



# Providence Post



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Springtime is finally here. The bare trees are beginning to bud and will soon be covered with leaves. The flowers are beginning to sprout and blossom. The grass will soon turn green and grow. The days get longer, and the temperature gets warmer. I think just about everyone loves the season of spring because the earth is being renewed. In the book of Isaiah, God says, *"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."* (43:19 NIV) God not only renews the physical world, but he also gives new life through the death and resurrection of His Son to put people back into right relationship with him. God takes the lives of individuals and peoples who lives are wilted by the effects of sin and gives them new life.

While spring seems to have arrived, winter still can rear its head for the next few weeks. This is true spiritually as well. In the verse before the one quoted above, God says, *"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past."* (Isaiah 43:18 NIV) We need to let go of the past before we can fully move into the future God intends for us to experience. If we have experienced losses in the past then we may need to take time to grieve before we can move forward, but with God's help we will find it possible. God wants us to move into the new thing he is doing, and he will help us. Springtime can serve as a reminder that change can be a good thing.

The celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ is called Easter because in the northern hemisphere it is observed in the spring. Through the resurrection of Christ, God is making all things new. This includes you and me. The difference between Easter and spring is our newness of the season of spring fades away as the seasons roll around to summer, then autumn, and finally back to winter. The newness of life made available to us through the resurrection of Christ will never wither, fade, or pass away. My hope for you is that you will experience anew the wonder and the power of resurrection life this Easter. A blessed Easter to you all!

*Pastor Dennis*

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**By Barb Hazlett**

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

**Clerk's Report:** Communion was served to 67 communicants on Sunday, March 5, 2023.

**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 Saturday, March 25 2023, and will be a Zoom meeting. Mark Leberfingher will be our Session representative.

### 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 is payable in quarterly installments.

For the period ending on February 28, 2023, a total of \$2,199.92 has been paid to our per capita fund. This represents a 40% response, or approximately 56 of our 139 members.

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

	Through 02/28/23	Through 02/28/22
Congregational Giving	\$ 32,233	\$ 33,406
Building Rental Income	260	1,331
Special Offerings	1,225	1,365
=====		
Total Income	\$ 33,718	\$ 36,102
Total Expenses	\$ 38,854	\$ 38,734
=====		
Surplus (Shortfall)	\$ 5,136	\$ 2,632

Our committee has received a proposal for a 2024 stewardship program from KWL Enterprises which we are in the process of evaluating. We have used KWL materials in the past and the cost of their proposal for 2024 falls within our budget should we decide to use it.

**Congregational Fellowship (Glenn Nelson):** The church picnic is scheduled for Sunday, July 23, at DelGrosso's Park. Our cost for meals is \$13 per person and a ride pass is \$24.95. The committee will discuss what to charge for meals and a ride pass at a later date. DelGrosso's has gone to a cashless system which means credit cards will be necessary for in-park purchases.

There will be no coffee fellowship in April since an Easter egg hunt will be held after church on the first Sunday of the month (Palm Sunday), April 2.

Glenn thanked Kathy Braun and Nancy Nevling for doing a good job with the March coffee fellowship.

A potluck covered dish lunch is planned for Sunday, May 7. This will take the place of our regular coffee fellowship for May.

Jane Falco will order 30 tickets for the Altoona Curve game on Thursday, July 20. The men of the church will be singing at that game.

**Mission (Mark Leberfingher):** A thank-you note was received from Family Services, and a newsletter was received from the Breezewood Trucker and Traveler Ministry—both are supported by our church.

This month we gave the following: Unified Mission, \$1,000; World Mission, \$500.

At least two youth from the congregation plan on attending Camp Krislund this summer.

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

Sometime after Easter, we will be taking up an offering for the Asian Christian Academy in India, a ministry that we learned about from Carol Adams. The offering will be designated for clothing and blankets for children in need at the Academy, which is located in Tamil Nadu.

