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**Inside this issue:**

Ministry of New Congregation Formation	2
Ministry of Pastoral Transitions (MPT)	3
Ministry of Congregational Health	4
FLAPDAN	5
Fall Stated Presbytery Meeting	6
Dogwood Acres	8
Caring for Creation	9
Save the Dates	10

# The Panhandle Presbyterian

*A monthly publication of the Presbytery of Florida*



Volume 7, Issue 11

November 2024

## In areas hard-hit by hurricanes, the need is great

**D**ear Friends and Colleagues,  
As I write this article, central Florida has been struck by a second devastating hurricane. Many of the properties damaged by Hurricane Helene just a few weeks ago have been further damaged by Hurricane Milton. I find my heart reaching out to those whose lives have been devastated by loss of property and those who have lost loved ones. My heart and prayers do not stop there, for they also include those in other states hurt by Hurricane Helene.

I am grateful for individuals, groups, and organizations who have responded to provide aid in these devastated areas. Flood buckets (5-gallon buckets containing survival items), money, water, and non-perishable foods are being delivered to these ravaged areas as fast as they arrive.

One Friday, 900 flood buckets arrived at a distribution point, and were all given out within just a couple hours. The need is very real.

Ruling Elder Tim Crawford, of First Presbyterian Church of Crestview, is on the board of the Florida Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Network (FLAPDAN) which is

intricately involved in the recovery process in Florida. Tim may provide great information on how you might get involved in the recovery process. He can be reached at [tcrawford@cox.net](mailto:tcrawford@cox.net) or 850-217-2597. Also deeply involved is our denomination's Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) program.

When I asked what is most needed at this time, the resounding response was "money." I was also told that good-hearted individuals often want to send clothing, gift cards, or food. I have been told there is no place to store items. Because there is no electricity, the use of gift cards is not possible at this time. Financial assistance sent to PDA is the best way to lend aid at this time.

Should you feel led to make a financial contribution, there are three ways you can do so:

- Online, go to [pda.pcusa.org](http://pda.pcusa.org), click on the tab How To Help, click on Give, under Designate Your Gift, click on Active Disaster Responses, scroll down and select [U.S. Hurricanes \(DR000169\)](#) and follow the prompts.

*Continues on page 3*

From our  
Stated Clerk/  
Acting  
Transitional  
Presbyter



By  
**Rev. Mark Broadhead**  
(Ret.)

**From the  
Ministry of  
New  
Congregation  
Formation  
(MNCF)**



*By Rev. Dr.  
Nicole Richardson,  
South Walton  
New Presbyterian  
Worshipping  
Community  
Organizing Pastor*

**New Worshipping Community updates and new name shared**

**D**ear friends and partners in ministry,  
As I sit down to reflect on this journey, I am filled with gratitude for all that has unfolded in South Walton. The past few months have been a time of deep discovery and connection as I've immersed myself in the unique beauty and spirit of the 30A area. Life here is marked by a slower pace, joy, and a genuine kindness that overflows from both residents and vacationers alike. I sense a hunger within the community — a longing for deeper connection and greater purpose, and I believe God is calling us to be part of that unfolding story.

One of my practices has been regular devotional time on the beach, listening intently to what God is doing in this place. As I pray over those enjoying the sun and surf, I sense that the Spirit is revealing possibilities for new ministry.

Though the 30A community is known for its wealth, I've discovered a deep compassion here. People genuinely care for those who are underserved, and I've been hearing whispers from the Spirit to consider ways we might serve this growing population in need. Ideas like a community garden, a shower ministry, or even a laundry ministry have



come to mind, offering practical help while building relationships.

Alongside this, I've been connecting with local non-profits such as *Caring and Sharing*, *Food for Thought*, and *Emergency Management of Walton County*. These organizations are already doing amazing work, and partnering with them has opened up new ways to serve and understand the heart of this community. It's clear that there is a strong desire here to find meaningful ways to care for those in need.

