



January 20, 2026

Important Upcoming Dates

[Click here to request Steve join your congregation in worship.](#)

- February 15 | Stated Meeting of Providence Presbytery
([save time and register early here!](#))
- February 19 | Webinar: The Ministry Toolbox
- February 23 | Educators' Gathering

REformed flections

from Steve

In the days following the ICE shooting in Minneapolis earlier this month, I came across a quote in my Facebook feed that has stayed with me - and I suspect will continue to do so. It's from British-Indian poet Nikita Gill:

*The rage you are feeling
Comes from the same place
Inside your heart as the love.*

I find this deeply resonant, no matter where one stands on today's hot-button political issues. We are living in a rage-filled - indeed, raging - society, where it is all too easy to become upset, fly off the handle, demonize the other. And often this happens precisely because there are things we care deeply about - people, principles, values. The mistake we sometimes make is letting our passion for those things supersede the people involved - and when that happens, our love can quickly slip into rage.

Our country is divided. Those divisions frequently surface within our communities and institutions - families included, and yes, the church. This is nothing new for us as Jesus-

followers. Roughly three-quarters of the New Testament consists of letters written to churches, nearly all of which address some form of conflict. Much of that conflict arose among passionate people who cared deeply about their faith and their communities - and when tensions emerged, their love gave way to rage.

But here's the grace-filled truth: when we step back and make room for the Spirit to do its work, we begin to see the wisdom Gill names so beautifully - that it all begins with love. And from that place, with God's help, we see those around us the way Jesus sees them, choosing to return to love rather than slipping into rage. After all, this is what Jesus taught and embodied with every his breath:

*I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.
Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.*

The love Jesus calls us to is rooted in a deep sense of right and wrong, of justice and injustice - but never at the expense of another person's dignity or worth, much less their very life. We are most fully the church of Jesus Christ when we recognize the love at the heart of all that we cherish and hold dear, and allow that love to lead the way.

Thank you, Providence Presbytery, for always leading with love!

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Steve". The letters are cursive and fluid, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

[#ProvidentiallyTogether](#)

You're Invited

On February 7, at 6 p.m. At Oakland Avenue Presbyterian Church, we will have a fundraising dinner for both Frontera de Cristo, a Presbyterian border ministry located on the Arizona-Mexico border, and our own local Carolina Immigrant Alliance.

We will have a BBQ dinner and hear a great panel presentation from local immigrants who will share aspects of their personal migration stories. The fundraiser costs \$25 for adults and \$15 for students/children. Please plan to come and invite your friends!

[Registration information is on Realm.](#)

Fundraising Dinner to Benefit Frontera de Cristo
on the Arizona/Mexico Border and Rock Hill's
Carolina Immigrant Alliance



Register Here!

Saturday, February 7, 2026

Where: Oakland Hall,
Oakland Avenue
Presbyterian Church

Cost: \$25 Adults
\$15 Children/Students

When: 6pm-8pm



Carolina Immigrant
ALLIANCE

Sponsors:

Race and Reconciliation in
Rock Hill, SC





Ecumenical Mission Trip to Mexico May 23-29, 2026

The Providence Presbytery Mexico Border Ministry Neighborhood is excited to offer a trip for local disciples to travel to Frontera de Cristo in Agua Prieta, Mexico. This is where our missionaries, Mark Adams and Miriam Maldonado are serving. We will spend 7 days learning about the work that they and their Mexican partners are doing.

Some of the places we will visit are the Migrant Resource Center, CAME and the Lily of the Valley Presbyterian Church. We will also learn more about Café Justo when we visit Café Justo y Mas coffee shop. To learn more about the mission partners that Frontera de Cristo works with visit www.fronteradecristo.org.



Cost- Each traveler will pay for their own air travel to Tucson. The Basic cost per person will be **\$700**. This will include dormitory style lodging, meals, and transportation from the airport and while we are in Agua Prieta. We have a detailed Mission Handbook which we give to anyone who is interested in the trip.

News From Bethelwoods

60

1965-2025



BETHELWOODS

CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER

ALUMNI

IMPORTANT ALUMNI VERIFICATION REQUESTED



We are collecting memories from our alumni to memorialize the history of the camp and conference center through the 60 years. Please use the Google Form in the QR Code to verify your data and share your memory!



Thank you in advance for your assistance in making this Bethelwoods project a success!



