



Providence Post



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FROM OUR
PASTOR

Safety Audit Update

As you know, we've been undergoing a safety audit of our church to address areas to improve the safety and well-being of members and friends of our church, particularly our children and youth. Our property team has been making improvements to our building and grounds to improve their safety and function. Session has also approved some necessary building renovations to enhance the structural security of our building. We anticipate that these upgrades will be made during this calendar year.

Session has also approved updated versions of our child safety and sexual misconduct policies – it is a denominational requirement that we have these policies in place to protect our vulnerable members and friends. We believe these updated

policies will be ones that we can implement consistently to ensure everyone's safety and protection. We will now begin the process of training our staff and volunteers in these new updated policies and getting everyone up to date on state-mandated clearances. Our new policies require the congregation to review these policies on a triennial basis at one of our regular congregational meetings. We will present these policies for review at our congregational meeting this fall. These policies are available for anyone in the church to review – please see the pastor or a member of session for a copy of these policies if you wish to review them. Please also see us if you have any questions or concerns.

Providence Presbyterian Church is committed to providing for the safety and security of our members and friends so that we can provide a safe, welcoming environment for all.

Blessings,

Pastor Hilary

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. Pastor: Rev. Dr. Hilary Livingston; Editor: Barry E. Gaut
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By Barb Hazlett

(Note: The following highlights are taken from the minutes of the Monday, May 19, 2025, regular Session meeting.)

Clerk's Report: Communion was served to 75 communicants on Sunday, May 4.

Guests: Carol Adams and B.J. Crownover reported on all the historical items that they found in the church basement. They asked Session what they would like done with these materials. One suggestion was to create a shadow box to display the blocks with pictures on them. Items that are of importance to the Blair Genealogical Society will be donated to them. Pastor Hilary will ask the clerk at Huntingdon Presbytery about the length of time some materials must be kept. Photos will be displayed on a Sunday morning for people to take what they like. Documents will be digitized and the originals placed in archival sleeves. Praise binders will be utilized as appropriate.

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

Huntingdon Presbytery Report: The next meeting is on Tuesday, June 24, at 5:30 pm, at the Tyrone Presbyterian Church.

Nominating Committee Report: No report.

Moderator's Report: Pastor Livingston listed all her activities for the previous month. She will be taking vacation time from July 12 through July 18, including Sunday, July 13.

Session Team Reports (Chair)

Finance & Stewardship (Sue Whitsel): Per Capita for 2024 has been established at \$41.00 per member, and based on 140 members, our per capita bill from Huntingdon Presbytery will be

\$5,740.00, which we pay in four installments of \$1,435.00.

For the period ending on April 30, 2025, there was \$2,914.00 given to our per capita fund, which is unchanged from last month's total. This represents a 51 percent (51%) response, or approximately 71 of our 140 members. For comparison, last year at this time we were at a 64% response.

The 2025 vs. 2024 Monthly Financial Summary is summarized below:

	Through 04/30/25	Through 04/30/24
Congregational Giving	\$ 58,769	\$ 61,099
Building Rental Income	1,010	10,073
Special Offerings	3,589	4,563
Total Income	\$ 63,368	\$ 75,735
Total Expenses	\$ 99,630	\$ 69,401
Surplus (Shortfall)	\$ 36,262	\$ 6,334

As mentioned in last month's report, our church will be working with KIW Enterprises in Illinois, who will provide stewardship materials for the 2026 campaign. The theme of the campaign is "Blessed by God to be a Blessing." Stewardship Sunday has been set as November 2, 2025. The materials have been ordered and the invoice for same will be sent to the church office in late August or early September.

Our committee met with Bruce Hazlett and the Property committee on Sunday, May 18, to review the three proposals for painting the exterior of our church building. A motion was made and approved to accept the proposal from A. Rossi Painting for a total price of \$76,275.00. This recommendation will be presented to Session at their regular meeting on Monday, May 19.

Congregational Care (Gail Irwin): The schedules for May and June were updated for Cards/Flowers/Transportation. Summer hours for the worship service will go into effect on June 1.

Pastor Livingston and members from our team will deliver communion on designated days in May to our homebound members.

Birthday cards, get-well cards and missing-you cards were prepared by the team. Names for the

congregation card shower were designated and the directory was updated.

