

Special points of interest:

- Lent Bible Study
- Mister Rogers Day
- Zoom Faith
- E-Giving
- Lent Tunnel Worship
- Much more...

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A Message from our General Presbyter

*Five hundred twenty five thousand six hundred minutes
Five hundred twenty five thousand moments so dear
Five hundred twenty five thousand six hundred minutes
How do you measure? Measure a year?*

So begins the song "Seasons of Love" from the Broadway musical Rent by Jonathan Larson. It came to mind as I pondered what to say at the beginning of Lent. Lent, a time of reflection, repentance, and growing closer to God. It came to me as I reflect on the past year and how we have changed. It hasn't been easy. It has been messy at times - and discouraging. We have not had our usual opportunities to gather, to mourn, to celebrate and yet.... I have seen a greater sharing of creativity, a renewed appreciation for God's creation. I have heard of connections being made that would not have been likely in days past. There has been in many places a resilience that has been found, but maybe not yet named.

How will you measure the past year for yourself? How will you measure this current year?

In daylights,

In sunsets,

In midnights,

In cups of coffee,

In inches, In miles, In laughter, in strife.

In five hundred twenty five thousand six hundred minutes How do you measure a year in a life?

Perhaps we should follow what the lyricist states next – for it aligns with what we know of God and the teachings of Jesus Christ. **How about love? Measure in love.... Seasons of love.....**

How are you showing and sharing the love of God? What have you done or not done that you need to repent to God? How will you prepare yourself for the resurrection of our Lord and Savior? How will you carry the Good News in your life – your "Five hundred twenty five thousand six hundred minutes?" May this season of Lent enrich your soul and may you discover more ways to share God's love.

Bronwen



**What is this?
See page 8
for the answer!**

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Lent begins with Jesus being sent into the wilderness. This is an image that might resonate with you—I know it certainly does for me. I feel like this past year we have been in the wilderness, as we have had to be the church in a new landscape.

In this wilderness time, there are glimmers of hope, and also an overload of sometimes conflicting or confusing information for Sessions, pastors and congregation members. While the COVID-19 vaccines are rolling out, congregations need to continue to follow state and local guidelines until they change—and that is not expected to happen until Fall of 2021.



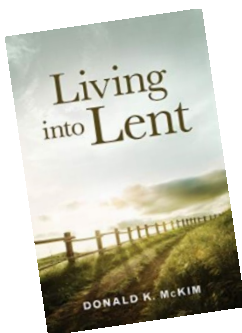
So, the things that we do to promote health and safety for others (part of Jesus' command to "Love one another") still apply:

- ◆ Wear a mask. The CDC suggests double masking for extra protection.
- ◆ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/need-to-know.html>
- ◆ Avoid crowds and keep your physical distance—6' is farther than we usually stand.
- ◆ Wash your hands thoroughly and regularly—for at least 20 seconds, and scrub vigorously with soap and water. If they are not available, use hand sanitizer, and vigorously scrub for 20 seconds.
- ◆ Limit exposure to 15 minutes total—after 15 minutes of exposure (count all the times/places you were out today) your risk of contracting COVID goes up. This includes worship services.
- ◆ Singing is still not recommended. Singing requires, even with a mask, 12-16' distance between singers in order to reduce spread.
- ◆ If you are worshipping indoors, heat the sanctuary prior to worship, and then turn OFF all fans, blowers, air forced heat, etc. If you are able to, open windows and doors to let fresh air circulate through the room.

I know we are tired, and that this has been a much longer time than we had ever anticipated. But we know God is always with us, even in this wilderness. May you find blessings this Lenten time, and always.

Nancy

Living Into Lent- A Bible Study by Donald K McKim



We are reading and discussing Donald McKim's *Living into Lent* as a Zoom Bible Study, noon- 1 pm, Wednesday 3/3, 3/10, 3/17, 3/24 and 3/31.

Books may be purchased through The PC(USA) Store: <https://www.pcusastore.com/Products/0664265405/living-into-lent.aspx>, but study guides will be sent out each week.

