



Providence Post



APRIL 2025



FROM OUR PASTOR

Celebrate Holy Week in Community!

This month, we will be observing Holy week, commemorating the events of the last week of Jesus' life on earth prior to his crucifixion. It is sometimes called "Passion Week," coming from the Latin term *passio*, meaning "suffering." During this week, Christians

remember Christ's suffering for the salvation of humanity.

Holy week begins on Palm Sunday, the Sunday before Easter. 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.

Maunder 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." Thus, Good Friday could also be

known as Holy Friday. Good Friday is 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, celebrating Christ's resurrection from the dead. Christians commemorate the disciples' discovering the empty tomb – Jesus is not there, he is risen! Christians also celebrate the promise that because Jesus lives, we too will have eternal life in him!

Holy Week is the highlight of the Church year. This week commemorates the core essence of the Christian faith – 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. But, if we commit to observing this important week, we can grow in our faith in powerful ways.

As we ponder our sin and Christ's sacrifice for us, the joy of Easter and the resurrection life Christ brings us becomes more real and personal to us. This year, we have the opportunity to observe Holy week together as a congregation, as well as in partnership with some of our fellow Presbyterian churches. Read this month's newsletter for more details. We hope you will join in observing Holy week this year!

Pastor Hilary





Session Highlights

by Barb Hazlett

(Note: The following highlights are taken from the minutes of the Monday, March 17, 2025, regular Session meeting.)

Clerk’s Report: Communion was served to 69 communicants on Sunday, March 2, 2025.

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

Huntingdon Presbytery Report: The next meeting of our Presbytery will be on Saturday, March 22, at 9:30 am, at the Huntingdon Presbyterian Church.

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

There will be a workshop offered by the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary called “Fishing Differently: Ministry Formation in the Marketplace.” This event will be held on Wednesday, April 30, at the Pittsburgh Seminary. Pastor Livingston is interested in attending and asked if others on Session might want to attend. There was some interest from the group—our pastor will obtain additional information.

Pastor Hilary would like to request vacation time for Monday, May 26 through Monday, June 2. We would need someone to fill the pulpit on Sunday, June 1. A motion was approved to allow this request. Pastor Hilary also requested a change in her previously scheduled vacation time from September 15 through September 21, to September 18 through September 22. This change was also approved.

Session is looking through our existing Safety and Abuse policies and simplyfying them. This is a work-in-progress and we are discussing some of the issues with these documents.

Session Team Reports (Chair)

Finance & Stewardship (Sue Whitsel): Per Capita for 2025 has been established at \$41.00 per person, and based on 140 members, our total per capita bill from Huntingdon Presbytery will be \$5,740.00, which we pay in four installments of \$1,435.00. For the period ending on February 28, 2025, there was \$2,459.00 given to our per capita fund. This represents a 43% response, or approximately 60 of our 140 members.

The 2025 vs. 2024 Monthly Financial Summary is summarized below:

	Through 02/28/25	Through 02/28/24
Congregational Giving	\$ 26,959	\$ 30,833
Building Rental Income(*)	900	4,020
Special Offerings(#)	1,200	790
=====		
Total Income	\$ 29,079	\$ 35,643
Total Expenses	\$ 47,157	\$ 36,467
=====		
Surplus (Shortfall)	\$ 18,078	\$ 824

(*) Includes contributions

(#) Includes Centsability, Food Bank, etc.

Congregational Care (Gail Irwin): Judy Hartzell mailed the coupons to the Yokosuka Naval Base. Another mailing will go out in May or June.

The schedule for cards/flowers/transportation was updated for the months of March and April.

Pastor Livingston and members from our team visited the homebound during the third week in February. Communion was shared with nine of our congregants and will be offered again in May.

Birthday cards, get-well cards and missing-you cards were prepared by team members for March. Names for the congregational card shower were designated. Valentines were sent in February to our homebound members.

Charyl Gardner contacted the Presbyterian Village at Hollidaysburg for their 2025 activities schedule. Providence will provide three birthday cakes on April 25, July 25 and October 31. Charyl will coordinate with members of the congregation and the committee who are interested in baking a cake for this project.

Linda McKee will lead a Palm Cross workshop on Friday, April 11, at 11:00 am, in the Fellowship Hall. All are invited to attend and participate—please bring your own scissors.

The committee will prepare treat boxes for our college students at the April meeting.

Congregational Fellowship (Amanda Yeager): Coffee fellowship for Sunday, April 6, will be with a large, decorated cake to celebrate spring.

Jane Falco purchased 30 tickets at \$10 per ticket, for the Thursday, June 12, Altoona Curve baseball game (our men's group will be singing the National Anthem at that game). We will decide what to charge the congregation for these tickets at our meeting in April.

The church picnic is scheduled for Sunday, July 27, at DelGrosso's Park—Steve Parsons will reserve our pavilion. The cost for the meal will be determined at a later meeting.

Mission (Judy Hartzell): We are continuing to research the Community Project and Blair County agencies. Our application to Presbytery Mission funds for our outdoor pantry is still waiting for a response.

