



Providence Post

SEPTEMBER 2026



TGIF: Thank God It's Fall! Fall-elujah

Dear PPC members and friends,

Summer flew by, and it's time once again for shorter days, cooler evenings, cardigans, back-to-school shopping, and pumpkin spice everything! At Providence Presbyterian Church, we're gearing up for another fall season with lots of opportunities to worship, learn, and serve.

We kick off with Rally Day on Sunday, September 6th. We return to our 10:15 AM worship time. We'll also be gathering at 9:00 AM to introduce our Sunday school teachers and classes. Sunday school formally begins the following week on September 13th at 9:00 AM.

On September 12th, we having our annual clothing giveaway. Please see details in the bulletin, newsletter, and Fellowship Hall display for ways you can help us with donations and volunteering. Your contributions of clothing, time, and a helping hand will make our event a success!



I hope everyone has enjoyed our summer sermon series, "Genesis for Normal People" which will be wrapping up mid-September. I'll be starting a new sermon series on "Moses and the Exodus," accompanied by a new study at our Thursday morning Bible study at 11:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall: *Moses: In the Footsteps of a Reluctant Prophet* by Adam Hamilton. All are welcome to join us!

On October 4th, we'll celebrate World Communion Sunday, and we'll be recognizing the 25th anniversary of Pastor Hilary's ordination to the ministry. We'll have a special time of recognition in worship, as well as a reception following worship. In lieu of gifts, Pastor Hilary is requesting donations for the Huntingdon Presbytery Clergy Emergency Fund. Watch for more details about this event in the weekly bulletin.

This September, carve out your place to worship, learn, and serve at Providence Presbyterian Church! Sweater weather is better together, so join us! Happy Fall, Y'all!

Blessings,

Pastor Hilary



By Barb Hazlett

(Note: The following highlights are taken from the minutes of the Monday, August 17, 2026, regular Session meeting.)

Clerk's Report: Fifty-six communicants received communion on Sunday, July 5, and 47 communicants were served on Sunday, August 2.

Harley Garman, granddaughter of the late Flo Tucker-Hammel, has asked to have a Celebration of Life service in memory of Flo. This service would take place sometime in February 2027. Session approved the service and Pastor Hilary will get more information.

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

Huntingdon Presbytery Report: The presbytery meeting on Tuesday, July 14, was the last one to be held via Zoom this year. Pastor Livingston gave a brief presentation of the highlights from that meeting. The next meeting of Huntingdon Presbytery will be held on Saturday, October 24, at Petersburg Bethel Church. This meeting will be an in-person format only.

Nominating Committee: The committee will start to meet next month.

Moderator's Report: Pastor Hilary listed all her activities for the past two months. She will be taking two days of vacation on Saturday, October 10, and Sunday, October 11. Carol Wyerman has agreed to fill the pulpit on Sunday, October 11.

We are still working on Pastor Hilary's Orddiversary (anniversary of her ordination) scheduled on Sunday, October 4. We ask that in lieu of gifts, donations can be made to the Clergy Emergency Fund.

Session Team Reports (Chair)

Finance & Stewardship (Sue Whitsel): Per capita for 2026 is \$41.00 per individual member of the church. The amount received to date is \$3,849.

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

	Through 07/30/26	Through 07/30/25
Congregational Giving	\$108,890	\$103,220
Building Rental Income	442	26,042
Special Offerings	5,981	6,521
Total Income	\$115,313	\$135,783
Total Expenses	\$168,268	\$188,722
Surplus (Shortfall)	\$ 52,955	\$ 52,939

Stewardship materials have arrived and the invoice of \$175 has been paid. This year's stewardship theme provided by K LW Enterprises is "Empowered by God—Responding to Grace."

The Reliance Bank issues of approving checks and payroll have been resolved.

Congregational Care (Kathy Rutter): The schedules for cards, flowers, and transportation were updated for the months of August and September. The card roster will be reviewed and updated later this summer.

Charyl Gardner delivered three lemon cakes to the Presbyterian Village at Hollidaysburg on Friday, July 31. The residents at the Village continue to share their appreciation of the treats.

Communion and visits for our homebound members are organized for the month of August.

Buddy Bags containing treats and personal care items will be assembled this fall for our homebound population.

Congregational Fellowship (Amanda Yeager): There will be a coffee fellowship on Sunday, September 6, 2026.

The team discussed ideas for Pastor Hilary's 25th anniversary celebration on Sunday, October 4. Plans will be finalized at our September meeting.

Mission (Judy Hartzell) : Thanks to Betsy Gallace

for inserting a Soup on Saturday reminder sheet in the Food Bank boxes.

On July 18, Soup on Saturday (SOS) served 33 guests a meal of a ham and cheese sandwich, macaroni salad, choice of soup, applesauce, choice of beverages, and desserts. We had eight helpers and were able to offer seconds at 12:30 pm. Thanks go out to our cooks, bakers, servers, and cleanup crew.

