



Providence Post



JANUARY 2022

This is why I tell you: do not be worried about the food and drink you need in order to stay alive, or about clothes for your body. After all, isn't life worth more than food? And isn't the body worth more than clothes? Look at the birds: they do not plant seeds, gather a harvest and put it in barns; yet your Father in heaven takes care of them! Aren't you worth much more than birds? Can any of you live a bit longer by worrying about it?"

Matthew 6:25-27

We have just celebrated the beginning of a new year. When I was growing up my family used to sit around the TV and watch the ball drop at Times Square. We would have special snacks and it was a treat to be able to stay up that night until midnight. What traditions does your family observe on New Year's Eve? Many people watch the dropping of the ball at Times Square as I did when I was growing up. However, some people gather with friends and family for a party. Another tradition some people follow is to gather at church to attend a "Watch Night" service. Some people may eat special foods to bring good luck. Whatever your family's tradition, the beginning of a new year can bring the excitement of a fresh start.

However, the beginning of a new year can also be upsetting. We do not know for certain what the new year may bring. Some people set off fireworks not only to celebrate the new year, but to ward off bad luck with all the loud noise. Another custom using loud noise to scare off bad luck is by banging pots and pans. These traditions date back to ancient times. However, Jesus does not want us to live in fear of the future. As part of his sermon on the Mount, Jesus addresses the issue of how to live without fear. When Jesus tells us not to worry about what to eat, or drink, or wear, he doesn't mean that these things don't matter. In fact, he states in verse 32 that *"Your Father in heaven knows that you need all these things."* Jesus had a strong sense of the goodness of his Father, the creator of the world. He invites us to have the same sense of the goodness of God toward each of us. Rather than worry or trust in luck, Jesus calls us to trust that the Father will provide for our needs in his own perfect time and his own perfect way. As we trust God in this way, we can have peace even if we do not know what the new year will bring.

May the peace of God keep you secure in 2022. A Happy New Year to all!

Pastor Dennis



	Through 11/30/21	Through 11/30/20
Congregational Giving	\$172,570	\$ 171,805
Building Rental Income (*)	72,776	3,434
Special Offerings	6,473	5,523
Total Income	\$ 251,819	\$ 180,762
Total Expenses	\$ 246,104	\$ 163,766
Surplus	\$ 5,715	\$ 16,996

(*) Includes donations for garage and building repairs

By Barb Hazlett

(Note: The following highlights are taken from the minutes of the Monday, December 20, 2021, regular Session meeting.)

Clerk's Report: Communion was served to 66 communicants on Christ the King Sunday, November 21, 2021.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was distributed and discussed by the Session.

Huntingdon Presbytery Report: The next meeting of Huntingdon Presbytery will be held on Tuesday, February 1, 2022, and will be a Zoom meeting. A Session delegate will be chosen at our January meeting.

Nominating Committee Report: Session will elect members for this committee at their January meeting.

Moderator's Report: Rick Ginter will fill the pulpit on Sunday, December 26, 2021, and again on Sunday, January 2, 2022.

Pastor Braun updated the Session on his health.

Session Team Reports (Chair)

Finance & Stewardship (Barry Gaut): For the period ending on November 30, 2021, a total of \$4,248.31 has been paid to our per capita fund. This represents an 80% response, or approximately 111 of our 139 members. This compares very favorably with last year's per capita response rate of 74% and the 2019 response rate of 70%.

The 2021 vs. 2020 Monthly Financial Summary is continued on the next column:

Congregational Care (Gail Irwin): The group will deliver 12 cookie/fruit trays to sick and shut-ins. They will also deliver 12 Angel Christmas Tree bags to residents in the Presbyterian Village at Hollidaysburg.

Starting in January 2022, those attending the worship service will again be able to sign birthday cards that will be available on a table in the Fellowship Hall.

Flower donors are requested to pick up their flowers following the morning worship service.

Congregational Fellowship (Sue Whitsel): The total cost of our recent Advent Dinner was \$328; \$235 was received from the freewill offering. A pan of leftover roast beef was given to those preparing a meal for the Soup on Saturday event. Over 60 meals were served and all involved agreed the Advent dinner was a huge success.

Our next coffee fellowship will take place on Sunday, January 9, 2022, following worship.

Mission (Elaine Bender) : In November, we distributed 77 lunches at the Soup on Saturday event.

Twelve-quart and 20-quart double boilers were purchased for the kitchen.

In December, our team will be giving the remainder of our budget and donations received to The Door After School ministry.

For January 2022, we are asking for donations of soup for the Altoona Food Bank, although donations of any non-perishable food item would be greatly appreciated.

