



# Providence Post



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## Session Highlights

By Barb Hazlett

*(Note: The following highlights are taken from the minutes of the Monday, April 15, 2024, regular Session meeting.)*

**Clerk's Report:** Communion was served to 43 communicants on Maundy Thursday, March 28. Communion was served to 64 communicants on Sunday, April 7.

Dr. Carole Parsons will be using the church for a piano recital for her students on Friday, May 3, from 7:00 to 8:30 pm.

**Pastor Nominating Committee Report:** The PNC is in the process of interviewing candidates.

**Treasurer's Report:** The treasurer's report was distributed and discussed. A motion was approved to accept the treasurer's report.

**Huntingdon Presbytery Report:** Judy Hartzell reported on the guest speaker whose topic was "Small Churches."

**Nominating Committee Report:** The committee will begin contacting members in June.

### Session Team Reports (Chair)

**Finance & Stewardship (Barry Gaut):** 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 pay in four installments of \$1,314.50.

For the period ending on March 30, 2024, a total of \$3,181.82 has been paid to our per capita fund. This represents a 61% response, or approximately 81 of our 134 members. This is an increase over last month's 51% response.

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

	Through 03/30/24	Through 03/30/23
Congregational Giving	\$ 47,273	\$ 46,757
Building Rental Income(*)	8,024	335
Special Offerings	3,041	1,941
Total Income	\$ 58,338	\$ 49,033
Total Expenses	\$ 51,742	\$ 59,538
Surplus (Shortfall)	\$ 6,596	\$ 10,505

(\*) Reflects giving to the "Organ Fund"

Our church will once again be working with KLV Enterprises in Illinois, who will provide stewardship materials for the 2025 campaign. The theme of the program is "Moving Forward by Faith." Stewardship Sunday will be November 3, 2024.

**Congregational Care (Gail Irwin):** Judy Hartzell mailed coupons to the Yokosuka Naval Base at the end of March.

The committee supplied cakes to the Presbyterian Village which Charyl Gardner delivered on Sunday, March 31.

Linda McKee led a workshop on Friday, March 22, at which participants made crosses out of palm fronds for the Palm Sunday service. About 100 crosses were made to share at this service.

Once communion has been blessed and served at our church, any two members of the congregation can then serve home communion. This should be done within six days after serving it at church.

Dee Schnarrs mailed 'missing you/thinking of you' cards to six recipients.

The committee met at church on Friday, April 12, to assemble snack boxes for our college students. They are: Jimmy Gallace, Dylan Hayford, Alyson Hollingsworth, Ethan Little, Delaine Wisor and Laighla Wisor.

**Congregational Fellowship (Glenn Nelson):** There will be a coffee fellowship on Sunday, May 5.

Since there are no graduates this year, we will observe a regular coffee fellowship on Sunday, June 2, with our team members bringing desserts.

The church will attend an Altoona Curve game on Sunday, June 30.

Our annual church picnic will be held on Sunday, July 28, at DelGrosso's Park.

In July and August, there are no coffee fellowships.

**Mission (Judy Hartzell) :** We have received a \$500 grant from Presbytery Mission Funds for our outdoor Pantry. Jane Falco announced the grant to our congregation on Sunday, April 7, and reported on the surprising amount of food that has been shared through the Pantry.

**One Great Hour of Sharing:** We sent \$1,059 to help with hunger, thirst, disaster recovery, refugee assistance, education and community development in our country and places around the world.

The placement of a second 'Soup on Saturday' sign on 24<sup>th</sup> Street may have increased our numbers for March. A few of our guests commented on the additional sign. We will place another sign inside the Altoona Rescue Mission before the April SOS event.

Our committee discussed the idea of a Shared Altoona Churches Meal with churches in our immediate area. At their next meeting, they will craft a letter to nearby churches to see if there is any interest.

The Pentecost offering will run from Sunday, April 21, through Sunday, May 19. Our church gets to keep 40% of the offering to be used toward camp scholarships for children in the neighborhood.

**Giving Report:** Unified Mission, \$1,000; Altoona Victim Services (Domestic Abuse), \$500.

**Donations:** For the Altoona Food Bank in May, please donate your choice of pasta and sauce. For the Outdoor Pantry, we are asking for donations of any nonperishable food items and for personal care items. No glass containers, please.

**Outreach (Jane Yerty):** Final details for the Yard Sale on Saturday, May 4, from 8:00 am until noon. We are accepting donations from Monday, April 29, through Thursday, May 2, from 9:00 am to noon, and by prior arrangements as needed. Proceeds benefit Krislund Camp scholarships for neighborhood youth. We may use our garage or an outside canopy for larger items if needed.

Sue Payne provided information from Jersey Mike's where they will provide a coupon for a sandwich. We agreed to provide a letter to them explaining our plans to sell these coupons at our Yard Sale, and possibly to our church family at a cost of \$5.00 each. These proceeds will also be used for Krislund scholarships.

