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The Panhandle Presbyterian

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Hybrid 226th General Assembly starts soon

The 226 General Assembly of the PCUSA will meet in Salt Lake City, Utah, this summer. The committees will meet online June 25-27, followed by in-person plenaries through July 4. A brief opening plenary will be held June 25 before the committees begin their work.

Our presbytery's two commissioners, Rev Lisa Martin and Ruling Elder Glenn Hodges, and Young Adult Advisory Delegate Austin Banyas have completed three trainings provided by the Synod. I ask you to remember our commissioners and delegate in your prayers.

Sunday, June 30, will find all attendees worshipping with local Presbyterians! Yes, there is a robust community of Presbyterians in SLC.

The days will be long, starting with worship each morning at 8:30 a.m. Mountain time. Each day

will have up to three plenaries where the business is presented, discussed and voted on, with lunch and dinner breaks. The scheduled adjourning time is 9:00 p.m., and then it all starts again early the next day.

I will be attending as mid-council leadership for our Presbytery. I will be traveling on Friday, June 28, and returning on July 4 at the conclusion of the meeting.

The official website is ga-pcusa.org with the theme [226th General Assembly \(2024\) | Live Into Hope \(ga-pcusa.org\)](http://ga-pcusa.org). On that page, you will see more info on the daily worship services. I think that page will also carry the live feed of the meetings. You can read and subscribe to the On the Road to GA newsletter there, as well. The website also has a link to the [Items of Business \(IOB\) PC-BIZ](http://Items of Business (IOB) PC-BIZ). I will be glad to walk you through using the tool.

From our
Stated Clerk/
Acting
Transitional
Presbyter



By Jeannie Dixon,
Fellowship,
Tallahassee Elder

Presbytery of Florida Spring Stated Meeting

Saturday, June 1, 2024 • 9 am CT / 10 am ET

via Zoom videoconferencing

You MUST REGISTER to receive the link to join the meeting.

[Register here.](#)

DOGWOOD ACRES RETREAT CENTER AND CAMP INVITES YOU TO A RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY FOR THE NEW POWELL PAVILION

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19

5:00-6:30 PM CT

RSVP FOR DINNER TO CHRISTY@DOGWOODACRES.ORG



DOGWOOD ACRES

RETREAT CENTER AND CAMP



Join us for Summer 2024!

High School Week
June 23 - 28

Discovery
Adventure

Family Camp
June 30 - July 3

July 14 - 19

Discovery
Adventure/Intro
July 7 - 12

Discovery
Adventure
July 21 - 26

Register at dogwoodacres.org

Nearly 1/3 of presbytery's churches amid pastoral transitions

The Ministry of Pastoral Transitions is currently working with 10 of the 36 churches in Florida Presbytery. That means nearly a third of our churches is either searching for a new pastor, planning for a pastor to retire or leave, or experiencing some other change in pastoral leadership. Each of these churches is assigned a member or associate of MPT to assist in the process.

MPT has also enlisted a team to assist the Ministry in examining candidates



for membership in the Presbytery. Welcome to the team: Matt Frease, of UKirk Tallahassee; Trinity Whitley, of Faith Presbyterian, Tallahassee; Joyce Kelly, of First Presbyterian, DeFuniak Springs; and Bob Palmer, of Trinity Presbyterian, Pensacola.

As a reminder to those churches who need temporary help, or just an occasional fill-in for Sunday morning, the Presbytery maintains a Pulpit Supply List on its website, at www.presbyteryofflorida.net/presbytery-ministries/pastoral-transitions/pulpit-supply/

From the Ministry of Pastoral Transitions (MPT)



By Ed Nickinson, MPT member and Trinity, Pensacola Elder

TRANSITIONAL GENERAL PRESBYTER SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Search Committee for our presbytery's new Transitional General Presbyter has continued to work swiftly and intentionally. The Ministry Discernment Profile (job posting) has been approved and is live on the Church Leadership Connection. It is also being communicated to various denomination-wide networks. We have begun accepting applications and look forward to keeping you updated as our search progresses.



