



December 30, 2025

Important Upcoming Dates

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

- 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**.

As 2025 comes to a close, we want to thank each of you for your work and partnership as we labor together to share the love of God with all people within Providence Presbytery. We look forward to what 2026 will bring and pray it offers an abundance of joy and health for each of you.

Living Waters Team Update



The Providence Presbytery Living Waters for the World Team recently completed a water purification system installation at La Esperanza Elementary School in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala.

Team members who made this mission trip included Susan Benfield, Rev. Kathryn McGregor, Bill Lehman, and Dan Rogers. While some team members worked with volunteers from the school to install the system, Susan and Kathryn worked with nine teachers from the school to teach them about what to use the pure water for, how to care for the bottles, how the system works, and the importance of proper hand washing to improve the health of the community.



We celebrated with a dedication service on our last day of our week long trip - where we all drank water from the newly installed system.

Thank you to all of the churches that helped us raise the necessary funds to provide clean water to the students, staff, and parents in this community. All our new friends at the school send their sincere appreciation to those of you who helped to make this project possible.

Our Living Waters Team is currently making plans to install another water purification system at a Presbyterian Church in Guatemala in late 2026. We welcome anyone who may want to join our team to help in any way as we prepare for this next project. Please reach out to [Mission Consultant Eric Robinson](#) with questions.

We also welcome any donations to allow us to raise the funds needed to complete this installation. These can be sent via check to the Presbytery indicating they are provided for the “Living Waters Fund” [or a donation can be made online on the Presbytery's Realm site.](#)

With your help, we can work toward fulfilling the Motto of Living Waters for the World – *All God's Children Deserve Clean Water.*



NFL Invocation Invitation

If you were at Sunday's Carolina Panthers game against the Seattle Seahawks you might have seen a familiar face offer the pre-game invocation! The Rev. Dr. Matt Rich from Unity Presbyterian Church in Fort Mill was invited to offer a prayer then had the opportunity to spend time on the sidelines with his family. You may view a video of his prayer [here](#).

Even though the Panthers didn't take home the win, it was no doubt a memorable experience for the Rich family!





America's Cyber Defense Agency

NATIONAL COORDINATOR FOR CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY AND RESILIENCE

No one wants to think about tragedy striking our churches, but there are plenty of resources to help us prepare for anything. [Click here to view the latest Venue Guide for Security Enhancements](#) just published by the federal Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency.



OAPC
presents

SAVE THE DATE



NAVIGATING GRIEF:

HOPE & HEALING FOR
YOURSELF AND OTHERS

TUESDAY Sawamura Ali
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. Allison 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 clergy and commissioned pastors like you.

[Read More](#)

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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