



August 5, 2025

REformed flections

from Steve

One of my favorite hymns is “Blest Be the Tie That Binds.” Over the past few months, I’ve found myself returning to it again and again—but not to the verse most people remember. It’s the third verse that has stayed with me:

*We share our mutual woes,
our mutual burdens bear,
and often for each other flows
the sympathizing tear.*

I want to thank each of you for sharing the burden my family and I have been carrying and will continue to carry. It hasn’t been lost on me that you’ve done this for someone you barely know, someone who only joined this presbytery a short time ago. Your kindness, care, and faithfulness say so much about who you are as the body of Christ that is Providence Presbytery. It makes me both grateful as the one receiving care and proud as your Executive Presbyter.

Throughout Lorie’s cancer journey, we were surrounded by incredible people who walked with us every step of the way - including the hospice care team who provided much-needed comfort in her final weeks. There’s a sacredness to this particular season of life, I found. The boys and I felt it every time we stepped into the hospice house; every time family and friends visited, every time a prayer lifted up from afar. The ties that bind, y’all! When Lorie first went into hospice, one of the nurses gave me a small booklet titled “Gone From My Sight: The Dying Experience.” It offered practical, compassionate guidance in simple language around what to expect as someone nears the end of life - ranging from three months out to the final hours. My boys found it especially helpful, giving them some

sense of what to expect and helping them meet those moments with courage and peace. It's the kind of thing I wish I'd had when I was pastoring, to share with congregants who found themselves in a similar season.

Because of that, I've ordered 50 copies for our pastors/CREs/educators on a first come/first served basis. If you're a pastor/CRE/educator in our presbytery and would like a copy, please reach out to [Rose](#) and she'll be happy to mail you one (multi-staff churches: just request one per church, please). There's no cost for this - consider this my thank you for your support and care over the past couple of months. (and if you want to purchase more, you can get them at www.bkbooks.com).

As my family and I figure out life going forward, I want you to know that I'm grateful to be in relationship with you. I'm glad to begin re-engaging some of the things we had to pause over the past couple of months, visiting your churches and restarting our Quarterly Coffees in September (stay tuned!), and, most of all, hearing your stories of the good you're doing and the good you're dreaming of.

Thank you for being part of the tie that binds us to each other and to the God who holds us all.

Live in hope,
Steve

Important Upcoming Dates

- August 24 | Virtual Stated Meeting of Providence Presbytery [REGISTER NOW](#)
- August 26 | PP Educators' Gathering

View all of our events on [our calendar](#).

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

Educators' Gathering This Month

The Providence Presbytery Educators group will meet for their monthly gathering on August 26th. Bring your lunch to Unity Presbyterian in Fort Mill from 12 p.m. - 1 p.m. to share updates on your congregation's current Christian education practices and get new ideas from others! Anyone involved in Christian education in your congregation is invited to join.

Legacy Of Faith Nominations Open

The Legacy of Faith Luncheon is a long-standing tradition in Providence Presbytery and honors individuals who have shown the love of God through their work within their respective churches and the Presbytery. The Luncheon will be held this year on Tuesday, September 30 at 11 AM at Horton Lodge at Bethelwoods. We are grateful for Unity Presbyterian Church's coordination of this year's luncheon and for the sponsorship again this year by Presbyterian Communities of SC.

Churches may honor an older adult individual, a married couple, or a group that models a Legacy of Faith in your community. You may honor an individual that has

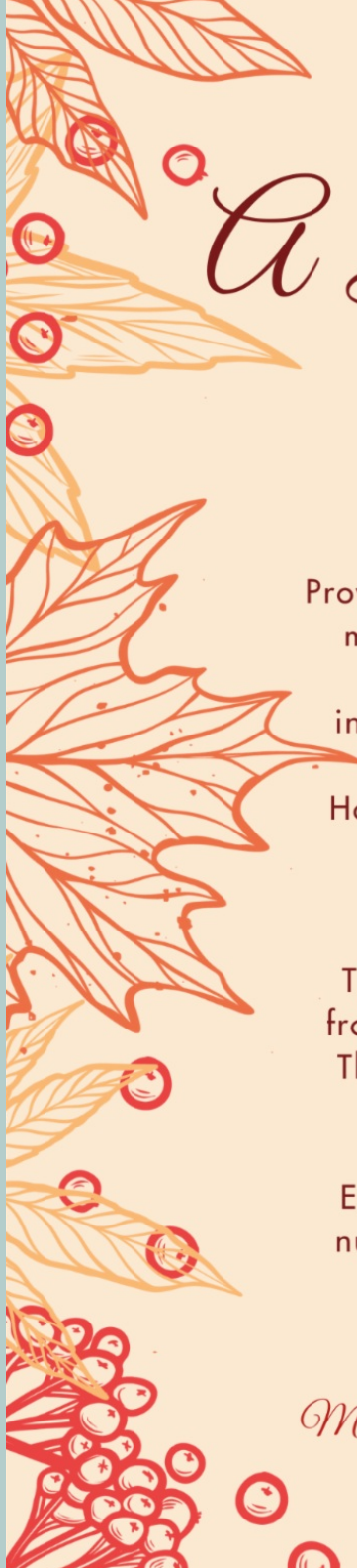
entered the Church triumphant as long as it has been since October 2024.

