



# Providence Post

SEPTEMBER 2025



## Getting to Know You...



### FROM OUR PASTOR

“Getting to know you...getting to know all about you...” This line from the famous musical, “The King and I” expresses the desire I’ve had to get to know you all here at Providence Presbyterian Church over the past year since I started as your pastor last fall. I have greatly enjoyed getting to know you all...and I hope you all have enjoyed getting to know me. I hope we will continue to grow our relationship together as we spread the good news of Jesus Christ in our community.

According to our Presbyterian tradition, one of the great purposes of the church is the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of God’s children. Part of fulfilling this purpose is getting to know one another by name in order to develop deeper, more authentic relationships with one another. To make it easier for everyone to get to know one another even better, we are launching two initiatives in the fall here at Providence Presbyterian Church. The first is, we are printing name tags for our regular members and friends to wear on Sunday mornings. These will be semi-permanent tags that can be worn via lanyard or magnetic clip (no pinning, so no worries about holes in clothing!) These will be kept on a magnetic board where folks can easily pick them up and return them before and after worship.

Why are we asking everyone to wear name tags? First,

this will help our existing members and friends get to know each other’s names more easily. We assume everyone knows everyone else, but this is not always the case. We may not know or remember someone’s name if they sit in another section of the church, for instance. And we all are prone to having a “senior moment” where we may forget someone’s name (I know it’s happened to me!) Also, it makes it much easier for visitors to learn our names, making it more likely that they will feel comfortable in our congregation (and perhaps visit more regularly!) Visitors will also have the option of making a temporary name tag during their visit. As they attend more regularly (and hopefully join our church), they will have a permanent name tag made for them.

The second initiative toward getting to know one another better is that we are making a new church pictorial directory. Our hope is that this pictorial directory will be a wonderful resource to help members and friends get to know each other and make connections to forge strong, lasting relationships in our faith community. Photos will be taken in September. Information on how to sign up for a time to have your/your family’s photo taken is in this newsletter, as well as in the bulletin and email messages. Please sign up online or visit the sign-up table on Sunday morning following worship.

We hope you will be part of these initiatives to get to know one another better as we grow in fellowship and ministry together!

Blessings,

*Pastor Hilary*



By Barb Hazlett

*(Note: The following highlights are taken from the minutes of the Monday, August 18, 2025, regular Session meeting.)*

**Clerk's Report:** Fifty-seven communicants received communion on Sunday, July 6, and 58 on Sunday, August 3.

Willie Stephens passed away on Tuesday, July 29, 2025.

Our church will host the session clerks record review again this year. It will be held on Tuesday, October 7, at 9:30 am.

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

**Huntingdon Presbytery Report:** Presbytery met on Tuesday, June 24. Their next meeting will be held on Saturday, September 20, at Krislund Camp.

**Nominating Committee:** The committee will hold their first meeting in late August or September.

**Moderator's Report:** Pastor Livingston listed all of her activities for the previous month.

### Session Team Reports (Chair)

**Finance & Stewardship (Sue Whitsel):** The committee met on Thursday, August 14, 2025. Work on the 2026 church budget was started with the creation and distribution of "Session Worksheets" for each of the committees having budget expenses. Copies of these worksheets were distributed at the August Session meeting. The committee also discussed the upcoming fall stewardship program. Stewardship materials have been recently received from KLV Enterprises and will be reviewed by the committee. Sue Whitsel, committee chair, will write the stewardship letter

that will accompany the 2026 estimate of giving card.

Per capita for 2025 has been established at \$41.00 per member, and based on 140 members, our total 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 July 30, 2025, there was \$3,037.00 given to our per capita fund. This represents a 53 percent (53%) response, or approximately 74 of our 140 members. We are about 15% behind in per capita giving as compared with the same period (January through July) last year.

The 2025 vs. 2024 Monthly Financial Summaries for both June and July are summarized below:

	Through 06/30/25	Through 06/30/24
Congregational Giving	\$ 90,902	\$ 90,392
Building Rental Income	26,042	15,742
Special Offerings	6,440	8,906
Total Income	\$123,384	\$115,040
Total Expenses	\$170,355	\$102,089
Surplus (Shortfall)	\$ 46,971	\$ 12,951

	Through 07/30/25	Through 07/30/24
Congregational Giving	\$103,220	\$109,555
Building Rental Income	26,042	16,573
Special Offerings	6,521	9,828
Total Income	\$135,783	\$135,956
Total Expenses	\$188,722	\$127,691
Surplus (Shortfall)	\$ 52,939	\$ 8,265

**Congregational Care (Gail Irwin):** It was noted that fewer and fewer coupons are being collected each month. Many vendors now offer the coupons digitally and have stopped printing paper coupons. We decided to evaluate this trend in December and make a decision as to whether or not we will carry this project into 2026.

