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# The Panhandle Presbyterian

*A monthly publication of the Presbytery of Florida*



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## From General Presbyter Roy Martin

**B**ack by popular demand!! I have been asked to conduct another presbytery-wide officer training workshop. Last time, I conducted it on Zoom due to the pandemic. Before that, I did regional in-person workshops. This time around, I am doing a hybrid of the two!

I am scheduling a two-hour workshop for Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m. Central Time. The clock changes to Daylight Savings Time on that date, so you gain an hour of sleep just to prepare for this workshop and, of course, go to church!

As I said, the training will be offered both in-person and via Zoom. If you can come in person

(which is always the best way to participate), it will be held at First Presbyterian Church of Lynn Haven. If you can only attend by Zoom, we will have that set up also.

All are welcome, but any church that does not have regular pastoral leadership who can offer this kind of training is particularly invited to attend.

Here's the thing: In order to participate either in person or by Zoom, you will need to register at <https://forms.gle/CUoVwiGEWR1zaNfj6>.

A couple of weeks before the workshop, we will send you some reading material to cogitate upon prior to this event. Instructions will be included with the material.

You will need a current 2023-2025 Book of Order, which can be [ordered online from the PC\(USA\) Store](#). There is also a [downloadable version](#), which is free.



**The Rev. Dr. Roy Martin**

I do hope you will join us as we look more deeply at the calling to which you have been called. And I promise, I won't call on you unless you raise your hand!

Roy



## 2023-25 Book of Order Workshop With Rev. Dr. Roy Martin

Sunday, November 5  
3 pm CT/4 pm ET

1st Presbyterian Church of Lynn Haven

**Register to participate  
in person or via Zoom:**

[https://forms.gle/  
CUoVwiGEWR1zaNfj6](https://forms.gle/CUoVwiGEWR1zaNfj6)

## Summer presbytery meeting spotlights Self Development of People



A total of 67 participants registered at the Presbytery of Florida's Summer Stated Meeting, graciously hosted by Trinity Presbyterian Church, Pensacola, Tuesday, August 22. Shown signing in for the day's activities, at left, are First Presbyterian of Lynn Haven Ruling Elder Commissioner Kathy Welsh and, at right, First Presbyterian of DeFuniak Springs Pastor the Rev. Cathy Mooney. (Photos courtesy of Rev. Lisa Martin).



During the morning worship, Grace Presbyterian Pastor, the Rev. Eric Spoon, shown above at left, preaches a sermon entitled "Running from God", based on Genesis 1:26-27, 3:8 and Jonah 1:1-3. Shown above, at center, Northminster, Pensacola, Ruling Elder Pam McNulty serves as liturgist during the service (Photo courtesy of Rev. Lisa Martin). Above, at right, Trinity Organist Hyunjoo Kim provides stirring accompaniment on the church's majestic organ.

"And" means...



- including everyone
- being together
- collaboration
- belonging
- sharing our gifts with others
- a meal under stars

October 7, 2023, 5:30 p.m.

