



Providence Post

FEBRUARY 2024



Session Highlights

By Barb Hazlett

(Note: The following highlights are taken from the minutes of the Monday, January 15, 2024, regular Session meeting, which was held virtually using Zoom software.)

Clerk's Report: Seventy-five communicants were served on Sunday, December 3, 2023. Sixty-four communicants received communion on Sunday, January 14, 2024.

The pastor's office, adjacent to Fellowship Hall, will be kept unlocked until it is used by the new pastor.

Barb Hazlett was elected as clerk of Session and secretary for 2024; Barry Gaut was elected as treasurer for 2024; and Rick Herbster was elected as president for 2024. The secretary, treasurer and president's offices are for the church as a corporation.

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) reported that the Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP) has been released and we have started to receive matches for the position of pastor. We are in the process of reviewing the matches and inviting some candidates to apply. The PNC would like Session to update our church web site with more events, pictures and videos.

Garvey Manor is in the process of adding some

independent living apartments. They made a request to our church to place an ad on our bulletin board for these apartments. Session made the decision to turn down this request.

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, January 27, 2024. Presbytery will be installing a new moderator at this meeting.

Session Team Reports (Chair)

Finance & Stewardship (Barry Gaut): For the period ending on December 30, 2023, a total of \$3,788.90 has been received for our per capita fund. This represents a 69% response, or approximately 97 of our 139 members. This year's 69% figure compares with a 2022 per capita response rate of 77%, a 2021 response rate of 86%, and a 2020 response rate of 74%.

As you can see from the table below, our church congregational giving in 2023 was about five percent (5%) less than what was received in 2022. Special giving to building projects and repairs dropped this year; total expenses were reduced by approximately \$37,000, a reflection of reduced spending on building repairs in 2023.

	Through 12/30/23	Through 12/30/22
Congregational Giving	\$ 193,601	\$ 203,551
Building Rental Income (*)	4,242	34,583
Special Offerings	12,749	9,771
=====		
Total Income	\$ 210,592	\$ 247,905
Total Expenses	\$ 227,372	\$ 252,065
=====		
Surplus (Shortfall)	\$ 16,780	\$ 4,160

To date, we have received 33 individuals/families that have pledged a total of \$106,208 for the 2024

stewardship campaign. This represents an average annual pledge of \$3,218.

The 2024 Stewardship & Finance Team will consist of Jane Carothers, Barry Gaut and Sue Whitsel. They are looking for one more member from the congregation to join their team.

Congregational Care (Gail Irwin): All went well with the delivery of the Advent dinners, cookie trays and the Angel Gifts to the Presbyterian Village at Hollidaysburg.

Dates for birthday cakes at the Presbyterian Village at Hollidaysburg will be set at our February meeting.

The homebound communion schedule will also be set in February. A thank-you card was sent to Pastor Colebank for helping with communion in November and December.

A letter has been drafted explaining per capita and will be sent to the congregation.

Congregational Fellowship (Glenn Nelson): Our next coffee fellowship is Sunday, February 5th. It will be 'cherry' month in honor of the presidents and valentines.

Mission (Judy Hartzell): We served 36 guests at the December Soup on Saturday event.

An application was completed and sent to Huntingdon Presbytery to request "Hunger Fund" monies to help support our Food Pantry.

The Family Services blanket project was placed on hold until after Christmas. Blanket kits are being accumulated.

We are anticipating 50 guests for the January 20 Soup on Saturday lunch. Hot dogs and sauerkraut, fruit cups and donated desserts, as well as some delicious leftovers from the Advent dinner will be served. We will not need hot soup in January.

In December, we gave the following: Krislund Program & Staff - \$200; Special Need Fund - \$300; Soup on Saturday Provisions - \$27.85; The Door - \$264.82.

In January, we are asking for donations of canned soup and saltines or crackers for the Altoona Food

Bank. Donations of any non-perishable food items are also appreciated.

For our Food Pantry, we are requesting donations of any non-perishable food items and personal care items. No glass containers, please.

Outreach (Jane Yerty): The team is committed to continuing the scholarships for neighborhood kids for Camp Krislund and needs to raise funds to support this effort. Outreach surveyed the congregation to find out if selling hoagies is the best way to go, and alternatively, if our church family would prefer making donations. We would need to sell a large number of sandwiches to ensure profit and to offset delivery costs.

The Garden and Library are shut down for the winter, but we are investigating ways to have the upkeep of our Garden to be less labor intensive.

Our annual Yard Sale is scheduled for Saturday, April 27, 2024. The committee would like to reserve Fellowship Hall for the entire week preceding the event for setup and pricing.

We discussed with Kimberly bulletin and on-screen announcements to increase awareness of continuing donations to Family Services.

Our church's video license (\$290.64 for the year) is up for renewal. The team wondered if any other Session committees would be planning on using videos that would require license clearances. None said that they did, so Outreach will discuss the value of a license renewal.

Personnel (Bob Hollingsworth): No gift cards were distributed this month.

A question was raised concerning the nursery supervisor position. Personnel is still waiting to hear from a candidate and will reach out again for a response.

Property (Geoff Geesey): The heating system boiler was repaired and a repair was made to the snow blower.

Two proposals from McCartney's were presented for a new office copier. It was suggested that the prices seemed high, therefore, this purchase will be researched further and addressed next month.

Spiritual Enhancement (Jeanie Mollica): The youth will go bowling in January and they will have a “Battle of the Brownies” event in February. The committee introduced a new curriculum for Sunday School.

Worship (Rick Herbster): Acolytes, liturgists and ushers are in place for January.

