

CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

Eblast

October 30, 2025

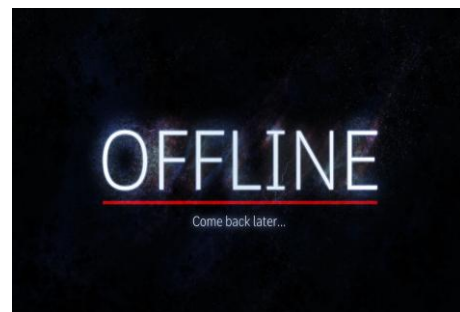


WORSHIP WITH US ON SUNDAY AT 11 A.M.



Daylight savings time ends on Sunday Nov 2nd. Don't forget to set your clock's back 1 hour before you go to bed this Saturday, the 1st. You wouldn't want to be too early for Sunday School (at 9:30) or for Church (at 11.)

This Saturday's 5:15 p.m. service will not be broadcast. Live streaming will resume next Saturday.



FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

Can you believe it is November already? This Sunday is the first Sunday of the month, therefore all open plate contributions will be directed to the discretionary fund and will then be sent to the Bridge to help those less fortunate in the Valley.

A message to The Episcopal Church from Executive Council: October 2025

After the conclusion of its meeting Oct. 20-21 at Kanuga conference center in Hendersonville, North Carolina, The Episcopal Church's Executive Council shared the following letter to the church. Read prior council letters to the church [here](#).

The Executive Council of the Episcopal Church met at the Kanuga Conference Center and Camp near Hendersonville in the Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina, which is still recovering from the disastrous flooding of Hurricane Helene last fall, and as Western Alaska is experiencing unprecedented coastal flooding caused by Typhoon Halong.

This is a time of increasingly rapid climate change, a time filled with ambient fear, rage, and tension, especially for historically marginalized people. In a time such as this, what is the response of the church? And how do we ensure that our response doesn't harm more than it helps those most vulnerable?

How do we balance providing much needed material help with the courage to speak truth to power while also avoiding statements that might draw the attention of immigration authorities to our congregations and ministries helping those most threatened?

The Rev. Nancy Frausto, one of the chaplains to Executive Council, exhorted members to be part of a "Gospel movement" against injustice—a prophetic and nonpartisan movement, rooted in the teachings of Jesus.

Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe and President of the House Deputies Julia Ayala Harris built on Frausto's exhortation. [Rowe reflected](#) on The Episcopal Church's response to "the increasingly desperate political situation in the United States" and on the care leaders in the church and elsewhere must take as we work to support Latino congregations and ministry in our dioceses.

[President Harris spoke](#) of the recent statement by GAFCON (Global Anglican Future Conference) claiming to constitute a separate "Global Anglican Communion" while declaring that our call remains the same.

"We are to stay anchored to the Gospel, not to chase each organizational shift in fear, but to lead with clarity, accountability, and faithfulness," she said. "We are called to steadiness, to model what it looks like to lead with courage, to govern with integrity, and to stay anchored in the Gospel when the ground beneath us moves."

Bishop Rowe said that leaders must take their cues from bishops and leaders on the front lines at the southern border and in other places with large immigrant populations. He said, "One thing they often ask us is not to issue statements full of outrage and rhetoric that draws attention to their programs, even though what is happening to our communities is devastating ... But all too often, shining a bright light on injustice also shines a bright light on people suffering from injustice and makes them more vulnerable to immigration enforcement raids and surveillance."

While it might feel cathartic to issue strong statements, those statements could be disastrous to "the very people for whom we are advocating," he said. "We do not always understand the harm

it can do to the people we most want to protect.”

Bishop Rowe also is in frequent touch with Jerusalem Archbishop Hosam Naoum, “getting his counsel both about what we can do to support him and what we can refrain from doing,” he said. One way to do that is to limit public statements about Gaza while continuing work to make “a material difference in the lives of Palestinian people in Gaza and all Palestinians.”

In a July [op-ed for Religion News Service](#), Bishop Rowe said he wrote about “what it means for our church, which was once known as the church of the Founding Fathers and presidents, to become an engine of resistance to the rising tide of authoritarianism in the United States and around the globe.”

In that essay, he wrote, “We did not seek this predicament, but God calls us to place the most vulnerable and marginalized at the center of our common life, and we must follow that command regardless of the dictates of any political party or earthly power. We are now being faced with a series of choices between the demands of the federal government and the teachings of Jesus, and that is no choice at all.”

Following the opening addresses, the council heard from Beth-Sarah Wright of the Absalom Jones Center for Racial Healing.

In her presentation, “Authentic Leadership Through the Lens of Dignity,” Wright explained a process of deciding to learn; being willing to listen deeply; understanding that honoring differences is honoring dignity; being willing to lean into discomfort; and to act with courage. She walked council members through the differences between debate and dialogue: For instance, with dialogue, finding common ground is the goal. In debate, winning is the goal; in dialogue, one listens to understand, find meaning, and agreement. In debate, one listens to find flaws and counter arguments.