Sixty-one people were served at the Soup on

Saturday event on December 18.

Outreach (Jane Yerty): Our neighbor, Blair County Community Action, is participating in the nationwide Point in Time count on Wednesday, January 26, 2022, from 7 to 9:30 pm. This is done to accurately count both sheltered and unsheltered homeless people in Blair County. This count will accurately assess need, make contact, and affects future funding.

The agency is looking for volunteers to ride with staff members to perform counts and for donations. Their goal is to fill 100 backpacks that include needed items, sleeping bags and gift cards. Due to the ongoing pandemic, they are limiting donation requests to monetary donations and gift cards. The gift cards should be for grocery stores, Walmart, dollar stores, gas stations, fast food chains or restaurants. Session agreed to permit the Outreach Team to ask the congregation for monetary contributions for the items needed to fill the backpacks.

Property (Geoff Geesey): Our church sign on the corner of Broad Avenue and 24th Street has been repaired. We also repaired the light for the main parking lot. A broken pew on the 24th Street side of the sanctuary has been fixed. Les Hart has resumed his duties as caretaker of our outdoor American flag. Our alarm system will be repaired and Mihalko's is checking on the removal of the old speakers that are mounted in the sanctuary.

There was a request for our plumber to check on the 24th Street side bank of sanctuary heaters and for one pew hymnal rack to be repaired.

Worship (Ellie Herbster): Sue Payne will be the liturgist for December and Charyl Gardner and Gail Irwin will be the ushers.

Video streaming of the morning worship service is going well.

Kudos to "Santa's Helpers" in decorating the church and the Christmas post office.

On Sunday, December 26, Pastor Braun will be away, and Rick Ginter will fill the pulpit. Rick will also fill the pulpit on Sunday, January 2, 2022.

A baptism service was held for Teegan Rose on Sunday, December 12.

On Sunday, January 2, 2022, we will 'undecorate' the church.

The following dates were approved for communion in 2022:

February 27	Transfiguration of the Lord
April 14	Maundy Thursday
June 5	Pentecost Sunday
August 7	Summer Communion
October 2	World Communion
November 20	Christ the King Sunday

A question was asked about using the so-called "evergreen sermons" that are available on our presbytery's website. Session discussed the possibility of printing some of these out and making them available for a layperson to use in the event that on short notice, our pastor would be unavailable for the Sunday worship service.

New Business: Caleb Miller spoke to Session about human trafficking issues here in this area. He talked about the "Be a Friend" program, which is designed to inform people about this complex issue. After Caleb left, Session members discussed the program and decided to provide information about it to see if there is any interest in using the program at our church.



As part of our mission support for the month of December, we are sending the remaining balance of our budget and donations received to The Door After School ministry.

At our Soup on Saturday event in November, we distributed 77 lunches. There is a sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall for our next event on Saturday, January 15, 2022. Thank you to all who donate, help prepare and serve our lunches each month.

Thanks to all who give so generously to the Altoona Food Bank. In January 2022, we are asking for donations of soup for the Altoona Food Bank, although donations of any non-perishable food item would be greatly appreciated.

Newsletter Deadlines for 2022

For those of you who are going to prepare articles for the **Providence Post**, here is a newsletter deadline table for your convenience.

Remember: The deadline for articles is generally the day following the Session meeting. For example, information that is to appear in the February 2022 newsletter must be submitted no later than Tuesday, January 18. This allows us time to edit, layout, and email the newsletter prior to the first Sunday of the issue date.

Thank you for your submissions and cooperation!

Issue	Deadline
February 2022	Tuesday, January 18, 2022
March	Tuesday, February 22
April	Tuesday, March 22
May	Tuesday, April 19
June	Tuesday, May 17
July/August	Tuesday, June 21
September	Tuesday, August 16
October	Tuesday, September 20
November	Tuesday, October 18
December	Tuesday, November 22
January 2023	Tuesday, December 20

January Donation Needs

Providence Presbyterian Church is collecting the following items for **Family Services** on the second Sunday of the month. Items must be left on the table in the Fellowship Hall no later than Sunday, January 9, 2022. Thank You!

Category: Paper & Baby Products

- Paper towels
- Garbage bags
- Toilet paper
- Quart & gallon-sized zipper bags
- Formula
- Baby soap, shampoo, lotion
- Diapers and pull-ups—all sizes
- Baby wipes
- Feminine hygiene products
- Facial tissues

JANUARY Birthdays

John Gallace	1
Glenn Nelson Jr.	2
Jeannine Fagley	3
Matt Judd	6
MaryAnne Hollingsworth	8
Ken Lynch	11
Jane Yerty	16
Sonya Zeigler	18
Abby Burchfield	22
Linda Hart	22
Paul Conway	27
Jack Camberg	30

2022 Church Flowers

If you would like to remember loved ones or a special event, please sign the **2022 Flower Calendar** located in the 24th Street hallway, adjacent to the Fellowship Hall. The cost is fifty dollars (\$50) for two vases.

