

Shenandoah Press

Volume 5, Issue 10

December 2020—January 2021

Special points of interest:

- Advent Resources
- Update Your Church Service
- Cindy Corell
- Letter from the Wellers
- Events and Happenings around the presbytery

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A Message from our General Presbyter

Last weekend I received phone calls and emails from folks asking if I had asked them to do something for me – NO, I had not! Please be aware that there are scammers out there that are using look-a-like email addresses to try and get you to part with some of your money. I have heard from a colleague that, in his presbytery, they have become aware of look-a-like texts doing the same thing.

Please know that I, and members of the staff of the presbytery, will never ask you to buy gift cards or send money without talking to you directly - and I can't imagine a reason for us to have to do that anyway. Please, please be careful!



So now the first candle of Advent has been lit. Even though there is uncertainty about the future, we move into tomorrow with hope. Hope, not that all will return to as it once was. but hope that we can continue to change as we welcome the opportunities that are set before us to share the good news of the Gospel! I am certain that we will be able to safely gather once more as family, friends and congregations - but we are changed. And for that let us give thanks as I give thanks for all of you!

May you have a blessed Advent, a Merry Christmas and a hope filled New Year.

Bronwen



God has blessed the Church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well. This Offering addresses the support needed by some of our leaders, including supporting leadership development for communities of color, and providing support for Presbyterian church workers in their time of need.

Presbytery Staff

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Associate General Presbyter—Nancy Meehan Yao

We are approaching the holidays....and they will be different from others we have experienced. Whatever plans we might have made, for Thanksgiving or Christmas...have had to be changed, altered, or cancelled.

A story is told about a family that had a very difficult year, including the finalizing of the divorce. The mother, who had picked up extra hours at work to make ends meet, could only get to the grocery store late the night before Thanksgiving, but she was determined to make a Thanksgiving for her and the kids that would equal, if not outdo, previous Thanksgivings. It would be a spot of normalcy in a chaotic year. But when she got up on Thanksgiving morning, the bird was still frozen. She began to frantically put the turkey in the microwave, saw off the defrosted bits, and put it back in. She was determined they would have a "real Thanksgiving." Her 13 year old, seeing how frantic she was said, as only sarcastic 13 year olds can do: "I don't know why you're even doing all that. I don't even like eating all that Thanksgiving crap." In that moment, they reached a point of clarity: they could have Thanksgiving, that wouldn't be like past holidays. So their family Thanksgiving tradition became going to McDonalds for breakfast, then standing on the sidewalk to cheer on all the community members running in the Thanksgiving day Turkey trot.

They made a new tradition, based on what was important to them: togetherness and love. They were able to let go of things that had no meaning for them, and join together in the things that did.

The church is facing that, right now. The things that matter—that Christ is born, that Light enters the world in a baby in a manger, that God comes to dwell with us—all of that that is still true, no matter what our circumstances. Our worship may be different, our celebrations altered, our Christmas blessings may happen over Zoom® or Facebook....but they are still based on the worship of the Triune God, whose Love changed the world. May you know that deep love this day, and always.

