



It's worth noting that Christianity is the only religion that proclaims the physical resurrection of its founder. While the Hindu religion does not have a particular founder, it teaches reincarnation, which is not at all the same thing. Islam certainly does not declare that Mohammed rose to life after dying; in fact, his tomb is located in Medina, Saudi Arabia. Buddhists do not hold to any form of physical being after death, and within Judaism, there are multiple views about the afterlife, but not much specifically about the concept of resurrection.

The bottom line is that the Christian faith stands or falls on the question of the reality of Jesus rising physically from the dead. As Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15:17,19 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins...If in this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. If Jesus is not risen from the dead, then all our religious activity is a waste of time, a massive fraud, and there is no hope for anyone. All our good deeds, striving for justice, and acts of mercy count for nothing at all if there is nothing beyond our bodies returning to the dust. If Christ is not raised, then those who hold to a materialist view of existence are right: death becomes the only constant, and life has no ultimate meaning. As the writer of Ecclesiastes, focusing only on the things of this world, puts it: "I have seen everything that is done under the sun, and behold, all is vanity and a striving after wind." (Ecclesiastes 1:14)

But if Jesus did in fact rise from the dead, then hope – not wishful thinking, but genuine assurance grounded in reality – can overcome every doubt and fear. If Jesus is alive, then every promise of Scripture is true. If Jesus rose from the dead, then it is also true that we, too, will one day experience the same physical resurrection, when the Lord returns to establish the new heavens and the new earth.

Luke records that when the women went to the tomb on Easter morning, they were greeted by two angels who asked them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen." (Luke 24:5) To put our trust in anything or anyone but Jesus Christ is to look for life among things that are dead, things that offer no real hope or joy. Jesus said, "I came that they might have life, and have it abundantly," (John 10:10) and the very good news is that abundant life is not something we have to wait until we die to enjoy it.

The power that raised Jesus from the dead is given to us through the Holy Spirit, that we might know resurrection here and now; through faith in Christ, eternal life is ours in this very moment. When we live as those who have already passed from death to life, the truth and beauty of God's kingdom bear witness to others, inviting them to "taste and see that the Lord is good." Happy Easter!

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Ed Rees
Transitional General Presbyter

NEGA PRESBYTERY STAFFING UPDATES

Dear Friends,

It will soon be 23 years since I came on staff at Northeast Georgia Presbytery. Since 2003, my role has shifted from clerical assistant to youth ministry/resource center assistant, then office manager/bookkeeper, and finally business administrator. Together we have witnessed many changes to the organization's structure as its mission evolved to meet congregational needs, financial priorities, and leadership resources. As we continue to move into a new vision for the ministry to which God calls us, we can expect more changes. My long journey has encountered many significant forks in the road over the years, and I find myself now at one which is most meaningful. Today I officially announce my retirement as your Business Administrator. My last day will be April 29, 2026.

As many of you know, I made this decision quite a while ago. The Presbytery's Coordinating Team and Personnel Action Team have been working diligently over the last year to envision, right-size, and implement a staffing model to address both my retirement and an upcoming search for a permanent General Presbyter. I am encouraged by their progress and am confident that I am leaving you all in good and capable hands.

I have found so many aspects of my work at Northeast Georgia Presbytery very fulfilling, and I am grateful for the opportunity to develop collegial relationships and friendships with so many of you. I hope to see you at the May 19 Stated Presbytery Meeting in Commerce to say our farewells.

My time here has deeply enriched my life, and I thank God for the opportunity to share in God's ministry with you all.

Sincerely,
Anita Green

After reviewing dozens of resumes and interviewing candidates, the Personnel Action Team and Coordinating Team are pleased to announce Mrs. Brandy Lake as our new Bookkeeper. This is a new position recommended by the Staffing Transition Team and Personnel Action Team, and approved by the Coordinating Team and Presbytery. Brandy will be responsible for accounting and bookkeeping functions only, and we believe her trustworthiness and attention to detail will be assets to our Presbytery staff. She brings years of church accounting and bookkeeping experience, and lives in Monroe. She begins officially on April 1st and will be working collaboratively with Business Administrator Anita Greene while the two of them overlap on staff before Anita's retirement.

Speaking of Anita's retirement, we are also grateful that the Coordinating Team and Presbytery approved additional employment terms for Libby Christiansen, our Communications Director, to work closely with Anita and learn more administrative functions of Anita's Business Administrator position. With respect to administrative responsibilities (not bookkeeping), Libby's additional training will help us bridge the gap and provide support to the Presbytery after Anita retires.

