

## Special points of interest:

- Online Payments
- May 25 Stated Meeting of Presbytery
- Summer Concert Series
- Much more...

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## A Message from our General Presbyter

The New Providence congregation celebrated the installation of its new pastor, The Reverend Loren Tate Mitchell on May 16<sup>th</sup>. During the reception one of the ruling elders shared with me that he hoped we - individual congregations and the presbytery - would be having conversations about what the church could look like in five years, in ten years, especially on the heels of a pandemic. He cited what had been experienced through technology and the ability to change and do something new. I think that is a good question for all of us to reflect on as we begin to return to familiar ways of being.



What is it that we missed the most when the building could not be used as it had been in the past? Who did we reach that we had not before? How did we engage in mission? What worked? What did not? What are we ready to let go of from what we did in the past? What do we wish to keep? How might we do what we do differently to share the gospel? How has my faith changed, deepened or floundered during the pandemic and what helped? What hindered?

I encourage all of us to make time to reflect on what came before, what we have lived through and how we dream and make a reality the future of being the church of Jesus Christ. I encourage our sessions and congregations to engage in discussion about what comes next. I'll be interested in hearing the answers.

We are called to a new time and vision of what can be – let us go into the future with confidence, secure in the knowledge that God is with us!

*Blessings,  
Bronwen*

## Online Payments

It is an exciting time! We now have the ability to make some payments online through our website.

Here is what you can do:

- ♦ Churches may send in their acceptances
- ♦ Churches and individuals may place - and pay for - Book & Calendar Orders ([click here for the Order Form](#))
- ♦ Churches and individuals may contribute to our Stated Meeting Mission Offering

Place your camera over the QR code to the link, or go to [our webpage](#) to make your payments.

If you have any questions, please contact the presbytery office at 540-433-2556.



## Presbytery Staff

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## Associate General Presbyterian—Nancy Meehan Yao

A few years back, Rev. Grady Parsons, then Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, preached a sermon on his favorite New Testament story, of Jesus calming the storm on the lake. He boiled the story down to 4 sentences: "Get into the boat. Go across the lake. There will be storms. You will not die."



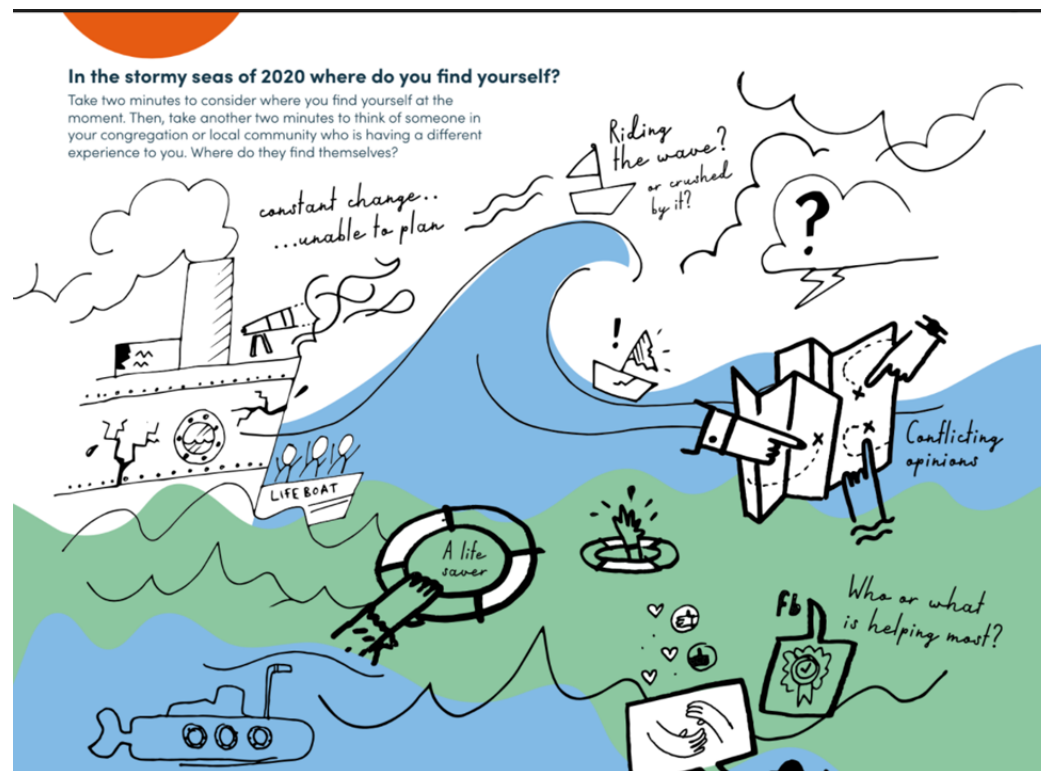
This past year has been a sea change for all of us. Many Sessions, pastoral leaders and congregations find it difficult to navigate in the waters of so much information. We have weathered many storms, and wonder and sometimes disagree about how to hold worship/meetings/be with each other, given the constantly changing information we receive from many sources. We find it difficult to plan, much less create a clear and safe way forward. Nevertheless, God continues to be God, the Holy Spirit is calling us and equipping us to be the church right now, and Jesus is in this boat with us. We are called to get in the boat and go across the lake. There will be (and are storms). We will not die.