Blessings,
Nancy

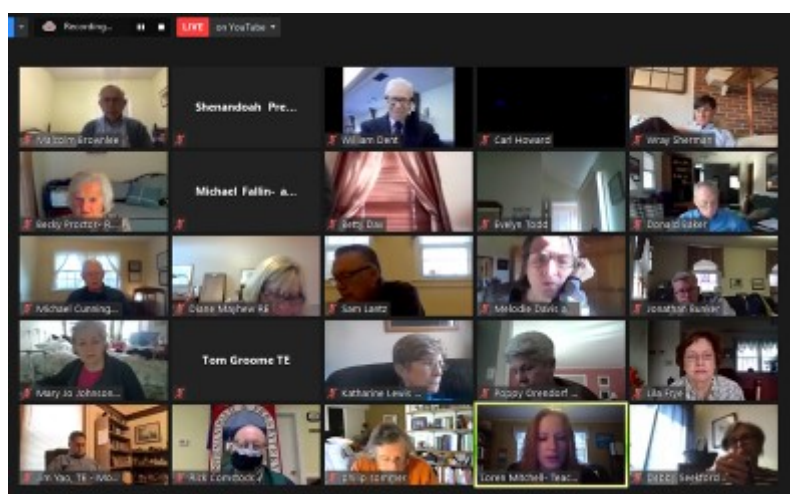


The offices of Shenandoah
Presbytery will be closed
beginning Friday, December 18
to celebrate Christmas and the
New Year with our families. We
will return to the office on
Monday, January 4, 2021.
We wish everyone a safe, joyful,
and blessed celebration of our
Savior Jesus Christ.

187th Stated Meeting of Shenandoah Presbytery November 17, 2020 - via Zoom



As you can see, the staff and tech were socially distanced and wearing masks during the entire meeting.



Update Your Church's Community Worship Situation

Some churches are meeting in-person, some churches are meeting virtually, some churches are not meeting at all. Churches are going virtual only again as this virus is spreading. Please check the list below. This is the list we have on our website (<https://shenpres.org/covid-19-resources/church-closings/>). If the information is not correct, you have not notified the office of your decisions. Please contact the office at shenpres@shenpres.org so we may keep this page up to date. Thank you!



Augusta Stone – until further notice	Goshen – resumed June 7	Piedmont – until further notice
Ben Salem –	Halltown –	Pines Chapel – thru April 30
Berkeley Springs – resumed May 31	Hebron – drive-in service	Rocky Spring – will resume June 7
Berryville – resuming Sept 6	Hedgesville – resumed May 31	Romney – resuming outside at St. Luke's
Bethany – online only Nov 15	Hermitage – until further notice	Ruddle – until further notice
Bethel – outdoor on June 21	Highland Mem. – resumed June 14	Second Opequon – until further notice
Bethesda/McElwee – resume June 7	Immanuel – thru March 22	Seneca Rocks – resumed May 24
Beulah – until further notice	Ivanhoe – until further notice	Shepherdstown – thru November 30
Bloomery – resumed July 12	Keyser – until further notice	Slanesville – resumed May 17
Bridgewater – resumes Sept 20	Lexington – virtual worship only	Smyrna – resumed on June 14
Broadway – until further notice	Little Falls – resumed May 10	Springfield – until further notice
Buckton – thru June 10	Loch Willow – resumed July 5	Staunton First – resumed Sept 13
Buena Vista – virtual worship only	Massanutten – until further notice	Staunton Second – March 15
Buffalo Gap – until further notice	McCutchen –	Staunton Third –
Bunker Hill – until further notice	McDowell – until Labor Day weekend	Strasburg – until further notice
Burlington – until further notice	Middletown – until further notice	Sunnyside – until further notice
Burnt – until further notice	Millboro – will resume June 7	Tabler – resumed June 14
Charles Town – until further notice	Monterey – until further notice	Timber Ridge – resumed July 5
Circleville – resumed May 24	Moorefield – resumed June 14	Tinkling Spring – resumed July 12
Clear Brook – resumed June 14	Mossy Creek – at least thru June 14	Tomahawk – until further notice
Collierstown – resumed Sept 6	Mt. Carmel – resumed May 31	Trinity – at least thru 2020
Cooks Creek – resumes Sept 20	Mt. Hope – resumed May 24	Tuscarora – resumed outside Sept 6
Covenant – until further notice	Mt. Horeb – through 2020	Union – until further notice
Craigsville – until further notice	Mt. Joy – thru March 22	Wardensville – until further notice
Elk Branch – resumed on Sept 6	Mt. Olive – until further notice	Warrenton – until further notice
Elkton – thru May 31	Mt. Storm – resumed in person	Waynesboro First – until further notice
Fairfield – virtual worship only	New Monmouth – until further notice	Waynesboro Second – resumed July 12
Falling Waters – resumed May 31	New Providence – until further notice	Westminster – thru June 10
Finley Memorial – until further notice	Nineveh –	Williamsville – until further notice
Franklin – until further notice	Olivet – resumed outside June 7	Winchester First – until further notice
Front Royal – until further notice	Opequon – until further notice	Woodstock – until further notice
Gerrardstown – until further notice	Oxford – resumed June 21 outside	Zetta – resumed June 21
Glen Kirk –	Petersburg – resumed October 11	

