



Providence Post



OCTOBER 2025



FROM OUR
PASTOR

Blessed to be a Blessing

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 1:3). This passage reminds us that our generous God has pulled out all the stops in blessing us in Christ. In fact, we’ve been given not just some, but “every spiritual blessing” in Christ. These are given to us, not because of the good things we’ve done to earn them, but because of God’s generous grace and his great love for us. These spiritual blessings include being chosen in Christ to be holy and blameless, being adopted as God’s heirs, and being given grace, freely and abundantly in Christ. We’ve also been forgiven and redeemed from sin through Christ’s blood. God has further lavished his grace upon us with wisdom, understanding, and knowledge of his will. We obtained this inheritance in Christ, along with the

Holy Spirit who is the down payment of these blessings until we receive them in full in God’s kingdom. We’ve truly hit the “spiritual jackpot” in Jesus Christ! All these blessings were given to us, not so that we could merely enjoy them for ourselves, but that “we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory” (Ephesians 1:12). In other words, we’re so spiritually blessed in order to be a blessing to others and to the world around us.

In October, we begin our annual stewardship campaign—a season when we reflect upon the many blessings God has given us, as well as prayerfully make a financial commitment to support the ministry of Providence Presbyterian Church for the coming year. We give out of gratitude for the blessings God has given us. We also reflect upon the ways we are blessed to be a blessing to others. Our gives of time, talent, and treasure do not merely help us pay our bills, they give us the opportunity to share God’s blessings with one another, with our community, and with the whole world. As we prayerfully consider our stewardship commitment to our church this fall, let’s remember all the many blessings God has so richly and freely given us. And let us also remember that we are blessed to be a blessing to others. Our calling in Christ is to live for the praise of God’s glory, which means blessing others in his name. Let us give generously, as God has so generously given to us!

Blessings,

Pastor Hilary



by Barb Hazlett

(Note: The following highlights are taken from the minutes of the Monday, September 15, 2025, regular Session meeting.)

Clerk's Report: Seventy communicants were served communion on Sunday, August 7.

We need to examine our rolls for this year.

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

Huntingdon Presbytery Report: The next meeting of presbytery will be on Saturday, September 20, 2025, 9:30 am, at Lewistown Presbyterian Church.

Nominating Committee Report: The committee has two of the three openings for Session filled and they have all three congregational members of the 2026 Nominating Committee selected.

Moderator's Report: Pastor Hilary listed all her activities for the past month and reminded Session that she will be away on September 18 through September 22, and from October 10 through October 17. Carol Wyerman will be filling the pulpit on Sunday, September 21, and Sunday, October 12, 2025.

Session Team Reports (Chair)

Finance & Stewardship (Sue Whitsel): 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 August 30, 2025, there was \$3,123.00 given to our per capita fund. This represents a 54 percent (54%) response, or approximately 76 of our 140 members.

The Finance and Stewardship Committee met on

Thursday, September 11, 2025. We are currently working on and reviewing materials for the 2026 stewardship campaign. The stewardship letter, brochure and estimate of giving cards will be given to Kimberly in preparation for a mailing by mid-October. Stewardship Sunday will be observed at our church on November 2, 2025.

"Session Worksheets" for the new budget were distributed at the August Session meeting. Thus far, two completed worksheets have been returned. We are hopeful that additional worksheets will be received at the September Session meeting. The deadline for turning in the completed worksheet will be on Sunday, October 5, 2025.

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

	Through 08/30/25	Through 08/30/24
Congregational Giving	\$117,954	\$122,703
Building Rental Income	51,042	16,609
Special Offerings	6,984	10,404
=====		
Total Income	\$175,980	\$149,716
Total Expenses	\$214,520	\$140,305
=====		
Surplus (Shortfall)	\$ 38,440	\$ 9,411

Congregational Care (Gail Irwin): There will be one more mailing of coupons in November to the Yokosuka Naval Base. This will be the last mailing of paper coupons as most coupons are now digital. We thank the faithful coupon clippers in our congregation for supporting this project over the years.

The schedules for cards/flowers/transportation were updated for the months of September and October. Sunday's worship service will return to 10:15 am on September 7, so pickup times for transportation to Sunday's service will be adjusted accordingly.

