
KANAPAHA TIMES

Kanapaha Presbyterian Church
Monthly Newsletter - May 2026



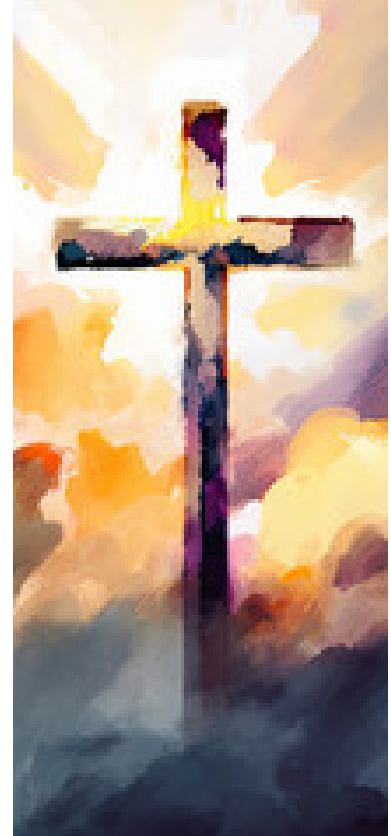
When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place.

-Acts 2:1

Why Pentecost?

In Acts, chapter 2, verses 1-4, "When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance."

This month (May 24) we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost. While most people attribute the happenings of Pentecost to the birth of the church and the coming of the Holy Spirit who brings unity to believers there is often little thought given to anything beyond divine pyrotechnics. For instance, what is the purpose behind the whole event? Why do so many traditions encourage the wearing of red on Pentecost? And why is the speaking of tongues such a big deal that it has divided churches for centuries? The use of the color red in the church during Pentecost is



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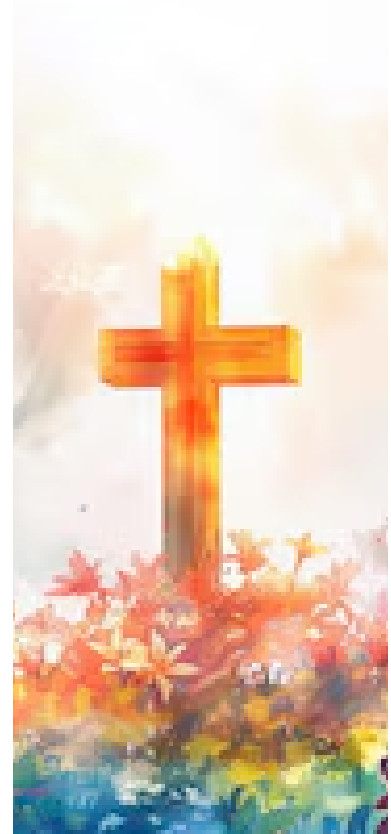
commonly associated with the flames of the Holy Spirit, which descended upon the apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ as tongues of fire. The significance of red, as the color of fire and blood, is a natural choice to represent this element. And red serves as a powerful visual reminder of the transformative power of faith. Vestments and paraments for the day are red, often with a descending dove symbolizing the Holy Spirit.

Red is easy to understand but what about the sign of the disciples speaking in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance?" This was another indication of the spirit coming upon believers. This gift was speaking languages by divine utterance not previously known to the speaker. When Peter and the disciples go out into the crowd the people are amazed that each of them could hear the disciples in their native language. Some have argued that the disciples weren't speaking in other languages but the people were hearing them in other languages. To-ma-to / To-mot-o. Most of those arguments miss the real point - it had to be the Spirit to provide that communication no matter how you perceive it. It was a gift not experienced by the general public before. A miracle of God's intervention.

But why tongues in any form? Allow me a moment of privilege to provoke your deeper thinking. Let's go back to the Tower of Babel in Genesis 11. God was concerned that the people, having a unified language, were determined to build a city and a tower to heaven to make a name for themselves as equal to God. God intervenes, confusing their language, causing them to no longer understand each other. The people then scatter

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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throughout the earth stopping the work they had begun. They assemble together with those who speak as they do but the confusion of languages causes disunity in the earth. Why tongues?