Opportunities to Serve on Presbytery Committees

(Classes of 2021, 2022, and 2023)

as of November 17, 2020, compiled by Nominations Committee

(committee descriptions on presbytery website: <https://shenpres.org/committees/>)

Contact: Committee chairs or Brad Langdon at jblangdon@comcast.net

Committee on Church Vitality and Transformation (CCVT)

Needs four (4) members: Class of 2021 - 1, Class of 2022 - 3.

Can be Teaching Elder (TE), Ruling Elder (RE) or non-ordained Church Member, Male or Female. Currently has eight (8) members: 3 Females and 5 Males, 4 REs and 4 TEs.

Committee on Educational Resources (CER)

Needs two (2) members: Class of 2023 - 2. REs preferred. Males preferred. Currently has seven (7) members: 5 TEs, 2 REs, 5 Females and 2 Males. Can also be non-ordained Church Member or Christian Educator.

Committee on Mission and Outreach (CMO)

Fully staffed. Currently has 12 members: 7 Males, 5 Females, 5 TEs and 7 REs.

Committee on New Congregational Development (CNCD)

Needs two (2) members: Class of 2021 - 2. REs preferred. Can be Male or Female. Currently has seven (7) members: 3 Males, 4 Females, 2 REs, and 5 TEs.

Committee on Presbytery Administration (CPA)

Needs three (3) members: Class of 2022 -2; Class of 2023 - 1. May be TE, RE or non-ordained Church Member, Male or Female. Currently has nine (9) members: 4 Males, 5 Females, 4 TEs and 5 REs. Also needs chair for 2021.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM)

Needs 3 members: Class of 2022 - 3. Can be Male or Female REs. Currently has six (6) members: 3 Males, 1 Female, 4 TEs, and 2 RE.

Committee on Pastoral Transition (CPT)

Needs five (5) members: Class of 2021 - 2; Class of 2022 - 1; Class of 2023 - 2. Prefer REs, either Female or Male. Currently has 10 members: 9 TEs, 1 RE, 6 Males, and 4 Females.

Committee on Relational Ministry (CRM)

Needs three members: Class of 2023 - 3. Can be RE or TE, Male or Female. Currently has 12 members: 7 Males, 5 Females, 7 TEs, and 5 REs.

Attention All Churches

Please note that all remittances need to be in the presbytery office by January 14, 2021 to be credited in the 2020 calendar year.

Advent and Christmas Resources

Christmas worship services, especially Christmas Eve worship, are among the most loved, remembered and best attended worship services for congregations. But in this time of pandemic and physical distancing, the usual worship practices will not be possible.

Some congregations are making plans for outside worship, a short service, held late afternoon/early evening, with readings, candles, and prayers.

Other congregations are putting luminaria outside the church, sharing the light of Christ with the World. All you need are some paper sacks, some sand/gravel and candles- battery powered tea lights are safest- https://www.ehow.com/how_2194367_safe-paper-bag-luminaries.html

Some congregations doing virtual pageants, in which members are asked to video themselves as part of the Christmas story- either edited together, or used in parts, as part of a larger virtual worship service- here is one resource: <https://getlitworship.wordpress.com/2020/11/08/o-zoom-all-ye-faithful-an-online-christmas-pageant/>

Another idea might be a virtual Christmas story time, in which congregation members read a children's book about the nativity on video, and it is shared with the families of the church/posted to the church website, Facebook page, etc.

