



# Providence Post



MARCH 2023

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The story is told that one Sunday morning a teacher asked her Sunday school class to describe what “Lent” was. A boy immediately raised his hand. When called upon, he said “lint” was what you picked out of your belly button.

That little boy isn’t alone about not knowing the meaning of Lent. Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday, the day before Easter. The forty days commemorate the time Jesus spent preparing for his public ministry by fasting in the wilderness and enduring the temptation of Satan. In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism.

In more recent times, many Christians have committed to fasting or giving up certain types of luxuries in preparation for the coming of Easter. Lent can also be used as a time of self-examination and reflection. Today, more and more Christians are taking a different approach in their preparations for Easter by choosing to add something to their schedules by volunteering and giving of themselves for others instead of subtracting something by giving up of a luxury or fasting. All these disciplines, or practices, can help Christians to answer the question “How do we walk with Christ daily, grow in our knowledge of Him, and faithfully serve Him?”

Recently, the Sunday evening video Bible study group finished a study of a book by pastor Adam Hamilton entitled *The Walk*. This study summarized an excellent way to prepare for Lent. In the book, Hamilton presented what he called five essential spiritual practices that include weekly corporate worship/daily personal prayer, Bible reading/study, service to others, generosity, and sharing our faith journey.

As we begin to incorporate these practices into our lives, I believe we will find the answer to the question above. We will find the Season of Lent is not a gloomy time of doing without, but a time of spiritual growth and vitality. I invite you to truly observe this season of Lent in 2023. God bless you all!

*Pastor Dennis*

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**By Barb Hazlett**

*(Note: The following highlights are taken from the minutes of the Monday, February 20, 2023, regular Session meeting.)*

**Clerk's Report:** Sixty-nine communicants received communion on Sunday, February 5.

The clerk distributed copies of the 2022 annual statistical report that she sends to Presbytery.

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

**Huntingdon Presbytery Report:** The last meeting of Huntingdon Presbytery was held on Saturday, January 28, 2023. Barry Gaut was our Session representative and he gave a summary of that meeting. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, June 27.

**Nominating Committee Report:** This year's Session co-chairs for the committee will be Ellie Herbster and Barry Gaut.

**Moderator's Report:** Our church custodian, Anna, received permission from Session to use the Fellowship Hall for a baby shower on Saturday, March 11, from 11:15 am until 2:45 pm.

Elder Carol McCracken submitted a letter of resignation which Session approved with regret.

The Blair County Pastor's Network would like to setup a 21-Day Prayer and Fasting program. Session approved the use of our sanctuary for two of the prayer meetings. Pastor Braun will oversee these two meetings and will coordinate with the Network on available dates.

### Session Team Reports (Chair)

**Finance & Stewardship (Barry Gaut):** Per Capita for 2023 has been established at \$39.24 per

person, and based on 139 members, our per capita bill from Huntingdon Presbytery will be \$5,454.36, which we will pay in four installments of \$1,363.59.

For the period ending on January 30, 2023, a total of \$1,711.76 has been paid to our per capita fund. This represents an 31% response, or approximately 44 of our 139 members.

The 2023 vs. 2022 Monthly Financial Summary is summarized below:

	Through 01/30/23	Through 01/30/22
Congregational Giving	\$ 15,905	\$ 16,091
Building Rental Income	75	1,125
Special Offerings	351	1,095
Total Income	\$ 16,331	\$ 18,311
Total Expenses	\$ 20,811	\$ 21,083
<b>Shortfall</b>	<b>\$ 4,480</b>	<b>\$ 2,772</b>

**Congregational Care (Carol McCracken):** We are waiting for parental responses to the request for addresses of our college students. Our team will prepare the college boxes, which will be sent to our students in April.

Gail Irwin spoke to the social director of the Presbyterian Village at Hollidaysburg and received permission to continue our offer of homemade birthday cakes for some of their residents. We will provide three cakes on the last Friday of the month for March (3/31), June (6/30), and September (9/29). Cakes may be dropped off at the church by 10:00 am on the specified Friday; Charyl Gardner will deliver them to the Presbyterian Village. Our congregation will be asked to contribute cakes for the June birthdays.