Once your church has chosen an honoree, please send an email with the Subject: *Legacy of Faith Honoree and your Church Name* to Matt Rich at **mrich@unityfortmill.org**. With your email, please include a 200-word (or less) description of why you chose your honoree along with a photograph for the program. **Honorees should be submitted by Monday, September 1.**

Additional details for the **luncheon reservations (due by Monday, September 15)** are included on the attached flyer. Please note we ask that churches make one reservation for everyone attending. Space is limited. We look forward to celebrating our nominees as a presbytery once again this year!

Please let me know if you have any questions.

God bless,
Matt Rich
803.547.5543
mrich@unityfortmill.org



PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERY CELEBRATES

A Legacy of Faith

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

BETHELWOODS HORTON LODGE

Providence Presbytery churches will gather to celebrate members of their church families who model a life of faith in action. Churches are invited to honor an individual, couple, or group from their congregation.

Honorees (along with a picture and brief statement of recognition) need to be submitted to Matt Rich at mrch@unityfortmill.org by Monday, September 1.

The cost of lunch for honorees is free thanks to a gift from the Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina. The cost for additional church members and guests is \$14/person and payable at the door.

Each church is asked to make one reservation for the number of attendees from the church to Anne Daniels at Bethelwoods (anne@bethelwoods.org). Lunch reservations are due by September 15.

Many thanks to Unity Presbyterian Church for organizing and Presbyterian Communities for sponsoring this event.

Scholarship Applications Available

DEADLINE IS AUGUST 22ND

Applications for The John C. and Queen Miller Scholarship are now open!

The John C. and Queen Miller Scholarship is a one-time award of \$1,500. This scholarship is awarded annually and may be divided among multiple recipients.

It is managed by Providence Presbytery's Committee on Racial and Religious Reconciliation.

Applicants should be of African American/Black descent AND a member of one of the churches in Providence Presbytery. The Committee on Racial and Religious Reconciliation invites high school seniors who meet the criteria to apply.

The application can be found on Providence Presbytery's website by clicking resources and then Forms -- or by clicking [this link](#).

If you have high school graduating Seniors in your church, please encourage them to apply!

Linda Kennedy
Moderator – CRRR
Providence Presbytery



Beth Shiloh Presbyterian Church
1184 N. Shiloh Rd.
York, SC, 29745
Aug 7, 2025
2:30 PM - 6:30 PM



Free Church Pews

35 church pews are being offered for free to any local congregation who may need them. They are 17 1/2 feet long with padded seats and back.

Anyone interested can contact Elaine Siegel by [email](#) or phone: 803-517-2091.

Texas Flooding Update

Many of you have asked how you may be supportive of the recovery in the Texas hill country after the terrible floods there. The Rev. Kathy Lee-Cornell, who directs disaster response for the Synod of the Sun, offers these helpful ways in her **recent blog post**.

Hope for the Hill Country

Responding to the Devastating Texas Floods

A Community in Crisis



Thousands Displaced

Families forced from their homes by rapidly rising waters.



Widespread Damage

Homes, infrastructure, and livelihoods severely impacted.



Long Road Ahead

Recovery will be a long-term process requiring support.

How You Can Help

The most effective way to provide support is through financial gifts, which allow responders to meet the most urgent needs.

Support Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)

Designate gifts for:

DR000191-TX Floods

[Donate Online](#)

A Message of Hope

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea."

- Psalm 46:1-2

An informational resource from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

Pastoral Crisis Intervention Certification

During times of disaster, the community is often in need of pastoral crisis intervention, and SC PDAT is always in need of this specialty to help our communities and congregations.

This is an invitation to participate in a special program offered by the ICIS programs, as developed by the University of Maryland, Baltimore, in collaboration with Dr. George Everly and Dr. Jeff Mitchell. Please see the information below.

SC PDAT has grant assistance funds available for those interested in supporting our statewide and presbytery teams. You are invited to explore this opportunity to help during natural or human-caused disasters.

