



Providence Post



J U N E 2 0 2 3

Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us." Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

—John 14:8-9

When I was young, I didn't think I looked at all like my father. However, as the years have gone by, I have noticed an increasingly strong physical resemblance to my father. I am not my father, but in many ways, I am my father's son.

On one occasion the disciple Philip said to Jesus, *"Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us. (Jn. 14:8)"* Jesus' response was, *"Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. (Jn. 14:9)"* While there are physical resemblances between my earthly father and myself, Jesus is saying that the very essence of his character is the same as his Heavenly Father. If you want to know what God is like, all you need to do is look at Jesus.

Just as our heavenly Father loves us, cares for us, and provides our needs, we earthly fathers have a strong responsibility to care for our wives and children. However, not only earthly fathers, but all people, both men and women, have a responsibility to reflect God's character in our lives. This is clearly stated by the Apostle Paul in Ephesians 5 where it is stated, *"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. (vs. 1-2 NRSV)"* The word translated "imitated" is based on the Greek root word for "mimic." To mimic is to copy specific characteristics of another person. Paul is commanding us to copy the character of Christ in our lives. The Spirit of God will help us to increasingly reflect God's character in our daily lives. A happy Father's Day to all the men in the congregation.

Pastor Dennis

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



By Barb Hazlett

(Note: The following highlights are taken from the minutes of the Monday, May 15, 2023, regular Session meeting.)

Clerk's Report: Communion was served to 46 communicants on Sunday, May 7.

Bob Hollingsworth was elected as our Session representative to the Tuesday, June 27, meeting of Huntingdon Presbytery. Bob, along with a representative from the congregation, will attest to Pastor Braun's retirement.

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

Huntingdon Presbytery Report: Pastor Braun discussed the April 22, and May 8, special meetings of Presbytery. The June 27 meeting will be held in the evening at the Clearfield Presbyterian Church.

Nominating Committee Report: The team has set a date for their first meeting: Thursday, May 18, at the church. They will present Gail Irwin to the congregation at our May 21 congregational meeting; she will be nominated for election to fill the unexpired term of Elder Carol McCracken.

Moderator's Report: Mark Leberfinger has made a request to resign as elder and to be removed from the church rolls. Motions were made and approved to grant these requests.

Pastor Braun will conduct five classes for the youth who want to join our church. Session will meet with those who are able on Sunday, May 28. All will be here at the morning worship service on Sunday, June 4, to become members, but none of the five can attend all the membership classes. After some discussion, Session decided that it was okay for Pastor Braun to teach those who are able to attend the membership classes. It was agreed

that their Sunday school classes will continue their new member education in the fall.

Amanda Yeager has asked to join our church by affirmation of faith. She will meet with Session on May 28, also. We will request a letter of transfer from Ward Avenue Presbyterian Church for Brian and Kathy Rutter.

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 \$5454.36, which we pay in four installments of \$1,363.59.

For the period ending on April 30, 2023, there was \$2,858.02 given to our per capita fund. This represents a 52 percent (52%) response, or approximately 73 of our 139 members.

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

	Through 04/30/23	Through 04/30/22
Congregational Giving	\$ 62,136	\$ 69,439
Building Rental Income	335	2,636
Special Offerings	4,706	3,765
=====		
Total Income	\$ 67,177	\$ 75,840
Total Expenses	\$ 79,252	\$ 75,328
=====		
Surplus (Shortfall)	\$ 12,075	\$ 512

Our church will be working once again with KLV Enterprises in Illinois, who will provide stewardship materials for the 2024 campaign. The theme of the program is "Working Together—Celebrating God's Good Gifts." We will continue to use our own "estimate of giving" card since it is sized for easier mailing.

Congregational Care: Pastor Braun listed the shut-in members that he and members of the team visited. He relayed their conditions and which of those visited received communion.

