

PROVIDENCE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 7, 2025

Second Sunday of Advent

THE LORD'S DAY

December 7, 2025

Welcome and Announcements

RE Tom Sell

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Preparation for Worship

*** CALL TO WORSHIP - RESPONSIVE READING**

Psalm 122:1-9

A Song of Ascents. Of David.

¹I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the LORD!"

²**Our feet have been standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem!**

³Jerusalem – built as a city
that is bound firmly together,

⁴**to which the tribes go up,
the tribes of the LORD,
as was decreed for Israel,
to give thanks to the name of the LORD.**

⁵There thrones for judgment were set,
the thrones of the house of David.

⁶**Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!**
"May they be secure who love you!"

⁷Peace be within your walls
and security within your towers!"

⁸**For my brothers and companions' sake
I will say, "Peace be within you!"**

⁹For the sake of the house of the LORD our God,
I will seek your good.

*Congregation Standing ◦ **Bold body of text recited together.**

All hymns are for congregational singing. ◦ All music copied by permission of CCLI #2510011

Most Scripture References from: *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version (ESV)*
Copyright ©2001 by Crossway Bibles, A publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.

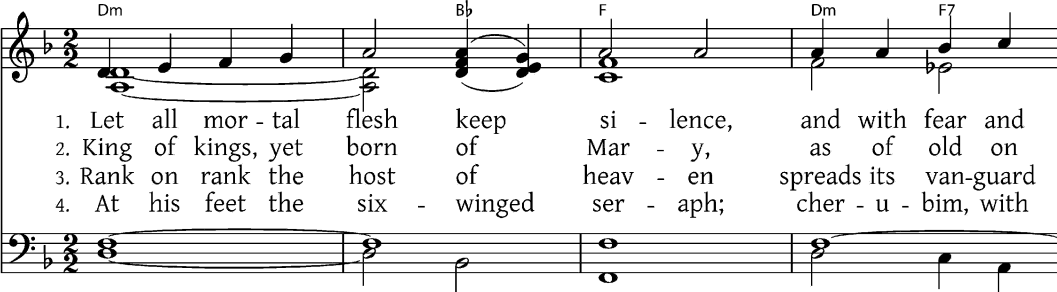
* HYMN OF PRAISE 196

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Words: Liturgy of St. James, 5th Century adapted by Gerald Moultrie, 1864. Tune: PICARDY, French Melody, 17th Century.


The Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth be silent before him. Hab. 2:20

Dm Bb F Dm F7



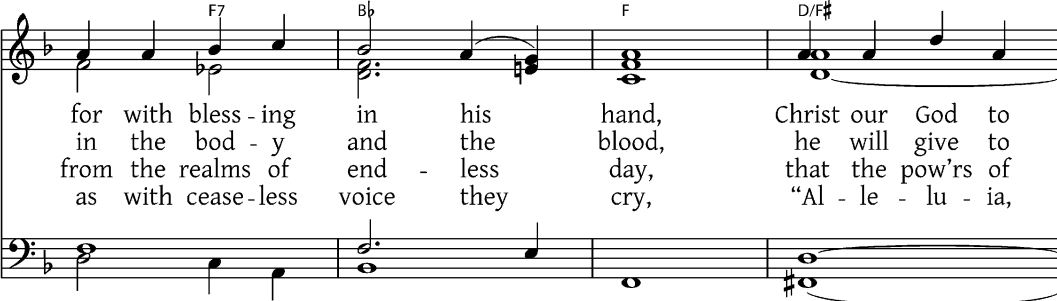
1. Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and
 2. King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on
 3. Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van-guard
 4. At his feet the six - winged ser - aph; cher - u - bim, with