Please contact [Mark McCain](#) for additional assistance information.



**WORLD'S FIRST UNIVERSITY-BASED
PASTORAL CRISIS INTERVENTION
CERTIFICATION (CPCI)**

ICISFCERTIFICATIONS.ORG

OFFERED BY THE ICISF IN
PARTNERSHIP WITH
CHARLESTON SOUTHERN
UNIVERSITY (CSU) –
DEWEY CENTER FOR
CHAPLAINCY



Charleston Southern University (CSU) – Dewey Center for Chaplaincy, in collaboration with the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation (ICISF), is pleased to offer the world's first university-based certification in Pastoral Crisis Intervention (PCI). This examination-based certification is an attestation of knowledge in crisis intervention within the pastoral context.

The value of psychological crisis intervention principles offered within a spiritual or religious context has long been recognized.

The Pastoral Crisis Intervention (CPCI) is offered by the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation, Inc (ICISF) in partnership with Charleston Southern University (CSU) – Dewey Center for Chaplaincy.

[Click To Learn
More](#)



Hurricane season is well underway. Now is the time to prepare and get ahead of the storm. The South Carolina Emergency Management Division website has tons of great information for families.

Find resources and download the 2025 South Carolina Hurricane Guide for essential information by clicking the image above or visit scemd.org.

Wednesday: SACK Lunch

The Synod of South Atlantic is hosting its virtual 1st Wednesday SACK Lunch on August 8th. The topic this month is on Commissioned Ruling Elders. Join, learn and share: experience, resources, and best practices on a new topic each month.

[Click to Register](#)



Soul Shop for Faith Leaders Workshop

Coming August 22nd to Rock Hill:
Soul Shop™ for Faith Leaders is a one-day workshop designed for clergy, staff, lay pastors, and faith-based clinicians to develop soul-safe communities by equipping members to address suicide as a regular aspect of their life and work.



Don't miss out on this chance to nourish your soul and connect with like-minded individuals. Snacks and lunch will be provided! See you there!

[Learn More](#)

Are you looking for ways to *nurture the faith*
of children & their families through *worship & prayer?*

Applications are open!



**Pastors ~ Educators ~ Families
Congregations and their Leaders**

*Two-day in-person gatherings
that will engage:*

- biblical & theological exploration
- deep listening & critical conversations
- contextual analysis that presents both challenges & opportunities
- theory & practices of culture change
- best practices & emerging ideas

*Travel, lodging, food, and materials related to participating in the
Summits are covered by the Font and Faith Initiative.*

<https://fontandfaith.cece.upsem.edu/>
Join us for the *journey*



Habitat for Humanity Fundraiser

Habitat for Humanity of Lancaster County is hosting “Building Hope Brick by Brick” on the evening of Thursday, Sept. 11th from 6-8 pm. Flyer is attached. This event at the Arts Council in Lancaster will include food catered by Southern Dish 101, drinks, music, art, and a Lego building contest. Tickets are \$50 or you or your church can be a sponsor which includes tickets. Visit our website listed below to purchase tickets or a sponsorship. This event includes a Lego building contest that begins now for children, youth, and adults that you can participate in and invite others that you know. The money raised will support our next affordable home build in our community.

Rev. Dr. Sam McGregor, Jr.
Interim Executive Director
Habitat for Humanity of Lancaster County (SC)
PO Box 1441
Lancaster, SC 29721-1441
<http://www.habitat-lancastersc.org>
mcmgregorsk@comporium.net



BUILDING HOPE BRICK BY BRICK

Honoring the Past and Building for the future

■ ORIGINAL LEGO HOME BUILDING ART CONTEST ■

**THURSDAY,
SEPTEMBER 11
6:00PM - 8:00PM**

HISTORIC SPRINGS HOUSE
LANCASTER COUNTY COUNCIL OF THE ARTS
**201 W GAY STREET,
LANCASTER, SC 29720**

**TICKETS
\$50**

**HORS D'OEUVRES,
ALCOHOLIC/NON-
ALCOHOLIC DRINKS,
VIOLINIST, AND MORE!**

**SUBMIT YOUR 10X10 LEGO®
CREATION OF A FAMILY HOME
BEFORE THE EVENT FOR A
CHANCE TO WIN!**

- OPEN TO KIDS (UP TO 12), YOUTH (13-18), AND ADULTS (19+)
- PRIZES FOR EACH AGE GROUP
- THEME: PROMOTE AFFORDABLE HOUSING VALUES GLOBALLY
- SUBMISSIONS DUE BY SEPTEMBER 5TH AT 201 W GAY STREET

VISIT US ONLINE AT HABITAT-LANCASTERSC.ORG/ OR SCAN THE QR CODE TO PURCHASE INDIVIDUAL TICKETS AND SUPPORT A BRIGHTER FUTURE. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT SAM MCGREGOR, JR. AT 803.417.2961 OR MCGREGORSK@COMPORIUM.NET





September 27th @ 9-11
First Presbyterian Church, Rock Hill
All invited! Pay what you can!