The schedules for cards, flowers, and transportation were updated for the months of August and September. Our morning worship service will return to a 10:15 am start on Sunday, September 7, so pickup times for transportation to the morning service will be adjusted accordingly.

Pastor Hilary and the team designated three dates in August for visitation and the delivery of communion.

Charyl Gardner organized the delivery of homemade cakes from our congregation to the Presbyterian Village at Hollidaysburg on Friday, July 25. Our next scheduled delivery date will be on Friday, October 31. Any congregant who is interested in helping by baking a cake should contact Cheryl Gardner.

With Pastor Livingston's guidance, the committee explored the opportunity to offer sessions on spiritual health practices that might provide avenues for personal growth and the enhancement of wellness habits. Two "Wellness Wednesday" sessions will be offered by our pastor, who is a certified health coach. The first session will be held on Wednesday, October 22, at 11:00 am, with the topic "Holidays: The Most Difficult Time of the Year." The date and time for the second session is TBD, but the topic will be "A Blue Christmas."

Next spring we will have an Anniversary Celebration to recognize congregants who have been members of our church for 50 years. Planning for that event will begin after Christmas.

**Congregational Fellowship (Amanda Yeager):**

There were 44 meal tickets and 15 or 16 ride tickets sold for the church picnic at DelGrosso's Park.

A coffee fellowship will be held following the September 7, 2025, morning worship service. This will be the first Sunday that we return to the 10:15 am worship time.

John Gallace will be asked to cook the Advent Sunday dinner on December 7, 2025. Amanda will ask Kimberly to place this event on our church calendar.

**Mission (Judy Hartzell):** Our portion of the Pentecost Sunday special offering was split between Vacation Bible School meals and the Altoona Teen Shelter. A refund of \$500 that we received from Huntingdon Presbytery was returned to the Krislund program/staff fund.

Soup on Saturday fed 49 guests in August and 36 in July. The menu for September will include sloppy joes, soup and bananas.

In August, our committee made donations to the Partnership Presbyterian Fund, the Altoona Food Bank, and the Friends of Kenya.

For September, the Altoona Food Bank is asking for donations of cereal, especially children's cereal, although any non-perishable food is appreciated.

For our outdoor Food Pantry, we are asking for donations of non-perishable food items and personal care items. No glass containers, please.

**Outreach (Jane Yerty):** The Community Library and Garden are going well. Geoff Geesey will replace the weather deteriorated sign on the side of the library.

The Clothing Giveaway is scheduled for Saturday, September 27, from 8:00 am until noon. The team has contacted Super Shoes to partner with us to provide new shoes for elementary school students and they are waiting for a response. We are also going to request donations of winter coats and accessories. Our guests last year expressed a need for these items.

Setup for the giveaway will be on Tuesday, September 23, Wednesday, September 24, and Thursday, September 25, from 9:00 am until noon. Geoff and Mike are going to try and construct some garment racks from supplies in our garage. We are accepting donations of clothing and gently used shoes now. Items may be placed in the bell practice room in the basement.

Nine campers were scheduled to attend Camp Krislund. One was unable to attend. Four kids needed to come home early due to a variety of factors. Five campers stayed and had a great time. Camp was a little different with a new director and new counselors.

Family Services' emphasis for August is school supplies. For September, we will be collecting gift cards from any local grocery store or supermarket.

Session attention needs to be on our storage/art room in the basement. Mildew is evident in the closet and there is a noticeable smell. Items need evaluation for what to keep, what to share and what to dispose.

The team made a list of serving/giving opportunities.

**Personnel (Bob Hollingsworth):** We are looking at replacing church computers to new ones running Windows 11. There will be no additional costs involved with the replacement.

**Property (Bruce Hazlett):** Our contracted painter, Alex Rossi, began working on the church exterior. The concrete work on the ramp is on hold until all the painting is completed.

The dehumidifiers in the basement have been serviced.

Bruce cleaned up the property by the fence on the parking lot between the alley and Beale Avenue.

**Spiritual Enhancement (Heather Wisor):** Twenty-three kids attended Vacation Bible School this year. A total of \$641.20 was collected at VBS and will be donated to the North Pole Project.

Due to attendance numbers, the two younger Sunday school classes will be combined this year. These two classes will again use the Travel Guide curriculum. The older Sunday school class will use video curriculum that's similar to that used in the adult class.

Breakfast will be served every Sunday to the children before the Sunday school class starts.

**Worship (Ellie Herbster):** The acolyte schedule will be revised in the fall. We will begin to collect the offering "traditionally" starting with the Sunday, September 7, morning worship service.

