
KANAPAHA TIMES

Kanapaha Presbyterian Church
Monthly Newsletter - July 2026



Blessed is the nation
whose God is the
Lord, the people
whom he has
chosen as his
heritage.

- Psalm 33:12

Meet Don McGarity—KPC Temporary Pastor

Dr. & Mrs. (Bonnie) McGarity were born in Houston, Texas, were confirmed in the same Presbyterian Church, sang in the choir together and in 1965 were married by their Presbyterian minister. In December they celebrated their 61st Anniversary. They have two children, four grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

After a career in Music, Dr. McGarity felt the call to the ministry. In 1972 the McGarity's moved from Houston, TX to Austin, TX where he attended and graduated from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity (1975). He later received his doctorate in 1981 at McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago.

He served churches in Texas before becoming the Senior Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Jacksonville, FL. Rev. McGarity then became the organizing and founding pastor of the Amelia Plantation Chapel, an Interdenominational Community Church established by the Presbytery of St. Augustine in the Resort of Amelia Island Plantation.

The McGarity's retired to Gainesville because of the religious, educational and fine arts opportunities as well as the excellent medical facilities. In retirement he has served as Stated Supply at Bethlehem Presbyterian, Archer and 1st Presbyterian, Starke, he was also Area One Relationship Coordinator for the Presbytery of St. Augustine. For 2 ½ years he served the 1st Presbyterian of Perry part-time (2 Sundays per month and all

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**"For freedom Christ
has set us free.
Stand firm,
therefore, and do
not submit again to
a yoke of slavery."**

- **Galatians 5:1**

Meet Don McGarity—KPC Temporary Pastor

special services plus was moderator of the session.) Presently, he serves at 1st Presbyterian Gainesville, teaching an adult Bible class once a month, singing in the sanctuary choir, and preaching at the pastor's request. He also serves as a supply preacher at various Presbyterian Churches as needed.

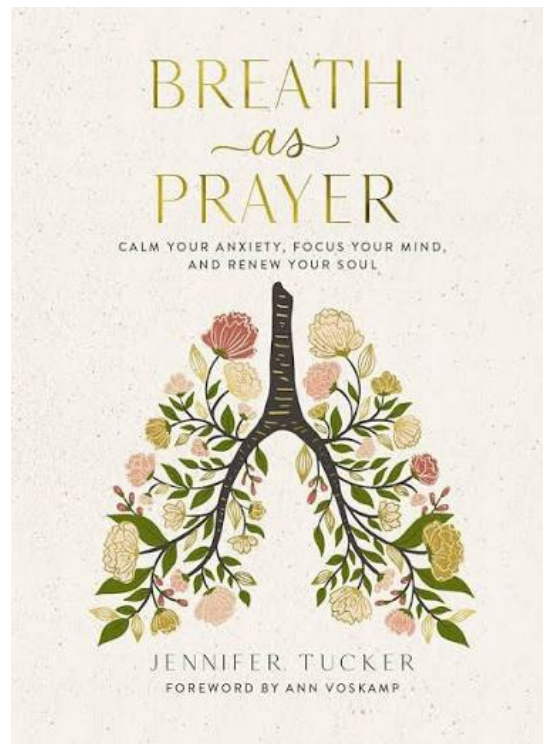
Since moving to Gainesville, Dr. McGarity has been also been involved locally at various times with St. Frances House, The Gainesville Pops, Shands Institutional Review Board, Oak Hammock and The Village Retirement Communities. In 2004, he established the Volunteer Chaplaincy Program at Oak Hammock establishing worship services every Saturday morning.

Rev. McGarity enjoys playing timpani in the Gainesville Pops, playing the piano and organ and especially spending precious time with his dear wife, Bonnie, their 2 children who live within 5 minutes of them as well as the grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Throughout their lives, they have enjoyed traveling extensively.

"Faithful Pages"

