



# Providence Post

JULY/AUGUST 2023

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Over the past few decades several Christian research organizations, such as Lifeway Research, the Barna Group, and the Pew Foundation have noted an alarming drop in knowledge of the Bible in American society. In addition, a recent report from Gallup Inc. indicated that currently only 10 percent of Americans read their Bible daily.

This disturbing trend was dramatically demonstrated on a June 2023 episode of the game show *Jeopardy!* Fans were stunned that night after all three contestants failed to answer the \$200 puzzle asking them to complete a line of the Lord's Prayer, the most widely recited prayer in Christianity. The question read: Matthew 6:9 says, "Our Father, which art in heaven, 'This' be thy name." The three contestants stood in silence, with none of the three attempting to fill in the blank. After several seconds the host, Mayim Bialik, revealed the answer: "Hallowed."

The moment went viral, with viewers on Twitter expressing their shock at the contestants' inability to answer a seemingly common-knowledge question. The topic garnered thousands of replies. Some of the tweeted replies included statements such as: "how sad our country is becoming," "that is very alarming," "my gosh the most simplest prayer, people need to get back to the Bible," and "not one contestant on Jeopardy last night knew the answer to this...are you waking up yet?"

The above responses indicate to me that we can no longer assume that the people we know and meet, even here in Altoona, have a basic knowledge of the Bible that was the norm in previous generations. We need to avail ourselves to any opportunities the Lord provides us in our day-to-day contacts with others to impart to people the message of the gospel and of His great love for them. God can use this to help lead others to saving faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and to a greater knowledge of the Bible. May God bless you as you continue to serve Him!

*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)



By Barb Hazlett

*(Note: The following highlights are taken from the minutes of the Monday, June 12, 2023, regular Session meeting.)*

**Clerk's Report:** Eighty-one communicants received communion on Sunday, June 4.

Abby Burchfield, Ethan Donlan, Hannah Donlan, Vivian Markley, Irelynn Treeese, Alecea Wisor, Delainey Wisor, and Lilyahna Wisor, all members of the confirmation class, joined our church.

Amanda Yeager joined our church by reaffirmation of faith.

Brian and Kathy Rutter joined our church by letter of transfer.

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

**Huntingdon Presbytery Report:** The next regular meeting of Huntingdon Presbytery will be on Tuesday, June 27, from 5:30 am until 9:00 pm, at the Clearfield Presbyterian Church. Rick Herbster, representing the congregation, and Bob Hollingsworth, representing our Session, will witness to the dissolution of the pastoral relationship between Pastor Dennis Braun and our church. Bob will also be our Session delegate at this meeting.

**Presentation by the Committee on Ministry:** Nancy Bostian and Kate Sillman, representing the Committee on Ministry of Huntingdon Presbytery, reviewed materials helpful for our yet to be formed Pastor Nominating Committee.

**Nominating Committee:** The committee met formally on Sunday, May 28, and again on Sunday, June 4. Gail Irwin has been reinstalled as an elder and will chair the Congregational Care Committee.

Rick Herbster has agreed to come on Session and will chair the Worship Committee starting in 2024.

The nominating committee is now focusing on a candidate to fill the unexpired term on the Mission Committee. Several contacts have been made without success; the committee will meet again on Sunday, June 18, to review additional names and follow up on those.

### Session Team Reports (Chair)

**Finance & Stewardship (Barry Gaut):** For the period ending through May 30, 2023, there was \$3,057.26 given to our per capita fund. This represents a 56 percent (56%) response, or approximately 78 of our 139 members.

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

	Through 05/30/23	Through 05/30/22
Congregational Giving	\$ 75,256	\$ 85,426
Building Rental Income	335	2,851
Special Offerings	6,217	4,383
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Total Income	\$ 81,808	\$ 92,660
Total Expenses	\$104,290	\$ 96,183
=====		
Surplus (Shortfall)	\$ 22,482	\$ 3,523

**Congregational Care (Gail Irwin):** The Congregational Care Team is looking for volunteers to transport our Keith Hilltop Terrace residents on a once a month basis to our Sunday morning worship service.

