



As I write this, my retirement is only sixty-three days away. I realize that as you age it's typical to feel the sensation of time picking up speed, but I didn't expect it to travel quite so fast. Of course, time actually just plugs along at its usual pace, but the accumulating years somehow compress your perception of it, and a startling amount of it is just a blur.

Time is something we can't generate more of, and the really tricky part is that none of us knows how much time we have left. Yet we often live as though our allocation of time is seemingly limitless, and we casually put off handling what's important while we dilly-dally around with whatever happens to amuse us the most in the present moment. If we're not careful, our dreams never actually take shape, our relationships wither due to lack of attention, and our impact on the world around us is just a shadow of what might have been.

Moses speaks of how ephemeral our lives are in Psalm 90: "...they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning: in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers." (vv.5-6) In light of this he offers this prayer to God: "So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom." (v.12) Paul echoes this thought in Ephesians 5:15-16, "Look carefully how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil." Some translations read "redeeming the time," which I think is a great way to frame it.

To redeem the time means to ensure that we invest our days, hours, and minutes in the things that count, the things that last. Yes, we can leave room for the occasional mindless entertainment (cat videos, anyone?) but our focus should not waver from the love of God and the love of neighbor. It means not procrastinating when it comes to reaching out to others, to act when that little voice in our head reminds us to check in on someone or to pay a visit to the hospital or to find a way to help lift someone's burden. It means seeking the opportunity to be reconciled with those we're estranged from, whether they have hurt us or we have hurt them. Redeeming the time also includes creating space for communing in prayer with our heavenly Father, the One who knows us fully and yet loves us completely and without reservation.

In the 7th chapter of John's gospel, Jesus has ticked off the religious leaders (again) and John relates "So they were seeking to arrest him, but no one laid a hand on him, because his hour had not yet come." (v.30) We don't know when our particular hour will come, but the Lord does. David wrote in Psalm 139: "...in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there were none of them." (v.16) There is a day on the calendar for each of us that marks when our final hour will arrive, but here's the thing: until that hour comes, nothing can touch you. And of course, when that hour does come, nothing can change it. So the important question is, what will we do with the hours we have left?

My prayer for each of us is that we would redeem the time that is given to us, that we might one day hear those glorious words, "Well done, good and faithful servant!"

Yours in Christ,

Ed

AROUND THE PRESBYTERY

Announcements & Opportunities

Dear Clerks of Session,

Below, you will find the options available this year for 2025 Minutes Review. With the cancellation of the August Leadership Event, we will not have an in-person gathering.

- **Express Review:** you may email or mail copies of your constitutionally required policies and procedures to me for review. The minimum documentation required for this review are: the Session Records Review Checklist signed and dated by the Clerk and Moderator, a copy of your congregation's sexual misconduct and harassment, child, youth, and vulnerable adult, anti-racism, and financial review policies, and a copy of your 2024 budget and 2024 financial review. While not required, copies of your minutes would be helpful in completing Express Review.
- **Peer Review:** arrange to meet with another clerk of Session and swap minutes for peer review. Both Clerks must submit a completed Checklist attesting to the veracity of the minutes and required policies.
- **In-person review with me:** contact me to setup a time for me to come to your church or meet with you by Zoom and review your records in person.

As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone at (912) 674-6270 or email at statedclerk@negapby.org.

Yours in Christ,

Jacob



Reminder: Our Mailing Address Has Changed

We are still receiving payments and correspondence that have been sent to our old P.O. Box. Please make sure your church treasurers, accountants, bookkeepers, and anyone else responsible for mailing payments or correspondence are aware of our updated mailing address.

Mail sent to the old P.O. Box is currently taking at least two to three weeks to reach us, which can cause significant delays in processing payments and other important correspondence.

Thank you for helping us make sure future mail is sent to the correct address!

AROUND THE PRESBYTERY

Announcements & Opportunities

JOIN US FOR THE TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL
KIRKIN' O' THE TARTANS SERVICE

Sunday, September 27, 2026 at 11 A.M.
Mount Hermon Presbyterian Church
5560 Commerce Street
Ila, Georgia 30647

BAGPIPER - CELTIC HARPIST - COVERED DISH LUNCH
EVERYONE WELCOME!

Questions? Contact Heather Koontz
revheathergk@gmail.com

NORTHEAST GEORGIA PRESBYTERY

Next Stated
Meeting

October 20

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
CLARKESVILLE

September Ordination Dates

Joo Hoon Kim
Martha Courie
Blaine Walker
Shon Peppers
Jeff Cain
Melvin Lowry
Boyd Lien

**Building a More Caring World
Stephen Ministries
Regional Learning Event**

Saturday, September 12, 2026

9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

(Check-in begins at 8:00 a.m.)

Cathedral of Christ the King • Atlanta, GA

Join Stephen Ministries as they celebrate 50 years of ministry with a regional learning event featuring founder Dr. Kenneth C. Haugk and other Stephen Ministries faculty.