The 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 2401 Broad Avenue cornerstone, which was set on September 28, 1895, will be commemorated on Sunday, September 28, 2025. Pastor Livingston will head the recognition effort.

"Rally Day" will be observed on Sunday, September 7, at 9:00 am, with a brief program followed by a time of fellowship. Coffee and donuts will be available after the program.

Late Summer/Fall Calendar:

Wednesday, August 27 - Choir rehearsal begins  
Sunday, September 7 - Rally Day at 9:00 am and morning worship service/communion at 10:15 am; Choir resumes  
Sunday, September 14 - Sunday School classes

begin at 9:00 am; Wopsononock Winds will provide the special music for the morning worship service  
Sunday, September 21 - Carol Wyerman in the pulpit  
Sunday, October 5 - World Communion Sunday  
Sunday, October 12 - Carol Wyerman in the pulpit  
Sunday, October 26 - Reformation Sunday  
Sunday, November 2 - Communion/Stewardship Sunday  
Sunday, November 23 - Christ the King Sunday  
Saturday, November 29 - "Dress the Church" at 9:00 am  
Sunday, November 30 - First Sunday of Advent

**Old Business:** The name tags have arrived. There will be a magnetic board in Fellowship Hall so that everyone will see them and pick them up prior to worship. The tags should then be returned following the worship service.

Also discussed was the new church pictorial directory and everyone is encouraged to sign up. *[See the online scheduling instructions elsewhere in this newsletter.]*

## SEPTEMBER Birthdays & Anniversaries

Sharon Hayford	10
Gail Irwin	11
Richard (RJ) Jukes	11
David Brownell	14
John Mallow	14
Jonathan Yerty	14
Allen Gibboney	19
Galen Nelson	26
Linda McKee	27
Tom Musselman	29

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Geoff & Patti Geesey	5
Jonathan & Janelle Yerty	17
Bret & Sharon Hayford	19
Ken & Angela Lynch	21
John & Betsy Gallace	22





## Peace & Global Witness Special Offering

On World Communion Sunday, we celebrate that Christ's peace extends throughout all creation. Whenever the church gathers for worship, we are assured of Christ's peace. We celebrate that we are connected, we are loved and we are not alone. We worship together and are fed from Scripture and at Christ's table of peace. The pursuit of peace in the name of Christ is part of an active, engaged faith—a witness to what it means for us to be the Church together.

Through participation in the Peace & Global Witness Offering, our church is extending Christ's peace throughout our community and our world. We begin at the communion table, with our siblings in every time and place, and we celebrate the peace we find there and commit to building a more just and peaceful world. God is with us...and God in Christ is with us through the Sacrament of Communion, celebrated on World Communion Sunday. We are not alone. Peace begins with each of us.

Here are some **Quick Facts**:

- ◆ Since 1940, World Communion Sunday is an

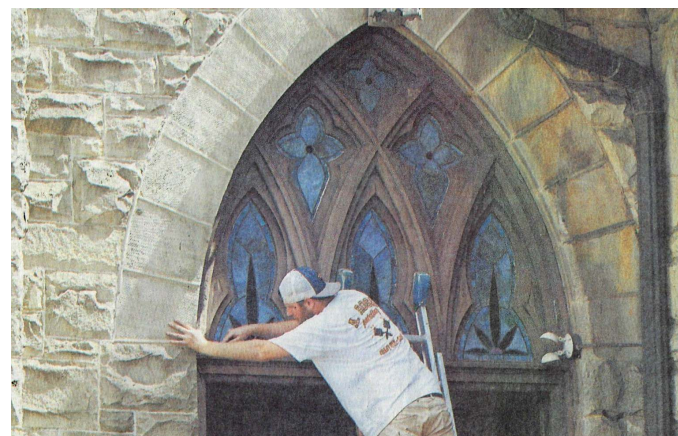
ecumenical celebration of our oneness in the Spirit and the Gospel of Jesus Christ, bringing churches together in Christian unity.

- ◆ World Communion Sunday (October 5) is the most common Sunday for receiving the offering, but many congregations promote the Offering throughout *A Season of Peace* (September 7 - October 5).
- ◆ 25% of the Offering stays with local congregations, and 25% with mid councils to unite congregations to support peacemaking in their regions
- ◆ 50% of this Offering supports the work for peace and reconciliation being done by Presbyterians across the globe.

Thank you for your support of this special offering!



The photo below appeared on the front page of the *Altoona Mirror* recently, and was titled "Beauty in the Details." It shows a painter from A. Rossi Painting working on door trim, part of a recently approved project to repaint the church's exterior woodwork.



