



Ministry Spotlight: Light of Grace

On June 29th, St. Andrews was blessed to have Light of Grace lead us in worship. They proclaimed the Good News through Word, song, signing, and liturgical dance. Many thanks to all who helped with Light of Grace's celebration lunch after worship on Sunday.



From the Pastor

He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?

Micah 6:8 (NRSVUE)

As we prepare to celebrate our nation's independence, the foundations of democracy feel unstable. We are dropping bombs in Iran, invading our own cities to suppress dissent from our own citizens, disregarding the rule of law, and lobbing hateful speech at one another. We continue to struggle with what appropriate involvement in the ongoing conflicts between Ukraine and Russia, and Israel and Gaza looks like. It is scary. It is hard to know what to do, whether to panic, or how to hold on to hope.

As we slice the watermelon and fire up the grill for holiday festivities, we often forget that the American story includes interactions between the original inhabitants of this land, Indigenous people; enslaved Africans brought here by force; and other immigrants who migrated looking for a better life. Fireworks drown out the cries of those whose American story was filled with interactions that resulted in violent confrontations, subjugation, and segregation. Once again, we are witnessing and experiencing the use of force and violence against those deemed “unworthy.”

A recent article by the PC(USA) Office of Public Witness states,

“Our history has been marked by violence and volatility, yet it has brought us to our current declaration that we are one nation — not a perfect nation, but one in our determination that democracy must survive. Our history has taught us one important lesson: progress for equality and dignity is achieved through protest. Our nation cannot consist of a limited few having full rights and acceptance; all must find welcome. There will be no nation if there is not room for all. There will be no peace, if all are not granted inclusion and the full dignity of personhood. And to achieve this, there must be resistance to discrimination and oppression.”^[1]

As Presbyterians, we have a long history of calling for resistance to any laws or commands that contradict God’s word. Our policy reflects this belief, as for centuries we have maintained the belief in being lawful citizens but have also acknowledged that there comes a time for resistance against tyranny. Five years ago, the General Assembly released a policy statement, “Honest Patriotism,” which supplies theological and contextual grounding and states:

“The 223rd General Assembly (2018) acts to lift up our church’s long commitments to active civic engagement, responsible citizenship, and prophetic witness; believing these commitments to be rooted in our faithful response to God’s call for Christians to be stewards of creation; and witnessing the corrosion of democratic institutions.”

Even when we can come together to affirm this calling and call to action, it is much more difficult to discern what that action will be. The Presbyterian Office of Public Witness has issued a call to action by:

- Participating in peaceful protests and joining rallies.
- Connecting with the advocacy offices (Washington Office of Public Witness and the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations).
- Writing letters to local newspapers and utilizing social media to decry the oppression.
- Supporting local institutions that are under attack.
- Calling upon leaders to make moral decisions to refuse to comply with immoral orders.
- And contacting state and national representatives to share your faith and passion that America is a land of justice, fairness, courage, and compassion.

While each one of us must choose *how* to stand with those whose rights are under attack, scripture is clear that we are called to act. As the prophet Micah says so powerfully, the Lord requires that we *do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God*.

Whatever else we are called to do in this time, we are always called to steadfast prayer. Everything we do as people of faith begins and ends with prayer. Because it is often hard to know what to pray when we are overwhelmed by the weight of it all, I share with you these prayers:

A Prayer for Farmworkers and Immigrant Families in the Wake of ICE Raids—Written by Jennifer R. Evans, Associate for Presbyterian Hunger

God of Liberation,

We come before You in grief and outrage, our hearts burdened by the cries of your beloved children—farmworkers torn from their fields, families separated, and communities living in fear. Holy One, we remember those who rise before dawn, who sweat under the sun to feed us, yet are denied the fruits of their labor. We lift up the parents detained, the children who weep in uncertainty and the neighbors who wait and wonder who will be next.

Forgive us for the ways we have benefited from injustice, or accepted policies that dehumanize. Stir us to action. Let our prayers move our feet, our resources, and our voices.

