

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  
Sixth Sunday of Easter  
Sunday, May 22, 2022**

**PRELUDE** Melody Raef

**WELCOME** Barbara Lore

**MOMENT FOR REFLECTION**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** Psalm 121:1-2; 7-8

Leader: I lift up my eyes to the mountains- where does my help come from?

**People: My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.**

Leader: The Lord will keep you from all harm- he will watch over your life;

**People: The Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore. Amen.**

**\*SONG OF PRAISE** #483 Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)** *Book of Common Worship*  
Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, whose face is hidden from us by our sins, and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts: Cleanse us from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires, that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to you, confessing our faults, confiding in your grace, and finding in you our refuge and strength; through Jesus Christ your Son. 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**

**John 21:1 (ERV)**

Later, Jesus appeared again to his followers by Lake Galilee.<sup>[a]</sup> This is how it happened:

**COLLECTION FOR 5 CENTS A MEAL**

**PRESBYTERIAN MINUTE**

**READING from the PSALMS** Psalm 121; Pew Bible p 498

**READING from the NEW TESTAMENT** John 17:20-26  
Pew Bible p 880

**ANTHEM**

**SERMON** "Pray Without Ceasing" 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** #403 What a Friend We Have in Jesus

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

Melody Raef

