



Shenandoah Press

Volume 9, Issue 3

April 2023

A Message from our General Presbyter

As I drive up and down 81, I see the changes that are happening - not only with the coming of spring, but with the development in some areas and the decline in others. It is a reminder that nothing is static, we are always changing.

And yet we don't like change. We like the familiar and the comfortable. And while that is not wrong in itself, if we only want the familiar then we will miss out on possibilities and opportunities.

When Jesus called his disciples, he called them into unfamiliar circumstances. They did not know what was ahead of them, but they were willing to go and try.

Jesus calls us to do the same – to go into unfamiliar territory, to step into opportunities and possibilities of sharing and showing God's love in the world. To welcome the stranger, to love the unknown neighbor, to feed and clothe and shelter those we do not know.

As Easter approaches and we once again celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, let us be mindful of what Jesus calls us to do so that the good news can continue to be shared, knowing that the greatest gift of love was given for us and for all people!

Christ is Risen – He is Risen Indeed!

Happy Easter,

Bronwen



Send Us Your Cross Photos!

We want all churches to send us photos of your Easter cross! We will feature the photos in our May Shenandoah Press.

Please send your photos to Donna at shenpres@shenpres.org as soon as you can after Easter. The deadline for the May newsletter is April 20.

Won't it be fantastic to see all the Easter crosses together?

What a beautiful way to glorify our Risen Savior!



Presbytery Staff

Bronwen Boswell,
General Presbyter & Stated Clerk
Email – presbytersc@shenpres.org

Nancy Meehan Yao,
Associate General Presbyter
Email – assocgp@shenpres.org

Kim Stroupe, Admin. Assistant
Email – kims@shenpres.org

Heather Carter, Funds Admin.
Email – bookkeeper@shenpres.org

Donna Lanaghan, Communications
Email – shenpres@shenpres.org

Ken Smiy, Treasurer

Associate General Presbyter—Nancy Meehan Yao

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! Christ is risen Indeed!

Many congregations will say these words on Easter morning, with deep joy.

After the 40 days of Lent, and the solemn procession from Palm Sunday through Holy Week, with Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, we rejoice to be able to say and sing those words.

Resurrection and new life, won for us in Jesus Christ. Alleluia indeed!

So...now what are you going to do?

Having been given freedom and victory over sin and death, living into this new life, what new thing will your congregation take up this year?

A new outreach to your community?

A new or expanded mission opportunity? Partnering with local organizations or other congregations to help feed, clothe and house those who need it?

Working to help resettle refugees? Sharing the love of God in Christ through advocating for justice for those without voice and power in this society?

The women at the Tomb, that Easter morning, ran to tell the Good News. The borek hearted people at Emmaus, upon seeing Jesus break bread in front of their eyes, ran with haste to share their experience.

What will you and your congregation do, in this Eastertide? How are you sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ in both word and deed?

Please share your stories with us!

Blessings, Nancy



Deacons & Ruling Elders and the Care of Souls

A Leader Formation Webinar

April 27, 2023; 7-8:30 pm (eastern)

Registration Deadline April 19, 2023

Are you seeking a more vibrant ministry of pastoral care that does not solely rely on the pastor? Have you ever wondered what to say when visiting someone who is navigating cancer or a chronic illness? Do you find yourself struggling between how to validate people's emotions and how to assure them of the promises of God? Join us as we explore the care of souls in a congregational context and the role that ruling elders and deacons play in that important work.

This event is provided for free for participants and is funded through your per capita dollars. It does not come without cost, however. Knowing the diversity of language within the PC(USA), this webinar will be provided in several languages with interpretation based on requests made through the registration process. As a result, there is a registration deadline of April 19, 2023, in order to be able to have time to arrange for those services. Advanced registration is not necessary for access to the recording which will be available in English following the event.

Register for the webinar by April 19, 2023, [here](#).

This webinar will be led by Revs. Rachel Achtemeier Rhodes and Matt Rhodes. Rachel serves as Senior Pastor of Morrisville Presbyterian Church, outside of Philadelphia, and Matt has taught chaplains in Princeton as a Clinical Pastoral Educator with Penn Medicine Princeton Health. Together, Rachel and Matt Rhodes will lead a conversation about both the theoretical and practical realities of caring for one another in the church.

Stewardship Navigator

We respond to God's grace with gratitude. In congregations, this is lived out through our gifts and tithes to the church. But often, we feel uncomfortable talking about money, or don't really know how to think faithfully about the Stewardship of all that God has given us.

The Presbyterian Foundation has created an on-line guide to help your congregation develop a Stewardship plan.

Stewardship Navigator is free, accessible and will help you design a Stewardship campaign that is appropriate for your congregation, learn how to develop a narrative budget which tells the story of your faith, ministries and mission, and has other resources to help.

<https://stewardshipnavigator.com/>

Continuing Education Event for CREs, CRE students, and Pastors

Shenandoah Presbytery is hosting an event for the Continuing Education for CRE students, CREs and pastors. The Rev. John Bethard will offer an introduction to Family Systems Theory and Practical Implications. The class will be held at the Resource Center at Massanetta Springs Conference Center on April 22, 2023, from 9 - noon. A light lunch will be provided along with a chance to connect and enjoy each other after noon.

