

Shenandoah Press

Special points of interest:

- Be a Matthew 25 Church
- Big Event
- Resource Center Items
- Church Information Wanted
- PC(USA) Special Offerings

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A Message from our General Presbyter

Our churches are made up of people wanting to help people. We have been raised to lend the helping hand whenever asked. The trouble happens when we don't ask for a helping hand for ourselves, even to our friends – because we don't want to be a bother or a burden to anyone. I don't know how many times I have heard that phrase, "I don't want to be a bother" as the person is clearly in need of help.

This all hit home last week as I learned of the death of a friend. She didn't want to be a bother so she didn't take any of the offers to take her to the doctor or the hospital. She didn't want to be a bother when someone stopped by her house to check on her but told the person not to bother to come in because she was "fine".

Friends, I don't want this to happen to anyone else. ASK FOR HELP! Take the offer when someone gives it to help take care of you. You are not being a bother – you are allowing someone else to share the love of God by taking care of you. And those of us that see that a person needs help but says don't bother – BOTHER! If your gut is telling you that you need to help – help! I know that we need to be respectful of people's wishes but I am not above being a "nudge" or a "nag" when someone needs help, especially when they say they can take care of themselves. Assess the situation do the right thing! Take them that chicken soup, drive them to the doctor, and check in with their family, whatever it takes – because I don't want you to feel the guilt of not having done what you could because you were trying to be nice.

Cold and flu season will be here shortly. Viruses seem to be stronger and move more quickly. So take care of yourself, help take care of others and allow yourself to be taken care of. In the name of the one who is the great healer, Jesus Christ.

See you around the Presbytery,

Bronwen



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The Big Event is Saturday, September 14 at Massanetta Springs in Harrisonburg, Virginia. [Click here for the brochure and registration.](#)

There is still time to register for the Mission Fair at the Big Event. [Click here for information and registration form.](#)

Associate General Presbyter—Nancy Meehan Yao

From Mary Oliver's poem "Sometimes"

Instructions for living a life:

- Pay attention.
- Be astonished.
- Tell about it.

This is the work of the church, I think.

We are called to **pay attention** to where God is at work in the world. The Bible uses the words "see" "behold", "perceive" for God's actions very frequently. Apparently we don't notice, and we need to be reminded.

Be astonished. William P. Brown writes of wonder as an essentially spiritual activity: "Put simply, wonder is what takes your breath away and gives it back. In common with all experiences of wonder is what wonder does to the one who experiences it: wonder places you on the boundary between fear and fascination, between awe and inquiry, between perplexity and curiosity... Wonder, for example, lies at the heart of the so-called motto of Proverbs: "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom" (9:10a; cf. 1:7a; Psalm 111:10)."

Tell about it. The church is called to tell about the wonder and astonishing goodness of God. We are called to be astonished at grace and mercy, and to tell about where we have experienced it, where we have noticed it. We are called to do this in our worship, in our personal lives, and out in the world that God so loves.

3 simple rules: Pay attention. Be astonished. Tell about it. Amen.

Blessings,
Nancy

Red Bird by Mary Oliver, published by Beacon Press, 2008.

<https://eerdword.com/2014/02/26/lost-in-wonder-found-in-wisdom-by-william-p-brown/>



Our Third Small Church Forums are Approaching!

From Paul Grier and Olanda Carr, Presbyterian Foundation

Our discussion will include re-invention vignettes: case studies of real PC(USA) congregations who have made sometimes-bold changes to strengthen their ministries. For each, we'll hear an overview of the work they undertook and explore the factors that led to success or disappointment.

Clergy and ruling elders are welcome to attend, and you may feel free to bring multiple representatives from each congregation. Please feel free to share this e-mail with others in your congregation that may be interested.

Our meetings are scheduled as follows:

- Wednesday, September 25 @ noon at the Gerrardstown Presbyterian Church
- Thursday, September 26 @ noon at First Presbyterian Church, Waynesboro

In order that we may begin promptly at noon, we ask that you arrive by 11:45 a.m. A light meal will be served, so please notify the presbytery office (assocgp@shenpres.org) of your plans to attend.

