



Providence Post



J U N E 2 0 2 6



FROM OUR
PASTOR

In the Beginning...Genesis for Normal People—Summer, 2026

Dear PPC Members and Friends,

I'm excited to announce my summer sermon series, "Genesis for Normal People", beginning in June. This summer, we'll go back to the beginning of the Bible and the beginning of our faith as we learn about the engaging, intriguing, and sometimes controversial book of Genesis. We'll follow the story of creation, humankind's fall from grace, and God's redemption plan through the great forefathers and foremothers of our faith, including Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob, Rachel, and Joseph. Through the story of Genesis, we'll see how God's plan of salvation unfolds and how he calls us to be part of it.

I'll be preaching on the key passages of Genesis all summer long. If you want to go deeper, join our

Thursday morning Bible study at 11:30 am in the Fellowship Hall where we'll be studying the book **Genesis for Normal People** by renowned Bible scholar, Dr. Pete Enns. You can also read the book on your own. If you would like a copy of the book, see Pastor Hilary (suggested donation is \$15, but we're happy to provide it free to you if finances are limited).

I also encourage everyone to read the book of Genesis over the summer. It is a longer book of the Bible (50 chapters!), but it is very engaging. It reads like a novel—you will find yourselves wanting to read on to find out what happens next! Read one, two, or three chapters a day—or read at a pace that works best for you.

The story of Genesis will encourage and challenge you in your faith journey. Bring your curiosity, an open mind, and your questions (watch for a special AMA (Ask Me Anything) session with Pastor Hilary on your Genesis questions later this summer). I'm really looking forward to this summer sermon series, and I hope you will join us in going deeper on the book of Genesis!

Blessings,

Pastor Hilary

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Website: www.providencepc-altoona.org



By Barb Hazlett

(Note: The following highlights are taken from the minutes of the Monday, May 18, 2026, regular Session meeting.)

Clerk's Report: Les Hart passed away on Monday, May 18, 2026.

Communion was served to 50 communicants on Sunday, May 3.

We have received information from Universal Church Directories regarding the app they offer as a part of our directory package. Jen Braun has agreed to administer that app and is getting ready to set it up. Members will soon receive a series of emails with details on setting up the app.

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

Huntingdon Presbytery Report: Pastor Hilary attended the last meeting and gave Session members a brief report. She said the meeting was uplifting. There was also a special meeting of Presbytery in May to approve a new minister for the Tyrone Presbyterian Church.

The next meeting of Presbytery will be by Zoom only and details will be available at a later date.

The General Assembly meeting of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) will be held in June.

Moderator's Report: Pastor Livingston listed all her activities for the previous month. She will be taking vacation time from Monday, July 27 through Thursday, July 30, 2026 (no Sundays involved).

Pastor Hilary will be celebrating the 25th (silver) anniversary of her ordination on October 14 of this year. Session discussed how to mark this special

milestone in a way that benefits the church, our mission, or other areas.

Session Team Reports (Chair)

Finance & Stewardship (Sue Whitsel): The 2026 vs. 2025 Monthly Financial Summary is summarized below:

	Through 04/30/26	Through 04/30/25
Congregational Giving	\$ 65,576	\$ 58,769
Building Rental Income	105	1,010
Special Offerings	4,206	3,589
Total Income	\$ 69,887	\$ 63,368
Total Expenses	\$ 94,446	\$ 99,630
Surplus (Shortfall)	\$ 24,559	\$ 36,262

Per the Session directive at our April 20, 2026 meeting, a transfer of \$35,000 has been made from our New Covenant Growth Fund (#105) to our Reliance Bank checking account. The purpose of this transfer is to fund certain Property Committee projects such as the new wall and door between the sanctuary and Fellowship Hall, and repairs to the exterior steps on the 24th Street side of the church.

Stewardship materials have been ordered from K LW Enterprises in Illinois. We have used this company for the past several years and have found their materials to be affordable and encouraging for our church members. This year's theme is "Empowered by God—Responding to Grace." Our stewardship budget will cover the \$175 cost of the program. The materials and the invoice will arrive in late August.