Our team will be taking cakes to the Presbyterian Village at Hollidaysburg four times a year. We also take communion to our sick and shut-in members four times a year.

We are sending cards to people who have moved out of the area but are still associated with the church.

**Congregational Fellowship (Glenn Nelson):** Curve baseball tickets went on sale as of June 11.

The picnic sign-up sheet will be posted in our Fellowship Hall on Sunday, June 18. Last day to sign-up and pay will be on Sunday, July 9. Meal tickets are \$8.00 and the ride pass is \$15.00, which is a nice discount from our cost of \$13.00 and \$24.95 respectively.

## **JULY** Birthdays & Anniversaries

**Outreach (Jane Yerty):** We are delighted to say that we have five neighborhood kids attending a residential Krislund Camp this year—that's in addition to two youth from our own church family. Thank you seems insufficient to express our gratitude for everyone's financial support through our Yard Sale, donations, and Pentecost offering. Keep praying that this faith experience will be life-changing for these young people. The Outreach Team and Megan Burchfield will have a meeting with the parents and participants after church on June 18 and July 2 to finalize plans and get acquainted.

All Community Garden beds have been reserved and are planted, or are in the process of being planted. Our thanks to those filling the water tanks and cutting the grass. Kudos to Nancy Woomer for all her efforts.

The Community Library is open—books are free to keep and/or share with others.

We were able to gather many contacts during our Yard Sale. These people would like to be informed about future church programs, some via email and some via regular mail. This information is available to all teams who may want to utilize it. Contact Jane Yerty or the church office.

**Property (Geoff Geesey):** Our roofing contractor repaired the roof around the kitchen vent. The wire that melts the ice on the roof is back up.

**New Business:** There was a suggestion that Session meet soon to begin work on the Mission Study which will be needed by the Pastor Nominating Committee to begin their work. A motion was approved for Session to meet on Monday, July 10, at 5:00 pm to work on the Mission Study.

Nancy Woomer	3
Brian Rutter	6
Becca Gallace	9
Peggy Horner	13
Elizabeth Miller	15
Jen Braun	16
Ellie Herbster	19
Jemmings Lantz	25
Carol Wyerman	25
Steve Parsons	28
Cookie Hall	30
Heather Wisor	30

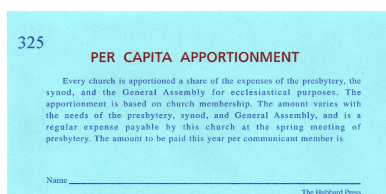
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Dave & Marcia Dravis	3
Allen & Christine Inmon	15
Tom & Linda McKee	15
Chris & Ashley Mollica	20
Al & Rita Holtzinger	23
Lee & Jeannine Fagley	26



On Sunday, July 23, our annual Church Family Picnic will be held at DelGrosso's Amusement Park beginning at 1:00 pm. Dinner will be served at 5:00 pm, and will include a half chicken, potato salad, baked beans, ice cream, and a soft drink. The reduced cost will be \$8. Bottles of water and snack bags will be available at our pavilion. All-day ride tickets, including the water park, will be available at a reduced rate of \$15. Bingo will be available to play during the afternoon at our pavilion with prizes given to the lucky winners.

Sign-up sheets are posted in Fellowship Hall. DelGrosso's will need a firm count by Sunday, July 9, so please, check your calendars and make your reservation and payment by that date. Hope to see you there!



### 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 this year by using the special [blue envelope](#) (like the one shown above) in your box of offering envelopes. Thank you!