Our committee will resume the practice of homebound communion and will make these visitations during February, May, August, and November. This has been discussed with members who are not attending. Kimberly will coordinate visits with Pastor Braun and take care of arranging appointments and scheduling team members.

**Congregational Fellowship (Glenn Nelson):** The committee discussed having a covered dish dinner in the near future, possibly in May.

Our next coffee fellowship will be held on Sunday, March 5, with a St. Patrick's Day theme. There will probably not be a coffee fellowship in April as the

first Sunday is Palm Sunday and there is usually an Easter egg hunt on that morning.

The men are singing at the Curve baseball game on Thursday, July 20. Our committee will arrange to get a block of tickets for that game.

Looking ahead, the summer Church Picnic will be held on Sunday, July 23, at Del Grosso's Park—stay tuned for more information.

**Mission (Mark Leberfinger):** Carol Adams spoke to our team about a missions project in India. She showed us her photos of a family that she visited as part of a cultural tour of the country and she explained the needs that they have in a desert community. We agreed to help her with a blankets/toiletries project, but asked for more information from her contact before our committee moved forward with specifics.

We distributed 52 lunches at our Soup on Saturday event in January; the remaining lunches were distributed to various shelters.

A policy was established for children and youth from the congregation who wish to go to Camp Krislund for the 2023 camping season. Missions will pay for the entire fee with the exception that we ask the camper pay the registration fee. If necessary, we will review the registration fee on a case-by-case basis.

The 2023 Mission budget was established.

Jane Falco reopened the outdoor Food Pantry on Tuesday, February 14. Our committee will work with Bruce Hazlett on the security cameras to be installed near the pantry.

The Soup on Saturday lunches will move back inside the church in April. We are again asking the congregation for soup and dessert donations that make up the indoor meals.

For the Altoona Food Bank in March, we are asking for donations of canned soups. In addition, any donation of nonperishable food is appreciated.

We gave the following: Unified Mission - \$1,000; Altoona Teen Shelter - \$500.

**Outreach (Jane Yerty):** The Card Making Event featuring Carol Adams and Kathy Braun will be held

on Thursday, March 9, at 1:30 pm. Church members are welcome, but encouraged to bring a guest. Jen Braun is preparing invitations to help with our invites. RSVP's are due back by Sunday, February 26. An activity, as well as a snack, will be available for the kids.

The Yard Sale will be held on Saturday, April 22, from 8:00 am until 12 pm. Proceeds will benefit Krislund scholarships. We will set up tables on Monday, April 17, receive donations on April 18 through April 20, and price items on April 21, as needed. No clothing or stuffed animals please.

The Parking Lot Party will be on Saturday, July 22.

The Movie License cost this year is \$282.35, up \$21.40 from last year. We are asking if Session and/or Spiritual Enhancement would like to share in the cost. The Spiritual Enhancement team said they would be glad to split the cost of the License.

Our thanks to BJ Crownover for her willingness to deliver Family and Children's Services items.

In the Community Garden, the wood has been prepared for the remaining 23 beds to be replaced. Nancy Woomer and Bruce Hazlett are working on installation plans as weather permits. Details to follow—volunteers welcomed and appreciated.

Peggy Horner and Judy Hartzell are looking for volunteers to assemble literature packets. These relate to local groups Families United for Change and PA HRN (Harm Reduction Network). These organizations work with resources, awareness, support, and education related to substance use disorders and addiction. They are responsible for the Circle of Hope display in Tuckahoe Park. Please see Peggy or Judy if you would like to help.

**Personnel (Bob Hollingsworth):** Bob is trying to complete the employee evaluations.

**Property (Geoff Geesey):** Our annual fire inspection has been completed and went well.

Geoff has been thinking about our church's need for a stair lift, which would probably be installed on the main set of stairs to the basement. He will consult with a commercial stair installer for more information and pricing. During this discussion, Session also mentioned the possible need for outdoor recreational equipment for children.

