

## Special points of interest:

- Preaching Workshop
- Moffett Grants
- Thank yous
- Virtual Retreat
- Much more...

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## A Message from our General Presbyter

The weatherman says that we are to expect beautiful fall foliage this year and I am ready for it. I am excited to have something to look forward to because I have been sad and angry and tired of events happening in our world, in our country and in our neighborhoods.

I am sad that so many people are deciding that they cannot have relationships with one another due to political preferences. I am angry that people choose to vilify others rather than attempting to understand another's point of view – even if you continue to disagree. I am tired of how people are choosing to think only of self rather than choosing and working towards the benefit of all.

In all of this I continually ask myself what does Jesus teach me to do in these situations, what does Jesus lead me to be in these situations, how am I a follower of Christ today? And though the answer seems clear and straight forward, “You shall love the Lord Your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and the second is like it, you shall love your neighbor as yourself” Matthew 22:37-40, loving your neighbor as yourself is lacking at the moment.

So, friends, remember that you are a child of God, beautifully made, and so is everyone else. Let us do a better job of listening and trying to understand one another. Let us be kind, thoughtful and gracious. Let us love our neighbor as ourselves, working on relationships even when we disagree.

And when the leaves begin to change color – may it be a reminder of the one who is really in charge, the Lord our God, and may our lives reflect it!

*Bronwen*



## Church Newsletters Wanted



If your church has a newsletter, send it to us. We want to hear your news! Please add the Presbytery to your mailing list.

If you have a digital version, send it to:  
[shenpres@shenpres.org](mailto:shenpres@shenpres.org) or if you only have a paper version send it to: 1111 N. Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA 22802.

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## Associate General Presbyterian—Nancy Meehan Yao

I don't know if you have ever thought of "stubbornness" as a virtue. I know when my children were stubborn, it sure didn't feel virtuous. Perhaps naming it "persistence" sounds better.

We have been living in this "covid" time for 6 months now—and people who work in trauma events say that at 6 months, people typically feel as if they have hit a wall. We have been doing this for so long, and we just want to have a "normal" life, whatever that might look like...and yet we are beginning to see that whatever normal will look like in the future, it will be the old normal—not in church, not in school, not in our communities.



When we think of the lives of the people of faith, of the people in the Bible, we can see that they were persistent, enduring many things along the way, even as their "normal" changed...

Abraham, in following God's call—even when it looked like it was not coming true, when he and Sarai had no children.

Joseph, in continuing to do good for a people who were not his own, whether in jail, or at the court of Pharaoh. Deborah, who judged for her people at a difficult time.

Mary, who told the good news of Jesus' resurrection even when the other disciples did not believe her.

Paul, and others, who persisted in sharing the Gospel that they had received—even in the face of harassment.

In a survey about church in this time, done by the Lake Institute of Faith and Giving, responders said:

"We will have to experiment often, pray fervently, invite others in, and not be afraid to fail."

"We will weather this crisis and see new opportunities."

"We will possibly have to let go some things that we were doing before."

In my work with congregations, I have seen you be stubborn- even persistent, in continuing to be the church in this new landscape we find ourselves. Sometimes persistence looks like taking a rest, for awhile. Sometimes persistence is keepin' on. Sometimes persistence looks like trying new things, even when that might make us uncomfortable or anxious... but we persist, because it will get us to our goal. Oh, this has taken adjustments, and we are finding ways to be the church that do not necessarily look like our old ways—but we are still the church.

Exodus 13: 8 says "God will direct you, and you will be able to endure." Let us endure, running the race that has been set before us.

Blessings- Nancy



## Mandatory Boundary Training for Pastoral Leaders

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.**

To register, please contact Donna at the Presbytery- [shenpres@shenpres.org](mailto:shenpres@shenpres.org)

## Preaching Workshop for Elders

By the Rev. Dr. Howard W. Boswell, Jr.

For three Monday nights, I had the privilege of leading a workshop for ruling elders on preaching. The participants came from a variety of churches throughout Shenandoah Presbytery. Some had preached before, but others had not. Yet, all of them were eager to learn more about preaching.

The workshop's subtitle, "You Want ME to Preach?!!!" sought to suggest that any ruling elder might get the call, asking him or her to fill the pulpit on a Sunday. We went through what preaching is, which text to choose, what preparations to make, what goes into writing a sermon, and what to expect when you preach. We looked at putting worship together when you preach.

I want to thank those who joined me in Zoom. Also, our Associate General Presbyter, Nancy Meehan Yao and our Director of Communications, Donna Lanaghan for both their technical assistance and their support.