Pastor Hilary and members of the team visited and delivered communion to nine members of our homebound congregants. The next round of scheduled visits will be in November.

Our next scheduled delivery date of birthday cakes to the Presbyterian Village will be on Friday, October 31. Any congregant who is interested in helping by baking a cake should contact Charyl Gardner.

Two “Wellness Wednesday” sessions will be offered by Pastor Hilary, who is a certified health coach. The sessions will be held on Wednesday, October 22, and Sunday, December 21, 2025. *[For more information, see the related article on the last page of this newsletter.]*

Next spring we will have an Anniversary Celebration to recognize congregants who have been members of the church for 50 years. Planning for that occasion will begin after Christmas. The list of members who have attained that benchmark was shared with the committee.

The Advent Dinner will be held on Sunday, December 7, 2025, and we will once again deliver meals to shut-ins. The cookie trays will be assembled on Sunday, December 14. Gail will check on the Angel Tree project which is held to support the Presbyterian Village.

Congregational Fellowship (Amanda Yeager): The team will be serving sweets with a Fall/Halloween theme for our next coffee fellowship scheduled for Sunday, October 5, 2025.

Mission (Judy Hartzell): At the Soup on Saturday event on August 23, we served 49 guests. Seconds were offered at 12:30 pm. A few desserts and some sandwich fillings were delivered to the Family Services Youth Shelter. The next SOS event is scheduled for September 20, 2025. Sloppy joes, bananas, donated soups, beverages and donated desserts will be served. Whenever possible, Betsy Gallace will place an invitation to our SOS in the St. Vincent Pantry food boxes on Thursdays before the event. The October 18 Soup on Saturday menu will include hot dogs, apples, soup, dessert and beverages.

This month’s mission giving includes the Altoona Teen Shelter - \$500 and the Mountain Lion Backpack Program - \$800.

After three years, the Falco/Providence Church Outdoor Food Pantry is much in need of a fresh coat of paint. Betsy will work on a plan for repairs and painting ASAP. The team also discussed inviting other organizations to donate money to the food pantry. This will be further discussed at our next meeting.

In October, we are asking for donations of canned soup and crackers for the Altoona Food Bank. In

addition, any donation of nonperishable food is greatly appreciated. For the outside Food Pantry, donations of nonperishable food items and especially, personal care items are requested.

Outreach (Jane Yerty): The Clothing Giveaway will be held on Saturday, September 27, 2025, from 8:00 am until 12:00 noon. Setup will be on Tuesday, September 23, Wednesday, September 24, and Thursday, September 25, from 9:00 am until 12:00 noon. We welcome helpers. Again this year, we are thankful to Super Shoes for 20% discount coupons to purchase new shoes.

The team forwarded their budget requests to the Finance team.

The Community Garden will close at the end of October. Deb and Mike will notify gardeners and determine if there is a need for a workday.

The Community Library will also close at the end of October. Thanks to Geoff for a great job creating and replacing a sign on the side of the garden.

Our team discussed the upcoming North Pole Toy Giveaway and will begin more detailed planning in October.

We are very thankful for the generous gifts of school supplies to Family Services during the month of September.

Property (Bruce Hazlett): Alec Rossi, our exterior painting contractor, said that they will be finished in two to two-and-a-half weeks. His crew cleaned out the rain spouting. He will be under the estimate even though he will replace the coverings on the two alley windows (work not included in the original proposal).

Our committee is still considering repair to the handicap ramp and steps and they are checking with the Finance team for a recommendation.

Spiritual Enhancement (Heather Wisor): The team discussed reallocating funding on their 2026 budget to better reflect where money is being spent. They determined that no increase in budget will be necessary and will finalize this at their September meeting.

Kimberly purchased new supplies and snacks for each of the Sunday school classrooms.

A volunteer is still needed to assist Miss Bonnie in the nursery in October, November and December.

Breakfast items have been purchased and will start being served on Sunday, September 7, 2025, twenty minutes before Sunday school starts. This will continue each week.

The "Blessing of the Backpacks" was performed on Sunday, September 7.

Worship (Rick Herbster): The acolytes, liturgist and ushers are in place for September.