Betsy Gallace made new table tent prayer and activities for the tables to honor our country's 250th anniversary.

On August 15, SOS served 50 people a ham salad sandwich, choice of soups, watermelon, desserts, and beverages. Seconds were served at 12:30 pm. For September's SOS, we are planning on sloppy joe sandwiches, choice of soups, fruit, desserts and beverages.

August 2026 Giving Report: Victim Services, Friends of Kenya, and Operation Our Town Community.

The Providence Food Pantry is asking for donations of any nonperishable food items and especially any personal care items, like toothbrushes, soap, lotion, socks, etc.

Outreach (Jane Yerty): Our Clothing Giveaway, including winter coats and new and gently used shoes, will be held on Saturday, September 12, from 8:00 am to 12 noon. Setup will take place on September 8, 9 and 10, from 9:00 am until noon. (An additional setup day will take place on Friday, September 11, but only if needed.) We gratefully acknowledge Super Shoes of Altoona who will again support us with 20% discount tickets for those willing to purchase shoes. Participation from Shoe Fly is pending. *[Please see the related article included in this newsletter.]*

We would like to thank our church family for their generous support of school supplies to support Family Services.

Color postcards highlighting our church activities and services have been purchased and are available to our church family to assist in inviting others. We plan to highlight and challenge our church family to use them once a quarter.

Our Community Garden and Library are being well

used this summer. We want to recognize and share our thanks to gardeners Mr. and Mrs. Chris Earle. They have donated plants, planted them in the bed facing Beale Avenue, and have promised care for this growing season. Additionally, they have connected us with an organization that donates native trees, shrubs and plants to churches and nonprofit organizations. We are very thankful for their assistance and generosity. Watch for some new plantings around our church.

Property (Bruce Hazlett): Work on the new wall between the sanctuary and Fellowship Hall is in progress. Also in progress, is the project to update our internet wiring throughout the church.

A new dedicated microphone for the choir has been installed and tested. Sound reinforcement in the sanctuary should be improved by this addition and the new partition mentioned above.

A light in the basement and ceiling tiles have been replaced. Contractors will also be installing a light in the garage to light the Beale Avenue parking lot. They will also repair two rain spouts.

There is a concern that the two coat racks at the rear of our sanctuary are too low and could be a safety hazard—Bruce is checking on this.

Our custodian said that the lawn mower is not working and this will be investigated.

Our team would like to place a marker on the flagpole that would designate it in memory of Les Hart. We will talk to Linda Hart about the wording.

Spiritual Enhancement (Heather Wisor): There were 25 children registered for this year's Vacation Bible School.

A blessing of the backpacks will take place on Sunday, September 6.

Sunday school will return on Sunday, September 13. Megan Burchfield is reviewing curriculum and will make a purchase prior to the start of Sunday school. Classes will be combined due to decreased numbers. Age appropriate topics and activities will be discussed and provided.

Back to School Bingo is scheduled for Sunday, August 30, from 2:00 pm until 4:00 pm, for youth in grades three thru twelve.

Worship (Rick Herbster): Rick thanked everyone for their contributions to our summer worship services.

Acolytes and ushers are in place for August. We are still looking for “friends and family” groups to be liturgists on each Sunday during the summer.

Technicians working for Link Computer are in the process of rewiring our church as part of the internet upgrade. Doug Stephens will be here in early August to install the new choir microphone.

There is only one piano tuner in Altoona and Carol McCracken will continue to contact him, otherwise, we will call Kelly Purdy in State College.

Rally Day is on Sunday, September 6, at 9:00 am. At the 10:15 am worship service we will have a “Minute for Rally Day.”

We discussed plans for Pastor Hilary’s 25th anniversary of ordination, which will be celebrated on Sunday, October 4, 2026.

Upcoming Dates:

- Sunday, September 6 - Rally Day at 9:00 am; the Morning Worship Service resumes at 10:15 am; Communion; Minute for Rally Day
- Saturday, September 12 - Clothing Giveaway
- Sunday, September 13 - Sunday School resumes at 9:00 am
- Saturday, September 19 - Soup on Saturday
- Sunday, October 4 - World Communion Sunday; Pastor Livingston’s 25th Orddiversary
- Sunday, October 25 - Reformation Sunday
- Sunday, November 1 - All Saints Day; Communion
- Sunday, November 22 - Christ the King Sunday
- Saturday, November 28 - Dress the Church
- Sunday, November 29 - First Sunday of Advent
- Sunday, December 6 - Second Sunday of Advent; Communion
- Sunday, December 13 - Third Sunday of Advent
- Sunday, December 20 - Fourth Sunday of Advent
- Thursday, December 24 - Christmas Eve
- Friday, December 25 - Christmas Day

Giving and Serving Opportunities: The list will appear in the September 6 worship bulletin.

New Business: Pastor Hilary informed Session that our policies are up to date.

We are currently reviewing the church rolls as per a request from Huntingdon Presbytery.