We pray for healing for the traumatized, protection for the vulnerable, and courage for those offering sanctuary and solidarity. Guide your Church to be a refuge—a brave and compassionate witness to your justice and love.

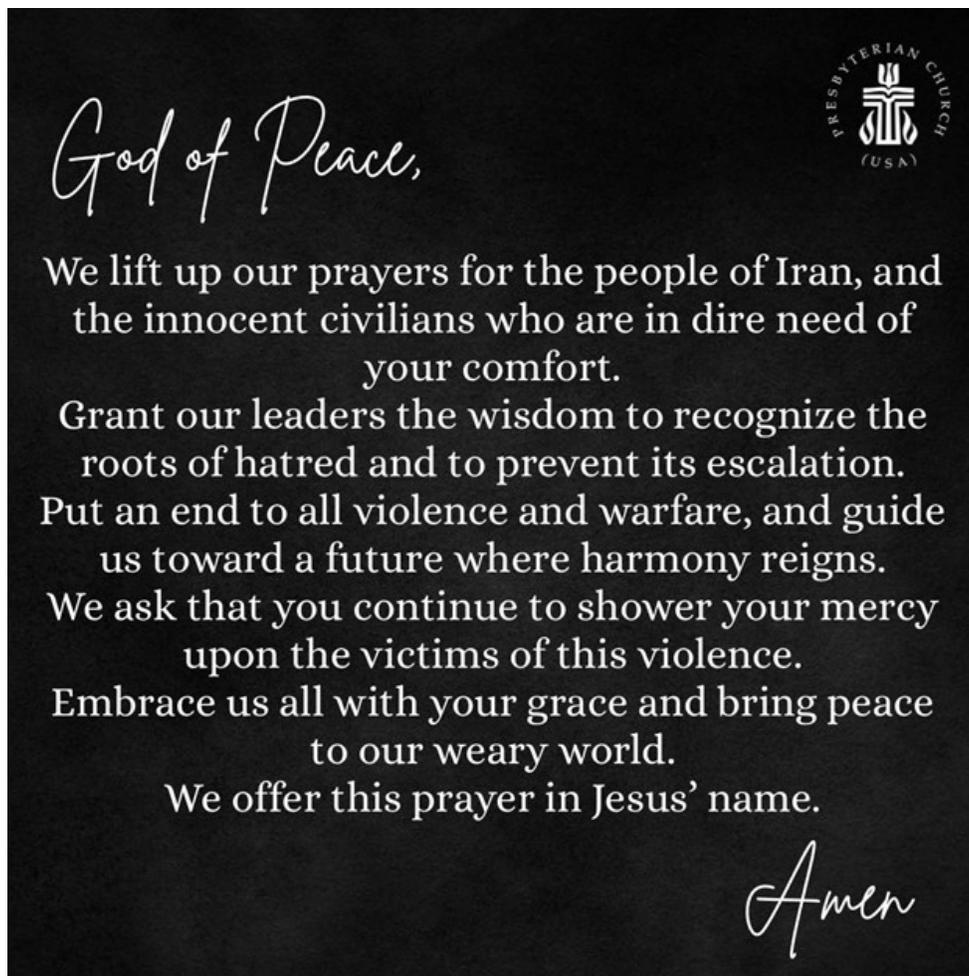
God of mercy, may we embody the Beloved Community where all are fed, all are free, and no one is illegal.

In the name of the Liberator Christ, who was himself a refugee, we pray.

Amen.

