



# Providence Post

JANUARY 2026



**FROM OUR  
PASTOR**

Dear PPC family,

I saw this recently in the *Presbyterian Outlook* magazine, and I thought I'd share it with you all as we look forward to 2026.

Blessings,

*Pastor Hilary*

## A Blessing for the Year to Come

*By Rev. Walter Canter, Pastor of Blue Ridge Presbyterian Church*

*Published in the Presbyterian Outlook – December 17, 2025*

In January, when your resolutions become forgotten promises, may you be blessed with a voice saying, "I like you just the way you are."

In February, when your nose chafes and your lips crack, may you be blessed with cooling balms and steaming beverages.

In March, when your bracket inevitably underperforms expectations, may you be blessed with blossoms and the shoots of green leaves.

In April, when mud tracks across your entryway and your garden grows roots, may you be blessed with patience, humility and grace.

In May, when teachers proclaim endings and the sun proclaims beginnings, may you be blessed with the eternal possibility of "between."

In June, when the water is too cold and the cement is too hot, may you be blessed with joyful shouts and splashes.

In July, when time warps in a way that is impossibly both treeline-blurring and puddle-stagnant, may you be blessed with a fresh breath to fill your lungs.

In August, when sweat trickles rivers across your porous skin, may you be blessed with evaporation.

In September, when your cursor blinks uselessly against your to-do list, may you be blessed with pleasant daydreams.

In October, when you begin to gripe about your neighbor's Christmas decorations, may you be blessed with an angel who reminds you that the lights are a symbol of hope in the darkness.

In November, when you celebrate saints, may you be blessed by their memory.

In December, when the wax runs from candle wicks in stalactite tears, may you be blessed with heavenly peace.

In the year to come, when life provides moments of unparalleled joy, unprecedented sorrow, or inexplicable happenstance, may you be blessed in remembering that you are a beloved child of God.



by Barb Hazlett

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

**Clerk's Report:** Seventy-seven communicants received communion on Sunday, December 7.

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

**Moderator's Report:** Pastor Hilary listed all her activities for the past month.

Our pastor will be taking five days vacation and two days study leave from Monday, January 26, through Monday, February 2, 2026. We will need to fill the pulpit on Sunday, February 1, 2026. She plans to do ministry-related reading during her study leave.

### 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. For the period ending on November 30, 2025, there was \$3,821.00 paid into the per capita fund. This represents a 67 percent (67%) response, or approximately 93 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 quarterly installments of \$1,383.75.

The 2026 budget was approved by Session at the

November meeting. This budget was presented to the congregation at our annual meeting on Sunday, November 16, 2025, and the terms of call for Pastor Livingston were reviewed. A motion was approved to receive the budget and approve the new terms of call.

The Monthly Financial Summary is shown below:

	Through 11/30/25	Through 11/30/24
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Congregational Giving	\$160,456	\$174,927
Building Rental Income(*)	51,242	16,669
Special Offerings	9,809	14,373
=====	=====	=====
Total Income	\$221,507	\$205,969
Total Expenses	\$346,214	\$207,201
=====	=====	=====
Surplus (Shortfall)	\$124,707	\$ 1,232

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

**Congregational Care (Gail Irwin):** The team assisted Pastor Hilary by delivering November communion to homebound members. They also delivered Advent dinners and cookie trays to our homebound members as well as Christmas gifts to the Presbyterian Village at Hollidaysburg.

**Congregational Fellowship (Amanda Yeager):** Our Advent Dinner on Sunday, December 7, went well and \$270 was donated toward the meal.

**Spiritual Enhancement (Heather Wisor):** The youth went shopping with money collected during Vacation Bible School and donations from the congregation. The money was used to purchase groceries used to fill 100 meal bags. All 100 bags were distributed at the North Pole Giveaway on Saturday, December 13.

In January 2026, the youth will be creating birthday boxes. Each box will include cake mix, icing, candles, sprite and a pan. Megan Burchfield and the youth will be asking for donations from the congregation to help support this effort which will benefit people in need in the community.