Reliance Bank went through a software update in April. The Finance team and our office administrator continue to deal with issues created by the update pertaining to our checking account. Reliance is still working to resolve these issues. Through many phone calls by Barry, Kimberly and Sue, plus a personal visit to the church by a Reliance employee, we continue to be locked out of certain tasks that the checking account software should provide. Only Barry can approve checks; only Sue can approve payroll, when each should have the capability to approve both.

Congregational Care (Kathy Rutter): The schedules for May and June were updated for Cards/

Flowers/Transportation. The card roster will be reviewed and updated later this summer.

Charyl Gardner delivered cakes to the Presbyterian Village at Hollidaysburg on Friday, April 24. Thanks to the congregants who volunteered to bake cakes for the April party.

A new schedule for homebound communion was made at the May meeting. Names were designated for the card showers.

Thank-you notes from our college students were shared with the team. Again, the treat boxes were much appreciated by the college kids as they study for finals.

The congregation joined Pastor Hilary in honoring the ten members of the congregations of the former First and Broad Avenue Presbyterian Churches, and now Providence Presbyterian, who have achieved 50-year membership status. Members recognized include Jim Carothers, Joan Conway, Tom Costea, Dave Dravis, Marcia Dravis, Judy Hartzell, Sharon Judd, Ken Lynch, Galen Nelson, and Denny Nevling.

The Congregational Fellowship team joined the Congregational Care team in hosting a celebratory reception for the above-named 50-year members. We give a special thanks to Janie Hite for the beautiful table settings and flowers.

Mission (Judy Hartzell): We discussed the team's statement of purpose and a revised version will be sent to the clerk of Session.

We plan on using 300 paper bowls from the church pantry before ordering more Styrofoam bowls for Soup on Saturday. In April, there were 42 guests and ten helpers present at SOS. Thanks to all who helped! Betsy Gallace will continue to place an invitation to SOS in the St. Vincent Pantry food boxes on the Thursdays ahead of our SOS event.

At Soup on Saturday on May 16, we served 40 guests a meal of hot dogs, a choice of three soups, bananas, beverage and their choice of dessert. Seconds were served at 12:30 pm. In June, we plan on serving meatball sandwiches, a choice of soups, fruit, desserts and beverages. If available, seconds will be served at 12:30 pm.

May 2026 Giving Report: Pak 5 Nan Partnership,

Gloria Gates Foundation and Meals on Wheels.

Pastor Hilary reported on a meeting that she and a few other of our church members attended concerning poverty and its impact on Blair County. This event was organized by several city, county and faith-based organizations who have been meeting to discuss, and hopefully reveal, common and overlapping problems that make it more and more difficult for people to escape their situation.

Community Donations: For May, please donate canned fruit and applesauce for the Altoona Food Bank. For the Providence Food Pantry, please donate any nonperishable food items and especially, personal care items such as soaps, deodorant, toothpaste and toothbrushes, band-aids, etc. No glass containers, please.

Outreach (Jane Yerty): There is no one committed to going to Krislund camp yet. They are still trying to make contacts.

Property (Bruce Hazlett): The Property team received a letter from Mike Givler from the Synod of the Trinity saying that they were in a partnership program with Brotherhood Mutual Insurance Company. Bruce left a message with Brotherhood to see about getting a quote and is still waiting for an answer.

The heating system was acting up last Sunday; Riley came on Monday to check it out and said that it just needed cleaning.

Patterson is under contract to repair our 24th exterior steps and is now waiting for the weather to cooperate.

Our outdoor marquee is not working. It needs a new antenna and we are currently trying to get a replacement.

Link Computer Systems has been hired to update our church's internet system. Parts have been ordered and work will begin as soon as they are received.

Les and Linda Hart have donated a new American flag to replace the one on our outdoor flag pole. The old flag was replaced on April 17.

Gority Brothers is the contractor hired to replace the overhead door between the sanctuary and the

Fellowship Hall. Replacement doors have been ordered and will take approximately eight weeks to arrive.