Any well illustrated Children's bible will work, as well as these other story books:

The Legend of Old Befana, by Tomie dePaola

The Legend of Pointsettia by Tomie dePaola

Song of the Stars, by Sally Lloyd-Jones

The Nativity, retold by Juliana Bragg

Saint Nicholas, the Real Story of a Christmas Legend, by Julie Stiegmeyer

Elijah's Angel, by Michael J Rosen

The 4th King, by Ted Sieger

For older children:

Christmas in the Trenches, by John McCutcheon

The Legend of Saint Nicholas, by Dem

This Advent, Christmas and Epiphany will be different, but Christ still comes, bringing Light into a weary world. May you be blessed as we worship the Lord this season.



Disaster Kits Are Still Needed

They keep coming – hurricane after hurricane! Weariness sets in 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 must continue to take safety precautions to protect ourselves, our families and each other by using face coverings and social distancing, we can still respond individually and as families as disciples of Christ to the calls for help by providing cleanup buckets to help with cleanup after flooding and personal hygiene items.

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 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*



After the presbytery meeting on Nov 17, Doug Sensabaugh came by the office and picked up the kits that we'd had there since March. We filled Doug's car and he drove them to Weyers Cave so they may now be used for those in need of the kits! Thanks, Doug!

Cindy Corell, Mission Co-worker

Mission co-worker Cindy Corell is eager to connect with churches in Shenandoah Presbytery to share information about her ministry in Haiti. A daughter of this Presbytery, and a member at Tinkling Spring, Cindy is a PC(USA) mission co-worker to Haiti, and was with us as an International Peacemaker in 2018, with Fabienne Jeanne from FONDAMA in Haiti. For more information about her work (and a video!), [click here](#).

There are a variety of ways Cindy can interact with your church: by preaching on Sunday via Zoom, through giving a minute for mission during your worship, or via meeting with sessions or mission committees. Contact Cindy at cindy.corell@pcusa.org



The Wellers' Final Letter from the Ethiopian Mission Field

Submitted by Reed Hopkins,
Loch Willow Church Pastor

Dear Friends,

About twelve months ago, Michael and I were in Ethiopia. The year had recently changed to 2012 Ethiopian Calendar. One year later, we are in the US, it's 2020 Gregorian calendar and it sure feels like it's been eight years! You might remember that we left Ethiopia earlier than we expected to because of a church decision making it impossible to renew our work permit through the same partnership between the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus and the PCUSA. We arrived in the US in mid-November thinking that we would have a conversation with the personnel department at PCUSA World Mission in the next few weeks that would help us know how to communicate with you about our situation. That conversation took longer than expected and then the pandemic threw an additional kink into our plans, as it did everyone else's. So this letter is coming to you with news of big changes in our lives.

We returned to the US in an attitude of sadness, wondering, and prayer anticipating changes and hope that God would provide us with satisfying work. Debbie Braaksma, the Africa Area director for PCUSA World Mission, assured us that our skills and gifts would be suitable for other work in Africa. At the same time, Michael informed Abingdon Presbytery, where he has been a member since his ordination, of our return. A conversation with the leadership of the presbytery opened up other possibilities for him. Michael started the decently ordered Presbyterian process by clicking on the right computer keys and filling out the right forms and together we had conversations with Regional Liaisons associated with other African settings where we could be involved.

The result of all our conversations, prayers, heavy sighs, more conversations and tears is that we have resigned from PCUSA World Mission and Michael has accepted the call of the yoked pastorate of Gladeville Presbyterian Church in Wise, VA and First Presbyterian Church of Pound. We will be moving there in the next few weeks.

I, Rachel, do not have a job, yet, but I will be looking for something to do after I spend some time sorting through stuff we've had stored for 26 years and working out the details of making a house our home. We will have to return to Ethiopia sometime to retrieve our things, but probably not till sometime in the winter in the US.

The work of Community Health Evangelism and Trauma Healing continue in Gambella through the very capable hands of our colleagues there, especially Ariet Philip, Meher Omot, Rev. David Deng Jock, and Rev. Jacob Nhial Wal. You can continue the support of this work through The Outreach Foundation, if you are interested.

