
KANAPAHA TIMES

Kanapaha Presbyterian Church
Monthly Newsletter - June 2026



When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place.

-Acts 2:1

Farewell

As this newsletter is being printed I am making final plans and arrangements for my retirement. I want you to know that my time here has truly been a blessing for me and I thank the Lord for our time together. This congregation has brought me encouragement, challenge, joy, growth, and comfort as we traveled this part of the journey together. As I move into retirement later this month please know that the bonds of love that Christ established in this pastoral relationship will remain alive and well. You will remain in my heart and in my prayers. I will continue to ask God for His best for each of you and I expect your best to be returned in service to God. I wait to hear of the church's progress in future months.

We all have heard there is a season for everything under heaven. I truly believe that. We've experienced many of those seasons as individuals. To my delight I discovered that the Bible offers guidance on the later stages of life, emphasizing a continued focus on serving God and



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others. According to Numbers, the Levites' period of service began at 25 and ended at 50, after which they could assist but not bear the heavy loads. Then there is Zechariah (the Baptist's father), who returned to his duties after serving in the temple, as recorded in Luke, shows that even in older age, one can still fulfill their responsibilities and serve the Lord. Paul's dedication to finish his course, as mentioned in Acts, encourages believers to trust in God's plan and remain faithful throughout their lives, and then there is Jeremiah's promise of a future and a hope. So see, our season together is ending but God has already planned to care for you.

Jeremiah 29:11 - For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, to give you a future and a hope.

As most of you know I will be headed to Louisiana in a few days. There are recommendations from the larger church to help with the church's transition to a new pastor and I would like to address those here so you understand that you are not being ignored or abandoned.

Initially a retiring pastor is expected to step away from the church entirely for at least a year's time. That should not be a problem given that I am moving several states away. The idea here is to give the church time to develop who they are in this season and to choose a new pastor without interference from the retiring pastor.

God has already given you a seasoned pastor and representative to lead you through. We do not want to "muddy the waters" as you move forward.

The other concern is that of boundaries. We are not expected to sever relationships but there is a finality to the pastoral aspects and leadership. I will not be available to officiate marriages, baptisms, or funerals but I will

And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.

-Acts 2:2



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rejoice with you at your victories and pray for your strength in challenges. I will not offer or give opinions (you've heard them for seven years) on decisions to be made whether pertaining to leadership or church structure. It will no longer be my place to weigh in on the daily life of the community.

Whoever you choose as your new pastor will need your prayer and support even before they set foot in the pulpit for the first time. The church and its leaders are only as strong as the prayers coming from those in the pews. Pray for them, pray for the church, pray for the boldness to follow God's leading.

I cannot speak more highly of the Rev. Dr. McGarrity. This congregation is blessed to have him as its visiting minister during this time of transition. His love for God and God's people, as well as his varied experience make him an excellent choice to lead the congregation.

Psalms 92:12-14 says, "The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, and grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Planted in the house of the LORD, they will flourish in the courts of our God. In old age they will still bear fruit; healthy and green they will remain.

Preachers don't really retire from ministry; they refire for their next assignment. This congregation is preparing for newness in ministry as well. Listen for God's plan. Be ready for your next assignment. Be good to each other and faithful to your ministry.

"May the LORD bless you and protect you. May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you. May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace." [Numbers 6:24-26]

Blessings
Pastor Michael

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

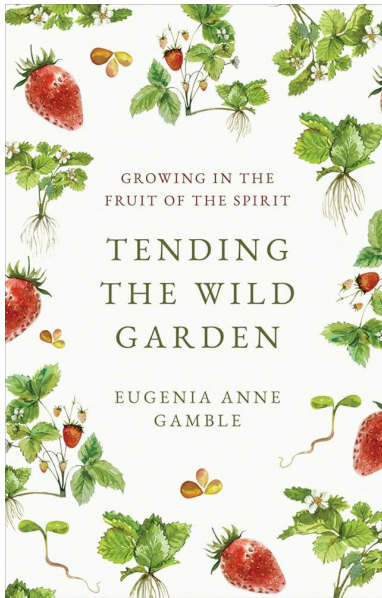
-Acts 2:4



“Faithful Pages”

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

Tending the Wild Garden by Eugenia Anne Gamble



But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against things like this.
Galatians 5:22-23

“Perhaps it is best to start by considering the Spirit who raises a garden within us and invites to welcome and tend it.” Tending the Wild Garden is a beautifully written, grace-filled book where we are invited to nurture the garden of our souls.

This book guides and encourages to look deep within oneself to observe the Spirit already within, recognize if there is some “weeding” that needs to be taken care of, and then leads us to ways we can tend the Fruit that will be a blessing to all. Each chapter delves into one “shoot” (part) of the Fruit referenced by Paul in Galatians.

I really enjoyed this book. The author was very engaging, and I appreciated her real-life examples throughout the book. She has a very gentle and kind way of getting the message to her readers. I found the 6-day study reflections and questions at the end of each chapter helpful to becoming more aware of Holy Spirit within me.