Why not tongues? God gives a unified heavenly language of the spirit to bring people back to one purpose, building the kingdom of God. The key words here are that they spoke as the Holy Spirit gave them utterance. It was not a man's idea, it was a God idea to again unify the people of the earth as Eph 4:4-6 says, "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as you are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, One faith, One Baptism, One God and Father of us all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. So wear your red in celebration of the unity the Spirit brings and remember to speak as the Spirit gives you utterance. Happy Birthday Church.

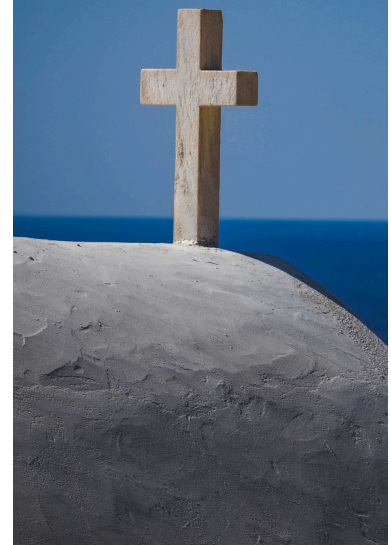
This writing first appeared in our newsletter June 2025 but bears repeating.

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





KPC Pastoral Transition Update

As a reminder, we will be having a potluck/farewell party for Pastor Michaela on June 7. Please plan to join us in celebrating our time with her! In the coming months we will be going through a call process as laid out by the PCUSA (https://pcusa.org/sites/default/files/call_process_checklist.pdf). The session has already met with our Presbytery contact who will be guiding us through the process, Rev. Rebecca Lawson Putman. Pastor Becca serves at Westminster Presbyterian Church on 34th St, and she will be coming to our farewell party on June 7 so everyone has a chance to meet her. During the summer, the session will be going through a period of discernment with the congregation and the presbytery as we envision our hopes and aspirations for the next stage of the life and mission of KPC. Through this process, we will formally set out our criteria for our new pastoral call and elect a Pastor Nomination Committee (PNC). The PNC will be comprised of 4-5 members of the congregation, with the majority made up of members who are not currently serving on the session. The PNC will be responsible for working with the Presbytery to post the call, screen candidates, and ultimately make a recommendation to the congregation for our next pastor. The session has also met with someone who can serve as our interim pastor beginning in June and we are going through the formal process of approval with the Presbytery of St. Augustine.

Kanapaha Presbyterian Session



KANAPAHA'S CABINETS



Kanapaha's Cabinets: A Successful Act of Care and Compassion

We are overjoyed to report the outstanding success of our recent Kanapaha's Cabinets drive for Kanapaha Middle School! Thanks to the generous hearts of our church family, we collected and delivered nearly \$2,000 worth of essential personal care items — including underwear, sanitary napkins, leggings, deodorant, and other hygiene products. These donations will stock the school's dignity cabinets, giving students discreet access to items they need to feel clean, comfortable, and dignified. School staff expressed heartfelt appreciation for the support, sharing how these cabinets help identify students facing challenges at home while removing barriers that can affect their focus and self-esteem every day.

By providing these basic necessities with love and no judgment, we are helping young people walk through their school days with greater confidence and peace of mind. This initiative beautifully reflects our mission to love and serve our neighbors, especially the most vulnerable among us.

Thank you to everyone who donated items, time, and prayers! Your generosity is making a tangible difference in the lives of these students. If you'd like to be part of future outreach efforts like this, please contact the mission committee or watch for upcoming announcements.

Mission Committee



Our next KPC Mission Ministry will be to assist Family Promise of Gainesville. Family Promise serves homeless families and works with them to find employment and housing.

Due to changes in the program, at this time, churches are not hosting families.

We have an alternative way to support the program. This year we will not be providing meals and support to individual churches. However, Family Promise has other needs for supplies for the families.

There are two ways that you can help.

1. Go online and type Family Promise of Gainesville in your browser. There is a band at the top of the screen. Click on the donate button, then on the Amazon wish list; you will draw up the entire list of items they want. If you sort by most recently added then priority high to low, you will find the most wanted items. You can donate items directly. If you spend over \$35, then Amazon will ship the items free directly to Family Promise. The QR code above will also link you directly to the Amazon wish list.
2. The other way to give is to make a donation to KPC for Family Promise and the Mission Committee will buy the items through the Amazon Wish list site or you can give gift cards of any kind but Wawa and Walmart are the most welcome.