Charyl Gardner delivered cakes to the Presbyterian Village at Hollidaysburg on Friday, April 25. Our next commitment for cake delivery will be on Friday, July 25.

The Palm Cross workshop held in April was well attended and more than 100 crosses were made for the Palm Sunday service.

Treat boxes for our college students were mailed out in April and were well received.

Visitations and delivery of food, cookies and flowers to members of our church family were made by our committee.

There was a significant decrease in the number of coupons collected during the last quarter. Judy Hartzell reminded the congregation about the date of the next mailing with the hope of increasing the number of coupons collected.

In an effort to enhance our mission, the team asked Pastor Hilary to share her background in wellness ministry. She has previous experience in coaching people on how to integrate Christian spiritual practices with wellness habits. With the pastor's guidance, the team will continue to explore this topic, based on I Corinthians 6:19-20.

Congregational Fellowship (Amanda Yeager): The sign-up sheet for the June 12 Altoona Curve baseball game is now posted. Jane Falco will collect money and distribute tickets on Sunday mornings.

Our annual church picnic will take place on Sunday, July 27, at DelGrosso's Park. Steve Parsons deposited a check for \$125 to save that date. The last day to sign-up for the picnic is on Thursday, July 10. The cost is \$10 for the chicken dinner and \$15 for rides and the water park.

Our church youth will provide the coffee fellowship following Youth Sunday worship service on June 1.

Mission (Judy Hartzell): Pastor Livingston, Judy Hartzell and Bev Moss-Oswalt made a visit to the Lexington Clubhouse. Ideas were brought to Session and we will continue to look at the possible ways that we can support this work.

On Monday, May 5, Families United for Change hosted "CC's Boutique," a project that offers free clothing for women in recovery who are ready to look for work, or who need clothing for work. Our congregation donated many items, including umbrellas, purses, sunglasses, scarves, personal care and make-up items. Some of these needs were provided by our Outreach team following their Yard Sale. The boutique was very successful and we thank all who donated.

Betsy Gallace has been researching and contacting various resources for a community meal and food. She is making a list of these resources and has added our Soup on Saturday event, the Falco curbside Pantry and the Little Free Library. This list can be seen at findhelp.org along with other available resources. Thank You Betsy!

The Mission and Outreach teams will complete payment for all Krislund campers as soon as possible. There are nine registered campers this summer—three will be paid through Mission and the rest have been paid through Outreach projects.

Once again, we will invite our congregation to donate three (3) soup choices and desserts for our guests at Soup on Saturday. The sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. On May 17, hot dogs will be served along with soups, bananas or fruit, dessert and beverages. We are planning for 48 guests. On June 21, meatball sandwiches will be served with the usual additional food items.

May 2025 Giving Report: \$400 each to Meals on Wheels, Gloria Gates Foundation, Families United for Change and the Partnership Presbyterian Fund.

Community Donations: For May, please donate pasta and sauce for the Altoona Food Bank. For the Providence Food Pantry, please donate any nonperishable food items and personal care items such as soaps, deodorant, toothpaste and toothbrushes, band-aids, etc. No glass containers, please.

Outreach (Jane Yerty): There are nine campers going to Krislund. It will cost \$4,455.75 to send them to camp. The yard sales from last year and this year will help to pay that amount along with the scholarship fund and Mission team help.

Property (Bruce Hazlett): The Property team met

with the Finance team on May 18 to discuss some needs of the church. Session approved the bid from A. Rossi Painting for the job of painting the exterior of the church at a cost of \$76,275.

A bid to repair five additional stained glass windows was tabled and will be reviewed at a later date due to the exterior painting work that's being done this year.

The committee informed Session of the need to repair the handicap ramp and the steps to the church office. Session told Bruce to go ahead and secure bids for that work.

Spiritual Enhancement (Heather Wisor): The July Session meeting date will conflict with this year's Vacation Bible School schedule, therefore Session decided to cancel their July meeting.

The team has been thinking about combining youth activities with other churches in the area. Session agreed that this was a good idea.

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

The Worship team decided to table the Town Hall meetings until the fall.

We were unable to get geraniums for Pentecost, so all orders were cancelled and checks were returned to those who already ordered.

The Worship team donated \$50 to Family Services for Mother's Day in honor of the women of our church. We will do the same for Father's Day to honor the men of our church.

