



Providence Post

OCTOBER 2023



Session Highlights

By Barb Hazlett

(Note: The following highlights are taken from the minutes of the Monday, September 18, 2023, regular Session meeting.)

Pastor Nominating Committee Report: Mary Morrow, Huntingdon Presbytery liaison, gave the Session a rundown on her position with our newly-formed Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). She told the board that a Church Profile and a Pastor Profile will have to be written. Our Finance & Stewardship Committee will have to formulate figures for the terms of call. Session will need to establish what level of experience is required and set a budget for the PNC. Our church website will need to be reviewed so that it accurately reflects our church.

Clerk's Report: Lois McLaughlin passed away on September 9, 2023.

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

Huntingdon Presbytery Report: The next meeting will be held on Saturday, September 30, at Krislund Camp. We need to elect a commissioner to represent our church. Session will consider who to call and the clerk will get confirmation via email.

Nominating Committee Report: The committee is looking for a new church treasurer and an elder to

be on the Finance & Stewardship Committee. Information concerning both positions was given to committee members.

Moderator's Report: Pastor Janie McElwee-Smith is our moderator and she introduced herself to our Session. She is the current pastor at Hollidaysburg Presbyterian Church.

Session Team Reports (Chair)

Finance & Stewardship (Barry Gaut): The 2023 per capita amount has been established at \$39.24. For the period ending on August 30, 2023, there was \$3,551.18 given to our per capita fund. This represents a 65 percent (65%) response.

The letter, brochure, and the estimate of giving card for our 2024 stewardship program will be forwarded to Kimberly for duplication prior to mailing. Our plan is to have them in the mail by early October. Stewardship Sunday will be observed on November 5, 2023.

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

	Through 08/30/23	Through 08/30/22
Congregational Giving	\$ 120,060	\$ 135,315
Building Rental Income	365	3,106
Special Offerings	10,117	5,661
=====		
Total Income	\$ 130,542	\$ 144,082
Total Expenses	\$ 172,942	\$ 162,898
=====		
Surplus (Shortfall)	\$ 42,400	\$ 18,816

Congregational Care (Gail Irwin): Coupons were mailed on August 4, 2023, at a cost of \$17.10.

Cakes will be delivered to the Presbyterian Village at Hollidaysburg on Friday, September 29. Team members will meet at the church parking lot at

10:30 am on that day to make the delivery.

Dee Schnarrs will prepare "Thinking of You" and "Miss You" greeting cards in November.

The last shut-in communion for 2023 is scheduled for November. Kimberly will contact our home-bound members to set up visits.

Our team discussed asking retired pastor Kathy Colebank to serve communion to our sick and shut-in members. Pastor Janie, our new moderator, will prepare instructions for our team when serving communion in pairs when there is no pastor to assist them.

Congregational Fellowship (Glenn Nelson): The next coffee fellowship will be held on Sunday, October 1, with a fall theme. We will serve apple crisps and ice cream and the food will be prepared and baked during the worship service.

Mission (Judy Hartzell): Pam Townsend, from the Hope Drop-In Center, visited our meeting to explain the mission of their organization, which is primarily a homeless outreach. They provide food boxes and hot meals, supply clothing and hygiene products, connect individuals with mental health and substance abuse services, connect with services to provide temporary shelter and housing assistance, offer free laundry service, and assist with furniture and other items. The Center holds two Bible studies a week. Pam, an ordained minister, shared her mission with our team for about 30 minutes. We would like to invite her to speak at a worship service before the end of the year.

Following our Soup on Saturday event in August, we revised our *Altoona Mirror* announcement to include the statement, "We will be handing out one bag lunch per person."

NARCAN signs were placed on the outdoor pantry. There are three more signs which will be placed in the garden/alley area; perhaps a message can be added to our electronic sign on the corner of Broad Avenue and 24th Street.

The team received thank-you messages for donations to the Altoona Food Bank and the Operation Our Town organizations.

An announcement will be placed in the October

newsletter regarding Pastor Chuck Monts' missionary visit to Malawi.

The Mission Team removed the *Partnership with the Presbytery Fund* from our support list as the recipient is now a corporate business.

This month we gave the following: Mountain Lion Backpack Program - \$500; Altoona Food Bank - \$500; Hope Drop-In Center - \$500.

For the September Soup on Saturday event, we served 22 meals inside and 50 meals outside. Leftovers were sent to the Altoona Teen Shelter. It was decided that all meals will be served inside.

In September, we are asking for donations of canned soup and saltine crackers for the Altoona Food Bank. In addition, any donation of nonperishable food is greatly appreciated. For the outside Food Pantry, donations of cereals and personal care items are requested.

Outreach (Jane Yerty): The team agreed to keep their budget the same for 2024.

Boards for the garden have been purchased and are being painted. A big thanks to everyone who has helped with filling the water tanks this year. The garden will close at the end of October.

