



# Providence Post



FEBRUARY 2025

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## Safety First



**FROM OUR  
PASTOR**

One of the things I like to do as a new pastor coming into a church is to review its policies and procedures to make sure they are up-to-date and adequate for the church's current needs. As part of this general review, I am working with the session to conduct a safety audit of the church's policies, procedures, and equipment to make sure we are providing the safest possible environment for our congregation. I will be coordinating with the property team to review our safety equipment (fire extinguishers, first aid kits, etc.) and any relevant safety procedures. The property team is assessing the building and grounds to see what repairs and maintenance may be necessary to enhance the overall safety and operation of our ministry. The session and I will also be reviewing our Safe Sanctuaries child protection policy and our sexual misconduct/abuse prevention policies to make sure they are current and being appropriately implemented. We'll be making sure staff and volunteers have updated security clearances and appropriate child safety training. I want our church to be a safe and welcoming environment for everyone. I look forward to working with our

leadership, staff, and volunteers to make our church as safe as possible.

Blessings,

Pastor Hilary





**By Barb Hazlett**

*(Note: The following highlights are taken from the minutes of the Monday, January 27, 2025, regular Session meeting.)*

**Clerk’s Report:** Sixty communicants were served on Sunday, January 5, 2025.

We have received a thank-you card from Pastor Hilary saying how thankful she was for the Christmas gift given to her by Providence Church.

Willie Stephens has become a member at Providence Presbyterian Church.

Barb Hazlett was elected as clerk of Session and secretary for 2025; Barry Gaut was elected as treasurer for 2025; and Rick Herbster was elected as president for 2025. The secretary, treasurer and president’s offices are for the church as a corporation.

The clerk distributed and explained the Church Statistical Report for 2024 which Session approved and was submitted to Huntingdon Presbytery.

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

**Huntingdon Presbytery Report:** Huntingdon Presbytery met on Saturday, January 25, 2025, at the State College Presbyterian Church. Rick Herbster was our delegate at this meeting and he discussed some of the issues.

**Moderator’s Report:** Pastor Livingston gave the Session a report on her work in the church for the past month and she talked about the Church Mission Process.

Pastor Hilary, Judy Hartzell, Sue Whitsel and Amanda Yeager will be on a task force to investigate the use of name tags in the church.

Pastor Livingston will be using vacation time from Tuesday, September 16, through Monday, September 22, 2025, including Sunday, September 21. She will also be using some of her professional expenses fund for a class.

**Session Team Reports (Chair)**

**Finance & Stewardship (Sue Whitsel):** Per Capita for 2024 was \$39.24 per member. At year’s end, a total of \$3,927.30 was given to our per capita fund, up slightly from \$3,788.90 in 2023.

Per capita for 2025 has been set at \$41.00 per member.

The church’s accountant is working with the committee to finalize the 2024 annual report, which will be presented to the congregation at our congregational meeting in February.

	Through 12/30/24	Through 12/30/23
Congregational Giving	\$200,045	\$193,601
Building Rental Income(*)	20,494	4,242
Special Offerings	17,049	12,749
=====		
Total Income	\$237,588	\$210,592
Total Expenses	\$231,813	\$227,372
=====		
Surplus (Shortfall)	\$ 5,775	\$ 16,780

(\*) Reflects giving to the “Organ Fund”

To date, we have received 42 individuals/families that have pledged a total of \$153,320 for the 2025 stewardship campaign.

**Congregational Fellowship (Amanda Yeager):** Our next coffee fellowship will be held on Sunday, February 2, and will feature a valentine theme.

**Mission (Judy Hartzell):** We received acknowledgments of our donations to the Altoona Food Bank, Breezewood Trucker/Traveler, Mission Central Hub-Altoona, Lexington Clubhouse, Mountain Lion Backpack Program, Krislund Camp and Conference Center, Warming Center of Altoona and the Friends of Kenya Rising.

The team reviewed 2024 donations.