We look forward to seeing you in September.





Welcome to Shenandoah Presbytery! Newest Members of the Body



Seth Normington
Cooks Creek Church



Kelley Connelly,
Winchester First Church,
moves from Inquirer to
Candidate



Jacob Kave
Broadway Church



Jay Loshner, Interim
Massanutten Church



John McDonald, Interim
Falling Waters Church

BECOME A MATTHEW 25 CHURCH



MATTHEW 25

What is a Matthew 25 church?

Matthew 25:31–46 calls all of us to actively engage in the world around us, so our faith comes alive and we wake up to new possibilities. Convicted by this passage, both the 222nd and 223rd General Assemblies (2016 and 2018) exhorted the PC(USA) to act boldly and compassionately to serve people who are hungry, oppressed, imprisoned or poor.

How the vision unites all Presbyterians

By accepting the Matthew 25 invitation, you can help our denomination become a more relevant presence in the world. We recognize Christ's urgent call to be a church of action, where God's love, justice and mercy shine forth and are contagious. And we rejoice how our re-energized faith can unite all Presbyterians for a common and holy purpose: our common identity to do mission.

We invite you to join us on this journey! Become a Matthew 25 church. [Click here to find out how.](#)

Stated Meeting of Presbytery on August 24, 2019 at Moorefield Church



Warren Lasane,
Executive & Stated Clerk
Synod of the Mid-Atlantic



Jenna Smith, leader of
SPYCE for 12 years
"retires"



Triennium 2019 group reported on their trip



"Honorably Retired" was granted to
Tom Hay, former General Presbyter
of Shenandoah Presbytery



**Educational Hour at Presbytery Meeting-
Panel Discussion on Experiencing Racism**
Karen Greenawalt, Gerrardstown Church, with her
two daughters, and Warren Lasane

September is Disaster Preparedness Month

Disasters strike with little warning and produce chaos among families and communities, including churches. Shenandoah Presbytery has a Disaster Preparedness and Response Team that can help families and churches be prepared for disasters to reduce the chaos and improve the time for recovery. The Presbytery website has resources to help.

<http://shenpres.org/disaster-preparedness-response-team/>

There are several online resources for families to prepare. Both the Red Cross and FEMA have excellent advise on how to plan.

<https://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan>

<https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/make-a-plan.html>

For churches there are sample plans and resources on the Presbytery website. Carolyn Thalman, member of the Presbytery Team and the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance National Response Team is available to assist churches in creating disaster plans. (cjthalman@comcast.net).



News from Your Church Vitality and Transformation Committee

“Getting Ready for Company”

CCVT members Tracie Martin and David Witt will lead a workshop at the Big Event on September 14th at Massanetta Springs. “Getting Ready for Company” will help participants think about their hospitality before, during, and after welcoming guests. It will be a thoughtful and interactive time, but most of all, practical. Please join us. We’re ready for company!!

Toolbox Now Ready for You!

The CCVT Toolbox is practical resource guide for churches looking to engage in mission studies, cultural and climate change, and development and transformation. We want to put this tangible document into the hands of pastors/elders/congregations as we highlight vital resources for ministry in today’s world and culture. Be on the lookout for an email with a toolbox attachment this month.

For more information about CCVT, please contact David Witt, Chair, at pastor@opequonchurch.org or 540-662-1843.

YAV Program and Applications

The Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program is an ecumenical, faith-based year of service for young people (ages 19-30) in sites across the United States and around the world. YAVs accompany local agencies working to address root causes of poverty and reconciliation. Alongside this work, volunteers explore the meaning of their Christian faith and accountability to their neighbors in community with peers and mentors.



Program Benefits

Benefits during the year of service include a regular stipend, housing, all program-related transportation costs covered and student-loan assistance. We also invite young adults to engage in world issues, commit to self-reflection, listen to those who are being marginalized and learn in a new way .

The YAV year occurs from August to August. This is an exciting invitation to "a year of service for a lifetime of change." Applications for 2020 open November 1, 2019.

See <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/yav/> for more information.



What Time is Worship? Who is Your KCC?