At our Soup on Saturday event in April, we will be moving indoors. We are asking for volunteers to bring soup and desserts with the Mission Team purchasing the sandwiches and hot and cold beverages for the event. The time for Soup on Saturday will be from 11:30 am until 1:00 pm.

Fifty-four lunches were served at the February Soup on Saturday event, the remainder were distributed to local shelters.

There will be minute for missions presented in late March and April for the One Great Hour of Sharing.

**Outreach (Jane Yerty):** There were 19 adults and one child signed up for the Card Making event on Thursday, March 9. The committee is happy to report that nine of these attendees were guests or new friends.

Plans are continuing for our Yard Sale on Saturday, April 22, from 8:00 am until 12:00 pm. Proceeds will benefit Krislund scholarships for neighborhood children. We will ask for donations from the church to help with these scholarships if the yard sale does not produce enough funds. Tables for this sale will be up on Monday, April 17. Volunteer help for the set-up and day of the sale would be greatly appreciated.

The church's movie license was paid for from the Outreach and Spiritual Enhancement committees. Thank you.

Save the date for the Parking Lot Party on Saturday, July 22, 2023.

Installation of the garden beds will take place soon—details to come and assistance is welcome.

**Property (Geoff Geesey):** The committee is still waiting to hear from the roofers and from the architect who is going to advise us on the installation of a stair lift.

There will be a "Phil Hall" workday on Saturday, April 29.

**Spiritual Enhancement (Jeanie Mollica):** There will be no youth Sunday school on April 9, (Easter Sunday).

This year's Vacation Bible School is scheduled for Sunday, August 6, through Thursday, August 10.

**Worship (Ellie Herbster):** Glenn Nelson will be our liturgist in March, Mark Leberfinger will be the liturgist in April, and Gaylend Young will be the liturgist in May. Dave Brownell and Geoff Geesey will be the greeters for March.

The next Readers' Theatre will be on Sunday, April 2, and will possibly include children.

Emergency Day Protocol phone service: Ellie Herbster is continuing to investigate. Our church will use a pay-as-you-go service. We will need to get one contact number from each individual or family. If a test is needed, we might just use committee members to do this. For now, the Worship Team will make all calls in the event that we would need to contact everyone.

Easter flower order forms have been inserted into the bulletins. Palms have been ordered for the youth to carry; 100 palm crosses have also been ordered. There are two small pots of artificial palms downstairs that we can use for the Palm Sunday service.

Extinguishing the Lenten candles is being done by the different readers each Sunday. Pastor Braun is recruiting the readers.

Church Lenten Calendar:

April 2, Palm Sunday - Procession with youth carrying the palms. (No communion.)

April 6, Maundy Thursday - Service will be at 7:00 pm. Communion will be observed. The communion table will be stripped and the Christ Candle extinguished. The sanctuary will be darkened; 33 chimes will be played and everyone will exit the church in silence.

April 7, Good Friday service will be at the Hollidaysburg Presbyterian Church at 7:00 pm. There will be a combined choir.

April 9, Easter Sunday - There will be no Sunday school, but the Adult Sunday school class will offer a continental breakfast at 9:30 am. A Community Sunrise Service at the Wopsononock

Mountain overlook at a time to be determined. The Easter service at Providence Presbyterian Church will be at 10:15 am.

#### Looking Ahead:

May 4, National Day of Prayer

May 28, Pentecost Sunday

June 4, Trinity Sunday. We may switch to our "summer schedule" on that Sunday and we are looking into having an outside service.

Our committee is checking into the possibility of using family liturgists during the summer months.

Our church organ is old and there are some parts on it that are in need of repair. Session agreed to spend \$400 to perform some immediate repairs and also learn what major issues need to be addressed. The Worship Committee will discuss establishing an ad hoc organ committee to investigate the next steps that need to be taken with the organ.



## Presbyterians in the Press

[**Note:** Unless otherwise stated, all articles and photographs listed here have appeared in the *Altoona Mirror*.]