# AUGUST

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

Jane Falco	2
Carol Young	3
Marsha Hansard	6
Vivian Markley	8
Cooper Yerty	8
Carina Shaw	10
Rick Herbster	12
Donnie Gallace	13
Dave Dravis	15
Bev Moss-Oswalt	15
Holynn Treeze	16
Paul Conway	17
Tom Costea	18
Emma Adams	20
Barry Gaut	22
Charlotte Hall	24
Kaylee Zeigler	24
Jimmy Gallace	26
Tony Gallace	26
Rob Donlan	27
Nancy Donlan	29
Sue Payne	29

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Rick & Ellie Herbster	1
Jason & Devyn Little	3
Mike & Gail Irwin	7
Bob & MaryAnne Hollingsworth	8
Dwayne & Jane Yerty	8
Jeff & Amanda Stanek	13
Dave & Carol Adams	14
Steve & Carole Parsons	14
Brad & Suzanne Slep	14
Richie & Sue Slep	24
Dewey Adams & Jane Carothers	27



## July & August Donation Needs

Providence Presbyterian Church is collecting the following items for Family Services on the second Sunday of the month. **July** items may be left on the table in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, July 9, and **August** items on Sunday, August 13.

Thank You!

## July Category: Cleaning Products

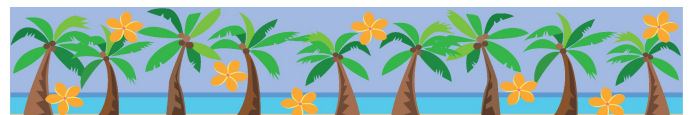
All-purpose cleaners  
 Degreasers  
 Oven cleaner  
 Rubber gloves  
 Mr. Clean Magic Eraser®  
 Mops, brooms, dust pans  
 High efficiency laundry detergent  
 Fabric softener sheets  
 Garbage bags—all sizes  
 Ceramic stove top cleaner  
 Facial Tissues

## August Category: School Supplies

Backpacks/lunch boxes  
 Composition notebooks  
 Books/folders  
 Glue sticks  
 Children's scissors  
 Crayons/markers  
 Pens/highlighters  
 Pencils/erasers  
 Pencil cases  
 Mechanical pencils/lead refills  
 Play dough  
 Facial Tissues



The church congregation extends its heartfelt sympathies to the family and friends of **Jim Grove**, who passed away on Monday, June 12, 2023. Jim was Cora Nelson's brother.





## Presbyterians in the Press



(Note: Unless otherwise specified, all articles and photographs have appeared in the *Altoona Mirror*.)

In a special May 22 Sports Supplement for the *Athletes of the Week*, **Alli Little** was shown on page 2 and again in a group photo on page B3 of the May 23 *Sports* section.

The *5 Generations* photograph in the June 17-18 edition featured five generations of Anngelyca Anderson's family. Included in the photo was **Florence Hammel**, the great-great grandmother.



Tickets for the Altoona Curve baseball game on Thursday, July 20, are now available for \$5! Enjoy our Hanging Curve men's group as they sing the National Anthem. A sign-up sheet is in the Fellowship Hall.



A summer kids' event called Stellar VBS will be held at Providence Presbyterian Church from **Sunday, August 6, to Thursday, August 10**. At Stellar, kids discover how they can shine Jesus' love and hope in everyday life! Kids participate in memorable Bible stories, crafts, science fun, recreation as well as having a special snack each day. And each day concludes with a Cosmic Closing that gets everyone involved in living what they've learned.

Stellar is for kids from age 3 to fifth grade and will run from **6:00 pm to 8:00 pm** each day. For more information, call the church at **814-944-7258**.



## Drivers Needed

The Congregational Care Team is looking for volunteers to transport our Keith Hilltop Terrace residents to and from our church's Sunday morning worship service. And with a rotating schedule, drivers should only need to do this once a month. Please contact the church office (814-944-7258) for details. Thank you in advance for your support!



On June 4, we celebrated Youth Sunday at our church. The service was led by our youth under the direction of Megan Burchfield. Megan had prepared a very creative Power Point slide show to introduce each of the youth to our church congregation. You will note that many of these youth became members of Providence Church at this service. Unfortunately, a technical glitch with the software prevented us from showing the program on our sanctuary screens, so we are presenting it in its entirety as a part of our "summer edition" newsletter. Our thanks to the youth for their enthusiasm and willingness to lead us in worship!

