



November 18, 2025

Important Upcoming Dates

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

- November 24 | Providence Educators Gathering
- November 27-28 | Thanksgiving Holiday (Presbytery Offices Closed)

View all of our events on **our calendar**.

REformed flections

from Steve

Next week brings Thanksgiving, and the wise among us are already making preparations—confirming family plans, ordering the turkey, and pulling together the rest of the menu. Many of us will find ourselves encouraging our congregations to give thanks. Thankfulness is a momentary act, a response to something good that happens to us or around us. It's what we feel when we see a familiar face across the table, when a prayer is answered, when we catch our breath at a sunset. It's real and important - but it's also fleeting, dependent on circumstance.

Gratitude, though, goes deeper. Gratitude is a way of living rather than a reaction to life. It roots itself not in what we have or what has happened, but in who God is and who we are in God. Gratitude holds joy and sorrow together - it allows us to say "thank you" even in seasons of uncertainty or pain, because we trust that God's presence abides. Living in gratitude shapes how we see others, how we give of ourselves, and how we lead. It turns our attention from scarcity to abundance, from fear to faith.

Every day I try to find something to be grateful for. Sometimes it's as simple as watching my dogs chase each other around the backyard and pausing to soak in the joy they bring. Later, on our walk, I notice the colors of the turning leaves - signs of beauty in a season of change. And then there are moments of deeper gratitude, like sitting in a presbytery meeting (yes - a presbytery meeting!), scanning the room and seeing so many of you - faithful colleagues guiding the church of Jesus Christ into its hopeful, unfolding future. Each of these moments reminds me that gratitude is not just something we feel, but something we practice, again and again.

In this season, may our thankfulness give rise to gratitude that endures beyond the holiday table - gratitude that forms our ministry, our communities, and our daily walk with Christ. Thank you for the ways you embody that grateful living in your service and care. Know that you are remembered with deep appreciation these days.

Live in hope,

Steve

#ProvidentiallyTogether

Congratulations to Rev. Kara Wheeler



We are so thrilled that Rev. Kara Wheeler was successfully examined and approved for ministry in Providence Presbytery during last week's Presbytery meeting.

Through her 18 years of serving congregations, she has found her passion to be rooted in family ministry. She is an advocate for meeting families where they are so that they may find broader connection with their congregation.

She has accepted a full time call to be Associate Pastor at **First Presbyterian Church of Rock Hill** and will be installed on January 11, 2026. We are grateful for her leadership and dedication.

The 2026 Mission Partnership Giving forms are now available. These were emailed to all Session Clerks and pastors serving congregations Monday. You may also [view them here](#). These can be filled out then emailed to Rose or they can be submitted online via the link in the letter.

We kindly ask you return them by **Friday, December 5th**.

Did you know

*In the first half of 2025,
1,305 volunteers served at
PDA Volunteer Host Sites.*

Thank you, volunteers!



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER
ASSISTANCE**

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE



More than a year after the 2024 hurricanes, months after it has left the headlines, the work of long term recovery is just beginning for many.

One of the best ways we can take part in this important work is by taking a work team to one of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance's host sites. There are already two churches considering 2026 trips, and teaming up is always a great option.

The Presbytery of Western North Carolina runs three host sites. PDA's website provides the following information:

- Western North Carolina Presbytery is hosting volunteers in response to Hurricane Helene at Canton Presbyterian Church, New Hope Presbyterian Church and Spruce Pine Presbyterian Church.
- Please email **Anne Waple** to schedule a time for your group to serve.

- Minimum age: 16
- Maximum team size: 18
- Each church sets their own pricing (usually between \$20-\$30 per person, per night).
- The website with all PDA host sites is [here](#).

Providence Presbytery's Missions Coordinator Eric Robinson's church in Sarasota, Florida (First Presbyterian) also recently opened as a PDA host site. The area is recovering from three 2024 hurricanes, with over 3500 homes in Sarasota County still in need of repair. Please check out our **host site flyer** and consider a trip to Florida.



Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is actively supporting the response to Hurricane Melissa, which led to more than 50 deaths and widespread destruction.

To support PDA's effort, please [click here](#). You'll find a place to give as well as information about PDA's response, and a bulletin insert.