Topics include:

Grief and hope

Caring for caregivers

Mental health ministry

Building compassionate congregations

Expanding congregational care through Stephen Ministry

Cost: \$15 per person

Optional Box Lunch: \$12

Space is limited.

Register at: stephenministries.org/celebrateATL



Rooted in Hope: 2026 POAMN Older Adult Ministry Conference

September 15-18, 2026

poamn.org/conference

In September, Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries Network (POAMN) will bring together clergy, lay leaders, volunteers, and more in downtown Knoxville, Tennessee, for an inspiring gathering on older adult ministry. The 2026 POAMN conference will focus on spiritual depth, resilience, and continued fruitfulness—themes that matter deeply for leaders walking alongside older adults through seasons of transition. Registration is open for attendees, exhibitors, and sponsors.

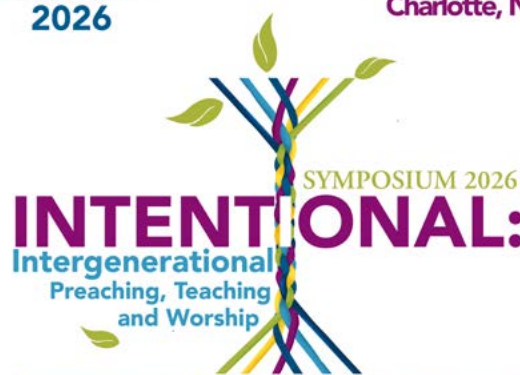
**Intentional: Intergenerational Preaching, Teaching, & Worship
October 8-9, 2026**

In-Person and Hybrid in Charlotte, NC

A two-day symposium for practitioners to explore the foundations and frameworks for intergenerational ministries the first day. The next day move from theory to practice in your context. Write liturgy, outline sermons and educational experience then receive feedback from the leaders in these areas. Leaders include Dave Csinos, Rich Voelz, Janaki Gooty, Jenny McDevitt and more! For more information on leaders and logistics visit: bit.ly/4vJnFaU

OCTOBER 8-9
2026

Hybrid and in person
Charlotte, NC



You're invited to School of the Laity this October!

October 3–4, 2026

Epworth By the Sea, St. Simons Island, GA

Hybrid – in person or online

Registration deadline: September 4, 2026

Connect with believers from churches across the Savannah Presbytery for a weekend of learning, encouragement, and spiritual growth. Whether you're serving as an elder, deacon, teacher, volunteer, or simply want to deepen your faith, there's something for you.

We can't wait to learn and grow together!

Register here: <https://www.savannahpresbytery.org/sol/>

Come to the Mountains A Presbyterian Youth Workers' Association Retreat October 5–8, 2026 | Montreat, North Carolina



Join the Presbyterian Youth Workers' Association for its Second Annual "Come to the Mountains" Gathering at Montreat Conference Center!

This gathering is open to all youth workers — ordained and non-ordained, volunteers and professionals alike. Come connect with others who share a passion for youth ministry while taking time to learn, worship, recharge, and exchange ideas.

Over the course of the gathering, participants will experience:

Worship & Keynote – Led by Rev. Dr. Kenda Creasy Dean and Rev. Neema Cyrus Franklin.

Learning Labs – Hands-on sessions designed to sharpen your skills and deepen your practice in youth ministry.

Soul Care – Intentional time set aside for rest, reflection, and personal renewal.

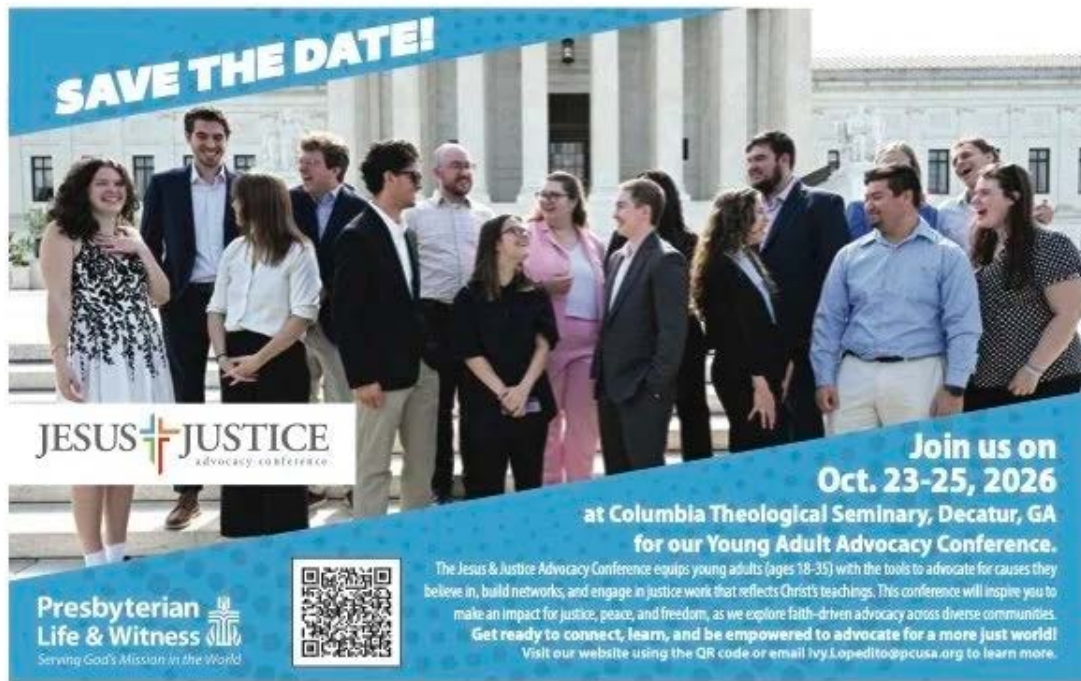
Idea Exchange – A collaborative space to share insights, challenges, and creative solutions with fellow youth workers.