To register, please contact Donna at the Presbytery office: shenpres@shenpres.org, and she will send you the materials and the Zoom link for the class.

It's not too late to join!

Contact Donna at the presbytery office (shenpres@shenpres.org) for materials and links to the meeting and the two recordings you have missed!

Stated Meeting of Presbytery—February 27, 2021

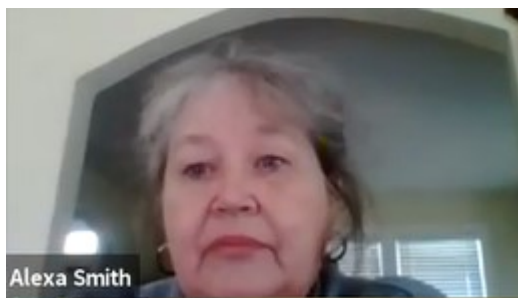


2021 Moderator

Judy Hensley,
Commissioned Ruling Elder
Union Church



Cindy Corell
PCUSA Mission Co-Worker in Haiti
Member of Tinkling Spring Church



Rev Alexa Smith, Interim, Berkley Springs



Rev Jim Johns, Honorably Retired
New Member of Shenandoah



One screen from the Zoom Stated Meeting. We had 113 in attendance!

Mister Rogers Day—March 20



Mister Rogers Day is March 20, a Saturday this year.

Fred McFeely Rogers was born March 20, 1928, was a Presbyterian pastor, and an evangelist of God's grace through television. His birthday is sometimes known as "Won't you be my Neighbor? Day." Famous for his cardigans (which his mom knitted for him), why don't you put on a sweater on Saturday, March 20, and see what ways you can be a neighbor, sharing God's love, in this time of physical distancing? Sending notes to people? Shoveling a neighbor's steps or sidewalk? A zoom meeting with friends?

Here is a link for helpful and fun ideas, with suggestions for incorporating this in worship:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/resource/a-beautiful-day-in-the-neighborhood-mr-rogers-day/>

Anyway you find to do it, you will be a "neighbor," just like Mister Rogers.

Zoom Faith

So...you have been doing zoom and/or YouTube worship for awhile now...and perhaps there are still glitches, or things you or your team would like to learn. Zoom Faith, a Facebook group moderated by Bruce Reyes-Chow, is a discussion platform for people to talk about what has worked for them, and what hasn't, in this new world of streaming and hybrid worship.

Here is the link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/zoomfaith/>



Ruling Elder Training—March 27



Ruling Elder Training to be held Saturday, March 27, 10-noon, via zoom.

We will cover the basics: the ministry of Ruling Elders, and the Book of Order.

But we will also talk about what being the church of Jesus Christ looks like in this pandemic time, and beyond, and how the Presbytery can support you in your ministries.

This training will be led by Rev. Bronwen Boswell, Stated Clerk and General Presbyter, and Rev. Nancy Meehan Yao, Associate General Presbyter.

The training will be via zoom. It will be recorded, for those who cannot make this training, and can view it later. To register, please reply to Donna Lanaghan at shenpres@shenpres.org

Cautious In-Person Worship at Zetta

Last month, I wrote about our cautious in-person worship at Zetta. This month, the last three Sundays have featured winter weather, so caution led us to do virtual worship for Zetta.

Even though we don't have Internet at home, we do have a decent connection to the cell network, so it has worked reasonably well for us to do virtual worship from the house. On Sunday the 14th, the connection was a little iffy, but the previous two Sundays the connection was continuous and the resolution was good.

We set up in the living room, at the table near the piano, so that Candace's playing is well audible. I sit at the table with the camera across from me and the "baptismal font" (a bowl with water in it) to my right. I wear a liturgical stole and a small cross, but I decided that the robe was too formal for the setting. Usually Esme jumps up into the chair beside me, and sometimes her furry head comes into view. This past Sunday, Dougal barked during worship, but I just considered it that he was making a joyful noise unto the Lord!