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

The Families United for Change Soup & Dessert sale was very successful, but attendance may have been affected by Groundhog Day.

We discussed shortening the One Great Hour of Sharing promotion to four weeks running from March 23 through April 13 (Palm Sunday). A special video will be shown on Sunday, March 23.

Betsy Gallace reported on the results of her Community Meal/Food research. She spoke to at least four sources and will list our church's Soup on Saturday to FindHelp.org. Betsy will continue reviewing the list.

Pastor Livingston will contact Huntingdon Presbytery concerning Unified/World Mission funds.

The Outreach team offered to do a 50/50 split with Mission for Krislund tuition.

Our Soup on Saturday event on March 15 drew 31 guests. The SOS event for April 19 will feature sloppy joes.

The March 2025 Giving Report: Unified Mission - \$1,000; World Mission - \$500; Breezewood Truck Stop - \$300.

For the Altoona Food Bank in April, we are asking for donations of any canned/packaged meat, fish, tuna, beef, ham or chicken. For the Outdoor Pantry, we are asking for donations of any nonperishable food items and common personal care items such as soaps, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, Band-Aids, etc. No glass containers, please.

Outreach (Jane Yerty): At the present time, we have five youth interested in Camp Krislund. Additional contacts are being made with letters and phone calls. All youth are encouraged to make application and pay their registration fee prior to March 17, to qualify for the early enrollment discount. Our youth are planning to attend camp the week of July 13 through July 18.

Plans are underway for an April Showers giving event to support Family Services. Look for bulletin inserts and an article in this issue of the *Post*.

Preliminary plans are underway for the Community Garden and Library. We need books for kids.

Our team continues to monitor the use of Visitor Bags and to make changes/additions as needed. We appreciate the cooperation of our Worship and Congregational Care teams in this effort.

We are considering plans to sew and stuff bears to be given to the youth in our community in times of crisis.

Plans are underway for the Yard Sale that will benefit Camp Krislund scholarships.

Here's a reminder of previously approved dates on our calendar:

April 28 to May 2 - Yard Sale setup from 9:00 am until 12 noon

July 6 at 10:45 am - Parent meeting for Camp Krislund

September 27 - Clothing Giveaway (setup on 9/24-9/26)

December 13 - North Pole Toy Giveaway
(setup on 12/8-12/12)

Personnel (Bob Hollingsworth): Our team is working on the job descriptions for Children and Youth Coordinator and Nursery Supervisor.

The internet is working in the Sunday school room.

Joan Conway is no longer the nursery help coordinator—the Spiritual Enhancement team will take over that job.

Sue Whitsel found a “Leadership Handbook” from 2009 that will need updating. Pastor Hilary will review this document.

Property (Bruce Hazlett): Our team realized the leak in the basement that was reported last month had to be from ice because it’s been dry ever since. A light needs to be replaced in that area; an electrician will be called to replace it.

Our new shop vac is now stored in a closet in the basement.

The leak in front of the 25th Street entrance is from the spouting and will be repaired when painting is done in that area.

The garage will be fixed in the spring.

Spiritual Enhancement (Heather Wisor): Eleven youth and three adults attended the Winter Jam.

Our pancake breakfast on Sunday, March 16, raised \$625 dollars!

There will be an Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday, April 13. We are collecting candy; the junior and senior highs will stuff and hide the eggs.

There will be an Altoona Curve game, tentatively set for Sunday, May 18. Our youth will cover the cost of the ticket, popcorn or soft pretzel, drink and ice cream. Look for a sign-up sheet and a cutoff date so that tickets may be purchased.

Youth Sunday will possibly be held on June 8. Youth can sign up to participate: sing, dance, play an instrument, or do a reading. Our youth will also create the worship bulletin for that Sunday.

This year’s Vacation Bible School is scheduled for

Sunday, July 20, through Thursday, July 24. The theme is “Magnified.”

Joan Conway will no longer be making the nursery schedule. Our team will create a sign-up sheet, similar to the one we use for Junior Church, that will be used to ask for volunteers.

In an effort to get more help with Sunday school, Junior Church, and the Nursery, we are thinking of holding an event to help people get their clearances. We will also be checking to make sure that everyone who needs clearances has the proper one.

The idea of a security greeter was proposed. This would consist of a rotating schedule of someone who will sit in the Fellowship Hall and monitor doors that are left unlocked. It was also requested that the 24th entrance door be locked at 10:15 am when the worship service starts.

The summer Sight and Sound Theater trip is no longer being planned due to a lack of available dates. We may explore the possibility of a winter trip to see the Christmas story.

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

We discussed ideas for “town hall” meetings and when to schedule them.

Rick will check on Palms for Palm Sunday.

