



March 17, 2026

Important Upcoming Dates

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

- Wednesday, March 18 | Quarterly Coffee: Olive's Mud Puddle — Fort Mill | 10am–noon
- Thursday, March 19 | Webinar: The Ministry Toolbox -- Cultivating Generosity In Your Congregation
- Tuesday, March 24 | Quarterly Coffee: Knowledge Perk — Rock Hill | 5–7pm
- Saturday, March 28 | Leaderfest with Stephen Ministries

[View our calendar](#)

QUARTERLY COFFEE

TOMORROW -- Pastors, CREs, educators and church leaders are invited to drop in and join Steve for tomorrow's Quarterly Coffee. Steve will be at **Olive's Mudd Puddle** in downtown Fort Mill from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Drop in anytime, stay as long as you can, and know that the coffee is on Steve.

No agenda. No program. Just us.

Happening Thursday: The Ministry Toolbox Series

Mark your calendars for our next Ministry Toolbox webinar this Thursday, March 19th at 7:30pm.

Rev. Erica Allen from Horizons Stewardship will join us for "**Cultivating Generosity In Your Congregation**" — exploring how to root generosity in discipleship rather

than obligation, with practical approaches for nurturing a culture of joyful, faithful giving. You won't want to miss it.

Click the button below to view details and find an introduction of Erica.

If you missed last month's conversation or want to see what other topics are scheduled for the rest of this year, you can [find that information on our website](#).



[View Thursday's Event](#)



Dear Friends,

One of my deepest hopes for Providence Presbytery is that our pastors and church leaders feel genuinely supported and cared for — because I believe that when they flourish, our congregations flourish. With that in mind, I'm glad to share some encouraging news from the Board of Pensions.

The Board of Directors met March 5-7 and approved several meaningful enhancements to the Benefits Plan. I'm grateful to the Board for listening to feedback from across our denomination and responding with tangible changes. Among the highlights:

- Expanded subsidy support for dependent child medical coverage for congregational pastoral leaders
- An extension of Transitional Pastor's Participation through 2029
- A new Child Care Support grant available April 1, 2026 for ministers with young children
- Three new Medical Plan options beginning in 2027.

These aren't small things — they represent real relief for many clergy families.

This letter is being sent to the Minister and Clerk of Session at each congregation. I'd ask that you share it with any committee or group in your congregation that you think would benefit from knowing about these changes — whether that's your personnel committee, session, or others involved in pastoral care and support.

You can read the full details on the Board of Pensions website [HERE](#).

Continued blessings!

Live in hope,

Steve

Register Today!

Providence Presbytery Leaderfest Seminar March 28, 2026

Unity Presbyterian Church / 303 Tom Hall St / Fort Mill, SC 29715

Presented by Stephen Ministries, St. Louis, featuring Joel Bretscher

The mental health crisis has been a growing challenge in society for decades, with numerous proposed solutions that have fallen short of resolving the problem. Building on more than two years of research, Stephen Ministries St. Louis has developed a bold new approach for the church to make a far-reaching difference in this area. Come and hear about this unexpected, powerful way for you, your small group, and all of our congregations to help solve the mental health crisis.

Schedule

8:30–9:00 a.m. Check-In and Continental Breakfast

9:00 a.m.–Noon Presentations

- How Your Congregation Can Help Combat the Health Crisis: A New, Expanded Approach
- What Jesus Teaches Us about Empathy

Noon–12:45 p.m. Lunch (included with registration)

- Optional Presentation on Getting a Church Involved with Stephen Ministry

12:45–3:00 p.m. Presentations

- Unexpected Ways to Care
- What We've Learned about Grief and Relating to Those Who Are Grieving



Scan the QR code on the Left to Register

\$20 registration fee

Space is limited. Pre-Registration by March 21 is requested.



Joel Bretscher has been a member of the staff at Stephen Ministries in St. Louis since 1995. As Program Director, Joel leads the writing and editing team in the development of books, videos, training materials, courses, and other resources.

He is the lead author of *The Gift of Empathy* and coauthor of *Caring Assertiveness*, both award-winning books.

[Click Here To Register](#)

[Click Here To Download This Flyer As A Bulletin Insert](#)

Would your Presbytery organization like to set up a display table for the March 28 Leaderfest event? If so, please contact Eric Robinson at eric@providencepres.org.

