

NAP News



NAP News is a monthly newsletter provided by the NAP staff

to celebrate ministries and provide updates for the churches of North Alabama Presbytery.

Do you have news you'd like to have included? Send submissions to adminoffice@napcusa.org by the 25th of each month.

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Actively Engaged in the World



The season of Lent is a time of prayer, fasting and self-examination in preparation for the celebration of the resurrection of the Lord at Easter. It is a period of 40 days — like the flood of Genesis, Moses' sojourn at Mount Sinai, Elijah's journey to Mount Horeb, Jonah's call to Ninevah to repent and Jesus' time of testing in the wilderness. (The Sundays in Lent are not counted in this reckoning of the time between Ash Wednesday and Easter, as every Lord's Day is a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.)

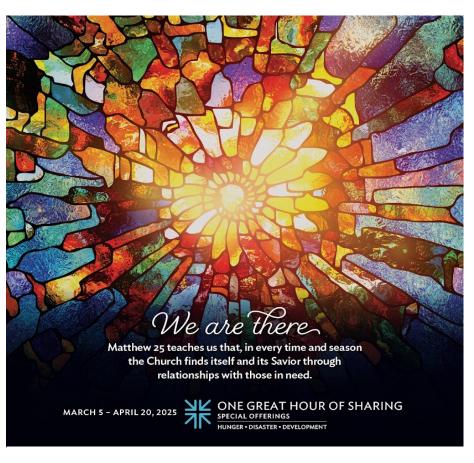
Jesus teaches us in Matthew 25, that in every time and season, the Church connects with itself and its Savior through relationships with those who have least.

For over 75 years, **One Great Hour of Sharing** has partnered with others to take action to share God's love.

Through the work of **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance**, **Presbyterian Hunger Program**, and **Self-Development of People** ministries, we are there to advance the causes of justice, resilience and sustainability.

Pass out your OGHS fish banks on March 9th, the first Sunday in Lent, and encourage your congregation to use the Sharing Calendar on page 2 to fill their boxes before your collection on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday.





Typically received during the season of Lent, each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program (36%), promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People (32%), and assist in areas of disaster through **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance** (32%).

All three programs work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

A Sharing Calendar for Lent 2025

Each day at or after a meal time, gather around this map activity. Consider the reflection and questions, place a coin or a bill (a "gift") in your fish coin bank or a jar.

Sunday: God, open our eyes to your face in every person. Let us see the ways we are all connecte with all of Creation. May we as your Church, together, seek love, 5 justice and peace with all. Amen

Sunday: Gather us all around you

banquet table, O God, with all who

hunger and thirst. May we join.

u've intended for all. **Amen**.

Sunday: Encourage us, Creator, when things get difficult. May we draw creativity and hope from your Splrit, and from our partners along the way. Amen.

March

April 13-18

ether, to share the ahi

Monday: Using the online map, find a PDA partnership near where you live. Say a prayer for those recovering from natural and human-caused disasters.

Monday: Using the online map, find an SDOP partnership near where you live. Read about the

d being addressed and say a er for the people involved in

nday: Using the online map,

find a project or partnership near a location you have wanted to

visit, but have never been. Say a prayer for all neighbors whom you

Monday: Using the online map, find a Presbyterian Hunger Program partnership near where

you live. Say a prayerfor the people involved in the ministry there.

Tuesday: In a natural disaster, people are often unable to access their normal sources of ding water. Sharing a gift urfish box will help water reach people who need it.

Tuesday: Social barriers can be like locked doors that hold people back and keep them from thriving as Jesus intended. Make a gift to help open doors so all people can

Tuesday: People who care for others also need care. Do something special for the caretakers in your life to say, "Thank you."

Tuesday: When rain is scarce

it doesn't rain.

special collection systems are built to catch the water so it can be

used for growing plants. Give a gift to help bring water to people when

Wednesday: Clean water is a necessity for every living thing. Using the online map, find three projects related to water. Give a gift for each faucet in your hous

Ash Wednesday: Read Isaiah 58:6-8, 12. Which actions or words

stand out to you? Write a prayer of intention for Lent using some of the words from Isalah 58.