The past year has been lonely, frustrating, and chaotic for us. Looking back, however, we can see that God put together a plan that both Michael and I are thankful and happy to be a part of. Michael is eager to become an invested member of a community. Rachel is eager to get to know people in the same region where our youngest two children began their lives.

Michael and I continue to place high value on the collective cross-cultural work that PCUSA members do as they support and engage with the PCUSA World Mission. Over the past 26 years we have learned and been affirmed that God has a plan for unity among those who believe. So we encourage our PCUSA supporters to continue to be engaged in World Mission with your financial support and by connecting personally to those who remain in service in a different part of the world. There are others in Africa and Latin America doing work similar to what Michael and I have been doing. We will be happy to give you names and contacts or you can go to the PCUSA website (<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/mission-connections/>) and search by country. We have been extremely enriched by our relationships with our mission colleagues; we are sure you will be also.

We usually spend most of our time in the US on the road visiting as many of you as we can fit in. We missed that opportunity this year and we are sad that we will not have a chance to visit you in the coming year as PCUSA mission co-workers. You have been important to us over the years, and we have enjoyed special conversations with you when we've been together and we hope to see some of you at places where we might come together.

Thank you for your interest in us and the people of Ethiopia; thank you for your support; and thank you for blessing us with your presence in our lives. Our contact information will remain the same. We will enjoy hearing from you, though our situation has changed. Michael Weller: 412-728-1306; mswelleret@gmail.com Rachel Weller: 412-513-7074; weller Rachel@gmail.com

We pray God's blessings as you continue to walk in his service where you are.
Sincerely, Rachel and Michael Weller



News from Second Waynesboro Church




We resumed indoor worship service at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, July 12 and began using a low frequency FM transmitter to transmit the service to our parking for those who preferred not to come inside. On October 4 we changed our worship service time to 11:00 a.m. and continue to transmit services to those who prefer to remain in their cars in our parking lot. Prior to resuming indoor services, we taped off pews for social distancing, installed clear panels for our musicians (we only have two or three each Sunday), restricted use of restrooms to one man's and one woman's, provided masks (made by one of our members) and hand sanitizer and displayed signs reminding members to wear masks, social distance, to sit in family groups and to use the same pew each Sunday. We have purchased pre-filled cups containing a wafer in one section and juice in another to use for our communion services. Bulletins are available on a stand outside for those worshipping in the parking lot and we have a

mail slot in an exterior door for them to place their offering in. For those entering the sanctuary, they can pick up a bulletin from a podium and leave their offering envelope in an offering plate located just inside the sanctuary entrance. On communion Sundays, the pre-filled cups are placed on a table at the sanctuary entrance for each person to pick up their own. We do not have anyone handing out bulletins, passing the offering plate(s) or communion elements.

We have not resumed Sunday School classes.

Submitted by Linda Fields, Second Waynesboro Church



what's right about my church?

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH — WAYNESBORO, VIRGINIA

We're a small church with a membership of about 70 located in a low income, transient neighborhood. In early 2007, church members were asked by a food bank representative about opening a soup kitchen. That year, we partnered with volunteers from five area churches to host Disciples' Kitchen — serving lunch two days each week. As volunteer support increased, we expanded to three days a week!

When faced with COVID-19 restrictions this year, we felt we may need to close. But instead, we decided to try handing out meals in the church parking lot. April Cranford, pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Waynesboro, mentioned the need for volunteers to a local pastors' association. Because of the additional volunteer help, we're providing to-go lunches three days a week!

Our program has not only filled a physical need, but also a spiritual/emotional need for those who attend the meal as well as volunteers.

— LINDA FIELDS, ruling elder and treasurer

Friends:

Oxford Church's Christmas Eve Candlelighting service always brings record attendance at 5pm.

This year we plan something different: Instead of the Christ Candle, we will enjoy a large "Christ Fire" for light and warmth outside on church property. Candlelighting for all will be included as usual. This novel service welcomes the entire community. It will be cancelled only in case of extreme weather.

