



# Providence Post

JULY/AUGUST 2024



By Barb Hazlett

*(Note: The following highlights are taken from the minutes of the Monday, June 17, 2024, regular Session meeting.)*

**Clerk’s Report:** Sixty communicants were served communion on Sunday, June 9.

**Pastor Nominating Committee Report:** The PNC has met with the Rev. Dr. Hilary Livingston at a neutral pulpit and then voted to invite her to Providence Presbyterian Church to candidate. Two members of Huntingdon Presbytery’s Committee on Ministry will meet with her, and if the way be clear, she will speak at our July 7 worship service. Following the worship service, we will have a congregational meeting for the purpose of voting to accept her as our pastor. We will announce this meeting at the June 23 and June 30 worship services.

There will be a meet and greet on the afternoon of Saturday, July 6, at our church’s Fellowship Hall. Members and friends will have an ample opportunity to meet Pastor Livingston in a relaxed setting.

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

**Huntingdon Presbytery Report:** The next regular

meeting of Huntingdon Presbytery will be on Tuesday, June 18, at the Lewistown Presbyterian Church.

**Nominating Committee:** The committee met and has found two candidates who have agreed to be on Session. They are continuing to search for a third and final candidate for Session.

### Session Team Reports (Chair)

**Finance & Stewardship (Sue Whitsel):** The Finance and Stewardship committee met on Thursday, June 13, to discuss the preparation of the 2025 budget. This included the creation of budget worksheets for the individual Session committees. It is anticipated that a draft copy of the 2025 budget will be available for Session review by October of this year. Session committees will be asked to develop budget figures sometime in the late summer/early fall of 2024.

For the period ending through May 30, 2024, there was \$3,597.82 given to our per capita fund. This represents a 68 percent (68%) response, or approximately 92 of our 134 members.

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

	Through 05/30/24	Through 05/30/23
Congregational Giving	\$ 76,001	\$ 75,256
Building Rental Income(*)	15,612	335
Special Offerings	8,056	6,217
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 99,669</b>	<b>\$ 81,808</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 83,774</b>	<b>\$104,290</b>
<b>Surplus (Shortfall)</b>	<b>\$ 15,895</b>	<b>\$ 22,482</b>

(\*) Reflects giving to the “Organ Fund”

**Congregational Care (Gail Irwin):** Judy Hartzell is collecting the coupons which will be mailed to the Yokosuka Naval Base at the end of June. Judy said

that it would be helpful if the coupons were separated into two categories, one for food and one for non-food items, before dropping the coupons in the collection box. The coupons can be clipped together or placed into baggies. Also, coupons that are marked to expire in the US market have another six month of life overseas.

The schedules for June and July were completed for cards/flowers/transportation.

Charyl Gardner has organized the delivery of homemade cakes to the Presbyterian Village at Hollidaysburg for Friday, June 28.

Following guidance from Session, our team visited and delivered communion to seven home-bound congregants.

Birthday cards, get-well cards, and missing-you cards were prepared by team members for June and July. Names for the congregation card shower were designated.

Judy reported that Session announced that prayer requests that come into the church office will be shared with the congregation instead of just the Congregational Care committee.

**Congregational Fellowship (Glenn Nelson):** Our cost for the picnic dinner is \$13.75; we will offer it to the congregation for \$10.00. Our cost for the all-day ride pass is \$26.00; the congregation will pay \$15.00. Steve Parsons will have Kimberly post a sign up sheet on Sunday, June 16. The last day to sign up and pay is Sunday, July 14.

**Mission (Judy Hartzell):** We added two more Krislund campers, which makes a final total of four campers to be sent by the Mission committee.

Barb Weigley composed a sample letter for the Shared Altoona Churches Meal idea. Betsy Gallace will input the letter as written and send it to the entire team to hold for revisions. She will also send a draft copy to the 28<sup>th</sup> Street Church of the Brethren for their input. Hopefully, a joint meeting with other willing churches will follow.

We will distribute "Free Food Pantry List" reminders in June.

We are planning for 64 guests at the June Soup on Saturday, and will serve soups and meatball

sandwiches, fruit cups, desserts and beverages. The Soup on Saturday event for July 20, will include soup, ham salad sandwiches, watermelon, desserts and beverages.

As part of our mission support for the month of June, we gave the following: Krislund Program Staff - \$300; Altoona Food Bank - \$300; Krislund Capital Campaign - \$700; The Healing Patch - \$250; Krislund Scholarships - \$1,680.

For the Altoona Food Bank in July, we are asking for donations of peanut butter and jelly. The Providence Food Pantry is asking for donations of any non-perishable food items and personal care items. No glass containers, please.

It costs money to pick up the picnic tables that are made from recycled bottle caps. Session asked the Mission team to explore funding for this.