Her DIGNITY lens includes Diversity (who is here/who is missing?), Identity (our identity is our anchor), Growth (are we willing to grow and change?), Nurture (become imagineers), Integrity (are we doing what we say we’re doing?), Transparency (know the purpose, tell the story), and Yield (what do we want our work to yield?). And she centered a quote from Henry David Thoreau, “It is not what you look at that matters . . . it’s what you see.”

Wright asked the council to look again at the baptismal promises; do we hear them differently if spoken by an organization or a community? What new pathways could be opened by basing our work in the baptismal covenant? For instance, if the promise says, “I believe in God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth,” then The Episcopal Church is saying, “We affirm God as the source of life, creation, and human dignity,” and we show that by our work—Creation Care

Task Force, environmental resolutions, and sustainability audits.

And what new pathway might be opened? “Could this deepen our integration of creation care and environmental justice into financial investments, resource allocation, and global mission priorities?” Wright noted in her presentation.

An integrity audit for Executive Council might ask, “What does the Executive Council say about its purposes as rooted in the baptismal covenant? How it is being lived out? In what ways is it not being lived out?”

Wright’s presentation gave the council a sense of the “kind of resources we are making available to dioceses and then make available to the whole church,” Bishop Rowe said. “As part of our commitment to investing in and supporting dioceses, we have launched an expanded partnership with the Absalom Jones Center.”

In his report to the council, Bishop Rowe asked, “How do we respond strategically to the needs of the church and the world?”

He shared eight strategic priorities: resisting growing authoritarianism in the United States; building capacity for ministry; undertaking structural reforms; investing in innovation; building a new website; developing leaders; strengthening resources for dispute resolution and Title IV; and realigning programmatic work.

So what is happening? The presiding bishop and his staff are reevaluating programs and conferences, silos, and funding commitments. Bishop Rowe referred to Jesus raising Lazarus, then telling the crowd that it was up to them to “unbind him and let him go.”

It is up to us in the church to do the work to unbind the potential of the church and let it out into the world.

The report of Chief Financial Officer Chris Lacovara delivered encouraging news that The Episcopal Church is in good financial shape, with a 2025 year-to-date surplus of \$.7 million, \$1.9 million favorable to budget; most programs expect to spend full budgeted amounts in the balance of the year, with \$1.5 million of annual grants and additional program expense expected in the fourth quarter, and a 2025 forecast surplus of \$219,000, \$469,000 favorable to budgeted deficit.

Executive Council celebrated a piece of work finally finished after nearly 20 years—the issue of a new location and facility for the Archives of The Episcopal Church. The new permanent home will be on a 3.5-acre site in Oakwood, Georgia, about 40 minutes from Atlanta. Larry Hitt, chair of the Archives Advisory Committee who has been working on this for years, announced it by saying, “I bring you good tidings of great joy!” If things go as planned, the new

home will be open in the spring of 2027.

A report from the Committee to Reimagine General Convention laid out a vision of General Convention with mornings devoted to prayer and reflection, afternoons to legislative work, and evenings for fellowship. There is talk of a new software to help make it easier to track resolutions and see changes made as they move through the legislative process.

Becoming Beloved Community and other grants were approved, and new members were greeted and immediately pulled into the work. New council member Crystal Plummer was elected by Province V to fill the unexpired term that was created when Louisa McKellaston joined the presiding bishop's staff on Aug. 1. Plummer is canon for networking in the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago and serves as secretary of the Episcopal Coalition for Racial Equity and Justice. We also greeted Bishop Helen Kennedy, liaison from the Anglican Church of Canada. She has served as bishop of the Diocese of Qu'Appelle in Saskatchewan since 2022 and is the first female bishop in that province.

At the back of the stage in the room in which the council met at Kanuga, a portion of the AIDS Memorial Quilt hangs in haunting sad beauty. It holds eight panels creating a 12-by-12-foot square. Longtime deputy and former president of Integrity USA Bruce Garner explained that the southeastern United States, in which Province IV of The Episcopal Church sits, has the highest HIV infection rates in the nation. He volunteers at Kanuga.

As the meeting was winding up, the council welcomed Bishop José McLoughlin's report on the Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina's ordeal in the wake of Hurricane Helene.

Three days of record-breaking rain, rivers rising 8 to 9 feet, landslides, wind damage, infrastructure loss, displacement, housing shortages, wildfires, and environmental fallout produced a total economic loss of \$59.6 billion in damages and recovery needs. And that's not even touching on the loss of human lives.

In the diocese, consisting of 28 counties in Western North Carolina, 23 churches were damaged, the Cathedral of All Souls in Asheville is uninhabitable, both diocesan conference centers were impacted, and there were millions of dollars in church and property damages and losses.