We do pretty much the same liturgy as when we gather in person, except I still try to keep it fairly short. It seems that people's attention span in front of the screen is not the same as live and in person. Although we are delighted to be able to sing, since we're not all breathing in the same space, we do save time by only doing one verse of each hymn. Candace puts the lyrics in the bulletin, and I send it out ahead of time by text and e-mail. We also save time in that there's less back and forth as we raise joys and concerns for prayer, although I usually do hear at least one or two such items during the week, and I mention them. We further save a little time with respect to the offering, because I remind Zetta folks to bring it the next time we're together at the church, and I remind any non-Zetta folks who have joined us to support their own churches, and then we go straight into the Doxology.

The other thing that's noticeably different is when I give the charge and benediction. If I raise my hand fully up, it's completely out of shot, and if I hold it straight out in front of me that gives some inappropriate historical connotations, so I just hold my hand a little to the side of my head. It looks like I'm swearing to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth - which I hope, at that point, I've already done!

This ongoing situation that we're in continues to give me some heartburn, because it seems like we exclude some people no matter which way we do it! If we worship live and in person at Zetta, some people are excluded because they don't feel comfortable coming, and we can't livestream worship because we don't have Internet (or even a decent cell connection) at the church. If we worship virtually, some folks who usually come are excluded because they don't have the technology to participate via the live stream. Whatever the situation, though, we're glad that we are able to gather for worship in either way, and we're also thankful to God for provoking us to come up with new ways of being the Church!

I, for one, would be delighted to hear about how other folks are doing worship in these times. Please share in ShenPress what you're doing, or at least make us aware where to find your worship if it's online. You can find Zetta's worship on our Facebook page. Further, the North River Ministerial Association will be doing joint livestream services on its Facebook page for Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

God go with you!

Thanks!
Stan F



Begins March 14 at 2:00 am

Lent Tunnel Worship Series

When have you said, I see the light at the end of the tunnel? Perhaps these words were said when receiving your vaccine shot, at the end of a difficult season in your life or at the completion of a large project.

As Christians, we see the light at the end of the tunnel as the hope, truth, and love found in Christ our Lord. Join Westminster [Presbyterian Church], as we explore our faith during lent through a Tunnel Worship Series. Enhance your Lenten journey by visiting the Blue Ridge Tunnel using provided prayer cards found at the Ash Wednesday services, online, or in the church office.

- Ash Wednesday, February 17 at noon and 6 p.m. - Tunnel Vision, Luke 4:1-12
- February 21 - Fear in the Tunnel, John 14:25-27
- February 28 - Uncertainty in the Tunnel, Mark 9:14-29
- March 7 - Determination in the Tunnel, Matthew 18:21-22
- March 14 - Darkness in the Tunnel, John 11:1-44
- March 21 - Surrender in the Tunnel, Luke 9:1-6
- March 28 - Celebration in the Tunnel, John 12:12-19
- Maundy Thursday, April 1 at 7 p.m. - Tunnel of Love, John 13:1-20, 31-35
- Easter, April 4 - Light at the End of the Tunnel, Matthew 28:1-10



Lent Prayer Cards are available in the church office, chapel entrance, and sanctuary entrance from the colonnade. Attached are two versions of the Prayer cards. Allow the following nine prayer prompts to guide your spiritual steps between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday, your physical steps between the east and west entrances of the Blue Ridge Tunnel, and all the between places you find yourself during this season of life.

Visit the Tunnel and send your Tunnel Pictures to WPC During the Tunnel Worship Series in Lent please send your tunnel pictures to Savannah at wp.waynesboro@gmail.com. We would like to include at least one tunnel picture in the fridge news each week during Lent and post these on socials. If you are a member of WPC's Facebook or Instagram go ahead and post your tunnel pictures through Lent. (Attached is a picture of Joyce Yancey)