Per Capita Amount

Just a reminder that the Per Capita amount for 2022 is \$34.25 *per member*. Use that figure for the special blue envelope (the very first envelope) in your new box of offering envelopes.

Attention: Team Chair Members

The report from each ministry team must be submitted to our church administrator no later than **Saturday, January 15, 2022**. These reports will be included in our annual report, which will be distributed at the Annual Congregational Meeting in February.





Thanks to everyone who chose a "Senior Angel Gift" for the residents of the Presbyterian Village at Christmas time. You certainly created a grateful smile for a special someone on Christmas morning.

Thanks goes out to all who were generous with the Family Services "Santa Project" donations of toys and books.



Presbyterians In The Press

The *Local* section of the November 25 issue of the *Altoona Mirror* featured an article about area high school students who are job shadowing. Pictured in an accompanying photo was *Mirror* publisher **Dan Slep**, who was showing their printing press to several of these students.

On Saturday-Sunday, December 4-5, the weekend edition of the *Mirror's Community* section featured a photo entitled "Lucky Rainbow." The image, taken by **Marcia Dravis**, shows her husband **Dave**, as he tees off under a rainbow of good luck on the Escambia Golf Course in Florida.

Congregational Meeting

A congregational meeting was held following the morning worship service on Sunday, November 21. The meeting was opened with prayer by our moderator, Pastor Dennis Braun.

Pastor Braun introduced Geoff Geesey, who presented the following people for the Class of 2024 for Session: Geoff Geesey, Ellie Herbster, and Glenn Nelson. A motion was approved to close the

nominations and unanimously elect these members to the Session Class of 2024.

Geoff then presented the names of Dan Slep, Janelle Yerty, and Carol Wyerman as members of the congregation to the 2022 Nominating Committee. A motion was approved to close the nominations and unanimously elect these people to the 2022 Nominating Committee.

Pastor Braun then reviewed the 2022 budget with the exception of the pastor's terms of call. There were no questions.

Pastor Braun left the sanctuary and Barry Gaut, president of the corporation, took over as moderator. Barry asked our treasurer, Jane Carothers, to present Pastor Braun's salary, housing, and expenses for 2022, which are detailed in the new budget. A motion was approved by the congregation to accept the pastor's terms as presented.

Pastor Braun was called back into the meeting and he resumed his role as moderator. There was a question at this time regarding the amount of the building income in the budget, and Jane explained that particular line item in the budget. The pastor also talked about all the building renovations that are taking place. There was no old or new business, therefore, Pastor Braun adjourned the meeting with prayer.

Parents' Night Out

Now that the hustle and bustle of the holiday season is over, I'm sure all of you parents out there could use a night out. So, please join us for a Parents' Night Out on Saturday, January 22, from 5:00 to 8:00 pm here at Providence Presbyterian Church. It is open for all children from birth through 12th grade. We will have supper and some activities, games, movies, etc. for the kids. Please sign your children up on the sign-up sheet posted in Fellowship Hall by Sunday, January 16, 2022.

If anyone is interested in helping out with Parents' Night Out, please contact Ellie Herbster at 814-931-3219.

Point in Time Program

Upcoming on Wednesday, January 26, 2022, our neighbor, the Blair County Community Action Program, is participating in the national effort Point in Time (PIT) count. This activity utilizes volunteers and Program personnel to count all the sheltered and unsheltered homeless people in Blair County. The purpose is to accurately assess need, make contacts, and affects future funding by quantifying the need.

Blair County Community Action has a goal of assembling 100 backpacks with needed items and gift cards, as well as providing sleeping bags to those lacking basic necessities. Your help is needed with monetary contributions—we will be collecting donations from our church on Sunday, January 16, 2022. Please utilize the special pew envelopes and fill out your check's memo line with "PIT Count." For additional information, please see any member of our Outreach Team, or go to the Blair County Community Action Program website.



Our congregation is once again invited to sign birthday cards that will be located on a table in the Fellowship Hall. Cards will be set out starting on Sunday, January 2, 2022.



The congregation extends its heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of **Elizabeth C. 'Betsy' Goss**, who passed away on Sunday, December 12, 2021, at UPMC Altoona. Betsy was a former member at the Broad Avenue Presbyterian Church.