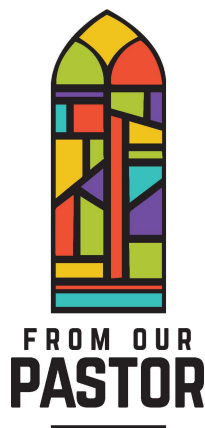




Providence Post

NOVEMBER 2025



A Season of Thanksgiving

In the month of November, we celebrate Thanksgiving – a holiday to gather with family and friends, share a feast together, and reflect upon all our blessings. As Christians, we are called to be a people of gratitude and thanksgiving, remembering all of God’s good gifts to us. During this season, let us all take time to remember God’s goodness to us and to our church.

During this season of giving thanks, let me begin by saying thank you! Thank you for your ongoing support of the ministries and missions of our church. Thanks for rising to the various challenges we’ve faced and being faithful and resilient! Your dedication and commitment to our church truly inspire me, and bear witness to God’s grace at work in our midst. For your dedication of

time, talents and resources to our church, week after week, and year after year, thank you! Your generous gifts and commitment to our congregation make all we do possible.

“I thank my God for every remembrance of you, always in every one of my prayers for all of you, praying with joy for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.” – Philippians 1:3-6

With enthusiastic gratitude, appreciation, and overflowing love,

Pastor Hilary





by Barb Hazlett

(Note: The following highlights are taken from the minutes of the Monday, October 20, 2025, regular Session meeting.)

Clerk's Report: Sixty-seven communicants received communion on World Communion Sunday, October 5.

The Session minutes books were audited on Tuesday, October 7, and our book was found to be in good order. We have been asked to have a "Boundaries" policy, a family leave policy, and a manual of operations, all of which we do not have.

Diane Brandt and Barb Livingston have joined our church through letters of transfer and we welcome them into our congregation.

Next month's Session meeting will be moved to November 10, at 6:30 pm.

It will be necessary to review the rolls for this year.

A member of our church has donated two cemetery plots which are located at Alto-Reste Park. They are to be used if there is someone at our church who passes away without the means to purchase a plot. We will develop guidelines for this donation at a later date.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was reviewed and discussed. A draft copy of the 2026 church budget was distributed and discussed.

Huntingdon Presbytery Report: There was a meeting of Huntingdon Presbytery in September but no one from our church was able to attend.

Nominating Committee Report: All three slots are filled. Judy Hartzell will be nominated to come back on the Session Mission committee. Kathy Rutter will be nominated for the Congregational

Care committee and Dan Slep will be nominated for Personnel.

Moderator's Report: Pastor Hilary listed all her activities for the previous month. She will be leading a regular Bible study at The Winds at Mattern Orchard on Wednesdays at 3:00 pm.

We discussed guidelines for the pastor's discretionary fund as well as setting a policy for purchasing items for the church.

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 is \$5,740.00. For the period ending on September 30, 2025, there was \$3,245.00 paid into the per capita fund, which represents a 57 percent (57%) response, or about 79 of our 140 members.

The per capita rate for 2026 will remain the same as it was for 2025: \$41.00 per individual member of the church. That breaks down to \$27.76 for the Presbytery, \$2.40 for the Synod of the Trinity, and \$10.84 for the General Assembly. Based on our membership of 135 as of December 31, 2024, our annual per capita bill will be \$5,535.00.

Materials for the 2026 stewardship program have been mailed or distributed at the church. Those pledging to the church have been instructed to return their Estimate of Giving cards on or before Stewardship Sunday, November 2, 2025. Pastor Livingston incorporated a stewardship message in her sermon, "Guard the Good Deposit," on Sunday, October 5, 2025.

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

	Through 09/30/25	Through 09/30/24
Congregational Giving	\$130,052	\$137,590
Building Rental Income(*)	51,242	16,609
Special Offerings	7,649	11,154
Total Income	\$188,943	\$165,353
Total Expenses	\$265,130	\$160,748
Surplus (Shortfall)	\$ 76,187	\$ 4,605

(*)Includes a \$50,000 donation for exterior painting in 2025

“Session Worksheets” for the new budget were distributed at the August Session meeting. Thus far, most of the completed worksheets have been returned. The committee has plugged in numbers for the coming year and a draft of the expense side of our 2026 budget was distributed and discussed under the treasurer’s report. At our next Finance and Stewardship meeting, our committee will develop numbers for the income side, and the entire budget will be distributed for approval at the November Session meeting.

Congregational Care (Gail Irwin): There will be one more mailing of coupons in November to the Yokosuka Naval Base in Japan. This will be the last mailing of paper coupons—most coupons are now in digital form. Our thanks to all the faithful coupon “clippers” for supporting this project over the years.

