



# Providence Post



APRIL 2026



## FROM OUR PASTOR

### Observe Holy Week and Celebrate Easter in Community!

This month, we observe Holy Week - the most important observances of the Church year. This week commemorates the suffering, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus the Messiah. Holy week can be challenging to observe, particularly the days that focus on Christ's betrayal

and suffering on the cross. However, if we commit to observing this important week, we can grow in our faith in powerful ways.

Holy week begins on Palm Sunday. It commemorates Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem on a donkey. The people waved palm branches and shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" as Jesus rode into Jerusalem.

Maundy Thursday is observed on the Thursday following Palm Sunday. The English term "Maundy" comes from the Latin term *mandatum novum* which means "new commandment." as recorded in John 13:34, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." On this night, Jesus washed the disciples' feet before celebrating the Passover meal with them before his arrest.

Good Friday is observed on Friday of Holy Week. "Good" refers to "a day or season observed as holy by the church." Good Friday is also called "good" because on this day, Christ showed his love for humanity by dying on the cross for our salvation.

Easter Sunday is the culmination of Holy Week when we commemorate the disciples' discovering the empty tomb and celebrate Christ's resurrection from the dead. We celebrate the promise that because Jesus lives, we too will have eternal life in him!

There are several opportunities to observe Holy Week and celebrate Easter with us at PPC. Join us for worship on Palm Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> as we begin the solemn commemoration of Jesus' passion. On Maundy Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, we will have a worship service with communion at 7:00 PM in our sanctuary. On Good Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, we're partnering with our Presbyterian friends for a community worship service at 7:00 PM hosted by First Presbyterian Church of Hollidaysburg. Then, on Easter Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, join us for a breakfast sponsored by the Adult Sunday School class at 9:30 AM, followed by a jubilant worship service at 10:15 AM in our sanctuary. The Sunday after Easter (April 12<sup>th</sup>), we're having a special "Holy Humor" café church in our fellowship hall at 10:15 AM (no livestream that day). Bring a snack or a treat to share, as well as your holy humor stories and jokes (you would tell in front of Jesus). Join us for the fun!

Holy week gives us the opportunity to enter the powerful story of God's redemption of humanity in Christ. As we ponder Christ's sacrifice for us on the cross, the joy of Easter becomes all the more meaningful to us. We hope you will join in observing Holy week and celebrating Easter with us!

Blessings,

*Pastor Hilary*





# Session Highlights

by Barb Hazlett

*(Note: The following highlights are taken from the minutes of the Monday, March 16, 2026, regular Session meeting.)*

**Clerk’s Report:** Communion was served to 48 communicants on Sunday, March 1, 2026.

**Treasurer’s Report:** The treasurer’s report was reviewed and discussed by the Session.

**Huntingdon Presbytery Report:** The next meeting of our Presbytery will be on Saturday, April 25, at 9:30 am, at the McVeytown Presbyterian Church.

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

## Session Team Reports (Chair)

**Finance & Stewardship (Sue Whitsel):** Per Capita for 2026 has been established at \$41.00 per person, and based on 137 members, our total per capita bill from Huntingdon Presbytery will be \$5,617.00, which we pay in four installments of \$1,404.25.

For our 2026 stewardship campaign, forty-six families/individuals have pledged a total of \$147,068.

The 2026 vs. 2025 Monthly Financial Summary is summarized below:

	Through 02/28/26	Through 02/28/25
Congregational Giving	\$ 29,744	\$ 26,959
Building Rental Income	0	900
Special Offerings	1,625	1,220
=====		
Total Income	\$ 31,369	\$ 29,079
Total Expenses	\$ 47,269	\$ 47,157
=====		
Surplus (Shortfall)	\$ 15,900	\$ 18,078

**Congregational Care (Kathy Rutter):** The schedule for cards/flowers/transportation was updated for the months of March and April. An additional request was made for transportation.

Any member of the congregation who would be willing to bake a cake for the Presbyterian Village birthday recognitions should contact Charyl Gardner. Three cakes are needed for the Friday, April 24, birthday party. A note will be included in our “Giving & Serving Opportunities” bulletin insert that bakers are needed.

A new schedule for home-bound communion will be made at the April meeting.

Names for the congregational card shower were designated.

Linda McKee ordered palm crowns for the Palm Cross workshop on Friday, March 27, at 10:00 am, in the Fellowship Hall.

The final version of the Congregational Care submission for the Leadership Handbook was approved by the committee and it will be turned in at the Session meeting held in March.