CELEBRATING 60 YEARS



bethelwoods.org



BETHELWOODS CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER

Proudly Presents Our Second Annual

Bethelwoods



Bowties

MAY 2, 2026

HORTON LODGE

922 WEST MT. GALLANT ROAD, YORK, SC

6PM to 11PM

TOP SHELF BOURBON | LOCAL BREWERY

CURATED MENU | DANCING

SILENT AUCTION

PURCHASE TABLES
AND TICKETS



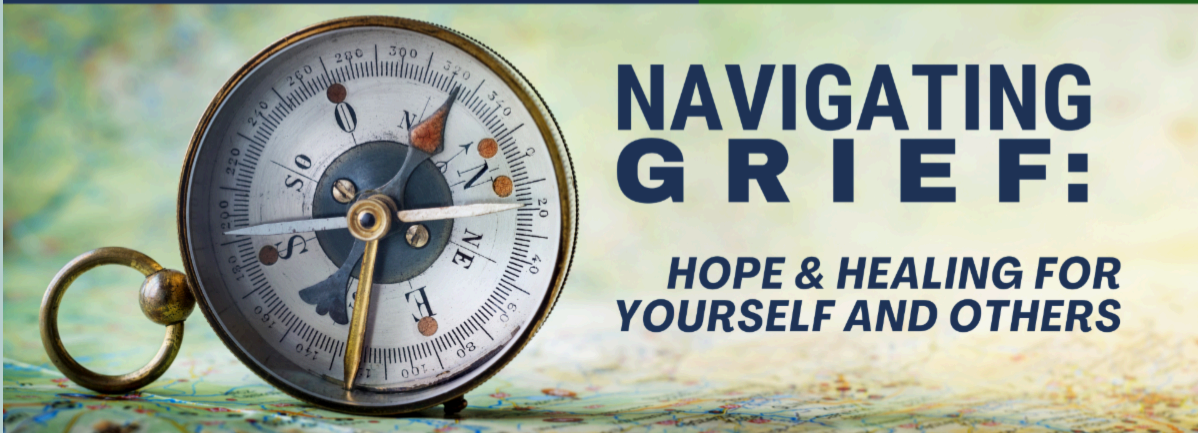
Upcoming Grief Workshop

Registration Closes Thursday



OAPC
presents

JOIN US FOR AN IMPORTANT PANEL DISCUSSION



NAVIGATING GRIEF:

HOPE & HEALING FOR YOURSELF AND OTHERS

Grief takes many forms and touches everyone at some point in life — whether through the loss of a loved one, a change in health, a relationship, or other major life transitions.

Join us for Navigating Grief, a thoughtful and educational panel discussion designed for anyone who wants to better support others through loss, as well as those moving through their own grief journey.

Together, we'll learn how compassion, presence, and understanding can make a meaningful difference in the lives of others and in our own.

For further information, please email us at oapc@oapc.net.



Sarah Titman, MSW

Senior Instructor of Social Work at Winthrop University and Community Grief Consultant, Rock Hill, SC

GRIEF: THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM



Rev. Dr. Jeff Bryan

Senior Pastor, Oakland Avenue Presbyterian Church, Rock Hill, SC

IMPACTS OF LOSS



Rev. Alison Messick-Watkins, M.Div., M.A.

Parish Associate for Care at Myers Park Presbyterian, Charlotte, NC

WHEN GRIEF BECOMES COMPLICATED



Dr. Kristen A. Wunderlich

Winthrop University Professor and Associate Worship Director, Westminster, PCA, Rock Hill, SC

BREAKING YOUR ROOTS IN HOPE'S GARDEN

Tuesday

January 27, 2026

5:00 PM - 7:30 PM | OAKLAND HALL

Register by 1/22/2026

<https://www.oapc.net/navigating-grief-registration>



OPEN TO THE PUBLIC | FREE ADMISSION | SANDWICH SUPPER PROVIDED

OAKLAND AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | 421 OAKLAND AVENUE | ROCK HILL SC 29730

Webinar: The Ministry Toolbox

Our spiritual gifts mean we naturally have many different tools at our disposal in our toolbox, but sometimes those tools may need a little sharpening.

Enter: **The Ministry Toolbox of Providence Presbytery.**

We've invited experts in various areas to join us in a monthly live webinar where they will present information on their area of ministry expertise, then we will have a Q&A session. We hope you can join us!

February's topic is: **Shared Ministry with Jerry Cannon.** The conversation will take place February 19 from 7:30 p.m. - 9 p.m. [Please click here for more information and to](#)

register and get the zoom link.



Leaderfest 2026 Registration Open

The Community of Faith is proud to once again host Leaderfest. This year's event will be led by Stephen Ministry leadership on Saturday, March 28th at Unity Presbyterian Church. Click the button below to register.

The event will begin at 8:30 a.m. and below is the day's schedule:

8:30am - Continental Breakfast and Check-In
9:00am - Session 1 - Mental Health
10:30am - Break
10:45am - Session 2 - Empathy
Noon - Lunch
12:45 -1:45 - Session 3 - Unexpected Ways to Care
1:45 - Break
2:00-3:00 - Session 4 - Grieving

For more information or questions, please contact [Rev. Kara Wheeler](#).