Upcoming Worship Schedule:

March 30 - Wopsononock Winds

April 6 - Communion, Handbells

April 13 - Palm Sunday, Easter Egg Hunt

April 17 - Maundy Thursday Service at 7:00 pm, Communion, Handbells, Stripping of the communion table

April 18 - Good Friday Service at Ward Avenue Presbyterian Church

April 20 - Easter Sunday, Handbells, No Sunday school classes but the Adult class will host a breakfast and invite the congregation

April 27 - Holy Humor Sunday

May 1 (Thursday) - National Day of Prayer, the church will be open from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm

May 4 - Communion

May 11 - Mother’s Day

June 1 - Communion, Summer worship schedule

starts with no Sunday school classes and the worship service starts at 9:30 am, this schedule will continue until Sunday, September 7, when we will return to our regular schedule

June 8 - Pentecost Sunday, Everyone is encouraged to wear red

June 15 - Trinity Sunday

Joe Zamberlan came to the church to tune (and repair where needed) the organ. The cost to our church will be in the \$300 to \$400 range.

Old Business: The company that created our last pictorial directory is no longer in business. Many of their former employees are now working for Universal Church Directories. We contacted them and the process is identical with the last directory we did. Every family group will get a free 8 by 10-inch photo and a free directory. The size of the directory will be 8½ by 11-inches. The sitting dates have been set for Tuesday, September 16, and Wednesday, September 17, 2025.

Amanda Yeager will order the name tags and mounting board that we approved at the February Session meeting.

Presbyterians in the Press

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

The *Altoona Mirror* presented a check to the Central Pennsylvania Humane Society, the 2024 recipient of the Season of Sharing program. *Mirror* Publisher **Dan Slep** was shown in the photo of the presentation of the \$74,244 check.



The congregation extends its heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of **Roberta M. Goss**, who passed away on Monday, March 10, 2025. Roberta was the church secretary and choir director at the former Broad Avenue Presbyterian Church.

April Donation Needs

All this April, we are having a special drive to support **Family Services**. We want to shower them with the supplies that they need most as they provide invaluable help to our local community. Items may be left on the designated shelves located in the 24th Street hallway adjacent to the Fellowship Hall no later than Sunday, April 13. This year, let's make April Showers a true downpour!

Category: Household Items

- High-efficiency laundry detergent
- Paper products: plates, cups, plasticware
- Cloth towels and paper towels
- Body wash (no bar soap), shampoo
- Soap containers
- Ramen noodles, mac & cheese, ravioli
- Snacks of all kinds
- Trash bags - 13 and 33-gallon sizes
- Hoodies, sweat pants
- Feminine hygiene products
- Toothpaste and toothbrushes

Watch for a new donation category in the May newsletter!

APRIL Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

Bruce & Barb Hazlett	3
Dan & Kathy Slep	22
Jim & Megan Burchfield	25



Rushing Past the Warning Signs

Being in a hurry rarely ends well. Case in point: Up against a deadline to pay for my son’s youth trip, I once paid hundreds of dollars to the wrong church! I went online, typed in our church’s name and clicked on the first search result. The website colors were different, and I didn’t recognize any faces. “That’s odd,” I thought. “They must have redesigned the website.” Yet, I continued.

I clicked on the giving page and noticed the church accepted credit cards. This was different too, but I welcomed the change. After the large sum was processed, I received an emailed receipt. Only then did I realize the church had a similar name but was in another state. My heart sank. I was concerned about the hundreds of dollars but also troubled with my own foolishness. I had ignored and rushed past clear warning signs.

I immediately emailed the church office, alerting them about my mistake. When I called the next business day, the bookkeeper graciously refunded my payment.

The next time you’re in a rush, remember this wisdom from Proverbs 19:2. “If you want to do something but you do not how know to do it, that is dangerous! If you hurry to do it, you will get into trouble” (EasyEnglish Bible).

—Janna Firestone

■ **Palm Cross Workshop** - Palm Sunday marks Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem. The palm branches were scattered in His path and the fronds that were waved as He passed 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, April 11, at 10:00 am, in the Fellowship Hall. Each participant is asked to bring a pair of sharp scissors.

■ **Palm Sunday Easter Egg Hunt** - On April 13, 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 17, at 7:00 pm. Communion will be served at this service.

■ **Good Friday** - A Good Friday service is being hosted by the Ward Avenue Presbyterian Church, 101 Coleridge Avenue, Altoona. The service will be held on Friday, April 18, at 7:00 pm. Providence and Hollidaysburg Presbyterian Churches will be participating in this service. A joint choir from the three churches will be performing the anthem.

■ **Continental Breakfast** - There will be NO Sunday school on Easter Sunday, April 20. 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!

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Puzzle!

Unscramble the names of these biblical mothers. Look up the verse if you need help. Then use the letters on the numbered blanks to complete the message below.

VEE (Genesis 3:20)	6 11
NNAHAH (1 Samuel 1:20)	14
RBAHEOD (Judges 5:7)	18 3
KREEHAB (Genesis 27:5)	16 5
EHLA (Genesis 30:14)	7
CLEHRA (Genesis 30:22)	7 12
MOIAN (Ruth 1:22)	10 17 13
RAAHS (Genesis 17:19)	8
AMYR (Matthew 2:11)	2
ZEBLEHATI (Luke 1:13)	9 15 4

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
G	F	F	G	!							
13	8	14	15	4	16	10	17	3	18		

Answers: Eve, Hannah, Deborah, Rebekah, Leah, Rachel, Naomi, Sarah, Mary, Elizabeth. A mother's love is a gift from God!