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# The Panhandle Presbyterian

*A monthly publication of the Presbytery of Florida*



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## PC(USA) and presbytery changes continue in 2025

**H**eraclitus is cited as saying, “The only constant is change.” And yes, most everything in life changes in one fashion or another.

Our presbytery is continuing to change into the ministry structure that was started last year. And now our denomination headquarters is in the midst of change.

The Office of the General Assembly and the Presbyterian Mission Agency are in the process of merging together. As you might imagine, such an enormous undertaking is not without its challenges, headaches, and heartaches.

The challenges include deciding what responsibilities are going to fit into what areas. The headaches are in discerning what areas of ministry need to be enhanced, which need to remain the same, and which need to be let go. The heartaches come about because there is going to be a reduction in staff as the merger takes place.

Our denominational staff have been, and continue to be, very responsive to answering questions when confusion arises. They are working diligently to be transparent about the transition process.

Just released in mid-

December is a new PC(USA) webpage. Check it out: [pcusa.org](http://pcusa.org). There is still information to be added, but it is now live.

As a presbytery, we can appreciate this circumstance. When our new structure went into place last March, we had the same challenges, headaches, and heartaches.

Now, nearly a year into our transition, much has been implemented. Confusion is becoming clarified. Headache and heartache are lessening. Have we “arrived?” No. Ministry handbooks are still being written and edited. Gaps that are found are being addressed.

Will we ever arrive? No. And that is a good thing, because our journey of faith and ministry is a continuous expedition being led by God’s Holy Spirit. If we ever “arrive”, we run the risk of becoming stagnant. And then we miss the new things God puts before us. “The church reformed, always reforming according to the will of God.”

As this new year begins, I invite your prayers for God’s continued guidance for our denomination and our presbytery. Let us strive to remain open to where God is leading – and have the insight and courage to follow.

From our  
Stated Clerk/  
Acting General  
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  
[Nicole.richardson@tideandtable.org](mailto:Nicole.richardson@tideandtable.org)

*“...remember that  
God meets us in  
the messiness of  
everyday life.”*

## Tide & Table finds grace in the everyday

As we step into the new year, I'm taking a moment to reflect on all that has taken shape through Tide & Table over the past month. December was a season of deep learning, meaningful connections, and authentic moments of grace—some messy, some beautiful, but all guided by God's quiet presence.

**Much of my time recently has been dedicated to learning and fine-tuning Tide & Table's presence on social media.** Platforms like TikTok, Instagram, and Facebook are more than just tools—they're spaces where people, especially younger generations, are seeking real, honest conversations about faith, life, and meaning. Through posts that blend humor, reflection, and theology, I've been striving to meet people where they are, offering a space for connection, curiosity, and grace. The learning curve has been steep, but the response has been encouraging. Each post is an invitation—to pause, to reflect, to laugh, and to remember that God meets us in the messiness of everyday life.

**In addition to online engagement, I've been nurturing connections through volunteering in the local community.**



Serving with organizations like *Caring & Sharing*, *Food For Thought*, and the *Emerald Coast Theatre Company* has opened the door to beautiful relationships. Whether it's helping with food or Christmas gift distributions, or supporting the arts community, these moments have reminded me that faith is lived out through small acts of service and love. These connections are laying a foundation of trust, authenticity, and community that reflects the heart of Tide & Table. December also brought opportunities to gather in person.

**We held a few beach cleanups**—simple, impactful ways to care for creation while fostering connection and conversation. There's something sacred about picking up litter under the open sky, knowing that every small action helps restore a bit of beauty to the world.

One of the most meaningful events was **Tides of Blue Christmas: A Longest Night Journey on the beach**. In a season that often emphasizes joy, this gathering created space

for those carrying grief, weariness, or loss. Together, under the sound of the waves and the fading winter light, we walked, prayed, and honored the pain that often goes unseen. It was a quiet reminder that Christ's light shines even in the heaviest darkness. Through social media, service, and shared experiences,

**Tide & Table is becoming a space where faith is explored, community is built, and grace is tangible**—online and offline. These efforts are still in their early days, but God's spirit is moving, and I am grateful for each step, each connection, and each moment of grace. Thank you for your continued prayers and support. I'm excited to see where this journey leads in the coming months. As always follow me on social media:

[Follow us on Facebook](#)  
[Follow us on Instagram](#)  
[Follow us on TikTok](#)

May we all find ways to share God's grace, in big and small ways, wherever we are planted.

