



September 2, 2025

## Important Upcoming Dates

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

- September 14 | Mexico Border Ministry Trip Update
- September 15 | Legacy of Faith Reservations Due
- September 16 | Quarterly Coffee - Lancaster
- September 27 | Bethelwoods Pancake Brunch
- September 29 | Quarterly Coffee - Rock Hill
- September 30 | Legacy of Faith Luncheon

View all of our events on **our calendar**.

# REformed flections

*from Steve*

Rick Barger was once the pastor of Abiding Hope Lutheran Church in Littleton, Colorado and would lead the church's quarterly new member class. There was a slew of things he'd cover in these gatherings - the church's ministries and programs, their denomination and theology, expectations around pledging and service, and the like.

But all of them took a backseat to the thing he'd mention at the very top of the first meeting right after welcoming them. He'd look them straight in the eye and say, "Friends, I need to begin by sharing something that very well may be the most important thing you ever hear me say: the church is not here to meet your needs."

He'd pause and let that resonate, sink in among their surprised faces.

And then he'd finish the thought: "The church is here to meet God's needs."

That simple statement, he said, set the tone - not just for the class, but for their life in the church. And more often than not, when people focused on meeting God's needs, they found their own needs met along the way. ([Rick Barger, A New And Right Spirit: Creating An Authentic Church In A Consumer Culture](#))

I've always loved that story. It prompts essential questions like, "What are God's needs in our community?" And it also re-centers our focus as we serve the world, ensuring God's priorities come before our own:

- Like the church that sets aside its inclination to preserve its space for church use only, in order to share it or even rent it out to community groups and gatherings;
- Or the church that listens to its neighbors and shapes its ministries around their actual needs, rather than clinging to what's always been done out of the assumption it already knows best;
- Or the church that dares to shift from asking "how can we survive?" to "what amazing and wonderful things might God do through us?"

I love how these kinds of things can lead us - with God's help, of course - to be the best version of ourselves as we seek to live out the love of Jesus in the world.

Thank you for everything you're doing to meet God's needs in our presbytery, friends!

Live in hope,  
Steve

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## Providence Presbytery Educators' Gathering

The Providence Presbytery Educators group met for fellowship at Unity Presbyterian in Fort Mill last week. They were able to share resources and stories of success and spent time getting to know Executive Presbyter Steve Lindsley.

Their next meeting is November 24th at 10 a.m. at First Presbyterian in Rock Hill.

They will discuss adapting to the new modified schools schedule, Lent, and hopefully about how the group can partner on an event for our families at Bethelwoods.



Please reach out to [Kara Wheeler](#) with questions.

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## Mexico Border Ministry Team Update

The Mexico Delegation will share about their recent trip to Mexico on Sunday, September 14th at 12:15 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of Oakland Avenue Presbyterian Church in Rock Hill. Lunch will be provided. Kindly RSVP to [Rev. Letarshia Robinson](#). There will be an opportunity for discussion, questions, and an invitation to purchase tickets for the

## Registration Open: SC5 School of Theology

*The last day to register is September 17.*



**SC5 School of Theology**  
**2025 Fall Semester**  
**Friday, October 3**  
**& Saturday, October 4**  
**Presbyterian College**  
**Clinton, SC**

### Fall 2025 Semester Courses

#### CORE

New Testament  
Reformed Theology  
Preaching Pastoral  
Care

#### ELECTIVE

Pastoral Letters (1 & 2 Timothy and Titus)  
Practicum (Funerals, Weddings, Sacraments, & more)

The SC5 School of Theology is sponsored by the five presbyteries in South Carolina:  
Charleston-Atlantic, Foothills, New Harmony, Providence, and Trinity.

#### What is the SC5 School of Theology?

Theological training for elders and church leaders. There are two tracks:

**Enrichment Track** for Ruling Elders who have received a diploma from the SC5 School of Theology **and** for those who want personal enrichment for teaching or leading in their congregations.

**Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE)/  
Commissioned Pastor (CP) Track** for Ruling Elders who want to become a CRE or CP.

#### For Whom?

Classes are for:

**Church Leaders** interested in learning more.

**Ruling Elders** interested in learning more.

**Ruling Elders** interested in being commissioned to serve and lead congregations.

**Faith Formation Leaders** interested in better equipping themselves to teach.

#### Costs:

Course and 2 meals:

\$75 for Enrichment Track

\$95 for CRE/CP Track

Accommodations: Hampton Inn in Clinton

We negotiated the reduced rate of \$109/night plus tax (regular rate is \$185 + tax), which includes breakfast.

