



## *A Brief History of Providence Forge Presbyterian Church*

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.

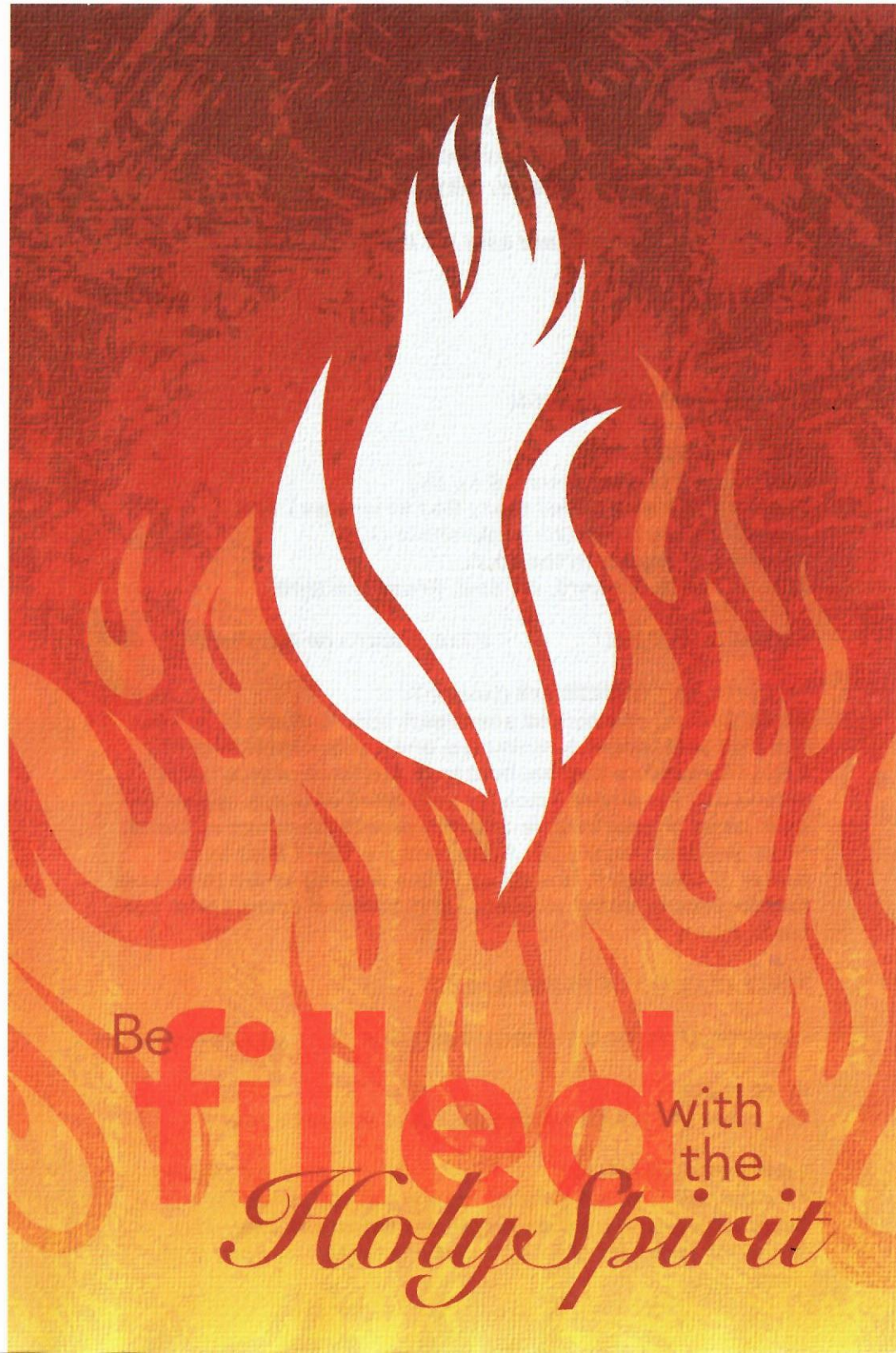
Attendance at Olivet waned, partially due to the poor road conditions, but also due to the use of Townsend's Chapel, located in the Forge. Another chapel, Windsor Shades, also held Presbyterian services. Together with Bethany (in Charles City), these three small churches shared a minister until 1946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



**PROVIDENCE FORGE  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
Day of Pentecost  
Sunday, May 28, 2023

*\*All who are able are invited to stand*

**PRELUDE** Melody Raef

**WELCOME** Jo White

**MOMENT FOR REFLECTION**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: I will sing to the Lord all my life;

**People: I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.**

Leader: May my meditation be pleasing to God,

**People: as I rejoice in the Lord.**

**All: Praise the Lord, my soul. Praise the Lord.**

**\*SONG OF PRAISE** #316 *Breathe on Me, Breath of God*

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

**Almighty God, you poured your Spirit upon gathered disciples creating bold tongues, open ears, and a new community of faith. We confess that we hold back the force of your Spirit among us. We do not listen for your word of grace, speak the good news of your love, or live as a people made one in Christ. Have mercy on us, O God. Transform our timid lives by the power of your Spirit, and fill us with a flaming desire to be your faithful people, doing your will for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.**

**TIME FOR CHILDREN**

*Acts 1:8 (NRSV)*

*<sup>8</sup> But the Holy Spirit will come on you and give you power. You will be my witnesses. You will tell people everywhere about me—in Jerusalem, in the rest of Judea, in Samaria, and in every part of the world."*

**CHILDREN'S CHOIR PERFORMANCE**

**5 CENTS A MEAL**

**PRESBYTERIAN MINUTE**

**READING from the OLD TESTAMENT** *Psalm 104:24-34;  
Pew Bible pp 483-484*

**READING from the GOSPELS** *Acts: 2: 1-13; Pew Bible p. 885*

**ANTHEM**

**SERMON** "Hearing" Dr. Cindy Kissel-Ito

**\*CONFESSION OF FAITH** *The Apostles' Creed (Traditional);  
Hymnal p. 14*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**SILENT PRAYER**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER (Traditional)** *Hymnal p. 16*

**WE OFFER OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD**  
**OFFERTORY**

**\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE (#592) Doxology**

**\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**MEMORIAL DAY RECOGNITION** Tom Zaleski  
History of Memorial Day  
Taps

**\*SONG OF SENDING** #564 *O Beautiful for Spacious Skies*

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** Melody Raef