<https://www.fpcmilton.org/love-and-lights-reservations.html>

weeKirk

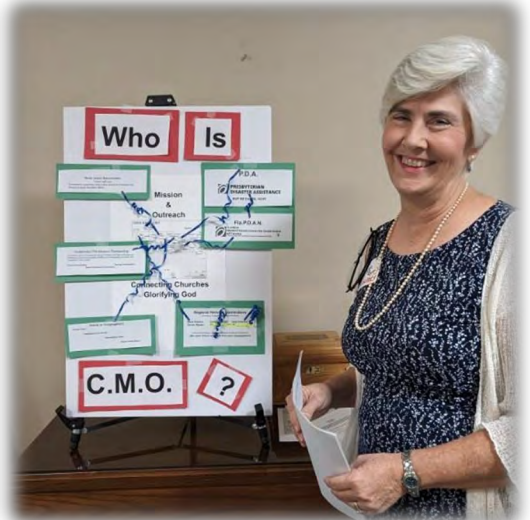
CONFERENCE

Montreat Conference Center

October 16-18, 2023

<https://montreat.org/events/wee-kirk-23>





For the education segment following worship, the Rev. Harvey Jenkins (HR), Rev. Dr. Michael Askew (Pastor, Gulf Beach Presbyterian, Panama City Beach) and Rev. Jim Krapf, representing the Presbytery Committee on Mission and Outreach (CMO) Racial Justice Subcommittee and Committee on Self Development of People (SDOP), shared information about the SDOP program’s origins, purpose, projects and support. Shown above, from left, Rev. Bill Lamont (Pastor, Gulf Breeze Presbyterian), Rev. Eric Spoon, Rev. Dr. Askew and Rev. Krapf lead the meeting attendees in signing the hymn “Justice is a Journey Onward”. Above, at right, First Presbyterian of Pensacola Elder and CMO member Susan Byram shares a display she created to illustrate CMO’s work, which connects churches in glorifying God. *(Photo courtesy of Rev. Lisa Martin)*

**Dementia Friendly  
Congregations**  
FREE Webinar  
10.03.23 | 2pm EDT

[https://www.facebook.com/  
events/1311140409481099](https://www.facebook.com/events/1311140409481099)

**EVANGELISM  
SUNDAY** Sep. 17  
<https://hubs.ly/Q01-z19f0>



## From Dogwood Acres



## DWA gives – and receives – thanks after summer camp season



**T**hank you to the following churches for sending us wonderful, faithful, mature, responsible counselors to work with our campers: FPC Marianna (Anna); Trinity PC (Antha, Ford); Christ PC (Meg, Zoe, Sam, Caroline, McKenzie and Preston); Faith PC (Austin); FPC Lynn Haven (Eric); FPC Quincy (James); FPC Tallahassee (Ethan, Camille) and Gulf Breeze PC (Matthew).

The counselors were grateful to the churches who provided “Counselor Treat Boxes” for each week of the summer – FPC Lynn Haven, FPC Tallahassee, Christ Presbyterian and FPC Quincy.

Thank you to churches who helped supply us with camp nurses for the four weeks we had campers on-site: Sandra Kuhn (Lafayette); Lynne Metz (Faith); Ruben Diaz (FPC Tallahassee) and Nancy Repplinger (Christ).

And many thanks to those who volunteered to be the Camp Chaplains: Erin Rugh (Faith); Brant Copeland (HR) and Mary Vance (HR).



Following the summer camp season, members of the Committee on Dogwood Acres and friends gathered at Dogwood to do a deep clean of all our buildings. Carpets were shampooed, windows cleaned, bathrooms bleached, cabins swept and wiped down and generally all our buildings are ready for the Fall Retreat Season! Thanks to our volunteers: Roy Martin, James and Mary Vance, Brant and Andra Copeland, Bill Lamont and Roman Stanley, and Henry Givens.





**From Rev. Carol Wood, Temporary Supply Pastor, First Presbyterian Church of Wewahitchka:**

For the first time in a generation, Wewa First sent a camper to Dogwood Acres. Thirteen-year old Zoey Loveless, pictured second from the left, was thrilled with her summer camp experience.

Zoey eagerly recounted the camp’s daily activities of games, stories, and chapel. She met new friends and enjoyed her house counselor. As she recollected each day’s activities, the refrain in-between the stanzas was, “And, it was fun!”

We are grateful to Christy Williams, Eric Hearn and all the staff and volunteers who collaborated to make this such a meaningful experience for Zoey and many others. After the service Zoey said, “I really want to go next year!” For congregations who don’t have active youth programs, Dogwood Acres is all the more important to supplement Christian formation.

We are truly blessed by this ministry of our Presbytery.



# The Path of Love

Spiritfest 2023

Who:	When:	Where:	How:
Middle School students and their chaperones	October 6-8	Dogwood Acres Camp and Retreat Center	\$160 Per Attendee Register online Today!

**Get registered at [dogwoodacres.org](http://dogwoodacres.org)**

**From the  
Committee on  
Educational  
Resources (CER)**



*By Chris Rollins,  
CER member and  
1st, Ft. Walton Beach  
Elder*

### Three, fifty-four, twelve!

**Y**ou might think these numbers are football signals. They mean so much more. September 8<sup>th</sup> recognizes **Presbyterian Related Colleges and Universities** and September 17<sup>th</sup> **Theological education.** The Presbyterian Church is the source, and their significance will be revealed.

