



April 28, 2026

Important Upcoming Dates

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

- May 2 | 2nd Annual Bethelwoods & Bowties
- May 17 | Stated Meeting of Providence Presbytery (Handbook coming soon!)
- May 18 | Providence Presbytery Educators Gathering
- May 21 | The Ministry Toolbox: Meet Your Presbyterian Foundation Ministry Resource Officer
- May 25 | Memorial Day -- Presbytery Offices Closed

[View our calendar](#)

REformed flections *from Steve*

Earlier this month I had the pleasure of a beautiful morning drive through the back roads of Kershaw County to worship with two of our congregations — Beaver Creek and Bethune Presbyterian Churches. Lovely services. Lovely people. Exactly the kind of morning that reminds you why this work is such a gift.

After worship at Bethune, a handful of us gathered for lunch in the fellowship hall — ham sandwiches, chips, fruits and vegetables, and good conversation. Simple and wonderful. And somewhere in the middle of it all, I asked them a question I've been asking congregations across our presbytery: *How can the presbytery best support you?*

The answer came quickly: *New members!*

I appreciated their honesty, and what followed was one of those conversations I find myself still turning over days later. Because the challenge of welcoming new people isn't unique to Bethune or Beaver Creek — it's something nearly every congregation is navigating, regardless of size or location. And it raises a question worth sitting with: *What if membership isn't actually the goal?*

Here's what I mean. More and more people today are actively participating in churches — attending worship, giving generously, serving faithfully — without ever formally joining. This is especially true of younger generations, who simply aren't the "joiners" their parents and grandparents were (churches, Rotary clubs, country clubs, civic organizations - the list goes on and on). The impulse to formally belong to institutions has shifted.

That doesn't mean people don't want community — they do, deeply. It just means they may come to it differently than we expect.

So what if our congregations leaned into that? What if the question shifted from *how do we get new members* to *how do we open our doors and simply serve?*

One idea that surfaced at our lunch: a Parents' Night Out for the community. Church members provide childcare for a couple of hours on a Friday or Saturday evening, parents drop the kids off and go enjoy a few hours together over dinner, and everyone goes home having made a new connection. No ask. No agenda. Just a congregation offering itself to its neighbors and trusting the Holy Spirit to do what she does from there.

Maybe that idea will take root; maybe not. But the thinking behind it — outside-the-box, prioritizing community and connection over programs and structure — is exactly the kind of thinking every congregation needs to be doing right now. The church that asks *how do we get people to join us* is asking a different question than the church that asks *how do we give ourselves away*. And I know which question I find more hopeful.

I left Bethune grateful — for the lunch, but more for the people around that table who love their church and are genuinely wrestling with what faithful, creative ministry looks like in this moment. That spirit gives me a lot of hope -- As do you!

Live in hope,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve". The letters are cursive and fluid, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

[#ProvidentiallyTogether](#)

Catch The Replay: The Ministry Toolbox

Youth ministry -- let's talk about it.

What do our youth **really** need from their church community?

How can the church offer connection and belonging without adding to the endless pressure many young people feel day to day?

Are smaller congregations well positioned to meet the needs of youth?

The answers may surprise you. We had a terrific Ministry Toolbox conversation covering Youth Ministry, specifically in smaller congregations, but even our larger congregation leaders will get a lot out of watching this. You can find the recording on our website.



Watch The Recording



Presbytery Meeting Survey

The Presbytery Coordinating Team is exploring a possible change to the meeting day and time to better serve our members. Providence Presbytery currently holds four stated meetings per year, typically on Sunday afternoons. You are invited to take a brief survey to help the Coordinating Team make a well-informed recommendation to the body relating to this matter.

Your input is valued — this should take about 3 minutes. To access the survey, please either scan the QR code to the left or [click here](#).

Responses will be collected until May 31st.



THE BOARD OF PENSIONS
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

BOP Assistance Program

The Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions is part of our commitment to caring for one another and helping members thrive.

Your congregation's ministers and staff who are enrolled in the Benefits Plan of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) may be eligible for grants, each designed to support members' wholeness. [Click here to learn more.](#)

Benefits Regional Summits: Support for Congregational Leaders

Join us for an **informative town hall** designed to support pastoral leadership and congregational decision-makers.

Located throughout the country, the **Benefits Regional Summits** will provide important updates and insights into the Benefits Plan of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and related programs offered by the Board of Pensions. Among topics, you will hear about:

- Medical Plan cost trends and changes in the healthcare system
- Dues package subsidies that would ease financial burdens for congregations, pastors, and their families
- Plans and programs that support those who serve the Church, including Assistance Program enhancements

You will also have the opportunity to ask questions.

We hope you will join us at a summit near you for collaborative conversation about the Benefits Plan and what's ahead. There is one remaining opportunity in SC that will last approximately 90 minutes.

- Columbia: Wednesday, April 29th at 10am at Eastminster PC

[The Board Bulletin Spring 2026 - The Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church \(U.S.A.\)](#)



**Worship
& Music
Conference**
Presbyterian Association of Musicians

**WHO'LL BE a
WITNESS?**

**PRESBYTERIAN ASSOCIATION OF MUSICIANS
2026 WORSHIP & MUSIC CONFERENCE
JUNE 21-26 & JUNE 28-JULY 3
MONTREAT CONFERENCE CENTER
MONTREAT, NORTH CAROLINA**

Attention Small Churches:

There is about \$7,600 in scholarship funding available to participate this year's **Presbyterian Association of Musicians** Worship & Music Conference at Montreat

Conference Center. This scholarship for small churches includes registration, lodging, meals, and transportation, if needed. We know the biggest barrier to attending any conference is often cost.