Camille

[1] https://pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news/2025/6/23/we-stand-with-our-immigrant-brothers-and-sisters?utm_content=336260238&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook&hss_channel=fbp-22627435207



Our Summer with the Psalmist, Dr. Seuss, and God Continues

July 6	Guest Preacher: Kate Colussy-Estes	Luke 10:1-11, 16-20 (Gal 6: 7-16)
July 13	The Butter Battle Book	Psalm 4 (1 John 3:1-7)
July 20	The Sneetches	Psalm 133 (Gal 3:23-29)
July 27	How the Grinch Stole Christmas	Psalm 98 (1 Timothy 6:6-19)
August 3	Oh, The Places You'll Go! Blessing Backpacks	Psalm 139 (John 14:23-29)

Other Dr. Seuss books we'll explore include: *I Had Trouble in Getting to Solla Sollew;* *Yertle the Turtle;* *Horton Hatches an Egg;* and *Oh, the Thinks You Can Think.*

Summer Fun in Tucker

This summer our SAPC family will be gathering at the city of Tucker's

Summer of Fun movies and concerts. Pack a picnic or visit the food truck and look for our St. Andrews banner.

[Here's the link](#) to all the movies and concerts. The next event is the City of Tucker's Celebration of Independence on Thursday, July 3rd. Mark your calendars and plan to join us this summer!

GOOD NEIGHBOR BACK TO SCHOOL SHOP

COLLECTING NEW SCHOOL SUPPLIES THROUGH JULY 13



NETWorks Back to School Shop

We are collecting new school supplies for NETWorks Good Neighbor Back-to-School Shop. Please bring in your donations to the narthex through Sunday, July 13th. [Click this link](#) for more information on the most needed supplies, how to donate online, and how to volunteer at the event.

Change for Children

On Sunday, July 6th we will take our monthly offering for Change for Children, which benefits the Alliance for Children Everywhere. Please remember to bring in your change.



Children's Books for the CARNIVAL

Children's Books for the Carnival

We are asking for donations of new or gently used Children's books through August 10th. Storytime at the carnival is especially popular with the littlest guests; the children love our SAPC Storytime Readers. At the end of each Storytime, the children are invited to choose a free book to take home. Please bring your children's book donations to the narthex or the church office.

Flowers for Worship

[Click this link](#) to sign up to bring flowers for worship through September. The Flowers can be from

[SAPC Staff](#)

Pastor

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[Visit our website](#)

Giving

Online giving applies to your pledge just the same as a paper check. Secure online contributions can be made by clicking [this link](#), or checks can be mailed to: SAPC, 4882 Lavista Rd, Tucker, GA 30084

GIVE NOW

through the Presbyterian Mission Exchange

Need a Ride - Can Give a Ride?

As we age, driving challenges seem to become greater, especially with the traffic around Metro Atlanta. If you are not attending church on Sundays or the evening events at St. Andrews

your yard or the shop.

Carnival Planning

Everyone is invited to our



initial organizational and planning meeting for the 2025 SAPC Back to School carnival on August 16, 2025.

The next meeting will be held on Zoom at 8 pm on Tuesday, July 8th. Contact [Cindy Weimer](#) or [Marsha Ashby](#) for more information.

because you are no longer driving at all, or after dark, we'd like to know. The Older Adult and Caregiver Ministries is working on matching up members who are not driving with members who might be willing to transport folks to St. Andrews. If you need a ride, or can give a ride, please contact Pat Baker, or 770-9282833, ext. 122. Even if you can give someone a ride one way- let us know!



Older Adult and Caregiver Ministries

by Pat Baker

A Burden and a Blessing...Food for Thought

A burden of these years is that we are tempted to think that once we ourselves are no longer powerful enough to work our will on the world around us, we are at the mercy of a cruel universe.

A blessing of these years is that we are now beginning to trust in the life-giving God we do not see, more than we have trusted in the accessories of life which we have seen both come without guarantee and go without warning.

-Joan Chittister, *The Gift of Years- Growing Older Gracefully*

Day Trip

Monday, July 14th, 10:30 am

Please join us for a field trip to tour the historic Peachtree Road United Methodist Church. The church is celebrating their Centennial to commemorate the spirit of this congregation with a break taking installation of origami doves. "The Doves of Peachtree Road" are ascending from the ceiling of their sanctuary inspiring peace, hope and wonder. After our 10:30am tour we'll have lunch at the Louisiana Bistreaux Seafood Kitchen which is touted as the "Best Lunch in Buckhead."