I've also been learning about the history and dynamics between North and South Walton through conversations with residents and local leaders, including members of the Chamber of Commerce. There are certainly challenges, but also great opportunities for unity and collaboration. I am hopeful about how our ministry can play a role in bridging these divides and fostering deeper community.

This season has also been about building relationships with colleagues in the area. I've been grateful to connect with leaders like Emily Proctor and her husband, Richard, Stacey

Kaye White, and Rev. Ronnie McBrayer of *A Simple Faith*. These partnerships have been a source of inspiration, and I look forward to seeing where they might lead.

Recently, I had the joy of leading yoga devotionals and an evening meditation walk for UKirk Tallahassee. These experiences helped us connect with God through both body and spirit. Additionally, I've been engaging the broader community through social media, using live journal entries and posts to nurture new relationships and share reflections with those near and far.

I look forward to sharing more updates soon! Please follow Tide & Table on [Facebook](#).

Feel free to email me at [Nicole.Richardson@tideandtable.org](mailto:Nicole.Richardson@tideandtable.org) with any questions or speaking engagement requests.

## MPT's work continues with completion of Ministry's manual

The Ministry of Pastoral Transitions has completed revisions of its Manual of Policies and Procedures. The Manual was approved by Presbytery at the October Presbytery meeting.

MPT approved a change to the status of **Rev. Dr. John Stringer** at 1st Presbyterian of Fort Walton Beach, from Interim Pastor to Stated Supply.

The **Rev. Dr. Hugh Hamilton**, who has served as Pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Pensacola for more than 25 years, has announced his intention to retire on January 26, 2025. MPT recommended to the presbytery body approval



of Hugh's retirement, with thanks for his long service.

MPT also approved the call of **Jean Homrighausen** as Associate Pastor at Trinity, Pensacola. Jean is a 2020 graduate of Columbia Seminary and has previously served the faith in various capacities, including Executive Director of United Ministries in Pensacola, Associate Executive Presbyter of Florida

Presbytery, and Director of Christian Education at Trinity.

As MPT continues its work with congregations in pastoral transition, we are aware that our congregations are blessed with supply preachers and helpers who aid in the "in-between times". Thank you to our liaisons, supply preachers, moderators of session, and all others who keep our congregations connected and running as smoothly as possible!

## From the Ministry of Pastoral Transitions (MPT)



*By Ed Nickinson, MPT member and Trinity, Pensacola Elder*

### Need is great, continued from page 1

- Mail a check to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P. O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700. Make it out to Presbyterian Church USA and write DR000169 in the memo line.
- Give by phone by calling 800-728-7228, ext. 5885. Again, the account number is DR000169.

You may recall that, a number of years ago, Hurricane Ivan, then Sally, did severe damage in the western portion of our presbytery. More recently, Hurricane Michael wreaked havoc in the central portion of our presbytery. Severe storms have hit the eastern portion of our presbytery. Some folks are still recovering from these.

With Helene and Milton, experts have said the recovery/restoration process is going to take years, if not decades. The Presbytery of Florida has been the recipient of aid from FLAPDAN and PDA that others now need. Let us return the favor to our sisters and brothers in Christ.



# Clothed in Love

PRESBYTERIAN ASSOCIATION  
OF MUSICIANS  
WORSHIP & MUSIC CONFERENCE

June 15-20, 2025  
& June 22-27, 2025  
at Montreat Conference Center

**From the Ministry of Congregational Health (MCH)**



*By Linda Lovins, MCH Moderator and Christ, Tallahassee Elder*

*“...it’s been a blessing that the liaison network is largely in place already.”*

**Uh-oh, Presbytery’s Calling!**

**D**uring my Presbytery-church liaison work over the past three years, I’ve experienced several times the palpable relief of pastors and sessions when they learn that our work with them is relational and supportive. This response suggests that the Presbytery, in members’ perception, only shows up when there’s trouble at hand. It’s not a Presbytery of Florida perception — it’s a commonly-held perception across many presbyteries.

Aka: Presbytery calling = bad news

There’s plenty of evidence that Presbytery has provided significant support to many of its worshiping communities across the Panhandle, though always in tandem with whatever challenge a pastor or congregation is

facing. I’ve also experienced strong relationships with congregations, leading me to wonder why the latter isn’t the prevailing condition: “Oh, good — Presbytery has come to walk with me/us.”