Session Record Reviews

The review of the 2025 session minutes will be **Sunday, April 12 at 2 pm.** First Presbyterian York, Purity Presbyterian Church, Grace Presbyterian (Lancaster), Oakland Avenue Presbyterian Church and Liberty Hill Presbyterian Church will once again be our host churches.

Session clerks will attend at the same location as last year. They have already received a list of congregations and locations as well as the session records review form.

Contact **Stated Clerk David Bender** with questions.

News From Bethelwoods

Summer Camp Registration Is Now Open



SUMMER 2026



Relate

Foster meaningful relationships

Connect

Engage with others from different backgrounds



Expand

Build new skills and create new experiences

CAMPS

- Resident Camp •
- Day Camp •

RATES

Resident Camp

- Junior, Tenderfoot, Venture: **\$660**
- Explorer & Voyager: **\$330**
- Specialty Camps: **\$705**

Day Camp

- Squirrel & Otters: **\$225**
- Middle School: **\$275**

FOR MORE INFORMATION

803-366-3722 Bethelwoods.org

922 W Mt. Gallant Rd. York, SC



Register Now

Scan Me

2026 SC5 Leader of Leaders Event



SC5 Leader of Leaders Event
April 28, 2026
9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.*

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St Andrews Rd
Columbia, SC



In the description of the early Church in Acts 2:43-47, the word *all* is used more than once. The *whole* church was part of the awe-inspiring work being done by the Holy Spirit through the apostles and church members. *All* means everyone -- from the youngest to the oldest, across generations. Join us for a day focused on engaging *all* the church -- the *whole* church -- in ministry.

*Registration, refreshments, and fellowship from 9:00 to 9:30.

[Click For More Info & To Register](#)

Organ Wanted

Carmel Presbyterian is in search of a small, gently used organ. If you have one for sale please contact Rev. [Remi Flaherty](#).

From Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Registration is now open for the 2026 Disaster Emotional and Spiritual Care Academy!

Six weeks of live, free online programs will offer pragmatic and informative sessions to help faith and community leaders address needs emerging from disasters and other crises.

These interactive programs are on Tuesdays, March 24 through April 28, 2026, 10:00 am - 11:30 AM Central and are appropriate for all levels of experience



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER
ASSISTANCE**

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

and expertise.

[Register Here](#)

New Documentary



Celebrate 150 Years of Thornwell

Thornwell's 150th Commemorative documentary is now available to share with your church, presbytery, or community!



150
Thornwell
EST. 1875

Interested in hosting a screening?

**Please contact
Elizabeth Milhous,
Vice President for Mission Advancement
864-923-1878
emilhous@thornwell.org**

Looking back at 150 years of world history, we are amazed at how far we've come. Thornwell was founded in 1875, three years before Thomas Edison installed the first private electric system in his home. Since we opened our doors to those first ten children in our community orphaned by the Civil War, our country has been involved in more than seven significant wars. We invented the automobile, the telephone, the airplane, and the computer. We passed laws allowing women and minorities to vote and enacted the Civil Rights Act. We landed a man on the moon and entered a new millennium.

So much has happened. Yet, Thornwell has been here by God's grace - innovative enough to respond to change and focused enough to stay on mission.

For children. For families. For healing.

As we celebrate this milestone of 150 years in service, we are focused on the next 150, knowing that we must begin today to create better tomorrows for the children and families we are blessed to support.

[Watch The Preview](#)

[Learn More About Hosting A Screening](#)

Free Online Lecture: Revelation's Influence On American Immigration



Yale Divinity School's Summer Study program features small, online seminars that focus on the Bible or a specialized topic in religion or theology. The program is open to the public and all learners are welcome!

This summer it will feature a keynote lecture on Tuesday, June 2 at 7:30pm Eastern with YDS Professor Dr. Yii-Jan Lin titled "**American Apocalypse Now.**" This lecture demonstrates the influence of Revelation's violent and extreme language on American immigration, and how the nation needs to break out of such apocalyptic thinking. This event is FREE, but you must [register here](#).

Employment Opportunities

- [Coordinator of Congregational Life and Engagement](#) at Unity Presbyterian Church

2026 Providence Presbytery Stated Meetings

- 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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