



A Message from our General Presbyter

Happy Eastertide!

So many have shared about the wonderful services that happened to celebrate Easter this year with the added phrase, "it feels like we are back to normal."

What we have learned over more than two years now is that change can happen rapidly, and we need to change with it. What we felt was normal is not any longer the case. Oh, there are aspects of things that may feel normal that we are doing again and yet it is different. Sound familiar?

In this Eastertide, I hope that we will take time to reflect on the changes that have happened in our lives and in the lives of our congregations. Think about what good has come out of this time – because that is what God does when we face adversity. God helps us through it, helping us to live into grace and gratitude.

I think God is doing a new thing and, just maybe we are seeing it. Let us live into the new opportunities that are before us, following Christ.

He went through agony and death on a cross, but it did not end there. He is raised from the dead and everything is changed! Christ is Risen, He is risen indeed!

*Happy Eastertide,
Bronwen*



Stated Meeting of Presbytery May 24 Important Information

The 193rd Stated Meeting of Shenandoah Presbytery will be held on Tuesday, May 24, 2022, am at Massanutten Presbyterian Church, in Penn Laird, Virginia.

The Coordinating and Planning Commission (CPC) has voted to conduct our May Meeting "in person". We will gather at Massanutten Presbyterian Church at 9:30 am. Since this is our first time back together, no lunch will be served, but there will be coffee and goodies available when we arrive. We anticipate adjournment no later than 12:30 pm so you may make plans to have lunch with friends and colleagues in area restaurants.

This meeting will be live-streamed, but if you want to vote, you must be there in person. Wearing a mask at this time is a personal choice, but we will keep an eye on the numbers from the Virginia Department of Health.

If you have any questions, contact the presbytery office at shenpres@shenpres.org, or 540-433-2556.

*This will be an in-person meeting.
There will be no Zoom option.



Associate General Presbyter—Nancy Meehan Yao

The 8 Habits of Evangelism

Habit #4 Prayer

Prayer is a part of the life of faith. Morning and evening prayer, grace before meals, prayers prayed quickly and urgently at the hospital, roadside, or for loved ones far away. We send prayer requests through email, and in church announcements.

But how is prayer a means of evangelism?

Dr. Tom Bagley, pastor and evangelist, writes:

“Prayer is one of the marks of this distinctive way of life, but it is also more than that: Prayer is our means of engaging God. It is the fuel that empowers a lifestyle that proclaims good news and attracts attention. Within this perspective, there are at least 5 prayer habits that we may strive to develop.

- Daily: a routine of personal encounter with God through prayer.
- Weekly or bi-weekly: a regular practice of praying with others.
- Whenever you pray: a regular practice of expecting, identifying and naming answers to prayer.
- Once or twice a week: a routine of “Prayer Walking” in your neighborhood, place of work or community, looking for the activity of God.
- Whenever someone expresses a deep-felt concern, joy or need: A regular practice of praying in person with neighbors, co-workers, family and friends.”

If we look to the Bible and the early church, we see that prayer was bold, fervent, continuous, and shared. “In shared prayer, faith is multiplied, concerns are widened, and believers gain strength to persevere...and when we begin to see where God is working and what God is doing, that is our invitation to join God in life-changing ministry.” Which invites others to be part of God’s work and life, too.

Some questions for discussion:

- What is your response to the idea that a distinctive practice of prayer may, in fact, draw non-church goers to the good news? When have you seen Christian prayer impact non-church friends?
- How do habits like the ones suggested contribute to a distinctly Christian lifestyle? Why are habits more powerful for evangelism than spontaneous, occasional practices?
- Of the five prayer habits suggested, which do you feel most called to develop now? What specific actions will you take to accomplish your goal?

Blessings, Nancy



Confirmation Class

Shenandoah Presbytery is planning to offer the option of a Confirmation Class for churches in the presbytery. The hope is this will provide a space for youth to gather together in a larger group than is available at their churches. We are seeking input from you.

This is a one-page questionnaire with 8 questions that should take about 3 minutes.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdpHY8oA7TCBgj2UqAq_JVrMytIA2NwBSI1lzU6_KX_S1RXRg/viewform

Thank you!

The Committee on Educational Resources

Good News- adapted from John Wimberley's article, "Some Very Good News" in Congregational Consulting, <https://www.congregationalconsulting.org/some-very-good-news/>, March 2022



"The good news in 2022 is that many congregations are seeing that they have been doing things that don't work for a long time and asking, "Why continue doing them?" The pandemic has given congregations permission to start making changes that have been needed for a long time:

Sunday school. Numerous congregations are acknowledging what they already knew: trying to compete with Sunday morning soccer is a losing proposition. Because they couldn't even try to get kids to come to the church during the pandemic, educators started creating ways to bring Sunday school to them by designing virtual learning experiences. As a result, the number of kids engaged in religious education rose significantly in these congregations over the pandemic. These educators are now planning for more virtual learning opportunities for people of all ages.

Governance. Every board, committee or team meeting held face-to-face at church requires someone to drive, walk or bike to church. Over the course of a year, the travel time spent going to and from a meeting adds hours to the total time people invest in governance. During the pandemic, we could not meet face to face. But we still needed to meet, so we met virtually.

Today, given their experience with virtual meetings during the pandemic, many members are resisting face-to-face governance meetings and demanding that they be replaced by virtual meetings. This has the side benefit of letting seniors who don't want to drive at night and parents who can't leave their kids at night participate. As congregations emerge from the social distancing, members ask, "Do we really need to meet face to face?" The answer, in many instances, is "No." This frees up time once spent getting to and from meetings for hands-on mission activities, learning experiences, and other forms of ministry.