## Attention Session Members!

September is the month that all Session committee chairs need to complete your 2026 team budget worksheet and turn it in to Sue Whitsel by Sunday, October 5, 2025. Review each line item for your committee and list the correct dollar amount for each line. Thank you for your cooperation!



**Family Services:** For September, in lieu of the usual monthly list of items, Providence Presbyterian Church is accepting gift cards from any local grocery store or supermarket for **Family Services**. Please turn cards in by Sunday, September 14.



**Fall Schedule:** Beginning on Sunday, September 7, the worship time goes back to 10:15 am. Sunday school for all ages begins the following Sunday, September 14, at 9:00 am.

**Thank You Note:** *Special thanks to everyone at Providence, for all your visits, help, cards, prayers, advice, texts and personal wishes leading up to and after my surgery! I so appreciate your caring, kindness and thoughtfulness. Sincerely, Judy Hartzell.*

## Special Session Meeting

A special Session meeting was held following the morning worship service on Sunday, June 29, 2025. The purpose of this special meeting was to discuss a proposal regarding rental of the church parking by an outside concern. This was originally brought up at the June 16 regular Session meeting. There were a few positive aspects of the proposal, but there were also several concerns. A motion was approved to decline this offer.

Since the July Session meeting was cancelled, Bruce Hazlett provided bids that he received for rebuilding the exterior office stairs and the handicap access ramp. Bruce gave a copy to Sue Whitsel, the Finance and Stewardship committee chair, so that her team could discuss the bids. We will have another special Session meeting to vote on the various proposals.



## Second Presbyterian Church Basketball Team

This photo of the Second Presbyterian Church basketball team was discovered among other photos from the archives that have been found in our church. Although the exact date is not certain, we do know that the picture was taken between 1953 and 1958 when the man in the suit, Rev. William J. Kitto, was pastor. If you can identify any of the players, please contact Carol Adams at [cladams@atlanticbb.net](mailto:cladams@atlanticbb.net)

We will be sending a digital copy of this photo to the Presbyterian Church USA Archives in Philadelphia. We would like to be able to have names to correspond with the players.

Also, on each Sunday in September, we will have other photos that need identification. They are from the Broad Avenue and First Presbyterian churches. Please stop in the Fellowship Hall after the morning worship service to help identify these people. There will be a few pictures which have already been identified on display.

## Rally Day and the Blessing of the Backpacks

Join us on Sunday, September 7, at 9:00 am, as we gather in the sanctuary to sing and introduce our new Sunday school groups, as well as our new Sunday school and Junior Church curriculums. We will also Bless the Backpacks this day. Afterward, all will be invited to the Fellowship Hall for light refreshments.

# Free Clothing and Shoe Giveaway

Saturday, September 27,  
from 8:00 am until 12 noon



## Online Scheduling Instructions for Family Appointment Setting

1. Go to the Universal Church Directories website ( [www.ucdir.com](http://www.ucdir.com) )
2. Click on the box on the right side of the homepage entitled "photography appointment scheduling login"
3. Enter your church code: **pa1176**
4. Enter your church password: **photos**
5. Click on the Enter button
6. Click on the desired photography date
7. Click on the Reserve Time button beside the desired photography appointment time
8. Enter the appropriate information in all required fields (indicated by the asterisk)
9. Click on the Schedule Appointment button at the bottom of the screen to reserve the photography appointment time in your family's name
10. If you have more than six family members being photographed, please reserve two appointments consecutively (such as 6:00 and 6:10)
11. Print the next screen to use as a reminder of your family's photography appointment
12. Contact your Barb Hazlett (814-934-3062) or Sue Whitsel (814-937-2344) to change or cancel your photography appointment

The Outreach team is currently accepting donations of gently used clothing and shoes for men, women, teens and children. Your contributions may be brought in at any time and we will store them in the bell choir practice room. Participants also shared that there is a need for winter coats, hats and gloves.

Again this year, we are pleased to partner with Super Shoes of Altoona to offer free new children's shoes. If you are willing to purchase one or more pairs, please help yourself to a 20% off coupon available in the Fellowship Hall. These also suggest a size and shoe for boys or girls. This is to help us offer a variety. We thank you in advance for your support.



Our congregation extends its heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of **Gary K. Johnson**, who passed away on Monday, July 21, 2025. We also extend our sympathies to the family and friends of **Willis L. 'Willie' Stephens**, who passed away on Tuesday, July 29, 2025; to **James Ianuzzi**, who passed away on Tuesday, August 5, 2025— James was the ex-husband of Marsha Hansard; and to **Robert E. Wedge**, who passed away on Wednesday, August 13, 2025—Robert was Debbie Wedge's husband.

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