The Shenandoah Presbytery is updating our website. We want to confirm our information is correct before we do that.

Please send the following information to Donna Lanaghan at shenpres@shenpres.org. Thank you so much!

Church Name
Church Address
Church Phone Number
Church Office email address
Church Website (if applicable)
Worship Time(s)

Pastor Name
Pastor email address
Pastor Phone Number

Key Church Communicator (KCC) Name
KCC email address

New Items at the Resource Center

Bible – B06 (Blue; Bible Studies)

Title: **Luke - Six Themes Everyone Should Know**

Author: **John T. Carroll**

Pastors & Ministry – S08 (Gray; Functions in Ministry)

Title: **A Guide to Preaching and Leading Worship**

Author: **William H. Willimon**

Pastors & Ministry – S04 (Gray; Professional Development)

Title: **Accidental Preacher A Memoir**

Author: **Will Willimon**

Bible – B06 (Blue; Bible Studies)

Title: **Creation - Participant's Book**

Author: **William P. Brown**

Bible – B06 (Blue; Bible Studies)

Title: **Creation – Leader's Guide**

Author: **Stephanie Sorge Wing**

Church & Other Religions – P03 (Pink; P3A – History, Creeds)

Title: **Race and Reconciliation**

Workbook: Confessions of 1967 and Belhar

Authors: Clifton Kirkpatrick and Eva Stimson

Education – R07 (Red; Youth)

Title: **Making Disciples - Mentor's Guide**

Author: **William H. Willimon**

Education – R07 (Red; Youth)

Title: **Making Disciples - Coordinator's Guide**

Author: **William H. Willimon**

Local Congregation – T01 (Brown; Administration/ Planning)

Title: **Completing The Circle**

Author: **David R. McMahill**

Bible – B06 (Blue; Bible Studies)

Title: **Love Carved in Stone - A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments**

2019- 2020 PW Horizons Bible Study

Authors: **Eugenia Anne Gamble** and **JoyceMacKichan Walker**

Church and Other Religions – P03 (Pink; P3A – History, Creeds)

Title: **A Study of the Belhar Confession and It's Accompanying Letter**

Author: **Eunice T. McGarrahan**

DVD:

Bible – B04 (Blue; Old Testament)

Title: **The Dead Sea Scrolls - Their Impact and Meaning**

Presenters: **James A. Brashler, Rodney S. Sadler, Jr., and Andreas Kurt Schuele**

PC(USA) Special Offerings

Falling Waters, Hedgesville, Tomahawk, Shepherdstown, Tabler, Bunker Hill, Halltown, Romney, Petersburg, Front Royal, Opequon, 1st Winchester, Highland Memorial, Collierstown, Mt Carmel, Smyrna, Covenant, 3rd, Staunton, Massanutten, Trinity, Cook's Creek, Bridgewater, Buffalo Gap and Hebron....

What do these churches all have in common?

Well, they are all Presbyterian. And they are all congregations in Shenandoah Presbytery. And they all are filled with faithful, generous people...who give to the 4 church wide Special Offerings of the PC(USA). Those 4 Special Offerings are:

One Great Hour of Sharing- usually received at Lent/Easter

The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Pentecost Offering- received around Pentecost

A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children. 40% of the Pentecost offering can be retained by individual congregations wanting to make an impact in the lives of young people within their own community. The remaining 60% is used to support children-at-risk, youth, and young adults through ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

Peace and Global Witness Offering- usually received around Worldwide Communion Sunday

A gift to the Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. Individual congregations are encouraged to utilize up to 25% of this Offering to connect with the global witness of Christ's peace. Mid councils retain an additional 25% for ministries of peace and reconciliation. The remaining 50% is used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness.

Christmas Joy Offering- usually received at Advent/Christmas

The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years.

As you can see, in some of these offerings, a portion of the monies stays local, to help further the mission of the individual congregations in these areas. How will your church live out God's grace through these Special Offerings?

<https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/>

Time for School Kits

We are at the time of year when school supplies are cheap! We still have back-to-school specials so now is the time to gather up those supplies and complete some CWS School kits!