Our team discussed the article that Pastor Hilary wrote for the May newsletter and the variety of music we will have. Also discussed was the "Café Church" that will be held on Sunday, July 6, and Sunday, August 3.

No permanent plans were discussed, but in the future we will look at going back to collecting the offering and passing communion. These will take additional volunteers and we will develop a survey asking people where they would like to serve the church and all the activities in the church that require help.

Future Worship Schedule (all dates are on a Sunday unless noted otherwise):

June 1 - Youth Sunday worship service begins at 9:30 am (Summer worship hours begin; No Sunday school)

June 8 - Pentecost Sunday (Communion); We encourage everyone to wear **RED!**

June 15 - Trinity Sunday/Father's Day

July 6 - Café Church (Communion)

Sunday, July 20, through Thursday, July 24, Vacation Bible School (Theme: "Magnified")

July 27 - Casual dress for church; Our annual church picnic at DelGrosso's Park

August 3 - Café Church (Communion)

September 7 - Rally Day worship service begins at 10:15 am (Fall worship hours begin; Sunday school starts)

Old Business: Pastor Livingston asked if anyone had additional questions about the two policies the Session has been reviewing. Session approved both the Child Safety and the Sexual Misconduct and/or Abuse policies.

A question was raised about the name tags and it was determined this project is in the works.

Per Capita Amount

Just a reminder that the Per Capita amount for 2025 is \$41.00 *per member*. Please try to meet your per capita obligation by using the special [blue envelope](#) in your box of offering envelopes. Thank you!

Pentecost Special Offering

Pentecost Sunday will be observed on June 8 this year. Pentecost celebrates the renewal of the relationship between God and the community of faith. With our gifts to the Pentecost offering, we are there to help build a foundation of faith in our youth which will last a lifetime. Please give generously on or before Pentecost Sunday.

June Donation Needs

Providence Presbyterian Church is collecting the following items for **Family Services** on the second Sunday of the month. Items may be left on the designated shelves located in the 24th Street hallway adjacent to the Fellowship Hall no later than Sunday, June 8, 2025. Thank you!

Category: Summer Supplies

Paper plates
Plastic cups
Paper towels
Plastic silverware
Hand sanitizer
Bubbles
Sunscreen
Play dough
Water
Individual snack bags
Gift cards for local stores

Watch for a new donation category in the July/August newsletter!

JUNE Birthdays & Anniversaries

Tyler Oswalt	4
Clair Roddey	8
Martha Ramsey	10
Justin Treese	10
Dwayne Yerty	14
Cheryl Dodson	18
Debbie Mallow	19
Tom McKee	22
Rita Holtzinger	29
Sue Stephens	29

Paul & Joan Conway	1
Dave & Heather Wisor	5
John & Charyl Gardner	12
Denny & Nancy Nevling	17
Carmel & Jeanie Mollica	19
Marty & Sharon Judd	25
Mike & Jennifer Larrimore	26
Willie & Sue Stephens	29



The Summer Worship Schedule at Providence Presbyterian Church will begin on Sunday, June 1, through Sunday, August 31, at 9:30 am. There will be no Sunday school or Junior Church during the summer schedule.

Vacation Bible School "Magnified—Discovering the Bigness of God and the Smallest of Things," will be held on Sunday, July 20, through Thursday, July 24, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm, at Providence Presbyterian Church. VBS is open to all kids 3 years old through sixth grade. Please invite your family, friends and neighbors to join us for what will certainly be a great time for all!

A Pentecost Bonfire will take place on Sunday, June 8, at 3 pm, at the Gallace home on 200 Heidaway Lane in Altoona. We will have the fixings for s'mores and hot dogs to roast along with bottled water. All are welcome!

Thank You from the Spiritual Enhancement team to all our Sunday school teachers, nursery and Junior Church volunteers who have given their time to help the youth of the church this past year. We are always looking for additional help. If you are interested in volunteering, please see Pastor Livingston, Heather Wisor or Megan Burchfield for more information on how to obtain your clearances and get involved.

Alecea Wisor completed four years in the Dental Assistant Program at the Greater Altoona Career and Technology Center and graduated from high school as a certified Dental Assistant. She plans to attend Penn Tech this fall and will be studying Dental Hygiene.

Lundyn Treese graduated from Altoona Area High School this year. Our congratulations and best wishes to both of these 2025 graduates!