So how did they cope? They used the image of the body of Christ:

- One suffers, all suffer; one rejoices, all rejoice in this together.
- Various gifts and limitations mean collaboration is key.
- Equal concern for all parts of the body with particular attention to the most vulnerable.

The program goal, [stated on the diocese's website](#), was to “leverage the gifts of our congregations, donors, and partners to support the recovery of impoverished and marginalized people affected by natural disasters in our region through building relationships and stewarding resources that center dignity and quality work at a sustainable pace for long-term recovery efforts.”

Using local talents, labor, and companies on the repair work was part of the plan, offering work on a sustainable basis. They pledged to care for the caregivers, defined as anyone who offers care to another during rescue, relief or recovery. They published a [Virtual Volunteer Resource Guide](#) and make it available online as part of a Disaster Resource Hub on their diocesan website. They offer several videos—for example, “[Packing your Go/Stay Prep Kit.](#)”

Most of all, McLoughlin said, they vowed to, as a group of local artists painted on a stack of concrete bricks, “Flood Back Love.”

It is advice we can all take to heart. By flooding back love in the face of authoritarian aggression, natural disasters, and financial struggles, we can not only live out the imperatives of our baptismal promises, but we can also offer hope to a hurting world.

CORN MAZE ADVENTURE!



Last Saturday evening, the Youth Group, accompanied by some young at heart adults, went to Miller's Farm in Columbia Cross Roads to take a hay ride, walk through a 7 acre corn maze, and enjoy a cozy fire by the fire pit. Pictured above, Jamison Root, Trinity Stone and Nick Mizener. Below they are joined by Canon Melinda and Margaret Cole.



November 1 & 2 Lessons

First Lesson: Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18

Psalm: 146

Second Lesson: Ephesians 1:11-23

Gospel: Luke 6:20-31



Birthdays & Anniversaries



Harold Anderson	10/31
Joseph Rhodes	11/1
Sarah Schamel	11/2
Laurie Davies	11/4
Alexis Frisbie	11/6
Harold Anderson	11/8

Paul & Heather Romano	11/4
Tom & Linda Dix	11/8

Scripture Reflection



Who are the saints that have accompanied you in the life of faith?

WE NEED YOU!

We are in need of people willing to help with reading the lessons and prayers on Sunday as well as ushers and greeters. If you are willing to help please see Canon Melinda or Margaret Cole. They will be happy to answer your questions and concerns.



The Bridge's 23rd Annual **Sleepout** 24-hour Fundraiser

Friday, November 28, 2025, 3:00 pm thru Saturday, November 29, 2025,

The Sleepout is not just a fundraiser! Join us for an hour in a "shelter" in the parking lot of the Guthrie Desmond Street Practice, 105 Desmond St., Sayre PA. Help us raise awareness of the needs in our community & how *The Bridge* works to meet those needs.

The Sleepout goal is to raise \$15,000

How can you help?



- Pray for the Sleepout, the ministries of *The Bridge*, and those served.
- Spend one hour at the Sleepout with a church group, family, or friends.
- Visit the Sleepout shelter during the event.
- Encourage donations.

Consider spending an hour
with us!

The Bridge
P.O. Box 202
Sayre, PA 18840

For more information or to sign-up for an hour, contact Kim at (570) 867-2628 (call or text) or sleepout@thevalleybridge.org.

The Bridge provides emergency vouchers to those who find themselves facing the loss of utilities, housing and other needs, as well as food, clothing, and furniture.

We serve those residing within the Athens, Sayre and Waverly school districts. Contact us to get involved in the year-round ministry of The Bridge!





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The Golden Rule

Do to others as you would have them do to you. Luke 6:31 (NIV)

The activity is based on words found in Luke 6:27-38

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Replace each number in the puzzle with the corresponding letter to reveal the secret words.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

6-18-9-5-14-4-19 _____

12-15-22-5 _____

23-9-3-11-5-4 _____

8-1-20-5 _____

16-18-1-25 _____

7-15-15-4 _____

5-14-5-13-25 _____

18-5-23-1-18-4 _____

FRIENDS
PRAY

LOVE
GOOD

WICKED
ENEMY

HATE
REWARD





The Golden Rule

Do to others as you would have them do to you. Luke 6:31 (NIV)

The activity is based on words found in Luke 6:27-38

Complete the sentences by filling in the blanks with the correct words from the word bank at the bottom of the page.

1. Love your _____. do good to those who hate you.
2. Bless those who curse you, _____ for those who mistreat you.
3. If someone slaps you on one _____, turn to them the other also.
4. Do to _____ as you would have them do to you.
5. If you _____ those who love you, what _____ is that to you?
6. Be _____, just as your _____ is merciful.
7. Then your _____ will be great, and you will be _____ of the Most High

enemies

others

cheek

children

pray

love

merciful

reward

Father

credit

