



NORTHEAST GEORGIA PRESBYTERY

February 2026 Newsletter

To say that these are troubled times would be a sizeable understatement. The turmoil that is raging throughout our nation is deeply disturbing, and thanks to technology, it's becoming increasingly difficult to even agree on what's actually happening. Whatever your viewpoint of "who's to blame" for the scenes now playing out in Minneapolis, there's no question that the fabric of our common life as Americans is being seriously strained, and in some cases, ripped apart.

Some of us are old enough to be experiencing a bad case of *déjà vu* as we remember all too well the chaos of the 1960's. The images of protesters clashing with police, and passions spilling over into violence bring back gut-wrenching memories of a time when both the agony of the Vietnam War and the fight for civil rights reached a fever pitch. Citizens were beaten and shot by the authorities then, too, and religious leaders were just as divided as everyone else on how to respond, much as they are today.

One religious leader, however, found a way to navigate between the extremes, and while striving mightily and faithfully for justice and righteousness, managed to do so while holding fast to a strict code of non-violence. The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., believed fervently that

"Nonviolence is a powerful and just weapon, which cuts without wounding and ennobles the man who wields it. It is a sword that heals." Rev. Dr. King carried that sword boldly, and cut deeply into the noxious vine of racism that has threatened to strangle true liberty in this country almost from its earliest days.

As Americans we place a high value on liberty, but as followers of Jesus Christ we can never succumb to the temptation to pursue and preserve liberty at any cost. As Paul reminds us: "Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine. I will repay, says the Lord'...Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." (Romans 12:17-19;21)

To overcome evil with good we must sometimes get into what the late Rep. John Lewis called "good trouble." Even as we do so though, we must shun and denounce violence from all quarters. I am keeping all of you in my prayers as we strive to do the right things in the right way, emembering that the Prince of Peace rules over all, and that he is coming soon to put everything right.

Yours in Christ

Ed

AROUND THE PRESBYTERY

Announcements & Opportunities

127th Stated Meeting of the Northeast Georgia Presbytery

The 127th Stated Meeting of the Northeast Georgia Presbytery will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 28, 2026, at Covenant Presbyterian Church, located at 1065 Gaines School Road, Athens, GA 30605.

Check-in begins at 9:00 a.m.
Call to order is at 10:00 a.m.

You can also scan
& register here!



Registration

Please [CLICK HERE](#) to register for the meeting.

Registration will close on February 17, 2026, just before midnight. This deadline allows the host church adequate time to prepare for lunch and childcare. Please be sure to complete your registration by this date.

Clerks of Session: Please send this information to your Ruling Elder Commissioners.

Meeting Details:

Lunch

Lunch will be served during the meeting. Reservations are required so the host church can prepare an adequate amount of food. If you register for lunch and later find you are unable to attend or decide not to stay for lunch, please notify us to help avoid unnecessary expense.

Childcare

Please indicate any childcare needs on the registration form.

Handbook and Docket

The handbook and docket will be published on the [Presbytery website](#). **An email notification will be sent when materials are available. Please plan to download or print your handbook in advance, as hard copies will not be available at the meeting.**

Parking and Accessibility

Parking is limited near the building. Parking attendants will be available to direct you to spaces either in the main lot or in the field behind the church. There are no stairs or ramps at the main entrance. Restrooms, the registration area, sanctuary, and fellowship hall are all located on the main floor.

We look forward to gathering together!



Some Good News to Celebrate

We are delighted to share that First Presbyterian Church of Greensboro is the congregation representing Georgia in the 2025 Souper Bowl of Caring Community Report. The Souper Bowl of Caring is a nationwide effort in which individuals and congregations collect monetary and food donations in the weeks leading up to and following Super Bowl Sunday. All donations are given directly to local charities chosen by the participating group. We are proud to see one of our churches recognized for its faithful commitment to caring for neighbors in need.

Help Us Stay Connected!

Have a story, event, or ministry update to share? We invite submissions for the NEGA Presbytery monthly newsletter from clergy, congregations, and ministry teams.

Please submit articles as Word documents (.doc or .docx), including a title, author's name, and role. Photos or graphics are encouraged as separate attachments.

Deadline: 15th of each month for publication at the end of that month. To repeat content in a future issue, just send a quick reminder.

Send submissions to newsletter@negapby.org.

We also love sharing church news on our NEGA Presbytery Facebook page, so send us your events and celebrations—we'd love to highlight the good work happening in your community!

Ordination Anniversaries

We celebrate and give thanks for the NEGA clergy marking ordination anniversaries this month. The Clergy Care Committee encourages you to hold these individuals, their families, and their ministries in your prayers.

