



Providence Post

DECEMBER 2025



Join Us for Advent and Christmas Season at PPC



FROM OUR
PASTOR

What would you do if you were not afraid?

That's the bold question author and pastor Erin Wathen asks in her book, ***Calling All Angels: An Advent Study of Fearlessness and Strength***. Pastor Hilary will be incorporating elements from Pastor Wathen's book into her Advent sermon series.

From the author: *"Life can be daunting, filled with uncertainty and fears. It wasn't any different two thousand years ago when Jesus was born...In this captivating Advent study and devotional, Pastor Erin Wathen challenges us to take this timeless message and apply it to our lives today. Calling All Angels asks us to contemplate what would change in our relationships, vocations, congregations, and communities if we have the courage to overcome our fears like Mary, Joseph, Zechariah, and the Shepherds in the story."*

Please get the *Calling All Angels* book! It contains teaching and daily devotionals that will enhance your understanding of the biblical figures in the Christmas story, as well as deepen your own relationships with God. **You can order the book here:** <https://www.amazon.com/Calling-All-Angels-Fearlessness-Strength/dp/0664268978>

If your budget is limited, the church will be happy to order a book for you—please see Pastor Hilary for details. We'll also be *studying this book* in our **Thursday morning Bible study at 11:30 am in the Fellowship Hall**. All are welcome to join in this time of fellowship, study, and thoughtful discussion. There's even an accompanying playlist on Spotify that you can access for free at this link:

https://open.spotify.com/playlist/3xOXYhpgF6929nh3OFCfG4?_authfailed=1

Join us each Sunday in Advent as we learn from the biblical figures of the nativity story and grow together in fearlessness and strength. And join us for our **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on Wednesday, December 24th**—special music begins at 6:00 pm and lessons and carols begins at 6:30 pm. Invite your friends, family, and neighbors to join us for this special celebration!

Then join us the **Sunday after Christmas on December 28th at 10:15 am for café church** where we will eat, drink, sing carols, and celebrate the joy of Christ's birth. Bring your leftover cookies and holiday treats to share, and wear your most outlandish holiday outfits (ugly sweaters, Christmas PJ's, etc.).

We hope you will join us at Providence Presbyterian Church for the Advent & Christmas season!

Blessings,

Pastor Hilary



By Barb Hazlett

(Note: The following highlights are taken from the minutes of the Monday, November 10, 2025, regular Session meeting.)

Clerk's Report: Sixty-nine communicants received communion on Sunday, November 2.

The pastors in Huntingdon Presbytery would like to have a worship service with a lunch following for Advent. The proposed date is on Tuesday, December 2, 2025. They would like our church to host the event (as we are in a reasonably central location for the presbytery). It would consist of a worship service at 11:00 am with a lunch to follow. Huntingdon Presbytery will provide the meal. This will be a worship/fellowship opportunity for the pastors of the presbytery. The presbytery will do the work of organizing the service and funding the lunch. This was made and approved as an email motion due to the timing.

There have been a couple of requests for donations recently that were made without going through the Session. The clerk reminded Session members that any fundraising activity or special offerings should be approved by Session first. If the need is urgent, the request for approval can be done electronically.

Our Sunday school classes will use 12 of the (older) green Celebration hymnals to make Christmas trees.

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

Our 2026 budget was distributed, discussed and approved.

Huntingdon Presbytery Report: The next meeting of Huntingdon Presbytery will be held on Tuesday, November 11, at the Bedford Presbyterian Church.

Pastor Livingston will be in attendance.

Nominating Committee Report: All slots are filled. Judy Hartzell will be nominated to come back on Session; Kathy Rutter will be nominated for Congregational Care; and Dan Slep will be nominated for Personnel.

Jim Burchfield, Dave Dravis and Sue Stephens will be nominated for the 2026 Nominating Committee.

Moderator's Report: Pastor Hilary listed all her activities for the past month. She will take a three-day study leave from Monday, December 29, through Wednesday, December 31, 2025, for planning for the new year. Pastor Livingston will also take four days of study leave in 2026: March 9 through March 12, to attend the Lumosity Conference sponsored by the Presbyterian Foundation.

Pastor Hilary asked for discussion regarding the discretionary fund—no decisions were made at this time.