The Visioning Team of Huntingdon Presbytery is developing a church mission process that congregations in our presbytery could use to explore new ways to reach out to their local communities.

Providence has received a grant from the Hunger Program for our Food Pantry. We will apply again for another such grant.

**Outreach (Jane Yerty):** Krislund campers and parents met on Sunday, June 9. Five non-member kids and four church member kids will attend camp this summer. A Krislund Camp Scholarship Fund was approved and will be available throughout the year for donations.

Work in our community garden is progressing with Burchfield Landscaping. Geoff Geesey and his helpers have installed a new bulletin board. Many gardens have already been planted.

The Community Library is open and in use.

Our team is planning to do a fall Card making event for distribution on Veterans Day.

We are also planning a Clothing Giveaway for Saturday, August 10. Donations of gently used clothing for children, teens and adults are needed. Also being considered is a shoe giveaway. We will need the week prior to the giveaway for preparation.

**Personnel (Bob Hollingsworth):** The nursery position has not yet been filled. We will repost this position on Facebook.

**Property (Geoff Geesey):** The small stained glass windows in our sanctuary will be repaired soon. Our team will soon get bids for carpet cleaning in the sanctuary.

**Spiritual Enhancement (Jeanie Mollica):** We had a successful Youth Sunday on June 9—all the youth participated in this service.

On Friday, July 26, the church is going to Sight and Sound Theater to see Daniel. We will be paying for seven youth to attend.

For our Vacation Bible School this year, we will be asking the congregation for monetary donations instead of snacks as we will be providing a dinner.

The Pre-Kindergarten class would like to redecorate their classroom.

**Worship (Rick Herbster):** Acolytes and ushers are in place for June. Family liturgists are working on the calendar in Fellowship Hall.

We received and installed a new pulpit microphone—it sounds great!

Communion and offertory procedures will stay the same throughout the summer. Rick will place an announcement on the screens and in the bulletin for special music during the summer. Ellie will get the summer fans out of the storage closet.

Summer schedule:

- June 30 - Allen Gibboney
- July 7 - Rev. Dr. Hilary Livingston,  
Communion, Wopsononock Winds
- July 14 - Ken Lynch
- July 21 - Carol Wyerman
- July 28 - Carol Wyerman, "Casual Dress" for church, Church Picnic
- July 29 to August 2 - Vacation Bible School
- August 4 - Ken Lynch, Communion
- August 11 - Ken Lynch
- August 18 - Carol Wyerman
- August 25 - Carol Wyerman

## JULY Birthdays & Anniversaries

Nancy Woomer	3
Brian Rutter	6
Becca Gallace	9
Peggy Horner	13
Elizabeth Miller	15
Jen Braun	16
Ellie Herbster	19
Jemmings Lantz	25
Carol Wyerman	25
Steve Parsons	28
Cookie Hall	30
Heather Wisor	30

---

Dave & Marcia Dravis	3
Tom & Linda McKee	15
Al & Rita Holtzinger	23
Lee & Jeannine Fagley	26



### God's Gift of Music

What helps you sort out what you're feeling, or experience an emotion more deeply? What allows you to let loose and cry, or fully celebrate when you're joyful? Nature helps some of us get in touch with our feelings, perhaps because it removes us from screens and other distractions.

But when getting out isn't possible — no mountain lake is nearby, or the weather isn't tranquil — consider the gift of music. Often instrumental or vocal music helps us access the depths of our soul like nothing else can. God may even speak to us through music — whether in song lyrics, our own inner thoughts or wordless stirrings of the heart.

Albert Schweitzer, a pastor, musicologist, physician and more, said, "Joy, sorrow, tears, lamentation, laughter — to all these music gives voice, but in such a way that we are transported from the world of unrest to a world of peace, and see reality in a

new way, as if we were sitting by a mountain lake and contemplating hills and woods and clouds in the tranquil and fathomless water.”

Make some playlists for various emotions: joy, grief, anxiety, hope. Then imagine yourself relaxing in nature, and experience God’s love.



## AUGUST Birthdays & Anniversaries

Jane Falco	2
Carol Young	3
Marsha Hansard	6
Vivian Markley	8
Rick Herbster	12
Donnie Gallace	13
Dave Dravis	15
Bev Moss-Oswalt	15
Holynn Treese	16
Paul Conway	17
Tom Costea	18
Barry Gaut	22
Charlotte Hall	24
Kaylee Zeigler	24
Jimmy Gallace	26
Tony Gallace	26
Rob Donlan	27
Nancy Donlan	29
Sue Payne	29

---

Rick & Ellie Herbster	1
Jason & Devyn Little	3
Mike & Gail Irwin	7
Bob & MaryAnne Hollingsworth	8
Dwayne & Jane Yerty	8
Jeff & Amanda Stanek	13
Dave & Carol Adams	14
Steve & Carole Parsons	14
Brad & Suzanne Slep	14
Richie & Sue Slep	24
Dewey Adams & Jane Carothers	27

### July & August Donation Needs

Providence Presbyterian Church is collecting the following items for Family Services on the second Sunday of the month. **July** items may be left on the table in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, July 14, and **August** items on Sunday, August 11. Thanks!