Spiritual Enhancement (Heather Wisor): The Youth Sunday school class will be serving a pancake breakfast for the Adult Sunday school class on May 24, 2026.

Youth Sunday will be observed on May 31; the youth will be acting as liturgists and a special "Get to know your youth" insert will be in the bulletin.

Vacation Bible School has been set for the week of June 28 through July 2, 2026. A Vacation Bible School meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 31, following the morning worship service. A final meeting is scheduled for Sunday, June 14, 2026.

There will be an organized Child Safety and Child Clearance night planned for all staff and volunteers on Monday, June 8, 2026, at 5:30 pm.

Our team discussed the Procedure Manual for Spiritual Enhancement and the Application Questions for Volunteers Working with Kids. These two items, with the changes that we made, will be added to our policy manual. It was suggested that we do a policy review in June.

Our team is thinking of having a night in the week for Sunday school instead of Sundays due to the unavailability of kids on the weekends.

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

Our team reviewed the Lent and Easter services.

The new microphone for the choir was approved by Session and will be installed as soon as possible. Also, the internet update for the church will take place as soon as parts can be ordered.

Our National Day of Prayer service was held on May 7, at 12:00 noon.

Pastor Hilary requested June 20 through June 25 as vacation time. Carol Wyerman will fill the pulpit on Sunday, June 21.

We will have Café Church again this summer. It will be held on Sunday, July 5, and again on Sunday, August 2.

This summer we are asking for "Family and Friends" liturgists. If you have a family pair of any arrangement, or two friends who would like to be liturgists together, please let someone from the Worship team know. We will also have a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall if you would like to place your names there. If you are someone who has never been a liturgist, but would like to try accompanied by a "veteran" liturgist, let us know that and we will help you find a person to make your "pair." It was suggested that we remind our liturgists that there is a 'bullet point' list of items to address on the pulpit.

The choir takes a break for the summer, but we would still like to have some special music during the morning worship service. If you would like to serve the Lord with music, and be the special music on a Sunday, please let our team know.

Future Worship Schedule (all dates are on a Sunday unless noted otherwise):

May 24 - Pentecost Sunday (Memorial Day Weekend); We encourage everyone to wear **RED**

May 31 - Trinity Sunday/Youth Sunday (During the Children's Chat)

June 7 - Summer Worship Service schedule begins at 9:30 am (Communion; No Sunday school classes)

June 21 - Father's Day

June 28, through Thursday, July 2, Vacation Bible School (Theme: "Snow Mountain Challenge"; Dinner at 5:30 pm, VBS from 6:00 to 8:00 pm)

July 5 - Café Church (Communion)

July 26 - "Wear your picnic clothes to church"; Our annual church picnic at DelGrosso's Park, meal at 5:00 pm

August 2 - Café Church (Communion)

September 6 - Rally Day at 9:00 am; Worship service begins at 10:15 am (Communion; a Minute for Rally Day during the morning worship service)

September 13 - Sunday school resumes at 9:00 am

October 4 - World Communion Sunday

Giving & Serving Opportunities: This list will be on an insert in the June 7 worship bulletin.

Old Business: The revised Leadership Handbook was distributed to Session members.

New Business: We need to review the rolls per a request from Huntingdon Presbytery. We will get a list from Kimberly and compose a letter to send.

We need to update some of the content on our church's website.

Per Capita Amount

Just a reminder that the Per Capita amount for 2026 is \$41.00 *per member*. Please try to meet your per capita obligation by using the special [blue envelope](#) in your box of offering envelopes. Thank you!

June 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 24th Street hallway adjacent to the Fellowship Hall no later than Sunday, June 14, 2026. Thank you!

Category: Summer Supplies

Paper plates
Plastic cups
Paper towels
Plastic silverware
Hand sanitizer
Bubbles
Sunscreen
Play dough
Water
Individual snack bags
Gift cards for local stores

Watch for a new donation category in the July/August newsletter!

With Sympathy

The congregation extends its heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of **Leslie W. 'Les' Hart**, who passed away on Monday, May 18, 2026. Les is survived by his wife Linda.

