



July 7, 2026

Important Upcoming Dates

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

- July 3 | Independence Day Observed -- Presbytery Offices Closed
- July 20 | Faith Formation Meeting

[View our calendar](#)

REformed flections *from Steve*

I spent this past week in Milwaukee at GA227 — the 227th General Assembly of the PC(USA) — and there's much I could share from the week. But I keep coming back to opening worship on Monday morning, where Co-Moderators Rev. CeCe Armstrong and Rev. Tony Larson preached on the road to Emmaus (you can watch the opening worship service and their sermon [HERE](#)).

You know this story. Two disciples, walking away from Jerusalem after the crucifixion, encounter a stranger on the road — who turns out to be the risen Jesus — but they don't recognize him until he breaks bread with them at the table. If you're anything like me, that moment of recognition is usually where your attention lands.

But CeCe and Tony drew our eyes to two other details I hadn't lingered on before.

The first was this: the disciples invited the stranger in before they knew who he was. Not after. CeCe, portraying Cleopas' wife, put it simply and powerfully: "Hospitality is not something you offer after you check credentials."

The room broke into applause.

And she's right — the welcome came first, the revelation second. In a time when we're tempted to vet before we open the door to anyone unfamiliar, there's something quietly convicting about that.

The second was the direction they were walking. The road to Emmaus meant they were heading away from Jerusalem — away from the grief, the fear, the weight of everything that had happened. Emmaus was an escape. But after breaking bread with the risen Christ, they turned around. They went back. Not because the pain had disappeared, but because they'd been given something stronger than fear to carry it. Tony captured it well: the assembly's theme of "persevering toward wholeness," he said, is a seven-mile-journey kind of theme — a walking-a-road theme, a talking-to-strangers-and-inviting-them-in theme.

Both of these feel important for the church today. Strangers of all kinds are all around us. And we're often tempted to keep the stranger at arm's length until we've sized them up. And walk away from what's hard rather than back toward it. But the gospel keeps inviting us in a different direction — open doors before certainty, and the courage to return to difficult places once we've encountered the risen Christ.

I don't know exactly what that looks like in your context. But I left Milwaukee still turning it over — and I suspect I will be for a while.

Continued blessings to you!

Live in hope,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve". The letters are cursive and fluid, with a long tail on the 'e'.

[#ProvidentiallyTogether](#)

Several folks in the presbytery received emails this past week claiming to be from Steve Lindsley, asking to talk about a "confidential matter."

To be clear — this isn't Steve.

A few tips for spotting phishing emails:

- Check the sender's actual email address, not just the display name — scammers often use a look-alike address. Emails from Steve and other presbytery staff will always have "**providencepres.org**" at the end.
 - Be wary of urgency or secrecy, especially requests for gift cards or money. Legitimate asks from presbytery leadership won't come this way.
 - When in doubt, don't reply or click links — reach out to the person directly through a known phone number or email to confirm.
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Upcoming Training



COMMUNION TRAINING FOR ELDERS

This special training will equip Ruling Elders to preside over the sacrament of Communion. Elders in smaller congregations or those currently without clergy will find this especially helpful.

SUNDAY, AUG 23 | 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM

OAKLAND AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN
421 OAKLAND AVENUE
ROCK HILL, SC 29732

RSVP:

[BIT.LY/4EGZPDC](https://bit.ly/4EGZPDC)



[Download This Flyer](#)

Please click the flyer above to register or visit bit.ly/4eGzPdc

Please contact Rev. Steve Simon with questions:

steve49534@gmail.com

(509) 993-3294 (call/text)

News From Bethelwoods

Dear Friends,

I'm reaching out on behalf of Bethelwoods Camp to invite you to partner with us for this upcoming camp season.

We are seeking pastors who would be willing to volunteer their time to lead our morning watch and/or evening worship for our campers. Your presence and guidance would have a meaningful impact on the spiritual growth of the youth we serve.

If you are available and interested, please let us know what dates might work best for your schedule. Housing will be provided for the days that you are able to help out. We would be grateful for any time you can offer.

For questions about time commitment please reach out to EJ Hart camp Program Director at Elson@bethelwoods.org or call at 704-352-7771 he can give you all the details!

My thought for this year has been to have not just worship leaders but partners so that two people share the responsibilities of the week. Not to say we wouldn't love to have all to our campers for the week. We want it to be a fun enjoyable experience for you as well as the campers and if sharing the load helps we are all in!

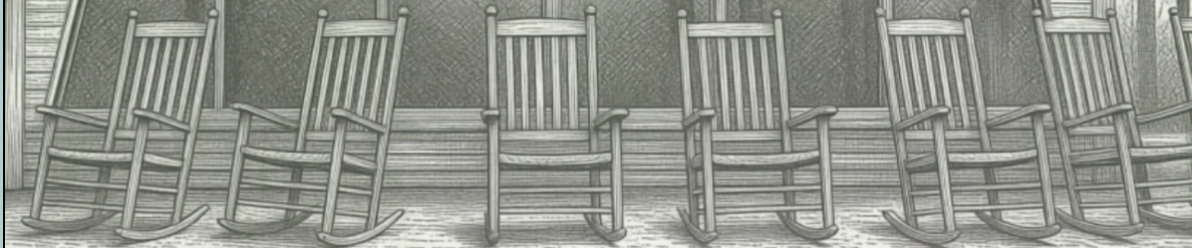
Thank you for your continued support of our community and its young people. We look forward to hearing from you.

