



# Providence Post

NOVEMBER 2024



Dear Providence Presbyterian Church Members and Friends,

It's stewardship season! It is also a season of gratitude! I'm grateful for all of you, and for all of your support of our church through sharing your gifts, your time, and your resources. Because of your generous support, you have continued to be a faithful Christian presence, worshiping together, and sharing God's love with those in our community. Here are some personal reflections of gratitude for you all:



**FROM OUR  
PASTOR**

- I am grateful to be called to your church as your new pastor! I am grateful for all the help you gave me in moving, unpacking, and helping me in so many ways as I settle in here in the Altoona area. I am also very grateful for all the support and flexibility folks have given me as I also get my mom settled into the Presbyterian Village in Hollidaysburg. Thanks to all those who visited my mom and took her out for meals. She greatly enjoys getting to know everyone, and she's so glad she can live close to me.
- I am grateful for our dedicated staff, as well as our lay leaders who serve on session, deacons, committees, teams, and in so many other ways. Your generous time and service make our church a nurturing and hospitable place to gather and worship together.
- I am grateful for our beautiful historic sanctuary, grounds, and community gardens that provide us with sacred spaces to worship, gather, and fellowship together. I am also grateful for all those who work so hard to keep our building and grounds safe and in good repair for everyone to enjoy.
- I am grateful for all the many ways you have continued to care for our members, as well as minister to those in need in our community through your service and hospitality through Soup on Saturday, clothing drive, food & personal care blessing box, camp scholarships, and other ways you extend generosity to others.
- I am grateful for our teachers who share their time, knowledge, and dedication to nurture people of all ages in the faith. I'm also grateful for our choir, director, organists, pianists, and other musicians who enrich our worship with beautiful music.
- I am grateful for YOU! Each and every one of you make our church a special place to be. Thanks for all the ways you show up, pitch in, and support one another. We couldn't do all that we do without you!

In light of all the blessings God has given us, we have the opportunity to make a commitment to God through this church as an act of gratitude for all the blessings we have received throughout the year.

*(Article continues on the next page)*

During this stewardship season, we ask you to prayerfully consider making a pledge or estimate of financial giving for the coming year as an act of gratitude. **Please return your pledge card to the church by November 10<sup>th</sup>.**

Your gifts make all we do possible! Thank you for your generous gifts!

Blessings,

*Pastor Hilary*

*"I thank my God for every remembrance of you, always in every one of my prayers for all of you, praying with joy for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ." - Philippians 1:3-6*



by Barb Hazlett

*(Note: The following highlights are taken from the minutes of the Monday, October 21, 2024, regular Session meeting.)*

B.J. Crownover spoke to Session regarding old documents and photographs from the various churches that have merged to become Providence Presbyterian. She asked if the Session would grant permission to store them on a thumb drive for the Blair County Genealogical Society. Session agreed to allow B.J. to make arrangements with Jennifer Braun to digitize this information.

**Clerk's Report:** Seventy-eight communicants received communion on World Communion Sunday, October 6.

We received a letter from the Donlan family stating that they have been attending the Zion

Lutheran Church in Hollidaysburg. Rob, Brigitte, Ethan and Hannah Donlan have requested a transfer of their membership to that church. The transfer was approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** A draft copy of the 2025 church budget was distributed and discussed. The final budget will be voted on at next month's Session meeting.

The date of our congregational meeting was changed to Sunday, November 24, 2024.

**Huntingdon Presbytery Report:** Pastor Livingston was in attendance at the Presbytery meeting at Upper Spruce Creek church and relayed some of the issues that were being discussed. The next meeting will be held on Saturday, November 2, at 9:00 am. Rick Herbster has tentatively agreed to be our Session representative at that meeting.

**Moderator's Report:** Pastor Hilary is getting settled in and thanked everyone for their help with her move. She will be taking some time off from Wednesday, November 13, through Sunday, November 17.

She is working on the service for her installation as well as some other special services. She's also getting to know the congregation.

Pastor Livingston suggested that we have name tags for the regular members of the congregation to help visitors get acquainted with us. Session discussed this idea and she will check into the different formats that could be used.

### Session Team Reports (Chair)

**Finance & Stewardship (Sue Whitsel):** Per Capita for 2024 has been established at \$39.24. For the period ending on September 30, 2024, there was \$3,717.82 paid into the per capita fund, which is unchanged from last month's amount.

The Presbytery of Huntingdon at its September 24, 2024, meeting, approved a per capita rate for 2025 of \$27.76 for the Presbytery, \$2.40 for the Synod of the Trinity, and \$10.84 for the General Assembly—a total of \$41.00 per member. This represents a 4.5% increase from the 2024 rate.

