



December 16, 2025

Important Upcoming Dates

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

- December 24-26 | Christmas Holiday -- Presbytery Offices Closed
- January 1 | New Year's Day -- Presbytery Offices Closed
- January 11 | Rev. Kara Wheeler's Installation Service

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

REformed flections from Steve

'Christmas itself is by grace. It could never have survived our own blindness and depredations otherwise. It could never have happened otherwise. Perhaps it is the very wildness and strangeness of the grace that has led us to try to tame it. We have tried to make it habitable. We have roofed it in and furnished it. We have reduced it to an occasion we feel at home with, at best a touching and beautiful occasion, at worst a trite and cloying one.

But if the Christmas event in itself is indeed as a matter of cold, hard fact all it's cracked up to be, then even at best our efforts are misleading.

The Word become flesh. Ultimate Mystery born with a skull you could crush one-handed. Incarnation. It is not tame. It is not touching. It is not beautiful. It is uninhabitable terror. It is unthinkable darkness riven with unbearable light. Agonized

laboring led to it, vast upheavals of intergalactic space/time split apart, a wrenching and tearing of the very sinews of reality itself. You can only cover your eyes and shudder before it, before this:

"God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God . . . who for us and for our salvation," as the Nicene Creed puts it, "came down from heaven." Came down. Only then do we dare uncover our eyes and see what we can see. It is the Resurrection and the Life she holds in her arms.'

— Frederick Buechner, *Whistling in the Dark* (1988), p.28-29.

Wishing you and yours Christmas full of wildness, mystery and incarnational glory!
Live in hope,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Steve". The letters are fluid and connected, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

#ProvidentiallyTogether



OAPC
presents

SAVE THE DATE



NAVIGATING GRIEF:

HOPE & HEALING FOR
YOURSELF AND OTHERS

Sawamura Ali
TUESDAY
January 27, 2026
5:00 PM - 7:30 PM | OAKLAND HALL

JOIN US FOR AN IMPORTANT PANEL DISCUSSION

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC | FREE ADMISSION

Topics presented by

Sarah Titman, MSW • Rev. Dr. Jeff Bryan • Rev. Alison Messick-Watkins, M.Div., M.A. • Dr. Kristen A. Wunderlich

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.

COMPASSION
PRESENCE
the power of community

Full details and
registration link coming
December 30, 2025

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

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.

**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.

Reignite Your Pentecost Preaching

What if this coming Pentecost season, you didn't just preach another sermon, but ignited a fire in the hearts of your congregation?

We're thrilled to invite you to Reignite Your Pentecost Preaching — a powerful, one-day workshop designed just for



REIGNITE YOUR PENTECOST PREACHING

clergy and commissioned pastors like you.

[Read More](#)

New Resource

It's easier than ever to have mission tools at your fingertips. Providence Presbytery has a new Digital Mission Education Library available. This library is full of resources -- booklets, videos and podcasts relating to Providence Presbytery's Missions. Mission Consultant Dr. Eric Robinson is continually adding resources to this library and welcomes any additions you think may be helpful. Don't hesitate to [reach out to him](#) with questions or ideas!

[Click Here To Access The Library](#)

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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