

Special points of interest:

- National Preparedness Month
- Strong Ministers & Moffett Grants
- Board of Pensions Updates
- EduCamp
- Scattered Church Resources
- Much more...

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A Message from our General Presbyter

What a strange summer this has been. Vacations have consisted of working hard to put down our devices and unplug for awhile because we haven't been able to change our scenery, at least not the way we have done in other years. Some of us have had to be reminded to take our time off and rest, not realizing how the stress of so much change has taken a toll on us. And part of the change is how we meet one another, stay in touch and care for one another when we can't hug or share a meal or just sit closely for a quiet conversation.

A big part of that change has come in the form of virtual meetings, or rather meetings through technology – for they are real meetings where things get done as was evidenced by our first presbytery meeting via zoom.

And guess what? We did it! Yes, there were a few bumps, but then we have had those in our face-to-face meetings! Thank you to all of you who attended, followed directions to the best of your ability, asked questions, made reports, and voted.

Special thanks to the team that attended other zoom presbytery meetings, to learn how to host such a meeting and the hours that were put in behind the scenes to figure out how to have as wide a participation as possible. Thank you to: Donna, director of communications; Kim, Administrator; Nancy, Assoc. GP; Rick Comstock, Moderator; and Rachel Crumley, Chair of the Coordinating and Planning Commission. As your GP/Stated Clerk, I could have never set this into motion on my own.

And since we were not physically together, we did not take up an offering during our worship service. I ask you all now to please consider giving to **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)**. PDA is responding to the fires in California the Hurricanes in the Gulf and the Derecho in Iowa to name three. Go to pda.pcusa.org and you can give directly, or you can send a check to the presbytery office and we will get it there. For those of us who have been so richly blessed – let us share our blessings!

Bronwen



GIVE

SHARE YOUR FINANCIAL BLESSINGS TO HELP DISASTER SURVIVORS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

ACT

GET INVOLVED WITH DISASTER RECOVERY MINISTRY.

PRAY

OUR BEST RESPONSE IS PRAYER. SEEK GOD'S PRESENCE ON BEHALF OF DISASTER SURVIVORS.

Presbytery Staff

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Associate General Presbyterian—Nancy Meehan Yao

In the messy middle....

Might be how we are feeling right now. We have been in the midst of this pandemic since March... which feels like years ago. And we have to be prepared for this to go on longer than we expected, with outcomes and consequences that we cannot know at this time. We have lamented, and are mourning what we have lost, and all the ways we knew how to be church. But in any challenge, there are new things to be learned, and new blessings from God to find and give thanks for.



HolyCow! Consulting has published these questions regarding what is working well in your congregation at this time, and what needs you might have in this unusual time. Please share these questions with your church and church leaders, and discuss!

- #1 I believe our congregation has done a good job at adapting during this pandemic so that we stay connected.
(Disagree/Agree/Don't Know)
- #2 I believe after the pandemic when our congregation comes back together, we will be:
(Weaker than before/The Same as before/Stronger than Before/Don't Know)
- #3 During this time, the top 2 areas of concern or anxiety for me and my family are: (please pick 2)
 - Financial hardship
 - Physical health of myself or loved ones
 - Mental health
 - Spiritual disconnection
 - Balancing multiple roles, i.e. homeschooling while working
 - Inability to get the things I need (groceries/meds/household goods)
 - Lack of Clarity for what life will be like after this
- #4 Something I would like to thank the church leadership for during this time is: _____

"I will give thanks to the Lord at all times," writes the psalmist. Even in this time.

"The Church is the body of Christ. Christ gives to the Church all the gifts necessary to be his body." (Book of Order, F-1.0301)

Friends, God has gifted us to be the Church-and we are called to be the church in new ways, in this time of change. How will your congregation be the body of Christ to the world, in this time of change?

Blessings- Nancy

<https://holycowconsulting.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Our-Congregation-during-COVID-19.pdf>



Preaching for Elders Workshop

The phone rings early on Sunday morning...your pastor is sick...who will preach the sermon?

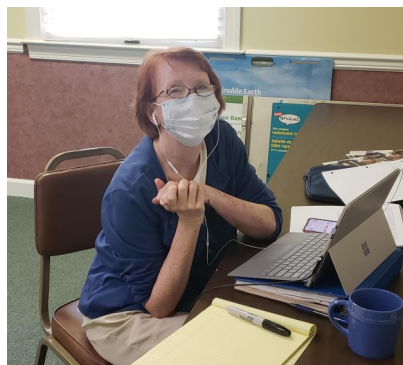
YOU will! Elders are called, among other duties, to teach (preach) the Word when called upon to do so. (Book of Order W-2.0303)

The Rev. Dr. Howard Boswell will be leading 3 preaching workshops on Monday evenings, September 14, 21, 28 at 7:00 pm. These will be conducted over Zoom, and will last approximately 1 hour.

