



News in Brief

Sunday | June 28, 2026



Debra Gillispie, a survivor of gun violence and founder of Mothers Against Gun Violence, speaks to the participants of Healing Not Harm: A Walk to End Gun Violence on June 27. Photo by Kristen Gaydos.

A walk to end gun violence

After hearing from a variety of speakers Saturday morning during the “Healing Not Harm: A Walk to End Gun Violence” Community Day event, commissioners and advisory delegates to the 227th General Assembly prayed and made their way to Milwaukee City Hall.

“Good morning, General Assembly!” said the Rev. Jeannine Oakes Daugherty, pastor of North Shore Presbyterian Church in Milwaukee, from the gazebo at Père Marquette Park.

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TODAY'S SCHEDULE | All events are listed in Central Daylight Time (CDT)

7:30 A.M.
REGISTRATION
OPENS

MORNING
WORSHIP IN AREA
CONGREGATIONS

12 NOON
GA DAILY W/
FRED TANGEMAN

2:00 P.M.
PLENARY 2

7:00 P.M.
PLENARY 3

Film under production tells stories of preventing gun violence through healing

In a small conference room at Milwaukee's Baird Center on Saturday, a screen flashed with images of blacksmiths at work, T-shirts as tombstones, children scrambling for a basketball, and bright reds, blues and greens of a mural on a community center wall.

All these illustrations tell stories of how communities stop talking about how firearms kill and start preventing gun violence.

The screening of this as-yet unnamed documentary was part of the 227th General Assembly of Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).



David Barnhart discusses how communities have shifted their focus from the terror and loss of gun violence to what communities are doing to prevent it. Photo by Jim Deweese

David Barnhart and Michelle Muñoz led the clips of a documentary under production speak for themselves. They work for Counter Stories Production, a ministry of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

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Women of Milwaukee: Sarah, Margaret and Lois

In 1971, Ruling Elder Lois Stair (1923-1981) took to the stage as the newest moderator of the UPCUSA General Assembly.

This was a historic moment, as Stair was the first woman elected to the position — one of the highest leadership positions within the church. Stair had been serving as ruling elder at First Presbyterian Church of Waukesha, in Wisconsin, since 1957. Between then and her election as Moderator, she was a commissioner for General Assembly as well as moderator of Milwaukee Presbytery and the Synod of Wisconsin.

In her first address, after she stood at the podium and announced, "Here I am, filled with amazement and gratitude and standing in the need of prayer,"



Lois Stair, first woman moderator of GA

Stair posed a question to the assembly: "What sort of confidence should I have?" she asked. "Should I be like the young Black secretary made bold by the sign over her desk: 'Think uppity'? 'Think uppity'... I must have been thinking uppity to have accepted this nomination, and Milwaukee Presbytery must have been thinking uppity to nominate me."

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Dr. Osamah Khalil gave the keynote address at the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship gathering. (Photos by Rich Copley)

America's 'forever wars,' from Gaza to Minneapolis

Presbyterian Peace Fellowship held its Peace Gathering Friday at Immanuel Presbyterian Church, a beautiful 150-year-old church on the National Register of Historic Places.

Singer/songwriter Matthew Black got things going by leading those gathered in a spirited "No One is Getting Left Behind This Time," for which people stomp-clapped.

The gathering included awards, music, updates and a talk confronting the nation's "forever wars" from Gaza to Minneapolis.

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GA227 village gathers to meet, greet and learn



GA227 gathered Saturday afternoon to enjoy fellowship and learn more about PC(USA) entities and partners. (Photos by Rich Copley)

Saturday afternoon, the village that is the 227th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) gathered on the first floor of the Baird Center to learn more about the work of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and its partners in the Greater Milwaukee area and globally.

It was also a chance to gather swag from stickers to garden tools made from the parts of guns, see old friends, make new ones and take lots of selfies.

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Celebrating 60 years of the Jinishian Memorial Program

Where there was a will, there has surely been a way.

A way paved by Vartan H. Jinishian, a man of great faith and wealth, whose \$9.2 million bequest in 1966 established the Jinishian Memorial Program (JMP), which for six decades has provided economic, social and spiritual assistance to millions of Armenians in Syria, Lebanon, Istanbul, Armenia, Jerusalem and Georgia.

Founded in memory of Jinishian's parents, the Rev. Haroutune and Catherine Jinishian, and administered by the PC(USA), JMP helps people transition from poverty and despair to self-sufficiency and hope while serving as an excellent model of sustainable, impactful development in places of deep need.

As JMP's executive director, Eliza Minasyan, graciously welcomed guests to a festive reception



Eliza Minasyan addresses a gathering celebrating 60 years of the Jinishian Memorial Program. (Photos by Jim Deweese)

at the 227th General Assembly (2026) — including inviting them to enjoy Armenian sweets in colorful gift bags — she began her brief remarks by reflecting on “the remarkable wisdom and vision” contained in Jinishian’s original will.

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Called by God to fill God’s mission



The Rev. Jimmie Hawkins offers a sermon to about 80 Young Adult Advisory Delegates. Photo by Office of Public Witness.

About 80 Young Adult Advisory Delegates heard a sermon Thursday from the Rev. Jimmie Hawkins, Advocacy Director for the PC(USA) in Presbyterian Life & Witness.

Hawkins used Matthew 22:34-40 as his preaching text. He noted biblical examples of young people being called by God to fill God’s mission, including the calling of young Isaiah, young Jeremiah and Paul’s classic advice to young Timothy.

“You are Young Adult Advisory Delegates, a role of tremendous importance in the life of the church,” Hawkins told the YAADs. “Obviously, you want to serve God by the service you are rendering. You want to be faithful to being a disciple of Jesus to proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God. You want to do God’s will as a Presbyterian, part of a church Reformed and always being reformed.”

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