

Shenandoah Press

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Special points of interest:

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- Books & Bags
- More...

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A Message from our General Presbyter

“Notre Dame Cathedral burned this past week. I have seen the out-pouring of pictures and remembrances of people’s time in Paris. I have not had the good fortune to visit the great Cathedral, and yet I feel the heartache of so many who have experienced Notre Dame as a sacred holy place. At the same time three African American churches were burned by arson and then someone attempted to start a fire at St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York city.



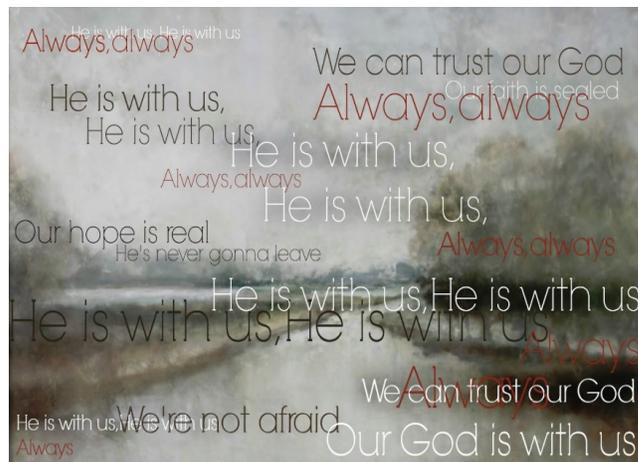
All of this got me wondering about what would we do if our house of worship was destroyed? What is our plan for how we carry on? If you don’t have a disaster plan please get together with our Disaster Assistance folks to set a plan up.

It also made me wonder where we consider our sacred holy places to be. I know I try and make a pilgrimage to the beach every year to sit and watch the water because I feel close to the Holy Spirit dancing in the waves.

As we continue to celebrate this Eastertide I hope that we can all widen our sacred Holy Space - for God is with us in all places and facets of our lives. God is not just at the beach or the mountain top but walks with us everywhere. What a blessing to know the risen Christ.

Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

Happy Eastertide,
Bronwen



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Associate General Presbyter—Nancy Meehan Yao

Since the Presbytery has announced that its theme for this year would be the study of anti-racism, we have received, as you might imagine, many comments.

Some of us wonder why we have to dig up an ugly past. Some of us wonder if we really need to do this work, if we aren't past all that, or how we can atone for something past generations—and not we, ourselves--did. Some of us support this work. Some of us wish we could spend more time and resources on evangelism training and discipleship, in a time when the number of Presbyterians is declining.



All of these reactions are authentic reactions.

But as people of the Reformation, as people who say (repeatedly) that “the church reformed, is always to be reformed”, this is part of our being reformed by the Spirit of God, according to the Word of God.

Racism is much more than not being a good or nice person. It is much more than saying bad words or thinking bad thoughts about people who don't look like us—although, certainly, that is part of it. But racism is a pervasive, systemic use of power. Robin DiAngelo, author of *White Fragility*, says: “This means understanding that racism is a system rather than just a slur; it is prejudice plus power.”

As people of faith, we are called to examine our conscience, and to confess where we fall short of God's reconciling love—as individuals, and as a corporate body, the Church. We are called to see and confess where we have been part of a larger, oppressive system. Our own Book of Confessions calls us to reconciliation, even as God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself: “In reconciling love, God overcomes barriers between brothers [and sisters] and breaks down every form of discrimination based on racial or ethnic difference, real or imaginary....Therefore, the church labors for the abolition of all racial discrimination and ministers to those injured by it.” Confession of 1967, 9.44

We confess our sins, and are assured of pardon, at every service of worship. This effort of looking with clear eyes at ourselves, our church, and our society is part of that confession.

We cannot invite people in to share in the joy of our Risen Lord, until we have our house cleaned up. We cannot preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ without rightly examining ourselves. This work is hard. It makes us uncomfortable. But we believe it is necessary.