We are thankful to God for Anita, Libby, and Brandy as we are navigating this time of transition! Please thank them for their efforts, and welcome Brandy warmly to Northeast Georgia Presbytery!

Rev. Lee Koontz
Chair, Personnel Action Team

AROUND THE PRESBYTERY

Announcements & Opportunities



Monticello Presbyterian Church shared this photo from February 22, when members of the congregation wore blue on the first Sunday of Lent. The gesture honored Disaster Relief Volunteers and served as a reminder of the vital work supported by One Great Hour of Sharing, which helps fund disaster relief efforts.



Ross Brown, on behalf of Clergy Care, recently hosted a luncheon honoring HR ministers. Those gathered included Otis Smith, Monte Nelson, Greg Loskowski, and Karen Redwine. It was a wonderful time of fellowship, accompanied by great BBQ and meaningful connection.

The next luncheon is anticipated in May and will be held in Clarksville. If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please contact Ross Brown at brow5811@bellsouth.net

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.

- Sunjae Jung
- Jeanne Reynolds
- Kenneth Richmond

NORTHEAST GEORGIA PRESBYTERY STATED MEETING

May 19, 2026 | 2:00 p.m.
Location:
Commerce Presbyterian Church

CO-HOSTED BY COMMERCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AND CALVARY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (ELBERTON)

CAKE RECEPTION AT 1:00 P.M. HONORING ANITA GREEN

FEBRUARY NEGA PRESBYTERY STATED MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Northeast Georgia Presbytery gathered on February 2026 at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Athens for its stated meeting. Rev. Tom Buchanan, pastor of Covenant, welcomed commissioners, and outgoing Moderator Joslyn Fields called the meeting to order and opened with prayer. Rev. Jacob Douylliez, Stated Clerk, declared a quorum present.

New Moderator Installed

A highlight of the morning session was the installation of Rev. Matt Henderson as the new Moderator of the Presbytery. Outgoing Moderator Joslyn Fields led the service of installation, which included sentences of scripture, a call to discipleship, installation questions, prayer, and a charge and blessing. Rev. Henderson later led the body in worship and provided the message for the day.

Key Actions and Reports

The Presbytery approved its consent agenda, which included the October 2025 meeting minutes and several Committee on Ministry recommendations: the dismissal of Rev. Susan Balfour to East Tennessee Presbytery, the dismissal of Rev. Andy Chambers to Trinity Presbytery, and the reception of Rev. Colleen Cook as a minister member transferring from Flint River Presbytery.

The Coordinating Team brought several recommendations, all of which were approved. Rindy Trouteaud was confirmed as Chair of the Nominating Committee. The Personnel Action Team's motion to contract out bookkeeping and accounting duties for the Presbytery was approved. In a significant forward-looking decision, the Presbytery approved a proposal from the Transition Team to create a full-time combined position of General Presbyter/Stated Clerk, with a search committee to be named at a later date.

In new business, a motion was brought to authorize Rev. Ed Rees and Rev. Jacob Douylliez to sign the statement "A Call to Christians" on behalf of the Presbytery. After a period of reading and deliberation—with time given for speakers both in favor and opposed—the motion passed by majority ballot vote.

The Committee on Ministry also recommended, and the Presbytery approved, granting Rev. Hilary Shuford the status of Honorably Retired. Brief reports were heard from the Committee on Preparation for Ministry, Presbyterian Women, and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. A first reading of the revised Manual of Operation and Policy Manual was presented, with a second reading and vote expected at the May meeting.

Worship and Remembrance

The meeting included a meaningful time of worship led by Moderator Henderson. The necrology was read, remembering ministers and elders who joined the Church Triumphant during 2025. The body also celebrated Communion together and received an invitation to generous giving.

Next Meeting

The next stated meeting of the Northeast Georgia Presbytery will be held on May 19, 2026, at 2:00 p.m., co-hosted by Commerce Presbyterian Church and Calvary Presbyterian Church in Elberton. All commissioners and visitors are warmly encouraged to attend.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MILLEDGEVILLE