Session Team Reports (Chair)

Finance & Stewardship (Sue Whitsel): The 2025 per capita amount 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 October 30, 2025, there was \$3,370.00 given to our per capita fund. This represents a 59 percent (59%) response, or approximately 82 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 12/31/2024, our annual per capita bill will be \$5,535.00, which is payable in four installments of \$1,383.75.

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. Thus far, we have received pledges from a total of 45 giving

units (single members plus families) for a total of \$144,048. For comparison, last year’s figure was 42 pledges for a total of \$153,220.

At our October Finance & Stewardship committee meeting, we developed numbers for the income side of our church budget. The entire budget (both income and expense) will be distributed for discussion and approval at the November Session meeting.

The Monthly Financial Summary is shown below:

	Through 10/30/25	Through 10/30/24
Congregational Giving	\$143,592	\$156,196
Building Rental Income(*)	51,242	16,669
Special Offerings	8,354	12,129
Total Income	\$203,288	\$184,994
Total Expenses	\$311,941	\$184,028
Surplus (Shortfall)	\$108,753	\$ 966

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

Congregational Care (Gail Irwin): Judy mailed the last batch of coupons to the Yokohama Naval Base in Japan. Our thanks to all the faithful coupon clippers in our congregation for supporting this project over the years.

The schedule for cards/flowers/transportation was updated for the months of November and December. Directory changes will be made after Session reviews the rolls.

The next round of visits/communion for our homebound members is scheduled with Pastor Hilary for November.

The birthday cake deliveries to the Presbyterian Village at Hollidaysburg are done for the year. Charyl Gardner will coordinate with the Village social director for the 2026 schedule.

Our first “Wellness Wednesday” session, held on October 22, was well received. A “Blue Christmas” service is scheduled for Sunday, December 21, at 2:00 pm, in our sanctuary.

Looking ahead to December: The Advent Dinner will be held on Sunday, December 7; meals will be delivered to homebound congregants. Holiday cookie trays will be assembled and distributed on

Sunday, December 14, to select congregants. The Angel Tree gifts for residents at the Presbyterian Village will also be assembled and delivered on December 14. Linda McKee has again volunteered to coordinate this project.

The committee discussed ways to best reach out and be helpful to our church families.

Gail explained per capita to the Session and requested that we remind the congregation of this obligation in a letter. Congregational Care has offered to pay the postage for this mailing. This per capita letter will be mailed in January 2026.

Congregational Fellowship (Amanda Yeager): The Advent Dinner will be held on Sunday, December 7, 2025. John Gallace will oversee the meal for this dinner.

Our coffee fellowship on Sunday, January 4, 2026, will be cheese and crackers.

Outreach (Jane Yerty): Our North Pole Toy Giveaway will be held on Saturday, December 13, from 10:00 am until Noon (or as long as supplies last). *[See the “North Pole Toy Giveaway” article in this newsletter.—Ed.]* Advertising for the Giveaway will be via Mt. Lion Backpack, Facebook and our church website. There will be wrapping stations again this year, but with more emphasis on gift bags to streamline the process. The decision on how many gifts per child will be made based on the amount of donations—last year we gave two large and one small gift per child plus stuffed animals and books. A bulletin insert and newsletter article will be provided to inform our church family.

The Community Garden and Library are closed for the season. We are continuing to encourage gardeners to clean out their gardens.

Family Services: Giving continues—watch our church bulletins for more information.

The Outreach team will update and prepare Visitor’s Bags at our January meeting. They are also asking Session to tweak and provide further guidance for the church name tags since they have several questions that need addressing. Also, 30 additional lanyards will be ordered so that they can be given to the youth.

Personnel (Bob Hollingsworth): Our office

administrator, Kimberly, will now receive a third week of vacation since she has 20 years of service.

Property (Bruce Hazlett): The church exterior painting project is now complete except for some minor paint touch-up on the office door.

Patterson Contracting will be finishing the concrete work by mid-November. This will complete all the exterior repair projects for the year.

On the interior, two toilets have been repaired.

For 2026, we will investigate rebuilding the steps on the 24th Street side of the church and the large overhead door between the sanctuary and the Fellowship Hall.

Spiritual Enhancement (Heather Wisor): The youth would like to put together holiday meal bags for the families shopping the Toy Giveaway to further help them this holiday season. They will collect money at the doors on Sunday, November 16, November 23, and November 30. Any leftover bags will be donated for Jane Falco to use at the outdoor food pantry or they could be distributed to people at the Soup on Saturday event.

