



# Providence Post



JANUARY 2023

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*As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire. (Isaiah 55:10-11)*

The Christmas Holiday is over, and the New Year has arrived. Along with these, the season of Winter has come. Even though Winter is my least favorite season because of the cold and driving in slippery conditions, yet I do admit that Winter has a special beauty that is unique to this season. A newly fallen snow looks so quiet and peaceful. The snow sparkles as the light hits it. The trees look so graceful with their branches lined with snow. Another useful attribute of snow is that it replenishes the water table as it slowly melts in preparation for the eventual blooming of the flowers and the budding of trees in the Spring.

This important function of the snow reminded me of the passage of Scripture found above. Under the leading of the Holy Spirit, the prophet Isaiah tells us that, like the snow and the rain, God has sent us his Word, the Bible, to nourish our souls and cause us to grow spiritually. Just as plants do not immediately start to grow as soon as the snow melts and the rain falls, so too spiritual growth does not immediately occur when we read the Bible. Over time as we daily read, reflect on and even memorize Scripture, the Holy Spirit will use its teaching to form the character of Christ in us.

As I gaze at the at the snow as it drifts gently down to earth, I will look forward at the same time to the coming of Spring in a few months time. I will also look forward to the character of Christ to be formed in all of us as we continue in our walk with Christ in this coming year. A very blessed and happy New Year to all of You!

*Pastor Dennis*

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**Providence Post** is a newsletter of the Providence Presbyterian Church, 2401 Broad Avenue, Altoona, Pennsylvania, 814/944-7258. The *Post* is published monthly except for the July/August summer edition. Pastor: Dennis Braun; Editor: Barry E. Gaut. Website: [www.providencepc-altoona.org](http://www.providencepc-altoona.org)



## Session Highlights

By Barb Hazlett

*(Note: The following highlights are taken from the minutes of the Monday, December 19, 2022, regular Session meeting.)*

**Clerk's Report:** Communion was served to 73 communicants on Sunday, December 4, 2022.

Donna Yeisley submitted a letter requesting that she be removed from the church rolls as of December 31, 2022, but remain a friend of the church until they find a new church in the area where they have moved.

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

### Session Team Reports (Chair)

**Finance & Stewardship (Barry Gaut):** The Presbytery of Huntingdon, at its September 27, 2022, meeting, approved a per capita rate for 2023 of \$39.24 per member. This will be an increase of \$4.99 over the 2022 per capita rate.

2022 vs. 2021 Monthly Financial Summary:

	Through 11/30/22	Through 11/30/21
Congregational Giving	\$ 183,766	\$ 172,570
Building Rental Income (*)	24,418	72,776
Special Offerings	8,134	6,473
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 216,318</b>	<b>\$ 251,819</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 227,804</b>	<b>\$ 246,104</b>
<b>Surplus (Shortfall)</b>	<b>\$ 11,486</b>	<b>\$ 5,715</b>

(\*) Includes donations for repairs to the building

**Congregational Care (Gail Irwin):** The group delivered 12 cookie trays to sick and shut-ins. They also delivered 14 gifts from the Angel Christmas Tree to residents of the Presbyterian Village at Hollidaysburg. A special thank-you from the

committee goes out to Kathy Braun for the beautiful cards that she made for the trays.

**Congregational Fellowship (Glenn Nelson):** The Advent dinner went very well.

There will be no coffee fellowship in January, but there will be a Congregational Fellowship meeting on Sunday, January 8, 2023.

**Mission (Elaine Bender) :** In November, we distributed 50 lunches at the Soup on Saturday event.

Thanks to generous donations, we received \$875 that was sent to Chuck and Debbie Monts that will be used to cover expenses as they begin their journey of faith and service in Malawi. We will be receiving email updates from them in the future.

During the month of January, we are asking for donations of canned soup and soup crackers for the Altoona Food Bank.

The outdoor Food Pantry is going very well and all donations are greatly appreciated.

Remaining funds from our committee will go to The Door this month.

**Worship (Ellie Herbster):** Readers' Theater went well and we will schedule another one sometime in January 2023.

The following dates were approved for communion in 2023:

January 1, February 5, March 5,  
April 6 (Maundy Thursday), May 7,  
June 4, July 2, August 6, September 3,  
October 1, November 5 and December 3.

Looking ahead:

February 22 - Ash Wednesday  
February 26 - First Sunday in Lent  
April 2 - Palm Sunday  
April 9 - Easter Sunday

**Old Business:** Pastor Braun researched more information on the "Caps for Krislund" project that was presented by B.J. Crownover at last month's meeting. He discussed this with Session and the board approved our participation in the project.

## Newsletter Deadlines for 2023

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 2023 newsletter must be submitted no later than Tuesday, January 17. 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 2023	Tuesday, January 17, 2023
March	Tuesday, February 21
April	Tuesday, March 21
May	Tuesday, April 18
June	Tuesday, May 16
July/August	Tuesday, June 20
September	Tuesday, August 22
October	Tuesday, September 19
November	Tuesday, October 17
December	Tuesday, November 21
January 2024	Tuesday, December 19

## 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 8, 2023. Thank You!

### Category: Paper & Baby Products

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



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

## 2023 Church Flowers

If you would like to remember loved ones or a special event, please sign the **2023 Flower Calendar** located in the 24<sup>th</sup> 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 2023 is \$39.24 *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 **Sunday, January 15, 2023**. 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 Hollidaysburg. 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 "Pop-Up Christmas Project" donations of toys and books.

Jim Burchfield, at the request of Les Hart, planted a new 5'-6" Norway Spruce on our church property to replace an old and diseased Blue Spruce. The Christmas tree is decorated with clear miniature light bulbs during Christmas for our Youth.

Dear Church Family,

*Thank you for thinking of me during my surgery. I appreciated the crossword book and all the well wishes. Thanks again for your thoughts and prayers.*

*Ethan Donlan*



## Presbyterians In The Press

The December/January/February 2022-23 issue of *Blair Living* featured Altoona Mirror publisher **Dan Slep**, who was shown presenting a Hometown Favorite award on the cover.

The Monday, December 12, issue of the *Mirror* had an article on their *Business Insight* page about incoming Chamber board members. One of the new members is **Glenn Nelson** of Fort Roberdeau. Also in that same issue, **John Gallace** is shown moving boxes of items to be packed for the St. Vincent DePaul Assumption Chapel Food Pantry.



Our Youth will have a Movie Night on Sunday, January 15, 2023. We will also be making Valentine's Day cards for our shut-in members. Stay tuned for more details!

Our congregation is reminded to sign the birthday cards that will be located on a table in the Fellowship Hall.



The congregation extends its heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of **Ruth A. Griffin**, who passed away on Sunday, December 11, 2022, at the Hollidaysburg Veterans Home. Ruth was the mother of Carol Gillespie.

If you are interested in Junior Church, please use the sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall. All lessons and material will be provided.

Also located in the Fellowship Hall is a sign-up sheet for people to open-up and lock-up the church on Sunday mornings on a monthly basis.