



March 3, 2026

Important Upcoming Dates

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

- Monday, March 2 | Hebrews and She Bakes — Chester | 10am–noon
- Wednesday, March 18 | Olive's Mud Puddle — Fort Mill | 10am–noon
- March 19 | Webinar: The Ministry Toolbox -- Cultivating Generosity In Your Congregation
- Tuesday, March 24 | Knowledge Perk — Rock Hill | 5–7pm
- March 28 | Leaderfest with Stephen Ministries

[View our calendar](#)

REformed flections

from Steve

There's something almost sacramental about gathering around a cup of coffee. Maybe it's the way it slows us down — the warmth of the cup in your hands, the unhurried pace of a good conversation. Maybe it's the way it creates space for honesty, for laughter, for the kind of sharing that doesn't happen in the middle of a busy committee meeting or a packed Sunday morning.

That's the spirit behind the Quarterly Coffees I started last year, and our next round is just around the corner. These gatherings are for pastors, CREs, educators, and church leaders — drop in anytime, stay as long as you can, and know that the coffee is on me. No agenda. No program. Just us.

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- Wednesday, March 18 | Olive's Mud Puddle — Fort Mill | 10am–noon
- Tuesday, March 24 | Knowledge Perk — Rock Hill | 5–7pm

I hope you'll make it to one — I'd love to see you there.

Three other things I want to share:

First, our inaugural **Ministry Toolbox** webinar a little over a week ago was a great conversation, and if you missed my discussion with Rev. Dr. Jerry Cannon from the Board of Pensions on Shared Ministry, you can view the recording on our [presbytery website](#). And mark your calendars now for our next Ministry Toolbox — **Thursday, March 19th at 7:30pm** on Zoom — when I'll be joined by Erica Allen from Horizons Stewardship for a conversation on "Cultivating Generosity In Your Congregation." You won't want to miss it!

Second, our Committee on Ministry is moving toward a new liaison model that I think will be a real gift to our congregations. Rather than assigning COM liaisons only when a transition or concern arises, every congregation in Providence Presbytery will be assigned a liaison who's simply there to stay connected, check in, and be a trusted face of the presbytery. The goal is relationship over intervention, and prevention over crisis response. More details to come, but I wanted you to hear about it. Many thanks to our hard-working COM!

And lastly, as I've said many times before, if I haven't visited your congregation yet, I'd love to. Whether it's to preach or simply to worship alongside you, I count these visits among the best parts of this call. If you'd like to have me, just head [HERE](#) and we'll work out the details from there.

What a gift it is to serve alongside each of you!
Live in hope,



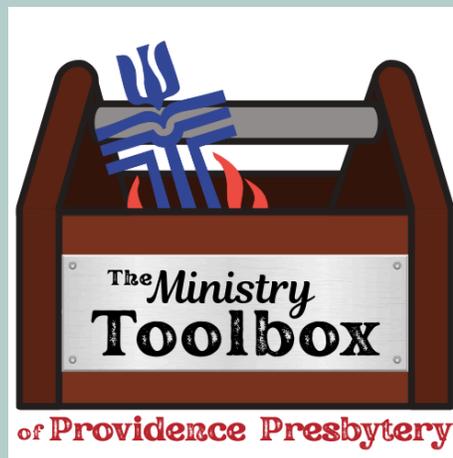
[#ProvidentiallyTogether](#)

The Ministry Toolbox Series

Our first webinar in The Ministry Toolbox was a terrific conversation about shared ministry. We want to send a huge thank you to Rev. Dr. Jerry Cannon with The Board of Pensions for lending his time and expertise. If you missed last week's conversation you can [find it on our website](#).

Next month's conversation is with Rev. Erica Allen with Horizons Stewardship about cultivating generosity in your congregation.

Click the button below to view details of that March 19 conversation including an introduction of Erica.



[View Our Next Event](#)

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](#)

Tomorrow: SACK Lunch Conversation on Racial

1st Wednesday SACK Lunch Conversation

(South Atlantic Community Knowledge)

A monthly Zoom for sharing across the Synod!



Conversation Topic

February 4 - Sharing & Writing Policies
for Churches & Presbyteries

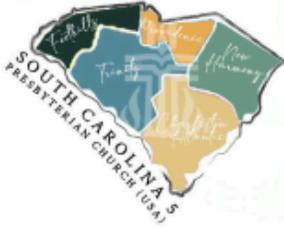
March 4 - Racial Justice

April 1 - No Meeting (Holy Week)



[Get More Information & Register](#)

**SC5 School of Theology:
Registration Open**



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.

