



October 20, 2026

Important Upcoming Dates

- November 8 | Stated Meeting of Providence Presbytery
- November 12 | Presbyterian Women Luncheon
- December 4 | Mission Partnership Pledges Due

[View our calendar for full details](#)

REformed flections

from Steve

There was a small glass jar that lived in the center of our kitchen table when I was growing up.

Every night before dinner, we'd dig into our pockets for spare change and drop whatever we had into it. On the nights my brother and I came up empty, my parents would press a nickel or a dime into our palms so we'd have something to give. The gesture mattered, even when the amount didn't.

I was told this was to help feed people who were hungry. But even at that age, I was skeptical. I'd look at that jar — maybe a dollar's worth of coins rattling around in the bottom — and think: there is no way this is feeding anybody.

And then came the first Sunday of the month.

On the way to church, we'd bring our little jar with us. We'd stop at a table in the narthex where an enormous glass jar sat waiting. And one by one, families like ours would pour

the contents of their little jars into the big one. The sound alone was something — a cascade of coins from families, young adults, older folks — all that small change becoming something you could actually see and hear and feel.

Something shifted in me in those moments. I couldn't have named it then, but I can now: my generosity wasn't small. It was part of something much larger than me. Alone, my tiny assortment of coins couldn't do much. But joined with the generosity of everyone around me — it was abundance. Real, tangible, overflowing abundance.

Which brings me to the *Better Together* initiative we launched last month. As you know, *Better Together* is the name we've given our Mission Partnership Giving effort this year, the annual invitation for our sessions to prayerfully consider their part in our presbytery's shared ministry. Because here's the conviction underneath it all: generosity was never really a budget question. It's a response — our response to a God who gave first, and gave everything. When our churches give to this presbytery, we're not filling a line item on a spreadsheet. We're doing as a presbytery what those families did at that narthex table — pouring our small jars into something larger, something shared, something that becomes abundance together.

Already you've heard two amazing stories on how Providence Presbytery has made an impact (you can read them again, and learn more about *Better Together*, [HERE](#)).

Thank you for being part of this journey - and know I'm grateful that we are always "better together!"

Live in hope,

Steve

[#ProvidentiallyTogether](#)

A Program Made Possible

For nearly a decade, I've been active in gun violence prevention advocacy, focused mainly on educating adults about secure firearm storage through the Be SMART for Kids program.

For years, I'd dreamed of holding a gun buyback event to help reduce the number of firearms sitting in homes, waiting to fall into the wrong hands. I reached out to churches and secular organizations again and again, but I kept hearing the same thing: gun violence is too divisive a topic. I'd started to think that dream was dead.

Then a brief conversation with Pastor Joanne Sizoo at Grace Presbyterian Church in Fort Mill changed everything.



Dimes For Hunger 2026

Providence Presbytery's 2025 Dimes for Hunger collection begins this weekend! Since 1977 participants in our Presbytery have donated one dime, per meal, per day in the month of October. The collection has raised more than \$2.1 million to feed hungry people.

The 2026 "challenge" from the Presbytery Hunger Action Team [HAT] is to raise your congregation's Dimes For Hunger Special Offering total by 10% over the 2025 total.

The 2026 "10% increase" challenge is ***intended to be most motivating at the individual church level.***

That said, the overall DFH Special Offering from our churches for the year 2025 for the Presbytery was \$47,850.67 (a 23% increase from the 2024 DFH Special Offering total from our churches that was \$38,897.06).

The Hunger Action Team's Challenge Goal for 2026 is to at least exceed \$47,850.67 + \$4,785.07 = **\$52,635.74.**

Click below to download the 2026 Dimes For Hunger document that contains the following:

- Page One: A "Minute for Mission" script from the Hunger Action Team [HAT] suitable for reading in Sunday Worship by the lead minister or his/her designee.
- Page Two: A "split-page" message suitable to be printed and used (half-page) as a Sunday Morning Worship bulletin insert.

