

In name, Providence Forge Presbyterian Church has existed since 1934, but the congregation traces its history back to Colonial America. Charles Jeffreys Smith, a Presbyterian missionary, established the village of Providence. And with a congregation that he brought with him, a thriving village existed by the time of the American Revolution.

After the Revolution, the congregation used St. Peter's Church, along with local Episcopalians for Sunday worship. In 1855, the Presbyterians decided it was time to have a church of their own and they purchased property just north of Providence Forge and established Olivet Church. Scarred by the War Between the States, Olivet survived as an active church until 1934.

Attendance at Olivet waned, partially due to the poor road conditions, but also due to the use of Townsend's Chapel, located in the Forge. Another chapel, Windsor Shades, also held Presbyterian services. Together with Bethany (in Charles City), these three small churches shared a minister until 1946 when Windsor Shades was dissolved. Later, in 1953, the union between Bethany and PFPC was dissolved.

PFPC has been served by six full time ministers: Lawrence Avent (1953-57), Vernon Inman (1957-1970), William Cox (1970-1976), Hall Wallof (1976-1998), Phillip Jacobs (1999-2004) and Stephen Hodges (2005-2019).

The Session serves as the governing body of PFPC. It oversees all phases of the church's life, including Finances, Christian Education, and Outreach, to mention a few.

The building has under gone many changes over the years. It began as a small clapboard building, with no bathroom facilities. Additions were made as the congregation grew, to include restrooms, a kitchen, a library and various classrooms and offices. The final addition to the church occurred in 1961 when the brick educational wing was built. The history of PFPC can be seen throughout the building in the form of donations to the church. But the heart of the church is the congregation.

Martha Martin Daugherty, 2011

welcome



 Providence Forge  
Presbyterian Church

To further God's Kingdom on Earth, one soul at a time.

**PROVIDENCE FORGE  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Fifth Sunday of Easter  
Sunday, May 15, 2022**

**PRELUDE** Melody Raef

**WELCOME** Jo White

**MOMENT FOR REFLECTION**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** Psalm 23

Leader: The Lord is my shepherd. I shall not want.

**People: It is you, Lord, who makes me lie down in green pastures. It is you who leads me beside the still waters.**

Leader: You restore my soul and guide me in paths of righteousness for your name's sake.

**People: Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff comfort me.**

Leader: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil. My cup runs over.

**All: Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in your house, O Lord, forever.**

**\*SONG OF PRAISE #423 Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun**

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)**

Gentle Shepherd, You guide us in right paths, You lead us in the ways of righteousness, but we have allowed our anger, our rage, our greed, and at times even hate, to direct our paths. We have overreacted, we have taken more than our share, we have despised others that seem to have it all. Forgive us, God, for not following Your ways. Forgive us for not remembering that we are Your sheep, and You are our Shepherd. Forgive us when we have not listened for Your voice and instead have acted in the ways of the world. Guide us back to Your path, to loving You and loving our neighbors. Help us to open ourselves to others in hope and healing, forgiveness and love. In the name of Christ our Shepherd we pray. Amen.

**\*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

**\*RESPONSE TO GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE #579 Gloria Patri**

**\*THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you ... And also with you.

**CELEBRATION OF COMMUNITY**

While we "Pass the Peace" please consider filling out a "Welcome to our Church Family" card. Drop your card in the offering plate.

**TIME FOR CHILDREN** Matthew 28:19 (ERV)

So go and make followers of all people in the world. Baptize them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

**COLLECTION FOR 5 CENTS A MEAL**

**PRESBYTERIAN MINUTE**

**READING from the PSALMS** Psalm 23; Pew Bible pp 435-436

**READING from the OLD TESTAMENT** John 10:22-30  
Pew Bible p 873

**ANTHEM**

**SERMON** "Who is Jesus?" Rev. Dr. Cindy Kissel-Ito

**\*CONFESSION OF FAITH** Please see additional insert

**\*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; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

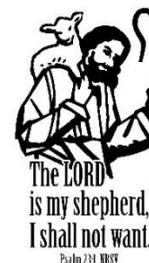
**OFFERING**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**SONG OF RESPONSE #441 I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord**

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**



Melody Raef