**Spiritual Enhancement (Jeanie Mollica):** Bowling will take place on Sunday, February 26, from 2:00 until 4:00 pm.

The Team is collecting candy to be used for an Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday, April 2.

Session approved a fund raiser for the youth, who will be selling greeting cards.

**Worship (Ellie Herbster):** Kathy Rutter will be our liturgist for the first Sunday in February; Sue Whitsel will handle the remaining Sundays. Glenn Nelson will be our liturgist in March. Allen and Bobbie Gibboney will be the greeters for February.

The next Readers' Theatre may possibly include children.

Our team again discussed the need for a call service in the event of an emergency. Ellie found two programs that offer pay-as-you-go services. Session gave her permission to enter into an agreement with a company to do this. For the present, we divided our church's mailing list among five committee members who will make calls in the event of an emergency.

There will probably not be a Lenten Concert series this year.

Pastor Braun found a worship program that ties in with our extinguishing one candle each Sunday during Lent. It has readings that will be used in place of the Call to Worship during the Lenten season.

Church Lenten Calendar:

February 22, Ash Wednesday - Service will be at 6:00 pm, with choir practice following. There will be the imposition of ashes at this service.

April 2, Palm Sunday - Children will carry palms during the first hymn. There will be no communion this Sunday due to having it on Maundy Thursday.

April 6, Maundy Thursday - Service with communion at 7:00 pm.

April 7, Good Friday - There will be a

combined service held at First Presbyterian Church in Hollidaysburg.

April 9, Easter Sunday - Service will be at 10:15 am. We are checking to see if there will be a Community Sunrise Service that morning.

On Sunday, February 12, Josh Boyd, camp director at Krislund, was here to talk about their summer camp program. Josh presented a short video and left camp flyers with additional information.

**Old Business:** The outdoor Food Pantry is back in operation for now and will be under surveillance.

**New Business:** Session will conduct a church survey to explore what the congregation would like to see happen here in the future.



At our Soup on Saturday event in February, we distributed 52 lunches. Thanks to all who give so generously each month. Our next event will be held on Saturday, March 18, 2023.

As part of our mission support for the month of February, we gave to the following:

Unified Mission	\$ 1,000
Altoona Teen Shelter	\$ 500

In March, we are asking for donations of canned soups for the Altoona Food Bank. Donations of any non-perishable food item would also be greatly appreciated.

## Per Capita Amount

Just a reminder that the Per Capita amount for 2023 is \$39.24 *per member*. Please try to meet your per capita obligation early using the special [blue envelope](#) in your box of offering envelopes.

## March 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, March 12, 2023. Thank You!

### Category: Cleaning Products

All-purpose cleaners & degreasers  
Lysol® & Lysol® wipes  
Large garbage bags  
Rubber gloves & cleaning cloths  
Mr. Clean® Magic Eraser  
Mops, brooms & dust pans  
High-efficiency laundry detergent  
Toilet bowl cleaner  
Window cleaner  
Dish liquid soap

Watch for a new donation category in the April newsletter!

## 2023 Church Flowers

If you would like to remember loved ones or a special event, please sign the 2023 Flower Calendar located in the 24th Street hallway, adjacent to the Fellowship Hall. The cost is fifty dollars (\$50) for two vases.

## Lenten Video Study

The wood. The thorns. The nails. Christ's sacrifice has defined the very essence of mankind's faith for the past 2000 years. Pastor, speaker, and best-selling author Max Lucado invites you to examine the cross, contemplate its purpose, and celebrate its significance with his book: *He Chose the Nails*.

With his warm caring style, Max examines the symbols surrounding Christ's crucifixion, revealing the claims of the cross and asserting that if they are true, Christianity itself is true. The supporting evidence either makes the cross the single biggest hoax of all time, or the hope of all humanity.

Join us on Sunday evenings at 6:00 pm, for a Lenten video study based on the book. The study will begin on Sunday, February 26, and will continue weekly through Palm Sunday April 2nd.