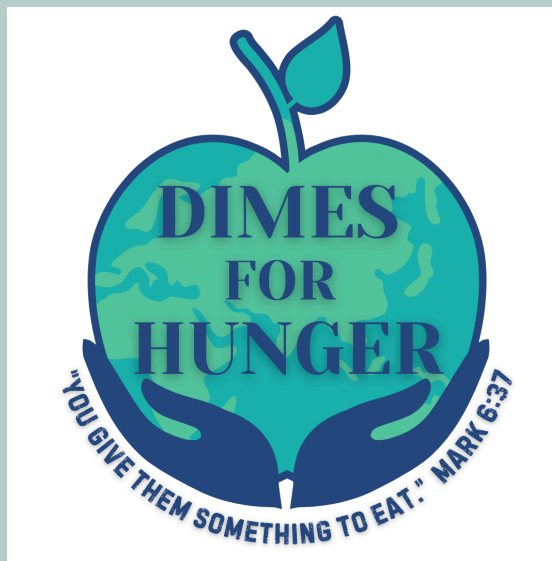
Next year we'll mark our Presbytery's Golden Anniversary of the Dimes For Hunger Special Offering!

[Download The PDF](#)

Half the annual collection is sent to feeding programs within Providence Presbytery. The other half is sent to international programs.

We are grateful for the work of the following recipients:

- Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen (York)
- Greater New Hope Soup Kitchen (Lancaster)
- Plentiful Harvest Kitchen At Covenant Presbyterian (York)
- Catawba Area Agency On Aging (Serves All Counties)
- Union Meals On Wheels (Union)
- Chester Community Food Pantry (Chester)



- Christian Community Ministry (Kershaw)
- Clover Area Assistance Center (York)
- Fort Lawn Community Center Food Pantry (Chester)
- Fort Mill Care Center (York)
- Great Falls GRASP (Chester)
- HOPE In Lancaster (Lancaster)
- Hope In Rock Hill (York)
- KARE - Kershaw Area Resources Exchange (Lancaster)
- York PATH (York)
- Bethesda Food Distribution (York)
- Society of St. Andrews (Serves All Counties)

International Partners:

- Project Alternatives/Marketplace Ministry (Honduras)
- Diamante Boys Home (Honduras)
- Heifer Project International (Guatemala)
- Fundación la Mision (Guatemala)
- Miniatry of Hope (Malawi)

If you are interested in helping with this project as a member of the Hunger Action Team, please contact **Dave Keely**.



VENDOR FAIR

BETH SHILOH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1184 N SHILOH RD, YORK SC 29745

NOV
7
2026



BAKE
SALE
+
HOT DOG
LUNCH

FAMILY
LIFE
CENTER
-
9AM-
2PM

BE A VENDOR!

REGISTRATION FORM AT WWW.TINYURL.COM/BSPCVENDOR26

Leaderfest is Coming

PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERY LEADERFEST EQUIPPED TO BUILD 2027

More than 15 diverse workshops will be offered at **Leaderfest 2027** on March 7, 2027! Two of these workshops will investigate how to create relevant, dynamic, and meaningful Bible and book studies for small groups.

Teaching The Bible

*The Rev. Dr. Rebecca Davis from Union Seminary in Charlotte will lead the workshop, **Teaching The Bible**, which will focus on ways to teach and lead Bible studies in small group settings. Regardless of your Bible study teaching experience, Dr. Davis encourages you to come explore fresh ways to dig into the sacred texts. This workshop will benefit pastors, educators, and other congregational leaders. If you lead or think you might want to lead a Bible study, this workshop is for you.*

Turning Pages, Opening Hearts in Small Groups

*Another wonderful opportunity to increase your skills in the art of leading small groups and studies! The workshop, **Turning Pages, Opening Hearts in Small***

Groups, led by teachers Lois Briggs and Sharon Archer from Faith Presbyterian in Indian Land, will do just that. Lois and Sharon will teach you simple ways to choose books, gather people, create conversation and build relationships, all around shared time with a book. Anyone interested in starting or re-invigorating a small group at your church, would benefit from this workshop!

We will be highlighting more of the many exciting topics in this "In the Know" newsletter each issue, and a full list of workshops will be available at the November 8 presbytery meeting. Be on the lookout also for a bulletin insert that you can include in your church's weekly bulletin, and visit [this space](#) for more info and the registration link!

We hope that YOU will leave Leaderfest '27 more equipped to build up the body of Christ in each of our churches!

Current Job Openings

- [Bethelwoods Food Service Staff \(Part-Time\)](#)

2026 Providence Presbytery Stated Meetings

- 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](#)

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](#)





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