## Stewardship in a Time of Pandemic

Congregations are facing many challenges these days: when to resume in-person worship, if that is possible, how to do that safely, how to remain a community while we are distancing, how to be the church in new ways.

Among these challenges is the issue of Stewardship. Fall is, for many of us, Stewardship season. Whatever planning we might have done earlier in the year has been upended, and any stewardship efforts will need to be celebrated and embraced in new ways.

For some of us, this has been a move to on-line or electronic giving. For others, it has meant dropping an offering envelope in a bucket as we experience drive-in worship. The Lake Institute of Faith and Giving, in a national poll, has said that giving to churches has declined in this time, while "virtual" attendance has increased. But many of you in this Presbytery have reported continued faithful giving from members, even in this time of physical distancing, and for that we give thanks.

But stewardship is not merely about money—it is about the values we hold, and the ways we live out those values. William G. Enright, in *Kitchen Table Giving*, wrote:

"Guardians are anchored to the past and stuck in the status quo; they act to preserve and protect old interests and bygone alliances. Stewards, by contrast, see themselves to be servants of an institutional vision and calling. They focus on tomorrow as they harness their institutional resources in such a way as to embrace the new opportunities on their organizations' doorsteps."

Our call, I believe, is to be stewards of what God has entrusted to us—so that we can embrace new opportunities, new ways of being the church in this new landscape and time. And that means we will have to let go of some things, in order to be stewards not only of our past, but also of the future God is already creating.

## Committee on Presbytery Administration (CPA)

Wray Sherman, Chair

The CPA has the responsibility of proposing an annual Presbytery budget, as well as oversight of the Presbytery staff and property. At first glance this might not seem to be the most exciting of committees, but working with our talented staff, seeing all the wonderful ways the Presbytery budget funds ministry and mission, both locally and globally, and being good stewards of property, has been for me very rewarding!

This pandemic year of 2020 has raised unique challenges to our budget process, the way our Presbytery staff works, and to our property needs.

Our Presbytery staff has adapted well to working from home, conducting their work by Zoom meetings, email, and phone. The staff continue to perform at a very productive level. Our Presbytery staff is one of the Shenandoah Presbytery's major strengths.

The Presbytery property, 1111 N. Main St., Harrisonburg, Va., has been listed for sale for several years. This time of pandemic has confirmed for us that we have much more office space and property than we need. As an act of stewardship, we have intensified our efforts to sell the property and move into a more economical space.

As we prepare a 2021 budget for Presbytery approval, we work with a projected 2020 shortfall of \$68,269.44. We do have reserve funds that we can use to make up the difference.

We ask congregations, as you receive your 2021 Asking Letter this Fall, to commit to the full amount requested. When all congregations give their level of support, the Presbytery budget is fully-funded!

One way we will help congregations in 2021 is to lower the Per Capita rate. The Per Capita money goes to fund, in part, the ministry and mission of our Governing Bodies: the Shenandoah Presbytery, the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic, and the General Assembly. In 2020, the Per Capita rate was \$49.49. We propose a 2021 rate of \$48.39.

The CPA looks forward to presenting the 2021 budget at the November Presbytery meeting. When available, please study this proposed budget and be aware of the many ways our Presbytery proclaims the Gospel.

## Note of Thanks from our Bookkeeper Heather Carter

We know this has been an unusual year in so many ways, thank you for continuing to support the work of the presbytery as we make our way through these strange times.

Augusta Stone	Elkton	Middletown	Smyrna
Ben Salem	Falling Waters	Millboro	Springfield
Berkeley Springs	Finley Memorial	Monterey	Staunton Second
Berryville	Franklin	Moorefield	Staunton Third
Bethany	Front Royal	Mossy Creek	Strasburg
Bethel	Gerrardstown	Mt. Carmel	Tabler
Beulah	Glen Kirk	Mt. Horeb	Timber Ridge
Bloomery	Goshen	Mt. Storm	Tinkling Spring
Bridgewater	Halltown	New Monmouth	Tomahawk
Buckton	Hebron	New Providence	Trinity
Buena Vista	Hedgesville	Nineveh	Tuscarora
Buffalo Gap	Hermitage	Opequon	Union
Bunker Hill	Highland Memorial	Oxford	Wardensville
Burlington	Hot Springs	Petersburg	Warrenton
Charles Town	Immanuel	Piedmont	Waynesboro First
Circleville	Ivanhoe	Rocky Spring	Waynesboro Second
Clear Brook	Keyser	Romney	Westminster
Collierstown	Lexington	Ruddle	Winchester First
Cooks Creek	Little Falls	Second Opequon	Woodstock
Covenant	Loch Willow	Seneca Rocks	Zetta
Craigsville	Massanutten	Shepherdstown	
Elk Branch	McDowell	Slanesville	

## Mt. Carmel Church News

Mt. Carmel at Steeles Tavern continues with regular worship at 11 AM each Sunday. The sanctuary has been marked off so that our maximum seating is now about 1/3 the regular capacity. We are particularly grateful for our current shepherd The Reverend Sarah Hill who began with us just this year.