Pastor Hilary, Judy Hartzell and Bev Moss-Oswalt will arrange a visit to the Lexington Clubhouse in the Altoona area.

The Soup on Saturday event for January had 27 guests and included hot dogs and sauerkraut, fruit cups and a beverage. The SOS event for February will include a meatball sandwich, fruit, soup, beverages and a dessert.

Pastor Livingston has researched the Presbytery's Visioning Team and will arrange for this team to meet with our Session.

January 2025 Giving Report: Unified Mission - \$1,000, Altoona Warming Center - \$400 and the Mission Central Hub - \$250.

In January, we are asking for donations of canned soup and saltines or crackers for the Altoona Food Bank. Donations of any non-perishable food items are also appreciated.

For our Food Pantry, we are requesting donations of any non-perishable food items and personal care items. No glass containers, please.

**Outreach (Jane Yerty):** The team asked for some input on the visitor's bags and the sign-in sheets.

**Personnel (Bob Hollingsworth):** They are updating the employee review forms.

**Property (Bruce Hazlett):** Organ repairs, sanctuary and pastor's office windows, and garage repairs are a work in progress. Other places that need work include: outside trim painting, the handicap ramp, and the outside steps to the church office.

Our team has made a wish list of work that would benefit the church. This list includes: a door (possibly with some glass) between the sanctuary and the Fellowship Hall, books and equipment in the basement that needs to be moved, a historical plaque that needs placed, remodeling the bathrooms, renewing the parking lot by the garage, and/or using those two lots for building.

The snow blower would not work. Bruce took it to the Small Engine Shop, where we were told not to use ethanol gasoline in it. Our lawn mower is there as well to prepare it for the spring. Geoff Geesey took our vacuum cleaner to Frye's Sweeper and Sewing Center for repairs.

**Spiritual Enhancement (Heather Wisor):** Here are some of our upcoming youth events:  
*(Continues on next column)*

Movie Night - Thursday, February 13, from 6:00 to 9:00 pm

Winter Jam - Saturday, March 8. Sign-up sheets will be posted; permission slips will need to be filled out for transportation. For ages 10 and up.

"We are Lucky to Have You" Pancake Breakfast - Sunday, March 16, from 8:30 to 10:00 am. This will be a fundraiser and the youth and families will cook and ask for donations.

New ideas under consideration: An April event, possibly April 5 or April 11 - Escape Room, Laser Tag. Curve baseball game on Sunday, May 18.

Vacation Bible School will be held on Sunday, July 20, through Friday, July 24, from 5:30 to 8:00 pm. Dinner will be served to participating children from 5:30 to 6:00 pm. We will be asking for monetary donations to help cover the costs of meals and snacks. "Magnified—Lifeway" is this year's theme and our mission will be the North Pole Toy Drive.

We are waiting to hear back from Freedom Excursions for dates to see "Noah" in August at Sight and Sound Theater.

We will have our Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday, April 13. Donations of candy will be collected.

People are needed to fill in dates for Junior Church in February, March and May. Please check the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall.

The monitor in the Elementary Sunday School/ Junior Church room will not connect to the internet or computer. Will someone please look into this for us?

When transporting children to and from events, we will be asking parents to sign permission slips, as well as a medical form with emergency contact information.

Pastor Hilary has asked that we review all of the safety guidelines and check clearances of all volunteers. She will provide us with any necessary information and training at our next meeting.

The Junior/Senior High class will be starting two new book studies: 1. The Twelve Outlaws - a closer look at the 12 disciples of Jesus; and 2. YOUUnique -

taking a look at how God made you special. We will be purchasing these materials with curriculum funds.

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

Rick thanked everyone who helped make our Advent, Christmas Eve and the December 29 services so musical and so meaningful. The only thing that needs to be worked on is that we need to make sure the sanctuary screens match every element in the service.

We again discussed winter cancellations and will work on establishing who does not have an email address and would actually need to be called.

