NACOOCHEE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

From the Pastor

There was a time in the history of the church when people based their understanding of God on the idea that “this is the best of all possible worlds.” When world events and natural disasters shattered that idea, Voltaire wrote the book *Candide*, in which he concludes the best thing one can do is “tend your own garden.” He did not say this to stop caring about the world or stop wrestling with God about the things we see, but to stay grounded in the things within our reach and to keep doing what we are able to do. “Tend your own garden” is another way of saying “think global, act local.”

If I could add anything to this wise and humble advice, it would be to approach this task as a community instead of as individuals. Gardening is not a solitary act—just watch how much joy people will take from giving away tomatoes and corn and squash come August. It is not a thing we do alone—just listen to how farmers exchange knowledge about planting times, irrigation and fertilizer or answer a neighbor’s call for help. The farmer’s market across the street is a beautiful example of how this community is tending its own garden as a whole, and the same is true for our church.

I’m excited about the raised beds and the wildflowers we have growing on our land. I’m looking forward to the honey we are helping produce, but what we are really growing together in this season is relationships. We’re growing patience with each other and steadfastness through highs and lows. We’re growing humility about the things we can’t control and persistence in providing a healthy environment for tender life to grow strong. We’re growing gratitude, grace and awe in the reminder that one person plants,

another person waters, but it is God who gives the growth. *We are God's coworkers working together; you are God's field.* (1 Cor. 3:9).

Let us then plant and water together the many seeds of community God will spend the summer growing. Let us take deep joy in watching them flourish throughout the coming months, looking to God for the growth and giving God the glory as we share in her gifts, even if it leaves us soaked in sweat and covered in dirt at the end of each day. Let each setting of the sun find us tired and happy together.

Faithfully yours,
John

Collecting Half-pint Jelly Jars

by Larry King

Susan and I will be making jelly again this year to use in a fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity. If you can donate any half-pint jelly jars you may have accumulated, that would be helpful. We have put a **collection basket in the foyer**. Thanks.

Make a Joyful Noise This Summer with the NPC Choir

The NPC Chancel Choir will once again take a break from Wednesday evening rehearsals during **June and July**. During the summer months, we sing anthems that

are familiar or can be learned during a brief Sunday morning rehearsal.

If you've ever thought about joining the choir, summer is a wonderful time to give it a try! We gather in the **choir room each Sunday morning at 9:10 a.m**. to review or learn the anthem before singing in the 10:00 a.m. worship service.

We would love to **welcome new voices**. If you have questions or would like more information, please **contact Barbara Luhn** at 843-290-1446 or baluhn@windstream.net.

Summer Adventures with NPC Youth

It's a very busy summer for Nacoochee Presbyterian's youth group! We've got a lot of awesome events coming up - the first of which is participation in the **2026 Montreat Youth Conference from Sunday June 7th to Saturday June 13th**.

Montreat, North Carolina is a very special place; it's been described as a "thin" place where heaven and earth nearly touch. From personal experience, this conference is a deeply impactful and meaningful experience that will challenge our kids and build their relationships with God and each other.

We've also got **VBS** coming up from **July 29th- 30th**! As always, this is **an inter-generational event** with an adult ed and youth component. This year's theme is "**Loving our Neighbor Shouldn't be This Hard."** Be sure to listen out for more information as we get closer!

Lastly, we'll be bringing **Wednesday night Youth Group back starting June 17th** when we get back from Montreat! Our Wednesday night programming focuses on building our kids' tangible Bible skills - learning the books of the Bible and the basics of what each book contains. If you've got a youth in your life that would be interested in participating, please reach out!

If you have the chance one Sunday, be sure to head downstairs and take a look at the **new Youth Lounge**. We've got all new furniture, decorations, and games for the kids to enjoy. We've even got a chalk wall! We wanted this space to be a comfortable place the kids can call their own and have some ownership of. There are still some decorations to put up, but it's almost finished and definitely ready to be seen!

Fellowship Opportunities

Men's Breakfast will meet on **Wednesday, June 3rd at 8:30am** at Crossroads Café - 3933 GA-17, Clarkesville.

Women's Dinner will meet on **Thursday, June 4th at 6pm** at Kaboblicious in Clarkesville. Please email Vicki if you plan to be there or have any questions. vmcmorrough@gmail.com

Ladies' Lunch Bunch will meet on **Thursday, June 11th, 11:30am** at

Bangkok Bistro in Demorest. The address is 579 Georgia Street. Let Willene Keel know if you can attend. wwkeel@gmail.com

Outreach News: Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Outreach ministry activities will continue throughout the summer months. **Convivio** will meet at **3:00 p.m. on the first Sunday of each month** at its new location, **Cornelia United Methodist Church**. **Dottie Foster can be contacted** for more information.

The next opportunity for NPC to provide **meals for Family Promise** will be the **week of June 28th** .Please **contact Willene Kee**l if you wish to assist.

The Matthew 25 Alliance will provide a **monthly meal for our homeless and food insecure neighbors** alternating between Cleveland and Cornelia with the first meal taking place on **June 17th at the First Baptist Church of Cornelia**. The Alliance is also moving ahead with plans to assist our homeless neighbors in obtaining identification and accessing benefits and resources for which they are eligible through regular Resource Center sessions in both White and Habersham counties. If you would like to be added to the Matthew 25 volunteer list, please **contact Dennis Brown**.

We continue, of course, to collect a monthly offering for **Habitat for Humanity** and several of our members volunteer with that organization. Volunteer opportunities also include **White County Family Connection's drive through food distribution** that takes place on the **final Wednesday of each month**. If you would like information about volunteering to assist there, please **contact Mark Griffin.**

Join the Fellowship Team

Our Fellowship Committee is looking for volunteers to help us continue providing refreshments and hospitality after worship services. To make hosting easier and more enjoyable, we are creating **12 Fellowship Teams**, each made up of **one team leader and two helpers**.

Rather than one person carrying the responsibility alone, each team will work together to host fellowship on assigned Sundays throughout the year. The Fellowship Committee will contact the team leader when it is their turn to host. If all three team members are available, wonderful! If someone is unavailable, we can easily step in and assist as needed.

Our hope is that this team approach will make fellowship hosting more manageable, enjoyable, and a wonderful way to build community within our church family.

If you are interested in serving as a **team leader** or a **helper**, please let Monika Knight know. We would love to have you be part of this ministry of hospitality and fellowship!

June 2026 - At a Glance

June 3 - Men's Breakfast, 8:30am, Crossroads Café, Clarkesville
June 4 - Women's Dinner, 6pm, Kaboblicious, Clarkesville
June 6 - *Sounds of Tohi* author talk/book signing 2-4pm

June 7 - Convivio, 3-5pm, First Methodist Church, Cornelia
June 7-13 - Montreat Presbyterian Youth Conference
June 11 - Ladies' Lunch Bunch, 11:30am, Bangkok Bistro, Demorest
June 17 - Wednesday Night Youth Program reconvenes, 6-7:30pm
Week of June 28 - Family Promise Meals

Click here to view the NPC Calendar

Update on Giving

The General Fund covers our regular operating and maintenance expenses.

As of May 26th 2026 - General Contributions

Budget Projection: $117,180

Actual Received: $126,583

Click here to donate online

If you have an idea for an article for next month's newsletter or would like to provide feedback to the NPC Communication Committee, email Communications@NacoocheePresbyterian.org

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