FEBRUARY

Ozu Mejia	02/01/2021
Ford G'Segner	02/01/1970
Karen Whelchel-Redwine	02/07/1988
Craig Topple	02/11/2007
Martha Starnes	02/12/1983
Lindsey Collins	02/13/1972
Travis Adams	02/14/1982
Hilary Shuford	02/22/2014
Roe Callaway	02/23/1969
Nadine Ellsworth-Moran	02/24/2013
Barbara H Rodgers	02/25/1979
Karen Fletcher	02/25/2024
Jung Jin Choi	02/25/1996
Nikki Passante	02/27/2010
Teresa Franklin	02/28/2010



EXECUTIVE CERTIFICATE IN RELIGIOUS FUNDRAISING

The ECRF is designed for religious leaders in faith-based organizations and institutions who wish to learn more about the spirituality of fundraising and gain a core foundation in fundraising principles.

Atlanta, Georgia
May 11-13, 2026



Scan the QR code for more information & to register

We invite you to share the flyer above with leaders and members of your congregation who may be interested in learning more about fundraising and stewardship. The next ECRF course will be held May 11-13, 2026, at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, Georgia.

**A NOTE FROM
STATED CLERK
REV. JACOB DOUULLIEZ**

Dear Clerks of Session
(cc: Pastors and Church Office Staff)

Grace and peace as we begin a new year together. Thank you for your faithful and often unseen service as Clerks of Session. Your work is essential to the life of your congregation and to keeping our presbytery connected and strong.

As you plan for the weeks ahead, please note the following annual reports due in early 2026. We encourage you to review these deadlines now and begin gathering any needed information.

1. Annual Online Statistical Report

Due: Friday, February 20, 2026

The reporting portal will open on January 2, 2026. You may wish to begin compiling 2025 membership and baptism data in advance.

2. Necrology Form

Due: February 4, 2026

This form records members of your congregation who entered the Church Triumphant during the past year.

3. Covenant of Commitment for Shared Mission Support

Due: February 28, 2026

This covenant reflects your congregation's commitment to shared mission and ministry within the presbytery and the wider church.

4. Annual Salary Standards Review for Installed Pastors

Due: February 28, 2026

An annual review of installed pastors' compensation packages is required to ensure they meet or exceed presbytery minimum guidelines. Covenant and interim or transitional pastors' compensation packages are reviewed at the time of covenant renewal.

Please use the designated form for Installed Pastors only.

All required forms and resources may be found on the [Presbytery website under the Clerks of Session](#) section of the Resources tab. Links to 2026 forms will be shared as they become available.

Thank you for your continued partnership in ministry. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have questions or need assistance.

Yours in Christ,
Jacob
Stated Clerk
912-674-6270
statedclerk@negapby.org

SMALL AND MIGHTY



A Time to Connect and Equip Leaders in Small Membership Churches

Join Us for a Monthly Conversation on Zoom

First Tuesday
7-8 pm ET / 6-7 pm CT

Next Small and Mighty Zoom Gathering
February 3rd
7:00 – 8:00 pm ET / 6:00 – 7:00 pm CT
Topic: A Quick Introduction to Systems Thinking – Part II
Presenter: Rev. Scott Crane

Hosted by the Association of Smaller Congregations If you have interest in learning more about the Association of Smaller Congregations or have questions about this Small and Mighty Zoom Gathering, please reach out to
ASC President, Caroline Dennis
at cvdennis.wpcgwd@gmail.com

From the Presbyterian Historical Society Reminder to respond to the PC(USA) anti-racism work survey

The Presbyterian Historical Society is in the process of developing a resource and/or training to help churches research and write their own histories through an anti-racist lens. We want to hear directly from churches and mid councils about the resources and guidance that would be most useful to them as they engage in anti-racism work, regardless of where they are in this process.

Please share this survey with your congregations: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SNPM69N>

You can read more about this project, view examples from other congregations, and learn how to submit your own research products on this webpage: <https://pcusa.org/historical-society/collections/what-we-collect/products-pcusa-self-studies-racism>

SAVE THE DATE

Join us for a churchwide film study on "Evicting the American Dream"

MONDAYS IN FEBRUARY
7:30-8:45 PM (EST)

*REGISTRATION OPENS IN JANUARY



PCUSA

Join with PC(USA) friends for a churchwide film study on Evicting the American Dream, produced by Counter Stories Productions. This documentary explores homelessness, the U.S. housing crisis, and its impact on children. The online gatherings will take place once a week on Mondays throughout February. Participants will hear from featured speakers and engage in conversations about redlining, housing commodification, eviction, the effects of housing insecurity on children, and practical ways our churches and communities can respond.

Advance registration is required to receive the meeting links and instructions for viewing each week's film segment. More information is available at: [Evicting the American Dream | Presbyterian Church \(U.S.A.\)](https://www.pcusa.org/evicting-the-american-dream) Interpretation to Spanish will be available.

Mondays 7:30-8:45pm EST: February 2, 9, 16, 23
<https://www.jotform.com/form/250573602701146>