NACOOCHEE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Josina Guess challenged us to wrestle with what it really means to love our neighbors —even when it's difficult—during the opening night of Vacation Bible School.

From the Pastor

Dr. King painted a picture of the church not as a sanctuary to which we come to escape the world, but a staging ground from which we go to transform it. I often think of worship as a meal to feed us on our way, so that we don't have to face the week ahead on an empty stomach. I think of each Sunday's service as a postage stamp to ensure good news will reach a world so hungry to hear it. I think about my girls in the middle of a long afternoon, how a well-timed snack can be all they need to return from tears to joy, and how closely that moment is related to the courage we find in worship when our faith starts to flag.

I think often, too, of a book written by Tom Long, *Accompany Them with Singing*. It is about how the life of faith grounds us in the gospel until we know it in our bones, and how the hymns we spend our life singing together will give us courage when life comes to an end. Long's book sticks with me because it helps me notice how the songs I sang in choir as a teenager become the same songs I sing to get me through a long stretch of highway in the middle of the night. It helps me appreciate the power of the songs we sing in a hospital room, or a rocking chair, or during any one of the hundred mundane tasks of love required to keep a household running. Long's book helps me savor the words of promise as they take on flesh to hold us through these moments with all the confidence of a parent's loving arms.

It is with singing that God sends us back out into the world when worship is done to give flesh to God's love for all. It is singing that bends our arms around each other in the shape of God's embrace. This is still true when it's too hard to leave the house and we stream the service online. To join in worship, near or far, is to lend our voices to God's song, not for the sake of singing, but for the sake of sending God's love into the world. Like seeds stuck to our socks after walking together through a field, the songs carry the field with us as we go our separate ways.

As we face the next month together, let us do so with joy as people joined in song, fed from the same table, watered from same well, sustained for the same journey of God's love which will carry us wherever we need to go.

7 The angel of the Lord came a second time, touched him, and said, "Get up and eat, or the journey will be too much for you." 8 He got up and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God. (1 Kings 19:7-8)

Faithfully yours,

John

Bible 101: Start at the Beginning

Explore how the Bible came to be— from its history and structure to the stories behind the pages.

ARE you ready? The Christian Ed Committee (adult division) will offer its first class of the season - **Bible 101**. It will concentrate on the structure of the scriptures, including the origins, ordering, editions, language, history, authorship, and any other topics we can think of. It will be from an academic rather than a doctrinal perspective. It will meet on **four consecutive Tuesdays beginning August 25th**. Doors will open by 6:30 p.m. for those who wish to "brown bag." Lecture/discussion will be from 7 to 8. Bring your Bible or use one that belongs to the church. It's free. The sessions will be led by Barry Whittemore. Open to all comers.

Raise Your Voice: Choir Rehearsals Beginning

NPC Choir to resume Wednesday evening rehearsals

Our beloved NPC Choir will resume Wednesday evening rehearsal on **August the 5th**. The choir rehearses weekly from 6 - 7:30 pm and sings for Sunday services, plus services on Christmas Eve and Good Friday. We welcome new members! Please contact Barbara Luhn if you'd like to join us, or if you would like more information.

Serving Our Neighbors Together

August Outreach News

For over 25 years, under the leadership of Dottie Foster, NPC has sponsored Convivio, a monthly fellowship gathering for our Hispanic neighbors. At these meetings we serve a meal, distribute food for the families, provide educational opportunities for the adults designed to help them accommodate to life in the United States, and activities for the children. The leadership of Convivio is in

the process of shifting to members of the Hispanic community itself but our volunteer support is still very much needed. Convivio typically meets on the first Sunday of the month at 3:00 PM. The gathering now takes place at Cornelia United Methodist Church. Volunteers are needed to assist with food distribution and the children's activities. If you can help out, please contact Sherry Perkins or Joanne Sweeney.

The Matthew 25 Alliance (M25A) has now held two summer Fellowship Meals at First Baptist Church of Cornelia on June 17th and at First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland on July 18th. 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. The Alliance's Resource Center is now operating in both White and Habersham counties. The Resource Center consists of periodic sessions where M25A volunteers and staff from Ninth District Opportunity and other local non-profit and government agencies 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. The Center operates on Tuesday mornings alternating between Cornelia and Cleveland.

If you would like to volunteer for the resource center in either location please contact Mark Griffin or Dennis Brown. You will be able to choose opportunities to serve that fit your schedule. A second training session for Resource Center Volunteers will be held at Grace-Calvary Episcopal Church in Clarkesville on August 10th from 10 AM to Noon followed by a light lunch. If you would like to attend, please let Dennis Brown know by August 7th so we can get a headcount for lunch.

Fifth Sunday Potluck – August 30

Join us for our Fifth Sunday Potluck on **Sunday, August 30**, immediately following worship!

Our theme this month is **"Salads & Sandwiches."** We invite everyone to bring your favorite salad to share—whether it's a garden salad, pasta salad, potato salad, fruit salad, chicken salad, or a favorite family recipe.

The Fellowship Committee will provide **ice cream sandwiches** for dessert. If you'd rather bring a favorite sandwich or another dessert to share, you're welcome to do that as well.

Most importantly, come ready to enjoy good food, great conversation, and the opportunity to spend time together as a church family. Whether you're able to bring a dish or not, there's always a place for you at the table.

We look forward to sharing this special time of fellowship with you!

Fellowship Opportunities

Men's Breakfast will meet on **Wednesday, August 5th at 8:30am** at Crossroads Café - 3933 GA-17, Clarkesville.

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

Ladies' Lunch Bunch will meet on **Thursday, August 13th, 11:30am** at The Copper Pot located at 135 Grant Street, Clarkesville. Let Willene Keel know if you can attend.
wwkeel@gmail.com

August 2026 - At a Glance

August 1 - Back to School Bash 10am - 12pm Freedom Park
August 1 - Civil Rights Museum Outing - VBS Culmination
August 2 - Convivio, 3-5pm, First Methodist Church, Cornelia
August 5 - Men's Breakfast, 8:30am, Crossroads Café, Clarkesville
August 6 - Women's Dinner, 6pm, Francesco's Restobar, Helen
August 13 - Ladies' Lunch Bunch, 11:30am, The Copper Pot, Clarkesville
August 15 - Mahjongg Class 11am - 2pm - registration required (class is full) - see Monika to place you on a waiting list for our next opportunity to learn!
August 25 - Bible 101 Class begins
August 30 - Anton Flores-Maisonette will be leading worship service
August 30 - Fifth Sunday Potluck

Click here to view the NPC Calendar

Update on Giving

The General Fund covers our regular operating and maintenance expenses.

As of July 29th 2026 - General Contributions

Budget Projection: $175,700

Actual Received: $184,536

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

Nacoochee Presbyterian Church | PO Box 87 | Sautee Nacoochee, GA 30571 US

Unsubscribe | Update Profile | Constant Contact Data Notice

Try email marketing for free today!