Bb A Bb F Gm Dm



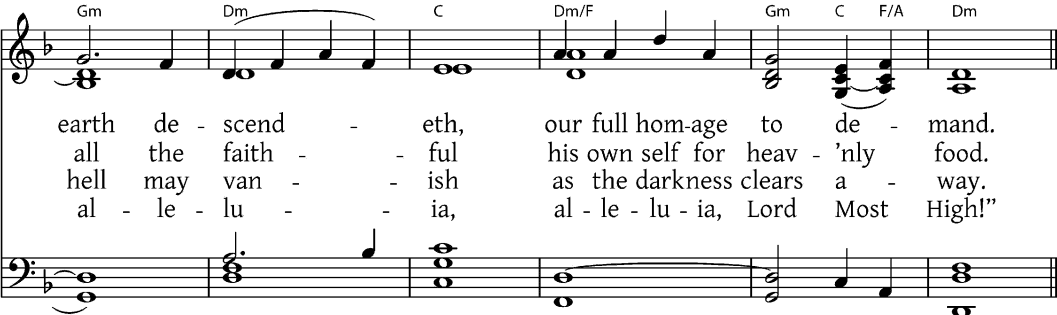
trem - bling stand; pon - der noth - ing earth - ly mind - ed,
 earth he stood, Lord of lords, in hu - man ves - ture,
 on the way, as the Light of Light de - scend - eth
 sleep - less eye, veil their fac - es to the pres - ence,

F7 Bb F D/F#



for with bless - ing in his hand, Christ our God to
 in the bod - y and the blood, he will give to
 from the realms of end - less day, that the pow'rs of
 as with cease - less voice they cry, "Al - le - lu - ia,

Gm Dm C Dm/F Gm C F/A Dm



earth de - scend - eth, our full hom-age to de - mand.
 all the faith - ful his own self for heav - 'nly food.
 hell may van - ish as the darkness clears a - way.
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Clement of Rome[†]

Lord, your hand has shown us the everlasting fabric of the world.
You created the earth.
You are faithful throughout all generations, righteous in your judgments,
marvelous in your strength and excellence.
You are wise in creating and establishing what you have made.
You are good and faithful toward those who trust in you.
Forgive us, our sins, our unrighteous, our transgressions, and our shortcomings.
Do not hold us to account for every sin but cleanse us with the cleansing of your truth.
Guide our steps to walk in holiness, righteousness, and singleness of heart.
Help us to do those things that are good and pleasing in your sight. – Amen.

(Silent Confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDONING GRACE

Matthew 5:3-6

Minister: *For all who have confessed their sins and have fled to Christ for mercy,
hear this word of assurance:*

³“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴“Blessed are those who mourn,
for they shall be comforted.

⁵“Blessed are the meek,
for they shall inherit the earth.

⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they shall be satisfied.

[†]*Clement of Rome (35 AD-101 AD): Apostolic Church Father in the first century and author of **1 Clement**, one of the oldest Christian documents outside of Scripture. Clement was Bishop of Rome and is thought to be mentioned by Paul in Philippians 4:3. He was martyred by Emperor Trajan in 101 AD.*

*** HYMN OF THANKSGIVING 211**

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

Words: English Carol, 18th Century. Tune: GOD REST YE MERRY, English Melody, 18th Century.

1. God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day,
To save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray;
Refrain: O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.
2. From God our heav'nly Father, a blessed angel came;
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same:
Now that in Bethlehem was born the son of God by name.
Refrain
3. "Fear not, then," said the angel, "let nothing you affright;
This day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright,
To free all those who trust in him from Satan's pow'r and might."
Refrain
4. The shepherds at those tidings rejoiced much in mind,
And left their flocks a-feeding, in tempest, storm, and wind:
And went to Bethlehem straightway, the Son of God to find.
Refrain

*** CHILDREN'S CATECHISM**

From: *First Catechism ~ Teaching Children Bible Truths*

Question 123: *What does it mean to pray, "And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors"?*

Answer: **We are asking God to forgive our sins for Christ's sake, and to make us willing to forgive others.**

Question 124: *What is the sixth petition?*

Answer: **The sixth petition is "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."**

Question 125: *What does it mean to pray, "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil"?*

Answer: **We are asking God to keep us from being tempted and to make us strong enough to resist when we are tempted.**

**We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made;
who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried;
and the third day he rose again according to the Scripture,
and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.
And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified;
who spoke by the prophets;
And we believe in one holy catholic[†] and apostolic church;
we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;
and we look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. – Amen.**

RESPONDING TO THE LORD WITH HIS TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

RE Dr. Jeremy Dalton

**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.**

Interlude

[†]The word “Catholic” means *universal* or *whole*.
It is not specifically referring to the Roman church, but all believers throughout the world.