Grants Awarded

Two groups within Providence Presbytery received grants recently from the Synod of South Atlantic to support their ministries.

Congratulations to the Graceful Threads Quilting Group at Grace Presbyterian Church in Fort Mill for receiving a \$3,000 grant. Part of their ministry includes sewing pillowcases for children with life altering illnesses who visit the [Give Kids The World Village](#). 300 pillowcases (pictured right) were delivered to Give Kids The World earlier this month.



Additionally, the Providence Presbytery Guns to Gardens group received a \$1,500 grant from the Synod for their work to reduce the number of unwanted firearms in our communities.

Congratulations to these groups! If you'd like to view grant opportunities available through the Synod, [please click here](#).

**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**

Click the flyer below to email organizers for more information on the upcoming mission trip to Mexico!



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.

New Workplace Justice Initiative

Our Presbytery is launching a new workplace justice initiative, and we need your help. Our first step is to use the gifts and skills in our Presbytery to create a "safety net" of sorts. Imagine how folks within our communities might benefit from the following:

- An employment lawyer to advocate for legal recourse in regards to unfair working conditions

- A realtor to help ensure people have the best housing option available
- Someone specializing in health care to help find affordable insurance
- A resume writer and interview coach to help navigate a potential employment change
- A financial coach to assist with budgeting and money management
- A social services expert to help navigate SNAP and other benefits

This is the exact type of network we want to build, a network of professionals in our Presbytery who are willing to donate their time and expertise. The initial vision is that it will work as a referral process. If there is someone in, or connected to someone in one of our churches who desires help, we would connect the person with a professional in our network who could provide assistance.

Are you interested in learning more about being part of this network? Are you interested in being part of a task force to launch the initiative? Please reach out to **Eric Robinson**.

Dear Friends of Pathways,

Our community is stronger when we come together to serve one another. My name is Taylor Thomas, and I serve as the Executive Director at Pathways



Community Center—a collaborative hub where 15 agencies work side by side to support individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

On **Wednesday, November 19 at 9:00 AM**, we invite you to join us for a **campus tour and Volunteer Fair** during **Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week**. You'll meet representatives from each of our partner agencies and learn about opportunities to make a difference through volunteer service.

You'll see our **continuum of care in action**, witnessing how we work together to help men and women rebuild their lives. Every organization on our campus relies on community support—through time, service, and generosity. This event is all about **connecting your skills and passions** with meaningful ways to serve.

Some of the ongoing volunteer opportunities include:

- Providing meals
- Answering phones
- Facility improvements / handyman work
- Haircuts and professional services (CPA/tax prep, etc.)
- Washing bedding and organizing clothing closets
- Mentoring and offering encouragement
- Helping distribute food
- Collecting needed items

There's truly a place for everyone to get involved—individuals, families, churches, civic groups, and businesses alike. Together, we can continue to bring **hope, dignity, and restoration** to our neighbors in need.

☐ **Action Step:** Please take a moment to **sign up here** to attend—or share this invitation with friends and colleagues who may want to learn more.

We look forward to welcoming you to our campus and showing how, together, we can create lasting change.



Volunteer Open House

November 19, 2025 | 9-11 AM



Make a Difference in the lives of Others

**REGISTER
NOW**

Join us for a Volunteer Open House at Pathways Community Center! Take a guided tour of our campus to see firsthand the life-changing work happening across multiple on-site partners. You'll have the chance to meet our 14 partners, learn about diverse volunteer opportunities, and discover how your time and talents can make a lasting impact. Together, we are building pathways to self-sufficiency—one act of service at a time.



For More Information:
www.pathwaysyc.org/get-involved



Presbyterian Promise Scholarship Amount Updated

A \$96,000 SCHOLARSHIP OVER 4 YEARS FOR PRESBYTERIANS

The Presbyterian Promise Scholarship is a commitment by Presbyterian College to recognize students for their merit and affiliation with the Presbyterian Church. PC seeks to develop students academically and spiritually in this signature scholarship. Students who are members of Presbyterian churches, or who attend Presbyterian/Reformed secondary

schools, will receive a scholarship for a minimum of \$24,000 per year for up to four years—that's a \$96,000 commitment to you.

Questions? Email Rev. Erin Farry at erinfarry@presby.edu.

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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