LOVE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD <i>In February</i>			
OUTSIDE TUTORING  ONE TUTOR & ONE STUDENT PER PICNIC TABLE NEAR PLAYGROUND MASKS REQUIRED 3:30-5:30 PM ON WEDNESDAYS IN FEBRUARY SIGN-UP ON WEBSITE	 NEW SOCCER GOALS BRING A SOCCER BALL AND ENJOY OUTDOOR PLAY AT WESTMINSTER WITH NEW SOCCER GOALS NEAR PLAYGROUND	HOMEMADE HUGS  HOMEMADE LAP QUILTS LEFT AT YOUR DOORSTEP. CALL CHURCH OFFICE FOR A QUILT	AUGUSTA HEALTH CARDS CALLING ALL KIDS!!! WE NEED YOUR HELP IN CREATING 100 CARDS FOR AUGUSTA HEALTH MEDICAL WORKERS. DROP OFF CARDS AT THE CHURCH OFFICE. 
FULL TUMMIES SOUP ON WEDNESDAYS DRIVE BY WPC KITCHEN FROM 5:30-6:00 PM ON WEDNESDAYS IN FEBRUARY FOR SOUP OR REQUEST DROP OFF AT DOORSTEP -SIGN UP BY TUESDAYS ONLINE- DONATIONS ACCEPTED/PAY AS YOU WILL		BEGIN YOUR LENTEN JOURNEY WITH WESTMINSTER AT NOON FOLLOWED BY A PRAYER WALK AT THE BLUE RIDGE TUNNEL WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17 Outside service @ noon, masks required. Noon service followed by a caravan to the Blue Ridge Tunnel for prayer walk. OR Join us for a virtual or in-person service at 6 p.m. in the sanctuary. Individual containers of ashes available in the church office and provided at services.	
More info at www.wp-church.com 540-942-1145			

Lent Prayer Cards

Lent Prayer Cards are available in the [Westminster] church office, chapel entrance, and sanctuary entrance from the colonnade. Allow the following nine prayer prompts to guide your spiritual steps between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday, your physical steps between the east and west entrances of the Blue Ridge Tunnel, and all the between places you find yourself during this season of life.



Tunnel Vision, Luke 4:1-12 No matter how uncertain life looks, we serve a very certain God. No matter how bad our circumstances feel, God is always good, and He promises to bring beauty from ashes... If we know God cares about us, we can make it through pretty much anything. But when life feels the most uncertain, our belief that God cares can get a bit wobbly too. How does that resonate with you? How have you seen this in your life and faith? Spend a few minutes asking God to remind you just how much He cares.

Fear in the Tunnel, John 14:25-27 God, I hand these worries, trouble-spots, and anxieties over to You, remembering that You are God, that I am not, and that I don't have to carry these things on my own. Please carry them with me, help me with them, and in this area of my life, please fill me with peace.

Uncertainty in the Tunnel, Mark 9:14-29 There's a story in the Gospel of Mark about a man who comes to Jesus and confesses, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!" (Mark 9:24, NIV). It's the most honest prayer ever. How do his words resonate with you? When you're really honest, do you believe that God will answer your prayers or do you wrestle with doubt (as all of us do from time to time)? Take that honest man's prayer and make it your own. Share your feelings with God and then ask Him to help you believe.

Determination in the Tunnel, Matthew 18:21-22 Have you ever noticed that sometimes it's easier to believe a truth about God with your head than with your heart? And head knowledge doesn't help much when you're battling your fears as you try to fall asleep at night. Are there any truths about God that live in your head, but might not have made it down into your heart?

Darkness in the Tunnel, John 1:1-44 While we are absolutely allowed to grieve and feel disappointment when areas of our lives don't look like we want them to, there comes a time when we have to move our eyes away from what we don't have and back to what we do have.

Otherwise, we are going to miss the goodness available to us to-day. So many of the gifts we have today are the things we were praying for in previous seasons, and when we don't take the time to really enjoy them, we're missing out. Write down a few of the things you have today that you were deeply longing for in a past season. What are some details of your life today that while they aren't perfect, are still good and beautiful?

Surrender in the Tunnel, Luke 9:1-6 What would you do if you knew God would be holding your hand every step of the way? Would you stay? Would you go? Would you apply for the new job? Go back to school? Talk to that guy/girl? Take the leap? Answer this question in prayer and then I dare you to take a both step towards that thing! Joshua 1:9 says, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

Celebration in the Tunnel, John 12:12-19 How would the next season of your life be better if you really embraced all that God had for you in this season such as the joy, the gifts, these lessons, the opportunities, and the growth?