This past February, Heath Rada, former Moderator of the General Assembly, PC(USA), wrote an article for *The Presbyterian Outlook* in which he discussed his pride in being a Virginian, and his growing awareness of growing up in an unexamined culture. He closed with this prayer: “May God and our fellow companions in this life forgive us and help us to find a new reality where our pride isn't based on privileges which have only been afforded to a few.”

Amen

Blessings,
Nancy

Scholarship Grant Deadline Reminder

The Committee on Educational Resources wants to remind all congregations that the deadline to apply for **Camp and Conference Scholarship Grants** is **May 1**. The deadline for **College Scholarship Grants** is **June 1**.

Scholarship forms are available on the [presbytery website](#).

Anti-bias Resources

In light of our work in the Presbytery with anti-racism this year, here are some resources:

Children's books:

Desmond Tutu God's Dream
Jacqueline Woodson The Other Side
Alan Say How my Parents learned to Eat
Maya Ajmera To be a Kid
Jennifer Mailey Greevy We All love Pancakes
Karen Katz The Colors of Us
Dr Seuss The Sneetches

Parenting:

An ebook available from the Southern Poverty Law Center, with guidance for children of all ages:

http://www.tolerance.org/sites/default/files/general/beyond_golden_rule.pdf

Adults:

An article by Rev. Stephanie Sorge-Wing on her church's use of Deb Irving's book as a Lenten study

<http://pres-outlook.org/2017/06/waking-lenten-journey-belhar-waking-white/>

"On Being a Virginian", Guest Commentary by Heath Rada, in The Presbyterian Outlook, 2/15/19

<https://pres-outlook.org/author/heathradamod/>

White Fragility, by Robin Diangelo

America's Original Sin, by Jim Wallis

The Half has Never Been Told, by Stephen Bishop

Between the World and me, by Ta-Nehisi Coates

Stony the Road: Reconstruction, White Supremacy, and the Rise of Jim Crow, by Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

Big Tent Bible Study, Eric Barretto, author and leader

https://facing-racism.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/facing_racism/resources/bt_bible_study_resources.pdf

Confession of Belhar (adopted 2016 as part of our Book of Confessions, Part I of our Constitution)

<http://oga.pcusa.org/section/mid-council-ministries/constitutional-services/belhar/>

PCUSA Anti-racism policy and study guide: available as free download

https://facing-racism.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/facing_racism/resources/facing-racism-policy.pdf

https://facing-racism.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/facing_racism/facing-racism-study-guide.pdf

"Keeping Faith", a video by **Tony de Le Rosa**, Interim Executive Director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency, about the churches in Ferguson, MO

<https://vimeo.com/229005562>

Peace and Global Witness resources:

Every Fall, the PC(USA) Special Offering for Peace and Global Witness is received. 25% of the monies collected remain locally in the Presbytery, for peacemaking education and endeavors.

Grants for peacemaking activities and education are available from Shenandoah Presbytery.

The application may be found at <http://shenpres.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/PeacemakingGrantGuidelinesMay2014.pdf>

In Christ's service,

Nancy

Associate General Presbyter

Small Church Forums

In April, Shenandoah Presbytery held 2 Small Church Forums, with Paul Grier, from the Presbyterian Foundation.

The first was at Buckton Presbyterian Church:



The second, at Hermitage Presbyterian:



Both Sessions were well attended, and participants report getting good, helpful information on the state of the church today. If you or your church would like to take part in the next Small Church Forum (July 10 or 11), please contact Nancy Meehan Yao, Associate General Presbyter, assocgp@shenpres.org, or 540-433-2556 x 102

Women in Community Retreat

The Women in Community Retreat was held at Massanetta Springs April 6, 2019. We had a glorious group of women, all discussing what community means, and how God has called us into community. We were led by the Rev. Sally Robinson, former member of Shenandoah Presbytery, and enjoyed the day immensely. We read and discussed 2 books: *The Red Tent*, by Anita Diamont, and *Text me When You Get Home*, by Kayleen Schaefer.



A special thanks to the planning team: Mary Ann Stripling, Frances Craig, Joyce Tipton, Mary Drumheller and Bev Riddell.

