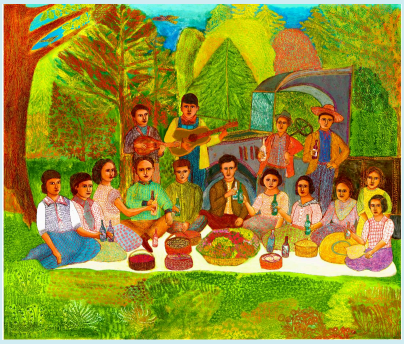
NACOOCHEE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NPC youth and their friends from neighboring Presbyterian churches enjoyed a week of worship, learning, fellowship, and spiritual growth at the Montreat Youth Conference this summer.

From the Pastor



Dear Nacoochee,

Summer is flying by, and we already have so much to be thankful for. Our youth had a great trip to Montreat, and by the time you read this, our choir will be there having their own great time, too. So many of us got to see several church members in a brilliant production of A Midsummer Night's Dream at SNCA. Folks are coming and going on vacation to spend time with family and coming home with relaxed and tanned faces. **We also have a lot to look forward to. July 19 will be a Music Sunday, our very own Maggie Anglin will be preaching for us on July 26, and you won't want to miss our all-ages Vacation Bible School July 29-31.**

All of these wonderful things have taken a lot of work, yet it is not our work which feeds us as God's people. It is the sense of play these moments make possible between us. It is the new chances we have to surprise each other, delight in each other, face challenges together and adapt together when things do not go according to plan. It's the way we get comfortable enough around each other so that we're no longer worried about what other people think, when we can be genuinely ourselves instead of pretending to be something we're not. These are the elements God uses to build community among her people.

They are also the very things we find together at the communion table. There God takes what is common and renders it holy. There God takes what is holy and shares it with the world. Something sacred follows us from the table back to our pews and out through the blue doors into the world we share. The presence of God is with us in the laughter, the dropped lines, the quiet moments together in the car or while doing the

dishes after a big meal when we can let our guard down as well as our hair. If we remember to pay attention and to celebrate the gifts being given all around us, I believe these will be the times when we will see God most clearly.

*Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin,**29** yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. (Matthew 6:28-29)*

Yours in faith and joy,
John

Music Sunday- July 19th

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord . . .
or maybe just listen to something joyful.

Whatever your preference might be, there's an opportunity for joy and praise during the July 19th worship service. Nacoochee Presbyterian Church enjoys a host of singers, instrumentalists and oh the bells! There will be something for everyone, so make a “note” of it - July 19th - you will not want to miss it!

Loving my neighbor shouldn’t be this hard!

Vacation Bible School - Christian Ed. Committee

Let’s face it, it can be very hard to connect with people whose opinions differ from our own, especially with the contentious social climate we find ourselves living in lately. With this in mind the Christian Education Committee has put together an informative, and formative, agenda of speakers and activities for young and grown alike to help us develop new skills and rediscover the tried and true methods to follow Christ’s admonition: *“Love your neighbor as yourself.” -Matthew 22:39*
Vacation Bible School 2026 will run from Wednesday, July 29 through Friday, July 31 with a special field trip to the National Civil and Human Rights Museum in Atlanta on August 1st. Our program will start at 5:30 each evening and finish up at 8:00 p.m. Dinner will be served each night at 5:45.

We will hear from guest speakers: Josina Guess, a writer and editor of Sojourner’s Magazine and a friend of Jubilee Partners, John Lash, a non-violence and restorative justice facilitator at the Georgia Conflict Center, and Rev. Rose Johnson, community organizer and director of the Newtown Florist Club in Gainesville. Wednesday and Friday evenings’ after dinner activities for adults will be delivered as choice sessions with 3 options both nights. Sessions will include guided meditation sessions with Dave Miller, the importance of a hug with Linda Owens, Troyce Simmons of Pebble Ministry, and Creating Community through Contra Dance.

We have some exciting activities planned for our youth as well! Kids will explore the connection between communion and community beginning with making communion bread and juice on Wednesday, followed by a guided writing workshop. On Thursday, we will see the connection between community and food as it is grown, prepared and shared with a tour to the SNCA farmers market and tamale making with friends from Convivio. On Friday, kids will map the peacemaking practices they are already putting into action as well as lean on the wisdom of Rev. Rose about what community can look like today.

Our culminating activity for this year’s VBS will be a group trip to The National Center for Civil and Human Rights in Atlanta on Saturday, August 1st. Anyone wishing to visit the museum can sign up using the link below or on the paper

sign up sheet available in the fellowship hall. We will provide a van and/or carpool will be available to assist any needing transportation.

We hope you can join us this year!