**Registration is open.**

**REGISTER HERE**

*The last day to register is September 17.*

For more information about the SC5 School of Theology, please talk with your Presbytery leader, visit our [website here](#), or contact the SC5 School of Theology Registrar, Robin Morris, at [rmorris@foothillspresbytery.org](mailto:rmorris@foothillspresbytery.org)

or call Robin at 864.288.5774.

## 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.

The deadline for nominations has passed. Reservations for the luncheon are due Monday, September 15th. Please note we ask that churches make one reservation for everyone attending. Space is limited. Contact [Anne Daniels](#) with reservation information.

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](mailto: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 [mrigh@unityfortmill.org](mailto:mrigh@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](mailto: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.*

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## Grief Share At Bethesda

Bethesda Presbyterian in York is hosting GriefShare beginning next week. Please review the information below and if you'd like to join, the meetings are happening August 27-November 19th from 5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

**Click For Registration  
Information**

## How GriefShare has helped others



**Over 1 million people have found healing through GriefShare.**

*"GriefShare saved my life."*

*"It was comforting to know that people understood what I was going through."*

*"It helped me learn how to process my loss."*

*"A safety net when my world was literally falling apart."*

*"GriefShare has given me hope."*

## Learn more about GriefShare



 [griefshare.org](http://griefshare.org)

 [facebook.com/griefshare](https://facebook.com/griefshare)

 [info@griefshare.org](mailto:info@griefshare.org)

 **800-395-5755**  
INT: 919-562-2112

# GriefShare®



**The #1 grief recovery  
program in the world**

**Find support &  
a way forward today**

**Hope & Healing**  
*after the death of a loved one*

### Q: Is GriefShare for me?

When a loved one dies, it can feel like you're alone. Few people understand how painful and isolating your grief can be. But that doesn't mean you have to suffer by yourself.

At GriefShare, you'll find a safe, comforting place where you can talk with others about your grief. You'll find support, direction, and guidance on how to make it through.

If you could use help with any of the topics below, GriefShare is for you.

### Q: What topics are covered?

- Your Grief Journey
- Sadness & Loneliness
- Fear & Anxiety
- Anger
- Regrets
- Grief & Your Relationships
- Questions for God
- Hope & Resilience

*And many more ...*

### Q: How will GriefShare help me?

At this 13-week grief recovery support group, you'll:

- Hear insights from grief recovery experts
- Meet others who understand what you're going through
- Receive comfort and support
- Learn practical tips for navigating your grief
- Discover the 6 signs of healing

### Q: What should I expect at a group?

Each week you can expect to view a 30-minute video filled with helpful guidance, discuss grief-related issues, and gain personal recovery tips through your workbook.

**3 key parts:**



**Video seminar**



**Group discussion**



**Personal workbook**

### Q: How do I join a group?

*Church and meeting information*

**When:** Wednesdays, 5:30-6:30 pm  
August 27 - November 19, 2025

**Where:** Bethesda Presbyterian Church  
4858 McCormicks Hwy.  
York, SC 25745

**Contact:** Karen Pendola  
[mike\\_pendola@hotmail.com](mailto:mike_pendola@hotmail.com)  
803-517-2598

**Register:** [griefshare.org/findagroup](http://griefshare.org/findagroup)

### Need another day or time?

Visit [griefshare.org/findagroup](http://griefshare.org/findagroup) to find a list of groups in your area. Or find a group meeting online.

### Find a group today!

**Online groups available**

Not able to attend in person?  
Know someone who lives out of town?  
This option is for you!

## Living Waters Funding Help

An elementary school in Guatemala is in desperate need of clean drinking water to prevent waterborne illness. Our Living Waters Team is fundraising to help make that happen through the purchase of a water purification system. We encourage you to learn more about this incredible ministry by watching [this short video!](#)

If you would like to help fund this project, click the link below.



[Donate Now!](#)

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## 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. 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>  
[mcgregorsk@comporium.net](mailto:mcgregorsk@comporium.net)





**Habitat**  
for Humanity®  
of Lancaster County



# 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/](http://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](mailto:MCGREGORSK@COMPORIUM.NET)



News From Bethelwoods





**Bethelwoods**  
Camp and Conference Center

**K-5th Grade**

**BETHELWOODS  
PRESENTS**

# Kids Night Out



**Pizza, Slingshots, gaga, crafts, and much more!**



**Friday, September 19th**

**5PM**

**To**

**10PM**

**922 West Mt Gallant rd**

For more information:  
[Info@bethelwoodsd.org](mailto:Info@bethelwoodsd.org)





**September 27<sup>th</sup> @ 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](https://bethelwoods.org/donate.html)

Please make your sponsor selections above and return to [support@bethelwoods.org](mailto: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 27<sup>th</sup> @ 9-11**  
**First Presbyterian Church, Rock Hill**  
**All invited! Pay what you can!**

[Click to download sponsor form](#)

### New PDA Staff Member

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is pleased to welcome the Rev. Kathy Lee-Cornell to the PDA staff team! Kathy is serving as PDA's Associate for National Disaster Response



following the retirement of Rev. Dr. Jim Kirk earlier this summer.

