



Providence Post

MARCH 2024



Session Highlights

By Barb Hazlett

(Note: The following highlights are taken from the minutes of the Monday, February 19, 2024, regular Session meeting.)

B.J. Crownover was a guest at this meeting; she requested permission to do an Olympics survey for the church. Details will appear in this newsletter at a time closer to the Olympics. Session will approve it after she provides pricing for the medals.

B.J. also expressed a concern that we are spreading ourselves too thin when it comes to community giving. She said that we might need to keep a reign on the number of places we are asking our congregation to support.

Clerk's Report: Sixty-four communicants received communion on Sunday, February 4.

The clerk finished the 2023 annual statistical report that she sends to Presbytery. The report was approved by Session.

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) reported that the Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP) has been released and that we have received all the matches that meet our minimum salary criteria. The PNC requested that Session consider raising the minimum salary so that the committee can find some more candidates. Session increased the maximum salary to \$79,169.

A suggestion was made that each Session team write a prayer or list a brief passage of scripture that could be placed in the Sunday bulletin to support the PNC and inspire a pastor to be called.

The clerk received a letter from some of the young families expressing an urgent need for a nursery supervisor to be hired. We discussed this issue and Session agreed that the time required would be approximately three hours on Sunday plus several evening services. Weddings and funerals would be negotiable. Background checks and knowledge of child CPR would be mandatory.

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

Huntingdon Presbytery Report: The last meeting of Huntingdon Presbytery was held on Saturday, January 27, 2024. A special Zoom meeting will take place on Tuesday, February 20.

Nominating Committee Report: This year's Session co-chairs for the committee will be Geoff Geesey and Glenn Nelson. Representatives from the congregation to this committee are Joan Conway, B.J. Crownover and Clair Roddey.

Moderator's Report: Pastor McElwee-Smith suggested that each member of Session have a copy of the PCUSA's *Book Of Order* and *Book of Confessions*. She offered to teach a course on each of these books.

Session Team Reports (Chair)

Finance & Stewardship (Sue Whitsel): Per Capita for 2024 has been established at \$39.24 per person, and based on 134 members, our per capita bill from Huntingdon Presbytery will be \$5,258.00, which we will pay in four installments of \$1,314.50. For the period ending on January 30, 2024, a total of \$1,605.34 has been paid to our per capita fund. This represents a 31% response, or approximately 41 of our 134 members.

The 2024 vs. 2023 Monthly Financial Summary is summarized below:

	Through 01/30/24	Through 01/30/23
Congregational Giving	\$ 14,890	\$ 15,905
Building Rental Income (*)	1,940	75
Special Offerings	470	351
=====		
Total Income	\$ 17,300	\$ 16,331
Total Expenses	\$ 17,538	\$ 20,811
=====		
Shortfall	\$ 238	\$ 4,480

(*) Reflects giving to the newly created "Organ Fund"

Congregational Care (Gail Irwin): Cards/Flowers/Transportation: The schedules for February and March were completed.

Pastor Kathy Colebank is not available this spring to serve communion to our six homebound congregants who desire this service. The committee decided to skip the month of February and see what opportunities may be available to us in March or April.

Judy Hartzell will mail the coupons at the end of February.

Linda McKee will be purchasing palms to make crosses; anyone who would like to help would be welcome. The palm cross workshop will be held on Friday, March 22, at 10:00 am, at the church.

Congregational Fellowship (Glenn Nelson): Our next coffee fellowship will be held on Sunday, March 10, and will feature Nancy Donlan and Sue Whitsel's famous sweet rolls.

The coffee fellowship on Sunday, April 7, will be a potluck luncheon with our committee furnishing the drinks, paper plates and utensils.

The men are singing at the Curve baseball game on Sunday, June 30. Our committee will arrange to get 30 tickets for that game.

Looking ahead, the summer Church Picnic will be held on Sunday, July 28, at Del Grosso's Park. Steve Parsons will make the arrangements with Del Grosso's for our picnic. There will be a coffee fellowship on Sunday, October 6; our Advent Dinner will be held on Sunday, December 8 (the Second Sunday of Advent).

Mission (Judy Hartzell): We distributed 31 lunches

at our Soup on Saturday event on February 17; the remaining lunches were distributed to the Family Services Teen Shelter. For the March 16 SOS, we are planning for 48 guests and will serve four different kinds of soups, a ham barbeque sandwich, fruit cups, two donated desserts and beverages.

On January 22 and 29, with the help of 15 friends, we made 28 children's fleece blankets that will be used by Family Services for their shelters. Many thanks to all the members and friends for helping with this project.

Our application to Presbytery's mission funds to help support our Outdoor Pantry, has been received by the Presbytery and will be reviewed.