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.

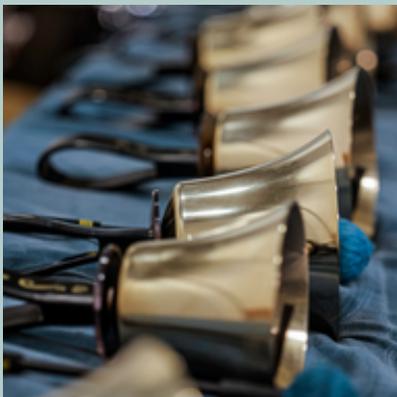
*Registration, refreshments, and fellowship from 9:00 to 9:30.

[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](#).

Handbells For Sale



Covenant Church in Rock Hill has a complete set of (used very little) Schulmerich handbells that it needs to sell.

Included is 1st, 2nd, 3rd Octave bells (37 total), locking cases, 9 folding tables with foam and covers and the PM37 Melody chimes in cases.

The price is negotiable. Please contact Steve Garland 803-517-5463 or email tlcgar@comporium.net.

New Lenten Series Available



Providence Presbytery's Mission Coordinator Dr. Eric Robinson has published a new Lenten curriculum with Center for Excellence in Christian Education at Union.

Stewards of Living Water is a six-session Bible study for adults. The six one-hour sessions focus on scripture passages from the Revised Common Lectionary Year A for Lent, exploring themes of water related to rebirth, provision, healing, restoration, and ritual, as well as water justice in the world.

Participants are invited on a transformational journey from the dryness of the desert to the life-giving water of a well and a pool, seeing how Christ and the Holy Spirit are at work in the search for Living Water. The path will lead to personal spiritual nourishment and engage our calling to live out our baptisms through mission, partnership, and stewardship for the sake of the world. Through multisensory and engaging activities, participants will experience God's life-giving nourishment. Perfect for a congregational setting or small group study.

[Learn More & Download](#)

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 and expertise.

[Register Here](#)



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER
ASSISTANCE**

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE



EXECUTIVE CERTIFICATE IN RELIGIOUS FUNDRAISING

The ECRF is designed for religious leaders in faith-based organizations and institutions who wish to learn more about the spirituality of fundraising and gain a core foundation in fundraising principles.

Atlanta, Georgia
May 11-13, 2026



Scan the QR code for
more information & to
register

EXECUTIVE CERTIFICATE IN RELIGIOUS FUNDRAISING



Presbyterian College is partnering with Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy's Lake Institute on Faith and Giving to offer the Executive Certificate in Religious Fundraising (ECRF) in the southeast region.

The Executive Certificate in Religious Fundraising (ECRF) is designed for religious leaders in faith-based organizations and institutions who wish to learn more about the spirituality of fundraising and gain a core foundation in fundraising principles. The ECRF covers four key topics and includes select required reading to be completed in advance and the completion of a final project.

The ECRF provides the research, tools, and customized training to meet the growing needs of leaders in religious communities and fundraisers for faith-based organizations. The focus of the ECRF is on the cultural, organizational, and philanthropic practices unique to religious institutions. These practices in turn enable donors motivated by spiritual and religious values to experience the joy of generous giving.

The ECRF utilizes faculty presentations, interactive discussion, selected readings, and a context-specific final project to address:

- Nurturing Generous Congregations and Organizations
- Nurturing Generous Donors
- The Practice of Religious Fundraising
- Integrating Religious Leadership and Fundraising

This hybrid, in-person and online, program allows students the opportunity to earn a certificate in fundraising as they explore motivations for giving in the nonprofit sector. The course begins with a required two and half days in-person teaching sessions, hosted by Presbyterian College, three additional online teaching hours, and ends with a practical application project.

*Learn More &
Register Today*

[www.presby.edu/graduate-programs/
graduate-certificate-partnerships/](http://www.presby.edu/graduate-programs/graduate-certificate-partnerships/)



JOIN US NEXT IN
ATLANTA, GA
MAY 11-13, 2026

For more information about the in-person teaching sessions, email Rev. Erin Farry at erinfarry@presby.edu. For information regarding the certificate program and final project requirements, visit www.lakeinstitute.org/ecrf.

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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