The Outreach Team is planning a card making event for Wednesday, October 11, at 1:00 pm, with Carol Adams and Kathy Braun. The theme for this get together is Veteran's cards, and our card creations will be provided to the Veterans Home. You are encouraged to attend and to bring a neighbor or friend since this is an outreach event. We plan on providing an informational flyer to our Soup on Saturday participants.

We discussed the need for transportation for Brenda Roberto, who currently has six foster children. Her vehicle can only hold four passengers and she would very much like to bring them to Sunday school and morning worship. This is a work in progress; Peggy Horner will help and we will see how this works out.

We are delighted to celebrate the success of the Krislund campers and want to build on the interest the young people and their families are showing with our church. To that end, we would like to offer Outreach's assistance to your Youth

Department. Also consider fundraising throughout the year to have adequate monies to assist with Krislund Camp scholarships.

Our Community Library will continue through the end of October.

The Outreach Team would like all gardens cleaned out by the end of October. They have scheduled a workday for Saturday, October 21, from 8:00 am until 11:00 am. Any assistance is appreciated. The rain date for this workday will be October 28. Flyers will be sent to the community members who have gardens and bulletin announcements will be made for our church family.

Personnel (Bob Hollingsworth): Our former pastor's email address is still active. We will change the password, then forward all emails to Kimberly so that she can pass them on to the appropriate person. Requests for Session will be handled through our Session clerk.

Property (Geoff Geesey): We are purchasing a new string trimmer to replace the one that recently broke. The cost is approximately \$140.

Property anticipates that the new church office screen door will be installed in November.

Stained-glass vent window repairs in the sanctuary are scheduled for February/March 2024.

The 25th Street side sanctuary monitor failed, and owing to their age, both monitors will be replaced with larger 75-inch screens.

In the process of updating our fire alarm security panel, the Altoona City Code department is requesting a digital computer drawing of the church. We contacted the architect who helped us with our heating system for such a file and we hope that she can assist us with that request.

Spiritual Enhancement (Jeanie Mollica): There were 25 youth and 6 adults at our Bingo event on Friday, September 8.

Our team sent a check in the amount of \$665 to the Linus Project. We will be delivering blankets on Friday, September 22.

Sunday school teachers are in place for the coming year.

Upcoming Youth Events: JB Tree Farm on Saturday, October 14. Cost will be \$5 per person, with the church covering \$7 and providing food. Friendsgiving/Lock-In - All youth and their families will be invited for the dinner. Youth ages 9 and up will stay for a sleep-over. Caroling at the Presbyterian Village at Hollidaysburg - December date to be determined.

Other Ideas: Bowling/Ice Skating; Paint Party; Battle of the Brownies (Cooking competition); Trunk or Treat - Sunday, October 22, from 3:00 pm until 5:00 pm.

The Christmas Parade will be held on Saturday, December 2, at 1:00 pm. Our youth will vote on the theme

Mission Project Ideas - The youth will be discussing and choosing a mission project.

Our youth will be helping with the December 16 Soup on Saturday event. They will be making a take-home gift to give away in November.

Worship (Ellie Herbster): Acolytes, liturgists, and ushers are mostly set for September. Rick Herbster will be the liturgist for October.

We reviewed the pulpit supply list and discussed a checklist for the minister and liturgist.

Readers' Theatre will be used when we do not have a minister or lay pastor to fill the pulpit.

Some items in the budget for the Worship Team have been changed. Rick Herbster will submit a revised budget for 2024.

The outdoor electronic sign needs to be powered off until we receive the part needed for repair.

February 11, 2024, is Camp and Retreat Sunday. We will ask the Krislund director to come and speak on that day.

Calendar of events:

October 1 - World Communion Sunday (Rev. Doug McGaffin)
October 29 - Reformation Sunday (Carol Wyerman)
November 5 - Communion (Rev. Doug McGaffin)
November 26 - Christ the King Sunday
(Continued on next page)

December 3 - First Sunday of Advent/Communion
(Rev. Doug McGaffin)
December 24 - Morning Worship and Christmas
Eve Service (Ken Lynch)

There was discussion about continuing the use of the Luke version of the *Lord's Prayer* and the Ecumenical version of the *Apostle's Creed*. Two motions were passed to keep these two versions.

Old Business: Session approved the 2023 Mission Study and gave a mandate to the PNC to meet on Thursday, October 5, for the purpose of finding a full-time called and installed pastor for Providence Presbyterian Church. The experience level for the new pastor was left up to the discretion of the PNC. The Session agreed that Bob Hollingsworth is to create an email address for the PNC.

A contact person will be needed while the church is without a full-time pastor. This would be a person that members of the congregation could reach out to in the event of an emergency or some personal need. *[Since this request was made, Rick Herbster has agreed to fill this role.—Ed.]*

New Business: A letter was delivered to the Session regarding the request for a same-sex marriage to take place at the church. After a discussion on the topic, Session agreed to continue following the previous decision to not allow having same-sex marriages take place at Providence.



The congregation extends its heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of **Douglas S. Betar**, who passed away on Sunday, August 27, 2023. Doug was the son of Walter (Herk) Betar.

