



Providence Post



NOVEMBER 2023



By Barb Hazlett

(Note: The following highlights are taken from the minutes of the Monday, October 16, 2023, regular Session meeting.)

Clerk's Report: Sixty-eight communicants received communion on World Communion Sunday, October 1.

Jon and Janelle Yerty have requested that their son, Devon Wayne Yerty, be baptized on Sunday, November 5. Pastor Doug McGaffin will be in the pulpit on that day and he has agreed to meet with the Yerty's and baptize their son on that morning. Session approved a motion for the baptism.

Our church records were audited on Tuesday, October 3, and found to be in good order with no exceptions.

The rolls at Providence have not been examined in a few years and we need to review them. The Congregational Care Team will handle this review.

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

Jane Carothers distributed a draft budget for 2024 and explained the rationale for several items.

Huntingdon Presbytery Report: Our moderator was in attendance at the Saturday, September 30,

meeting. The Synod executive was there and was an interesting speaker. Some new personnel policies were voted on at this meeting.

Nominating Committee Report: The committee is still looking for two additional people to complete their work. The group will be meeting on Sunday, October 22, following morning worship.

Moderator's Report: Pastor Janie asked each Session member to introduce themselves and tell how they came to be a member of Providence Church and to give a brief personal history.

Session Team Reports (Chair)

Finance & Stewardship (Barry Gaut): The 2023 per capita amount has been established at \$39.24. For the period ending on September 30, 2023, there was \$3,551.18 paid into the per capita fund, which is unchanged from last month's amount.

The Presbytery of Huntingdon at its September 30, 2023, meeting, approved a per capita rate for 2024 of \$39.24 per member, which is unchanged from last year's amount. Two of the allocations were changed very slightly and include \$27.04 for the Presbytery, \$2.40 for the Synod of the Trinity, and \$9.80 for General Assembly.

Materials for the 2024 stewardship program have been mailed or distributed at the church. Those pledging to the church have been instructed to return their Estimate of Giving cards on or before Stewardship Sunday, November 5, 2023.

The 2023 vs. 2022 Monthly Financial Summary is summarized on the next page:



	Through 09/30/23	Through 09/30/22
Congregational Giving	\$ 133,977	\$ 150,706
Building Rental Income	567	4,168
Special Offerings	10,786	6,196
=====		
Total Income	\$ 145,330	\$ 161,070
Total Expenses	\$ 184,995	\$ 182,816
=====		
Surplus (Shortfall)	\$ 39,665	\$ 21,746

Congregational Care (Gail Irwin): The delivery of cakes for the Presbyterian Village at Hollidaysburg went well. This was the last delivery for 2023.

Dee Schnarrs will be preparing *Thinking of You/Missing You* greeting cards for November. We updated our list with names of new people.

Communion for the sick and shut-ins is scheduled for February, May, August and November. This list was also updated. Kimberly will contact these home-bound people to set up visits for the November communion. We discussed asking retired pastor Kathy Colebank to help us with the home-bound communion since we are without a pastor at this time. Judy Hartzell will follow-up with her to see if she would be interested and available.

The team will prepare at least nine Christmas trays this year. They are also asking for help to transport some of our members to the morning worship service.

Congregational Fellowship (Glenn Nelson): The next coffee fellowship will be held on Sunday, November 5, with a theme featuring "Everything Pumpkin."

The tentative date for our Advent Dinner is Sunday, December 3, 2023.

Mission (Judy Hartzell) : The October 21 Soup on Saturday event will be served indoors only. Mission will prepare 80 meals this month. Extra food will be donated to the Altoona Teen Shelter. Updated indoor Soup on Saturday invitation signs were created and will be distributed as soon as possible to locations where they will be seen.

Chuck Monts will visit our church on Sunday, November 5. An announcement will be placed in the *Religion* section of the *Altoona Mirror* on

Friday, October 27, and Friday, November 3.

October Mission donations: Altoona Food Bank - \$300; Altoona Teen Shelter - \$300.

Community donations for November: Altoona Food Bank - we are asking for donations of boxed stuffing, instant mashed potatoes, and canned gravy or gravy mix packets. Any non-perishable food is always appreciated. For our Food Pantry, we are asking for donations of any non-perishable food items. No glass containers, please.

The Mountain Lion Backpack program is in desperate need of money and food. Session approved a motion to ask our congregation to bring food and monetary items to church during the month of November.

Outreach (Jane Yerty): Our Card-Making event was held on Wednesday, October 11. Cards will be given to local veterans at the Hollidaysburg Veterans Home. Our thanks to Kathy Braun, Carol Adams, and Barb Weigley for their assistance.