**3** – A little history: John Witherspoon is credited with bringing the tenets of Scottish reformed education tradition to Princeton University. Schools were established across the country following the same model: **Faith, Knowledge and Service** – the “**three**” tenets were linked together. Service is preparing students to go out into the world and all three.

**54** – There are 54 Presbyterian affiliated colleges and universities in the United States. There are 140,000 students attending these colleges presently. **Sixty percent** of students are the first to go to college in their family. **Forty-eight percent** face challenging circumstances. **Thirty-four percent** are from underrecognized minority groups.

Presbyterian affiliated colleges and universities have a mission to support the knowledge and faith journeys of their students. To treasure the communion of faith and learning in education is

the focal point of the Presbyterian tradition.

Waynesburg University, located in Southwest Pennsylvania, lists this as their mission statement: **“Waynesburg educates students to make connections between faith, learning and serving in order to transform their community and the world. This will inspire graduate and undergraduate students and challenge them to live a life of leadership and purpose to the glory of God.”**

And their vision statement is **“Waynesburg will be a premier institution of Christian higher education committed to preparation of 21<sup>st</sup> century leaders through innovative, student-centered learning.”**

You can go to [www.presbyteriancollege.org](http://www.presbyteriancollege.org) and click on any of the 54 colleges and universities for more information. Most have a mission and a vision statement which links the essence of education, faith, and mission.

**12** – There are 12 Presbyterian seminaries. They are committed to educating students to preach, teach and lead the church in service to God. They prepare men and women to be pastors, Christian educators, and musicians in service to Jesus Christ.

Their Mission is: **To**

**prepare leaders to proclaim with great joy God’s message of good news in both word and deed.** They offer continuing education and advanced degree programs for Ministers of Word and Sacrament and lay church leaders. They are centers for theological discourse, reflection, and research for the benefit of the wider church in changing times. They embrace theological education in the Reformed tradition.

God calls people to colleges and seminaries in different ways and times. It is great to see open hearts seeking deeper faith, knowledge, and the call to serve.

I wrote this article because it is close to my heart. I graduated from Waynesburg College (now University); my daughter graduated from the College of Wooster; and my husband graduated from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary – all Presbyterian-related schools of higher education.

## Tallahassee's Clean Energy Plan

This summer has been miserable and dangerous for Floridians because of triple-digit temperatures and extreme rainfall which have set new records. The only good thing about this has been that most people now understand that climate change is here and are ready to do something about it.

In 2019, the City of Tallahassee recognized the threats and costs of climate change and passed a resolution committing the city to reach 100% clean energy by 2050 and, in the interim, to reduce climate pollution as much and as soon as possible.

Over the last four years, the city has worked with neighborhood associations, businesses, non-profits, service providers, clean energy advocates and scientists. The city also obtained an engineering study of the path to clean energy for its electric utility and consulted with the city's own transportation and community planners. In all this, the city has been serious about identifying the needs and not burdening the poor, vulnerable and people of color in this transition.

I have had the privilege of working with the city on a technical advisory committee and an environmental justice committee to provide guidance and review proposals. Believe me, it is not easy to transition an entire community to 100%



Eight FPC Tallahassee Choir members were participants in a "Green Sing-along" before and during the Tallahassee City Commission's adoption of a Clean Energy Plan.

renewable energy. There is no handbook or guide to follow. From the beginning, the city has been driven by the need to switch to cost-effective and reliable clean energy. The path forward is not clear, but will be guided by practical technological advances that make sense for Tallahassee.

The [City's Clean Energy Plan](#) was unanimously and joyfully approved by the City Commission August 23. It identifies tasks that can be accomplished over the next 5-7 years. It includes adding more solar into its utility power sources, making our buildings more energy-efficient and upgrading to less polluting modes of transportation. The plan will be revised over time to identify additional steps.