There are no activities planned for November. In December, the youth will be shopping for items to fill the holiday meal bags. A date for this activity has yet to be determined.

Our youth will be singing and making a few readings during the Children's Chat on Sunday, December 14. In January, the youth will be creating "Birthday Boxes." Details to follow.

On Monday, January 12, 2026, at 6:00 pm, there will be a meeting with anyone at the church who works with children to review policies and update clearances. Megan Burchfield will send an email to Kimberly to place this notice in the newsletter as well as make announcements at church.

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

Just a reminder that the door to the basement will remain locked on Sunday mornings.

Rick will get readers for the Advent Wreath Candle Lightings/Readings.

On Tuesday, December 2, there will be a Presbytery Pastoral Workshop and lunch for all the pastors in Huntingdon Presbytery. This event will be held at our church and the Presbytery will be responsible for the service and the lunch.

Steve and Carole Parsons will pick up the Christmas poinsettias on Tuesday, December 23.

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

November 29: (Saturday) "Dress the Church" for Advent from 9:00 am until 11:00 am

November 30: First Sunday of Advent; Sermon Series: "Calling All Angels"

December 7: Second Sunday of Advent/ Communion; Advent Dinner; The congregation is encouraged to wear their Christmas attire

December 14: Third Sunday of Advent; The Brass Ensemble will be playing

December 21: Fourth Sunday of Advent; Blue Christmas/Longest Night observance at 2:00 pm

December 24: (Wednesday) Christmas Eve Service, Music at 6:00 pm, Service at 6:30 pm; We will have a "Lesson in Carols"

December 28: Christmas Café Church; Bring your leftover Christmas cookies and this is the last chance to wear your Christmas outfits

January 4, 2026: Communion/Epiphany Sunday/ "Undress the Church" following the morning worship service

January 11: Baptism of the Lord; New Session members will be installed

February 1: Communion

February 15: Transfiguration of the Lord

February 18: Ash Wednesday (Easter Sunday is on April 5!)

At the beginning of the year, we will discuss with the youth how they want to handle their song choices.

Family Services December Donation Needs

Providence Presbyterian Church is collecting the following items for Family Services on the second Sunday in December. Items may be left on the designated shelves located in the 24th Street hallway adjacent to the Fellowship Hall.

Category: Holiday Items

Holiday gifts for infants, children,
teens and adults
Gift cards for local stores
Crayons/Markers/Play dough
Disinfectant wipes
Facial tissues
Pajamas (all sizes)
Craft supplies
Slippers
Warm socks for kids and adults
Ice & snow melt (salt)

Watch for a new donation category in January 2026!



Congregational Meeting: A congregational meeting was held following the morning worship service on Sunday, November 16. Pastor Hilary Livingston, moderated the meeting.

Heather Wisor, representing the Nominating Committee, announced a slate of three elders for the Session class of 2028: Judy Hartzell, Kathy Rutter and Dan Slep. A motion was approved to elect the three candidates.

Heather then presented three members of the congregation-at-large for the five-member Nominating Committee of 2026: Jim Burchfield, Dave Dravis and Sue Stephens. A motion was approved to elect these three members to the

Nominating Committee.

Pastor Livingston introduced the treasurer, Barry Gaut, who reviewed various sections of the 2026 budget and the new terms of call for Pastor Livingston. A motion was approved to receive the budget and approve the new terms of call.

There was no old or new business; Pastor Livingston adjourned the meeting with prayer.

Per Capita: As the year winds down, please remember that the Per Capita amount for 2025 is \$41.00 *per member*. If you have not yet paid your per capita, please use the special [blue envelope](#) in your box of offering envelopes to do so.

2026 Tithing Envelopes: New offering envelopes will be ready on Sunday, December 7. The boxes will be located on a table in the Fellowship Hall. They are arranged in alphabetical order and have your name on top of the box.

Session Team Reports: We are asking all Session members to please submit your report from each ministry team to Kimberly by Thursday, January 15, 2026. These reports will be included in our annual report, which will be distributed at the February 2026 Congregational Meeting.