Though the work of the Presbytery in the past has been focused more on inviting congregations to join the Presbytery in *doing* mission, *doing* education, *doing* revitalization work, and more, the focus is now on transitioning into restructuring Presbytery work to better enable congregations to do that which Jesus Christ has called them to do. In this transitional period, it seems as if facilitating two-way communications via a network of liaisons is a perfect fit.

As the Ministry of

Congregational Health (MCH) continues its restructuring work of melding requirements outlined in the Book of Order and known needs across the Presbytery, it’s been a blessing that the liaison network is largely in place already. MCH is addressing gaps and how best to build an effective network with capacity for two-way communications. It’s also considering how to hold more frequent conversations with pastoral leadership and clerks to check in when frequent in-person connections aren’t practicable

Here’s my hope and prayer for future responses to hearing from a Presbytery rep: Presbytery calling = walking together in Christ.

The 2025 Faith Enrichment Committee of The Savannah Presbytery  
INVITES YOU TO ATTEND OUR  
FAITH ENRICHMENT CONFERENCE  
**THRIVE**  
REVITALIZE ♦ ENERGIZE ♦ SPIRITUALIZE  
FEBRUARY 21-22, 2025  
*Registration opens in October*

**WORKSHOPS INCLUDED:**

7 MARKS OF A VITAL CONGREGATION	OFFICER TRAINING	CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
PREACHING WORKSHOP	SPIRITUALITY PRACTICES	AND MORE...

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**  
Rev. Dr. Graham Standish  
Author of  
“Becoming a Blessed Church: Forming a Church of Spiritual Purpose, Presence, and Power”

EPWORTH BY THE SEA | ST. SIMONS ISLAND, GA

*Enwreathed:  
Finding and Echoing  
Advent in Creation*

A Day-Retreat to Create an Advent Wreath from Earth

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2024  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
5203 ELMIRA STREET, MILTON, FL  
10:00AM TO 3:00PM  
CHECK-IN AT 9:30AM  
\$45.00  
INCLUDES, LUNCH & WREATH CIRCLE

Learn more and register:  
<https://form.jotform.com/242805369619163>

## Donations, volunteering , buckets and kits all ways to help

Earlier this year, the National Hurricane Center reported an 85% chance of above-normal hurricane activity in the Atlantic basin; with a month to go, the storm season has been both busy and dangerous. As of mid-October, there had been 13 named tropical systems, whereas a typical season sees a total of 14 storms.

The four major hurricanes this year have already exceeded the average of three; there have also been five category one and two hurricanes, and four tropical storms. As I am writing this, there are two more systems churning, with their outcome yet to be revealed. All told, it looks like the early storm predictions were quite accurate.

The only thing worse than hurricane impact in an area is two storms back-to-back in the same area. We see the reports and have witnessed some of the effects of Hurricanes Helene and Milton. Our neighbors south of us are in particular need of prayer and support. While the clean-up efforts continue, long-term recovery will be the focus in numerous communities for some time to come and long after the media attention has waned.

While the Presbytery of Florida has been relatively fortunate, it does not mean we can relax or that we do not



need to be involved. There are multiple ways you can help with the ongoing recovery efforts. First and foremost, continue to pray for those affected and those working in the recovery efforts. The quickest way to make a long-term impact is to help fund the recovery; your gift, no matter the amount, will assist with this important work.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) has this shortcut set up to quickly process funds: Go to PDA's [Give to Disaster Relief--U.S. Hurricane Response](#). Using this link, you can quickly and easily make a one-time donation or even set up a recurring donation for the PC (USA)'s ongoing hurricane response.

If your church has a group that is interested in volunteering to travel to areas needing help, let me know at my contact information below. Volunteer teams are essential to help ongoing cleanup and rebuilding efforts.

Another option to help, especially for future disasters, is assembling [Gift of the Heart Cleanup Buckets and/or Hygiene kits](#). Both tools are invaluable resources to those working in less than desirable conditions to muck out properties affected by flood waters and storm debris.