To register, please contact shenpres@shenpres.org. Shortly before the first class, you will receive the Zoom link. You may also contact Rev. Boswell at howard.boswell@gmail.com for questions about the workshop.

Registration deadline is September 8, 2020.

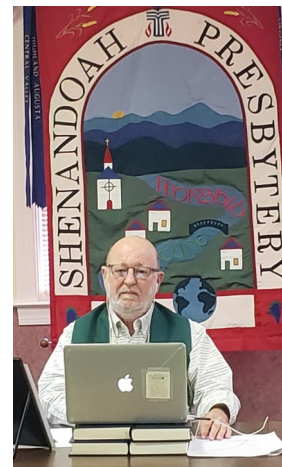
Stated Meeting of Presbytery August 22, 2020 via Zoom



Nancy Meehan Yao,
Associate General Presbyter



Bronwen Boswell,
General Presbyter/Stated Clerk



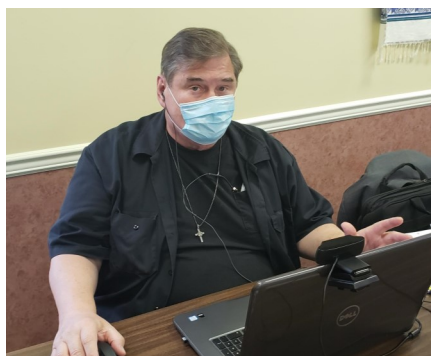
Moderator, Ruling
Elder Rick Comstock



Kim Stroupe,
Administrative Assistant



Donna Lanaghan,
Communications Administrator



Patrick Lanaghan,
"Tech Guy"



As Bronwen mentioned on page 1, our August 2020 Stated Meeting of Presbytery happened through Zoom. We had 119 in attendance! There were six of us physically at the presbytery office and, as you can see, we socially distanced and wore masks. (Kim took hers off for the photo.) We welcome any comments or suggestions. Send them to shenpres@shenpres.org. For Minutes and video recording of the meeting, visit the web page at: <https://shenpres.org/presbytery-meeting/>.



Mandatory Boundary Training

The Presbytery of Shenandoah requires pastoral leaders (Teaching Elders and Commissioned Ruling Elders) to take part in mandatory Boundary Training every 3 years.

Boundary training focuses on developing healthy boundaries in ministry, and is specific to the role of pastoral leaders. We will cover power differences between pastoral leaders and church staff/members of the congregation/persons being counseled by the pastor.

We will also have discussion about personal and professional health, and the use of and creating policies regarding social media in your church.

If you are new to the Presbytery, or did NOT do Boundary Training with us in 2018/2019, you MUST do this training. Training will be via zoom.

Dates for Fall 2020 are:

Saturday, October 17, 9-noon, OR

Wednesday, October 28, 9-noon.

In order to cut down the time spent on zoom, (because we are all getting zoom-itis) there will be documents to read/videos to watch prior to coming to the training.

To register, please contact Donna at the Presbytery- shenpres@shenpres.org

Social Media Policies

So much of our church life is lived on-line now, that we often take for granted its use.

Like any other church related communication or interaction, a church's use of social media should glorify the Triune God in our words and interactions, should reflect the care and nurture of our common life together, and should be included in any Child, Youth and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policies. (required by the Book of Order, G-3.0106).



In order to promote healthy communication, the social media policy should include guidelines that parallel what would happen in person. While many of the policies are written for interactions between adult/staff and youth, guidelines also apply to interactions between youth, and between members.

- Any content should follow guidelines about acceptable language, images, topics, etc.
- Any interactions between adults and children, youth, and/or vulnerable adults should always include another, non-related adult in the email/group text/zoom meeting/Facebook live, etc.
- Parents should be included or copied in the email/text.
- Any information/interaction should be within the bounds of respectful behavior that is stated in the Protection and Misconduct Prevention Policies of the congregation.
- Whoever is administrator for the church's Facebook page/group, etc., should be aware of and follow these guidelines.