The congregation also extends its sympathies to the family and friends of **Lois K. McLaughlin**, who passed away on Saturday, September 9, 2023.



Card Making Event: Please join us on Wednesday, October 11, at 1:00 pm, for a card making event. Our talented instructors will be Kathy Braun and Carol Adams. Donations are accepted but not expected. The theme is Veteran's cards, and our card creations will be provided to our local Veterans Home. The church family is welcome to attend, but also encouraged to bring a neighbor or friend since this is an Outreach event. One of our goals is to help new people get to know us, feel comfortable in the church, and most of all, learn to know and love the God we serve. A sign-up sheet is in the Fellowship Hall; please sign-up by Sunday, October 1, so that adequate kits can be prepared.

Community Garden: Fall is coming and it's time to put our Community Garden beds to rest for the cold weather. We are notifying our gardeners and our church family of our goal to have everything cleaned out by the end of October. To that end, we have scheduled a Garden Workday for Saturday, October 21, from 8:00 am to 11:00 am. (Rain date will be on Saturday, October 28.) All willing hands are welcome. In looking to the future, we are seeking a volunteer apprentice to learn the ropes from our garden 'head honcho' Nancy Woomer. Please talk with Nancy or any member of the Outreach Team if you're interested.

Spiritual Enhancement Notice: If you are willing to teach a week or a month of Junior Church, please sign up in Fellowship Hall, or see Megan Burchfield. All lessons and materials will be provided to you.

Per Capita: Just a reminder that the Per Capita amount for 2023 is \$39.24 *per member*. 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.

Youth Group News

On Saturday, October 14, we will be at the JB Tree Farm for our **Fall Frenzy Night** from 6:00 - 8:00 pm. There will be a Hayride, Corn Maze, plus food and drinks. The cost is just \$5 per person. Please sign up and pay no later than Sunday, October 8. If you have any questions, Megan Burchfield at msburchfield08@gmail.com

We will be partnering with several other churches again this year for **Trunk or Treat**. It is scheduled for Sunday, October 22, from 3:00 pm until 5:00 pm.



There will be a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall for cars, as well as a box to donate candy.

On Friday, November 10, there will be a **Friendsgiving Dinner and Teen Lock-In** at the church. All youth and families are invited to join us for a potluck-style dinner at 6:00 pm, which will be made up of the foods kids want to share with their friends. After food and fellowship, youth over the age of 9 will be invited to stay for a Lock-In, where they will work on redecorating the youth room and other special projects throughout the night. We will have breakfast together the next morning. Pickup will be at 10:00 am on Saturday morning, November 11.

Thank You

The Nelson family expresses gratitude and thanks for the generous donations, heartfelt sympathy cards, and beautiful expression/memories of Cora's life. The after funeral reception meal was greatly appreciated. We would like to thank all involved for the beautiful table decorations and delicious and comforting meal.



OCTOBER Birthdays & Anniversaries

Megan Burchfield	2
Sammy Yerty	2
Emily Donlan	2
Barbara Weigley	10
Zachary Donlan	13
Paul Conway	15
Angie Treese	15
Deb McClain	18
Harlan Schnarrs	19
Donna Faye Colbert	21
Joyce Sechrist	21
Dale VanHorne	22
Max Adams	24
Judy Hartzell	24
Jim Burchfield	26
Allyson Hayford	27
Ashley Hayford	27

Jim & Carlene Carothers	15
Lee & Jane Hite	18
Justin & Angie Treese	27

WORLD Communion Sunday

World Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, October 1, at the 10:15 am Worship Service. This is also the day to turn in your offering for the Peace & Global Witness offering if you have not already done so.

The Property Committee is scheduling a "Phil Hall" workday for Saturday, October 21, from 8:00 am until 12:00 pm. We will be doing weeding and leaf removal at this time.

Pastor Chuck Monts will be joining us on Sunday, November 5, to speak about his Milawi mission trip, and will remain after the service for coffee fellowship and conversation.

A Word from the Worship Committee

The Worship Committee has been asked why we are now doing the Ecumenical version of the Lord's Prayer and the Apostles' Creed during our worship service, and we wanted to share why we chose these versions for worship. The future growth of our church is dependent on attracting new members, and the Worship Team felt that these versions were more accessible to people who may be younger, unchurched or have not grown up in a church environment.

We understand that change can be difficult, but we also felt that these changes were important for the future growth of our church. Some members have even expressed that they appreciate the new versions because it allows them to focus more on the meaning of the words they are saying.

We hope that this explains why these changes were made. We believe that it is important that we work together as we enter a new phase of searching for a pastor and focusing on the future.

Family Services October Donation Needs

Providence Presbyterian Church is collecting the following items for Family Services on the second Sunday in October. Items may be left on the table in Fellowship Hall by Sunday, October 8. The category this month is **Cleaning Supplies/First Aid**.

Cough drops
Antacids
Band-Aids®/Neosporin®
Diapers & pull-ups—all sizes
Facial tissues
Toilet bowl cleaner
Comet®/Bleach spray
Laundry detergent
Dish liquid soap
Dishwasher pods

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