Below is a resource from Rooted Good- although written in 2020, I think it still applies today.

The questions it asks are questions we can all ask of ourselves and congregations: are we riding the waves, or are sinking? Who or what is a lifesaver for us? And how is the rest of our community doing? How can we be a help to them?

Feel free to share this with your congregation and Session. And remember, Jesus is with us in this.

Blessings, Nancy



<https://rootedgood.org/>

## Summer is here!

Well, sort of. As I write this, there is a freeze warning....so while the calendar might say "June" we are not quite there yet. But...that doesn't mean we are not planning for summer. First, an online Bible Study about CHANGE.

### Adaptive Change Bible Study INCARNATION AS ADAPTIVE CHANGE

How Jesus' Life Teaches Faithful Change

We all live in a changing world—this past year has taught us that.

Adaptive change is change that requires changes in our priorities, beliefs, habits, and loyalties.

Adaptive change is change that helps congregations thrive.

In this 5 week Bible Study, we will study events in Jesus life, and examine how they teach us adaptive change.

Wednesdays in June, noon-1 pm via Zoom

June 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30

Contact [shenpres@shenpres.org](mailto:shenpres@shenpres.org) to register and receive Study Guide.

This study will NOT be recorded.

**Looking for some more good studies for the summer? How about bread? Bread gets mentioned a lot in the Bible.**

**Bake with the Bible** is a 6 week course on bread and Spirituality, for teens, families and/or children- very flexible (like good bread dough)!

<https://www.edibletheology.com/bake-with-the-bible>

### How about Bible Stories about Women?

Lynn Japinga, professor of religion at Hope College, has 2 books out- both are great for group discussion or a sermon series:

**From Widow to Warrior**, (Women's stories from the Hebrew Scripture)

And **From Daughters to Disciples**, (Women's stories from the New Testament)

Both are available on amazon, and from the McMillin Resource Center

### VBS

What are you thinking about for VBS?

Of course, you will follow state and CDC guidelines regarding health practices- so however you plan to do VBS, in-person, hybrid, or totally online, there is curriculum for you!

**GenOn Ministries** has lots of ideas for outdoor faith development:

<https://www.genonministries.org/collections/summer-resources-for-intergenerational-ministry/>

Living Waters For the World (which presented at the May Presbytery meeting) has free at home and also at church VBS plans/curriculum.

<https://www.livingwatersfortheworld.org/vbs-at-home>

Illustrated Ministry offers **Compassion Camp**, perfect for in-person, online, or hybrid:

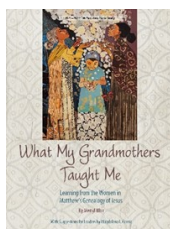
<https://www.illustratedministry.com/vbs/>

## And planning for the Fall...

Yes, I know its summer, but it is time to look ahead to fall faith formation-

**Follow Me: Biblical Practices for Faithful Living** is a thirty-six-unit curriculum based on practices Jesus did and taught us to do as faithful followers. Written for people of all ages who wish to live out their faith, this new curriculum examines where these practices are found in the Bible and how they have been used in Christian faith then and now.

A copy of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter congregational bundle will be available at the McMillin Center mid-July. This will give you an idea of how the curriculum is used in different age groups, and how it is adaptable for intergenerational activities for your congregation. Please contact the office to check it out.



### PW Bible Study

**The Presbyterian Women's Horizon Bible Study for 2021-2022 is**

"What my Grandmothers Taught Me: Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus"

A copy of the Bible Study, with Leader helps, is available through the Resource Center - contact the office. A DVD, with the author, Merryl Blair, will be available later this summer.

A Training for Circle Leaders, or anyone interested, will be held this summer, date TBA.