We received a request from Megan Burchfield to set up a church information table during the Trunk or Treat event on Sunday, October 22, from 3:00 pm until 5:00 pm. We arranged with Kimberly to print tri-fold church brochures. Jen Braun is developing a bookmark or flyer that includes church service times. Small bottles of water will be handed out at this table.

The Outreach team extended an offer to assist Youth Ministries with their events as needed.

A Garden Workday will be held on Saturday, October 21, from 8:00 am until 11:00 am. The rain date will be Saturday, October 28. We are mailing letters to gardeners who are non-church members to share information regarding the workday and to invite them to join us in worship.

The Library will close at the end of October. Jane and Dwayne Yerty will store library materials in the garage. Geoff Geesey will see that the water is turned off at the community garden.

Outreach is considering the purchase of notepads or refrigerator magnets to advertise our Sunday morning worship and Sunday school times. Also being considered is an email/printed flyer that would highlight Advent/Christmas programming.

A sandwich/baked goods sale is tentatively planned for February 2024 to raise money for kids to go to Krislund Camp. A motion was approved to allow Outreach to do this.

Property (Geoff Geesey): Geoff adjusted the timer for lights according to the time changes. The Community Garden cleanup is next Saturday, October 21.

An assessment was made to our church organ and the contractor gave us three proposals. The organ committee recommended two proposals totaling \$17,795 plus travel, food and lodging expenses for the repairmen doing the work. The total cost will be approximately \$21,000. A motion was approved to accept the two proposals and to establish an organ repair fund to raise some of the money for this project.

Spiritual Enhancement (Jeanie Mollica): The team has requested to update the Youth Room. They sent Session a list of items they would like to change and some photos as an illustration. The cost would be about \$300, with the money coming from Cookie Hall's donation. A motion was approved to allow the update to proceed.

There are some people in the church who still need to get their clearances; Jeanie will check up on this.

Another person is needed in the Nursery on Sunday mornings. This could be accomplished with two volunteers or one volunteer along with a paid nursery worker. A motion was approved that we try to ask two volunteers for now and form a subcommittee to explore hiring a nursery worker in the future.

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

We reviewed the pulpit supply list and we will add a line for the liturgist to read prior to the singing of the doxology.

Rick has submitted the revised Worship budget to our treasurer for the 2024 budget.

Our electronic outdoor sign has been repaired.

Camp and Retreat Sunday will be observed on February 11, 2024. We will have the director from

Krislund Camp as our speaker on that Sunday.

The Worship team will observe a "Christmas Sweater/Christmas Tie Day" on the Sunday of our Advent Dinner (December 3).

Worship Calendar:

October 8 - Allen Gibboney (Carole Parsons as our organist)
October 15 & 29 - Carol Weyerman
October 22 - Ken Lynch
November 5 - (Communion) Pastor Doug McGaffin with Pastor Chuck Monts speaking about his mission trip to Malawi. DST Ends.
November 12 - Ken Lynch
November 19 & 26 - Carol Weyerman
December 2 (Saturday) - Decorate for Advent
December 3 - (Communion) Pastor Doug McGaffin
First Sunday of Advent
December 10 & 17 - Carol Weyerman
December 24 - Ken Lynch will preside over both the morning worship and Christmas Eve services
December 31 - Ken Lynch

Old Business: A question arose over how we are using our contact person (Rick Herbster). An announcement needs to be placed on the sanctuary monitors and in the bulletin every Sunday. A notice should appear in our newsletter as well. Session will compose a note to be placed in the church bulletin.

New Business: Session needs to move their meeting date for November to ensure voting on the 2024 budget prior to our congregational meeting. By consensus, we moved our next meeting date to Monday, November 13, 2023.

Advent Dinner

The 2023 Advent dinner will be held on Sunday, December 3, immediately following the service. Please consider joining us to celebrate the Christmas season. You can make reservations on the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall through Sunday, November 19. There is no charge for the dinner, but there will be a donation basket. Hope to see you there!

NOVEMBER

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Bret Hayford	5
Skyler Zeigler	5
Delaine Wisor	9
Carole Parsons	9
Micah Yerty	13
Sue Whitsel	14
Gaylend Young	15
Izzy Burchfield	18
Mike Larrimore	18
Jeanie Mollica	18
Elaine Bender	18
Marcia Dravis	21
Chris Mollica	22
Ian Adams	25

Dick & Elaine Bender	11
Brad & Sandy Settle	21
Allen & Bobbie Gibboney	26
Dutch & Donna Yeisley	26



Pastor Nominating Committee: Our Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) is meeting weekly to find a called and installed pastor. Currently, the PNC is developing a Ministry Discernment Profile for approval by Session. Feel free to reach out to any PNC member: Jim Burchfield, Paul Conway, Barb Hazlett, Bob Hollingsworth and Heather Wisor, if you have any questions or concerns. Please pray that God will lead and direct the PNC through this process.