Wednesday: Climate change is affecting growing seasons and forcing families to leave their homes. Make a gift to OGHS to help people working to address

climate change.

Wednesday: Wiggly worms and buzzing bees are essential to healthy soils and plants. Give a gift of thanks for all the little igs that help the world gr

Wednesday: Electricity is usually

the first utility that is lost in a storm. Can you identify a favorite Bible verse about light? Make a gift in honor of the verse.

of being healthy. Give a gift of gratitude for one person or place that offers welcome to you.

Thursday: Think of all the things people share with you. Write a thank you note to one of these people and give a gift of thanks for their care.

Thursday: Think of three people you are thankful for. Find a

way to let them know you are thinking about them. Consider

Thursday: When situations are difficult, whom do you call upon?

Thursday: What are you thankful for in yourself? God offers gifts and

list of yours and make them part of

Thursday: The right supplies make all the difference, whether

you are growing crops or learning at school. Remember the last time you had the right tool for a project and make a gift as part of property of the school o

Thursday: Social support and connection are important parts

"Thank you, God" prayer.

ts to each of us. Make a short

Give a gift to honor someone in

your life to: a.c._, they support you.

sharing a gift in their honor.

Thursday: Blankets are used internationally to comfort those impacted by war and disasters. Give a gift for each blanket on

Friday: Blue T-Shirt Sund: celebrates the ministry of Presby-terian Disaster Assistance (PDA). Wear a blue shirt for worship this ay and learn more at pda.pcusa.org.

Friday: Self-Development of People (SDOP) Sunday is in two days! Visit pcusa.org/sdop to learn about their community partnerships. Make a gift to honor our partners around the world.

Friday: Millions of Americans liv in a food desert, far from a store where they can buy fresh food. Make a gift for each grocery store near your home

Friday: Make up a mealtime prayer and use it during meals this weekend. Give a gift in thanks for the food y

Friday: Teaching healthy food choices and food safety can change the health of an entire community! Make a gift for the healthy foods you had today.

Sunday: God, you say, *Come to the waters" and "Buy wine without money and bread without price." Let us learn by your generosity, the gift of giving what we have to

Sunday: Loving God, help us to learn from what others have

seen, so that we might grow in understanding across lines of

Passion/Palm Sunday: Guide us through the paths that feel lonely, assured that you are always with

us. Re with us in the darkness as

we walk by faith and not by sight.

Monday: Using the online map, locate a ministry in a country far away from you. What needs are ssed there? Say a for the people involv

Monday: Immunizations give us hope for a day when certain diseases will no longer cause sickness and pain. Give a gift for

Tuesday: Without the right nutrition in the first two years of life, a child's physical and mental

Tuesday: It is estimated that nearly 1 in 11 people around the world will go to bed hungry each night. Make a gift to eliminate hunger. Wednesday: The vulnerable are often the most impacted in emergency situations. Visit cusa.org/GOHkits and ask our church to assemble kits for

Wednesday: Education helps lift people out of poverty. OGHS helps kids world wide attend school. Make a gift and consider donating books to a local reading

Friday: Learn about the Indigenous peoples who inhabited the land where you live. Learn the name they d for the land when they

Friday: Communication car be incredibly difficult after a disaster, especially if the internet isn't working. Give a gift for every phone your family has.

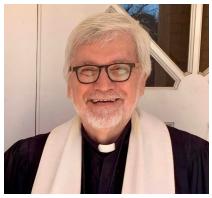
Sunday – Resurrection/Easter/ One Great Hour of Sharing: Present the gifts in your coin box to your congregation. Say a prayer for all those who will receive help from your generosity.





ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

All funds collected for the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering should be mailed directly to: Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700



From our Executive Presbyter,

Reverend Bob Phelps

Changing jobs always brings new challenges and opportunities. My switch from Stated Supply Pastor at First Church, Albertville to serving the Presbytery has been mostly about

learning new apps for the computer, adjusting schedules, and learning people's names. All of that is to be expected

One big change that comes with this job is no longer having a home, Church. Deanna and I woke up a couple of Sundays ago with a choice we had not had in a long time: where would we worship that morning? For more years that I like to count we have worshiped where I preached most Sundays of the year. When I was away, of course, we found places to worship, but we always knew we'd return to where we called home when that time away was over. The first Sunday I didn't preach at Albertville, we were out of town to do a funeral for a family from another stage of our lives. That delayed our decision for a week, but the next Sunday, it confronted us again. Fortunately, now instead of having one home congregation, we have twenty-six, and we hope to worship in all of them in due time. That particular morning, I worshiped with a nearby congregation and enjoyed seeing folks I knew and meeting some I didn't.

Some of our pastors have already reached out to invite me to preach while they're away on upcoming Sundays. I look forward to those opportunities to meet people in congregations across North Alabama. Pastors, even if you don't plan to be away, I'll be happy to ease your load. Several of our congregations are involved in pastor searches. Most of them have temporary leadership, but I'm happy to fill in gaps there, too. I also look forward to sharing special celebrations with our congregations when they come up.

I've often wondered what it would be like to be able to time travel on Sunday mornings, to be in several places in the span of the worship hour and experience the diversity that defines us. We haven't quite gotten to that point yet, but over the next several Sundays, I look forward to worshiping in a different setting each week and experiencing that diversity as we get to know one another.

Most Sundays, I'll slip in and not take a leadership role. That's a different feeling, too, but I suspect I'll get used to it.

Worship probably looks, sounds, and feels different in many places across North Alabama. I look forward to worshiping with you on an upcoming Sunday.



From our Stated Clerk Reverend Tom Lewis

When Presbytery convened Saturday last, we had a full docket. It amazes me everything that we were able to accomplish. In one meeting we worshipped God and celebrated communion, recognized the saints we lost

this last year, installed a new Moderator, installed a new Vice-Moderator, installed a new Executive Presbyter, introduced a new Administrative Assistant, wrangled with contentious constitutional amendments, conducted an examination to receive a new minister, and did this on top of all ordinary, everyday business we had to do. Whew!

The amazing thing is that we did it all without going overtime. I have heard our new Moderator, Anita Raby, say that her church is "small but mighty". I could say the same thing about North Alabama Presbytery. I'm proud to be a member of this Presbytery. We may not be the largest Presbytery, we may not have the most churches or the most money, but we are doing great things for the Lord in North Alabama.

Of course, I want to begin with a welcome to our new EP. Speaking strictly for myself, I think the Presbytery has chosen well. Welcome Bob Phelps. I'm sure that you truly will lead us with "energy, imagination, and love."

I also want to congratulate our new Moderator, Anita Raby, and our new Vice-Moderator, Greg Bentley. I pray God's wisdom and mercy upon you as you lead us.

If you have been following the constitutional amendments, then you know that there were two constitutional amendments on that docket that have received a great deal of attention- amendments 24A and 24C. There was considerable debate on these amendments, but the debate was civil and handled in a Christian manner. In the end, the Presbytery voted to sustain amendment 24A, but not amendment 24 C. All other constitutional amendments were passed by common consent.

One of the highlights of the day was the examination and reception of the Reverend Michael Stanfield as a Teaching Elder member of this presbytery. Michael is working as a pastoral counselor at the Vine Pastoral Counseling Center. I hope that you get the chance to meet Michael. He is a fine addition to the Presbytery.

Thank God for North Alabama Presbytery and its congregations. The work we are doing for the Lord here is amazing.

Pictures from the Winter Stated Meeting



Installation of Moderator Anita Raby and Vice-Moderator Rev. Greg Bentley by 2024 Moderator, Rev. Tripp Brogdon



Installation of Executive Presbyter, Rev. Bob Phelps by Stated Clerk,



Randy Pettus, BAPT Moderator



Laura Lynn Kerner, Maranatha CCC



The Peace Dove was presented to Grace, Madison



Rev. Tripp Brogdon, 2024 Moderator was thanked for his leadership with a gift.



Rev. Michael Stanfield was our preacher for the day and was received as the newest member of North Alabama Presbytery. He serves as a Counselor at The Vine PCCC.



