



May 19, 2026

Important Upcoming Dates

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

- May 21 | The Ministry Toolbox: Meet Your Presbyterian Foundation Ministry Resource Officer
- May 25 | Memorial Day -- Presbytery Offices Closed
- Jun 16 | The Ministry Toolbox: Grants for Churches: What's Possible and How to Pursue It
- June 19 | Juneteenth -- Presbytery Offices Closed

[View our calendar](#)

REformed flections

from Steve

I spent this past week with my preaching group - we've been gathering for the past eleven years for fellowship and growth - and one of my colleagues shared this wonderful story.

In the back of Iona Abbey in Scotland, there's a small staircase that leads to an engraved wooden door. Inside, a monk would sit in a wooden chair and look out the window toward the shore — keeping watch for Vikings, who had already raided the abbey more than once and killed dozens of their brothers.

But that wasn't the only reason for the watch. The monk was also looking for strangers. Someone arriving by boat, a pilgrim making their way to the shore — and when the monk spotted one, he'd climb back down and tell his brothers: *prepare for a guest.*

What captures my imagination is that this was just as intentional, just as essential, as watching for danger. The chair by the window wasn't only a guard post. It was a ministry.

The Celtic Christians understood something about hospitality that goes far deeper than a friendly face at the door on Sunday morning. Rooted in the words of Jesus in Matthew 25 — *I was a stranger and you welcomed me* — and echoed in the ancient Benedictine rule that instructed monks to receive every guest as Christ, Celtic hospitality was a spiritual practice, a way of seeing. To welcome the stranger was to welcome God. To look out that window was, in a very real sense, an act of worship.

I find myself wondering what it would look like for our congregations to embody this kind of hospitality — not just the greeter at the door, the visitor card in the bulletin, the coffee hour after worship, though those things matter. But something deeper. What it means for a congregation to keep watch for the stranger arriving at the shore and saying: *go tell the others. Prepare for a guest. Christ is on the way.*

Good fodder for ongoing conversation. In the meantime, I leave you with these lovely words:

*We saw a stranger yesterday,
We put food in the eating place,
Drink in the drinking place,
Music in the listening place,
And, with the sacred name of the triune God,
He blessed us and our house,
Our cattle and our dear ones.
As the lark says in her song:
Often, often, often, goes Christ in the stranger's guise.
— Celtic Rune of Hospitality*

Live in hope,



[#ProvidentiallyTogether](#)

Presbytery Meeting Summary

The summary of the May 17th Stated Meeting is now available.

[View the summary online](#)

[Download the summary PDF](#)

Congratulations to Liz Corsig

The presbytery enthusiastically approved Liz Corsig's ordination as a Minister of Word and Sacrament and call as Associate Pastor of Unity Presbyterian Church.

Her sermon on maintaining faith during times of transition was both timely and well received.

Her installation will be August 30, 2026.



SCAN HERE



**FOR PRESBYTERY
MEETING SURVEY**

bit.ly/ppmeetingsurvey

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.

Migrant Trail Walk Raises Awareness, Funds

This month Ginger Williams, a member of Providence Presbytery's Mexico Border Ministry Team, will walk 75 miles through the desert in Arizona along the "[Migrant Trail](#)" to raise awareness of the migrant deaths that occur on the US border with Mexico.

Ginger is asking for prayer and donations which will be shared between [Frontera de Cristo](#), a border ministry which supports people in Mexico through employment so they have no need to migrate, and our local [Carolina Immigrant Alliance](#) which supports immigrant families with the paperwork required to obtain legal status in the US.

Please see the flyer below and prayerfully consider how you can support Ginger on this special journey. You can click to download the flyer and scan the QR code or click the button below to make a gift in support of her journey.

MAKE A GIFT



Please consider supporting Ginger Williams as she walks the 23rd annual Migrant Trail! She will do this week-long trek (May 25 - 31) to bring awareness to the deaths at the U. S. - Mexico border, and to raise funds for Frontera de Cristo, a Presbyterian mission on the Arizona- Mexico border, and our local Carolina Immigrant Alliance here in Rock Hill, SC.

The purpose of the 75-mile trek is to bear witness to the migrant deaths on the U.S.- Mexico border.

All donations will be shared between Frontera de Cristo, on the U.S.-Mexico Border, and our local Carolina Immigrant Alliance.

Why Walk the Migrant Trail?

The precarious reality of our borderlands calls us to walk. We are a spiritually diverse, multi-cultural group who walk together on a journey of peace to remember people, friends and family who have died, others who have crossed, and people who continue to come. We bear witness to the tragedy of death and of the inhumanity in our midst. Lastly, we make this sacred journey as a community, in defiance of the borders that attempt to divide us, committed to working together for the human dignity of all peoples. For more information on the Migrant Trail go here:

www.azmigrantrail.com<<http://www.azmigrantrail.com>>

Thank you in advance for your support!

To make a donation scan on the QR code at the top



News From Bethelwoods



A New Garden Club At Bethelwoods

Join us for our first meeting:

May 19th, 2026

In Lake Lodge

6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

922 W Mt Gallant Road, York

*No gardening experience needed – all are
welcome!*

*Connect with fellow plant lovers and enjoy
leafy fun. Learn tips, share ideas, and help
our community bloom.*

*Come see what's sprouting – join us for a
fresh, leafy start!*

Grow, Connect, and Blossom Together

Light refreshments will be served

Email wendy@bethelwoods.org for more information

From the Synod of South Atlantic

1st Wednesday
SACK Lunch Conversation
(South Atlantic Community Knowledge)
12-1:30 pm Eastern Time



**A monthly zoom for sharing across the Synod!
Learn and share experience, resources, and best practices
on a new topic each month.**

June 3 - Earthcare
July 1 - Youth Ministry
August 5 - Grant Writing
September 2 - New Worshipping Communities

To register: scan the QR Code or visit synodofsouthatlantic.org



Connectional Resource Bank

Have you ever wondered if there might be another church or organization within our presbytery that has a successful ministry, mission or program that you and your church or program might also be considering? Do you have ministries, missions or programs in your congregation that you're willing to share with others in the presbytery? And would it be helpful to have a list of churches and programs in our presbytery as a reference in one easy-to-access place?

The Presbytery of Greater Atlanta is starting to compile such a master Connectional Resource Bank. Learn more about this and submit the ministries, missions, and programs where your congregation has resources to share using the link below.

[Click here to learn more](#)

New Grant Available

A new grant is available for Synod of South Atlantic Presbyteries, Synod Networks, and Churches within the synod for projects and programs focused on engagement with and for youth and young adults (Youth aged 12-18; Young Adult aged 19-25).

The deadline for all Synod grants is October 1.

[Click here to learn more](#)

- First African American woman and the first person of color to become President and CEO of the Board of Pensions upon confirmation at the 227th General Assembly (2026). [Read More.](#)
- The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) receives \$1 million Lilly Endowment grant to help strengthen Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. [Read More.](#)

Employment Opportunities

You can view employment opportunities within the Presbytery, Synod and ministry partners surrounding Providence anytime by [clicking here.](#)

- [Youth & Family Director](#) -- Philadelphia Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, NC
- [Pilot Mountain, NC Ministry Opportunity](#)

2026 Providence Presbytery Stated Meetings

- 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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