JUNE Birthdays & Anniversaries

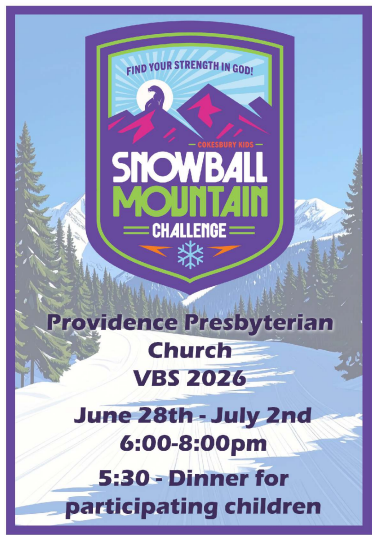
Tyler Oswalt	4
Clair Roddey	8
Justin Treese	10
Dwayne Yerty	14
Cheryl Dodson	18
Debbie Mallow	19
Tom McKee	22
Rita Holtzinger	29
Sue Stephens	29

Paul & Joan Conway	1
Dave & Heather Wisor	5
John & Charyl Gardner	12
Denny & Nancy Nevling	17
Carmel & Jeanie Mollica	19
Marty & Sharon Judd	25
Mike & Jennifer Larrimore	26



The Summer Worship Schedule at Providence Presbyterian Church will begin on Sunday, June 7, through Sunday, August 30, at 9:30 am. There will be no Sunday school or Junior Church during the summer schedule.

Thank You from the Spiritual Enhancement team to all our Sunday school teachers, nursery and Junior Church volunteers who have given their time to help the youth of the church this past year. We are always looking for additional help. If you are interested in volunteering, please see Pastor Livingston, Heather Wisor or Megan Burchfield for more information on how to obtain your clearances and get involved.



Vacation Bible School "Snowball Mountain," will be held on Sunday, June 28, through Thursday, July 2, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm, at Providence Presbyterian Church. A dinner at 5:30 pm will be available for all children participating in the program. VBS is open to all kids 3 years old through sixth grade. Please invite your family, friends and neighbors to join us for what will certainly be a great time for all!

Tried & True Recipes



Here's another in what we hope will be an ongoing series of taste-proven recipes from members and friends of Providence Church. This recipe was submitted by **Linda Hart**.

BROCCOLI AND RICE CASSEROLE

- 1 small box Velveeta® cheese
- 1 package frozen chopped broccoli
- 1 small onion
- 2 tbsp. butter
- 1 cup rice, uncooked
- 1 can cream of celery soup
- ½ can water

Cook rice and broccoli as directed. Sauté onion. Add celery soup and water and bring it to a boil. Remove from heat and stir in chopped Velveeta cheese until nearly melted. Combine with rice and broccoli. Bake uncovered at 350 degrees for 30 to 40 minutes.

Special Session Meeting

A special Session meeting was held on Monday, May 4, 2026. Pastor Hilary will add June 22 through June 25, 2026, to her already scheduled vacation time of June 20 and June 21.

The wall between the sanctuary and Fellowship Hall was approved at the last meeting except for the door style. The Session was presented with a picture of the proposed doors which would be a nine-light door, painted on the Fellowship Hall side and stained on the sanctuary side. Session accepted the door that was proposed. The supplier has informed them that the doors will take two months to arrive.

Also, a person has kindly offered to remove the existing wall. We discussed that possibility. The concern was the fear of injury to people or damage to property. It was decided that with many thanks for the offer, due to safety concerns, we will let the contractors complete the work as proposed.

We have received a proposal from Link Computer Systems. The results of their upgrade will be a stronger Wi-Fi signal throughout the church, secure internet and network access, a system built to last and grow with future needs, and minimal ongoing maintenance and fewer IT issues. The cost of this project will be \$7,933.00. Questions asked: Will there be a Catalyst? Are the credentials ours? Session agreed to accept this bid and ask Link those two questions.

It was suggested that the outside flag needs replaced. Bruce will get information on that. *[Since this report, the flag has been replaced.—Ed.]*