Congregational Fellowship (Glenn Nelson): Glenn recognized Sue Whitsel for getting the Fellowship Hall ready for our covered dish luncheon on May 7.

For the June 4 coffee fellowship, the graduates and new members will be honored. The team will provide a sheet cake that will be decorated with

the phrase, "Congratulations Graduates and New Members." Congregational Fellowship will provide the usual assortment of drinks on that day.

Tickets for the Thursday, July 20, Altoona Curve baseball game will go on sale on Sunday, June 11. They will cost \$5.00 per ticket.

Our annual church picnic will be held on Sunday, July 23, at DelGrosso's Park. Tickets for that event will go on sale on Sunday, July 2.

Outreach (Jane Yerty): The Yard Sale is done and was very successful. Thank you to everyone who helped, donated and purchased items.

At the present time, we have five confirmed and paid for Krislund Camp scholarships for the neighborhood kids. Session has given us permission to use 40% of the Pentecost offering for this effort.

All the garden beds have been reserved. Finding volunteers to fill the water tanks is an ongoing project; we are thankful for those who have signed up. The community library will be open soon.

Our team is brainstorming ways to become a more welcoming church. Some ideas are: to make sure ushers are aware of pamphlets detailing church information; to use a staffed information table with literature and visitor cards; to develop/reinstitute greeters; to identify the main entrances and restrooms; and to reserve an up-front parking spot for visitors.

Prayer Sanctuary Initiative - A local plan has been proposed to invite the homeless into churches from 9 pm to 6 am, October 1 through March 31. Although this ministry is very much needed and valuable, it is too overwhelming for the Outreach Team. They have concerns regarding many areas including security, drug and alcohol use, violence, mental health issues and hygiene. Also, we wonder if calling this a Prayer Sanctuary rather than a shelter, negating the issues of insurance and codes, skirts the intent and spirit of existing laws and regulations.

They recommend instead city churches contribute financially and with volunteers to a Warming Center. This could be staffed with trained professionals who are knowledgeable and know how to cope with the various needs of homeless

people. Church members could join in to volunteer with refreshments, prayer and conversations.

Property (Geoff Geesey): Session approved a quote to replace the screen door to the church office. The cost will be approximately \$4,500; there has been a donation to help with this.

Jim Burchfield will position some plants on the parking lot side of the church.

Spiritual Enhancement (Jeanie Mollica): Church youth will be here on Saturday, May 20, to help with the Soup on Saturday event. They will also be planting some flowers.

Youth Sunday will be observed on June 4. There are two graduates honored: Laila Wisor is graduating from college and Delaney Wisor is graduating from High School.

There will be a Vacation Bible School meeting after the morning worship service on Sunday, May 28.

Megan Burchfield has been doing a great job as our youth leader. Since she has completed her 90-day trial period, Session reviewed her work and approved her position as a permanent one.

Worship (Ellie Herbster): Gaylend Young will be our liturgist for May; Allen and Bobbie Gibboney will be the greeters.

Kudos to all for a worshipful Easter weekend!

We reviewed Holy Humor Sunday and believe it went well.

Our team discussed the church organ update issue. We have a small committee assembled and Rick Herbster has approached several others about being a part of this group. Carol McCracken said that the organ tuner will be here for two days, and while he's here, she will ask questions regarding what we need and what options we have.

Thursday, May 4, was the National Day of Prayer. The church was open for prayer and several handouts were available for people to use to help them with various prayer topics.

We decided to have the outdoor service later in the summer.

Looking ahead (all dates are on a Sunday):

June 4 - Trinity Sunday, morning worship service at 9:30 am. It will be Youth Sunday and Delaine Wisor will be the speaker. Graduates will be recognized and youth will be received into active membership. Communion will be served.

July 2 - Communion Sunday. Brian Rutter and his group will provide the special music for the morning worship service.

July 23 - Our annual church picnic at DelGrosso's Park.