¹Listen to me, O coastlands, and give attention, you peoples from afar.
The Lord called me from the womb, from the body of my mother he named my name.
²He made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
he made me a polished arrow; in his quiver he hid me away.
³And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified."
⁴But I said, "I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;
yet surely my right is with the Lord, and my recompense with my God."
⁵And now the Lord says, he who formed me from the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him; and that Israel might be gathered to him –
for I am honored in the eyes of the Lord, and my God has become my strength –
⁶he says: "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to bring back the preserved of Israel;
I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."
⁷Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nation, the servant of rulers:
"Kings shall see and arise; princes, and they shall prostrate themselves;
because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

Minister: *The Word of the Lord!* ♦ People: **Thanks be to God!**

*** HYMN OF RESPONSE 162**

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Words: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 346-413; Translated by John Mason Neal, 1854 and Henry W. Baker, 1859. Tune: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, Plainsong, 12th Century.

1. Of the Father's love begotten ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, He the Source, the Ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore!
2. O that birth forever blessed, when the Virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race;
And the babe, the world's Redeemer, first revealed his sacred face, evermore and evermore!
3. This is he whom heav'n-taught singers sang of old with one accord,
Whom the Scriptures of the prophets promised in their faithful word;
Now he shines, the long-expected; let creation praise its Lord, evermore and evermore!
4. O ye heights of heav'n, adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing;
All dominions, bow before him, and extol our God and King;
Let no tongue on earth be silent, ev'ry voice in concert ring, evermore and evermore!
5. Christ, to thee, with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
Hymn, and chant, and high thanksgiving, and unwearied praises be,
Honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory, evermore and evermore!

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Please see *Celebrating the Lord's Supper at Providence* on page 10 of the bulletin.

The Great Thanksgiving‡

Minister: *The Lord be with you.*

People: **And with your spirit.**

Minister: *Lift up your hearts!*

People: **We lift them up to the Lord!**

Minister: *Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.*

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Minister: *It is indeed good and right and a joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks unto You, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God, because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great glory to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore with angels, and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify your glorious name; evermore praising you and saying:*

People: **Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts: Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Glory be to You, O Lord Most High!**

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

Minister: *The gifts of God for the people of God.
Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.*

The Invitation to the Lord's Table†

The Words of Institution

†Ushers will escort congregants to the communion table during the **Hymn of Communion**. Please take the elements back to your seat. After **The Words of Institution**, we will partake together.

‡*The Great Thanksgiving*, includes the *Sursum Corda* (Latin for "lift up your hearts," which dates back to the early 3rd century). The *Sursum Corda* calls us to be heavenly minded while we are summoned into the Lord's presence. Variations of this first phrase can be found in the liturgies of Augustine, Calvin, Knox, and Bucer. Being spiritually lifted into the throne room of Christ, we join the angels in worship, proclaiming "Holy, Holy, Holy" (Isaiah 6:3, Revelation 4:8).

HYMN OF COMMUNION 194

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Words: Latin Hymn 1720; Tr. By John Mason Neale, 1851. Tune: VENI EMMANUEL, Plainsong, 13th Century.

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
2. O come, O come, thou Lord of might, Who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
In ancient times once gave the law in cloud and majesty and awe.
Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
3. O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save, and give them victory o'er the grave.
Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
4. O come, Thou Day-spring, from on high, and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
5. O come, Thou Key of David, come and open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.
Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

* DOXOLOGY

Tune: VENI EMMANUEL (*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
praise him, all creatures here below:
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host,
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

* BENEDICTION

Psalm 115:12a, 13, 15

The LORD has remembered us; he will bless us;
He will bless those who fear the Lord,
both the small and the great.
May you be blessed by the LORD,
who made heaven and earth!

Sunday School

- ❖ Sunday School meets weekly from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. Classes are available for all ages. Adult classes include:
 - **Union with Christ – Living Out Our Identity in Jesus:** Larry LaFreniere, Teacher, Room 10
 - **The Book of Isaiah:** Jeremy Dalton, Teacher, Room 11
- ❖ **Joint Sunday School next week, December 14:** Matt Megill, missionary to West Africa, will make a presentation on his work. Matt will also speak briefly at the beginning of the worship service.