## MPT introduces its members, welcomes new presbytery member

Happy New Year to all from the Ministry of Pastoral Transitions!

To begin the New Year, we want to introduce our members: Moderator Rev. Lisa Martin (1<sup>st</sup>, Lynn Haven Pastor); Vice Moderator Rev. Dr. Matt Frease (UKirk Tallahassee Campus Minister); Rev. Blair Beaver (1<sup>st</sup>, Marianna Pastor), Jo Kublik (Red Bay Commissioned Ruling Elder), Ed Nickinson (Trinity, Pensacola, Elder), and Pam Nulty (Northminster, Pensacola, Elder). Beginning in December MPT welcomed two new members: Rev. Stacey Kay White (Freeport Pastor) and Rev. Hanlim



Chae (Lafayette, Tallahassee, Interim Pastor).

At the December meeting, MPT, having received a positive report from the Examination Team, approved the membership in Presbytery of the Rev. Lorne Bostwick. Lorne is a retired minister coming to us from Oregon. He lives in Milton. We're glad to have him here!

For churches calling pastors after January 1, 2025, MPT has a [new](#)

[terms of call form](#) which reflects changes with the Board of Pensions. The new form includes changes to insurance requirements which may result in a financial savings for some congregations.

MPT covets the presbytery's prayers for our work with congregations in transition. May 2025 find us faithful in our work, with anxious congregations trusting that God will provide the pastoral leadership that God knows they need!

## From the Ministry of Pastoral Transitions (MPT)



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

## TRINITY'S 2025 WOMEN'S RETREAT

Friday, January 31st  
5:30 dinner, program 7-9 PM  
&  
Saturday, February 1st  
9-3 PM, lunch provided

*Following Jesus Into the water,  
Onto the Water, and Out of the Water*

Led by Pam Avery

REGISTRATION \$75

Springhill Suites

Book your room now  
for special rate of \$159 & \$189

For questions, contact Ann Copenhaver



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



*By Linda Lovins,  
MCH Moderator*

**Congregations should submit Terms of Call forms by 3/31**

**E**ach year, the Terms of Call for all called and installed Ministers of Word and Sacrament must be set by the Session, accepted by the congregation, and approved by the Presbytery (per the *Book of Order*). The 2025 deadline for submitting Terms of Call to the Ministry of Congregational Health (MCH) is March 31, 2025, **even if they are unchanged from the previous year.** [Click here](#) for the Terms of Call and Worksheet. Please note: The Presbytery minimum effective salary for 2025 is \$42,708.42. Also note that



this form differs from the 2025 Terms of Call Worksheet and Form provided by the Ministry of Pastoral Transitions (MPT) for pastors being called, referenced on page 3 of this newsletter.

Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE) covenants/

contracts are written for 1-3 years and, if mutually agreeable to the CRE, session, and congregation, may be renewed. [Click here](#) for the updated form for covenants/contracts renewed in 2025.



**Clothed  
in Love**

**PRESBYTERIAN ASSOCIATION  
OF MUSICIANS  
WORSHIP & MUSIC CONFERENCE**

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

Let's talk ...

In keeping with the vote taken at the October 29, 2024 Presbytery meeting, Listening Sessions have been scheduled across the Presbytery to gather your input regarding future staffing for our Presbytery. We have questions, and we'd like to hear your thoughts about:

- ▶ How to best meet needs in our Presbytery as we continue to move through a period of transition?
- ▶ What are those needs and what leadership will help us stay on track for responding well while also imagining new ways to proactively support our congregations?

# Let's Talk!

engagement with the community and world?

- ▶ What Presbytery-wide guidance, relationship-building, and executive functions do we need fulfilled by a General Presbyter?
- ▶ Can the Presbytery accomplish its work with only a full-time Stated Clerk? Part-time Stated Clerk and part-time General Presbyter? Part-time Stated Clerk and full-time General Presbyter?

All-in-one Stated Clerk/ General Presbyter?

- ▶ Will we need a limited part-time scribe to take minutes at selected meetings if the Stated Clerk also carries the responsibilities of a Presbyter?
- ▶ What are the fiscal ramifications associated with staffing the Presbytery?

The *Book of Order* requires that every presbytery have a Stated Clerk, but does not require that a presbytery have a General or Executive Presbyter. We have much to consider regarding the leadership of our Presbytery.