August 6 - The first day of our "Stellar" Vacation Bible School program. (See the announcement in the next column.)

September 3 - Communion Sunday and the last 9:30 am morning worship service.

September 10 - Worship resumes at the 10:15 am starting time.



June 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, June 11, 2022. Thank You!

Category: Summer Supplies

Paper plates
Plastic cups
Paper towels
Plastic silverware
Hand sanitizer
Bubbles
Sunscreen
Play dough
Water
Individual snack bags
Gift cards for local stores

Watch for a new donation category in the July/August newsletter!



Providence Presbyterian Church will change the time of its morning worship service to 9:30 am from Sunday, June 4, through Sunday, September 3. There will be no Sunday School or Junior Church during the summer schedule, but the Nursery will be open and staffed.

Per Capita Amount

Just a reminder that the Per Capita amount for 2023 is \$39.24 *per member*. So far this year, our response rate has been 52%. That means a bit more than half of our members have responded to date. If you haven't already done so, please try to meet your per capita obligation by using the special [blue envelope](#) in your box of offering envelopes. Thank you!



Mark your calendars for this year's Vacation Bible School: "Stellar—Shine Jesus' Light," which will be held on Sunday, August 6, through Thursday, August 10, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm, at Providence Presbyterian Church. VBS is open to all kids 3 years old through sixth grade. Please invite your family, friends and neighbors to join us for what will certainly be a great time for all!

JUNE

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Paisley Mollica	1
Tyler Oswalt	4
Emily Yerty	6
Matt Yerty	6
Clair Roddey	8
Martha Ramsey	10
Justin Treese	10
Ethan Donlan	13
Dwayne Yerty	14
Cheryl Dodson	18
Debbie Mallow	19
Tom McKee	22
Rita Holtzinger	29
Sue Stephens	29

Paul & Joan Conway	1
Dave & Heather Wisor	5
John & Charyl Gardner	12
Denny & Nancy Nevling	17
Carmel & Jeanie Mollica	19
Marty & Sharon Judd	25
Mike & Jennifer Larrimore	26
Willie & Sue Stephens	29



The Congregational Fellowship team has 30 tickets for the Altoona Curve baseball game scheduled for Thursday, July 20. Tickets are \$5. Our church's renowned men's group, the Hanging Curve, will be singing the National Anthem. A sign-up sheet will be posted in Fellowship Hall. Tickets will be available for sale after church starting on June 11.

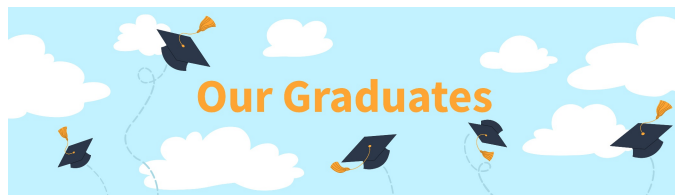
Special Congregational Meeting

A special congregational meeting was held immediately following the morning worship service on Sunday, May 21, 2023.

Pastor Braun announced that he would like to dissolve the pastoral relationship between himself and the Providence Presbyterian Church so that he can retire from full-time ministry. The effective date would be August 31, 2023. A motion passed to agree to the dissolution of this relationship.

A second related motion was approved to elect Rick Herbster as a representative from the congregation that will testify to this dissolution at the June 27, 2023, meeting of the Huntingdon Presbytery in Clearfield. Rick will join Bob Hollingsworth, who will represent the Session at the June 27 meeting.

The meeting was turned over to Barry Gaut, who presented a motion to elect Gail Irwin to fill the unexpired term of Carol McCracken on Session. This motion was passed.



Delainey Wisor - Altoona Area High School
Laighla Wisor - Temple University

Congratulations and best wishes to these 2023 graduates, who will be honored at the church on Sunday, June 4, and at the coffee fellowship following the morning worship service! Remember that this is the first Sunday in the summer schedule with a 9:30 am start.