Events This Week

- ❖ **Morning Men's Group** meets Tuesday from 6:30 to 7:30 a.m.
- ❖ **Youth Large Group** meets on Wednesday from 5:45 to 7:30 p.m.
- ❖ **Covenant Kids** will meet Wednesday, December 10, from 5:45 to 7:30 p.m.
- ❖ **Community Groups** will meet on Wednesday, December 10, and next Sunday, December 14.

Upcoming Events

- ❖ **Christmas Eve Service:** Wednesday, December 24, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
- ❖ **Providence Missions Conference:** Friday, January 30 to Sunday, February 1, 2026

Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) at Texas Tech

- ❖ Raegan Watkins is the RUF intern. *RUF Pastor Search in process.*

Providence Weekly

- ❖ To receive the weekly Providence email newsletter, subscribe by entering your email at the bottom of the Home page at the church's website:
www.providencepcpa.org.

Meal Ministry

- ❖ **Shared Joy, Shared Pain, Shared Meal:** The women of Providence bring meals to people in the church as needed, such as births, deaths, hospitalizations, and illnesses. If you can provide meals or if you need a meal, contact Beth Herring at bethsherring@yahoo.com.
 - Meal requests are registered at:
www.TakeThemAMeal.com.

Nursery

- ... **is available during worship for children 5 and under**, although babies and children are welcomed and valued in our service. However, in order to facilitate a restful and reverent worship for all who enter, parents are encouraged to take advantage of the many resources we have available for children who become noisy or fussy.

- (1) A cry room with a live stream of the service is set up in Room 1, across the hall from the nursery, located at the west side of the building.
- (2) Snacks and coloring pages are located along the back wall of the sanctuary.
- (3) Children's Bulletins are located on the back table of the sanctuary.

Feel free to ask an usher or congregant for help in locating any of these helpful resources.

The Reason for the Advent Season

Advent, from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning “coming” or “arrival” is a long-celebrated season of the Western Church dating back to the fourth century. The earliest official mention of Advent comes at the Council of Sargossa (AD 380). By the fifth and sixth centuries, we find evidence of Advent sermon series being preached. For the present day, Advent begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day, which is the Sunday nearest November 30. It ends on Christmas Eve with the lighting of the Christ Candle.

Very early on in the West, the season was focused on the first Advent of Christ. Later it would come to have a twin focus. The Latin word *adventus* was a translation of the Greek *parousia* – a word used for both the coming of Christ in human flesh, as well as his return.

For the first two weeks of Advent, the church would have customarily reflected on the Second Coming of Christ. Christians would chasten their hearts, confess their sins, and spend time hoping for the quick return of the Lord. The last two weeks of Advent would then transition to focus on the first *parousia*, Christ in the manger.

Traditionally, the colors of the candles represent a specific theme and focus for that particular week. The three purple candles symbolize the royalty of the newborn king while anticipating the suffering that he would endure. The pink or rose candle highlights the transition in the third week to the theme of joy and expectation of the Christ child. In addition, these four are arranged around the white candle. This center light is to remind the worshipper that Christ was without sin and lived in complete obedience to God and the Law.

– Adapted from *The Gospel Coalition*

November 30 ~ Hope ♦ December 7 ~ Peace ♦ December 14 ~ Joy ♦ December 21 ~ Love ♦ December 24 ~ Christ

Ushers

❖ *Serving today*

- Brian Nicholson ◦ Ian Schlager
Tom Brooks ◦ Shane Shepherd

❖ *Serving next Sunday*

- Brandon Mulkey ◦ Paul Herring
Michael Landess ◦ Tom Sell

Nursery

❖ *Serving today*

- **Infant/Toddler:** Kristen Bredemeyer ◦ Kayla Harwood ◦ Catelyn Steele
Sarah Scott ◦ Av ery Augesen ◦ Paige Bredemeyer

❖ *Serving next Sunday*

- **Infant/Toddler:** Amanda Caster ◦ Alisha Donet ◦ Rose Mulkey
Elizabeth Stewart ◦ Cana and Selah Dalton

Celebrating the Lord's Supper at Providence

The Lord Jesus Christ is present with us by his Spirit at this table, so in His name we invite everyone who trusts Him for salvation and is a baptized member in a church which faithfully proclaims His gospel. However, we are warned not to partake if you do not trust Him or if you are living in unrepentant sin; instead, please let the bread and the cup pass by (1 Corinthians 11:27-29). Rather, turn to Him in repentance and faith, so you may join in this glad and holy celebration of His saving death and resurrection life for all His people. Children who have made a public profession of faith and been received as members by the leadership of their church are also invited to the table. Children who have not yet made such a profession are asked to let the bread and the cup pass. We use wine in the Supper, but the outer ring of the tray is grape juice; we also hold the elements until everyone is served. Let us rejoice together in Him!