[Click Here To Register](#)

SC5 School of Theology: Registration Opens Late January



SC5 School of Theology 2026 Spring Semester March 27 & 28

The **SC5** School of Theology is sponsored by the five presbyteries in South Carolina: Charleston-Atlantic, Foothills, New Harmony, Providence, and Trinity.

What is the SC5 School of Theology? Theological training for elders and church leaders. There are two tracks:

- **Enrichment Track** – for Ruling Elders who have received a diploma from the SC5 School of Theology **and** for those who want personal enrichment for teaching or leading in their congregations.
- **Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE)/Commissioned Pastor (CP) Track** – for Ruling Elders who want to become a CRE or CP.

For Whom? Classes are for:

- Church Leaders interested in learning more.
- Ruling Elders interested in learning more.
- Ruling Elders interested in being commissioned to serve and lead congregations.
- Faith Formation Leaders interested in better equipping themselves to teach.

When? Friday, March 27 through Saturday, March 28, 2026

Where? The SC5 School of Theology classes are held at Presbyterian College

Spring 2026 Semester Courses

- Old Testament (Core)
- Church History (Core)
- Worship & Sacraments (Core)
- Presbyterian Polity (Core)
- The Joyous Letter to the Church at Philippi (Elective)
- One Thread: Crafting Worship That Unravels (Elective)

Costs:

- Course and 2 meals: \$75 for Enrichment Track, \$95 for CRE/CP Track
- Accommodations: Students may make arrangements as they choose. However, we negotiated with the Hampton Inn (located at Exit 54 off I-26) in Clinton for a discounted rate of \$119 for a King or \$129 for Queen room/night. The rate includes breakfast.

For more information about the SC5 School of Theology, please talk with your Presbytery leader, visit our website [here](#), or contact the SC5 School of Theology Registrar, Robin Morris, at rmorris@foothillspresbytery.org or call Robin at 864.288.5774.

Webinar Opportunity

Developing Lay Leaders: Turning Participation Into Partnership

The start of a new year invites reflection — not just on what we hope will change, but on how we'll show up differently. For many churches, this season brings honest questions about leadership, shared responsibility, and what it might look like to move forward together with clarity and trust.

In a lot of congregations, people care deeply about their church — but they're not always sure how they're meant to be involved. Many people want to support their pastor — they just don't realize how essential their role already is.

This webinar will focus on how you can work with your lay leaders to move beyond encouragement from the sidelines and help them understand the real difference they can make in the life of the church. We'll explore practical strategies for building trust, shaping a healthy group culture, and navigating common challenges such as misalignment and difficult personalities.

This course is an invitation to rethink leadership, deepen partnership, and strengthen the church together. We hope you'll join us.

Tuesday, January 27, 2026 | 12-1:30 pm (ET)

[Click For More Information](#)

Employment Opportunities

Our friends at Tirzah (L) are searching for a supply pastor and a new pianist is needed at Beaver Creek.

[Details are available here.](#)

From the Presbyterian Historical Society

The Presbyterian Historical Society is in the process of developing a resource and/or training to help churches research and write their own histories through an anti-racist lens. They want to hear directly from churches about the resources and guidance that would be most useful to them as they engage in anti-racism work, regardless of where they are in this process.

Please click here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SNPM69N>

You can read more about this project, view examples from other congregations, and learn how to submit your own research products on this

webpage: <https://pcusa.org/historical-society/collections/what-we-collect/products-pcusa-self-studies-racism>

2026 Providence Presbytery Stated Meetings

- February 15, 2026 | Faith Presbyterian, Indian Land, SC | 2:30 p.m.
 - May 17, 2026 | Oakland Avenue Presbyterian, Rock Hill, SC | 2:30 p.m.
 - August 16, 2026 | Virtual | 1:30 p.m.
 - November 8, 2026 | Riverview Presbyterian, Fort Mill, SC | 2:30 p.m.
-

Providence Presbytery Staff Members

Executive Presbyter: Rev. Dr. Steve Lindsley

Stated Clerk: Rev. Dr. David Bender

Business Administrator: Rose Lemmons-Berry

Mission Consultant: Eric Robinson

Technology & Communications Coordinator: Katie Rutland

Newsletter Submissions

Do you have content or announcements for the Presbytery Newsletter? It will be published every other Tuesday. Please send items to be included to Katie no later than the Friday before publication.

[View as Webpage](#)



Providence Presbytery | P.O. Box 2601 | Rock Hill, SC 29732 US

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