A team was established to clean out some of the rooms in the church basement. We set two dates, Saturday, August 29, and Saturday, September 26, from 9:00 am until 12 noon, to start discarding some of the items that we don’t need.



For the month of September, in lieu of the usual monthly list of items, Providence Presbyterian Church is accepting gift cards from any local grocery store or supermarket. Family Services will distribute these cards to those in need. Please turn your gift cards in by Sunday, September 12.

 SEPTEMBER
Birthdays & Anniversaries

Sharon Hayford	10
Gail Irwin	11
David Brownell	14
Jonathan Yerty	14
Allen Gibboney	19
Galen Nelson	26
Linda McKee	27
Tom Musselman	29
Geoff & Patti Geesey	5
Jonathan & Janelle Yerty	17
Bret & Sharon Hayford	19
Ken & Angela Lynch	21
John & Betsy Gallace	22





Presbyterians in the Press

[**Note:** Unless otherwise specified, all articles and photographs have appeared in the *Altoona Mirror*.]

Jane and Lee Hite were featured in a front-page story in the August 18 edition of the *Mirror*. The Hites made a donation to the Altoona Area School District Foundation to build an endowment that will inspire future generations of entrepreneurs, creators and leaders. An accompanying photo shows Lee and Jane as they unveil a sign for the Altoona Area High School Innovation Center.

Attention Session Members!

September is the month that all Session committee chairs need to complete your team budget and turn it in to our treasurer, Barry Gaut, by Sunday, October 11, 2026. Review each line item for your committee and list the correct dollar amount for each line. Thank you for your cooperation!

Rally Day and the Blessing of the Backpacks

Join us on Sunday, September 6, at 9:00 am, as we gather in the sanctuary to sing and introduce our new Sunday school groups, as well as our new Sunday school and Junior Church curriculums. We will also Bless the Backpacks this day. At the 10:15 am morning worship service, there will be a "Minute for Rally Day."

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Annual Clothing Giveaway



The Outreach team is hosting a Clothing Giveaway on Saturday, September 12, 2026, from 8:00 am to 12:00 noon. We are asking you to donate gently used seasonal clothing for fall and winter. Here are some guidelines:

- Clean and in good condition
- No tears or stains
- Clothing for infants, children, and adults both men and women
- Gently used shoes and boots for children and adults
- Winter coats and jackets
- Please sort it by category and label
- Example: "ladies size medium" or "boys size 2T"
- Receiving donations starting on Sunday, August 16, through Wednesday, September 9, between 9:00 am and noon
- Donations can be stored in the basement Adult Sunday school room

We are also looking for donations of new shoes for children and adults.

- Monetary donations are welcome; we will do the shopping
- 20% Discount coupons are available from Super Shoes if you prefer to shop yourself

Hands-on help needed:

- Set-up and sort on Tuesday through Thursday, September 8, through September 10, from 9:00 am to noon
- Helpers needed on the day of the sale, Saturday, September 12, from 8:00 am until noon. Assistance is needed to help our shoppers, clean-up, and take donations of leftover clothing to community partners

Thank you in advance for your support of this Outreach Ministry to prepare our neighbors for fall and winter weather.



Our congregation extends its heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of **Louise C. Albright**, who passed away on Thursday, June 11, 2026, at the age of 101. Louise was the mother of Carol McCracken.

We also extend our sympathies to the family and friends of **Jeannine M. Fagley**, who passed away on Monday, June 15, 2026. Jeannine was the wife of Lee Fagley, and is also survived by her brother, Jemmings Lantz, and sister, Catherine Hall.

Tried & True Recipes



Here's one more in an ongoing series of taste-proven recipes from members and friends of Providence Church.

HOT CHICKEN SALAD CASSEROLE

4 cups cooked chicken, cut up
2 tablespoons lemon juice
1 teaspoon salt
2 cups chopped celery
 $\frac{3}{4}$ cups mayonnaise
4 hard-cooked eggs, cut up
1 small jar pimentos, cut fine
 $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups crushed potato chips
1 cup grated cheese

Combine all ingredients, except potato chips and cheese. Place in 9 by 13 inch casserole dish. Cover and place in refrigerator and let stand overnight. Take out an hour before baking. Top with crushed potato chips and cheese. Bake at 400° degrees for 30 to 40 minutes or until it bubbles. Serves eight.

(This recipe is from Charlotte Spooneybarger and was submitted by Barb Weigley.)



By Jane Falco

Our outdoor food pantry is looking for donations to place outside daily. Everyday, two boxes of cereal, eight 'meals' (canned soups, stew, chile, spaghetti), three personal items, and several snacks are placed in the outdoor pantry.

If you are able to donate food or personal care products, please place your items on the bins located behind the piano in Fellowship Hall. Your donations do not have to be brand-name items. I am also willing to shop for the donations if you would like to make a cash or check contribution.

I have talked to many people who are so appreciative of this service. Thank you!

