



August 4, 2026

Important Upcoming Dates

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

- August 16 | Virtual Stated Meeting ([Register now!](#))
- August 23 | Elder Training: Communion
- August 30 | Installation of Rev. Liz Corsig at Unity Presbyterian
- September 3 | SC5 Leader of Leaders

[View our calendar](#)

REformed flections *from Steve*

In some personal news - I moved earlier this summer!

Not a big move - just a neighborhood over, actually. But a move is a move (as my protesting muscles reminded me!) The new house is smaller, just the right size for the pets and me, and for the boys when they come to visit. In almost every practical way, it's a better fit.

And yet.

There's something about leaving a home that goes beyond the physical. Homes aren't just structures — they house memories. They have a spirit about them. You round a corner and there's the spot where something important happened, the window where the light fell

just right on a particular morning. Saying goodbye to a home means saying goodbye to a version of yourself who lived there. That's not nothing.

But here's what I keep coming back to: **sometimes we have to say goodbye in order to say hello**. Hello to the new thing God is calling us to. This is very much an act of faith.

I think of Abraham and Sarah, who packed up everything familiar and set out for a place they hadn't even seen yet, simply because God said go. They didn't leave because things were bad. They left because God had something new in store.

Or the disciples, who left their nets on the shore. Not because fishing was wrong, or because those nets didn't represent years of their lives. But because something new was calling, and you can't fully embrace what's ahead when your hands are still gripping what's behind.

I suspect many of you know this kind of move intimately — the shift in vision, the change in direction, the sense that God is calling your community somewhere new. And with that comes the same hard question I found myself sitting with during the moving process: what do we hold onto, and what do we let go?

Some things are worth carrying into the next chapter — the faith of those who came before, the relationships that have shaped us, the core of who we are as a community. But some things — patterns, programs, assumptions about how church is supposed to work — may need to stay behind. Not because they were bad, but because they belong to a season that's reached its natural end.

Saying goodbye is hard. But sometimes it's the most faithful way to say hello. So what is God calling your community to let go of? And what is God inviting you to step into? If those questions are stirring something for you, I'd love to hear about it.

Until then, blessings to you!
Live in hope,

Steve

[#ProvidentiallyTogether](#)

New website will enable churches and mid councils to easily prove their federal tax-exempt status

LOUISVILLE — A new website designed to help Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) churches and mid councils easily obtain a group inclusion letter which demonstrates their federal tax-exempt or 501(c)(3) status is now available.

[READ MORE](#)



Deadline Upcoming!

THE JOHN C. AND QUEEN MILLER **SCHOLARSHIP**

APPLICATIONS 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.
- ✓ Applicants should be of African American/Black descent **AND** a member of one of the churches in Providence Presbytery.

**THE APPLICATION CAN BE FOUND
ON PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERY'S
WEBSITE UNDER THE FORMS MENU.**

PROVIDENCE
presbytery



Apply Now



SC5 Leader of Leaders Event
September 3, 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.

[Register Now](#)

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](#)

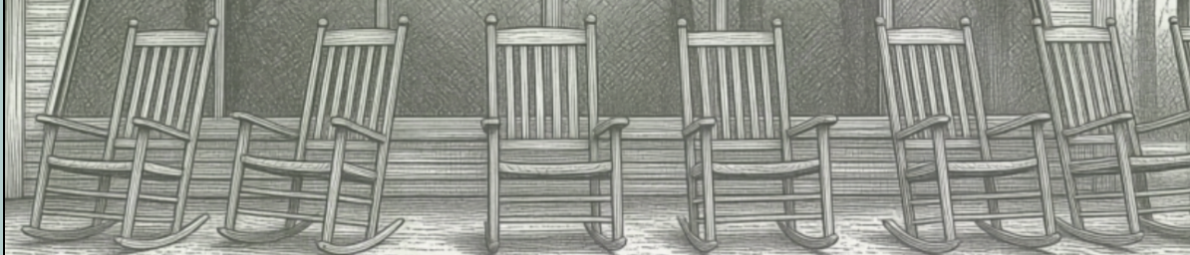
Please click the flyer above to register or visit bit.ly/4eGzPdc

Please contact Rev. Steve Simon with questions:

steve49534@gmail.com

(509) 993-3294 (call/text)

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](#)

Grant Opportunities

**Church Financial Leadership Grants
Through The Lilly Endowment Inc.
National Initiative to Address Economic Challenges
Facing Pastoral Leaders**



Church Financial Leadership Grants available now

If you are a pastor, commissioned ruling elder (CRE), a leader of a 1001 New Worshiping Community or a member of a stewardship team we have Church Financial Leadership Grants available for you. The grants will enable you to institute best practices for church financial leadership, introduce you to new models of giving and stewardship, and offer you new ways to talk about money and form generous disciples within your church.

Who can apply?

PCUSA pastors
Commissioned Ruling Elders
1001 New Worshiping Community leaders
Church member attending the event with their pastor
What do the funds cover?

The grants are matching funds to help cover half of the cost of:

Registration fees
Transportation
Lodging
Meals
Other expenses

The other half of the funds will need to be provided by the church or another source.