For guidelines from the PC(USA), written for General Assembly use, (but able to be modified for congregational use), see <https://www.pcusa.org/resource/ga221-social-media-guide/>

Disaster Kits Needed



"AND DON'T FORGET TO DO GOOD
AND TO SHARE WITH THOSE IN NEED."
— HEBREWS 13:16

They began weeks ago and continue - fires in the west! A week ago, derechos tore through the mid-west! This week - two hurricanes hit the Gulf coast and move inland causing severe flooding. It just keeps coming - disaster after disaster. It's hard not to get weary from this news on top of the COVID-19 pandemic news. And yet, those in the paths of these disasters - our neighbors - have no choice but to face the current disaster affecting them.

While Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is responding with their unique help, we can also help by being there to provide some basic human needs such as those found in the CWS Disaster kits - hygiene kits, school kits, and cleanup buckets.

While we are all taking safety precautions to protect ourselves, our families and each other by avoiding gathering in large numbers for worship and meetings, we can still respond individually and as families as disciples of Christ to the calls for help by providing disaster kits to help with cleanup after the flood, personal hygiene items, and school supplies for children who are anxious to get back to their studies.

Let us join together "virtually" to provide disaster kits. You may wish to send the funds in to purchase the supplies for some kits, or you can assemble the kits yourselves. The details about all three kits can be found at the Church World Service Kits site at <https://cwskits.org/>. At this website you will find a list of contents and assembly instructions, the cost of each kit if you wish to purchase them, and where to deliver or ship the kits.

We have a CWS Kit Depot located within our presbytery at the Church of the Brethren District office in Weyers Cave, VA. You can call to make arrangements for delivery there by calling (540)447-0306. If you wish to deliver them, the address is 1453 Westview School Road, Weyers Cave, VA 24486.

Kits can also be shipped or delivered to the New Windsor, MD warehouse at: CWS, Brethren Service Center, 601 Main Street, PO Box 188, New Windsor, MD 21776-0188.

Thank you in advance for helping those facing disasters right now.

*Doug Sensabaugh, Co-Director
Disaster Preparedness and Response Team
Shenandoah Presbytery*

From the Disaster Preparedness and Response Team

September is National Preparedness Month. National Preparedness Month is recognized each year to promote family and community disaster planning. Although the Shenandoah Valley is a relatively safe place to live - we don't have hurricanes or tsunamis - we do have a variety of other events that could be characterized as disasters. Think about this list:

Active Shooter	Blizzard	Chemical Spill	Church Fire	Dam Break
Drought	Earthquake	Flood	Ice Storm	Industrial Accident
Gas Line Break	Mud/Land Slide	Oil Spill	Pandemic	Plane Crash
Power Failure	Terrorist Attack	Tornado	Toxic Landfill	Train Derailment
Water Pollution	Water Shortage	Wildfire		

Are any of these things disasters that could occur in your community? Would your family and your church be prepared?

In terms of Family Preparedness the FEMA resource, Ready.gov is a great place to start. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and Presbyterian Women have a training program to help churches prepare. There are three PW trainers in our Presbytery. If your church is ready and would like help, please contact the Disaster Preparedness and Response Team Education Team Lead, Carolyn Thalman at cjthalman@comcast.net

In additional Disaster Preparedness News, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Preparedness Team just completed its first Zoom Presbyterian Women's Training (and we trained two men as well.) The team is excited about how well it went and is now anxious and excited to be able to present this training to anyone who is interested. It would be wonderful to have several more trainers in Shenandoah Presbytery. For more information, contact cjthalman@comcast.net.

Strong Ministers' Grant Deadline

The mission of the Strong Ministers Program is to foster strong and enduring Ministries by supporting the Teaching Elders, Stated Supply Pastors, and Certified Christian Educators of Shenandoah Presbytery.

The Strong Ministers Program has limited funds available to assist Teaching Elders, Stated Supply Pastors, and Certified Christian Educators serving in Shenandoah Presbytery. Please read the guidelines carefully at <https://shenpres.org/strong-ministers-program/> and submit your application by Wednesday, September 30, 2020.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION FOR THE FALL 2020 DISBURSEMENT - September 30, 2020

The Moffett Grant Deadline

The Moffett Grant Fund Committee receives applications annually from churches and mission communities for funding grants to “empower congregations to be centers for mission through the task of diakonia: sending servant leaders to minister to the pain of a hurting world.”