- a book review for personal Bible Study by Karla Ellsworth, Education Committee

Breath as Prayer by Jennifer Tucker

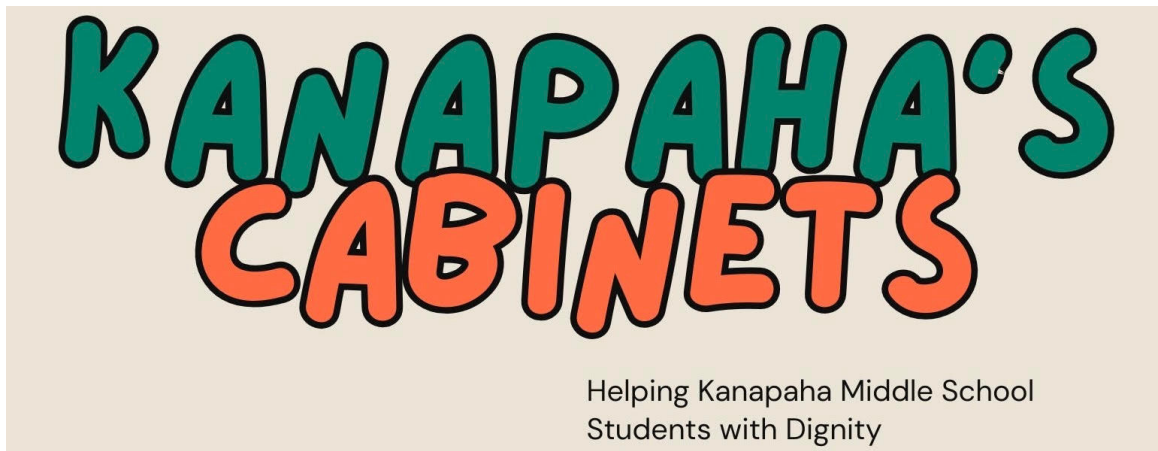


"Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. - Romans 12:2

"Breathe in deeply. God gives you breath. He will give you everything you need. Exhale slowly. No need to rush. God is in control. You are safe and held and loved."

Breath and Prayer is a book for anyone. While it initially addresses stress and anxiety, this book can be a gentle nudge for anyone to rest in God's word. Would be a lovely gift for someone going through trying times. This is a good coffee table book to have around. Have a cup of tea and inhale and exhale the recommended short prayers to connect with God's Peace. "Calm your anxiety, focus your mind, and renew your soul".

This book is available on Amazon.



Through the generosity of KPC members and friends, Kanapaha's Cabinets was a great success. Over 270 items were donated to Kanapaha Middle School for the children through your giving. Thank you to all who gave so that teachers can offer personal items to those students in need.

A big Thank You to Jackie Chandy, a member of the Mission Committee, who conceived and spearheaded this mission ministry. It would not have happened without her.

Matthew 6: 2-4

"So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets... 3 But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."

Mission Committee



Thank you to all who have given to the Family Promise Drive. The various items and cash donations of over \$300 will be used to help fulfill their Wish List. Family Promise of Alachua County is an organization that houses families that are homeless. The staff provides support assisting with linking children to schools/day care, helping the parents find employment/training and assisting with finding permanent housing. KPC has supported this mission ministry for many years. Family Promise has been going through a transition so we are doing a drive to collect items and funds to assist with the wish list.

If you have not given yet and wish to do so, please give your donation during worship through a check with Family Promise in the memo line or if giving cash put in an envelope marked Family Promise.

Thank you to Mary Searle, Mission Committee member, for heading this drive. Due to her recent medical setback, she has been unable to give us updates but the drive is still on.

Corinthians 8: 3-5

For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford, but far more. And they did it of their own free will. 4 They begged us again and again for the privilege of sharing in the gift for the believers in Jerusalem. 5 They even did more than we had hoped, for their first action was to give themselves to the Lord and to us, just as God wanted them to do.

Mission Committee



Dylan Fritz	July 14
Samuel Chandy	July 24
Bill Clark	July 26
Pat Chesnut	July 27
Chris Wing	July 27
Kim Friend	July 30
Veronica Ziegler	July 30

