

News From KANAPAHA Presbyterian Church

Newsletter October 2025

Join Us...

Sunday Morning Worship 10:am in Sanctuary

Note From Pastor

Thanks

In this season of harvest we are reminded to stop and give thanks to God for the blessings we have received. My question today is, "How many times do we live like we are grateful to God and to others who work on our behalf?" Christians especially should understand the debt of gratitude we owe to God and demonstrate that to other people. Or are we stuck focusing on what we do not have?

We live in this world seldom thinking of the blessings that have kept us alive and the people who have been a part of those blessings. We seldom thank those who prepare our meals, who work in our office, or perform tasks that we ourselves don't want to do. In fact, if the people we contact aren't as important, classy, or rich as we think we are, we often pay them no mind. We walk past them without acknowledging their existence or a word of greeting. And yet, they continue to do the work they are called to do, each one fitting into the plan, each doing their part, each adding to the world. Sometimes the ones with the lowest place on the ladder of success are more necessary than the guy in charge. Let me share a story that brings this point home.

Charles Plumb, a U.S. Naval Academy graduate, was a jet fighter pilot in Vietnam. After 75 combat missions, his plane was destroyed by a surface-to-air missile. Plumb ejected and parachuted into enemy hands. He was captured and spent six years in a Communist prison. He survived that ordeal and now lectures about lessons learned from that experience.

One day, when Plumb and his wife were sitting in a restaurant, a man at another table came up and said, "You're Plumb! You flew jet fighters in Vietnam from the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk. You were shot down!" "How in the world did you know that?" asked Plumb.

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"I packed your parachute," the man replied. Plumb gasped in surprise and gratitude. The man pumped his hand and said, "I guess it worked!"

Plumb assured him, "It sure did – if your chute hadn't worked, I wouldn't be here today."

Plumb couldn't sleep that night, thinking about that man. Plumb says, "I kept wondering what he might have looked like in a Navy uniform – a Dixie cup hat, a bib in the back, and bell bottom trousers. I wondered how many times I might have passed him on the Kitty Hawk. I wondered how many times I might have seen him and not even said 'Good morning, how are you,' or anything because, you see, I was a fighter pilot, and he was just a sailor."

Plumb thought of the many hours the sailor had spent on a long wooden table in the bowels of the ship carefully weaving the shrouds and folding the silks of each chute, holding in his hands each time the fate of someone he didn't know.

Now, Plumb asks his audience, "Who's packing your parachute? Everyone has someone who provides what they need to make it through the day." <https://churchletters.org/category/church-bulletin-articles>

Take time out to encourage and thank the people who pack the parachutes in your life and the God who provided the silk.

Blessings

Pastor

Cemetery Clean up Day November 1st 2025

There is a Cemetery Work Day on Saturday, November 1st from 9 AM to Noon-ish. The cemetery is located at 4101 SW 63rd Blvd., off Archer Road. It was the site of the first Kanapaha Church built in 1859. We need help picking up sticks, trimming bushes and around headstones, cleaning some headstones and replacing American flags ahead of Veterans Day. Please bring work gloves, bug spray and any tools you may have to help. Many hands make light work!

Any questions, just ask Karen Kirkman, kvkirkman@gmail.com.



Family Promise: (A letter from Family Promise)

Weekly greetings from Family Promise of Gainesville!

Recently, we took in two new families!! One is located in Putnam County and has successfully located housing, and the other is in Alachua and has successfully located housing as well!

One family of 5 that has been living in their van for the last 4 months has been approved for housing. They will get to move into their 3 bedroom apartment next week. Another family of 6 has secured a new housing unit after the one they were originally placed in fell through, due to the fact that her small child has autism and the neighbors below her complained because they made too much noise.

Another one of our clients just landed a wonderful job with released reentry thanks to her hard work, perseverance, and the support we receive from all of you! With that, we are currently serving 148 individuals, 62 adults, and 86 children.

In donations, we have a client in Starke who is having ongoing issues with her phone. This is making it difficult for her to work and be in touch with her kids' teachers, which is problematic since her son has severe autism and she needs to be reachable. If we could get her a phone of some kind, possibly used or prepaid, it would make a big difference for her. We also have a client asking me if anyone might have a spare tablet for her kids available. As always, we are updating our amazon wish list for our families weekly.

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1L6FHTS7E3ZE5?leftNavSection=Reorder&ref=abls_inv_rl&source=leftnav