Completed buckets and kits can now be taken to Dogwood Acres for storage until they are needed. If you are not able to transport your kits to Dogwood Acres, do not hesitate to call/email me at (850) 217-2597 or [tcrawford@cox.net](mailto:tcrawford@cox.net) to make arrangements for pick-up and delivery to the camp.

Most of us know from experience that hurricanes are life-changing events, but your continued support can and will make life a bit easier and create a lasting impression to those impacted by these devastating events. If you have questions or need help getting started, please contact me.

From  
Florida  
Presbyterian  
Disaster  
Assistance  
Network  
(FLAPDAN)



By Tim Crawford,  
Presbytery FLAPDAN  
Liaison/FLAPDAN  
Board member and  
1st, Crestview Elder

*"...hurricanes are  
life-changing events,  
but your  
continued support  
can and will  
make life  
a bit easier..."*

## Hospitality highlights Fall Stated Presbytery Meeting at Christ, Tallahassee



At left, from left, volunteers Marcia vanWingen, Emily Bruno, Nancy Repplinger and Anne Hodges give a friendly greeting to the 71 attendees who registered at the meeting, held at Christ Presbyterian Church of Tallahassee Tuesday, October 29.

Below, from left, Christ Pastor Rev. Dr. Sheldon Steen extends the warm welcome from his congregation as Rev. Emily Proctor looks on. At center, Christ Church Pianist Dr. Dean Peiskee provides beautiful special music and accompaniment during the morning worship.

Below, at right, Rev. Emily Proctor preaches a sermon based on Daniel Chapter 7, about Daniel's dream of four beasts, sprinkled with Halloween humor.



Below, at left, from left, This Child Here Manager Olya Balaban and Executive Director Rev. Dr. Robert Gamble share slides and information about their ministry to vulnerable youth and families in Ukraine. At center, Columbia Theological Seminary President Rev. Dr. Victor Aloyo outlines his institution's strengths and challenges in meeting students' theological education needs. Below, at right, Presbyterian Mission Agency Regional Ministry Engagement Advisor Sy Hughes shares mission resources available from PMA and discusses agency changes that are underway.





At left, from left, Florida Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Network (FLAPDAN) Executive Director Kathy Broyard accepts Presbytery Stated Clerk/Acting Transitional Presbyter Rev. Mark Broadhead's presentation of a \$5611 check to FLAPDAN in memory of late former longtime stated clerk Jeannie Dixon, given by congregations and individuals within the Presbytery.

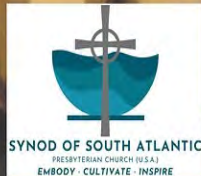
Below, breakout group members share their best and worst worship and Advent ideas, practices, preparations and resources during the meeting's "recipe swap"-style resourcing segment.



## 1st Wednesday **SACK Lunch** *South Atlantic Community Knowledge*

A monthly zoom for sharing across the synod!  
*Join, learn and share: experience, resources,  
and best practices on a new topic each month.*

- July 3 - Peacemaking
- August 7 - Campus Ministry
- Sept 4 - Basic Needs Ministries
- Oct 2 - Facilities Safety
- Nov 6 - Mental Health Ministries
- Dec 4 - Racial Justice/Social Witness



To register, follow the QR code or visit [synodofsouthatlantic.org](http://synodofsouthatlantic.org)



PRESBYTERIAN ASSOCIATION  
OF MUSICIANS  
WORSHIP & MUSIC CONFERENCE

June 15-20, 2025  
& June 22-27, 2025  
at Montreat Conference Center

## From Dogwood Acres



By *Christy Williams,*  
*Director*

## Spiritfest retreat participants woven together in Christ's love

Over the weekend of October 11-13, about 55 of us gathered at Dogwood Acres for the annual Spiritfest retreat for middle school students. Spiritfest is unusual in that our high school PYC (Presbyterian Youth Council) chooses the theme, plans the activities, and then, during that weekend, facilitates Bible study, community-building activities, recreation, and aspects of worship.