If you are wondering what it will cost, our utility has kept electricity rates at levels similar to or lower than other Florida utilities while producing a surplus for the city's general operating fund and is committed to staying on

this path. (A publicly-run utility does not need to make a profit for shareholders.)

As mentioned, the plan makes a commitment to the most vulnerable in our community to make sure that they can participate and benefit from this transition. It includes educational and financial support for residents and businesses. Moving away from fossil fuels, which dirty our air and water, hurt our health and raise costs for everybody to clean energy, the community will experience cleaner air and water, improved public health, fewer medical costs, more local jobs, local economic benefits and stable energy prices.

So, this community is doing its part to cut climate pollution, most likely making Tallahassee one of the cleanest, healthiest most desirable and energy-affordable cities in the nation. Sorry to brag, but I am proud of our community's leadership in addressing the climate crisis.

## Caring for Creation Notes



By  
**Pam McVety,**  
*Presbytery  
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of Creation  
Enabler*  
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*"... the community will experience cleaner air and water, improved public health, fewer medical costs, more local jobs, local economic benefits and stable energy prices."*



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**The Panhandle Presbyterian**

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

<b>In September</b>	<b>Looking ahead</b>
Tuesday, September 5 12 p.m. CT/ 1 p.m. ET	Committee on Educational Resources (CER)
Thursday, September 7 10 a.m. EDT	"Iconic America" Book Talk @ Faith Presbyterian, Tallahassee, Library Topic: <i>American Experiment</i> by David Rubenstein
Thursday – Saturday, September 7 – 9 and September 14 – 16	<a href="#">Light in the Piazza</a> @ Faith Presbyterian, Tallahassee
Sunday – Saturday, September 10 – 16	<a href="#">Christian Formation Week</a>
Tuesday, September 12 9:30 a.m. CT/ 10:30 a.m. ET	Committee on Ministry (COM)
Thursday, September 14 9 a.m. CT/ 10 a.m. ET	Committee on Mission and Outreach (CMO)
Thursday, September 14 2 p.m. CT/ 3 p.m. ET	Committee on Presbytery Administration (CPA)
Sunday, September 17	<a href="#">Theological Education Sunday</a>
Sunday, September 17	<a href="#">Evangelism Sunday</a>
Tuesday, September 19 10 a.m. CT/ 11 a.m. ET	Committee on Congregational Revitalization (CCR)
Monday – Wednesday, September 25 – 27	<a href="#">Stewardship Kaleidoscope</a> , Minneapolis, MN
Wednesday, September 27 10 a.m. CT/ 11 a.m. ET	Racial Justice Subcommittee
Thursday, September 28 9:30 a.m. CT/ 10:30 a.m. ET	Coordinating and Planning Commission (CPC)
Thursday – Wednesday, September 21 – 27	1st, Tallahassee hosting 2023 International Peacemaker the Rev. Alison Infante Zamora, from Cuba
Sunday, October 1	World Communion Sunday ( <a href="#">Peace &amp; Global Witness Offering</a> )
Tuesday, October 3 12 p.m. CT/ 1 p.m. ET	Committee on Educational Resources (CER)
Wednesday, October 4	Board of Pensions' Employer Agreement Deadline
Thursday, October 5 9 a.m. CT/ 10 a.m. ET	Committee on Mission and Outreach (CMO)
Friday – Sunday, October 6 – 8	<a href="#">Spiritfest</a> middle school retreat @ Dogwood Acres
Sunday, October 8	1st Presbyterian of DeFuniak Springs 100th Birthday of the Sanctuary
Tuesday, October 10 5:30 p.m. CT	1st, Milton " <a href="#">Love &amp; Lights</a> " Fundraising Dinner
Tuesday, October 24 9 a.m. CT/ 10 a.m. ET	Fall Stated Presbytery Meeting@ 1st, Lynn Haven <i>Registration begins an hour ahead</i>
Wednesday, October 25 10 a.m. CT/ 11 a.m. ET	Racial Justice Subcommittee
Friday – Sunday, October 27 – 29	Christ, Tallahassee Mission Trip to Thornwell
Sunday, October 29	<a href="#">Reformation Sunday</a>