Materials for the 2025 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 10, 2024. Pastor Livingston delivered a stewardship sermon, "Wealth and God's Kingdom," in October.

The 2024 vs. 2023 Monthly Financial Summary is summarized below:

	Through 09/30/24	Through 09/30/23
Congregational Giving	\$137,590	\$133,977
Building Rental Income(*)	16,609	567
Special Offerings	11,154	10,786
=====		
Total Income	\$165,353	\$145,330
Total Expenses	\$160,748	\$184,995
=====		
Surplus (Shortfall)	\$ 4,605	\$ 39,665

(\*) Reflects giving to the "Organ Fund"

**Congregational Care (Gail Irwin):** Coupons will be mailed to the Yokosuka Naval Base in Japan on Monday, October 28. Our thanks to all the faithful "clippers" who continue to support this project.

The schedule for Cards/Flowers/Transportation was updated for the months of October and November.

Charyl Gardner organized the delivery of homemade cakes from our congregation to the Presbyterian Village at Hollidaysburg for Friday, September 27. A new schedule for 2025 will be posted soon. Penny Rupeka, the events coordinator at the Presbyterian Village, stated that this project has been well received by the residents of the Village.

The next cycle of communion for the home-bound is scheduled for November. Pastor Hilary will set up the November schedule and coordinate with members of the committee who are available to accompany her.

Birthday cards, get-well cards, and missing-you cards were prepared by team members for October. Names for the congregation card shower were designated.

The committee assembled and delivered "Thinking of You" treat bags for congregants whom we haven't seen in a while or who may just need a cheerful greeting.

**Congregational Fellowship (Glenn Nelson):** There will be no coffee fellowship on the morning of Sunday, November 3. Instead, there will be light refreshments served following the installation service of Pastor Livingston on that same day. The service starts at 3:00 pm.

The Advent Dinner will be held on Sunday, December 8, immediately following the morning worship service. Glenn will contact John Gallace regarding the dinner menu.

Containers that have been stored in the basement kitchen cabinets will be moved to the upstairs storage room and may be used by any team.

**Mission (Judy Hartzell) :** The application for the Hunger Fund has been requested from Huntingdon Presbytery and should be completed for the next Session meeting in November.

Thirty-six guests were served with the help of 11 volunteers at the September Soup on Saturday event. We delivered leftover meatballs, two cakes, and rolls and donuts to the Family Services Teen Shelter in Altoona.

October Mission donations: Altoona Food Bank - \$300; Altoona Teen Shelter - \$300.

Our Peace and Global Witness special offering ended on World Communion Sunday, October 6. The total collected was \$475.00, of which, our church received \$68.75. Fifty-percent of this offering will go to Presbytery Disaster Assistance for help with the recent storms in the U.S.

The Soup on Saturday event in October was served to 24 participants. In November, the menu calls for sloppy joes, soup, fruit, desserts and beverages. Providence youth will set up a cookie decorating table to provide desserts for the December SOS.

This month's mission giving includes Altoona Food Bank, Mountain Lion Backpack, and families united for change.

Community donations for November: Altoona Food Bank - we are asking for donations of instant mashed potatoes, stuffing and canned gravy or gravy mix packets. Any non-perishable food is always appreciated. For our Food Pantry, we are asking for donations of any non-perishable food items and personal care items. No glass

containers, please.

**Outreach (Jane Yerty):** Our committee reviewed the clothing giveaway and made final plans for the Veterans Day card-making event.

The Community Garden will be closing at the end of October. The team is planning a workday on Tuesday, October 22, at 8:00 am with a rain date set for Saturday, October 26, at 8:00 am. Our Community Library will also be closing at the end of October, but books are always available for any group to give away.

The Outreach Team also felt there is a need for something to follow-up with visitors and asked Session for some input. Several ideas were discussed and Session decided to bring back the Covenant of Fellowship folders to sign in. We will start using them in November.

**Spiritual Enhancement (Jeanie Mollica):** JB Tree Farm was a successful event with 35 participants. We had new youth join us and we are hopeful that they return.

Sunday school, Junior Church and the new youth video sessions are going well. The Junior/Senior High Sunday School class has had the highest attendance level it has seen in the last two years. They are also enjoying the new video session during the morning worship service and are watching episodes of "The Chosen" followed by discussions.

All teachers have reported liking the new curriculum choices. We would like a television monitor to be added to the new elementary Sunday school/Junior Church room which would be used with the curriculum. Rick Herbster knows a person that could donate a monitor and he will advise him of our interest.