By using a part of the parking area adjoining the church we have been able to continue our monthly Sunday-after-church lunches outdoors both in August and September with appropriate distancing between members and families. Singing hymns and psalms silently behind your mask remains our practice even though we all have to be reminded from time to time. It's difficult to listen to the Doxology and just stay silent!

*Submitted by Jim Ramsey*

### Union and Zetta Churches Gather



Union and Zetta took advantage of a Sunday evening on September 13 to gather. Kept our distance but surely enjoyed our time together

## Resilience & Renewal: A Three-Hour Virtual Retreat

This three-hour virtual retreat is designed to give faith leaders a chance to take a breath and a break in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Participants will experience essential healing and resilience-building tools, including storytelling, strengthening positive connections with others and spiritual practices. This retreat, grounded in relaxation and self-care techniques, will provide an opportunity to experience respite and offers opportunities for small group sharing in breakout rooms in addition to plenary sessions.

Each retreat will be limited to 20 participants and will be led by PDA staff and National Response Team volunteers. The content of this retreat differs from the virtual programs we have offered in recent months (Building Resilience Webinar and Faith Leader Support Meetings), which remain available to all who are interested [pda.pcusa.org/page/esc-webinar/](https://pda.pcusa.org/page/esc-webinar/).

This Retreat will be held on Monday, November 9, 2020 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. Mark the date and watch for registration information to come.





**Any CREATIVE IDEAS  
for your  
OUTREACH MINISTRY**  
In this time of social distancing?

**Could MOFFETT FUNDS  
Help you make them happen?  
APPLY NOW!  
It is not too late!**

See below for information



## 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”.

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



HE HAD NO IDEA THAT HIS JESUS COSTUME  
WAS SO REALISTIC



**November 1 at 2:00 am**

## 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, Reformed Theology/Church History and Teaching the Bible, begin this October 2020

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

### ONLINE COURSES

New Testament Bible Survey Course (Self-paced, asynchronous)

Led by: Dr. John Carroll, Professor of New Testament

All sessions are pre-recorded; thus, no live class meetings.

To learn more, click here.

### Upcoming Pathways Online Courses

These online courses meet weekly for five-weeks, one class meeting per week.

#### Reformed Theology/Church History (Pathways Online Course)

Led by: Dr. Paul Galbreath, Professor of Theology

Dates: Tuesdays, October 13 - November 17, 2020

**This course has reached capacity; register on the waiting list for updates regarding a possible second session being offered.**

#### Teaching the Bible (Pathways Online Course)

Led by: Dr. Cindy Kissel-Ito, Associate Professor of Christian Education

Dates: Thursdays, October 15 - November 12, 2020

#### The Christian Life (Pathways Online Course)

Led by: Dr. Cindy Kissel-Ito, Associate Professor of Christian Education

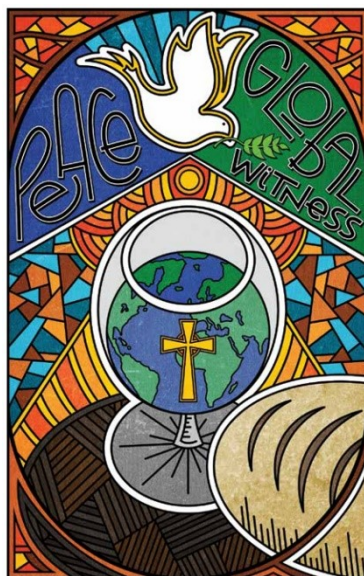
Dates: Tuesdays, January 5 - February 2, 2021

#### Pastoral Care (Pathways Online Course)

Led by: Dr. Carol Schweitzer, Associate Professor Emerita of Pastoral Care

Dates: Thursdays, January 7 - February 4, 2021

[Click here to REGISTER](#) for any of the 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.



 **PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS**  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION

PEACE IS ACTIVE,  
NOT PASSIVE;  
PEACE IS DOING,  
NOT WAITING.

