

Shenandoah Press

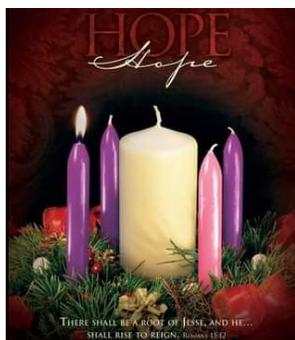
Volume 7, Issue 10

December 2021/January 2022

A Message from our General Presbyter

Another year has come to a close and Advent is upon us. This year did not turn out the way we had hoped.

Though we have returned to being in person for some things, we still live in cautionary times. Loved ones that we thought would still be among us are gone and our grief is deep. For some, work has not returned in the way that is most helpful or at all. And stress is taking its toll, on body, mind, and spirit.



But Advent is here, we have lit the first candle and stand in hope. Hope that we can be the people God has called us to be – in giving us his Son to lead us. Hope that as the future unfolds, we are able to embrace it, whatever “it” may be. Hope that as people who profess Jesus Christ, we will take joy in celebrating his birth sharing and showing Gods’ love to all.

As the old saying goes, “we do not know what the future holds, but we know who holds the future.”

Have a blessed Advent a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Bronwen

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You Can Now Pay Online

We now have online payments available on our website. Churches can pay their acceptances with a few clicks of the mouse.

To use this feature, point your camera at the QR code below, or go to the [payment webpage](#). If you have questions, contact Heather at bookkeeper@shenpres.org.



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2 Peter 3.13-15 – But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home . . . while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

I don't know about you, but I am terrible at waiting. I am a pacer, a wiggler, a gnaw at my fingernails, tap my toes kind of waiter...that is, not very patient at all. Perhaps you are impatiently waiting for something or someone...the phone to ring, the biopsy report to come back, the holidays to get here, the loved one to come home on leave. It feels like we have done little *besides* wait these past 20 months: waiting for the vaccines to be approved, waiting for case numbers to decline, waiting for when we can get back to “normal,” whatever that will look like for you.



The people to whom the letter of 2 Peter is addressed are waiting, too. Waiting, and wondering why Christ has not come back. Wondering, perhaps, if they have been forgotten or abandoned. But the writer assures them that the reason God has delayed is to give time for repentance. In grace and mercy, God gives us time.

But our waiting is not passive. In this generosity of time, we are to wait in hope, and while we are waiting, to live and act in righteousness. While we are waiting, we live out the justice and mercy shown to us and to the world, in Christ Jesus. Some congregations take on extra acts of giving in Advent—whether that be a “reverse Advent calendar” of food for the local food pantry (1 non-perishable item per day), an offering of letters through Bread for the World, or through the PC(USA)’s Christmas Joy Offering.

The passage from 2 Peter is a perfect passage for this time in our communal and national lives, but particularly for Advent.... which is, in many ways, about waiting. Waiting for the birth of the Christ child, but also waiting for the second coming of that Savior, who will close time and gather all creation in.

Perhaps lately, you have found yourself waiting, crying out, even, for a new heaven and a new earth. Perhaps you pray, with sighs too deep for words, “Maranatha, Come, Lord Jesus.” As you pray, be at peace, even as we might sing the hymn “While we are waiting, come.” (Glory to God hymnal, #92)

Prayer:

Lord, you hold all time in your hands, and you hold us, as well. Give us patience in our waiting, even as we look forward to your coming. May we wait in righteousness, living out your new heaven and new earth, even as we proclaim with faith: “Christ has died, Christ is Risen, Christ will come again.” Amen.

Blessings in this Advent time of waiting and action,
Nancy

191st Stated Meeting of Shenandoah Presbytery



At the 191st Stated Meeting of Shenandoah Presbytery, we welcomed Rev. Caitilin Hoy (see left photo) who has been called to serve the Waynesboro Second Presbyterian Church. We look forward to getting to know her!

For the documents of the meeting, along with the video recording, check out our webpage at: <https://shenpres.org/presbytery-meeting/>

Matthew 25 Churches

In 2019, Shenandoah Presbytery voted to become a Matthew 25 Presbytery, meaning we would become (or were already) involved in the 3 foci: Building Congregational Vitality, Dismantling Structural Racism, and Eradicating Systemic Poverty. We have seen congregations engage in all these areas, in life-changing, Spirit led ways, whether or not they are “officially” a Matthew 25 congregation.