Coupon Clippers: Please bring your clipped and sorted (food/non-food) coupons in by November 5. The American soldiers and families at the Naval base in Japan will be able to stretch their dollars.

Stewardship: This is the time of year when your Session is working on a new budget for 2024. Your pledge to the church helps us greatly while we create a spending plan. A big “Thanks” to those of you who have already turned in your estimate of giving card. If you have not yet done so, additional cards are located on top of the radiators at the rear of the sanctuary, or you may call the church office (814-944-7258) for a card.

Youth Potluck Dinner: All Youth and families are invited to join us for a potluck style dinner at 6:00 pm, made up of the foods kids want to share with their friends on Friday, November 10. Afterwards, youth over the age of 9 will be invited to stay for a Lock-In. They will work on redecorating the youth room and other projects. We will have breakfast together the next morning and pick-up will be at 10:00 am on Saturday, November 11.

Contact Person: In case of extreme emergencies, Rick Herbster (814-937-7375) is the contact person for the members of this church. If you call him, he will insure the information is passed on appropriately.

Looking for Musical Talent: Any adults interested in sharing their musical talents (vocal or instrumental/solo or ensemble) during the Advent season should contact a Worship team member for further information (Barb Hazlett, Rick or Ellie Herbster, Carol McCracken, or Gaylend Young).

November Donation Needs

Providence Presbyterian Church is collecting the following items for Family Services on the second Sunday in November. Items may be left on the table in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, November 12.

Category: Household Items

- Blankets/sheet sets - twin size
- Pillows & pillow cases
- Towels & washcloths
- Dish cloths & towels
- Bathroom rugs
- Indoor/outdoor rugs
- Facial tissues
- Turkey, ham & side dishes for a Thanksgiving dinner
- Gift cards for grocery stores

Watch for a new donation category in December!



Working Together— Celebrating God's Good Gifts

We are entering into our annual stewardship emphasis with the theme, "Working Together—Celebrating God's Good Gifts." Today, and over the next few months, we will consider what it means to work together with God as we celebrate God's good gifts to us.

Did you ever stop to think that God could have done it all? He could have taken it upon Himself to be the sum total of every aspect of reaching people with the Gospel and of helping them grow in their Christian faith.

But for reasons perhaps known fully only to God, He didn't. He chose to utilize people: Men, women, teenagers, and children in His worldwide harvest field and here at Providence Presbyterian Church. That's why the Apostle Paul states so clearly that although we are God's servants, in reality, we are "working together" with Him. "We are God's fellow workers."

As we are "working together," we are "celebrating God's good gifts." We certainly have much to celebrate. With the hymn writer, we proclaim,

*Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness,
To your great faithfulness, mercy and love.
Great is thy faithfulness!*

James 1:17 expresses this truth clearly: "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows."

Think about some of God's good gifts: God gives the seed, the rain, health, life, strength, riches, grace and eternal life. All of these good gifts are tangible demonstrations of God's love and goodness.

As we enter into our stewardship season this year,

there is a problem with the word "stewardship." Mention stewardship to the average person, and the first thing that comes to mind is money.

Make no mistake about it: Money is a vital element of stewardship that is absolutely necessary for the work and ministry of our church to move forward. Total stewardship has been likened to a three-legged stool. Money is one of the legs of that stool. Without that leg, the stool cannot stand.

But the other two legs are equally important. Without them, the stool cannot stand. Just what are those other two legs? Simply stated, they are "time" and "talents." Total stewardship consists of the three "T's"—time, talents, and treasure. Remove any one of the three, and stewardship is severely weakened and undermined in an individual life, in a family and in a church like ours.

What's really interesting is that there is a basic underlying principle that has to do with time, talents and treasure. It's found many places in the Bible and has even been mentioned here at our church from time to time. It's this: God owns it all! That's right, God owns our time, our talents and our treasure. According to Psalm 24:1, the earth—and everything in it—is the Lord's. That includes us. Our time, our talents and our treasure.

So instead of being owners, we are managers. What's the difference between an owner and a manager? Owners have rights; managers have responsibilities. Owners determine how resources will be used; managers carry out the directives and wishes of the owner.

In the final analysis, God owns it all and retains all of the rights of ownership. Our role is to manage what God has entrusted to us—our time, our talents and our treasure.

As the tombstone in an old cemetery read, "What I spent, I had; what I saved, I lost; but what I gave, I have."

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