The Congregational Fellowship committee and the Congregational Care committee met to plan for the Fiftieth Anniversary Recognition celebration to be held on Sunday, May 3, 2026. Assignments will be shared between the two committees.

College Boxes - The “Thinking of You” boxes will be assembled at our Tuesday, April 7, meeting and mailed to the college students in early April.

Committee members will ‘buddy-up’ with the homebound for additional compassionate care between communion visits.

**Congregational Fellowship (Amanda Yeager):** There will be no coffee fellowship for Sunday, April 5, due to the breakfast being served by the Adult Sunday school class on Easter morning at 9:30 am.

**Mission (Judy Hartzell):** At the February Soup on Saturday (SOS) we served 31 guests a meal of a meatball sandwich, a choice of soups, fruit cups, dessert and beverages. Seconds were offered at 12:30 pm. Leftovers were delivered to the Aggarwal Youth Center. The March 21 menu plan includes a ham barbeque sandwich, soups,

bananas, beverages, and a choice of dessert. The April 18 menu includes sloppy joes, mac and cheese, choice of soups, fruit, beverages, and a choice of dessert. Betsy Gallace will continue to place an invitation to our SOS in the St. Vincent Pantry food boxes on the Thursdays before our event.

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering will end on Palm Sunday, March 29. The same giving envelope will be used for all three special offerings this year.

The March 2026 Giving Report: Unified Mission and World Mission.

For the Altoona Food Bank in April, we are asking for donations of any boxed or canned meats (fish, tuna, beef, ham or chicken) and any sides. For the Providence Food Pantry, we are asking for donations of any nonperishable food items and common personal care items such as soaps, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soaps, lotions, mittens, etc. No glass containers, please. For the winter months, Jane Falco has purchased new emergency warming blankets which she will place in the outdoor pantry one at a time.

**Outreach (Jane Yerty):** Providence youth are encouraged to register for Camp Krislund now. They are planning to attend camp from June 21 through June 26. Scholarship help is available and an announcement has been sent for the church bulletin.

Again, this year we will encourage an opportunity for giving to benefit Family Services. It will be called April Showers and last throughout the month of April. Items requested will be shared via the "Giving & Serving Opportunities" monthly bulletin insert.

Opening the Community Garden - Plans for enriching the soil and fellowship and learning opportunities for gardeners are progressing. A Spring Workday has been planned for Saturday, April 25, from 9:00 am until noon.

Visitor Bags have been prepared in anticipation of increased new people during the Easter season. We encourage everyone to identify new faces and share this way of welcoming them to our morning worship service.

Upcoming dates to remember:

Saturday, September 12 - Clothing

Giveaway

Saturday, December 12 - North Pole Toy

Giveaway

**Property (Bruce Hazlett):** Joe Sirianni, our insurance agent for Guide One, compiled a "Reader's Digest" version of our insurance policy. Members of the Property and Finance & Stewardship teams, along with Pastor Hilary, met to discuss our policy with him. This group asked him to check on the coverage for sexual abuse or misconduct. Currently, we are covered for \$100,000/\$300,000. An increase to \$250,000/\$500,000 would cost an additional \$165 per year. It was recommended that we increase the coverage.

The committee met with Gority Brothers Construction, along with a member from the Finance & Stewardship team and Pastor Hilary. There was a discussion regarding the large overhead door between the sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. No cost information or decision has been made at this time.

We also contacted Link Computer Service about our computer network. They will make arrangements with Pastor Livingston and Kimberly to setup a time to come in and evaluate our needs.

**Spiritual Enhancement (Heather Wisor):** The Birthday Boxes were delivered and the staff was extremely thankful as they had never heard of them and they were excited to bring joy to someone when they were handed out.

The Vacation Bible School theme, "Snow Mountain Challenge," was selected. VBS is scheduled for Sunday, June 28, through Thursday, July 2, 2026. Youth Sunday will be held on May 31, and will be held during the Children's Chat, similar to how Christmas Sunday was.

The Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday, March 29.

The committee is looking at having just one Sunday school class next year.

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

Easter flowers will be picked up and set up on the

Saturday before Easter.

Our committee discussed the audio/visual needs and we have a list of people to help us evaluate and meet those needs.