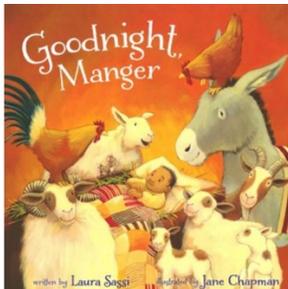
The churches below have registered with the PC(USA) Presbyterian Mission Agency as Matthew 25 congregations—but perhaps your congregation is also a Matthew 25 congregation, or doing the work of justice and mission shown in Matthew 25: 31-46. If so, please share pictures and stories with us! We would love to hear about your ministry. And please also go to <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/become-a-matthew-25-church/> to share your congregations ministry!

Buckton	Front Royal	Massanutten
Collierstown	Hedgesville	Trinity
First Presbyterian Winchester	Loch Willow	Tuscarora

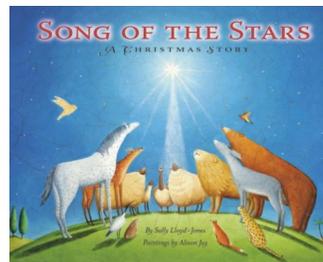
Children's Book Resources

However your congregation is worshipping this Advent, whether online, in person, or hybrid, many have found that short videos, sent to congregation members, families, and posted on the church website or Facebook page are a great way to share the Good News and stay in touch.

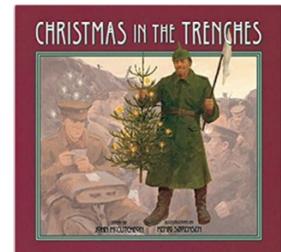
Especially at the holidays, we might want somethings to share, and reading a children’s book is always welcomed! Here are 3:



Goodnight Manger,
by Laura Sassi-
a simple storybook



Song of the Star,
by Sally Lloyd-Jones – a board
book for the youngest ones



Christmas in the Trenches
- by John McCutcheon-
for all ages- about the
cease fire during
Christmas Eve 1914,
during World War II.

Whether you read out loud together, use these as part of a worship service, or record and send- enjoy!

Communion Training for Ruling Elders



As Presbyterians, one of our foundation beliefs is the *Priesthood of All Believers*. In terms of Presbyterian Polity, one of the ways this is lived out is in what we call the *parity of Ordination*, the belief that, while the specific duties may differ, there is no distinction between the ordination of a Ruling Elder and that of a Teaching Elder/ Minister of Word & Sacrament. One of the particular responsibilities of Teaching Elders is to preside over the Sacraments, when instructed to do so by the Session. For most congregations this is not a problem; installed pastors, co-pastors, associate pastors and Temporary Supply pastors are authorized to do so. For churches in Transition, Interim Pastors are appointed by Presbytery to moderate Session and administer the Sacraments. But there are some circumstances in which a church has neither a called pastor, nor a Temporary Supply Pastor who is a Presbyterian Minister of Word and Sacrament. For these congregations, securing pastoral leadership to administer the Sacraments can be a hardship.

The Book of Order requires Presbyteries to provide that the Sacraments may be rightly administered and received; G-3.0301b further charges Presbyteries with *authorizing and training specific ruling elders to administer or preside at the Lord's Supper when it deems it necessary to meet the needs for the administration of the Sacrament...* In the Directory of Worship, Ruling Elders are called, *when appropriately prepared and commissioned by the presbytery, to proclaim the Word and administer the Sacraments in a particular congregation.* (W-2.0303), and it is deemed *...appropriate that a presbytery authorize and train ruling elders to administer the Lord's Supper in the event of the absence of pastors* (W-3.0410).

On Saturday, January 15, 2022 Shenandoah Presbytery will host a Zoom® Training for Ruling Elders to administer the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Every Session is invited to endorse one or two Ruling Elders to receive this training (they do not need to be currently serving). These individuals will fill out the registration form (<https://shenpres.org/registrations/>) and send it to cpt@shenpres.org, and will, in turn, receive study materials and access to the Zoom® meeting. If you have any questions, please contact the Rev. Patrick Pettit at the above email address, or call (540)292-0060.

Coming Soon(ish)

Shenandoah Presbytery is offering many educational opportunities early in Spring of 2022- hope you will join us- registration will be available closer to the dates of each event.

January 29, 2022- 10- noon

Ruling Elder Training via Zoom- or "I just got Installed- NOW what do I do?"

We will cover the ministry of Ruling Elders, both the theological and practical aspects. Questions and discussions are always welcome!

Lenten Lectionary Discussion Groups

We will discuss the lectionary Gospel texts for 2022, Year C, looking at both the Scripture text and your particular context, as well as the Season of Lent itself.