The Women in Community was formerly called Sacramental Life.



With your input, we hope to have another retreat at a future date. If you would like to be part of the planning team, please contact Nancy Meehan Yao, Associate General Presbyter, at assocgp@shenpres.org, or Mary Ann Stripling, at maryannstripling@gmail.com.

Bulk Book Orders

Order your Books of Order, Books of Confession, 2019-2020 Planning Calendars.
Download the **BULK BOOK ORDER FORM** as a [PDF](#) or [DOC](#).

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: **May 14, 2019**

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.



School Kit Bags

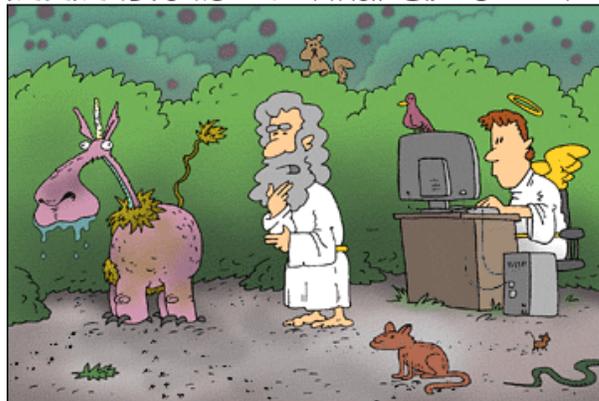
Louise Tardy from Collierstown Church has sewn more bags for us! Louise made these bags to the measurements required for the School Kits for Church World Service (CWS).

Come and get them while they are here.

Please contact the office at 540-433-2556 or shenpres@shenpres.org.



REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



(See Genesis 1:1-2:3)

06-18-2010

UMM YEAAAAH ... WHY DON'T YOU GO
AHEAD AND HIT "UNDO" ON THIS ONE



*Masterworks Chorus
of the Shenandoah Valley
Presents*

Believe

Artistic Director: Scott Zane Smith
Accompanist: Elizabeth Williams

Saturday

May 18 at 3:00 p.m.
Emanuel Lutheran Church
127 E. High St., Woodstock

Sunday

May 19 at 3:00 p.m.
Reformation Lutheran Church
9283 N. Congress St., New Market

Tickets
\$12 Adult/\$8 Youth
at the door or
from our website

www.masterworkschorus.net

The Masterworks Chorus of the Shenandoah Valley upcoming Spring concert will be on Saturday, May 18 and Sunday, May 19. Under direction of Scott Zane Smith, our Artistic Director, we look forward to welcoming members of Valley congregations to the event. Masterworks Chorus has been known for years for some of the finest musical presentations in the Valley.

Saturday, May 18, 3:00 pm --
Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Woodstock

Sunday, May 19, 3:00 pm --
Reformation Lutheran Church in New Market

Tickets at: www.masterworkschorus.net,
at the door, or from Chorus members.

**PRESBYTERY OF
SHENANDOAH**

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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 2019

- | | |
|---|---|
| 2 - Highland Augusta Mission Community
6:00 pm at Hometown Grill | 16 - CPA 1:00 pm |
| 4 - Hearth & Home 8:30 am | 19 - Installation of Jamie Smith 4:00 pm
at Mossy Creek Church |
| 4 - CMO 9:30 am | 21 - Stated Presbytery Meeting 9:30 am
at Massanetta Springs |
| 6 - CCVT 1:30 pm | 22 - Shenandoah Press Deadline 12:00 pm |
| 7 - CPT 10:00 am | 27 - OFFICE CLOSED for Memorial Day |
| 7 - Liaison Training 10:00 am | 28 - Staff Meeting 12:00 pm |
| 9 - CRM 9:30 am | |
| 9 - CER 10:00 am | |
| 13 - CRE Oversight 4:15 pm | |
| 14 - CNCD 5:15 pm | |
| 15 - CPM 10:00 am | |
| 15 - Nominations 2:00 pm | |

* Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are at the office of Shenandoah Presbytery, 1111 N. Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA.