The *Altoona Mirror* presented a check to the St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry, the 2022 recipient of the Season of Sharing program. *Mirror* Publisher **Dan Slep** was shown in the photo of the presentation of the \$37,198 check.

The Altoona Area Junior High School Drama Club presented "Willy Wonka, Jr." on March 10 and 11. Shown in the accompanying photo was **Abigail Burchfield**.

Our church's **Little Food Pantry** was highlighted in a March 6 article about food insecurity in the area.

**Pastor Braun** was also quoted as saying, "We are trying to do our best to make sure people get the food they need."

The Altoona Area High School Alumni Association announced the winners of their Distinguished Alumni Awards. Among the group of seven was **Lee Hite**, who is a 1962 graduate of Altoona High School and had assumed the role of president of the Hite Company in 1975. Lee was recognized for his dedication and commitment to the Altoona community.

## April 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, April 9, 2023. Thank You!

### Category: Household Items

High-efficiency laundry detergent  
Bedding sheet sets: twin or full  
Pillows  
Towels and washcloths  
Dishcloths and towels  
Bathroom rugs  
Shower curtains  
Plastic food handling gloves  
Shower gel  
Pots, pans, dishes, silverware  
Small appliances

Watch for a new donation category in the May newsletter!

## 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** (like the one shown above) in your box of offering envelopes.

325

**PER CAPITA APPORTIONMENT**

Every church is apportioned a share of the expenses of the presbytery, the synod, and the General Assembly for ecclesiastical purposes. The apportionment is based on church membership. The amount varies with the needs of the presbytery, synod, and General Assembly, and is a regular expense payable by this church at the spring meeting of presbytery. The amount to be paid this year per communicant member is

Name \_\_\_\_\_

The Hubbard Press



Saturday, April 22 - Spring Outreach Team Yard Sale, from 8:00 am until 12 noon.

Sunday, May 7 - Potluck covered dish lunch immediately following the morning worship service

Thursday, July 20 - Altoona Curve baseball game with our men singing the National Anthem

Saturday, July 22 - Parking Lot Party

Sunday afternoon, July 23 - Church Picnic at DelGrosso's Park

Sunday, August 6 through Thursday, August 10 - Vacation Bible School



Back by popular demand is the Spring Outreach Team Yard Sale. The date is Saturday, April 22, from 8:00 am until 12:00 noon. Proceeds from this event will benefit Krislund Camp scholarships for neighborhood children and youth. Please keep us in mind as you do your spring cleaning. Please, no stuffed animals or clothing.

We will be accepting donations at the church from 9:00 am until noon on Tuesday, April 18, through Thursday, April 20. Please contact any member of the team for individual considerations.

We truly appreciate everyone's help and support. Please feel free to jump in and assist with setup and pricing. You are also welcome to help us on April 22, the day of the sale.



Hannah Donlan	1
Wanda Weakland	3
Jennifer Larrimore	4
Lilyahna Wisor	5
Ethan Little	7
Nancy Nevling	7
Les Hart	12
Cameron Lynch	13
Rory Larrimore	16
Kathy Braun	17
Alyssa Conway	23
Cora Nelson	27
Abby Shoaf	30
Alecea Wisor	30

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Bruce & Barb Hazlett	3
Dan & Kathy Slep	22
Jim & Megan Burchfield	25
Rob & Brigitte Donlan	28



On **Palm Sunday**, April 2, all children through fifth grade are invited to join us for an Easter Egg Hunt immediately following the morning worship service.

A **Maundy Thursday** service will be held on April 6, at 7:00 pm. Communion will be served.

There will be NO Sunday school on **Easter Sunday**. The Adult Sunday school class is hosting a continental breakfast in the Fellowship Hall. The breakfast will be served starting at 9:30 am on Easter Sunday. Following, the morning worship service will begin at 10:15 am.