**SAVE THE DATE!** Four Listening Sessions have been distributed across the Presbytery in the hope that location and time allow you to participate. Join the event that best suits your schedule and drive time.

- January 5, 4:00 CST**  
Trinity, Pensacola
- January 12, 2:00 CST**  
First, Lynn Haven
- January 12, 5:00 CST**  
First, DeFuniak
- February 2, 4:00 EST**  
Fellowship, Tallahassee

From the  
Ministry  
Coordinating  
Council (MCC)



By Linda Lovins,  
MCC Member

**SAVANNAH PRESBYTERY'S**  
*47th Annual*  
**FAITH ENRICHMENT**  
*Conference '25*



Keynote Speaker  
**REV. DR. GRAHAM STANDISH**





# THRIVE

Revitalize | Energize | Spiritualize

FEBRUARY • 21-22 • 2025

Epworth by the Sea



Scan the QR Code for more information and the registration link!

### DOGWOOD PAINTING PARTY



The weekend of January 10-12, Dogwood volunteers will be painting the interior of the kitchen and the dining hall. Volunteers are welcome to come stay the night on Friday or just come on Saturday morning. Breakfast and lunch will be provided on Saturday. Contact [christy@dogwoodacres.org](mailto:christy@dogwoodacres.org) if interested in participating.



July 28-31, 2025  
Louisville, Kentucky  
[Presbyterianyouthtriennium.org](http://Presbyterianyouthtriennium.org)

DOGWOOD ACRES CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER PRESENTS



# Pause

A Yoga & Mindfulness  
Retreat for Women  
January 24-26, 2025

This weekend will include gentle yoga instruction, mindfulness exercises, keynote presentations, a journal, guided hikes, healthy meals and snacks, workshops, worship/meditation and plenty of time to just be still.

When: Evening January 24th  
Afternoon January 26th  
Where: Dogwood Acres Camp and Retreat Center  
Cost: \$230 (Includes all activities, lodging, and meals)

Register Now at [dogwoodacres.org](http://dogwoodacres.org)



## Creation depends on the truth

The New Year is a time of hope and resolutions to improve our lives, and I know what my resolution is, as I contemplate the reality of what will happen to creation over the next four years. I have always sought ways to focus us on the “truth” about what is happening to God’s creation and how we can protect it. In light of what we heard during the Presidential campaign focusing on the truth is going to be hard.

The Presidential Cabinet nominees reflect a clear commitment to expand the use of fossil fuels, and to end many of the country’s efforts to address the climate crisis and environmental protection. During the campaign, we heard repeatedly that climate change is a hoax and more fossil fuel production is good for America even though we are already pumping out more crude oil than [any nation in history](#). We also read about [Project 2025](#)’s policy agenda to dismantle crucial environmental protections.

It has been said that “truth can die through propaganda and repetition of lies”, and it feels like it has.

So my New Year’s resolution is to work even harder to elevate the “truth” about environmental and climate problems, as well as the solutions to address



them. An [article](#) by Rev. Betsy Bennett, one of the co-facilitators of [Third Act Faith](#), former Archdeacon of the Episcopal Diocese of Nebraska and philosophy professor at Hastings College, inspired me to make this resolution.

I am hoping that you will also commit to consciously keep the truth and reality of what is happening to creation before your congregations, family and friends and make it part of what you are able to do, whether it is to give money to organizations that fight climate and environmental injustices, teach about creation care in Sunday school, preach about these issues from the pulpit, write letters to elected officials, put solar on your roof top, purchase an electric vehicle or pray for climate justice. Reverend Bennett wrote that, “No matter what form our work takes, discerning what is true — and consciously keeping the truth before us — must be at the core of all we do.”

Reverend Bennett also wrote that “Choosing to ignore the reality and let extreme climate change happen doesn’t seem like a faithful option. The light of truth is more powerful than the darkness of lies”.

I end with a hopeful Prayer of Confession from the first Sunday of Advent:

Coming Christ, you may not find us as you hoped. We’ve looked away from signs we do not wish to see. We’ve stopped listening to distress we do not wish to hear.

We are numb to inconvenient truths. Keep us alert, O God, to the needs of our neighbors. Revive our hearts laden with compassion fatigue. Sharpen our minds clouded by worries. Sober our lives addicted to privilege. Show us the signs of your coming, that we may stand before you, The Son of Man, in whose name we pray. Amen.

