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A Message from our General Presbyter

Spring is here, the redbuds have been gorgeous, we are coming out of winter and a pandemic so - what have we learned? More specifically what have we learned during this time of pandemic? Especially now as we begin to come out of it.

The answers are broad and varied. Some have enjoyed their time of isolation as they are truly introverts and don't care for people much anyway. Some realized how easily depressed they can get without the interaction with people because people give them energy. Some learned that they really could communicate, worship, and work via technology.

Changes have happened and guess what? We adapted, we saw life with a new perspective and faced challenges that we overcame. If nothing else, we can look at the past year and realize that we can make change!

So even though there are things we grieve, there are things to celebrate as well. It is our choice as to how to move forward from here. As for me, I am celebrating the birth of three babies in the extended realm of family and friends and waiting for the birth of three more! As much as we may have lost this past year, life goes on. God's creation shows us that life goes on and we are invited by the Holy Spirit to renew our life in Jesus Christ.

The past is finished and gone, a new life has begun – believe the good news of the Gospel!

Blessings,



Stated Presbytery Meeting May 25

The 189th Stated Meeting of Shenandoah Presbytery will be held on Tuesday, May 25, 2021, at 9:30 am via Zoom.

Please mark your calendars and watch for registration information, along with the Handbook for the Meeting.

Zoom Practice Session May 19

For those new to Zoom, new as a commissioner to presbytery, or those who need a refreshment of the instructions, we will be holding a Zoom practice session on Wednesday, May 19 at 7:00 pm. Watch for emails.

Presbytery Staff

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Larry Holsinger, Treasurer

Associate General Presbyterian—Nancy Meehan Yao

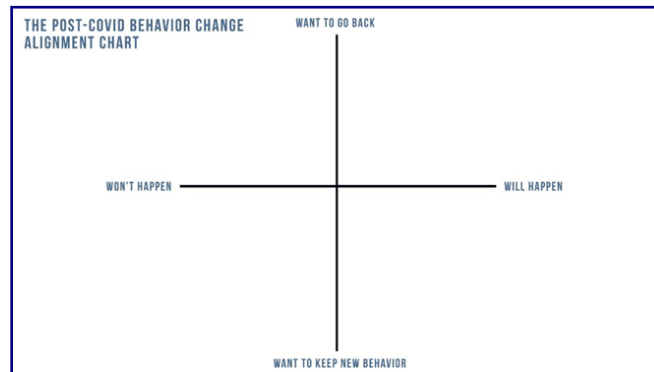
We are living into the “new normal”- and whatever that looks like for you, I am pretty sure it will still involve masks, physical distancing, and frequent, 20 seconds of handwashing. We let go of some stuff this past year (blowing out birthday candles, hugs from our grandkids) and have adopted other practices: curbside pickup of groceries, perhaps more outside exercise, or a zoom yoga class.

We have made changes in being church, as well: zoom worship, online giving instead of passing the plate, the passing of the peace with a wave or an elbow bump instead of a handshake or hug, virtual communion instead of in the pews. Now is a good time to think about what we have lost, and what we have gained, this past year. What new practices do you want to continue? What old practices/behaviors do you hope to revive? How likely are you to do either?



Hank Green has made up this handy chart below. Things near the top are things you want to go back to/take up again (hugging your grandchildren). Things near the bottom are new things you want to keep doing: more frequent handwashing, or ordering dinner on your phone. The left and right axis shows how likely (or not) you think it will be that you will actually do this. So, for example, singing hymns, together, might be something you want very much to resume, (so it will be toward the top of the chart) but it will probably not happen anytime soon, given the guidelines from the CDC, so it will be more towards the left of the chart—for now. This chart can be a way for us to think about, and to discuss, changes and behaviors in our personal lives, and in the church. Use it with your Session, and see what good conversation will flow out of this activity! This conversation will be not just about behaviors, but will be a spiritual conversation—because the life we live, as a community of faith, is always prompted by, and breathed into, the Spirit of God. What is God prompting you to keep, and what to get rid of?

Blessings, Nancy

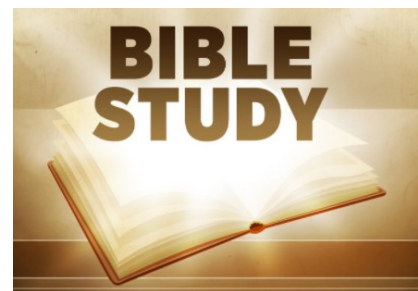


Incarnation as Adaptive Change

Change...change, we have all gone through a lot of change this past year, and frankly, the church is not comfortable with change.

I believe the Incarnation can teach us about Adaptive Change.

This 5-week Bible Study will cover differences between technical and adaptive change, will look at Bible stories which show the Incarnated Christ engaged in Adaptive Change, will discuss how the church, as the body of Christ, can embrace adaptive change...and since we are talking about bodies, will open and close with a short bit of easy chair yoga each week.



We will meet in Bible Study Wednesdays in June, at noon- 1 pm, via Zoom: June 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30.

To register and receive the Zoom link, please contact Donna at shenpres@shenpres.org

Finley Memorial Presbyterian Church

Thanks to the hard work of our newly-formed Communications Task Force, Finley Memorial has undertaken several projects over the past year to enhance our digital outreach and communication. Most recently, we launched a new website: www.finleypres.com created and developed by member Carey McCallum. We are excited about the possibilities it will afford us and hope that many will find it useful for learning more about the goings on at Finley and in the Stuarts Draft community.