RSVP for VBS 2026
RSVP for Civil Rights Museum

Nacoochee Youth Join Area Churches at Montreat

Nacoochee Presbyterian partnered with Clarkesville, Dahlonega, and Cleveland to send **11 youth to Montreat this summer** for the **Montreat Youth Conference**, a national Presbyterian youth conference. As many of you know, Montreat is a special place - some call it a “thin” place: somewhere where heaven and earth almost touch. It’s a place where faith grows and your cup can be filled so you can pour it out at whatever corner of the country you call home.

Our kids participated in Keynote every morning and Worship every evening with planned small-group discussions during the day. At our “back-home” group every night, we shared with each other what we learned or how we were growing.

The kids (and adults) had an amazing time spending a week learning and getting closer to God - and we can’t wait to do it again in the future!

Summer Outreach News: Caring for Our Neighbors

The summer finds our Outreach ministries continuing to be the church in our community. Once again this year we will be working with the other congregations represented in the White County Ministerial Alliance to sponsor and participate in the annual **Back to School Bash held at Freedom Park in Cleveland on Saturday, August 1st from 10 AM to Noon**. This event helps families prepare for the upcoming school year. NPC contributes to the purchase of backpacks and school supplies that are distributed at the event, and we will have a booth to support our community’s families.

The Matthew 25 Alliance (M25A) continues to explore and test new ways of reaching out to our neighbors who are at risk or experiencing homelessness. The alliance held its first **summer fellowship meal** at First Baptist Church of Cornelia on June 17th and **a second meal will be provided at First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland on July 18th from Noon to 2 PM.** These meals are a way not only of feeding folks but building relationships with our neighbors and among the volunteers from the six churches that comprise the alliance.

Another new initiative is the provision of a **Resource Center** operating in both White and Habersham counties. The Resource Center will consist of periodic sessions where M25A volunteers and staff from Ninth District Opportunity and other local non-profit and government agencies will assist our unhoused and at-risk neighbors to secure documentation such as driver's licenses/state IDs, social security cards, and birth certificates, apply for benefits for which they are eligible, obtain information and referrals for medical and mental health care, training and employment opportunities, and access other resources. Over time it is hoped that these efforts will assist our neighbors in obtaining or maintaining stable housing and employment and disrupt the cycle of poverty that prevents them from living secure and safe lives. **The first Resource Center session will take place on Tuesday, July 7th from 10 AM to Noon at First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland.** We expect to hold sessions there every other week. We are still finalizing plans for sessions to be held in Habersham County.

If you would like to be added to the **Matthew 25 Alliance volunteer** list please **contact Dennis Brown or Mark Griffin**. Other **volunteer opportunities** include **White County Family Connection's drive through food distribution** that takes place on the final Wednesday of each month at First Presbyterian Church of Cleveland from 11 AM until all food is distributed, and, of course, **Convivio**, which meets on the first Sunday of the month at Cornelia United Methodist Church from 3-5 PM.

Learn to Play Mahjong!

Have you ever wanted to learn how to play Mahjong? Here's your chance!

The Fellowship Committee is excited to offer a **Mahjong Class** on **Saturday, August 15, at 11:00 AM** here at the church. We will enjoy a simple lunch together while learning this fun and engaging game.

The cost is **$20 per person**, which includes:

- **$15 for your Official Mahjong Rules Card (yours to keep)**
- **$5 as a token of our appreciation for Donna Smith, who has graciously volunteered to teach the class**

A sign-up sheet will be available for the **first 12 participants**. If more than 12 people are interested, we will gladly schedule another class at a later date.

Helping with the class will be **Donna Smith**, **Gretchen Anglin**, **Monika Knight**, and **Bambi Blackwell**.

We hope you'll join us for an afternoon of learning, fellowship, and fun!

Fellowship Opportunities

Men's Breakfast will meet on **Wednesday, July 1st at 8:30am** at Crossroads Café - 3933 GA-17, Clarkesville.

Women's Dinner will meet on **Thursday, July 9th at 6pm** at Kaboblicious in Clarkesville. Please email Monika if you plan to be there or have any questions. monikaknight@gmail.com

Ladies' Lunch Bunch will meet on **Thursday, July 9th, 11:30am** at The Copper Pot located at 135 Grant Street, Clarkesville. Let Willene Keel know if you can attend. wwkeel@gmail.com

July 2026 - At a Glance

July 1 - Men's Breakfast, 8:30am, Crossroads Café, Clarkesville
July 5 - Convivio, 3-5pm, First Methodist Church, Cornelia
July 9 - Ladies' Lunch Bunch, 11:30am, The Copper Pot, Clarkesville
July 9 - Women's Dinner, 6pm, Kaboblicious, Clarkesville
July 29-31 - Vacation Bible School

Click here to view the NPC Calendar

Update on Giving

The General Fund covers our regular operating and maintenance expenses.

As of June 24th 2026 - General Contributions

Budget Projection: $146,725

Actual Received: $154,892

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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