BETHELWOODS

CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER

Help Us Build a Brighter Future at Bethelwoods!

Join us for our 2025 Pancake Brunch Fundraiser

📅 Saturday, September 27, 2025 from 9-11am 📍 First Presbyterian Church, Rock Hill

At Bethelwoods Camp and Conference Center, we all carry unforgettable camp memories—moments of connection, laughter, and spiritual growth. For **60 years**, Bethelwoods has been a treasured space in South Carolina, welcoming thousands of guests each year to experience the beauty of God's creation and the power of community.

Whether it's children canoeing on the lake at summer camp, adults finding peace on a weekend retreat, or families gathering for meaningful day events, Bethelwoods is a place where all can grow in mind, body, and spirit. Thanks to the faithful support of our donors and community, attendance continues to flourish year after year.

In 2024 alone, Bethelwoods welcomed:

- **408 kids** at week-long summer camps
- **368 campers** from partner organizations
- **1,232 day visitors**
- **1,413 adults** for retreats
- **641 youth** and children at seasonal retreats

This fall, we invite you to support the work of Bethelwoods by sponsoring our **Pancake Brunch Fundraiser on Saturday, May 11, 2024 from 9-11am, at First Presbyterian Church, Rock Hill, SC located at 234 East Main Street, Rock Hill, SC 29731**. We'll serve up stacks of delicious pancakes, crispy bacon, fresh fruit, and hot coffee—along with warm fellowship and an opportunity to invest in a ministry that truly makes a difference.

As a sponsor, you'll receive public recognition at the event and on our social media platforms, celebrating your commitment to helping Bethelwoods thrive.

Your generosity helps us continue offering transformative programs for all ages. Our prayer is that everyone who visits Bethelwoods leaves spiritually renewed and deeply connected to God's presence.

To sponsor, please return the enclosed form by September 15, 2025. Thank you for considering this opportunity to be part of something meaningful. We'd love to answer any questions you may have—just reach out!

Together, we can keep the legacy of Bethelwoods strong for generations to come!
Thank you for making a difference!

Rev. Mia Levetan, Board President
Bethelwoods Camp and Conference Center

BETHELWOODS

Camp and Conference Center

pancake Brunch

2025 Pancake Brunch Sponsor Form

Harry the Hippo Sponsor \$300 _____

Name featured at the event

Verbal recognition at the event

Recognition on Bethelwoods Camp and Conference Center's Facebook & Instagram pages

Name and logo will be displayed at summer camp check-in and check-out

Kayaks & Canoes Sponsor \$200 _____

Name featured at the event

Verbal recognition at the event

Recognition on Bethelwoods Camp and Conference Center's Facebook & Instagram pages

Campfires & S'mores Sponsor \$100 _____

Name featured at the event

Verbal recognition at the event

Please make your sponsor donation online at bethelwoods.org/donate.html

Please make your sponsor selections above and return to support@bethelwoods.org

Please also send the logo you wish to be used for recognition purposes by September 15, 2025.

Name (to be displayed):

Contact:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Date:

Please select one: ☐ Donation made online ☐ Send invoice to address above

September 27th @ 9-11

First Presbyterian Church, Rock Hill

All invited! Pay what you can!

[Click to download sponsor form](#)

Assembly committee publishes a resource to help Presbyterians confront Christian nationalism

BeLoved Asheville shows love to Texas after devastating flooding



LOUISVILLE — The **General Assembly Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations** (GACEIR) has a **recent resource** to help Presbyterians learn more about confronting Christian nationalism.

[Read more](#)



LOUISVILLE — A grassroots organization known for being instrumental in helping the people of western North Carolina to recover from Hurricane Helene is giving back to flood-ravaged Texas as a reciprocal gesture of love.

BeLoved Asheville, a North Carolina-based grant partner of the **Presbyterian Hunger Program**, recently sent cleaning supplies and other goods to beleaguered Texas, where more than 130 people died as a result of catastrophic flooding in early July, and where scores of others are still missing.

[Read More](#)

2025 Providence Presbytery Stated Meetings

Please mark your calendar for the following dates in 2025:

- August 24 (virtual) - [REGISTER NOW](#)
- November 9

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

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!