Conference registration includes admission to all scheduled sessions and workshops, as well as conference materials. Accommodations are not included in the registration fee.

Register:

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/pywa-gathering-2026-come-to-the-mountains>

The event is hosted by the Presbyterian Youth Workers' Association in partnership with Montreat Conference Center. For questions about the event or registration, contact Christy Williams at director@pywa.org.



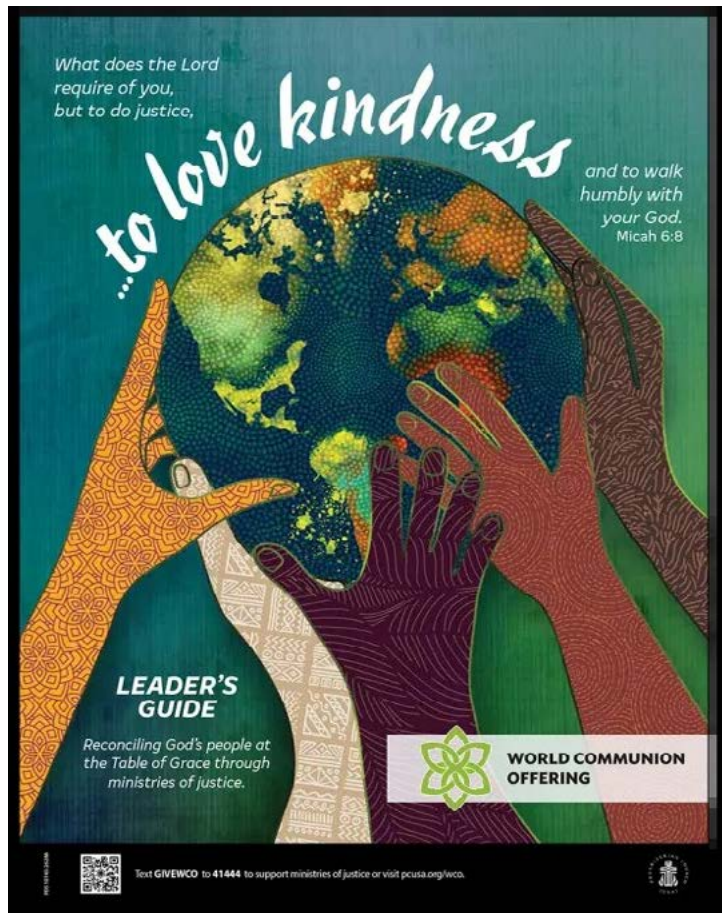
Jesus & Justice Young Adult Advocacy Conference
October 23-25, 2026
Columbia Theological Seminary (Decatur, Georgia)

Get ready to connect, learn, and be empowered to advocate for a more just world! This conference is perfect for college students and seminarians who want to learn effective ways to stand up for causes they believe in, build networks, and engage with advocacy topics in meaningful ways.

Registration Fee:
\$15.00

Meals:
As a regional conference, we are pleased to offer complimentary meals throughout the event to ensure you have a great experience.

Housing:
Attendees are responsible for arranging and covering the cost of their own housing. We recommend booking accommodations early to secure the best options available.
If you need any recommendations or assistance with local lodging, feel free to reach out to us at:
Jesusandjustice@pcusa.org.



World Communion Offering September 6 – October 4, 2026

Cultivating reconciliation around Christ's table, open to all.

The World Communion Offering supports ministries that promote peace, reconciliation, and unity in Christ.

Downloadable Resources

Resources are available to help churches plan and promote the offering, including the Sharing Calendar, social media graphics, and other materials.

Visit:

<https://pcusa.org/special-offerings/world-communion-offering>

Print Resources

Bulletin inserts, posters, and other printed materials may be ordered through the PC(USA) Store or by contacting Customer Service.

PC(USA) Store: <https://www.pcusastore.com/>

Customer Service: customer_service@presbypub.com

Phone: 800-533-4371

Churches may also contact Customer Service to establish or update a standing order for World Communion Offering materials.