Because Lent is 7 weeks, we will have 2 sessions.

Part 1- Lent Sundays 1-4-

Saturday, February 19, 9-11 am via zoom

Part 2- Lent Sundays 5-Palm Sunday/Maundy Thursday/Good Friday-

Saturday, March 19, 9-11 am via zoom

Mandatory Boundary Training

will take place March of 2022, dates tba (1 weekday, and 1 Saturday)

If you last took your Mandatory Boundary Training in 2019, this is for you!

Look for more details early in 2022 about time/dates.

Greetings from Mt. Olive Friends and family,

We have had a busy past 2 months, with 2 tenderloin dinners (9/10 & 10/ 1) Sold out on both of them!
On November 2, we had a Country Ham Potpie and White Bean sale at Clover Hill Ruritan Park and sold out by 9:30 a.m. A very successful time and great fellowship on all events.

We lost 2 members of the Ladies Circle this year, Shirley Lilly and Isabelle Martin. They will be sadly missed by all in the church.

Hope everyone had a Blessed Thanksgiving.

Secretary, Sarah Lange

Application for PW Delegation to Commission on the Status of Women

Presbyterian Women is forming a delegation to attend the 66th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), which will be held online March 14 –25, 2022. This letter provides information about the Commission (and the Forum, organized by the NGO Committee on the Status of Women/NY) and how to apply to be part of the Presbyterian Women delegation.



[Download the overview letter and application as a Word document.](#)

[Download the overview letter and application as a fillable PDF.](#)

For additional information, you may contact Pam Snyder of Staunton, VA who is a member of the CSW Delegate Planning Team. Pam can be reached at 540-885-7183 or at pamsnyder1063@gmail.com



CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
SUPPORTING LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

The Christmas Joy Offering

The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years in providing comfort to church leaders, supporting leadership development, and building up the future of the Church.

Please prayerfully consider a generous gift to the Christmas Joy Offering.
Most churches will be collecting your gifts on Sunday, December 19th.

Hello From George Chapman

Joyeux Noël à tous de France!

It has been over a year and a half since my wife and I arrived here to serve in L'Église Protestante Unie de France (United French Protestant Church). We are presently living in Saint-Étienne, a city about the size of Richmond located an hour south-west of Lyon. The city has historically been known as a manufacturing and mining center, but like many cities around the world of its type, it is adapting to the demands of a new economy. The people of Saint-Étienne (or, "Stéphanois" as they are known locally) have been very welcoming and gracious to us as we have attempted to settle into a new language and culture, which has not always been easy given the circumstances.



Probably the most unusual thing we have discovered so far is how similar our Reformed Christian traditions are. I guess church-folk are all the same! And while our time here has not been ideal, we have still made the best of what we have been given, traveling, dining, and exploring as obligations and restrictions allow. Most recently, we made our first international trip to neighboring Switzerland (a 2½ hour drive away!) Even though we are having an amazing adventure here, we still remember the Shenandoah Valley and its people with great fondness. Thank you for continuing to support us with your prayers!

In Christ, Rev. George W. Chapman III



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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 2021

- 2 - CER 10:00 am
- 2 - Staff Meeting 11:00 am
- 7 - CPT 10:00 am
- 7 - CNCD 3:30 pm
- 9 - CRM 9:30 am
- 9 - Pastors' Meeting 12:00 pm
- 9 - CRE Oversight 4:00 pm
- 14 - MRMC 12:00 pm
- 15 - Nominations 2:00 pm

Dec. 17—Jan. 2 - Presbytery Office
Closed for Christmas and New Year

January 2022

- 4 - CPT 10:00 am
- 10 - CCVT 1:00 pm
- 11 - Staff Meeting 10:00 am
- 11 - MRMC 12:00 pm
- 11 - CNCD 3:30pm
- 12 - CPM 10:00 am
- 13 - CRM 9:30 am
- 13 - Pastors' Meeting 12:00 pm
- 13 - CRE Oversight 4:00 pm
- 15 - CMO 9:30 am
- 15 - Communion Training for Ruling Elders 10:00 am
- 19 - Shenandoah Press Deadline
- 19 - Nominations 2:30 pm
- 20 - CER 10:00 am
- 20 - CPA 1:30 pm
- 25 - CPC 10:00 am
- 25 - PW Bible Study 7:00 pm
- 27 - Community Cup NWC 9:30 am
- 27 - Pastors' Meeting 12:00 pm
- 29 - Ruling Elder Training 10 am—12:00 pm

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