Fellowship Speaker Series
Living our Faith in a Complex World

In the spring of 2026, Fellowship Presbyterian Church hosted a speaker series organized by Voices Together NOW. The idea for the speaker series came from the Missions Ministry Team. As a Matthew 25 Church, Fellowship has pledged to promote congregational vitality. The series invited us to deepen our faith, widen our relationships, and engage our community in justice, care and creation. Each session brought a critical issue into our shared life — we listened, learned, reflected — and then stepped forward together in action. The sessions were well attended. Five organizations presented information which generated numerous questions and rich discussion. Below is some of the information that was shared and a list of action steps you can take.

Combating Human Trafficking - AbolitionNC

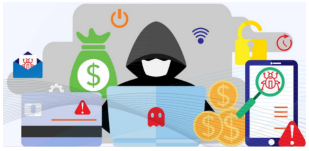


Victims of Human Trafficking are not faceless people from far away. In the documentary "Bring to Light," victims of Human Trafficking identify themselves as being from Summerfield and Winston-Salem. To support AbolitionNC's work, go to https://www.abolitionnc.org.

Calls to Action

- Assemble community care bags and include AbolitionNC's hotline cards with various crisis numbers. Keep a few in your car to offer when appropriate.
- Host a Bring to Light showing at your church, workplace, or community group. Help spread awareness across North Carolina.
- Take steps to protect the young people in your life. Access free internet-safety resources at FreewayNC.org.
- Join the North Carolina Coalition Against Human Trafficking. Connect with statewide prevention and advocacy efforts at NCCAHT.org.
- Sign up to volunteer with AbolitionNC or another local anti-trafficking organization. Together we can make a great impact: AbolitionNC.org/volunteer.
- Give at AbolitionNC.org/give to support prevention in North Carolina schools and communities. Your generosity equips students, educators, and families with life-saving information.

Protection Ourselves from Scams and Frauds - North Carolina Department of Justice



Anyone can be targets of scams and frauds. In fact, the age group targeted most is 18 to 25 year olds. Three tips to avoid being scammed: 1) Do not answer a call unless your are certain who is calling. 2) Never respond to a random text like, "Are you there?" Once you do the sender knows its an active number and the scammer may sell your number to a marketing company. 3) Never click on a link or open an attachment in an email unless you are certain of the sender.

Calls to Action

- Host fraud awareness workshops. Invite NCDOJ, local law enforcement, or other consumer protection speakers.
- Share scam alerts in bulletins and newsletters.
- Remind congregants that congregational leaders will not request gift cards in secrecy.
- Create clear policies for donations. These policies should specify who is authorized to solicit funds on behalf of the congregation, which payment methods are approved, and how donations will be acknowledged and recorded. Leaders should ensure these policies are publicly available and regularly cited so congregants know what legitimate requests look like.
- Verify all financial requests through multiple channels. For example, a request received by email should be confirmed with a phone call, in-person conversation, or other types of direct contact with a faith leader using an official contact list.

From Preservation to Purpose: Stewardship and the Living Legacy - Piedmont Land Conservancy



Guilford Woods is a 120-acre forest located adjacent to and owned by Guilford College. It is known as a stopping point along the Underground Railroad. Guilford Woods is surrounded on all sides by development. Without action, this irreplaceable forest could be permanently lost. College and the Piedmont Land Conservancy (PLC) have partnered to save the forest. The PLC hopes to buy the development rights from Guilford College, preserving the forest and providing financial security for the college. To give to the campaign, go to https://www.piedmontland.org/savingguilfordwoods/

Calls to Action

- Tour Guilford Woods to see how land preservation connects to justice and ecology; pair with a reflection on environmental racism and stewardship.
- Make a financial contribution to the preservation of Guilford Woods.
- Become familiar with the PCUSA ministries and policies related to environmental stewardship at https://pcusa.org/environment.
- Watch "This is Greensboro with Rosemary Plybon - Saving Guilford Woods " at https://www.youtube.com/live/_4pDVFZq0Eo .
- Read a brief history of the Underground Railroad on History.com at https://www.history.com/articles/underground-railroad.

Exploring Religious Tolerance - Greensboro Jewish Federations



The Federation explained the history of the Jewish people giving a framework for why Jews have been persecuted and continue to be persecuted. Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities. The Federation gave recent examples of antisemitism here in North Carolina. Antisemitism often presents itself as part of Conspiracy narratives. Jews are portrayed as secretly controlling banks, media, governments, and global events. These narratives are found across the ideological spectrum — from white nationalist forums to mainstream social media. Jews are an ethno-religious group, indigenous to the land of Israel. The Jewish people are multi-racial this narratives are and multi-ethnic. Because of thousands of years of persecution, Jews were forced into a diasporic experience, and now have populations spread across the world.There are only 15.8 million Jews in the world today. Only 0.2% of the world's population is Jewish. for more information go to https://www.shalomgreensboro.org.

Calls to Action

- Examine your language: Review your congregation's teaching materials, sermon archives, and social media presence for antisemitic tropes — particularly around Jewish power, guilt, or obsolescence.
- Build the relationship before the crisis: Introduce yourself to your local Jewish Federation, synagogue, or Jewish community organization now, not in the aftermath of an incident.
- Speak up when you see it: When a member, a sermon, or a shared post traffics in antisemitic framing, address it directly and educationally. Silence is read as endorsement.
- Attend Jewish communal events: Be present at Shabbat, Holocaust remembrance programs, and Federation events. Presence communicates solidarity more powerfully than a statement.
- Formalize the commitment: Adopt a congregational statement on antisemitism. Create an interfaith relationship with a local Jewish institution. Put it in writing.

Christian Nationalism: What is it? Why should we care?



Christian Nationalism was recently recognized by PCUSA General Assembly as "a dangerous and increasingly pervasive ideology that seeks to merge national identity with Christian identity." It distorts both the Christian faith and America's constitutional democracy. It is an exertion of power to enforce borders based on the myth that the US was, is, and should be a Christian nation, demanding that Christianity be privileged by the state and implying that to be a good American, one must be Christian. It is believed to overlap with and provide cover for white supremacy and racial injustice. The Christian Nationalist plan is to bring about the dominion of all seven "Spheres" of society referred to as The Seven Mountain Mandate: Family, Religion, Education, Media, Business, Entertainment and Government. Its origins go back to the 1950s, but it has been sharply on the rise with the implementation of the Heritage Foundation's Project 2025.

Calls to Action

- Watch the full length documentary "Bad Faith" to learn more about the rise of Christian Nationalism in American politics. There is a 2024 version and updated 2026 version that runs 77 mins. It is available on streaming apps and at badfaithdocumentary.com***.***
- Read Amanda Tyler's Book, "How to End Christian Nationalism," and follow her eight steps in your community. Join in a book study on zoom with PNCC/CACN-NC July 23 and July 30 on Zoom at 7 pm: Register: http://bit.ly/HTECNJuly2026.
- The recent state budget includes Release Time for Religious Instruction (RTRI), requiring each NC School district to develop a policy about how to implement this. Encourage your local school board to ensure limited disruptions and safety for the children.
- Check out the PCUSA Office of Public Witness booklet "Holy Discontentment: Grassroots Advocacy and Organizing in the PC(USA)" to get involved in local, state, and national advocacy for religious liberty and the separation of church and state.
- Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty has a podcast called "Respecting Religion," which provides current updates and commentary on Christian Nationalism in the news.https://bjconline.org.

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