Your gifts will help more people experience  
the freedom and dignity that Christ wants for everyone.  
Let us offer the peace of Christ in all times and all ways.

Thank you for your participation in the  
Peace & Global Witness Offering.

**25%**

of this Offering  
stays with  
our congregation  
to support  
peacemaking and  
reconciliation  
in our own  
community.

**25%**

of this Offering  
will go to  
our mid council,  
joining with other  
congregations in  
our area to support  
peacemaking work  
in our region.

**50%**

of this Offering  
supports  
the work for  
peace and  
reconciliation  
being done  
by Presbyterians  
across the globe.

*The Peace and Global Witness Offering provides the means  
that allows us to offer ourselves to the pursuit of ending violence and  
bringing about reconciliation, no matter where it occurs in the world.*

## The 9th annual Handmade in Highland Marketplace

October 9, from 3:00 – 6:00

October 10 from 10:00 – 4:00

In the Monterey Presbyterian Church pavilion  
Spruce Street, Monterey VA.

In compliance with COVID guidelines, this will be an outdoor event, masks must be worn, and social distancing practiced. The inside of the church will not be open to the public.

**Handmade in Highland** is a fundraising event for the church that includes quality art and crafts. We will also be selling maple BBQ chicken on Friday, October 9 from 3:00 to 6:00 for \$6.50 a half, and loaves of bread for \$4.00. You can pre-order to pick up on the 9<sup>th</sup> by emailing [handmadeinhighland@gmail.com](mailto:handmadeinhighland@gmail.com) or call 540.280.0123. Proceeds will go to help retire the remaining debt on the new church pavilion.

The church is parallel to the Highland County Courthouse, with off street parking. Crafts include pottery, local photography, handmade soaps, wearable art, baskets, seasonal wreaths and decorations, fiber arts and much more. We are not able to take credit or debit cards, cash and checks preferred.

This is a great way to enjoy an autumn outing in beautiful historic Monterey. Hands and Harvest, an annual Highland County festival, will be the same weekend, also following COVID safe guidelines.

### Handmade in Highland

Monterey  
Presbyterian Church  
Spruce Street

An Art, Craft & Food  
Marketplace  
in the pavilion





**October 17, 2020**  
**9:00 – 2:00**

**28<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL**

**APPLE BUTTER  
BRUNSWICK STEW**

Apple Butter and Brunswick Stew, both simmered over a wood fire for sale. Unfortunately, the annual yard sale and other Fall Festival events have been cancelled this year to help promote social distancing. Drive by pick-up service.

**ALL PROCEEDS GO TO LOCAL FOOD BANKS**

**Timber Ridge  
Presbyterian  
Church**

73 Sam Houston Way  
Lexington, VA 24450



## The Massanetta Springs Service and Sabbath Weekend



will take place October 23 - 25. Come for a day, come for the weekend, just come! Saturday October 24th from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. will be a service day with lunch provided by Massanetta. On the list of socially distanced projects are weeding/gardening, brush clearing/collection, painting and staining, indoor projects in case of inclement weather, and more. Other opportunities for Sabbath and fellowship will also be provided.

Lunch on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday are provided at no charge. For those staying overnight, there is a suggested donation of \$79/room/night.

If you would like to help, you can [sign up online through their Google Form](#), or if you prefer, you can call Rachael Brannock at 540-434-3829. You can find out more about the full Service and Sabbath Weekend by reading the [blog post on the Massanetta website](#).



**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!

### October 2020

- |                                    |                                |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 3 - CMO 9:30 am                    | 21 - Nominations 2:00 pm       |
| 6 - CPT 10:00                      | 21 - Shenandoah Press Deadline |
| 7 - Nominations 2:00 pm            | 22 - CER 10:00 am              |
| 8 - CRM 9:30 am                    | 22 - Pastors' Meeting 12:00 pm |
| 8 - Pastors' Meeting 12:00 pm      | 27 - CPC 10:00 am              |
| 8 - Moffett Grant Deadline 4:00 pm |                                |
| 12 - Staff Meeting 10:00 am        |                                |
| 13 - MRMC 12:00 pm                 |                                |
| 13 - Strong Ministers Committee    |                                |
| 13 - CNCD 3:30 pm                  |                                |
| 14 - CPM 10:00 am                  |                                |
| 15 - CPA 1:30 pm                   |                                |
| 19 - CCVT 1:00 pm                  |                                |

### Other Dates

- Saturday, October 17 -  
Boundary Training 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
- Wednesday, October 28 -  
Boundary Training 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

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