What events can I use the funds for?

Stewardship Kaleidoscope
Executive Certificate in Religious Fundraising (ECRF) through the Lake Institute
Other church financial leadership events (subject to approval)

What is the deadline?

For Stewardship Kaleidoscope, we are asking that applications be sent in by Monday, August 17 so that we have time to process the application and send out the funds prior to the start of the event. Applications received after the deadline or for the ECRF program will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Once we receive your application, it may take up to six weeks to process.

More Information

The grants were made possible from the Foundation's work as part of a generous grant from Lilly Endowment Inc.'s National Initiative to Address Economic Challenges Facing Pastoral Leaders.

[Download This As A PDF](#)

[Get More Information](#)

[View The Application](#)

World Communion Offering grant season opens Sept. 7 for any council of the church to apply, regardless of their participation in the offering. More detailed information about the

grant applications, process, and timeline is available through the office of Special Offerings and the Mid Council Grants.

Look for [more information about the World Communion Offering grants](#) on the Special Offerings website.

Upcoming Grant Writing Conversation



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



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](#)

CONCERNED ABOUT GUN VIOLENCE?

Learn How to Put Your Faith into Action



COLLABORATE

ADVOCATE

LEARN

TRANSFORM

Training for Gun Violence Prevention Education & Action with Faith Communities

Sept. 15-18, 2026

Heartland Center, Kansas City, MO

James Atwood Institute for Congregational Courage



Presbyterian
Peace
Fellowship



Scholarships Available!

Want to learn more? Members of Providence Presbytery are graduates of this program and are happy to speak about their experience. Contact Katie Rutland at katie@providencepres.org for more information.

[Learn More](#)

Upcoming Learning Opportunities With In Christ Supporting Ministries in Charlotte

Bible Study 1 John, James, and 1 Peter

ICSM invites you to a virtual Bible study featuring new translations from the Greek, for the letters of 1 John, James, and 1 Peter. The format is simple: review a fresh translation of each chapter, compare translations, and explore the insights that arise. We celebrate the Spirit in all our conversations. Zoom sessions begin September 15 (Tues evening, 7:00-8:15), or 16 (Wed morning, 8:30-9:45)—Eastern time zone—and run every two weeks. Participants can join whichever session works for their schedule that week. New translations and links are sent out to registered participants by email every two weeks. To register, visit icsm.org. No cost. No requirements for attendance.

Workshop: The Gospel for Such a Time as This

Saturday, October 3, 2026, 9:00 am to 3:30 pm

This workshop explores how the Gospel is at risk amidst the sweeping changes facing the modern Christian church. Our biggest challenge is to understand "the water we swim in" and see where Jesus Christ is leading us going forward. The aim here is to assist pastors, church leaders, and church members, especially those who are looking for clarity and practical insights in a major providential moment.

What We'll Explore:

- The Current Context: Examine why the current paradigm no longer works for those who are turning away from the Christian faith in our culture.

- Where the Gospel is at Risk: Assess where the Gospel message today is at risk and learn from Christians who have gone before us in similar times and situations.
- A Way Forward: Join the conversation in seeking authentic insights for the Church centered in Jesus Christ while navigating a newly emerging paradigm.

The workshop will take place on Saturday, October 3, 2026, from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm, at the ICSM office, 7615 Colony Road, Suite 210, in Charlotte. The cost is \$150/person, with lunch provided. This workshop is limited to 20 participants, so early registration is encouraged. To register, visit [icsm.org](https://www.icsm.org).

Free Strategic Planning Workshop From Yale Divinity School

From Mission to Momentum: Strategic Planning for Faith Communities with the Rev. Jean-Fritz Guerrier
Zoom | October 14 | 12 - 1:30 pm Eastern

This interactive webinar will help participants distinguish strategic leadership from routine operations; assess institutional strengths, assets, stakeholders, and emerging needs; translate mission into priorities; and connect resources, inputs, outputs, outcomes, and indicators in a way that strengthens accountability without diminishing spiritual purpose.

[Learn More & Register](#)

Employment Opportunity

Unity Presbyterian Church - Part-Time Receptionist

Unity Presbyterian Church, Fort Mill is seeking a Receptionist for the church office. This part-time, 18-hour a week, Monday-Thursday position ensures that church members, friends, and visitors are welcomed and promptly cared for through telephone, email, door access, and in-person interaction. In addition, this position assists with a variety of administrative projects and manages the church office work areas, equipment, supplies, and storage.

If you would like to apply or if you know anyone who might be interested, please reach out to Dr. Matt Rich (mrich@unityfortmill.org) for more information.

Choir & Bell Ringer Robes Available

Oakland Avenue has 36 blue adult choir robes available. They are a mix of sizes and lengths, freshly washed. Some may need minor repairs, such as loose hems. We also have additional ivory robes with cuffs for bell ringers. See attached pictures. For more information please contact Fred Smith at 803-992-1329.



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](#)



Providence Presbytery | P.O. Box 2601 | Rock Hill, SC 29732 US

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