Christmas Eve: This year's Christmas Eve service on Wednesday, December 24, will begin with a Musical Prelude at 6:00 pm, and continue with the Candlelight Worship Service at 6:30 pm.

Lights and Locks: We are in need of volunteers to "Open & Lock-Up" the church each month next year. There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall if you are able to help open and lock-up for one month in 2026.

Flower Calendar: If you would like to remember loved ones or honor a special event, please sign the *2026 Flower Calendar*, which is located in the 24th Street hallway adjacent to the Fellowship Hall. The cost is fifty dollars (\$50) for two vases.

Outdoor Food Pantry: Thank you so much to all that have helped keep the church's outdoor food pantry filled. The extra food has helped many people, especially during these days of extra hardship. Two bags of food are placed outside each day which includes two boxes of cereal and three personal care items.

DECEMBER Birthdays & Anniversaries

Vallarie Iapalucci	2
Devyn Little	2
George Greiner III	4
Dick Bender	7
Jane Hite	7
Patty Gentsch	10
Jeff Stanek	10
Amanda Stanek	11
Dave Adams	11
Dee Schnarrs	12
Dennis Braun	13
Rich Slutzker	14
Suzanne Slep	14
Kathy Rutter	16
Irelynn Treese	22
Devon Yerty	27
Sharon Judd	28
Zoe Yerty	28
Emilee Hollingsworth	29

Dennis & Kathy Braun	18
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Donation Drop-off Schedule/Volunteer Opportunities:

The following days and times will be available for individuals to drop off donations and assist with set-up and cleaning. Individuals, families, or community groups can sign up to volunteer along with our church members.

We are **especially** looking for volunteers for the event to assist with gift wrapping and assisting attendees. A volunteer sign-up sheet is available in our Fellowship Hall. Volunteers are asked to bring in tape dispensers (not disposable) if they have them.

- Sunday, December 7th, 5:00 - 7:00 pm
- Monday, December 8th, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
- Tuesday, December 9th, 6:00 - 7:30 pm
- Wednesday, December 10th, 9:00 - 11:00 am
- Thursday, December 11th, 6:00 - 7:30 pm
- Friday, December 12th, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm
- Saturday, December 13th, **NORTH POLE GIVEAWAY** to be held at 10:00 am

Toy Giving Guidelines:

- All toys should be new or used toys that are unbroken, not rusted, and in good condition.
- Games and puzzles should be complete and have all pieces. Please place games/puzzles in Ziploc or grocery bag so that the pieces will not get lost.
- Dolls should have all parts. Place doll clothes and accessories in a plastic bag and secure them with the doll.
- Electronics should be in working condition. Batteries do not have to be included.
- Bicycles, tricycles, and riding toys should be in working condition.
- Sports equipment such as bowling or golfing sets should be boxed or placed in a sealed plastic bag.
- No guns, spears, or swords will be accepted.
- All books should be in new or good condition. No tears in pages/covers nor stains.
- Clothing and food will not be accepted.

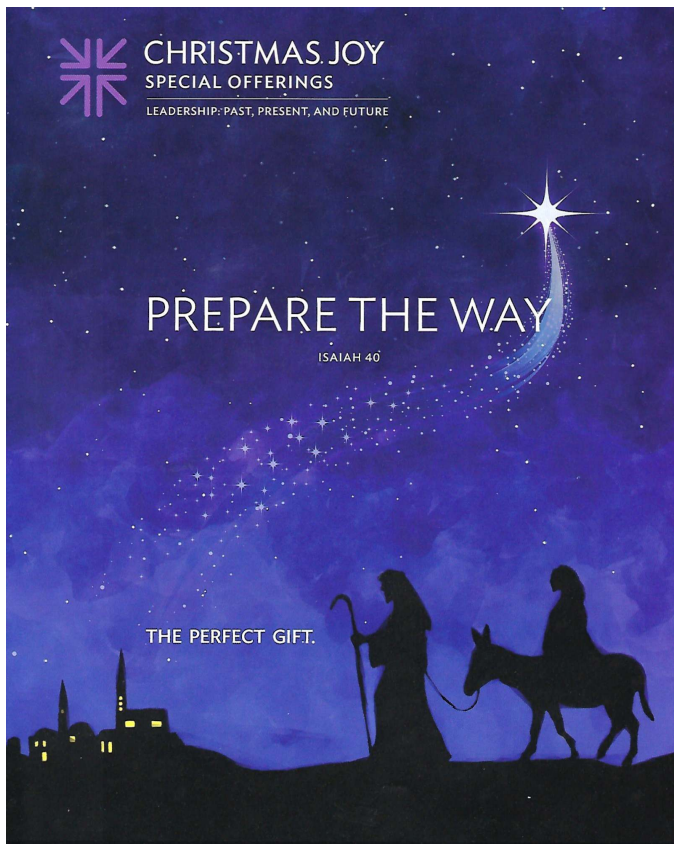
Any questions, please contact: Janelle Yerty, 814-934-1209, Janelle.yerty@gmail.com