Fundraising is underway for the church pipe organ. A chart in Fellowship Hall is being used to keep track of the monies raised. Our organ is currently under repair and will be out of service for Lent.

Our team again discussed the “emergency phone tree” for emergencies such as bad weather. Each Worship Team member took a page from our church membership list for names of people to call in case of an emergency.

The “segue statement” between the Apostle’s Creed and the Doxology will be eliminated from the morning worship service.

Our nursery attendant needs to be in the nursery at the beginning of the worship service if there are any children in the nursery at that time.

The approved communion schedule for 2024 is as follows: January 7, February 4, March 3, March 28 (Maundy Thursday), April 7, May 5, June 2, July 7, August 4, September 1, October 6 (World Communion Sunday), November 3 and December 1 (First Sunday of Advent).

Worship Services/Lenten Schedule for 2024:

January 21 - Glenn Nelson
 January 28 - Allen Gibboney
 February 4 - Ken Lynch (Communion)
 February 11 - Ken Lynch and a presentation from Josh Boyd, director at Camp Krislund
 February 14 - Ken Lynch (Ash Wednesday)
 February 18 - Annual meeting following the worship service
 March 28 - Ken Lynch (Maundy Thursday)
 March 31 - Easter Sunday

The team is still discussing leadership possibilities for the worship service dates that are still open.

FEBRUARY Birthdays & Anniversaries

Freddie Stanek	1
Laighla Wisor	1
Brad Slep	5
Lundyn Treese	6
Dewey Adams	7
Lee Fagley	7
Carol Gillespie	8
Russell Ramsey	8
Brad Settle	15
Richie Slep	16
Flo Tucker-Hammel	20
B.J. Crownover	22
Joanne Helsel	23
Sammy Zeigler	28

Willie & Sue Stephens	24
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Per Capita Amount

Just a reminder that the Per Capita amount for 2024 is \$39.24 *per member*.



Last year’s response to the per capita offering was a total of 69% of our congregation paying their amount due. Our goal for this year is to surpass the 86% figure that we achieved in 2021. Please try to meet your per capita obligation early using the special **blue** envelope in your box of offering envelopes.

The Finance and Stewardship Team would like to thank those of you who have responded so generously to our 2024 stewardship campaign. To date, we have received 33 pledges for a total of \$106,208. It’s not too late to turn in your estimate of giving card if you have not yet done so. Additional estimate of giving cards are available from the church office if you need one.

February 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, February 12, 2023. Thank You!

Category: Paper Products & Medications

A+D® Diaper Rash Cream
Vicks VapoRub®
Neosporin®
Pepto Bismol™
Antacids
Cough Drops
Toilet Paper
Paper towels
Facial tissues
Disinfect Wipes



2024 Church Flowers: If you would like to remember loved ones or a special event, please sign the **2024 Flower Calendar** located in the 24th Street hallway, adjacent to the Fellowship Hall. The cost is fifty dollars (\$50) for two vases.

Youth Bowling: The youth will be hosting a bowling event for families and friends of the church on Sunday, February 25, at 3:00 pm, at the Holiday Bowl. Please sign-up in Fellowship Hall, or contact Megan Burchfield with questions. We have 20 spots available for bowlers, but all spectators are welcome!

Inclement Weather: In the event of inclement weather, any church cancellations or changes in schedule will be sent via email to the congregation. Changes will also be posted to the Providence Church Facebook page and to our church web site (providencepc-altoona.org). Please check these

sites before venturing out. Phone calls will only be made to individuals who do not have access to the internet.

Coupon Clipper News: Your Congregational Care Team wants to remind you that overseas military bases will accept expired grocery coupons. If you are one of our faithful 'coupon clippers,' please save and sort (food and non-food) coupons that you don't use to help our military families save money on their groceries.

When you see coupons for expensive items, such as baby formula, diapers and detergents, think about clipping them even if you don't use them yourself.

Thank you for doing such a great job all these years! We have been mailing between four and five pounds of coupons every second or third month since starting this project. Coupons can be redeemed at base exchanges for up to six months after the expiration date on the coupon. Our next mailing will be in late February, so please try to remember to bring them to church before Sunday, February 25, 2024. Thanks again!



Dear Congregation of Providence,

Due to a January snow event I was unable to express my gratitude to you and say a warm goodbye for the winter. So I am writing my Thank You from a "not so sunny and warm" Florida. It was such an honor and privilege to be asked to preach and lead services twice a month while our Pastor Nominating Committee searches for a new pastor to lead us forward into the future. My thanks to Barb Hazlett and Session for having such confidence in me. I cannot express the absolute JOY and pleasure it gave me to research, write and deliver so many sermons for you. I grew in my love of Christ and scripture, and I pray that you did as well. God is SO good.

Blessings,
Carol Wyerman

2024 Session Members

(Note: To the right of each Session member's name is the team that they are serving on.)

Class of 2024

Geoff Geesey	Property
Jeanie Mollica	Spiritual Enhancement
Glenn Nelson	Congregational Fellowship

Class of 2025

Bob Hollingsworth	Personnel
Judy Hartzell	Mission
Gail Irwin	Congregational Care

Class of 2026

Sue Whitsel	Finance & Stewardship
Jane Yerty	Outreach
Rick Herbster	Worship

Annual Congregational Meeting

Don't forget to make a note on your calendar to attend the Annual Congregational Meeting that will be held on **Sunday, February 18, 2024**, immediately following the morning worship service at approximately 11:30 am. Copies of the church's annual report for 2023 will be distributed prior to this meeting.

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