The schedule for Cards/Flowers/Transportation was updated for the months of October and November.

The next cycle of communion for the home-bound is scheduled for November.

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

The first “Wellness Wednesday” session will be offered by Pastor Livingston, who is a certified health coach, on October 22, at 11:00 am. The topic will be “Holidays: The Most Difficult Time of the Year.” Light refreshments will be served.

The committee will submit a list of service opportunities to the Session.

Looking ahead to December: The Advent Dinner will be held on Sunday, December 7, and we will once again deliver meals to shut-ins. The cookie trays will be assembled on Sunday, December 14. Angel gifts for residents at the Presbyterian Village will also be collected and delivered on that date.

Congregational Fellowship (Amanda Yeager): Our team will talk to John Gallace regarding the Advent Dinner. On Sunday, November 2, our coffee fellowship will consist of fall items.

Mission (Judy Hartzell) : Peggy Horner and Judy attended a meeting of county agencies who have various kinds of help available.

The outdoor food pantry was painted; lettering will be added soon.

Our Peace and Global Witness special offering ended on World Communion Sunday, October 5. The total collected was \$425.00, of which, our church will receive \$106.25.

Soup on Saturday served 39 in September and 30 in October. In November, the menu calls for a choice of meatball or ham barbeque sandwiches, soup, fruit, desserts and beverages.

November mission giving includes Altoona Food Bank - \$500; Healing Patch - \$500; and Operation Our Town - \$400.

Community donations include the Altoona Food Bank: stuffing and instant potatoes. For the Providence outdoor food pantry: nonperishable food items and personal care items.

Outreach (Jane Yerty): We are very thankful to our church family for their generosity and assistance with the Clothing Giveaway on Saturday, September 27. Not only were you very forthcoming with providing gently used clothing and purchasing new shoes, but also came yourselves to provide service in sorting and setting up, cleaning up and transporting leftover items to other mission outreaches.

We want to gratefully acknowledge the partnerships with Shoe Fly and Super Shoes to provide new shoes for the giveaway. More than 300 people attended and 80+ pairs of new shoes found homes with people who needed them. Numerous pairs of gently used shoes were also available, and they went to new homes.

The Community Garden and Community Library will be closing at the end of October.

The North Pole Toy Giveaway will be held on Saturday, December 13. More details to follow.

Thank you also for your continued support of Family Services.

Property (Bruce Hazlett): Patterson Contracting gave us a bid of \$12,700 to repair the handicap access ramp and the steps to the office. So that work could be started as soon as possible, Session members were asked to respond via text and all members sent their approval for this work.

There is now a key to the family restroom. The toilet is also repaired.

Our painting contractor (Rossi) has completed the exterior church painting. Work on the ramp will begin this week.

Spiritual Enhancement (Heather Wisor): The team completed their budget for 2026.

They met with Bev Moss-Oswalt to discuss better ways to enrich the space that Tyler uses during the church service. She suggested that a photo album be created with names so that he can recognize children and adults. She also mentioned that Tyler really enjoys different types of transportation vehicles and also nature. The team will continue to discuss various options with Bev in hopes of updating Tyler's area to be more accommodating.

JB Tree Farm - A sign-up sheet is hanging in the back of Fellowship Hall. The price is \$5.00 per family and the event will be held on Sunday, October 5, from 4:00 pm until 6:00 pm.

Soup-er Cook-Off - This event is being held in honor of Lundyn Treese and is scheduled for Saturday, October 25, from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

Trunk or Treat will be held on Sunday, October 26, from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

A candlelight vigil/remembrance ceremony in honor of Lundyn Treese is scheduled for Monday, October 27, and is open to the community. Our youth would like to create a slide show. The first 30-to-40 minutes is intended for friends and family to mingle freely and talk about the good memories of Lundyn. The second half of the program will be used for a few designated speakers who want to talk to the entire group, then closing with prayer and song.

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

Rick presented our "Serving the Church" team list

to Session at the last Session meeting.

The Worship Team budget is complete and Rick will give it to the Finance and Stewardship committee.

We are now locking the basement and 24th Street doors by 10:15 am.

Christmas poinsettias will again cost \$8.00 for a 6½-inch pot. We will have the option of red, white, pink or marble colors. This information will be placed in our church bulletins beginning in November. Orders must be placed by Sunday, November 23, 2025.

We discussed plans for World Communion Sunday.