The team worked on a list of opportunities for people to help the Worship Team. The list includes liturgists, ushers, offering collectors, communion prep, communion servers, acolytes, Christ Candle prep, Advent readers, Christmas Eve readers, piano prep, special music, worship music, soundboard and video helpers and children's chat back-up.

Our offering will be collected via the "traditional method" starting on Sunday, September 7. We discussed the changes this would make in the order of worship.

The 130th anniversary of the 2401 Broad Avenue cornerstone (which was placed on September 28, 1895), will be commemorated on September 28, 2025. All team members present agreed to the commemoration; Pastor Livingston will head the effort.

We discussed the budget for 2026 and will finalize it at our next meeting.

Doors to the office, basement and 24th Street side will be locked at 10:15 am on Sunday mornings for security. If you arrive after that time you will need to use the parking lot door on the 25th Street side.

Calendar Highlights (All dates shown are Sundays unless noted otherwise):

October 5 - World Communion Sunday
October 12 - Carol Wyerman in the pulpit
November 2 - All Saints Day/Communion
November 23 - Christ the King Sunday
November 29 - "Dress the church"
 @ 9:00 am (Saturday)
November 30 - First Sunday of Advent
December 7 - Communion/Advent Dinner
December 24 - Christmas Eve (Wednesday)



Phil Hall Day: There will be a Phil Hall workday on Saturday, October 4, 2025. Property cleanup will take place from 8:00 am until 12:00 pm. We will be pulling weeds, trimming grass, raking leaves, cleaning out garden beds, and working in the garage. All are welcome to help us with this work.

Youth Activity: Youth are invited for an outing to the JB Tree Farm on Sunday, October 5, from 4:00 pm until 6:00 pm. There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

Per Capita: Just a reminder that the Per Capita amount for 2025 is \$41.00 *per member*. If you haven't already done so, please try to meet your per capita obligation by using the special [blue envelope](#) in your box of offering envelopes.

Presbyterians in the Press: Fort Roberdeau director **Glenn Nelson** appeared on a front page *Altoona Mirror* article and photograph in the July 5-6, 2025 edition. Glenn portrayed fort commander Major Robert Cluggage as he allows a young visitor to be the first to ring the Freedom Bell during the Fort's Star Spangled Fourth 2025.



World Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, October 5, 2025, at the 10:15 am worship service. This is also the day to turn in your offering for the Peace & Global Witness special offering if you have not already done so.

Family Services October Donation Needs

Providence Presbyterian Church is collecting the following items for Family Services on the second Sunday in October. Items may be left on the designated shelves located in the 24th Street hallway adjacent to the Fellowship Hall by Sunday, October 12, 2025. Thank you for your support!

Cleaning Supplies & First Aid

Band-Aids®/Neosporin®
Diapers & pull-ups—all sizes
Facial tissues
Toilet bowl cleaner
Comet®/Bleach spray
Laundry detergent
Dish liquid soap
Dishwasher pods

OCTOBER Birthdays & Anniversaries

Megan Burchfield	2
Sammy Yerty	2
Barbara Weigley	10
Paul A. Conway	15
Angie Treese	15
Deb McClain	18
Harlan Schnarrs	19
Joyce Sechrist	21
Dale VanHorne	22
Judy Hartzell	24
Jim Burchfield	26
Allyson Hayford	27
Ashley Hayford	27

Jim & Carlene Carothers	15
Lee & Jane Hite	18
Justin & Angie Treese	27



Wellness Wednesday Workshop: Managing Stress During the Holidays

Wednesday, October 22, 2025, at 11:00 am
at Providence Presbyterian Church

Do you experience more stress than normal during the holiday season?

Could you use some practical tools and guidance to help you manage stress better during the holiday season?

Would you like to have a more relaxed and intentional holiday season this year?

If you answered “yes” to any of the above questions, I invite you to join us for our very first Wednesday Wellness Workshop which is all about helping you have a less stressful, more meaningful holiday season.

In this workshop, you’ll learn to:

- ✓ Set goals and intentions for the upcoming holiday season
- ✓ Prioritize commitments
- ✓ Practice techniques to help you manage stress in the moment

Whether you get stressed about finances, family, or just the general frenzy of the holidays, we invite you to join us for this wellness workshop that will equip you to have a saner, more intentional season.

Light, healthy refreshments will be served.

Invite your friends and neighbors! All are invited to join us!

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