**Worship (Rick Herbster):** Acolytes, liturgists and ushers are set for December.

The Presbytery Pastoral Worship Lunch that was supposed to be held at our church on Tuesday, December 2, was cancelled due to weather. On that note, we discussed our Winter Weather

Service cancellation process. Barb Hazlett will get the email list from Kimberly so that she can email all members that have current email addresses. Rick and Ellie Herbster will check the directory to see who does not have an email address. Rick will make an announcement to the congregation regarding ways to check for a church service cancellation (email, website and Facebook).

Steve and Carole Parsons will pick up the poinsettias on Tuesday, December 23, with help from Dave Brownell, as we ordered 63.

We discussed groups that will do the readings and light the candles for Advent Sundays.

The dates for communion in 2026 are: January 4, February 1, March 1, April 2 (Maundy Thursday), May 3, June 7, July 5, August 2, September 6, October 4, November 1, and December 6.

We also discussed all the aspects of the Christmas Eve service. The offering will be given to the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. Christmas Joy Offering.

Calendar Highlights—Looking Ahead:

January 4, 2026: Epiphany Sunday/Communion;  
“Undress the Church”

January 11: Baptism of the Lord; Installation of the  
new Session members

February 1: Communion

February 15: Transfiguration of the Lord

February 18: Ash Wednesday

April 2: Maundy Thursday/Communion

April 5: Easter Sunday

It was suggested that we look for new Christmas trees after the holidays.

**Calendar Review:** Pastor Hilary reviewed all the important dates coming up for the month.

**Giving and Serving Opportunities:** Pastor Hilary distributed a list of opportunities that will go out to the congregation as a bulletin insert on the last Sunday of the month. Session members reviewed the list.

## Newsletter Deadlines for 2026

Issue	Deadline
February 2026	Tuesday, January 20, 2026
March	Tuesday, February 17
April	Tuesday, March 17
May	Tuesday, April 21
June	Tuesday, May 19
July/August	Tuesday, June 16
September	Tuesday, August 18
October	Tuesday, September 22
November	Tuesday, October 20
December	Tuesday, November 17
January 2027	Tuesday, December 22

## Family Services January Donation Needs

Providence Presbyterian Church is collecting the following items for Family Services by the second Sunday in January. Items may be left on the designated shelves located in the 24<sup>th</sup> Street hallway adjacent to the Fellowship Hall no later than January 11, 2026. Thank you!

### Category: Paper & Baby Products

Paper towels  
Garbage bags  
Toilet paper  
Quart & gallon-sized zipper bags  
Baby soap, shampoo, lotion  
Diapers and pull-ups—all sizes  
Baby wipes  
Feminine hygiene products  
Facial tissues

Watch for a new donation category in February!





## JANUARY Birthdays

**Per Capita:** Just a reminder that the Per Capita amount for 2026 remains unchanged from last year and is \$41.00 *per member*. Please use the special [blue envelope](#) (the very first envelope) in your new box of offering envelopes to pay your per capita amount.

**2026 Tithing Envelopes:** New offering envelopes are ready for pickup. 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. If you can't find a box with your name on it, please call Kimberly (814-944-7258).

**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 24<sup>th</sup> Street hallway adjacent to the Fellowship Hall. The cost is fifty dollars (\$50) for two vases.

**Thank You Note:** Thanks to everyone who chose a "Senior Angel Gift" for the residents of the Presbyterian Village at Hollidaysburg at Christmas time. You certainly created a grateful smile for a special someone on Christmas morning.

**Session Committee Reports:** The report from each ministry team must be submitted to our church office administrator (Kimberly) no later than Sunday, January 18, 2026. These reports will be included in the annual report, which will be distributed at our annual regational meeting in February.

**Birthday Cards:** Our congregation is reminded to sign the birthday cards that are located every Sunday on one of the tables located in the Fellowship Hall.

John Gallace	1
Mike McClain	2
Glenn Nelson Jr.	2
Jeannine Fagley	3
Dennis McGeary	5
Matt Judd	6
MaryAnne Hollingsworth	8
Ken Lynch	11
Jane Yerty	16
Sonya Zeigler	18
Abby Burchfield	22
Linda Hart	22
Paul R. Conway	27
Oakley Thompson	28
Trey Payne	29
Jack Camberg	30



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