**From
Dogwood Acres**



*By Christy Williams,
Director*

DWA thankful for new pavilion, volunteers and guidance

We are SO Grateful for the generosity of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Pensacola! They donated the proceeds of their Spring Jelly Bean Run to Dogwood Acres to build a cooking and gathering pavilion in honor of the ministry of Ben Powell. A ribbon-cutting will be held Wednesday, June 19. Their hard work, and literal running around, meant that we received \$17,500 for this project. Thank you for supporting our ministry and creating this fabulous outdoor gathering space for summer camp, retreats and meetings.



Dogwood Volunteers have been busy preparing for the summer camp season. Thanks to Bill Wert and members of FPC Quincy Bible Study Class for their work on our new Welcome Chair! Stop by and sit a spell or take a photo to let folks know you were with us! Thanks also to our volunteer crew: Kay Lachat, Lafayette, Tallahassee, shown at left painting the Welcome Chair; James Vance, Fellowship, Tallahassee; Brant Copeland, retired minister; Henry Givens, Laurel Hill; and Lisa Wilder, 1st, Quincy, for sewing, painting, mowing, cleaning, assembling bedframes, hanging curtains, moving furniture and getting things spruced up for the summer camp season.

The Ministry of Dogwood Acres welcomed Joel Winchip, Executive Director of the Presbyterian Church Camp and Conference Association (PCCCA – now known as The Campfire Collective) to our in-person meeting on May 16. Joel toured the camp and gave input on strategies for our ministry in 2024. Pictured, at right, from left, are Joel with MDWA member Brant Copeland, DWA Program Director Eric Hearn, MDWA member Henry Givens, MDWA Moderator Bill Lamont, and DWA Director Christy Williams.



Heat-fueled storms hit Tallahassee hard

The weather on May 10, changed the lives of many in Tallahassee. Our early morning began with warnings of bad weather headed our way. First, it was in the next hour, then, way too quickly, it was in the next 30 minutes, and then it hit us. It got darker. The wind whipped up and trees leaned. Leaves flew horizontally. Debris accumulated in our yard.

Our grands' dog began the morning before the rest of us by heading into a closet and refusing to come out. The storm got worse. The lightning and thunder started. Our entire house vibrated as the thunder pounded the sky. The vibrations grew more intense and prolonged. And, of course, we lost power. The rain lasted for hours.

Slowly, we realized that multiple tornadoes had hit our community. Friends reported trees falling on their businesses, homes and cars, making some homeless. Rumors started that there were deaths in our community. The church reported a leaking steeple and some minor property damage. All this from a shortlived storm as powerful as a hurricane, but not a hurricane.

Cleanup began. More than 80,000 thousand people were without power, and 11 substations were damaged, along with severe damage to transmission lines, so our

community brought in crews from other states. Our local newspaper said our community looked like a war zone and that these may have been the worse tornado strikes in our history.

We spent a hot night without electricity, but grateful that our house was spared. Our neighbors' way-too-loud generator sounded like an overnight truck parking lot. We learned that we could recharge our phones in our new EV without it running. We picked up debris from our yard.

The costs of fast-moving and powerful storms add up. Without power for 34 hours, we did the ice thing to save our food. We ate dinner out. My husband decided that we needed a generator to run our refrigerator and provide light at night. Cha-ching! The costs added up even without property damage.

The costs to our community are still being compiled. Forty-six buildings were destroyed, and 550 homes and businesses damaged by trees. The cost for the two families who each lost a family member cannot be reduced to a number. The home in the photo has been damaged by three different storms over the



May 10 storm damages a First Presbyterian Church of Tallahassee member's home

last year and a half. How do you quantify such a repetitive loss and the emotional toll of feeling unsafe in your home every time there is a storm?

This was yet another storm fueled by the heat in the atmosphere from the burning of fossil fuels.

I pray that those in our denomination who insist on continuing to support the fossil fuel industry with the denomination's investments are paying attention. People are being killed, property being destroyed, costs rising, and millions are suffering from what should be ordinary weather. How much more destruction and suffering must occur before we understand the immorality and consequences of the denomination's investments in the fossil fuel industry?

Caring for Creation Notes



By
Pam McVety,
Presbytery
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of Creation
Enabler
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"How do you quantify such a repetitive loss and the emotional toll of feeling unsafe in your home every time there is a storm?"