200 Years of Faith in Action

2026

BICENTENNIAL KICKOFF RECEPTION AT 10:15 A.M.; 11:00 A.M. EPIPHANY WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION. YOUTH LEAD TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES. ALL ARE WELCOME.	JAN. 4	
 KIRKIN' O' THE TARTANS 11:00 A.M. WORSHIP CELEBRATING SCOTTISH HERITAGE WITH BAGPIPES, HYMNS, AND A BLESSING OF THE TARTANS. REFRESHMENTS FOLLOW. WEAR YOUR TARTAN OR COME AS YOU ARE.	MARCH 29	PAIM/PASSION SUNDAY 11:00 A.M. WORSHIP WITH NEW SERVICE MUSIC BY NEW ZEALAND COMPOSER DAVID HAMILTON (INTROIT, RESPONSE, ANTHEM, OFFERTORY). WE'LL SING 'BE NOT AFRAID' AS THE CROSS IS BROUGHT FORWARD, PREPARING US FOR HOLY WEEK.
 OUR JOURNEY BEGINS 11:00 A.M. FRONTIER THEMED WORSHIP SHARING LIBBY LOUNSBURY'S 2001 PLAYLET 'FROM THESE BEGINNINGS,' WITH COMMUNION. RECEPTION FOLLOWS. PIONEER ATTIRE ENCOURAGED.	APRIL 12	 MILLEDGEVILLE SINGERS GUID CONCERT 4:00 P.M. MUSIC SELECTIONS FROM CLYDE TIPTON'S 'LET JUSTICE ROLL.' FREE AND OPEN TO ALL.
 FAITH IN ACTION 11:00 A.M. WORSHIP CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY SERVICE THROUGH STORIES, PRAYER, AND SONG. FELLOWSHIP WITH SNACKS AND SHARING AFTERWARD.	MAY 10	 MUSICAL HERITAGE 11:00 A.M. WORSHIP SPANNING TWO CENTURIES OF SACRED MUSIC—GUEST MUSICIANS, CHOIR, ORGAN, AND A HYMN-SING. RECEPTION FOLLOWS.
 LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE 11:00 A.M. TRINITY SUNDAY WORSHIP LED BY OUR YOUTH. REFRESHMENTS AND CONVERSATION IN FELLOWSHIP HALL AFTERWARD.	MAY 17	 MUSIC OF CLYDE TIPTON 11:00 A.M. PENTECOST WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTING THE MUSIC AND LEGACY OF CLYDE TIPTON. VISIT WITH THE TIPTON FAMILY AT THE RECEPTION.
 HONORING THE JOURNEY 11:00 A.M. WORSHIP TRACING OUR CONGREGATION'S STORY WITH MILESTONE MOMENTS, CHOIR ANTHEMS, PRAYERS, AND COMMUNION. RECEPTION FOLLOWS.	MAY 24	
 BICENTENNIAL OPEN HOUSE EVENING OF COMMUNITY AND DISCOVERY: 6:30 P.M. MONTICELLO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH BELL CHOIR; 7:30 P.M. CONVERSATION WITH HISTORIAN BOB WILSON. REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED.	MAY 31	HONORING THE JOURNEY 11:00 A.M. WORSHIP TRACING OUR CONGREGATION'S STORY WITH MILESTONE MOMENTS, CHOIR ANTHEMS, PRAYERS, AND COMMUNION. RECEPTION FOLLOWS.
	JUNE 7	
	JUNE 11	
	JUNE 14	
		BICENTENNIAL SERVICE 11:00 A.M. WORSHIP COMMEMORATING 200 YEARS WITH SPECIAL GUESTS. CATERED LUNCH TO FOLLOW.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (EST. 1826)
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Deepen Your Older Adult Ministry This Fall

The Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries Network (POAMN) annual conference will be in Knoxville, TN, in September 2026. Faith leaders interested in learning more about older adult ministry are invited to join us. Registration will open in mid-April. Proposals for speakers are being accepted through April 1.

<https://poamn.org/conference/>



Volunteers Needed for Week of Service at Holston Camp

Each spring and fall for one week, a group of mostly older adults gather at a place typically associated with youth: a summer camp. But instead of canoeing and campfire songs, they come to work, volunteering their time and skills to tackle items on the host facility's to-do list, bridging generations through service and shared purpose.

Interested in volunteering with the Mariners? Join their next trip April 12-18 to Holston Camp & Retreat Center in Banner Elk, NC.

<https://poamn.org/mariners-mission-summer-camps/>

Greetings GA Presbytery Siblings!

Flint River & Savannah Presbytery have been coordinating with PDA in Canton, NC to participate in some Hurricane Helene Recovery work. We have space at Canton Presbyterian for 11 additional participants and we would love for you all to reach out to folks in your presbyteries to join us.

Final Deadline to register is April 10th.

Our work week is April 26- May 2nd. If you have any questions, please reach out!

Peace,
 Marty Susie
 Director of Mission & Program Advancement
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