Horace

MASSANETTA SPRINGS • 2021 SCHEDULE

We know you need to plan for 2021, and so we are publishing our summer 2021 calendar. However, if we've learned anything in 2020, it is that plans are subject to change. Our first commitment remains the physical, emotional, and spiritual safety of our guests. Decisions about social distancing, capacities, and even whether to conduct events at all will be made based on that commitment. We pray the summer of 2021 is full of happy reunions at Massanetta Springs!



THERE'S SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE AT MASSANETTA IN 2021

YEAR ROUND	MISSION@MASSANETTA	JULY 16-18	PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S CONFERENCE
APRIL 5-9	EASTER PASTOR'S RESPITE	JULY 25-31	BIBLE CONFERENCE
JUNE 10-13	PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S SUMMER GATHERING	JULY 25-31	CHURCH MUSIC CONFERENCE
JUNE 17-20	MIDDLE SCHOOL CONFERENCE #1	AUGUST 2-5	CALLED TOGETHER RETREAT
JUNE 22-25	MIDDLE SCHOOL CONFERENCE #2	NOVEMBER 12-14	SALT (SERVING AND LEARNING TOGETHER) - A DISCIPLESHIP EVENT FOR HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH, COLLEGE STUDENTS, AND ADULTS
JULY 8-11	MIDDLE SCHOOL CONFERENCE #3	DECEMBER 5	CHRISTMAS DINNER AND CONCERT
JULY 13-16	MIDDLE SCHOOL CONFERENCE #4		

MASSANETTASPRINGS.ORG
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SUNDAY, JUNE 13 – SUNDAY, JUNE 27, 2021

What does it mean to CARE FOR CREATION?

Are Christians called to RESPOND TO CLIMATE CHANGE?

Is it possible to LIVE SUSTAINABLY for the benefit of future generations?

Theologically curious high school students are invited to [apply before January 1, 2021](#) for the 2021 Lux Summer Theological Institute. Safety permitting, the program will be held in-person at Presbyterian-related [Monmouth College](#) (Monmouth, IL).

Funded by the Lilly Endowment, the Lux Institute is an opportunity for students to engage with a topic of global importance and participate in a living-learning community through study, worship, service, recreation, and vocational exploration.

Scholarships are available to cover all program expenses for the two-week program, with the exception of travel. A free shuttle to/from Chicago airports is provided.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: lux.monmouthcollege.edu



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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!

December 2020

- 1 - CPT 10:00 am
- 3 - CRE Oversight Committee 10:00 am
- 5 - CMO 9:30 am
- 7 - Advent Bible Study 11 am—12 pm
- 7 - CCVT 1:00 pm
- 8 - Staff Meeting 11:00 am
- 8 - MPMC 12:00 pm
- 9 - CPM 10:00 am
- 9 - Boundary Training 1:00—4:00 pm
- 10 - CRM 9:30 am
- 10 - Pastors' Meeting 12:00 pm
- 13 - Ordination of Molly Morris 1:00 pm
at Staunton First via Zoom
- 14 - Advent Bible Study 11 am—12 pm
- 21 - Advent Bible Study 11 am—12 pm
- 18 - 31 Office Closed for Christmas

January 2021

- 4 - Office Re-opens
- 4 - CCVT 1:00 pm
- 5 - CPT 10:00 am
- 9 - CMO 9:30 am
- 12 - Staff Meeting 10:00 am
- 12 - MPMC 12:00 pm
- 12 - CNCD 3:30 pm
- 13 - CPM 10:00 am
- 14 - CRM 9:30 am
- 14 - CER 10:00 am
- 14 - Pastors' Meeting 12:00 pm
- 20 - Nominations 2:00 pm
- 20 - Shenandoah Press Deadline
- 21 - CPA 1:30 pm
- 26 - CPC 10:00 am
- 28 - Pastors' Meeting 12:00 pm

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are via Zoom