**Krislund Update:** Two youths from our church are attending camp and will receive financial assistance from the Mission team. The Outreach team has eight youths signed up at this time. We will be using proceeds from the Yard Sale and the Jersey Mike's coupons to fund these scholarships. We are also accepting, and are very grateful for monetary donations from our church family.

We are continuing to work with Burchfield Landscaping to assist us in making work in our Community Garden less labor intensive. Nancy Woormer is beginning to accept reservations for garden beds and to recruit volunteers to fill the water tanks.

**Personnel (Bob Hollingsworth):** Our office administrator gave out a \$40 gift card for gas—that makes three gift cards distributed thus far.

Session voted to make the salary for the nursery supervisor \$100 per day.

**Property (Geoff Geesey):** A "Phil Hall" workday will be held on Saturday, April 27, from 8:00 am until noon. We will be weeding, raking debris, trimming shrubs, and painting lines—weather permitting.

Work on the stained-glass windows is scheduled to begin at the end of May or the beginning of June. This work will be performed by Cumberland Glass.

**Spiritual Enhancement (Jeanie Mollica):** Upcoming Youth Events - Paint Party on Sunday, April 28, at 2:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Sarah Jubeck will host the party; all youth are invited. In May (date TBD), there will be Flower Planting and Dinner. Youth Sunday will be observed on June 9.

Vacation Bible School will be held from Monday, July 29 through Friday, August 2. This year’s theme will be “Scuba” with materials from Concordia.

Our trip to Sight and Sound Theater to see “Daniel” will be on Friday, July 26, 2024. Ticket prices will be \$185 for adult / \$129 for children and includes a meal at Hershey Farms restaurant. Pricing is based on a minimum of 25 passengers signing up.

On Youth Sunday, June 9, our youth will participate throughout the worship service.

Heather Wisor is looking to purchase a new children’s Bible for the Pre-K and Kindergarten classes. Several options are being explored as well as materials to go with the new Bible.

To help advertise the nursery supervisor position, we are asking for a formal position description from Personnel that would include requirements for the job and salary information. A written job description will be posted on our church’s website and Facebook page.

A suggestion was made for the team to restructure Sunday school and Junior Church so that they would take place during the worship service. The Spiritual Enhancement team will review this over the upcoming summer.

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

The Worship Team has discussed the flowers from Easter and decided that we will find another greenhouse to buy the bulk flowers that we get for Easter and Christmas.

Doug Stephens will come to assess what we have and may need for our church’s sound system.

We brought ideas for prayers for our Pastor

Nominating Committee; these will appear in the May church bulletin.

Thursday, May 2, is the National Day of Prayer. This year’s theme is “*Lift Up the Word, Light Up the World.*” Our church will be open from 11:00 am until 2:00 pm on that day for anyone who would like to come in and pray.

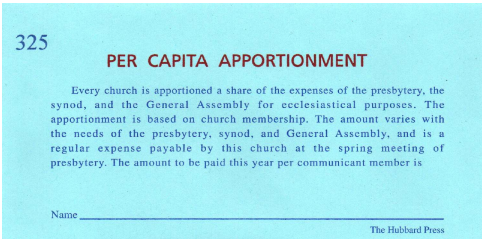
Pentecost Sunday will be observed on May 19. We will encourage everyone to wear red on that day.

June 9 is Youth Sunday, which is also our last morning worship service at 10:15 am until September. (During the summer, our worship service will start at 9:30 am.)

Future Worship Schedule:

- May 2 - National Day of Prayer (Thursday)
- May 5 - Ken Lynch (Communion)
- May 12 - Ken Lynch
- May 19 - Carol Wyerman
- May 26 - Carol Wyerman
- June 2 - Ken Lynch (Communion)
- June 9 - Ken Lynch (9:30 am Summer worship hours begin; Youth Sunday; No Sunday school)
- June 16 - Carol Wyerman
- June 23 - Carol Wyerman
- June 30 - Allen Gibboney

Church organist Carol McCracken will be taking a brief vacation from June 23 through July 14. In her absence, Carole Parsons will be filling in.



Just a reminder that the Per Capita amount for 2024 is \$39.24 *per member*. So far this year, our response rate has been 61%. Please try to meet your per capita obligation early using the special [blue envelope](#) (like the one shown above) in your box of offering envelopes. Thank you!

## May Donation Needs

Providence Presbyterian Church is collecting the following items for **Family Services** on the second Sunday of the month. Items should be left on the bottom shelf of the rack in the hallway by the restrooms no later than Sunday, May 12, 2024. Thank You!

### Category: Food Items

Canned ham, chicken, tuna  
Rice, boxed potatoes  
Cold cereal, instant oatmeal, grits  
Mayo, ketchup, mustard, jelly  
Snack foods  
Cake mixes and icing  
Individual snack bags  
Microwave popcorn  
Bottled water  
Facial tissues

Watch for a new donation category in June!



The National Day of Prayer is an annual day of observance, designated by the United States Congress, and held on the first Thursday of May, when people are asked “to turn to God in prayer and meditation.”