### Caring for Creation



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

*“No matter what form our work takes, discerning what is true — and consciously keeping the truth before us — must be at the core of all we do.”*

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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)

**The Panhandle Presbyterian**



**Elisabeth von Trapp**  
In Concert  
From the family whose story inspired The Sound Of Music

Magic happens whenever Elisabeth von Trapp performs. You enter her world not knowing that something wonderful is about to begin.

**New York Times**  
Her voice is hauntingly clear and her lyrics tender and romantic.

**Boston Globe**  
Before the concert is over she will have the crowd enthralled with the sheer beauty of her voice.

Appearing  
First Presbyterian Church of Crestview  
492 N Ferdon Blvd, Crestview  
(Parking off Courthouse Terrace and Beech Ave. W.)  
January | 25th | 2025 | 7:00 pm  
Open to the public - Suggested donation \$15-\$25

Presented by Crestview Cultural Services and the First Presbyterian Church

For more information contact:  
hughesh@cityofcrestview.org | Tel: 850.398.5499

**CRESTVIEW CELEBRATES  
THE SOUND OF MUSIC**

FILM MUSICAL 60th ANNIVERSARY • BROADWAY MUSICAL 65th ANNIVERSARY  
ORIGINAL FILM 69th ANNIVERSARY • MARIA VON TRAPP 120th BIRTHDAY

**THROUGHOUT JANUARY 2025**

- EXHIBIT OF INTERNATIONAL SOUND OF MUSIC FILM AND STAGE MUSICAL POSTERS AND TRAPP FAMILY MATERIALS  
ALL MONTH, CRESTVIEW PUBLIC LIBRARY, 1445 COMMERCE DR., BEHIND THE POST OFFICE, FREE
- TRAPP FAMILY AND SOUND OF MUSIC RECORDINGS DISPLAY  
ALL MONTH, CRESTVIEW HISTORY MUSEUM, 198 S. WILSON ST., FREE
- "BEYOND THE SOUND OF MUSIC: THE REAL VON TRAPP FAMILY AND AMERICA'S MOST BELOVED MUSICAL" PRESENTATION  
TUESDAY, JAN. 7, 6:30 P.M., CRESTVIEW HISTORY MUSEUM, FREE
- THE TRAPP FAMILY SCREENING  
1956 FILM THAT STARTED IT ALL, TUESDAY, JAN. 14, 6:30 P.M., CRESTVIEW HISTORY MUSEUM, FREE
- THE SOUND OF MUSIC LIVE! SCREENING WITH TRIVIA AND COSTUME CONTESTS  
MAYOR'S FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT, NBC LIVE PERFORMANCE OF THE MUSICAL, SATURDAY, JAN. 18, 6 P.M., WARRIORS HALL, 201 STILLWELL BLVD., FREE
- ELISABETH von TRAPP IN CONCERT!  
GRANDDAUGHTER OF MARIA AND THE CAPTAIN, SATURDAY, JAN. 25, 7 P.M., FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 492 N. FERDON BLVD., \$10-15 SUGGESTED DONATION

PRESENTED BY  
CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION & CRESTVIEW PUBLIC LIBRARY  
CITY OF CRESTVIEW, PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
ELISABETH von TRAPP PERFORMANCE HOSTED BY THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CRESTVIEW



**GULF BEACH  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

**2025 THE CHURCH & THE  
ARTS CONCERT SERIES**  
*Benefiting Beach Care Services*

**TODD HERENDEEN**  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 5TH - 6:00PM

**THE LITTLE MERCIES**  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 12TH - 6:00PM

**IN FAITH**  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 19TH - 6:00 PM

**BOBBY VAN DEUSEN  
& FRIENDS**  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 26TH - 6:00 PM

**UKULELE ORCHESTRA OF  
ST ANDREWS**  
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND - 6:00PM

**SHEILA FORD TRIO  
FEATURING STEVE GILMORE  
& LUKE PINEGAR**  
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 16TH - 6:00 PM

**POSSUM BLONDE**  
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 23RD - 6:00PM

CELEBRATING  
**33**  
YEARS

271 South Arnold (Hwy 79)  
Panama City Beach, FL 32413  
Season Ticket Information:  
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www.pinkchurch.org