Louise Tardy of Collierstown Church will be supplying us with more bags in September for the school kit supplies. We have about 50 available at the presbytery office. Just call or email us and we will set some aside for you.

** bring any of your kits to the presbytery office now, or PDRT will be collecting all kits at the November Presbytery Meeting at Opequon Church in Winchester, Virginia.



How safe is your church?

As gun violence escalates, Presbyterian churches are wrestling with how to keep worshipers safe without turning sanctuaries into fortresses. This very timely article explores what some congregations are doing to protect their flocks, and we offer many practical tips and resources to help you start a conversation or develop a safety and security plan

[Read More](#)

Letter from Doug Dicks, Serving in Israel and Palestine

“The Hands and Feet of Christ in Gaza”

After two days and nights in Gaza, we return to the Beit Hanoun/Erez Crossing Point. Following a thorough security check of both ourselves and our possessions, we are then allowed to re-enter Israel proper. As the Israeli border agent returns my passport through the small glass window, she leans down and softly says to me, “I just want you to know that I respect and admire what you are doing.”

“Thank you,” I say, as I collect my passport and walk the few, short steps out into the fresh air once again. Yet my mind and my heart are still with the people of Gaza, locked in their open-air prison. The words of Matthew 25:36 continue to resonate through my head as we drive back to Jerusalem: “I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.”

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/letter/the-hands-and-feet-of-christ-in-gaza/>

Letter from Elmarie and Scott Parker Serving in Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq

“World-Forsaken, but Not God-Forsaken”

I was deeply moved and challenged as I listened to the charge given by Dr. George Sabra, President of the Near East School of Theology (NEST), to the four graduates — two women and two men, all from Syria and all returning to serve the church in Syria. I'd like to share a good part of that charge with you here: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/letter/world-forsaken-but-not-god-forsaken/>



We are still awaiting the 2019-2020 Presbyterian Planning Calendars. As soon as they arrive, we will pass that information on to you.

The calendars, along with other books ordered will be available at the presbytery office, Monday through Thursday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.



**Saturday, September 14, 2019
8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

**Massanetta Springs Camp & Conference Center
Harrisonburg, VA**

***A COMING TOGETHER OF ALL
SHENANDOAH PRESBYTERY CONGREGATIONS***
The Big Event offers worship, music, a mission fair, and workshops to interest adults, youth and children as we celebrate our oneness in Christ.

The Big Event is co-sponsored by Shenandoah Presbytery Committees on Educational Resources, Mission and Outreach, and the Presbyterian Women

Morning Worship

9:15 am

**Stephanie M. Patterson, Speaker
Staff for Multimedia and Racial Equality
PW PC USA**

"I think (The Big Event) is one of the most obvious good things the Presbytery does to support the churches. I feel that one of the special things about the Big Event is that the day is somehow greater than the sum of its parts."

—Big Event participant

For information or questions, contact Nancy Meehan Yao,
assocgp@shenpres.org 540-433-2556



Do you know students at JMU, EMU, BRCC, or Bridgewater College? Let them know about UKIRK!

Each Wednesday we meet from 6-8pm for study, worship, or service and conclude with a meal together. Most Wednesdays we meet at Haas House (Canterbury House) on the campus of JMU. The address is 741 S. Main Street, and it is on the corner of Grace and Main. There is parking off of Grace street behind the building. On the third Wednesday of each month from 6-8pm, we meet at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 725 S. High Street, on the corner of High and Maryland, just down from Memorial Hall. There we staff the free community Clothes Closet and share dinner afterwards.

UKIRK is a shared ministry of Shenandoah Presbytery and is a ministry of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Harrisonburg.
Trinity Presbyterian Church
www.trinitypresbyterianharrisonburg.org/ukirk
email: ukirk@trinitypresbyterianharrisonburg.org
Pastor, Rev. Stephanie Sorge



We are a More Light Campus Chapter, committed to the full participation of LGBTQIA+ people in the life, ministry and witness of the Presbyterian Church (USA) – and in society.