Rick will set up a meeting of the Audio/Video committee to work on various issues.

Worship Services/Lenten Schedule for 2025:

- February 2 - Communion
- February 9 - Allen Gibboney (Pastor Hilary is on vacation)
- February 16 - Congregational meeting following the worship service
- March 2 - Communion
- March 5 - Ash Wednesday service, 6:00 pm
- April 6 - Communion
- April 13 - Palm Sunday
- April 17 - Maundy Thursday, communion
- April 18 - Good Friday, service to be determined. Pastor Livingston will contact the other Presbyterian churches to see if there is an interest in a combined service.
- April 20 - Easter Sunday

The team discussed the offering, communion, the Apostles Creed and the Lord's Prayer. All will remain the same except that Ellie Herbster will check with Kimberly to see about ordering the communion elements from a new supplier.

**New Business:** Our church policies on Safe Sanctuaries and on Sexual Misconduct and/or Abuse were distributed. Pastor Hilary asked the Session to read them and inform her of their thoughts for updating them at a future meeting.

## FEBRUARY Birthdays & Anniversaries

Freddie Stanek	1
Laighla Wisor	1
Brad Slep	5
Milo Payne	6
Dewey Adams	7
Lee Fagley	7
Carol Gillespie	8
Russell Ramsey	8
Brad Settle	15
Richie Slep	16
B.J. Crownover	22
Joanne Helsel	23
Sammy Zeigler	28

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Willie & Sue Stephens	24
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### Per Capita Amount

Just a reminder that the Per Capita amount for 2025 is \$41.00 *per member*. Please try to meet your per capita obligation early using the special [blue](#) envelope in your box of offering envelopes.

The Finance and Stewardship Team would like to thank those of you who have responded so generously to our 2025 stewardship campaign. To date, we have received 42 pledges for a total of \$153,320. It's not too late to turn in your estimate of giving card if you have not yet done so. You may call the church office for an additional estimate of giving card if you need one.

### Annual Congregational Meeting

Don't forget to make a note on your calendar to attend the Annual Congregational Meeting that will be held on **Sunday, February 16, 2025**, immediately following the morning worship service at approximately 11:30 am. Copies of the church's annual report for 2024 will be distributed prior to this meeting.

## February 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, February 9, 2025. Thank You!

### Category: Paper Products & Medications

A+D® Diaper Rash Cream  
Vicks VapoRub®  
Neosporin®  
Pepto Bismol™  
Antacids  
Cough Drops  
Toilet Paper  
Paper towels  
Facial tissues  
Disinfect Wipes



**2025 Church Flowers:** If you would like to remember loved ones or a special event, please sign the **2025 Flower Calendar** located in the 24<sup>th</sup> Street hallway, adjacent to the Fellowship Hall. The cost is fifty dollars (\$50) for two vases.

**Inclement Weather:** In the event of inclement weather, before venturing out, please check your email and/or the church's Facebook page or website for any scheduled changes or cancellations.

**Presbyterians in the Press:** We congratulate Kenneth Lynch, who was recently promoted to director of information technology at Keller Engineers, Inc., Hollidaysburg.

Also appearing in the *Altoona Mirror* was Joan Conway, who was recently elected treasurer for

the 2025 term at the Sylvan Hills Ladies Golf Association.

**Lights and Locks:** Our church needs volunteers to open and lock up the church on Sunday mornings. A sign-up sheet is provided in our Fellowship Hall.

## 2025 Session Members

*(Note: To the right of each Session member's name is the team that they are serving on.)*

### Class of 2025

Bob Hollingsworth	Personnel
Judy Hartzell	Mission
Gail Irwin	Congregational Care

### Class of 2026

Sue Whitsel	Finance & Stewardship
Jane Yerty	Outreach
Rick Herbster	Worship

### Class of 2027

Bruce Hazlett	Property
Heather Wisor	Spiritual Enhancement
Amanda Yeager	Congregational Fellowship



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