Learn more about the Worship & Music Conference:

<https://www.presbymusic.org/conference>

Scholarship Application Page: **<https://www.presbymusic.org/conference-scholarships>**

You're Invited

Bowling Green Presbyterian Church is proud to present:

***"Has Christ Been Divided?
Challenges to Community in Corinth"***

Led by Rev. Dr. Jim McConnell

*Interim Dean, School of Divinity
Professor of New Testament Interpretation
Gardner-Webb University*

Saturday, May 16, 2026 | 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

250 Ridge Road · Clover, SC 29710

Itinerary:

- 9:30 am-10 am:** Fellowship Hall
Coffee Fellowship
Drop-off for Registered Children:
- *Nursery (younger than 3 years old)*
 - *Corinthians Camp for Kids (K4-5th grade)*
- 10:00 am to 11:30 am:** Sanctuary
Session One
- 11:30am-12:30 pm:** Fellowship Hall
Lunch Break for All
- 12:30 pm- 2:00 pm:** Sanctuary
Session Two
- 2:00 pm-3:00 pm:** Q&A *with Jim*

Reservations for Lunch and Childcare

Lunch Reservations:

- Name of Participant(s):
- Number of Lunches Reserved:

Childcare:

- Under 3 years: Nursery
- K4-5th Grade: Corinthians Camp *for Kids*
Children's Names & Ages:
Parent/Guardian Name:
Parent/Guardian Phone:



Open Camera and Scan here to
reserve lunch and childcare
by May 6.

Please email the above information *by May 6th* to:
bowlinggreenpres@gmail.com

Questions? Please email bowlinggreenpres@gmail.com
or text/call Joel Jones at 704-460-0991.

[Click Here To Download The RSVP Form](#)



PCSC Mother's Day Offering

On Sunday, May 10, Presbyterian churches throughout the State of South Carolina will receive the annual Mother's Day Offering in support of the charitable care ministry of Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina (PCSC).

Since the first Mother's Day Offering in 1954, your generosity has enabled PCSC to provide care for residents who, after years of living in a Presbyterian community and through no fault of their own, have outlived their life's savings and need support to continue meeting their monthly obligations.

This commitment, made more than 70 years ago, required tremendous faith, courage, and vision.

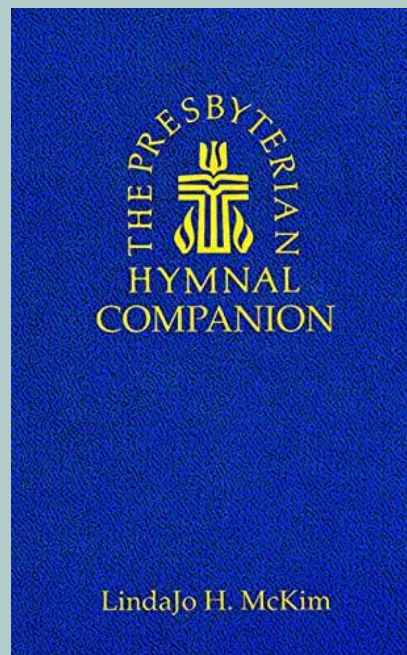
Over the last decade, your generosity has allowed PCSC to provide an average of more than \$1 million in charitable care each year. Your gift, whether large or small, is vital for the success of this ministry. By honoring our fathers and mothers in this way, you help ensure that those with need can continue to call Presbyterian Communities "home." Thank you for your generosity.

Gifts may be made by check through your congregation, or online at giving.prescommunities.org. A video in support of this ministry is available for your use by clicking [here](#). Thank you for your prayers, your trust, and your support.



Myers Park Presbyterian Church, in partnership with RAWtools South, invites the community to a **safe, anonymous firearm surrender event** offering a responsible way to transform harm into renewal.

Saturday, May 30 | 10am–1pm



Drive-through at MPPC Outreach Center

Plus: Family-friendly blacksmith demonstration

Sunday, May 31 (after services)

Learn more, follow, and share:

Instagram: [gunstogardensclt](#)

Facebook: [gunstogardenc1t](#)

For more information contact: Blair Tucker:

BlairSmithTucker@gmail.com

Uriel Presbyterian Church in Chester has misplaced its spiral bound accompanist book (the blue hymnal one).

If anyone can help them locate a new one they would greatly appreciate any help.

Please contact Cheryl at 803-385-7482.

Resources for Creative Use of Church Property

Ready to rethink what your church property can do? The Office of Faithful Innovation has curated a dynamic suite of resources to help congregations align ministry and money in bold, creative ways. Dive into the Good Futures Accelerator, an interactive, game-based tool that guides churches through discerning possibilities for social enterprise. Explore the practical "How To" collection, covering everything from partnerships and development to rentals and tax considerations. And find inspiration through the Affordable Housing and Social Enterprise Inventories, highlighting how PC(USA) churches and presbyteries are already innovating with purpose. Discover what's possible: www.pcusa.org/innovation.

UNIVERSITY of DUBUQUE

New Campus Ministry Fellowship Available for University of Dubuque and University of Dubuque Theological Seminary Students

DUBUQUE, Iowa – A new fellowship program at the University of Dubuque (UD) and University of Dubuque Theological Seminary (UDTS) will provide graduate students the unique opportunity to pursue life together in collegiate ministry while obtaining a master's degree.

[Learn More](#)



Welcome to the 227th General Assembly

June 22 - July 2, 2026

Issue 8 of GA227's "On the Road to GA" is hot off the virtual presses!

Employment Opportunities

Unity Presbyterian Church

- Coordinator of Congregational Life and Engagement

Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina

- Senior Vice President of Development and Church Relations
- Director of Annual Giving and Donor Engagement

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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