HE SEEMED TO HAVE FAILED TO RETAIN THEIR FULL ATTENTION, BUT AT LEAST HIS SERMON WOULD BE AVAILABLE LATER ON THEIR YOUTUBE, FLICKR, TWITTER, AND FACEBOOK ACCOUNTS

Union and Zetta Churches

The Union church and the Zetta church – mother and daughter churches, respectively – held a joint worship service at Shiflet pavilion on Sunday, August 18th, followed by a carry-in lunch. Judy Hensley, of Union, preached an inspiring sermon on the difficult lectionary passages assigned for the week, and all were inspired by the lovely view of God's good Creation – the rolling hills of western Augusta County with the Alleghenies beyond.

On the afternoon of Sunday, September 8th, the two churches are planning a carry-in picnic at Gypsy Hill Park in Staunton. Folks will start to gather by about 3 pm, and we'll eat at 5. Attendees will need to bring whatever they want to have cooked on the grill, as well as a side to share. Activities include feeding the ducks, riding the miniature train, and just sitting and visiting. All are invited, although we can't predict in advance exactly where we'll be, so you'll just have to ask at every grill until you find us!

Franklin Church Begins "The Story"

Franklin Presbyterian Church is beginning in September its encounter with The Story, a 31 week emersion study of the Bible's narrative from Genesis to Revelation. May we find our story within the story as we make this our focus for Sunday School and worship.

Lexington Church Discussion on "Waking Up White"

"Lexington Presbyterian Church invites you to a 4-part book discussion on the book, *Waking Up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race*, by Debby Irving. In doing so, you will be joining Presbyterian Churches all across our country who are doing the same thing, at the invitation of our Co-Moderators in 2017.

We will have four consecutive Wednesday evening opportunities to come and discuss this book: Sept. 18 & 25, and October 2 & 9, from 7–8 pm in the Brady Chapel of Lexington Presbyterian Church. Deb Klein will be the convener for these discussions and firmly trusts that God's Spirit will guide and hold us as we attempt to wake up to a deeper understanding of ourselves, especially in relationship to all of God's children."



Proudly Celebrating 100 Years of Ministry

There is a time...
Where a century of excellence will be recognized.

There is a place...
Where a celebration will mark 100 years of faithful service.



Please make plans to join us
September 21, 2019
Presbyterian Children's Home Campus
Wytheville, Virginia




For more information about our celebration or to become a member of the
Sarah Ellen Harless Garden of Hope
Visit our website
www.pchh.org or call 276.228.2881
and we will be glad to assist you in being a part of our next 100 years of ministry.

100 Years of Giving Children Hope and Purpose for the Future

Mt. Olive Church Events

Sept 13 Chicken dinner
Sept 21 Fall Festival
Oct 4 Ham Dinner
Oct 26 Trunk or Treat
Nov 2 Pot Pie
Nov 8 Tenderloin dinner

**PRESBYTERY OF
SHENANDOAH**

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ShenPres.org

Shenandoah Presbytery

A Community of Christ for Worship, Nurture and Mission

SHENANDOAH PRESBYTERY is a covenant body where:

- CONGREGATIONS are empowered to be centers for mission
- PEOPLE OF GOD are equipped to be Disciples of Christ in a challenging world
- CHURCH LEADERS and members are nurtured and strengthened for service
- OPEN COMMUNICATION and information are used constructively and creatively to keep us connected

Dates to Remember!

September 2019

- 2 - CPT 10:00 am
- 5 - CER 10:00 am
- 7 - CMO 9:30 am
- 10 - CNCD 5:15 pm
- 12 - CRM 9:30 am
- 17 - CRE Oversight 3:30 pm
- 17 - Staff Meeting 12:00 pm
- 18 - CPM 10:00 am
- 18 - Nominations 2:00 pm
- 18 - Shenandoah Press Deadline
- 19 - CPA 1:00 pm
- 24 - CPC 10:00 am (tentative)
- 30 - CCVT 1:00 pm

Other Events

- 14 - The Big Event at Massanetta Springs
- 25 - Small Church Forum
at Gerrardstown Church
- 26 - Small Church Forum
at Waynesboro First Church

* Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are at the office of Shenandoah Presbytery, 1111 N. Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA.