## MARCH Birthdays & Anniversaries

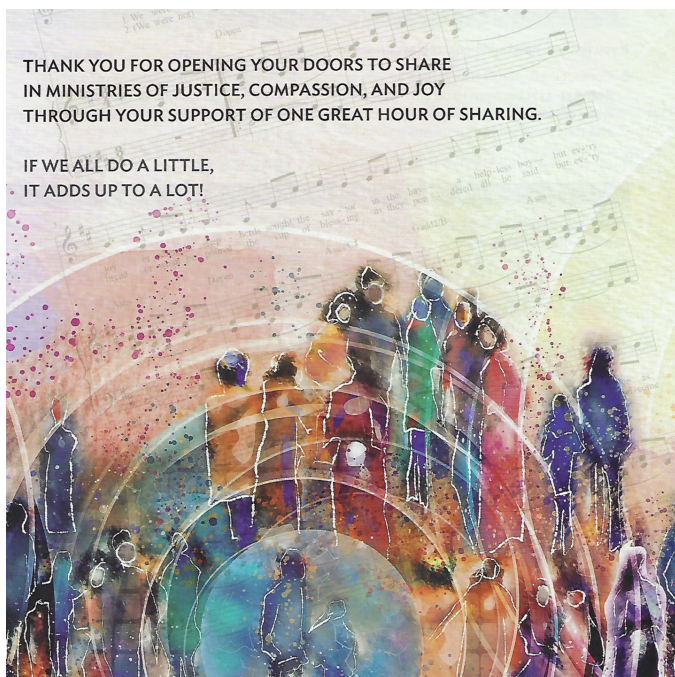
Bobbie Gibboney	1
Elaine Kilgore	2
Dan Slep	2
Lois McLaughlin	3
Louise Albright	6
Jane Carothers	6
Denny Nevling	6
Kylee Shoaf	11
Brigitte Donlan	12
Janelle Yerty	13
Joan Conway	13
Vaida Stanek	18
Debra Wedge	18
Bruce Hazlett	22
Donna Yeisley	22
Jim Carothers	24
Ashley Mollica	27

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Harlan & Dee Schnarrs	19
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## One Great Hour of Sharing

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)—Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People—all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

One Great Hour of Sharing helps Presbyterians join together to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world. Each gift helps to improve the lives of people in challenging situations through three impactful programs:

### ① Rebuilding Hope — **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance** (Receives 32% of funds raised)

This program works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters.

### ② Growing Food Security — **Presbyterian Hunger Program** (Receives 36% of funds raised)

Takes action to alleviate hunger and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed.

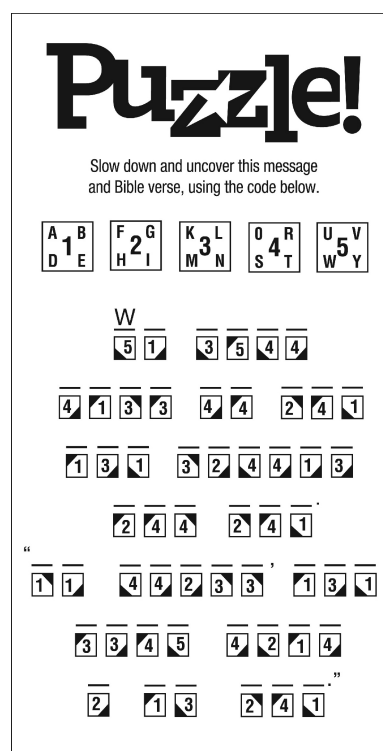
### ③ Partnering in Progress — **Self-Development of People** (Receives 32% of funds raised)

Invests in communities responding to their experiences of racism, oppression, poverty, and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these societal ills.

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education and opportunity. The three programs outlined above are supported by One Great Hour of Sharing, and they all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Received during the season of Lent (February 22 to April 9), each gift to OGHS helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. **In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.**

*If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!*



Answer: We must talk to God and listen for God. Be still, and know that I am God. (Psalm 46:10)