[\(Click here to view current availability and sign up\)](#)

Please consider donating some of your time this summer to make an impact that lasts a lifetime!

Peace,
Hope Moore
Chair, Bethelwoods Board of Trustees

Rock-and-Remember Fundraiser



HELP RETIRE OUR ROCKING CHAIRS

The rocking chairs at Bethelwoods have been a camp staple for three decades, and its time they were retired!

Help us purchase new chairs by supporting our Rock-and-Remember fundraiser.

A \$150 donation from your family or small group will provide a rocking chair for the camp's gathering spaces, and Bethelwoods staff will install an engraved dedication plaque on the chair.

Our goal is to purchase 50 chairs for our cabins and lodges.



Use your phone to scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/rockandremember to make a donation. Please contact wendy@bethelwoods.org for more information!

922 W Mt Gallant Rd
York, SC 29745
(803) 366-3722



[Download This Flyer](#)

[Download This As A Bulletin Insert](#)

Scholarship Funds Available

The Community of Faith would like to remind everyone of the Continuing Education scholarship funds that are available for pastors, educators, staff and volunteers within Providence Presbytery.

The funds expire at the end of each year so anyone who might be interested in using them is encouraged to apply via [this form](#) as soon as possible.

Reflections from the Migrant Trail



By [Ginger Williams](#)

As a soon-to-be retired professor of U.S.-Latin American relations I can confidently say immigration and its causes are undeniably central issues of the past forty years. I studied history in college as the civil wars in Central America and the Dirty Wars in South America were underway. Those wars, and the U.S. complicity in those wars, framed my historical lens.

Since 2023 I've worked with a local Presbyterian church to take people to the Arizona/Mexico border through Frontera de Cristo, a Presbyterian-based ministry located in Douglas, AZ. This year, we didn't have a firm delegation committed, so I decided to walk the Migrant Trail to raise money and awareness for Frontera de Cristo and the Rock Hill, SC nonprofit Carolina Immigrant Alliance, which helps immigrants with necessary documents and paperwork. (If you wish to make a donation to this fundraiser to support the two groups mentioned [you can do so here](#).) I decided to make this trek in late March and had only scant awareness about what the whole journey would entail. I consider myself a feet-first type of person, though, and decided to jump in and then quickly learn what I was doing.

[Continue Reading](#)

Register Today!

YOU ARE INVITED!

Join us for this special event as we welcome Dr. Martin Accad, President of the Near East School of Theology in Beirut, Lebanon and hear stories of how God's work is alive and thriving in Christian and Presbyterian communities in Lebanon and Syria. Learn how the current crisis in Lebanon is affecting Christians and people of other faiths.

The Near East School of Theology (NEST) is a vibrant seminary in the heart of Beirut. Come learn how this seminary not only educates people for ministry but also reaches out into its local community as the hands and feet of Jesus, especially in times of uncertainty and war.

Providence Presbytery has a long-standing relationship with NEST, spanning thirty years of connection. Come discover how we can share the story of Christian service with our brothers and sisters in Lebanon and at NEST.

Join us as we experience an engaging conversation with Dr. Accad

**Friday evening, September 18th at 7:00 pm.
Covenant Presbyterian Church, 1830 Celanese Road, Rock Hill, SC.**



***Near East School of Theology faculty and students
reaching out to displaced Lebanese in their neighborhood***

[Click to Register](#)

Around the Table Cohort Opportunities for 2026

Faith leaders and caregivers of children and youth are invited to participate in new **Around the Table** cohorts designed to strengthen faith formation, nurture intergenerational relationships, and weave Christian spiritual practices into everyday life and faith communities.

Two cohort options are available for 2026:

- **Retreat Cohort Model**

- Participants will gather for a content-rich, in-person day or overnight retreat focused on applying Christian spiritual practices within households and communities, followed by six 90-minute online group coaching sessions.
-
- Traditional Cohort Model
- This fully online experience includes seven 90-minute guided coaching conversations over 6–9 months, centered on Christian spiritual practices and shared learning with fellow faith leaders.

Cohorts are offered free of charge although the retreat option may require travel expenses and several are available in English, Spanish, and Korean.

[Learn more and register](#) by July 31.

New Cemetery Guide

The Presbyterian Foundation is providing a newly created Cemetery Guide as a resource for churches and presbyteries to help guide the operations, preservation, and maintenance of cemeteries. Cemeteries are complex property with extensive regulations and laws that can change from state to state. Additionally, local customs and preferences vary depending on the culture of the region and the congregation.

[View The Guide](#)

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](#)

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](#)





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