The 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Day of Prayer will be observed on May 2. This year’s theme is “Lift Up the Word, Light Up the World” based on 2 Samuel 22:29-31. For more information, use the following link:  
[www.nationaldayofprayer.org](http://www.nationaldayofprayer.org)

Providence Presbyterian Church will be open for prayer from 11:00 am until 2:00 pm, on Thursday, May 2. You are invited to use our sanctuary for prayer on that day.

## MAY Birthdays & Anniversaries

Mae Stanek	2
Walter Betar	3
Dylan Hayford	6
Geoff Geesey	12
David Wisor	13
Carol Adams	14
Alyson Hollingsworth	14
Dave Carothers	17
Charyl Gardner	23
Al Holtzinger	23
John Gardner	24
Barb Hazlett	25
Lee Hite	26
Bob Hollingsworth	28
Carol McCracken	31

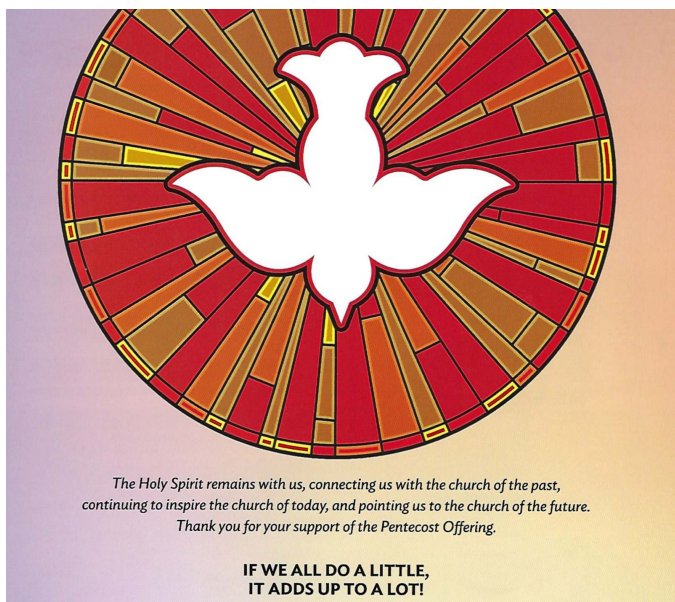
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Russ & Martha Ramsey	1
Les & Linda Hart	18
John & Debbie Mallow	23
Dave & Patsy Carothers	27



Twenty-five years ago, on April 17, 1999, **Beverly Moss-Oswalt** and two other local women started a toy lending library at the Becky Sheetz Recreation Building, Arc of Blair County, called New Steps that won a prize from Make A Difference Day by the *USA Weekend Magazine*.





## Pentecost Special Offering

Each year on Pentecost Sunday, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the church. The Holy Spirit remains with us still, connecting us with *the church of the past*, continuing to inspire *the church of today*, and pointing us to *the church of the future*. Each year, this celebration is marked by receiving the Pentecost Offering which nurtures the faith of those who are the church to come.

Pentecost arrives 50 days after Easter and 10 days after the Ascension—when Jesus ascends into heaven. Jesus and the Scriptures are making an important theological point at Pentecost. Jesus ascends and the church is born. If his mission and ministry is to continue, it is upon us, his disciples, to keep it going, and we have the Holy Spirit to lead us, who blesses us all with different gifts to be used at different times and in different ways. Our gifts to the Pentecost Offering connect with God’s hope and future, supporting ministries with children, youth and young adults.

- ◆ Congregations keep 40% of raised funds to initiate or support programs for young people in their communities.
- ◆ The Day of Pentecost is referred to as the birthday of the Church.
- ◆ Pentecost is usually represented with the color red, which symbolizes the fire of the Holy Spirit.
- ◆ Since 1998, Presbyterians have raised nearly \$18 million for ministries that benefit younger members of God’s family.

In addition to the 40% mentioned above, 25% goes to Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) experience. This money is used to train and equip volunteers to engage in mission around the world.

Another 25% supports ministries with youth, ages 12 to 18, and those called to accompany them. *The Senior Project* helps graduating seniors explore their next steps in faith.

Finally, 10% is used to support the “Educate a Child, Transform the World” national initiative, which was affirmed at the 221<sup>st</sup> General Assembly in 2014.

Thank you for your generous support of the Pentecost Offering for 2024. If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!



**Pentecost Sunday** will be observed on May 19. We celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit descending in a mighty rush of wind and flame to inspire the church’s proclamation of Christ’s rising and to empower its mission and ministry to the world. The Worship team invites you to wear **RED** on Pentecost Sunday to symbolize the “tongues of fire” described in Acts 2:3.

**The Summer Worship Schedule** at Providence Presbyterian Church will run from Sunday, June 9, through Sunday, September 1, at 9:30 am. There will be no Sunday School or Junior Church during the summer schedule.

**Open and Lock-Up** people are needed! The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. The months of May, July, August, October, November and December are still available. Questions?—See Geoff Geesey for more details.

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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. Editor: Barry E. Gaut. Website: [www.providencepc-altoona.org](http://www.providencepc-altoona.org)