



The Messenger

December 21, 2023

2807 Lee Road 166, Opelika, Alabama Phone: (334) 745-4608 Email: pbc@providencealive.com

Livestream on Facebook *Providence Baptist* / www.providencealive.com

STAFF

Dr. Rusty J. Sowell *Senior Pastor*
Dr. Thomas R. Smith *Music Minister*
Rev. Charles Adams *Assoc Pastor-Student/Media*
Mrs. Deana Stone, *Senior Adult Minister*
Mrs. Tammy Senn, *Children's Director*
Mrs. Jennifer Hughes, *Church Secretary*
Mrs. Lydia Stringfellow, *Financial Secretary*
Ms. Mandy Steward, *CDC Director*
Miss Pam Morris, *Music Assistant*
Mrs. Suzanne Harris, *Pianist*
Mrs. Gayle Smith, *Organist*

FACTS & FIGURES 12/10/23

Budget Needs Weekly	22,279.17
Budget Giving	24,779.57
Designated Giving	13,621.00
Budget Giving YTD	944,094.35
Building Debt	780.00
8:00 AM Worship.....	134
Sunday School	144
10:00 AM Worship.....	189



Worship With Us

Christmas Eve Service on December 24
New Year's Eve Service on December 31
10:45 AM at the West Campus

Candlelight, Carols & Communion Service

Sunday, December 24 | 5:00 PM | West Campus

What a great way to spend a part of Christmas Eve as we come together with our individual families and join our church family in the oldest and truest form of worship, the celebration of the Lord's Supper.

Time of Prayer for the New Year

Sunday, December 31 | 2:30 PM | East Campus

All are welcome to gather for a time of reflection and a time of prayer and praise for the new year. *We will also have a first-time candle lighting memorial service.* Please note the time has changed from 5:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

COLLECTED TO DATE FOR LOTTIE MOON: \$4,906.00



Pastor's Thoughts Dr. Rusty J. Sowell

This past Sunday (Dec. 10) started out in a tough way, the weather was rough. We were alerted to not simply a tornado watch but a tornado warning. Immediately fear was spread throughout our community. A good number of folk made their way to a safe place. The closest for most was here at Providence. The morning carried a host of emotions for all of us, memories both of fear and gratitude. Gratitude, as I reflected back to March 2019 and how people came from around the world to help us in our time of need. Fear, as sounds and emotions of that day were relived. Sadly, the reality of the event of this past Sunday were in real time in parts of Tennessee and Kentucky. The tragic loss of life and the destruction in the paths of tornados. Alabama Baptists are responding to those areas, just as they did to us back in March, 2019. This Christmas I'm thankful to be part of a larger Community of Faith that comes to our point of need and helps us. Perhaps there is a moment during this Christmas Season that we might pause and reflect that in a little town called Bethlehem, our Lord came to "help us" at our point of need, the Gift of Love. I trust to see you in church this Sunday.

THE WEEK AT A GLANCE December 24-30, 2023

SUNDAY 24	MONDAY 25	TUESDAY 26	WEDNESDAY 27	THURSDAY 28	FRIDAY 29	SATURDAY 30
Christmas Eve Worship (WC) 10:45 Candlelight, Carols, Communion (WC) 5:00		Joy SS Class (WC) 10:00	Prayer Meeting (WC) 6:00			
GIVING THEIR TIME & TALENT - SERVING DEACONS ON CALL: (Dec 24) Ted Dotson and Wes Goodson (Dec 31) Wayne Poe & Levi Baker NURSERY TEAM: (Dec 24) Angie Searles, Hannah May, Pam Heartsill (Dec 31) Mike & Morgan Brown						

December Memory Verse
In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. John 1:4-5

PBC Kids Mrs. Tammy Senn tsenn@providencealive.com

Wow, another year has passed! It seems hard to believe! How has yours been? Have you experienced great joy, significant sorrow, immeasurable blessings, or tremendous loss? God is and was there for it all! He knew how our year would be and He knows how next year will be too. We can trust Him no matter the circumstances. If you have children or are around children, I would like to encourage you to remind them of this truth everyday. In a world that tells us that there is TOO much to handle, we need to be reminded that the world IS too much to handle on our own...but GOD can help us handle whatever comes our way! He wants us to know that He is there when things are good and when things are bad.

As we prepare for another year, let's all think about how we can encourage one another more, live with less material things, and spend more time in His word. Start 2024 off with choosing a word that you will keep your focus and attention on for the year. I have not chosen mine yet for this next

year. For 2023, it was ABIDE. My goal was to abide in His word and presence daily. Some days were definitely better than others. But, it helped me to keep reminding myself of that word. I want to challenge you to think of your own word, a family word, or even a word with a friend. Find someone to share with about your progress and how you are or are not accomplishing your focus on Him. Let's all join together and prepare for 2024 with a better relationship with God as our primary GOAL for the year!

Thank you all so much for your generosity in fulfilling so many mission goals at Providence. I especially want to thank you all for helping the Children's Ministry accomplish the goal of collecting gift cards for our teachers in the area. We were also able to treat our Providence Daycare teachers. We are so grateful for you!

Lovingly,
Tammy

Are you ready?

"It is a solemn thing to part company with the old year," said J.C. Ryle (1816-1900), the first Anglican bishop of Liverpool. "It is a still more solemn thing to begin a new one. All before us is uncertain; we know not what a day may bring forth, much less what may happen in a year."

Ryle offered this challenge for the days and months ahead: "Walk more closely with God, get nearer to Christ, seek to exchange hope for assurance. Oh that you may endeavor so to grow in grace every year, that your last things may be far more than your first, and the end of your Christian course far better than the beginning!"

Year End Contributions

Please remember any financial gifts to PBC to be credited to 2023, should be received by Sunday, Dec. 31 or postmarked by Dec. 31. IRS regulations state we can only post to your 2023 Contribution Statement those gifts received at the church, or postmarked, by Dec. 31, regardless when the check is written. Thank you for your faithful giving to the ministries of Providence. *Is your information updated with the church office, do we have your correct address, email, phone, etc...?*