Upcoming Worship Schedule:

March 29 - Palm Sunday, the choir and children will process with palms; Easter Egg Hunt following the service

April 2 - Maundy Thursday service at 7:00 pm, Communion, the communion table will be stripped and the sanctuary darkened

April 3 - Good Friday combined service at the First Presbyterian Church in Hollidaysburg, Pastor Hilary will check on the time

April 5 - Easter Sunday, the Adult class will host a breakfast at 9:30 am; we will "rebuild" the communion table; the choir will process and recess

April 12 - Café Church and Holy Humor Sunday

Looking Ahead:

May 3 - Communion

May 7 - National Day of Prayer (Thursday)

May 10 - Mother's Day

May 24 - Pentecost (Memorial Day weekend)

May 31 - Trinity Sunday

June 7 - Communion

July 5 - Communion

August 2 - Communion

**Giving and Serving Opportunities:** The list will be on an insert in the March 29 morning worship service bulletin.

**Old Business:** Several Session committees have turned in their team descriptions and we thank them for that. The remaining team descriptions will hopefully be returned soon.

*A heartfelt thank you for caring thoughts, prayers and cards for Les and Linda Hart. The church family truly is a blessing!*

## Family Services April Donation Needs

Providence Presbyterian Church is collecting the following items for **Family Services** on the second Sunday of the month. 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 Sunday, April 12. Thank you!

### Category: Household Items

High-efficiency laundry detergent

Bedding sheet sets: twin or full

Pillows

Towels and washcloths

Dishcloths and towels

Bathroom rugs

Shower curtains

Plastic food handling gloves

Shower gel

Pots, pans, dishes, silverware

Small appliances

Watch for a new donation category in the May newsletter!



Wanda Weakland	3
Jennifer Larrimore	4
Lilyahna Wisor	5
Pastor Hilary Livingston	6
Ethan Little	7
Nancy Nevling	7
Les Hart	12
Rory Larrimore	16
Kathy Braun	17
Alyssa Conway	23
Alecea Wisor	30

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Bruce & Barb Hazlett	5
Dan & Kathy Slep	22
Jim & Megan Burchfield	25



■ **Palm Cross Workshop** - Palm branches were scattered in Jesus' path and the fronds that were waved as He passed into Jerusalem are today considered symbols of victory, triumph and peace. Join us as Linda McKee shows how to make crosses out of palm leaves. The Palm Cross Workshop will be held on Friday, March 27, at 10:00 am, in the Fellowship Hall.

■ **Palm Sunday Easter Egg Hunt** - On March 29, all children through fifth grade, are invited to join us for an Easter Egg Hunt immediately following the morning worship service.

■ **Maundy Thursday** - A Maundy Thursday service will be held on Thursday, April 2, at 7:00 pm. Communion will be served at this service.

■ **Good Friday** - A Good Friday service is being hosted by the First Presbyterian Church, 601 Walnut Street in Hollidaysburg. The service will be held on Friday, April 3, at 7:00 pm. A joint choir from all churches will be performing the anthem.

■ **Continental Breakfast** - There will be NO Sunday school on Easter Sunday, April 5. The Adult Sunday school class is hosting a continental breakfast in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30 am, on Easter Sunday. All are welcome to join us!

■ **Holy Humor Sunday** - Holy Humor Café Church will be held on Sunday, April 12, at 10:15 am, in our Fellowship Hall. Bring a snack or treat to share along with your holy humor stories (stories or jokes you would tell in front of Jesus). There will be no livestream service on that Sunday.

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## April Showers

The Outreach Committee will be sponsoring an "April Showers" event during this month to support the Altoona Teen Shelter of Family Services. We will be accepting donations of the following items: shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, feminine products, paper products, arts & crafts kits, brownie mixes and drink mixes. There will be a decorated table in the Fellowship Hall to receive your donations. Thank you very much!

## Camp Krislund

It's time to start thinking about registering for Residential Summer Camp at Krislund. Here is the website address to get additional information: <http://krislund.org> Providence youth are planning to attend during the week of June 21 through June 26. The church family is willing to help with scholarship assistance as needed. Please see Pastor Hilary, Peggy Horner or Jane Yerty for more information.

## All In The Family

This is a final reminder to turn in you baby/toddler pictures for display from April 12 through May 3, in the Fellowship Hall. Your photo will be copied and returned. The person who correctly identifies the most photos will win a \$50 Sheetz Gift Card!

### If I Had My Child to Raise All Over Again

*If I had my child to raise all over again,  
I'd finger paint more and point my finger less.  
I'd do less correcting and more connecting.  
I'd take my eyes off my watch, and watch with my eyes.  
I would care to know less, and know to care more.  
I'd stop playing serious, and seriously start playing.  
I'd run through my fields, and gaze at more stars.  
I'd do more hugging, and less tugging.  
I'd be firm less often, and affirm much more.  
I'd build self esteem first, and the house later.  
I'd teach less about the love of power,  
and know the power of love.*

—Anonymous