We'll carpool from the church leaving at 9:45am. Please contact Pat Baker by JULY 10TH to reserve your spot and let her know if you will be

having lunch.

Older Adulthood Discussion/Support
Thursday, July 17th, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Please join us for the next discussion/support group on August 17th at 10:30 a.m. We'll be meeting in the **meeting room** to allow for more people to attend. Joanne Hurley from Hurley Eldercare Law Firm will be presenting a program on "end of life" documents; what you need to have, and the laws in Georgia about these documents and much, much more. Please come with lots of questions. This session is not only for older adults but for all adults as they consider end of life decisions for themselves and their loved ones. No reservation is needed.

Support Our Preschool

Some ways you can help the school include:

- Join En-Core! The Encore readers have been reading to the children every Friday for over a year and the kids as well as the teachers enjoy the interaction. As an Encore reader you decide how often you wish to read. Starting this Summer, we are offering to read every Friday, so this will be a year round activity.
- Share your Passion! Do you have a special hobby, interest, skill or passion to share with the children that would add to the children's Summer School experience? Time commitment is at your discretion. Please contact Cindy Weimer with your level of interest to be involved as an Encore volunteer or to bring a special summer program to the school or with any questions.
- Get Out the Word! St. Andrews School still has some spots available in their Summer Camp (ages 1-10) and Fall Classes (ages 1-5) Please contact the school for more information, 770-934-1461. Please share this information with your neighborhood email lists and Facebook pages. Here's the Flyer.
- Click this link to see the school's Amazon wish list.



Fidelis Sunday School Class

Everyone is welcome to join the Fidelis Sunday School Class, which meets at 9:00 am on Sunday mornings in the Library, and on Zoom (password fidelis). The class uses *The Present Word* series of books. Contact Deanna Hall for more information.

Clifton Sanctuary Ministries

There are spots available for upcoming dates to bring food to Clifton. For more information or to sign up, click here. This ministry is a very easy thing to do while maintaining your social distancing since meals are dropped off on Clifton's front porch after calling ahead to let them know when you are coming.



July Birthdays

- 1 Pat Blair
- 8 David Lukens
- 9 Kayla Chen, Mike Rometo
- 10 Jeff Pattillo
- 12 Deby Brooke
- 13 Lynda Robinson
- 14 Bernadette Angelo, Karen Burns
- 16 Natalia Papotto
- 18 Deanna McFarlan
- 19 Rachel Nelson
- 23 Lewis Gleason
- 25 Lily Powell
- 26 Jeff Jackson
- 27 Jared Papotto
- 30 Margaret Williams

July Anniversaries

- 6 Deby & John Brooke
 - 17 Klara & Al Smith
-

A group gathers on the 4th Sunday of

each month after worship to make lunches for Clifton. If you are interested in helping, [contact Phyllis Bearden](#).

Our congregation feeds the men at Clifton Sanctuary Ministries on the fourth Sunday of every month.



Hurricane & Wildfire Response and Relief

Here are four ways you can give and make a difference:

- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has already deployed National Response Teams to Florida, North Carolina, and Georgia to support the congregations and communities affected by the storms. If you would like to contribute a financial gift to support PDA's immediate and long-term work to help these areas rebuild and recover, you can [give here](#)
- The Montreat Conference Center and surrounding areas have suffered significant damage. Montreat is a special place to many in our congregation. It's where we've held retreats and sent youth to conferences for years. Your gift to the Montreat Hurricane Relief Fund will directly support relief efforts in this beloved community. For updates and to donate [visit their website](#).
- Black Mountain Presbyterian Church, located between Cherry Street downtown and the Montreat gate, has power. The congregation is actively serving as a relief station, providing meals, water, power, and respite for those in need. You can contribute directly to help them continue this vital work [here](#).
- Pray: Please continue to pray for all those affected by Hurricane Helene and Milton—the families, communities, and relief workers. Pray for healing, strength, and resilience in the weeks ahead.

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

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Connect with us



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