Tommy Carrico

Massanutten Presbyterian Church Seeks Digital Communications Coordinator

Massanutten Presbyterian Church is seeking a Digital Media Communication Coordinator. The ideal candidate for this position will demonstrate creativity and energy for the life of the church and an ability coordinate with church staff and with volunteers within the church.

To view the complete description, [click here](#) or view it on our [Church Job Openings web page](#).

To apply, please submit a resume to info@massanuttenchurch.org or via mail to Administrative Commission, Massanutten Presbyterian Church, 50 Indian Trail Road, Penn Laird, VA 22846.

Church Bulletin Bloopers

"Today the pastor will preach his farewell message after which the choir will sing "Break Forth into Joy"

"During the absence of our pastor, we enjoyed the rare privilege of hearing a good sermon when A. B. Doe supplied our pulpit."

"The Rev. Adams spoke briefly, much to the delight of his audience."

"Next Sunday Mrs. Vinson will be soloist for the morning service. The pastor will then speak on "It's a terrible experience".

"The church is glad to have with us today as our guest minister the Rev. Shirley Green, who has Mrs. Green with him. After the service we request that all remain in the sanctuary for the Hanging of the Greens."

"The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new tithing campaign slogan last Sunday: "I Upped My Pledge -- Up Yours."

"At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What is Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice."

"The sermon this morning: 'Jesus walks on the water'. The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus!'"



Pentecost Special Offering—May 23, 2021

Pentecost is one of four Special Offerings connected to a season of the church year and mandated by the General Assembly to help the whole Church join together in response to God's grace.

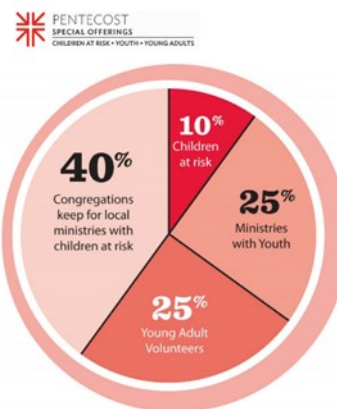
See the fliers for all four of the Special Offerings at <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/>.

Congregations collect contributions for this Special Offering of Pentecost on Pentecost Sunday. This is a way to celebrate the Holy Spirit and the birth of the church.

40% of the Pentecost offering collected at the church level is to be kept at the local church level. This is to help churches support their local child and youth ministry. The Pentecost Leader Guide shows us that congregations are inspired to assist families of children at risk, support education for at-risk youth, growing mission work with youth and young adults, ministering to at-risk children and teens, and providing for health and safety. Go to pcusa.org/Pentecost for more detailed information.

Congregations then send the remaining 60% of the funds collected to the presbytery. The contributions collected from all the Shenandoah Presbytery churches are then sent to the denomination. The PCUSA uses your generous offering to support the Young Adult Volunteers (25%), Youth Ministries (25%) and Child Advocacy (10%).

For more information on these ministries, please go to pcusa.org/Pentecost.



Thank you for Updating Your Church Status!

We want to thank all of the churches for responding so quickly to our request for your worshipping status! We have now heard from 2/3 of the churches in our presbytery. We are so thankful that you read our emails and reply to us. We feel blessed to serve with all of you!

For those who have not submitted their information, *please do so soon*. The churches who have not updated lately are italicized on the web page. We strive to be current, so please send your information to shenpres@shenpres.org by **April 30**. Even if the information is current and correct, please send an email so we can confirm.

Thank you in advance for your time!

To view up-to-date status, visit:
<https://shenpres.org/covid-19-resources/church-status/>



IT'S TIME TO PLACE YOUR BULK BOOK ORDER

From the Shenandoah Presbytery office

PLEASE MAIL YOUR ORDER FORM WITH PAYMENT

Payable to: Shenandoah Presbytery, Attn: Book Orders
1111 North Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA 22802.

ALL ORDERS DUE BY: JUNE 30, 2021

You will be notified when the books arrive in our office for PICK UP

If you have any questions, please email
bookkeeper@shenpres.org or call 540-433-2556

ORDER THE FOLLOWING:

| | | |
|---|--------------|----------|
| _____ 2022 Planning Calendars (arrive by August) | \$ 9.75 each | \$ _____ |
| _____ The Book of Confessions - 2016 (arrive by August) | \$ 9.00 each | \$ _____ |
| _____ 2021/2023 Book of Order (arrive by November) | \$ 9.00 each | \$ _____ |

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

NAME _____

CHURCH _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

TELEPHONE # _____

EMAIL _____

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WHERE ANGEL HAIR PASTA COMES FROM

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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!

May 2021

- 3 - Interim Pastors 10:00 am
- 4 - CPT 10:00 am
- 6 - CER 10:00 am
- 6 - CRE Oversight 4:00 pm
- 10 - CCVT 1:00 pm
- 11 - Staff Meeting 10:00 am
- 11 - MRMC 12:00 pm
- 11 - CNCD 3:30 pm
- 12 - CPM 10:00 am
- 13 - CRM 9:30 am
- 16 - Installation of Loren Mitchell 4:00 pm
New Providence Church
- 19 - Shenandoah Press Deadline
- 19 - Nominations 2:00 pm
- 20 - CPA 1:30 pm

Other Dates

- 8 - PW Coordinating Team 10:00 am
- 13 - Pastors' Meeting 12:00 pm
- 19 - Zoom Practice Session for Presbytery Meeting
- 25 - Stated Meeting of Presbytery 9:30 am
- 27 - Pastors' Meeting 12:00 pm
- 31 - Office Closed for Memorial Day

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