Many thanks to the wonderful volunteers from Copeland Presbyterian Church for their gracious hospitality!

As we begin a new year of leadership in North Alabama Presbytery, we want to express our gratitude for those who have led our Presbytery through 2024 as Moderators....

- Rev. Tripp Brogdon— NAP Moderator
- ♦ Rev. Robin Palmer—Executive Commission Moderator
- ◆ Rev. Jaina Glaze—Committee on Representation and Nominating Moderator
- Parker Moore—Business Affairs and Personnel Team
 Moderator

Thank you to the many who work to strengthen the ministry of **North Alabama** Presbytery!



Executive Commission (EC)

Rev. Tripp Brogdon EC Moderator Immediate Past NAP Moderator **Anita Raby**

2025NAP Moderator

Rev. Greg Bentley

2025NAP Vice Moderator

Carol Copeland.

COM Moderator

Rev. Greg Bentley

CORN Moderator

Randy Pettus

BAPT Moderator

Roland Walker

Maranatha CCCI Board Chair

Business Affairs & Personnel Team (BAPT)

Randy Pettus, Moderator **Robert Peagler Rev. Tripp Brogdon Carol Mebane Parker Moore Dag Rowe** Mac Martinson, ex-officio

Commission on Ministry (COM)

Carol Copeland,

Moderator

Kelly Elmore Rev. David Kling David Stumbaugh

Angie Austin Linda Rass

Wes Stubblefield **Cindy Sasseen**

Rev. Jaina Glaze Joycee Pettis-Temple Rev. Micheal Bowe

Committee on Representation & Nominating (CORN)

Rev. Greg Bentley, Moderator **Jerry Witt Rev. Kim Mitchel Mary Mitchell** Rev. Traci Loveman **Bill Valentine**

Permanent Judicial Commission

(PJC)

Roger Faulk Rev. Peggy McClure **Tonya Gaines Keith Fraser** Rev. Rosemary McMahan Christi Robinson

Presbyterian Women

Barbara Allen, Moderator Joyce Pettis-Temple, Past Moderator BJ Breeding, Secretary Karen Madison, Treasurer

Presbyterian Men

Michael Bowe, President Ted Dixie, Vice President Tom Meier, Secretary-Treasurer

Our Staff

Rev. Bob Phelps Executive Presbyter **Rev. Tom Lewis Stated Clerk**

Sheila Gilliam **Administrative Assistant**



March NAP Events

Executive Commission

Robin Palmer, Moderator Monday, March 3 @10:00am via Zoom

Commission on Ministry

Carol Copeland, Moderator Thursday March 6 @ 6:00pm via Zoom

Business Affairs Team

Randy Pettus, Moderator Thursday March 13 @ 4:00pm via Zoom



March 9, 2025
Blue Shirt Sunday
in honor of
Presbyterian Disaster
Assistance
part of the One Great Hour
of Sharing Offering

March 16, 2025 is SDOP Sunday!



part of the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

2025 Important Dates

PW Spring Gathering Saturday, April 12, 2025

Fellowship Presbyterian Church, Huntsville

Meeting includes: Worship with Communion, Installation of new officers, Mission Partner reports, Business meeting and lunch.

NAP Summer Stated Meeting Tuesday, June 10, 2025

First Presbyterian Church, Huntsville

Meeting includes: Annual Parity Report, Election of NAC member-at-large, Commission/Committee reports

PW Fall Gathering Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Maranatha Camp & Conference Center, Scottsboro, AL

Meeting includes: Worship, 2026 Bible Study overview, Mission Partner reports, Business meeting with adoption of the 2026 budget, and lunch.

NAP Fall Stated Meeting Tuesday, October 21, 2025

Maranatha Camp & Conference Center, Scottsboro, AL

Meeting includes: Election of Committee/Commission members for the class of 2028, Commission/Committee reports

NAP Winter Stated Meeting Saturday, February 21, 2026

Place: TBD

Meeting includes: Worship with Communion, 2025 Necrology, Installation of Moderator & Vice Moderator, Adoption of budget, Receive Related Ministry reports.