Tunnel of Love, John 13:1-20, 31-35 Every once in a while, I feel silly that I'm still talking to God about the same old thing. Sometimes I wonder if he is annoyed that we're talking about this yet again. Or sometimes I feel like I shouldn't talk to him about it again because I didn't exactly take his advice the last time. Spend some time praying.

During Lent, engage in active prayer by using the Worship Series' tunnel phrases and scripture verses to enhance your faith journey. Allow the following nine prayer prompts to guide your spiritual steps between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday, your physical steps between the east and west entrances of the Blue Ridge Tunnel, and all the between places you find yourself during this season of life.

Thank You to Our Churches!

On behalf the presbytery, we wish to thank the congregations listed here for paying the amounts they pledged in 2020. The financial support given allows our presbytery to operate and carry out our mission as we seek faithfully to serve Jesus Christ.

Thank You!

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

E-Giving Comes to Shenandoah Presbytery

We are excited to have E-giving now available to all churches of Shenandoah Presbytery - for *acceptances only* at this time. You may pay with your bank account or by credit card. Please be aware there is a fee. (If you pay by bank account, the fee is much less.)

Go to: <https://shenpres.org/> and find the "Online Giving" button at the top right of the red bar. This button will take you to the payment web page where you enter your payment information.

Please contact Heather at bookkeeper@shenpres.org, or 540-433-2556, if you have any questions.



OR: Point your phone camera at the QR code above and it will take you to the payment web page!

West Virginia Vaccinations

The WV Council of Churches hosted a webinar today with the Joint Interagency Task Force for COVID-19 Vaccines. These are the people rolling out vaccines in West Virginia. A link to a recording of this webinar is here: <https://fb.watch/3HNvD7qENZ/> and it is very informative.

The major takeaway is that JITF is asking all churches to make personal contact with all parishioners residing in WV to make sure they know how to get on the state registry for vaccinations, and to provide assistance to do so if needed/desired. The registration information is attached. For my churches I am asking each elder to personally contact each WV resident in your shepherding/pray list group. I'm sorry, I have no information for Maryland residents.

Also of note: The JITF will be reevaluating whether clergy may be considered essential workers.

Please disseminate this information as appropriate.

Pastor Tom Forbes



Upcoming Pathways Online Courses

These online courses meet weekly for five-weeks, one class meeting per week. Class sizes are limited. Waiting lists will be generated, as needed. [Click here for more info or to register.](#)

Preaching the Bible (New section added)

Led by: Dr. Rich Voelz, Associate Professor of Teaching & Worship

Dates: Mondays, April 19 - May 17, 2021

Polity & Administration II (Pathways Elective)

Led by: Rev. Carson Rhyne, Adjunct Instructor

Dates: Tuesdays, April 27 - May 25, 2021

Worship & Sacraments (New section added)

Led by: Dr. Paul Galbreath, Professor of Theology

Dates: Thursdays, May 20 - June 17, 2021

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Thanks to Robert

04-18-2011

ON OUR ISLAND, EVERY SUNDAY IS PALM SUNDAY

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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!

March 2021

- 1 - CCVT 1:00 pm
- 2 - CPT 10:00 am
- 4 - CRE Oversight 4:00 pm
- 6 - CMO 9:30 am
- 9 - Staff Meeting 10:00 am
- 9 - MRMC 12:00 pm
- 9 - CNCD 3:30 pm
- 10 - CPM 10:00 am
- 11 - CRM 9:30 am
- 17 - Shenandoah Press Deadline
- 17 - Nominations 2:00 pm
- 18 - CER 10:00 am

Other Dates

- 3 - Interim Pastors' Meeting
- 11 - Pastors' Meeting 12:00 pm
- 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 - Lent Bible Study 12:00—1:00 pm
- 25 - Pastors' Meeting 12:00 pm
- 27 - Ruling Elder Training 10:00 am—12:00 pm

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