



PROVIDENCE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WALT MCCANLESS
Senior Pastor
Joanna Hipp
Associate Pastor
Lal Rodawla
Associate Pastor
ROY COKER
Pastor Emeritus
MICHAEL CLAWSON
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Dear Providence Family,

For over 250 years, the congregations at Providence have received and enjoyed a generous portion of the Lord's bounty. The land on which our first buildings stood and on which our cemetery rests was a gift from Andrew Rea and David Rea, members of our founding congregation. From the beginning, God reached out and brought our congregation together in faith to serve our community and the world. A thread of hope and commitment runs directly from the first members who gathered at Providence to us.

The sanctuary in which we worship was built almost 160 years ago. Louise Matthews shares some of the story in her History of Providence Presbyterian Church (1767-1967). It was built by church members who by the gifts of their "careful patient skills, fashioned to the best of their ability, a house where they [and we] could worship to the glory of God." The Lord's gifts of a place for us to worship and serve Him and of a community of faith to enjoy together have come down to us through those who were generous in sharing and faithful in stewarding what the Lord provided.

Our gratitude for God's presence in and work through this church and its people calls for a special celebration to mark our 250th anniversary. To express thanks for what God has done here, our 250th Anniversary Planning Committee has proposed, and our Session has warmly approved, a year-long "Celebration of Giving" lasting through next May when we celebrate homecoming 2017. Our Celebration of Giving will be a special expression of gratitude for 250 years of God's providential care for this church and for God's people and for God's world. Our goal is for every one of us to take part in celebrating all that our congregation has received.

During the coming year, we will seek to raise a special 250th anniversary fund of \$250,000 over and above our annual budget commitment. Half of this amount will fund renovations to sustain and preserve our historic sanctuary. The other half will extend Providence's history of service and outreach to our local community and to people in other nations. We believe together we will find creative new ways to share our skills, time, and wealth in a special celebration of what God has done for us. For an overview and more details of what's planned for our Celebration of Giving, check our church web site for more information this summer and fall.

In addition to the special 250th anniversary fund referenced above, we will seek to deepen our commitment to God through faithful stewardship in serving and giving to Him as part of our annual stewardship focus this fall.

And looking beyond our Celebration of Giving, next spring we will take steps to provide for future worshippers at Providence. We will discover how we can commit resources to sustain future congregations at Providence by building up the Providence Presbyterian Church Endowment Fund with gifts and bequests as an ongoing expression of our thanks to God.

The Lord has been loving and generous to our congregation for 250 years. The people who have worshipped and served and shared here have been loving and generous to us. Those gifts are worth celebrating! May our Celebration of Giving joyfully express our heartfelt thanks for the Lord's timeless love and care which still flows through Providence to us and to all.

Look for more details and information later this summer!

In His Name,

Tamera Green, 250th Celebration Steering Committee Co-Chair

Frances Hill, 250th Steering Committee Co-Chair

Rolly Chambers, 250th Celebration Team Leader

Dave Dickey, 250th Celebration Team Leader

David Llewellyn, 250th Celebration Team Leader