If you wish to donate, please write on the envelope the amount and Family Promise or on the memo line of your check, and we will order from the Amazon Wish list site. Gift cards can be dropped in the plate to be delivered by us. If you have any questions, talk to Mary Searle.

Thank you for your generosity for all KPC mission ministries. We could not do it without you.

Mission Committee

Romans 12:13 Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.



Troop Highlights: Making a Difference in the Community

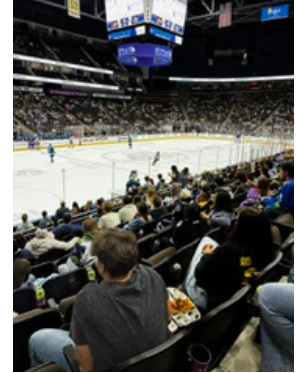
The Boy Scout Troop has been active in service projects and special events this season. Through hands-on community work, support for local youth, and recognition of dedicated leaders, the Scouts continue to demonstrate the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

Cemetery Cleanup Efforts

The Scouts rolled up their sleeves for a respectful cemetery cleanup project. They cleared debris, tidied the grounds, cleaned headstones, and helped restore the peaceful setting of the site. This service honors veterans, families, and community members laid to rest there while emphasizing the importance of remembrance and stewardship. The troop's hard work made a visible difference and received strong praise from the community.

Fishing Pole Donations Received

The troop was grateful to receive a generous donation of fishing poles. These poles will support local Scouts and families by opening doors to outdoor adventures, helping build patience, fishing skills, and an appreciation for nature. The equipment will be put to good use on future troop fishing trips and create lasting memories for the Scouts. A big thank-you to the donors who made this possible!



Leader Appreciation Night with the Jacksonville Icemen

The troop held a memorable Leader Appreciation Night in partnership with the Jacksonville Icemen. The evening featured exciting hockey action and a special recognition of the adult leaders who dedicate their time to mentoring Scouts, planning outings, and guiding the troop. The Jacksonville Icemen organization helped create a fun and energetic atmosphere to honor these volunteers.

These activities highlight the core of Scouting: building character, serving others, and strengthening community connections. Parents and potential volunteers—watch for upcoming sign-ups and ways to get involved.

Yours in Scouting,
Troop 371
Leadership Team



Wayne Carr

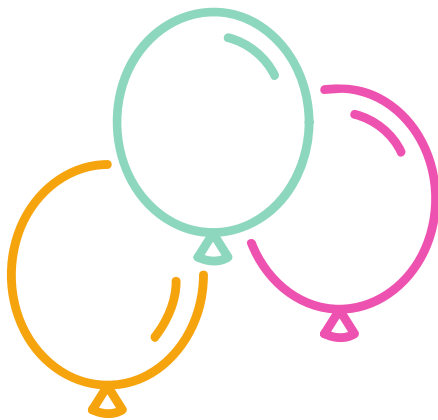
May 11th

Mike Jamerson

May 12th

Bill Bahlke

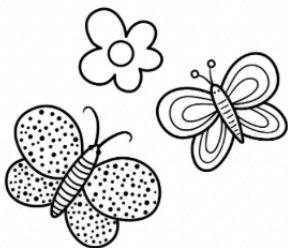
May 29th



MOTHER'S DAY

WORD SEARCH

P A R E N T H V A L I Y
M O M F R I U A C O A S
S O L A R D G S H V S W
C Q M M O I S K I I N E
A S O I G L E F L N E E
R O C L I I D N D G T K
I C S Y N Y V B D I B I
N C T E N D N I I S O N
G E J N O S G L N O A D
H E L P F U L L G G F F
Y F D D T S L T G P S D
S M O T H E R L L O H T



KIND

HUGS

FAMILY

CARING

MOTHER

GIVING

FRIEND

MOM

CHILD

PARENT

HELPFUL

LOVING

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, May 3rd

Potluck

Sunday, May 10th

Mother's Day

Saturday, May 16th

Scouts Crossover Ceremony

Wednesday, May 20th

Session Meeting 7pm

Sunday, May 24th

**Pentacost Sunday
Magic Penny**

Monday, May 25th

Office Closed

Saturday, May 30th

Stated Presbytery Mtg 9:30am

Sunday, June 7th

**Potluck/Celebration of Pastors
Service/Called Congregational Mtg**



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**Kanapaha Presbyterian Church
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) |