Our church is once again hosting a USED and NEW toy drive in preparation for a “North Pole Giveaway” to provide parents/caregivers an opportunity to select toys/books. Last year, we provided about 300 gifts to the 80 families that attended the event. To provide this giveaway, we are asking for donations of gently used or new toys. Suggestions for toys by age group are listed below as well as the **Toy Giving Guidelines** (which are also posted in the Fellowship Hall).

Younger Children—Baby dolls, cars/trucks, pretend play toys

Older Children—Art/craft or science kits, Lego sets, sports balls, keychains, fidgets, card games



Christmas Joy Offering

The prophet Isaiah gives those listening to him a very particular task to prepare the way for the coming Messiah, the person we know as Jesus. Isaiah proclaims that to prepare the way is to make highways easily navigable, fill in valleys, flatten hills, level the ground, and make the earth smooth. Then and only then, will God's glory be revealed, and this will cause all humanity to see that God has spoken to us.

Your gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering combine with gifts from thousands of congregations throughout our denomination to do our part to repair the world and to ensure our siblings have the tools they need to flourish. Your gifts prepare the way for the God we know in Jesus Christ, the child whose birth we celebrate.

Designated offering envelopes will be available at the church. If you are mailing your contribution, mark "Christmas Joy Offering" on the memo line of your check. Thank you for supporting this special offering of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

A Thank-You from the Finance & Stewardship Committee

On behalf of the Session Finance & Stewardship Committee, thanks for your participation in this year's stewardship emphasis, "Blessed by God to be a Blessing." Your support, along with others here at Providence Presbyterian Church, is very much appreciated.

As we continue to serve the Lord together in this ministry, may God bless your life and all that you do for the sake of the Gospel in the days ahead.

Child Safety Meeting

We will be holding a Child Safety Meeting in our Fellowship Hall on Monday, January 12, 2026, at 6:00 pm. We ask that all church members and staff who work with or volunteer in any capacity with our youth, or who help with events that youth/children from the community attend, to come to this meeting. This includes youth event volunteers, Vacation Bible School, Sunday school (singing with the kids), Junior Church, Soup on Saturday, Outreach (toy giveaway, clothing giveaway). Pastor Hilary will be going over updated guidelines and procedures to protect the children that are a part of our church as well as those from the community. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Hilary.



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Blue Christmas/Longest Night Prayer Service

Sunday, December 21, 2025 @ 2:00 PM

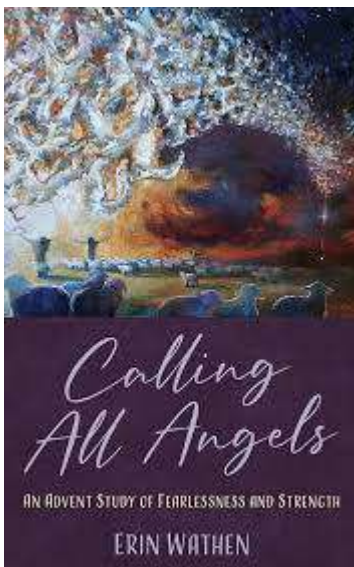
Providence Presbyterian Church Sanctuary

To feel “blue” means to feel sad, downcast, or melancholy.

If the holiday season is not “the most wonderful time of the year” for you, join us for this time of reflection, meditation, and finding hope amidst the hard times.

All are invited.

Blue Christmas “To-Go” kits are available outside the pastor’s office
for those who can’t attend in person.



Thursday Morning

Bible Study

Thursday mornings at 11:30
AM in the Fellowship Hall

Beginning in December:

***Calling All Angels: An
Advent Study of Fearlessness
and Strength***