October Birthday celebrities



Happy Birthday



Thomas	Warren	10-16
Nate	Jamerson	10-18
William	Claus	10-22
Joan	Russell	10-30



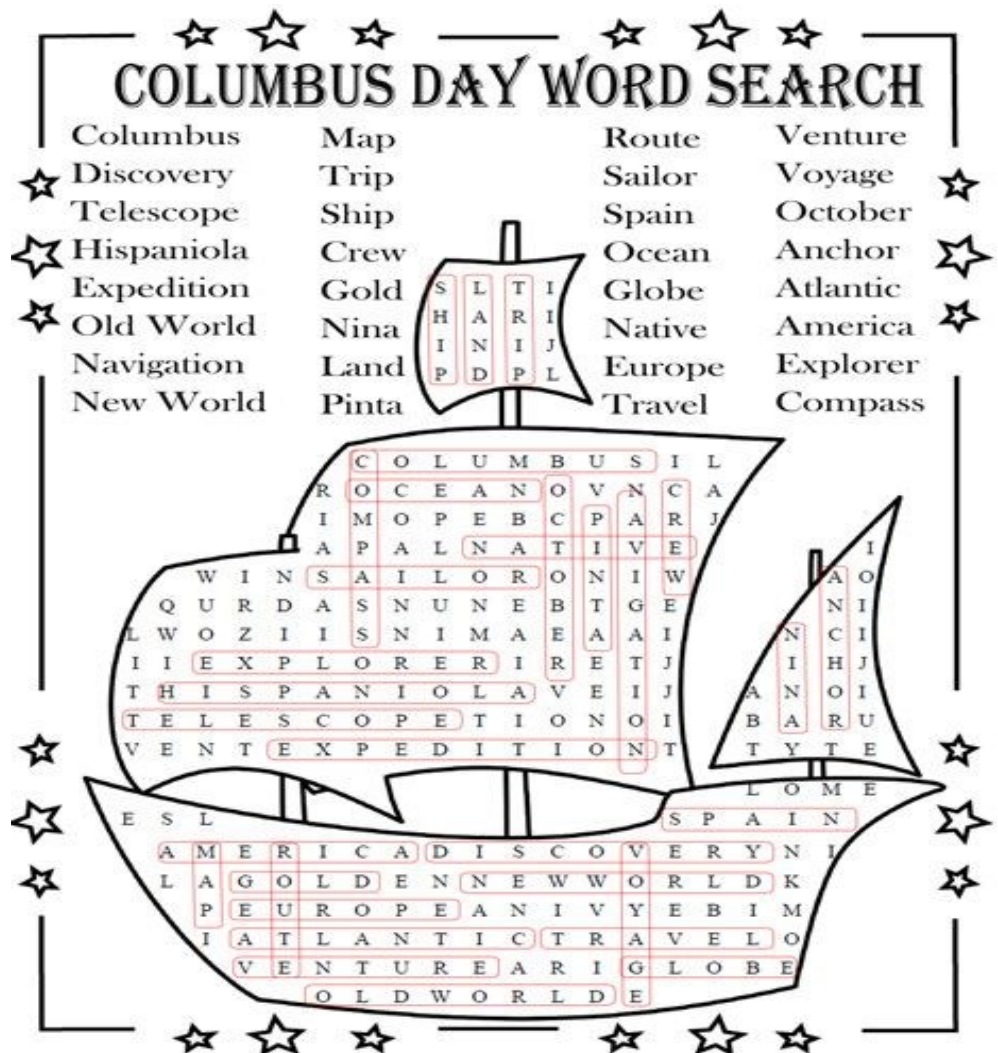
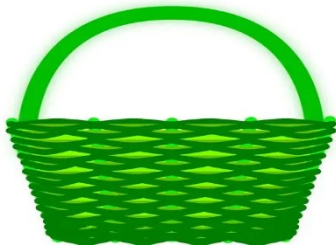
Magic Penny:

KPC will continue collecting donations the last Sunday of each month to go towards Gainesville Community Ministry. It is a hands up organization that assists in times of crisis by providing food, clothing, securing employment, counseling, and its own dental clinic.

Fall is the busiest time for the Mission Committee.

Colleen Harrell Thanksgiving Baskets:

Starting in October, we will be getting ready for our annual Colleen Harrell Thanksgiving Baskets. The baskets will go to 13 Wiles Elementary food insecure families chosen by the school's guidance counselor. The baskets will include a turkey AND a ham and all the Thanksgiving fixings, including a pie. In the back of the church, we will have half sheets listing suggested food items and a green bucket to place the food in. In addition, we will have a few more green buckets in the Memorial Hall. Turkeys and hams will go in the upright freezer in KPC's kitchen. Please consider donating to this worthy mission.



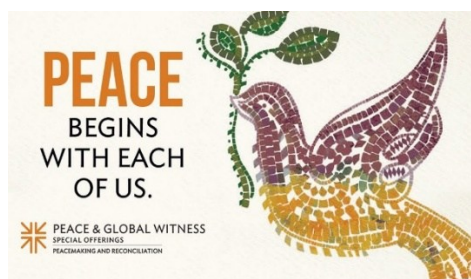


Calendar Of Event

October 05	Sunday	World Communion Sunday
October 07-14-21-28	Tuesday	Bible Study (11:am) All are welcome
October 11	Saturday	Fall Stated Presbytery Meeting (TBA) 9:30 am
October 13	Monday	Columbus Day Office Closed
October 15	Wednesday	Session meeting 6:00pm
October 19	Sunday	Youth Luncheon Fundraiser
October 26	Sunday	Magic Penny
October 27	Monday	Newsletter deadline
October 31	Friday	Halloween

Minute for Mission volunteers will give a talk on Sept 28th and Oct 5th.

Peacemaking and Global Witness Offering:





Kanapaha Presbyterian Church
Est. 1859

Rev. Michael Wood	Pastor	
Bill Balke	Administration & Finance	Class of 2028
Kaley Behl	Buildings & Grounds Cemetery Management	Class of 2026
Karen Kirkman	Special Projects & Promotions Church History & Cemetery Management	Class of 2025
Janet Phipps	Worship & Nurture Children's Education Clerk of Session	Class of 2025
Nilda Alicea - Secretary		