Prayers of Meditation for Those Not Participating in Communion

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth

Lord Jesus, You claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following You as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what You claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and show me the reality of who You are. – *Amen*.

Prayer of Belief

Heavenly Father, I admit that I am more sinful than I ever before believed, but, through Your Son Jesus, I can be more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank You that He lived the life I should have lived, and paid the debt and punishment I deserved. Receive me now for His sake. I turn from my sins and receive Jesus to be my Lord and Savior. – *Amen*.

Prayer for Those Struggling with Sin

Lord Jesus, help me to look to You as the fulfillment of all my needs, and to turn from every false satisfaction to feed on You, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to You, the pioneer and perfecter of my faith. – *Amen*.

Prayer of Commitment

Lord Jesus, You have called us to follow You in a life of committed discipleship in Your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with Your people, and live in the fullness of Your Spirit. – *Amen*.

ESV Daily Bible Reading Plan for Week of December 7-13, 2025

<i>Date</i>	<i>Psalms/Wisdom</i>	<i>Pentateuch/History</i>	<i>Chronicles/Prophets</i>	<i>Gospels/Epistles</i>
12/07	Psalm 127	Job 13	Isaiah 35	1 John 5
12/08	Psalm 128	Job 14	Isaiah 36-37	2 John
12/09	Psalm 129	Job 15	Isaiah 38	3 John
12/10	Psalm 130	Job 16-17	Isaiah 39	Jude
12/11	Psalm 131	Job 18	Isaiah 40	Revelation 1
12/12	Psalm 132	Job 19	Isaiah 41	Revelation 2
12/13	Psalm 133	Job 20	Isaiah 42	Revelation 3

Sermon Notes

Providence Presbyterian Church (PCA)

3301 34th Street • Lubbock, Texas 79410 • 806-516-5745 • www.providencepca.org

Purpose Statement

Providence Presbyterian Church aims to worship and serve the one true and living God through Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, and to bring the good news of salvation in Christ to all people in Lubbock, West Texas, and the world. In doing this we will encourage and equip believers to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, and to grow in our love for one another and our neighbors; all the while endeavoring to know, live, and speak the love, joy, peace, hope, and truth of God's word revealed to us in the Scriptures.

The Session

(elders@providencepca.org)

John D. Bennett, *Teaching Elder*
Dr. Jeremy Dalton, *Ruling Elder*
Peter Griffith, Sr., *Ruling Elder*
Chris Kramedjian, *Ruling Elder*
Dr. Brian Nicholson, *Ruling Elder*
Tom Sell, *Ruling Elder (On Sabbatical)*

Deacons

(deacons@providencepca.org)

Ben Donet
David Lawson
Levi Myers
Matthew Smith
Aaron Stewart
Shane Shepherd (*On Sabbatical*)

Providence Staff

John D. Bennett, Senior Pastor
john.bennett@providencepca.org

Beth Herring, Administrative Assistant
admin@providencepca.org

Rachel Myers, Financial Administrator
finance@providencepca.org

RUF Campus Minister
RUF Pastor Search in process

Jeffrey Clendennen,
Youth & Family Ministry Director
jeffrey.clendennen@providencepca.org

Providence Lay Ministry Teams Leadership

Christian Education Team Jeremy Dalton

Hospitality Team Alisha Donet, Leader
Assistants: Tori Donet ◦ Kayla Harwood

Missions Team Rebecca Mulkey ◦ Brenda Hayes

Music Team Matthew and Allison Smith

Women's Ministry Team Anne Griffith ◦ Kyla Sell
womensministry@providencepca.org

Please contact Jeffrey Clendennen
(jeffrey.clendennen@providencepca.org)
for more information on serving on one of these teams
or with other ministry opportunities.

General information: admin@providencepca.org

Church Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.