Every time I think about the weekend, my heart is set on fire. I wish every one of you could have been there to witness the ways these high school youth shared their faith and offered leadership; the way our college-aged staff supported them and the program; and the way the middle schoolers responded to the message of the weekend.

The Rev. Blair Beaver, FPC Marianna, led our worship and prayer time, reminding everyone that, when we get dressed in the morning, we are only halfway there. We need to clothe ourselves as Christ's disciples and show others what it means to follow Jesus by the way we talk, behave, and treat others.

As the weekend unfolded, the ways that we are woven together in Christ's love was apparent in the fast friendships made from people on opposite ends of the



Presbytery. Indeed, we are a connectional church! This was the Presbytery of Florida at its best!

At our closing worship, each small group presented the weaving they had made, and the PYC connected those to form one weaving created by the community and centered on the cross. Kate Denny, PYC member and member at

Faith Presbyterian Church, Tallahassee, closed worship by saying, "This weekend, we were not only woven to one another, but each of us and our community was woven to Christ. May compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, and love be woven into who we are so that others may see God's love wherever we are. Amen."



## "Thank you" to First Presbyterian of Quincy

Dogwood is excited to start updates on our kitchen and dining hall thanks to the generous grant from First Presbyterian Church, Quincy. With this grant we are able to begin some much-needed updates including: installing a new dishwasher and ice machine in the kitchen, insulation, windows and additional duct work in the dining hall and remodeling the attached bathrooms. We are grateful to the servants at First Presbyterian, Quincy and all those churches who support our ministry with special gifts. As seen at Spiritfest 2024, these gifts, and regular donations, help us create an atmosphere where hearts and minds can be woven together to glorify God.

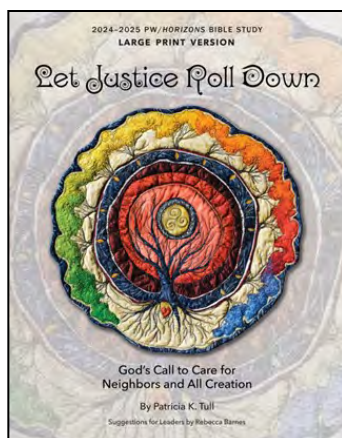


## What Presbyterian Women need to read about our '24-'25 Bible study

The 2024-2025 Horizons Bible Study, *Let Justice Roll Down, God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation* is a gift of wisdom and crucial information that has arrived in our lives at just the right time. A time when many of us are reeling from catastrophic weather events and need to understand why they are happening and what we can do about them.

*Let Justice Roll Down* was written by Reverend Dr. Patricia Tull, a retired professor of the Hebrew Bible at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, GreenFaith Fellow, and author of *Inhabiting Eden: Christians, the Bible and the Ecological Crisis* and other books about scripture. Suggestions for leaders is provided by Reverend Rebecca Barnes Coordinator of the Presbyterian Hunger Program and author of *50 Ways to Help Save the Earth: How you and Your Church Can Help Make a Difference*. They are both Presbyterian educators who have worked many years on creation care and justice ministries.

This series is nine months' worth of Biblically-based lessons on how important it is to love our neighbors and take good care of God's creation. It is a treasure trove of information along



with suggestions for action that will help Presbyterian women use their considerable gifts to help reduce suffering and injustice and strengthen our commitment to take care of God's creation and our neighbors.

These lessons take complicated information and ideas about environmental issues and make them easily understandable in a biblical context. They include footnotes and references for those who want to know more. There is clever and fun guidance for lesson leaders. There is even an author's blog with additional commentary and insights on each lesson. <https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/category/blog/>

Presbyterians for Earth Care also provide a monthly Bible study using this series. The link for more information is <https://presbyearthcare.org/bible-study-pw-2024-2025/>

All of us have been

reminded recently of the reality of human-caused climate change by the two powerful hurricanes that hit our state – Helene and Milton. Both did considerable damage, killing neighbors and devastating large swaths of our developed and natural landscapes. Even our beloved Montreat Conference Center, which is 850 miles from the Gulf of Mexico was hit hard by Hurricane Helen and a preceding storm that delivered almost half a year's worth of rain. Most of us never imagined such devastation so far inland from a hurricane, but in combination with an earlier extreme downpour, related to our warming air holding more moisture, we ended up with a deadly disaster.