## CDC Guidelines Update



On Thursday, May 13, the CDC issued new guidelines regarding health practices for fully vaccinated people. The governors of Virginia and West Virginia issued new guidelines the next day.

In the midst of more than a year of changing data, Sessions have met—and continue to meet to create safe practices for their congregations.

The CDC guidance about not masking/observing physical distance presumes a setting in which everyone present is fully vaccinated— that is, 2 weeks after their final covid shot (shot #2 for Moderna and Pfizer, and 1 shot for Johnson and Johnson).

In congregational settings, we can presume there is a mix of fully-vaxxed and not yet vaxxed, including children under age 9.

Guidance from the PCUSA reminds us that:

a. You should of course consult with your state website on COVID and comply with any orders issued by your governor and the state related to masks, social distancing, number of people who can gather in one space, and so forth. Some states have mask mandates, others do not. If you do not mandate masks or do not enforce everyone attending being masked and someone complains, you could be cited. Other sources of information include covidactnow.org and <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.

b. It would be wise to have a plan approved by your session concerning how it will address COVID issues, including worship, session and committee meetings, and meetings of other groups that gather in your buildings.

That will be of benefit, especially:

- i. If shared with your insurer to get its feedback, so that if anyone gets sick and a claim is filed you can say you consulted with the insurer and got its feedback and opinion. If you do not know where to start, your insurer may have draft plans available or suggestions on what to include in such a plan.
- ii. To give members and non-member worshippers and visitors to your building(s) a level of comfort that you are thinking in advance of issues (masking, social distancing, hand sanitizer, etc.) and addressing them.

c. The plan should include the latest guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) and your state.

NOTE: This is guidance from the PCUSA, and not legal advice.

The plan should also include how the Session will handle local and congregational situations (increase in cases, a worshipper reporting having a positive test for covid, etc) that would require re-implementing safety precautions such as mask wearing and physical distancing, and how that will be communicated to the congregation and groups using the church building. It should also include a consideration of hybrid or both in-person and online worship. This past year has shown many of us that people may choose, for a variety of reasons, to worship “virtually,” and in fact congregations have grown in membership and worshippers. This is an exciting new kind of evangelism.

## 189th Stated Meeting of Shenandoah Presbytery May 25, 2021 via Zoom

You may view the recording of our  
Stated Meeting of Presbytery  
of May 25, 2021,  
on our web page:  
[https://shenpres.org/presbytery-  
meeting/](https://shenpres.org/presbytery-meeting/).

We also celebrated the our Associate General Presbyter,  
Nancy Meehan Yao, just recently graduated with her  
Doctor of Ministry! We presented her with flowers and a  
new name plate for her desk .



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### Please Continue to Update Your Church Status

Many churches have returned to in-person worship.  
Many others are continuing to live-stream their service along with in-person  
worship. If you have not We strive to keep current information on our website, so  
please continue to send your information to [shenpres@shenpres.org](mailto:shenpres@shenpres.org). Thank you all in advance for  
your time!

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



## Bulk Book Orders Available Now Order - and Pay - Online

It is time again for Bulk Book Orders! Order your 2022 Presbyterian Planning Calendars, Book of Confessions, and/or the 2021-2023 Book of Order.

For your convenience, we now have ordering available on our website: <https://shenpres.org/book-orders/>. You may **place your order and pay online**, or mail a check to the presbytery office. If you would prefer, you may still use the order form to the left (click on the photo).



We do not order many extra items like we used to, so order your Planning Calendars and Books through us and save money. The Planning Calendars at the PCUSA Store are \$16.95. By buying in bulk, we can get them for \$9.75!

If you have any questions, contact Heather at [bookkeeper@shenpres.org](mailto:bookkeeper@shenpres.org) or 540-433-2556. The deadline for orders is **June 30. Order now!**

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## Summer Concert Series Hosted by Presbyterian Giving Catalog

Dear Friend in Mission,

We are reaching out to invite your presbytery to join us in celebrating our connection to one another through our gifts and music. Beginning in June, the **Presbyterian Giving Catalog** will host a **Summer Concert Series** featuring three unique virtual concerts over the course of the summer months.

Concerts will premiere on YouTube and are absolutely free! [Elizabeth Stockton Perkins](#), a vocalist, student at Vassar College and longtime Presbyterian Mission supporter, kicks off the concert series on June 21. The [Stillman College Choir](#) concert will premiere on July 21, and on Aug. 21 the Mission Musicians of the PC(USA) will close out the series. Once they premiere, all concerts will be available to enjoy through September.

We are encouraging congregations and mid councils to hold viewing parties for the concerts, gathering safely in person or virtually, to enjoy beautiful music and connectivity with the wider Church.