During the season of Lent, we will promote the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. The offering will be received through Easter Sunday, March 31.

[See the related article in this newsletter.]

The committee discussed a plan to insert an Outdoor Pantry reminder in future church bulletins. They also suggested email and Facebook reminders for our Outdoor Pantry—this is already on the home page of our church's website.

We gave the following: Unified Mission - \$1,000; The Healing Patch - \$300; Operation Our Town - \$250.

For the Altoona Food Bank in March, we are asking for donations of tuna and noodles, as well as any appropriate sides. In addition, any donation of nonperishable food is appreciated.

For the Outdoor Pantry, we are asking for donations of any nonperishable food items and personal care items. No glass containers, please.

Outreach (Jane Yerty): The team needed to choose a new date for the Yard Sale due to the use of our Fellowship Hall for the primary election. Our new date will be on Saturday, May 4, from 8:00 am until 12 noon. It will also be necessary to use Fellowship Hall for setup on April 29 through May 3, from 8:00 am until 12 noon.

The Outreach team voted to discontinue the purchase of a video license.

After discussing the results of the congregational

survey, the team decided not to have a hoagie sale. They are continuing to accept donations and will investigate other fund raising sources to pay for Krislund scholarships. Camp prices are unchanged for 2024. Last year, we helped five campers at a cost of \$2,500. We estimate needing \$3,000 to \$5,000, depending on the response. Each camping family was asked to pay a registration fee of \$100. This was a hardship for several families, and they paid \$50. Session voted to continue support at this level.

Community Garden: The team is continuing to investigate a less labor-intensive maintenance plan for our garden.

Property (Geoff Geesey): The outside lights are being adjusted for the differences in daylight.

Repairs to the church organ are complete.

A second set of bids have been received for a new office copier. The Finance & Stewardship committee recommended the \$3,300 proposal. Session approved spending of up to \$5,000 for the new copier.

Spiritual Enhancement (Jeanie Mollica): The team will set up dates for events taking place through the remainder of the year.

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

Fund raising is underway for the recent repairs of the church organ. The church still has a way to go until reaching the goal for this expenditure.

In the event of an emergency, only those members who do not have an email address will be called using the emergency phone tree.

While recording our church services, we will reduce the pulpit microphone level to avoid overloading the audio. Barry Gaut and Bob Hollingsworth have been invited to the next Worship meeting to discuss this strategy.

Church Lenten Calendar:

March 3 - Ken Lynch, Communion,
Wopsononock Winds will play

March 10 - Ken Lynch, Handbell Choir

March 17 - Peggy Horner & Bev Moss-
Oswalt

March 24 - Palm Sunday, Pastor Stephanie
Weaver (Tyrone), Handbell Choir

March 28 - Maundy Thursday, Ken Lynch,
6:30 pm service with Communion/
stripping of the communion table,
Handbell Choir

March 29 - Good Friday, This will be a
combined service at 7:00 pm,
hosted by Providence Church

March 31 - Easter Sunday, Pastor Doug
McGaffin, worship service will be
at 10:15 am, Handbell Choir

April 7 - Ken Lynch, Communion

Looking Ahead:

May 19 - Pentecost Sunday

June 2 - Communion

June 9 - Summer schedule begins, No
Sunday school, worship service at
9:30 am

September 8 - Rally Day, Program at
9:00 am with breakfast to follow,
worship service at 10:15 am

The subject of taking up the offering was discussed. There needs to be a notice in the church bulletins about the regular offering and the Cents-Ability offering. The liturgist could also make announcements regarding these offerings.

Old Business: The redesign of our church's website is moving forward and should be available in the early part of March.

New Business: Anna Corley, our church custodian, would like to use the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, March 24, from 12 noon until 4:00 pm. Session approved this request.

**Daylight saving time begins on Sunday,
March 10! Don't forget to set all your
clocks and watches forward one hour.**



Per Capita Amount

Just a reminder that the Per Capita amount for 2024 is \$39.24 *per member*. Please try to meet your per capita obligation early using the special [blue envelope](#) in your box of offering envelopes.

March 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, March 10, 2024. Thank You!

Category: Cleaning Products

All-purpose cleaners & degreasers
Lysol® & Lysol® wipes
Large garbage bags
Rubber gloves & cleaning cloths
Mr. Clean® Magic Eraser
Mops, brooms & dust pans
High-efficiency laundry detergent
Toilet bowl cleaner
Window cleaner
Dish liquid soap

Watch for a new donation category in the April newsletter!

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.

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who helped with our blanket projects in December and January. The fleece blankets from December were given to the Healing Patch, a grief group for children and youth, operated by the Home Nursing Agency.

The blankets made in January will provide a comforting gift for children moving into a Family Services Shelter. Thanks from the Mission team!