Don't Mourn—Strategize!

While most congregations mourn the loss of people attending worship face to face, the most creative congregations have stopped moaning and begun to plan strategically. Five years from now, I expect some churches will have greatly expanded their total weekly worship participation by holding face-to-face worship services on Sunday, growing the number of people worshipping online, and creating non-Sunday worship experiences that bring in yet more people. Congregations offering only face-to-face worship may become yet another relic of the past.

In congregational cultures open to transformational thinking, several areas of congregational life need to be examined:

Staff designs haven't changed significantly from models used in the last third of the 20th century.

Do we really need to continue in the same staffing patterns? If not, how else could those resources (salary, etc.) be put to use in the mission of the church?

Have **financial priorities** changed over the decades? Or does the budget look pretty much like it did in the late 20th century with increased personnel expense the only major change? How much money today is spent on continually upgrading your technology and communication systems? How much is spent on creating virtual learning experiences versus church-based classes? If we are investing in the same things we did in during the early 21st century, we are not allocating our limited financial resources productively.

Are we using **congregational facilities** in new ways to engage the surrounding community? Or are they being used the same way they were thirty years ago? Buildings are one of our most important assets for ministry. They need to be used in ways that advance our strategic goals.

Congregations that spend the current moment of opportunity grieving what has been lost face a grim future. Congregations that recognize the good news that change is possible can seize new opportunities for ministry that God is placing before us. My advice: embrace the good news!"

As Resurrection people, how will your congregation live into this new "Good News?"



**Remember, you can pay
your acceptances and mission payments
online with this QR Code!**

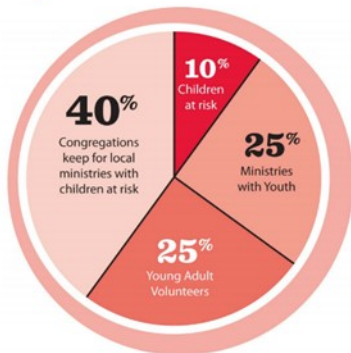
Try it!

Pentecost Special Offering—June 5, 2022

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.

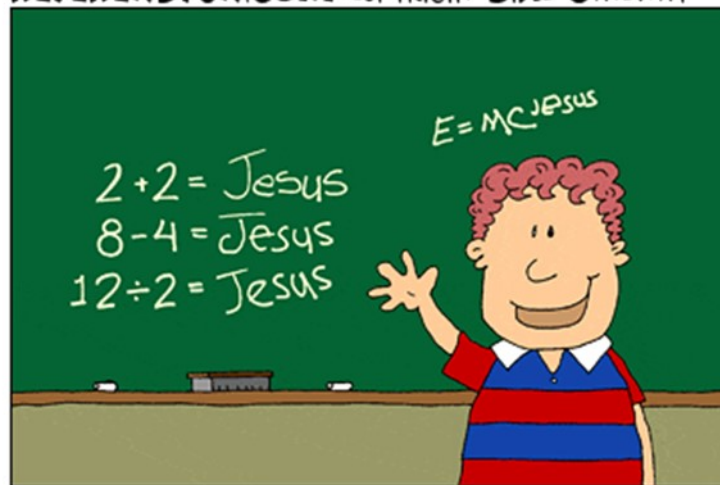


40% of the Pentecost offering collected at the church level is to be kept at the local church level. This is to help churches support their local child and youth ministry. The Pentecost Leader Guide shows us that congregations are inspired to assist families of children at risk, support education for 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.

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Thanks to Gert-Jan van Heugten

06-16-2008

IN BIBLE CLASS WE LEARNED THAT JESUS
IS THE ANSWER

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has several openings for which they are seeking qualified candidates looking for a call working at the national level.

To view the entire list, [click here](#).




Serve on summer staff!
Fun and meaningful work.
Leadership skills. Community.
Ask us how to get internship or course credit!

Serve on summer staff at Massanetta Springs

Massanetta Springs is hiring day camp counselors, lifeguards, and facilities and hospitality staff to serve its summer programs! Join us for this fun, meaningful work for a few weeks or the full ten week season from June-August. Full time paid positions include housing and meals, and may be able to fulfill college or internship credits.

Contact daycamp@massanettasprings.org or visit MassanettaSprings.org/nettadaycamp to learn more!

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SHENANDOAH**

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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!

May 2022

- 2 - CCVT 1:00 pm
- 3 - CPT 10:00 am
- 5 - CER 9:00 am
- 7 - CMO 9:30 am
- 10 - CNCD 3:30 pm
- 11 - CPM 10:00 am
- 11 - Budget Committee 2:00 pm
- 12 - CRM 9:30 am
- 12 - CRE Oversight 4:00 pm
- 17 - Staff Meeting 10:00 am
Presbytery Office
- 18 - Nominations 2:00 pm
- 19 - CPA 1:30 pm
- 23 - Shenandoah Press Deadline
- 26 - Community Cup NWC 9:30 am

Other Dates

- 12 - Pastors' Meeting 12:00 pm
- 24 - Stated Meeting of Presbytery 9:30 am
at Massanutten Presbyterian Church
- 26 - Pastors' Meeting 12:00 pm
- 30 - Office Closed for Memorial Day
- 31 - PW Bible Study 7:00 pm

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