- ◆ Applications receive consideration based on the following priorities:
- ◆ Small churches, ministries which use lay leadership, ministries which enhance the mission and the understanding of mission in the local congregation, Mission Communities, and other congregations within the presbytery.
- ◆ Average amount of awarded grants range from \$500 - \$2,000 each year.
- ◆ The deadline for submitting applications to the Presbytery Office is no later than 4:00pm -- Thursday, October 8, 2020

For application go to the web page, <https://shenpres.org/scholarship-grants/> and scroll down to: “Moffett Grant Fund”.



What's New from the Board of Pensions

At the August Presbytery Meeting, Martha Reisner from the Board of Pensions presented what is new at the Board of Pensions for 2021. The slide show she presented at the meeting is attached. [Click here to view and/or download it.](#)

For more information, visit the Board of Pensions.
The Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church, U.S. A.
see us at <http://www.pensions.org> or call **1-800-773-7752**

Martha H. Reisner
Church Consultant
Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Washington, D.C., Presbyteries of Donegal and Philadelphia

office and mobile calling: **215-587-7049** texting: **267-804-6458**
email: mreisner@pensions.org

Nuts & Bolts (from the Nominations Committee)

"What's new?" is a frequent conversation starter, but for one presbytery committee, the question has special relevance. "The **Committee on New Congregational Development (CNCD)** is actively working to walk with, invite, promote the formation of new worshipping communities throughout our presbytery," says Karen Greenawalt, chair. "We also work alongside of new worshipping communities from the idea stage, to organization, to identifying resources, and obtaining funding assistance, and helping with transitions," she adds.

The CNCD would like to have several more folks to fill out the committee and be involved in guiding new worshipping life ministries. Three opportunities include two spots in the Class of 2021 and one position in the Class of 2022. More details of the committee's purpose and functions are listed at the shenpres.org website (<https://shenpres.org/committees/committee-on-new-congregational-development-cncd/>). Interested persons may contact Karen Greenawalt at 407-619-2821 for more information.

Our presbytery's **Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM)** is led by Kate Rascoe, chair. She says, "The CPM prepares individuals to follow God's calling into ministry. We walk with inquirers and Candidates through spiritual, emotional, financial and education growth required for ordained ministry. We seek understanding through listening openly. We seek best outcomes by educating ourselves about resources available. We seek God's guidance through prayer. A member (of CPM) should be open to the many ways God's calling takes shape, be committed to the PC (USA) and be able to communicate hospitably."

The committee has three positions open for those who wish to join this important work, all in the Class of 2022. To achieve balanced representation, the committee seeks at least two female ruling elders to volunteer, preferably from the Eastern Panhandle Mission Community or the Maury River Mission Community. Interested persons may contact Kate Rascoe at 757-617-5374 for more information. Additional information including the CPM's purpose and functions are listed on the presbytery website at <https://shenpres.org/committees/committee-on-preparation-for-ministry-cpm/>.

Submitted by Brad Langdon, chair, Nominations Committee, Shenandoah Presbytery

Fall 2020 Pathways Online Courses at Union Presbyterian Seminary

Courses open to all, including Commissioned Ruling Elder candidates or any individual seeking further knowledge & edification. Each course meets weekly for five (5) weeks, 7:00pm - 9:00pm EST.

Two courses, Biblical Interpretation and Polity & Administration, begin this September 2020.

Two more courses, Reformed Theology/Church History and Teaching the Bible, begin this October 2020.

For more info, click here: [Pathways Online Courses](#)

Phase I (Foundational) Courses

- Thursdays, September 10 – October 8, 2020: Biblical Interpretation with Professor John Carroll
- Tuesdays, October 13 – November 17, 2020: Reformed Theology/Church History with Professor Paul Galbreath
- Tuesdays, January 5 – February 2, 2021: The Christian Life with Professor Cindy Kissel-Ito
- Tuesdays, February 16 – March 16, 2021: Mission and Evangelism with Adjunct Instructor Aram Bae

Phase II (Practical Ministry) Courses

- Tuesdays, September 8 – October 6, 2020: Polity and Administration with Adjunct Instructor Carson Rhyne
- Thursdays, October 15 – November 12, 2020: Teaching the Bible with Professor Cindy Kissel-Ito
- Thursdays, January 7 – February 4, 2021: Pastoral Care with Professor Emerita Carol Schweitzer
- Thursdays, February 25 – March 25, 2021: Preaching the Bible with Professor Rich Voelz
- Thursdays, April 15 – May 13, 2021: Worship and Sacraments with Professor Paul Galbreath

[Click here to REGISTER](#) for any of the Phase I and Phase II courses (listed above) for the 2020-2021 academic year. If a course reaches maximum registration capacity, a waiting list will be started. Tuition cost per course is \$125. Each course will include a required text, not included in course tuition. Note: within two weeks of the beginning of each course, the tuition increases by \$25 per course.



Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands

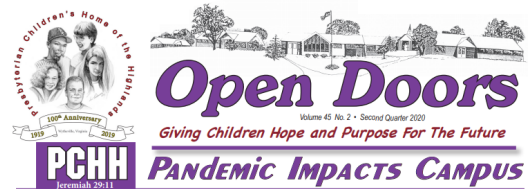
Spring is an especially beautiful and vibrant time around campus. The children and staff are busy with wrapping up school, planning for proms and graduations and preparing for the busy summer months ahead. This year, however, has been different.

With the impacts from the Coronavirus we have our children on campus 24/7. They have not been allowed to leave campus since before Governor Northam issued his stay at home order. We made this decision in an effort to protect them to the best of our ability.

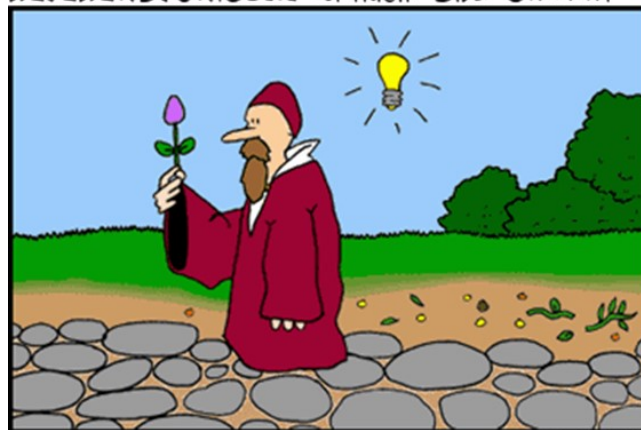
Even though this spring has been different, our children have shown a resilience like never before. They have bonded in ways like never before. We are blessed to have a great staff who have been bending in all directions to accommodate our residents in an effort to keep things as normal as possible. New things such as distance learning, counseling and doctors appointments have offered learning opportunities for everyone involved.

We all know that God is in control and is using this crisis to teach us all, bring us closer together and especially closer to Him. We look forward to the days when our children can once again go to the movies, attend church, go to school, and most of all, enjoy our community. This will happen, however, we are blessed to have the campus and facilities that we have where they can ride their bikes, play basketball and be cared for in a loving environment. Please know that the children and staff are doing great and greatly appreciate your prayers and support as we continue to navigate this pandemic.

(Taken from PCHH newsletter, Open Doors.
To view the entire newsletter, click on the image to the right.)



REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



"TULIP", THE FIVE MAIN POINTS OF CALVINISM, SUCCEEDED AFTER THE FAILURES OF "FERN", "DAISY" AND "MARIGOLD"

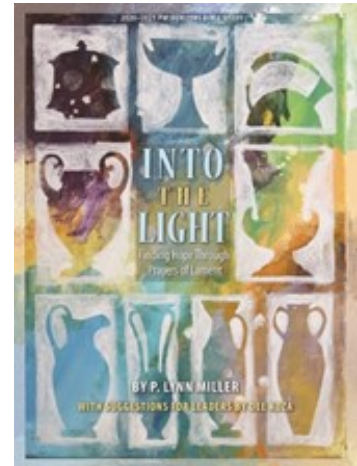
Presbyterian Women Horizons Bible Study

Into the Light: Finding Hope through Prayers of Lament

Saturday, Sept 19, 10-11 am through Zoom & recorded

The 2020–2021 PW/Horizons Bible study, *Into the Light: Finding Hope through Prayers of Lament*, art and text by Lynn Miller and *Suggestions for Leaders* by Dee Koza, revives lament as a proper theological response to the difficult situations of our world.

One of the foundational points of the study is that, in scripture, lament usually leads to hope. After crying out to God, the one who laments remembers God. And while that doesn't fix things in the moment—the injustice, the loss, the wrong still exist—the one who laments is strengthened to face the world and to hope.

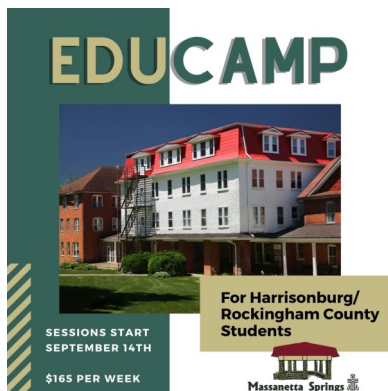


When we lament, we move from suffering to faith. In our faith there is hope. We lament in order to hope. Recovering lament may be one of the church's most timely gifts to the world. Explore lament with PW!