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Bobbie Gibboney	1
Elaine Kilgore	2
Dan Slep	2
Louise Albright	6
Jane Carothers	6
Denny Nevling	6
Brigitte Donlan	12
Janelle Yerty	13
Joan Conway	13
Vaida Stanek	18
Debra Wedge	18
Bruce Hazlett	22
Donna Yeisley	22
Jim Carothers	24

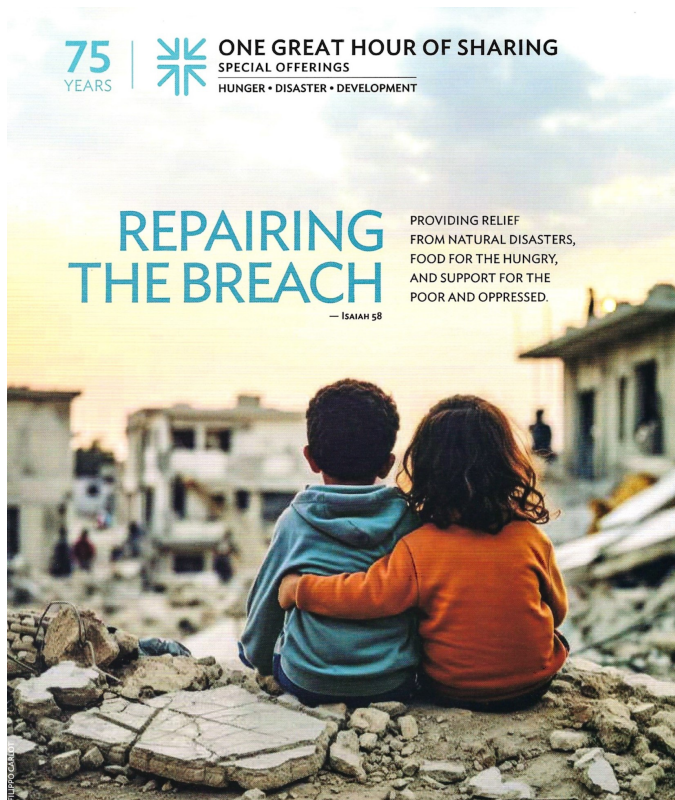
Harlan & Dee Schnarrs	19
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ANNUAL YARD SALE

The Outreach team has scheduled their annual Yard Sale for Saturday, May 4, from 8:00 am until noon. (Here's a date memory hint: "May the Force (4th) be with you.") As with previous years, profits from the yard sale benefit scholarships to

Camp Krislund for neighborhood kids. Last year, we were delighted to help five campers attend at a cost of \$2,500. This year, we estimate needing \$3,000 to \$5,000, depending on the response. What a ministry Krislund is as they connect a relationship with God, friends and nature. The feedback from last year's attendees was overwhelmingly positive.

Help is needed in several areas. Please save us yard sale items when you are cleaning out drawers, closets and attics. No clothing or stuffed animals, please. We will accept donations on Tuesday, April 30, Wednesday, May 1, and Thursday, May 2, from 9:00 am until noon. If these times don't work out for you, please contact a member of our team; we will be glad to make accommodations. Sorting and pricing help is always needed on donation turn-in days and willing hands on the day of the sale. We are so very thankful for the monetary donations to aid Krislund as well.



One Great Hour of Sharing

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)—Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People—all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Received during the season of Lent (February 14 to March 31), each gift to OGHS helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. **In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.**

One Great Hour of Sharing helps Presbyterians join together to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world. Each gift helps to improve the lives of people in challenging situations through these three impactful programs:

❶ **Rebuilding Hope — Presbyterian Disaster Assistance** (Receives 32% of funds raised) This program works alongside communities as they

recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters.

❷ **Growing Food Security — Presbyterian Hunger Program** (Receives 36% of funds raised) Takes action to alleviate hunger and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed.

❸ **Partnering in Progress — Self-Development of People** (Receives 32% of funds raised) Invests in communities responding to their experiences of racism, oppression, poverty, and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these societal ills.

Thank you for opening your doors to share in ministries of justice, compassion, and joy through your support of One Great Hour of Sharing.

If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!

Congregational Fellowship Team Special Events for 2024

Sunday, March 10 - Coffee Fellowship, Nancy Donlan and Sue Whitsel's famous sweet rolls and spring green decorations

Sunday, April 7 - Coffee Fellowship will feature a potluck luncheon, drinks, paper plates and utensils will be provided

Sunday, June 30 - An evening Curve baseball game and our own Hanging Curve men's singing group providing the national anthem

Sunday, July 28 - Our annual church picnic at DelGrosso's Park

Sunday, October 6 - Coffee Fellowship will feature a baked potato bar

Sunday, December 8 - Advent Dinner

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