This book can be found on PCUSA or Amazon store websites.



TAKE A **STEP** TOWARD BETTER HEALTH!

Walking 10 AM – LAST Saturday of every month at Depot Park (starting 4/25/26). Also Mon-Friday 7:30 AM at UFIM Kanapaha clinic

**Location: Depot Park (Last Saturday of every month)
874 SE 4th St, Gainesville, FL 32601
(East Overlook (near pavilion/picnic area))**

This walking program is a fun and safe place to go for a walk, learn health tips from local healthcare professionals, and meet new people. The program is FREE and all are welcome!

Learn more and register:



We walk at 2 different locations

Last Saturday of every month- 10 AM at Depot Park, 874 SE 4th St, GNV, FL 32601 (Meet at East Overlook -near pavilion/picnic area)

Weekdays (Monday -Friday) – 7:30 AM UFHealth IM Kanapaha Clinic at 9092 SW 70th Lane, GNV, FL 32608

WaLKwithaDOC.org



We are a proud part of the international Walk with a Doc program: Chapter # 32402



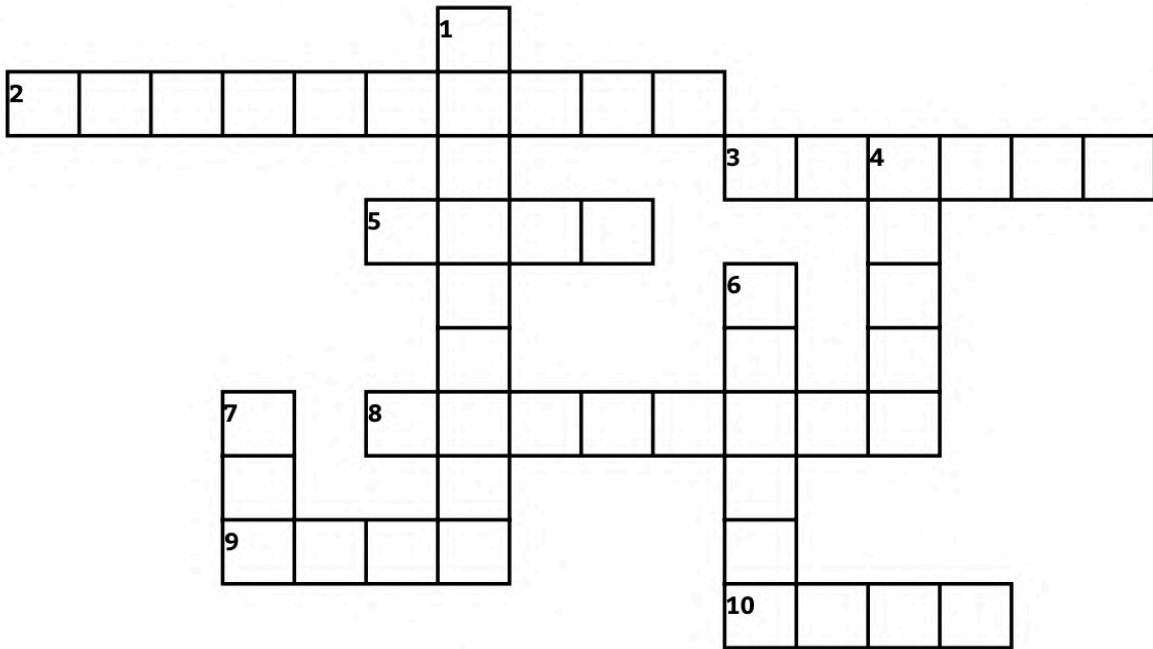
Mary Searle	June 2
Kirk Ziegler	June 4
Rosemary Peace	June 11
Judy Doppieri	June 12
Warren Dixon	June 15
Carolyn Smith	June 26
Mary Moffett	June 30



CROSSWORD PUZZLE

FATHER'S DAY

Write 10 words related to Father's Day in the crossword.



ACROSS

2. A picture taken with a camera to capture memories.
3. A group consisting of parents and their children.
5. An activity or sport played for fun and enjoyment.
8. A gathering where food, usually meat, is cooked on a grill outdoors.
9. An item given to someone as a present to show appreciation or love.
10. A piece of thick paper with a message, given on special occasions.

DOWN

1. The first meal of the day, often served in bed on special occasions.
4. A film shown in a theater or on TV for entertainment.
6. A meal eaten outdoors, typically in a park, with family and friends.
7. An embrace to show affection or greeting.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Sunday, June 7th | Celebration of Pastors Service /
Called Congregational MTG /
Potluck |
| Sunday, June 14th | Flag Day / 4th Annual Hymn Sing |
| Sunday, June 21st | Father's Day |
| Tuesday, June 23rd | Newsletter Deadline |
| Sunday, June 28th | Magic Penny |



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EST. 1859

Moderator of Session Rev. Michaele Wood (6/8/26)
Clerk of Session Kim Friend (2027)

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)