Kathy's relationship with PDA began in 2008 when she served as Site Coordinator for the **Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) Program - Presbyterian Church (USA)** in South Louisiana. There, she helped young adults engage in Hurricane Katrina recovery work, laying the groundwork for a lifelong commitment to disaster response and accompaniment. Her leadership deepened as a member, and eventually Chair of PDA's Advisory Committee, where she served until 2020.

Most recently, Kathy led the **Synod of the Sun, Presbyterian Church (USA)**

Partnership for Disaster Recovery, coordinating preparedness and long-term recovery efforts across Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas. Her experience brings deep knowledge of grassroots recovery, mid-council collaboration, and the ministry of presence that defines PDA's mission.

In her new role, Kathy will lead PDA's national disaster response efforts across the U.S. and its territories, overseeing the deployment of volunteer teams, coordinating grants and long-term recovery strategies, and working closely with mid-councils, congregations, ecumenical partners, and governmental agencies.

Kathy is also a Presbyterian pastor, licensed social worker, and a proud Chinese-American New Orleanian. She is married and the loving mother of three, Owen, Gabe, and Mila, a role she considers her most important calling. She brings to this position a deep love for the church, a heart for justice, and a commitment to building community resilience across the country.

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## Upcoming Seminar Opportunity

### Discovering and Leveraging Your Natural Leadership Style in Ministry

Led by Rev. Mark E. Tidsworth, a Certified PeopleMap Trainer, with 25+ years of experience in training and coaching pastors and church staff persons toward leadership excellence.

During this Seminar we will:

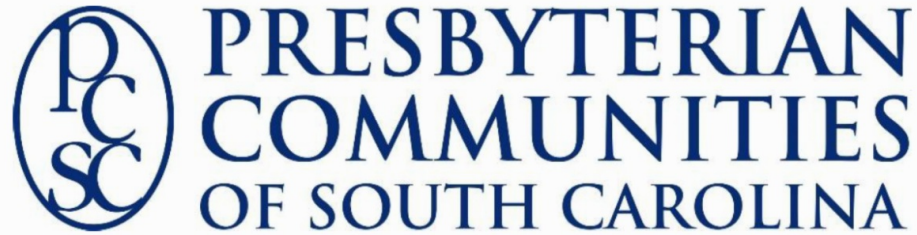
- Complete and score the PeopleMap Leadership Styles Inventory
- Learn the Strengths and Achilles Heels of each Style
- Learn how to maximize one's strengths while minimizing Achilles Heels
- Hear examples of pastoral and church staff leaders who use their styles for leadership effectiveness
- Receive guidance on how to connect one's leadership style with one's current ministry goals and aspirations
- Receive a substantive workbook with strategies for raising leadership effectiveness

Thursday, September 18, 2025 | 9:30 AM 1:00 PM

Click For More  
Info

## Employment Opportunities

- Director of Music | Van Wyck Presbyterian Church



### Two job openings:

Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina (PCSC) is seeking an experienced **Payroll and Accounts Payable Specialist** to serve our entire organization from our Management Services Office in Columbia. For information or to apply, go to <https://recruiting.paylocity.com/Recruiting/Jobs/Details/3480722>.

PCSC is also seeking a Director of Foundation Services and Church Relations. Please [click here](#) for more information about that job opening.



You Are Invited to a Gathering for Leaders Committed to Transformation. **The NEXT Church National Gathering** is happening November 11-14 in Grand Rapids, MI.

We have intentionally curated five pathways to provide unique ways to explore the issues you are facing right now. By leaning into the tough conversations in one of these pathways, you will gain relevant skills in community alongside others asking questions, wrestling with similar doubts, and wondering what might be next.

With courage and openness, you will find new ways to courageously transform the uncertain world around us all.

## 2025 Providence Presbytery Stated Meetings

Please mark your calendar for the following dates in 2025:

- November 9 | Bethelwoods



## 2026 Stated Meetings:

- February 15, 2026 | Faith Presbyterian, Indian Land, SC | 2:30 p.m.
- 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.

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## 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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