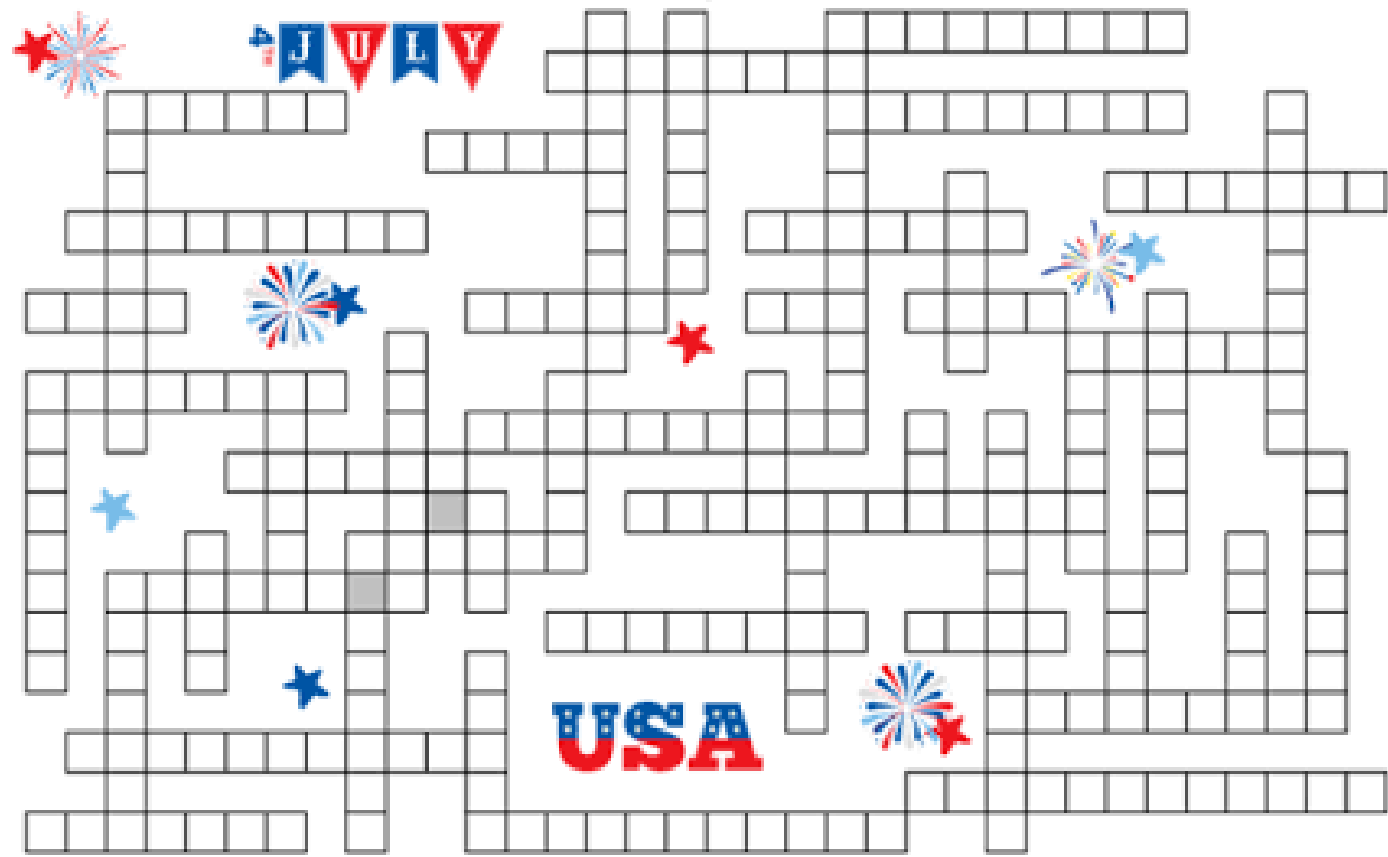




4th Of July Word Fill In



Write the words in the correct place on the grid based on the number of letters.



3 letters

- red
- hot
- fun

4 letters

- blue
- free
- home
- flag
- boom
- July

5 letters

- stars

white

- grill
- party
- pride
- music

6 letters

- values
- states
- picnic
- united
- crowds
- summer
- parade
- spirit

family

7 letters

- stripes
- burgers
- holiday
- cookout
- concert
- veteran
- liberty
- America

8 letters

- lemonade
- barbecue

national

backyard

9 letters

- streamers
- community
- democracy
- celebrate
- fireworks
- sparklers
- tradition

10 letters

- watermelon

11 letters

- anniversary
- declaration
- decorations
- commemorate

12 letters

- independence
- pyrotechnics



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, July 4th

Independence Day

Sunday, July 12th

**Stated Session Meeting and
Potluck**

Tuesday, July 14th

Financial Committee Mtg

Saturday, July 18th

Mission Committee Mtg

Saturday, July 25th

Scouts Annual Planning Mtg

Tuesday, July 28th

Newsletter Deadline



July 2026

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EST. 1859

Moderator of Session Rev. Dr. Don McGarity
Clerk of Session Kim Friend (2026)

Session Members	Name / Class	Co-chair
Administration and Finance	Bill Bahlke (2027)	Kim Friend (2028)
Buildings & Grounds	Bill Bahlke (2027)	
Church History & Cemetery Management	Joanna Long (2028)	
Education & Training	Karla Ellsworth (2028)	
Missions	Kim Friend (2028)	
Nomination Committee	Bill Bahlke (2027)	
Special Projects & Promotion	Karla Ellsworth (2028)	
Worship & Nurture	Joanna Long (2028)	Karla Ellsworth (2028)