I love to imagine how effective and well-informed Presbyterian women will be after completing this study. Look out world. There is nothing more powerful than a well-informed woman in pursuit of justice, except for a group of Presbyterian women.

If you need help, you can reach the author, Trisha Tull at [ptull@lpts.edu](mailto:ptull@lpts.edu). I am always available to answer questions or explain the science behind these lessons. You can contact me at [pammcvety@hotmail.com](mailto:pammcvety@hotmail.com).

### Caring for Creation Notes



By  
**Pam McVety,**  
*Presbytery Stewardship of Creation Enabler*  
([pammcvety@hotmail.com](mailto:pammcvety@hotmail.com))

*“Let Justice Roll Down is a gift of wisdom and crucial information that has arrived in our lives at just the right time.”*

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**The Panhandle Presbyterian**

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

<b>In November</b>		<b>Looking ahead</b>	
Friday, November 1	All Saints' Day	Tuesday, Dec. 3 10 a.m. CT/11 a.m. ET	Ministry of Pastoral Transitions (MPT)
Sunday, Nov. 3	Daylight saving time ends	Tuesday, Dec. 3, 10 & 17 1 p.m. CT/2 p.m. ET	Transitional Presbyter Search Committee
Tuesday, Nov. 5, 12, 19 and 26 1 p.m. CT/2 p.m. ET	Transitional Presbyter Search Committee	Wednesday, Dec. 4 8 a.m. CT/9 a.m. ET	Strategic Plan Implementation Task Force
Wednesday, Nov. 6 8 a.m. CT/9 a.m. ET	Strategic Plan Implementation Task Force	Wednesday, Dec. 4 11 a.m. CT/noon ET	<a href="#">Synod of South Atlantic 1st Wednesday Sack Lunch via Zoom</a>
Wednesday, Nov. 6 11 a.m. CT/noon ET	<a href="#">Synod of South Atlantic 1st Wednesday Sack Lunch via Zoom</a>	Monday, Dec. 9 9 a.m. CT/10 a.m. ET	Ministry of Leadership Development (MLD)
Thursday, Nov. 7 6 p.m. CT/7 p.m. ET	<a href="#">PC(USA) Leader Formation Webinar Discovering Leadership: Called to Serve</a>	Thursday, Dec. 12 2 p.m. CT/3 p.m. ET	Ministry of Presbytery Operations (MPO)
Friday, Nov. 8 9 a.m. CT/10 a.m. ET	Racial Justice Subcommittee	Tuesday & Wednesday, Dec. 24 & 25	Presbytery office closed for Christmas Eve & Christmas Day
Saturday, Nov. 9	<a href="#">Southeast &amp; Puerto Rico Region of Partners in Christian Education (SOAP) Regional Event</a>		
Monday, Nov. 11 9 a.m. CT/10 a.m. ET	Ministry of Leadership Development (MLD)		
Thursday, Nov. 14 2 p.m. CT/3 p.m. ET	Ministry of Presbytery Operations (MPO)		
Sunday, Nov. 24 3 p.m. CT	Jean Homrighausen Service of ordination and installation @ Trinity, Pensacola		
Tuesday, Nov. 26 1 p.m. CT/2 p.m. ET	Ministry of Congregational Health (MCH)		
Thursday and Friday, Nov. 28 and 29	Presbytery office closed for Thanksgiving		



All views expressed in this publication are not necessarily endorsed by the Presbytery of Florida as a whole, as we remember "God alone is Lord of the conscience." (F-3.0101)



We trust in the hope of the Christ Child, the perfect gift, for whom we prepare a way so he can prepare a way for us to know the fullness of God's love.

**CHRISTMAS JOY**  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

DECEMBER 1 - DECEMBER 22