Calendar Highlights (All dates are on a Sunday unless otherwise noted.):

November 2 - "All Saints' Day" Sunday;
Daylight Savings Time ends; We will recognize members and friends that have passed away over the previous year; Communion will be observed and it's also Stewardship Sunday
November 23 - Christ the King Sunday
November 29 - "Dress the Church" Saturday at 9:00 am
November 30 - First Sunday of Advent
December 7 - Second Sunday of Advent;
Communion & Advent Dinner
December 21 - "Blue Christmas" service at 2:00 pm
December 24 - Christmas Eve Service
Wednesday; Music starts at 6:00 pm; Service starts at 6:30 pm
December 28 - Café Church & Christmas Carol Sing
January 4, 2026 - Epiphany Sunday;
Communion; "Undress the Church"
January 11 - Baptism of the Lord



Family Services November Donation Needs

Providence Presbyterian Church is collecting the following items for Family Services on the second Sunday in November. Items may be left on the designated shelves located in the 24th Street hallway adjacent to the Fellowship Hall by Sunday, November 9, 2025. Thank you for your support!

Category: Household Items

Blankets/sheet sets - twin size
Pillows & pillow cases
Towels & washcloths
Dish cloths & towels
Bathroom rugs
Facial tissues
Turkey, ham & side dishes
for a Thanksgiving dinner
Gift cards for grocery stores

Watch for a new donation category in December!

Advent Dinner

The 2025 Advent dinner will be held on Sunday, December 7, immediately following the morning worship service. Please consider joining us to celebrate the Christmas season. You can make reservations until Sunday, November 23, on the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall. This will be the last day to place your name and number attending the dinner. A delicious meal will be prepared that you'll want to enjoy with your church family. There is no charge for the dinner, but a donation basket will be provided. Hope to see you there!

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Editor: Barry E. Gaut.
Church Website: www.providencepc-altoona.org

NOVEMBER Birthdays & Anniversaries

Bret Hayford	5
Skyler Zeigler	5
Delaine Wisor	9
Carole Parsons	9
Micah Yerty	13
Sue Whitsel	14
Gaylend Young	15
Teegan Brogan	17
Izzy Burchfield	18
Mike Larrimore	18
Jeanie Mollica	18
Elaine Bender	18
Marcia Dravis	21
Ian Adams	25

Dick & Elaine Bender	11
Brad & Sandy Settle	21
Allen & Bobbie Gibboney	26
Dutch & Donna Yeisley	26

Thank You Note

Thank you from the Outreach Team.

Your very generous support of our recent Clothing Giveaway was certainly appreciated. Many of you, as well as donating items, came and helped sort. This was a great help! We want to acknowledge the generous support of Shoe Fly and Super Shoes to assist in providing over 80 pairs of new shoes. More than 300 people benefitted from your offerings of clothing, shoes and winter coats. Hopefully, this Outreach Event, supplied by your generosity, will make the winter months more comfortable for our friends and neighbors.

*Thanks,
Jane Yerty*





Time and Talents

By Sue Whitsel

“Blessed by God to be a Blessing” is our stewardship emphasis for this year. These are powerful words as we consider how God has blessed us.

As managers of all that God has entrusted to us, we have been blessed abundantly. Though perhaps some have been blessed more than others, all of us have been and continue to be the recipients of God’s blessings.

Why does God bless us so abundantly? He does so for one simple yet profound reason – because He loves us. It is God’s love for us that causes Him to provide for us all that we have.

Some might conclude that because of their lifestyle, family background or social standing, they deserve God’s beneficial treatment. Others might reason that their good works entitle them to be the recipients of God’s blessings.

Still others might conclude that God made a mistake in determining their place on the economic spectrum, so they spend their time and energy trying to help God correct that error. Whether fretting daily over financial matters, diligently searching for a “get-rich-quick” scheme, or engaging in some activity that will allow them to win large sums of money, their dissatisfaction with God’s provision causes them to get sidetracked spiritually.

The mature Christian, however, realizes that God is the Source of everything, that God owns everything, and that all we have is in one way or another a blessing from God. The mature Christian seeks ways to use God’s gifts to bless God and to be a blessing to others. And the mature Christian accepts with a spirit of contentment and thanksgiving what God has provided.

Consider how God has blessed your life and please

seek His direction concerning how you should respond. Remember, we have been “blessed by God to be a blessing.” Or as one anonymous author put it, “The greatest blessing comes to the one who freely gives and expects nothing in return.”



Stewardship: It’s that time of year when your Session is working on a new budget for 2026. Your pledge to the church helps us greatly as we create a new spending plan. A big “Thank You” to those of you who have already turned in your estimate of giving card. For those who have not yet turned in their card, please remember to do so on or before Stewardship Sunday on November 2, 2025. If you need one, call the church office at 814-944-7258.

Coffee Fellowship: A reminder to stay following our morning worship service on Sunday, November 2, for coffee fellowship in our Fellowship Hall. We will be enjoying some fall treats including pumpkin pie, ginger bread and pumpkin rolls courtesy of our Congregational Fellowship Team.