#### July Category: Cleaning Products

- All-purpose cleaners
- Degreasers
- Oven cleaner
- Rubber gloves
- Mr. Clean Magic Eraser®
- Mops, brooms, dust pans
- High efficiency laundry detergent
- Fabric softener sheets
- Garbage bags—all sizes
- Ceramic stove top cleaner
- Facial Tissues

#### August Category: School Supplies

- Backpacks/lunch boxes
- Composition notebooks
- Books/folders
- Glue sticks
- Children’s scissors
- Crayons/markers
- Pens/highlighters
- Pencils/erasers
- Pencil cases
- Mechanical pencils/lead refills
- Play dough
- Facial Tissues

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





## Presbyterians in the Press

(Note: Unless otherwise specified, all articles and photographs have appeared in the *Altoona Mirror*.)

In the May 4-5 *Community* section, **Joan Conway** was installed as treasurer of the Sylvan Hills Ladies Golf Association.

*Mirror* publisher **Dan Slep** was shown in a photograph and featured in a story about the paper's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Altoona Mayor Matt Pacifico declared June 24, 2024, as "Altoona Mirror Day" in the city.

Altoona celebrated Flag Day with a ceremony at Heritage Plaza downtown. A brass ensemble that included **Brian Rutter** played patriotic music. The story was featured on the front page of the June 15-16 edition.

## ▶▶ Odds & Ends ▶▶

The Congregational Fellowship team has tickets for the Altoona Curve baseball game scheduled for Sunday, June 30. Our church's renowned men's group, the Hanging Curve, will be singing the National Anthem. A sign-up sheet is posted in our Fellowship Hall. Tickets are available for sale after church at \$5.00 each.

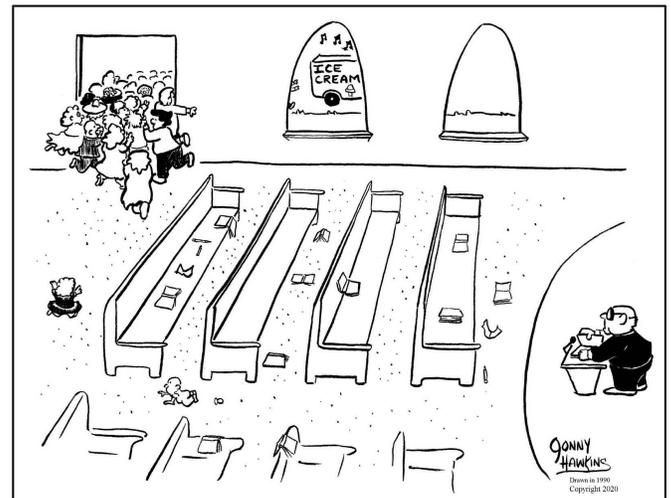
On Sunday, July 28, our annual Church Family Picnic will be held at DelGrosso's Amusement Park beginning at 1:00 pm. Dinner will be served at 5:00 pm, and will include a half chicken, potato salad, baked beans, ice cream, and soft drinks. The reduced cost will be \$10. Bottles of water and snack bags will be available at our pavilion. All-day ride tickets, including the water park, will be available at a reduced rate of \$15. Bingo will be available to play during the afternoon at our pavilion with prizes given to the lucky winners.

Sign-up sheets are posted in Fellowship Hall. DelGrosso's will need a firm count by Sunday, July 14, so please, check your calendars and make your reservation and payment by that date. Hope to see you there!

Since Sunday, July 28, is our Church Family Picnic day, the Worship team encourages our congregation to participate in a "Casual Dress Sunday." Break out those Bermuda shorts, clam-diggers, pedal pushers and Providence T-shirts!

Anyone interested in providing special music for our summer services should contact a member of the Worship team.

A summer kids' event called SCUBA (Diving Into Friendship With God) Vacation Bible School will be held at Providence Presbyterian Church from **Monday, July 29, to Friday, August 2**. This year at VBS we will be offering dinner at 5:30 pm every evening. We will be accepting monetary donations to help offset the cost of providing this meal for those in attendance. SCUBA is for kids from age 3 to fifth grade and will run from **6:00 pm to 8:00 pm** each day. For more information, call the church office at **814-944-7258**.



**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)