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The Panhandle Presbyterian

Save the date (or visit <http://www.presbyteryofflorida.net/events-calendars/>)

In June	Looking ahead
<i>Saturday, June 1</i> 9 a.m. CT/ 10 a.m. ET	Spring Stated Presbytery Meeting Via Zoom
<i>Saturday, June 1</i> 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. CT	Laurel Hill Arts & Heritage Festival
<i>Monday, June 3</i> 10 a.m. CT/ 11 a.m. ET	Active pastor meetings via Zoom with Board of Pensions
<i>Tuesday, June 4</i> 2:30 p.m. CT/ 3:30 p.m. ET	Consultant Clark Simmons, Re: BOP 2025 plan changes
<i>Tuesday, June 4</i> 10 a.m. CT/ 11 a.m. ET	Ministry of Pastoral Transitions
<i>Tuesday, June 4, 11, 18 & 25</i> 1 p.m. CT/2 p.m. ET	Transitional Presbyter Search Committee
<i>Wednesday, June 5</i> 8 a.m. CT/9 a.m. ET	Strategic Plan Implementation Task Force
<i>Wednesday, June 5</i> 11 a.m. CT/noon ET	Synod of South Atlantic 1st Wednesday Sack Lunch via Zoom
<i>Saturday, June 8</i> 4:30–6 p.m. CDT	Grace, Panama City Louisiana Shrimp and Crawfish Boil
<i>Monday, June 10</i> 1 p.m. CT/2 p.m. ET	Ministry of Leadership Development
<i>Monday, June 10</i>	Synod of South Atlantic Florida African American Clergy & Educators Zoom Gathering
<i>Thursday, June 13</i> 2 p.m. CT/3 p.m. ET	Ministry of Presbytery Operations
<i>Sunday, June 16</i>	Fathers Day
<i>Wednesday, June 19</i>	Juneteenth
<i>Wednesday, June 19</i> 5-6:30 p.m. CDT	Dogwood Acres Powell Pavillion Ribbon-Cutting
<i>Sunday – Friday, June 23 – 28</i>	Dogwood Acres High School Week
<i>Wednesday, June 26</i> 10 a.m. CT/ 11 a.m. ET	Racial Justice Subcommittee
<i>Tuesday – Thursday, June 25 – 27</i>	General Assembly committee meetings online
<i>Sunday – Wednesday, June 30 – July 3</i>	Dogwood Acres Family Camp
<i>Saturday – Thursday, June 29 – July 4</i>	General Assembly in-person @ Salt Lake City, Utah
<i>Monday – Thursday, July 1 – 4</i>	General Assembly in- person @ Salt Lake City, Utah continues and concludes
<i>Tuesday, July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30</i> 1 p.m. CT/2 p.m. ET	Transitional Presbyter Search Committee
<i>Wednesday, July 3</i> 8 a.m. CT/9 a.m. ET	Strategic Plan Implementation Task Force
<i>Wednesday, July 3</i> 11 a.m. CT/noon ET	Synod of South Atlantic 1st Wednesday Sack Lunch via Zoom
<i>Thursday, July 4</i>	Independence Day – Presbytery office closed
<i>Sunday – Friday, July 7 – 12</i>	Dogwood Acres Intro, Discover & Adventure Camps
<i>Monday, July 8</i> 1 p.m. CT/2 p.m. ET	Ministry of Leadership Development
<i>Thursday, July 11</i> 2 p.m. CT/3 p.m. ET	Ministry of Presbytery Operations
<i>Sunday – Friday, July 14 – 19</i>	Dogwood Acres Discovery & Adventure Camps
<i>Sunday – Friday, July 21 – 26</i>	Dogwood Acres Discovery & Adventure Camps
<i>Wednesday, July 24</i> 10 a.m. CT/ 11 a.m. ET	Racial Justice Subcommittee
<i>Thursday, July 25</i> 9:30 a.m. CT/ 10:30 a.m. ET	Ministry Coordinating Council
<i>Monday, August 5</i>	Synod of South Atlantic “Sabbath by the Pool” for women in vocational ministry

weeKirk
CONFERENCE

October 21-23, 2024

Visit montreat.org/wee-kirk