MR. ROGERS DAY MARCH 20TH



Presbyterian Women's Day Celebration

"Celebrate the Gifts of Women"
Theme: Saints and Widows:
Seeing Through the Lens of God

Sunday, March 23, 2025 | 11:00 a.m.





Congratulations to the following churches who received Ministry Grants in January & February:

\Rightarrow	Big Cove, Brownsboro—\$22,624 for use in their	"Front Porch"	' Ministry an	d technology	upgrades
	for streaming and website.				

- ⇒ First, Cullman—\$4,000—for emergency HVAC repairs
- ⇒ Fellowship, Huntsville \$ for a new digital sign
- ⇒ First, Athens \$15,000—for AC repair to open their upstairs for use by youth, young adults, and Sunday School

FAQ's about Ministry Grants:

Where did the idea of Ministry Grants originate?

In late 2022, NAP was gifted with half of the proceeds from the sale of Trinity, Huntsville to be used as a help to other churches who are initiating new ministries and/or struggling with aging buildings.

In addition, NAP receives monthly support for "Campus Ministry" that can be used for scholarships to Montreat Conferences and/or college ministry supported by local congregations.

What can Grants be used for?

New ministries that need a jump start to get them going.

Technology improvements to help your congregation spread the Good News of the Gospel.

Building repairs that impact ministry.

Is there a limit to what we can ask for? YES!

Ministry Grants for congregations are capped at \$25,000 per calendar year.

Ministry Grants for college ministry are capped at \$5,000 per calendar year.

Can we apply for the same grant in a following year? NO!

Ministry Grants are limited and designed as one-time offerings for a specific purpose.

How can we apply for a Ministry Grant?

Visit the NAP website at www.napcusa.org and download one of the Grant forms. Forms must be approved and signed by your Session and must have a detailed cost sheet attached.

Return your completed form to the Business Affairs and Personnel Team via adminoffice@napcusa.org. BAPT meets monthly to review applications.

Have more questions? Contact Randy Pettus, Monderator of BAPT at rjpettus@gmail.com



Do you have a story to share about a special ministry in your congregation?

Email your article and pictures to adminoffice@napcusa.org by the 25th of the month to be included in the next newsletter!

For your Rising 9th thru graduating 12 graders—
The 2025 Montreat Youth Conference



Light My Path

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." Psalm 119:105. Drawing from the biblical text and our chosen theme Light My Path, this summer we will build an accepting community of unconditional love where every story matters. Through engaging worship, lively music, and practices of gratitude and fun, we will offer youth different opportunities to cultivate their spiritual faith journeys and practice sabbath. We will provide a secure space that is brave, loving, holy, and authentic so that we may glorify God in all that we do, inspiring and equipping a lifetime of faith.

NAP Youth are attending Montreat: July 6-12, 2025

Youth/Young Adult Cost: \$650.00 (approximately)
Deposit of \$350.00 due to NAP by NOW
Adult Sponsor Cost: \$150.00 due to NAP by NOW

There are 8 empty beds at this time

(The Presbytery will be providing limited scholarships this year.)

For additional questions: Rev. Jaina Glaze (256-206-1855)





Some people love New Year's Resolutions, while others really don't even give them a thought. Regardless of your stance, we can all agree that the new year brings thoughts of fresh starts and new beginnings. Here at camp, we are stepping into this year with hopeful anticipation. We've already been planning our summer programs (and trust us, you don't want to miss out), booking retreat groups for the 2025 and 2026 seasons, and kicking off all the projects that need to be wrapped up before summer.

One of the most exciting projects that was recently completed, has been our dining hall renovation project. We now have new, spacious restroom facilities, a revamped serving line area, and our latest addition...heat and air conditioning!!!! That's right! Our dining hall now features heating and A/C units for those sweltering summer nights and chilly winter retreats. We can't wait for you to come and experience these fantastic upgrades!

Summer Camp registration is open! Visit the Maranatha website to register your child or youth for a life-changing week of fellowship, friendships, spiritual growth, and, most of all, FUN!

https://maranatha.camp/summer-camp



Churches. Are you providing scholarships for your children/youth to attend Maranatha? It's the best investment you'll make this year!