

May 6 Communion
May 13 Mary Lorraine Metcalf
May 20 Braden Rochester
May 27 Erika Clark

Flowers

May 6
May 13
May 20
May 27 Dave & Beverly Merry's Anniversary

Greeters

May 6 Lowry Wilson & Jan Tanner
May 13 Peggy & Gary Morris
May 20 Jan Tanner & Paul Gillespie
May 27 Jan Tanner & Paul Gillespie

Ushers

May Shane Metcalf, Randy Parker, Carl Spence,
Brad Rochester

Nursery

May 6 Wanda Witmer
May 13 Jennifer McCalla & Mary Lorraine Metcalf
May 20 Angie Rochester
May 27 Cyndi Everette

Children's Church

May 6 Melissa Clark
May 13 Shane Metcalf
May 20 Hogan Family
May 27 Brad Rochester

Time with Children

May 6 Debbie Spence
May 13 Becky Kay
May 20 Terri Price
May 27 Jennifer

Providence Care offers a monthly grief support group led by Chaplain Andre Kroneman.

If you or someone you know needs this service, please feel free to attend. It is open to everyone!

Date: First Tuesday of every month (**May 1st**)

Location: Ellenburg Hall

Time: 2:00pm – 5:00 pm

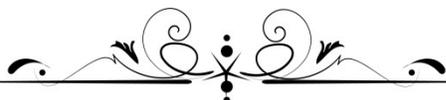
Cost: FREE

<http://providencecanhelp.com/>



Andrew Spence
Ashley Clapp
Beth Parker
Carson Traynham
Dave Merry
Jane Frittz
Jensen Smith

Lowry Wilson
Madeline Goodman
Mark Warner
Robin Bell
Steve Jewsbury
Sunny Marshall
Todd Bagwell



Serving You at Providence

Presbyterian Church

Stated Supply Pastor, Rev. Terri Price
Donna Robertson, Clerk of Session
Director of Music, Tim Gossett
Church Secretary, Mary Rivera
Financial Secretary, Donna Robertson
Sexton, Sherrie Tootill
Treasurer, Lewis Clapp
Preschool Director, Sheree Beal

Church Office Hours: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday
Telephone Number: 864.605.1011
Terri's E-mail: minister@providence-church.com
Terri's Cell Number is 864-616-9992
Mary's E-Mail: office@providence-church.com
Donna's E-Mail: donna@providence-church.com
Sheree's E-Mail: preschool@providence-church.com
Website: www.providence-church.com

Session Members:

Class of 2018 – Larry Brock, Cyndi Everette, Peggy Ragsdale, Linda Threatt

Class of 2019 – Jane Broderick, Shane Metcalf, Lowry Wilson

Class of 2020 – Robin Bell, Julia Palmer, Richard Witmer

"I learned more about Christianity from my mother than from all the theologians in England."

~ John Wesley ~



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Providence Presbyterian Church
4000 Highway 153
Greenville, South Carolina 29611-7404

Address Correction Requested