Upcoming events: November - Gratitude Games Night, with pizza, games, and being thankful for each other. December - Running a hot chocolate and cookie decorating bar during Soup on Saturday on December 21.

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

The Worship Team budget (\$4,100.00) was completed and submitted for approval. The team

is also recommending the formation of an "A/V Task Force" which Rick Herbster will lead.

Pastor Hilary discussed plans for her Sunday, November 3, installation service.

The possibility of using a different poinsettia supplier (in lieu of Kerr Creations) was discussed. Members of the team will check with The Growing Thing in Greenwood and with Piney Creek in Martinsburg.

Pastor Livingston will develop appropriate liturgy for Reformation Sunday on October 27. Carole Parsons will demonstrate the pipe organ's zimbelstern and provide information for the worship bulletin.

Our pastor will also develop appropriate liturgy for All Saints Day observance on November 3. Inserts will be included in the November 3 bulletin for members to write the names of loved ones (who have passed away in the past year) to be remembered. Pastor Hilary will also include information in our worship service bulletins before this date to introduce this remembrance process.

Advent and Christmas traditions at Providence were discussed—planning will continue at the Wednesday, November 6, Worship Team meeting.

## November Donation Needs

Providence Presbyterian Church is collecting the following items for Family Services on the second Sunday in November. Items may be left on the table in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, November 10.

### Category: Household Items

Blankets/sheet sets - twin size  
Pillows & pillow cases  
Towels & washcloths  
Dish cloths & towels  
Bathroom rugs  
Facial tissues  
Turkey, ham & side dishes  
for a Thanksgiving dinner  
Gift cards for grocery stores

Watch for a new donation category in December!

# NOVEMBER

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

Bret Hayford	5
J.D. Shelton	5
Skyler Zeigler	5
Delaine Wisor	9
Carole Parsons	9
Micah Yerty	13
Sue Whitsel	14
Gaylend Young	15
Teegan Brogan	17
Lily Waldman	17
Izzy Burchfield	18
Mike Larrimore	18
Jeanie Mollica	18
Elaine Bender	18
Marcia Dravis	21
Ian Adams	25
Theia Brown	25
Ouriana Brown	30

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Dick & Elaine Bender	11
Brad & Sandy Settle	21
Allen & Bobbie Gibboney	26
Dutch & Donna Yeisley	26

## Advent Dinner

The 2024 Advent dinner will be held on Sunday, December 8, immediately following the morning worship service. Please consider joining us to celebrate the Christmas season. You can make reservations until Sunday, November 24, on the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall. This will be the last day to place your name and number attending the dinner. John Gallace has graciously agreed to be our dinner coordinator and he will prepare a delicious meal that you'll want to enjoy with your church family. There is no charge for the dinner, but a donation basket will be provided. Hope to see you there!

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*Providence Post* is a newsletter of the Providence Presbyterian Church, 2401 Broad Avenue, Altoona, Pennsylvania, 814/944-7258. The *Post* is published monthly except for the July/August summer edition. Pastor: Rev. Dr. Hilary Livingston; Editor: Barry E. Gaut.  
Church Website: [www.providencepc-altoona.org](http://www.providencepc-altoona.org)

## Thank You Note

*We wish to express our gratitude to the Church family for your support after the death of our Mother and Grandmother—Barbara Glass. We truly appreciate your visits, prayers, hugs and gifts of food. The support of this faith community has really helped us.*

*Dwayne & Jane Yerty  
Jon & Janelle Yerty Family*



**Installation Service:** Please join us for the installation of our new pastor, Rev. Dr. Hilary Livingston. The service will be held on Sunday, November 3, 2024, at 3:00 pm, here at Providence Presbyterian Church. Light refreshments will be served in the Fellowship Hall following the service. Won't you join us as we formally welcome Pastor Livingston to our church family?

**Presbyterians in the Press:** Carol Adams, vice president of the Blair County Genealogical Society, recently talked about all of their collections that are available for public use. The Society was founded in 1979 and is now nationally recognized as having the largest genealogy collection between Pittsburgh and Harrisburg.

Listed in the October 5-6 edition of the *Altoona Mirror*, Rich and Susan Slep celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on August 24. Rich is a member at Providence and his wife Susan attends Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church. Our congratulations to both on this milestone!

**Stewardship:** It's that time of year when your Session is working on a new budget for 2025. Your pledge to the church helps us greatly as we create a new spending plan. A big "Thank You" to those of you who have already turned in your estimate of giving card. If you need a card, please call the church office at 814-944-7258.