As we head into the summer months, let's celebrate and make music together! If you would like to learn more, contact me! 502-569-5742, or [melanie.roney@pcusa.org](mailto:melanie.roney@pcusa.org). I will provide you with the resources you need to set up a watch party.

Have a Blessed Day!

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**PRESBYTERIAN  
GIVING CATALOG**



## International Guests at Berkeley Springs Presbytery Church

Three international guests will join worship at the Berkeley Springs Presbyterian Church to celebrate Pentecost and the connections between Christian communities – whether local or global.

Annelie Lockneman of the Church of Sweden, Fabienne Jean of Haiti and Usama Nicola of Palestine will connect to worship virtually.

Pentecost falls 50 days after Easter and celebrates the life-giving power of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the church in Jerusalem.

Worship begins at 11 a.m. Sunday, May 23: masks and social distancing are required.

Lockneman was the accompanist of Walker Williams, a composer and oboist and a member of the church, who was an artist-in-residence in Sweden in 2019. He is the son of Brice and Ann Williams of Berkeley Springs.

Jean is the coordinator of FONDAMA, a national network of 11 peasant farming organizations who work together to teach good agricultural practices and to tackle root causes of the country's poverty. FONDAMA is a partner of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) (PCUSA) Hunger Program.

Nicola is the Citizens Democracy Project coordinator at the Wi'am Center in Bethlehem, known as the Palestinian Conflict Transformation Center. It is a peace organization that mediates conflicts between family members, neighbors and communities.

The center also hosts alternative tourism programs for individuals traveling in the Holy Land. It creates opportunities for visitors to meet with local people and to study the socio-economic and political realities in the region.

PCUSA mission workers in Haiti and in Israel/Palestine are members of churches in the Shenandoah Presbytery, the PCUSA's governing body in this region. Cindy Corell of Staunton, Va., serves in Haiti, and, Douglas Dicks of Front Royal, Va., Israel/Palestine.

Shenandoah Presbytery encompasses Virginia's Shenandoah Valley and parts of eastern West Virginia, including Berkeley Springs.

*Submitted by Rev. Alexa Smith,  
Interim Pastor at Berkeley Springs PC*

## Berkeley Springs VBS

Berkeley Springs Presbyterian and First United Methodist Church, also of Berkeley Springs, are exploring ways to collaborate on a summertime Vacation Bible School. It's a first-time conversation, so we are excited about the possibilities!

## Rev. Loren Tate Mitchell Installed at New Providence Church



Sandy McLaughlin, New Providence Elder questions the congregation as Loren Mitchell & Presbytery Moderator, CRE Judy Hensley observe



Rev. Loren Tate Mitchell gives the Charge & Blessing at her Installation on May 16

## Bridgewater Presbyterian Church's Paint Afternoon

Bridgewater Presbyterian Church held its first ever "Paint Afternoon" on May 16<sup>th</sup>. The goal was fun, fellowship and raising money for the Memorial Fund. All the goals were met in the most creative ways!

Weather forced the nine artists from the church lawn to the Chewning's garage, but that didn't dampen their spirits. Each was provided an apron and chose their favorite painter for the name tag. Leader MJ Chewning chose "Grandma Moses." The participants created their own "Night Sky" on canvas using acrylics. The group was diverse: the youngest was 6 years of age; some took art in college; some watched YouTube videos; the most experienced had only rolled latex on walls! Skills in mixing, blending, brush types and techniques (including 'splattering' which is just adult finger-painting) were acquired.



The free-will offering (totaling \$240) benefits the church Memorial Fund. We plan to another of these "Paint Afternoons" and welcome participants from the community. Contact Bridgewater Presbyterian Church at 540-237-2120 for more information.



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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!

### June 2021

- 1 - CPT 10:00 am
- 3 - CRE Oversight 4:00 pm
- 5 - CMO 9:30 am
- 7 - CCVT 1:00 pm
- 8 - Staff Meeting 10:00 am
- 8 - MRMC 12:00 pm
- 8 - CNCD 3:30 pm
- 9 - CPM 10:00 am
- 10 - CRM 9:30 am
- 16 - Shenandoah Press Deadline
- 16 - Nominations 2:00 pm
- 17 - CER 10:00 am
- 17 - CPA 1:30 pm

### Other Dates

- 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - June Bible Study 12:00—1:00 pm  
"Incarnation as Adaptive Change"
- 10 - Pastors' Meeting 12:00 pm
- 24 - Pastors' Meeting 12:00 pm

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