This workshop will be held on Zoom, and recorded for those who cannot attend at that time. It will be led by Rev. Nancy Meehan Yao, Associate General Presbyterian. I hope you can join us! We will work through all 9 chapters, in order to prepare Circle leaders and participants to study this with their congregations and circles.

To register, please email the Presbytery at Shenpres@shenpres.org

EduCamp at Massanetta Springs



Massanetta Springs is hosting an at-camp-learning-center, called EduCamp, for students grades 3-8 in the Harrisonburg and Rockingham County school districts. Students will have access to their virtual learning through Massanetta's wireless internet as well as camp activities when their scheduled learning sessions are complete.

Social distancing and other precautions will be followed to promote health and safety for everyone involved. Each student will be designated a work area and be supervised by camp staff. Please note: Massanetta staff will not be teaching and cannot guarantee that all school work will be completed. Students must be able to complete their own learning.

EduCamp will operate on a Monday-Tuesday-Thursday-Friday schedule and will run for 10 weeks beginning September 14th. Registration is open for September, October, and November starting August 21st.

Visit our website for more information: www.massanettasprings.org/educamp

*Is your church in need of
programming ideas while the
pews are still empty?*



We can help.



The Presbyterian Association of Musicians is offering affordable digital content packages for churches of all sizes, tailored to different needs that congregations may have!

The Covid-19 pandemic has changed the way the world operates. It has changed our habits, our activities, and our overall behavior. It most certainly has changed the way churches conduct worship, which is a direct concern of the Presbyterian Association of Musicians.

However, while we at PAM recognize that we cannot simply go back to “normal” in haste, we also feel a responsibility to continue to bring the best-quality resources to our members and to the Church universal so as to continue to live into our mission statement. It is more imperative now than it ever was to help create formative and collaborative experiences with God and neighbor.

As more and more churches express the need for new virtual programming for the year, PAM has redesigned its 2020 Online Worship and Music Conference into individualized resource packs for churches to utilize. We have 4 packs of content that focus on different ministry areas for only \$60 each.

The four content packs are:

Pack #1: For Children, Youth, and Their Leaders

Pack #2: Worship & Worship Reflections

Pack #3: Professional Development for Church Musicians

Pack #4: Christian Formation & Creative Discipleship

We hope these recordings can help your churches by creating new learning opportunities, stimulating discussion, fostering new ideas for worship planning, and helping congregations to grow in their faith and be encouraged. Visit

www.presbysmusic.org/2020conference to learn more!

Presbyterian Association of Musicians



100 Witherspoon St.
Louisville, KY 40202
(502) 569-5049
www.presbysmusic.org

Resources for Faith Development at Home: The Scattered Church Project



The Presbyterian Mission Agency has, through a generous endowment, made resources for worshipping at home available:

- The Book of Daily Prayer
- Growing in God's Love Bible Storybook
- Glory to God Hymnal.

Worshipping community and church leaders who need these resources are encouraged to go to <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/theology-formation-and-evangelism/scattered-church/>

Scroll down to "Scattered Church Resource Support." After clicking on the apply link, fill it out, indicating how which resources you'd like and how many. There is a limit of 10 of each resource, 30 in all. Depending on demand, priority will be given to smaller congregations and communities. Churches may choose which ways to share these resources with worshippers at home, in a manner that best suits their particular needs.

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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

- 1 - CPT 10:00 am
- 5 - CMO 9:30 am
- 7 - Office Closed for Labor Day
- 8 - MRMC 12:00 pm
- 8 - CNCD 3:30 pm
- 9 - CPM 10:00 am
- 10 - CRM 9:30 am
- 14 - CCVT 1:00 pm
- 16 - Staff Meeting 9:30 am
- 16 - Nominations 2:00 pm
- 17 - CPA 1:30 pm
- 21 - Shenandoah Press Deadline

Other Dates

- Thursdays at 12:00 pm
Pastors' Meeting
- Mondays, September 14, 21, 28 -
Elder Preaching Workshop 7:00 pm
- Saturday, September 19 -
Into the Light Bible Study Overview 10 am

* Unless otherwise noted, all meetings will be held through Zoom Meeting.