The Rev. John Bethard is pastor of Charles Town Presbyterian Church, where he has served for over 18 years. For nearly a decade, John has been learning about family systems theory through the Center for Family Process, and integrating family systems principles into his ministry.

Registration is required. [Click here to register.](#)

Camp and Conference Scholarships

The Presbytery has limited funds to provide scholarships to young people (under 18) to participate in a church-related camp, conference, or work camp in the summer. Preference is given to PC(USA)-affiliated camps and conferences, but we welcome all applicants! Grant applications are available at <https://shenpres.org/scholarship-grants/> and are due by 4:30PM on May 1st, 2023. The Committee on Educational Resources will evaluate and recommend fund disbursement shortly thereafter! If you have any questions, please contact CER Committee Chair Tommy Carrico (FinleyPastorTJC@gmail.com)

We look forward to supporting your church's growth through camp and conference experiences!



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

Try it!

Rolling Ridge Retreat Events

Uncovering Grace in Race, April 21-23 - a weekend retreat at [Rolling Ridge](#) to learn more about our nation's history of racial oppression and how you can engage to address it. The retreat will be led by Rev. Joel Blunk, a new member of our presbytery, and Kristen Saacke Blunk who lived for over five years at [Richmond Hill](#), an ecumenical residential community devoted to racial inclusion and healing. For more information click [here](#).

Guided Solo Retreat for Rest and Renewal - an opportunity to get away for a day or more at [Rolling Ridge](#), a retreat setting on 1600 acres of conservation land along the Appalachian Trail and Shenandoah River just south of Charles Town. Rolling Ridge has a quiet hermitage available and spiritual direction upon request. For more information click [here](#).



School Kit Bags Are Ready for You!



Louise Tardy, from Collierstown Church, continues to sew bags for the Church World Service school kits. She says, "If you will let other churches or Presbyterian Women know, I am always glad to ship bags to a group or individual. If someone gives me a call, I will mail bags to anyone who wants to participate in the filling of school bags. Twenty bags would fill a nice size box to mail."

If you are interested, contact Louise at ltardy69@gmail.com or (540) 463-4102.
(Nancy Meehan Yao has procured 100 bags for the PW Spring Gathering.)

Choral Music Give-Away

I have an enormous amount of choral music to give away to churches that can use it. I have adult Ready-to-Sing books with CDs, Worship Today sheet music with CDs, and Choristers Guild children's anthems and mini-musicals. Plus many, many loose anthems!



I would like to give these away to a few small churches that would use the music to glorify God at each worship service! If you are interested, please contact Donna at the presbytery office: shenpres@shenpres.org or 540-433-2556.



Easter Respite — Massanetta Springs

Massanetta Springs is now taking reservations for the Easter Respite. <https://massanettasprings.org/programs/respite>

Are you ready for a break following Easter? Whether you are an installed teaching elder, commissioned ruling elder, transitional pastor, or other church leader, the season of Lent is a busy one! After we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ, come and rest. Let Massanetta provide a place of renewal and hospitality.

You and your family are welcome to join us anytime from April 10-14 at no cost. Arrive on Monday and stay for all four nights, or come for any part of these days. This offer includes one hotel-style room with two queen beds and a private bathroom, and breakfast on Tuesday.



Oasis at Easter Respite

for those who are taking advantage of Massanetta Springs' Easter Respite. April 10-14, <https://massanettasprings.org/programs/respite>

The Oasis Fund will provide dinner/snacks/game night (if desired) for attendees on Monday evening, April 10. please contact Massanetta to reserve your housing, and contact Nancy (assocgp@shenpres.org) to let her know you will be attending.

In addition, if there is interest in other FUN outings that week (golfing, etc), please let us know--the Oasis Fund exists to promote fun and fellowship among pastoral leaders.

And whether or not you are able to attend the Easter Respite at Massanetta, Shenandoah Presbytery will be hosting an Oasis dinner event on Monday evening, April 10, at 6:30, at a nearby restaurant.

The Oasis Fund is provided by the Ramkey Family, in memory and honor of Rev. Ramkey, who served in this Presbytery, and valued the relationships and fellowship that grew among colleagues. It is designed for fun, not con ed- so if you can join us for dinner Monday April 10, please contact Nancy at assocgp@shenpres.org

Hope to see you that evening- as we get #s, I will send out an email to announce the location of our gathering.



Presbyterian Women of Shenandoah Presbytery

Presents

The Annual Spring Gathering

Saturday, April 15, 2023



"Clothe Yourself with a Holy Way of Life"

"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." Colossians 3:12

Massanetta Springs Conference Center
Stewart Hall
Harrisonburg, VA

For more information, or to register for the Spring Gathering, go to the webpage: <https://shenpres.org/presbyterian-women/>.

Registration must be received by April 1, 2023.

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



04-06-2012

ACTUALLY, ALL FRIDAYS ARE GOOD ... WE SHOULD CALL TODAY 'GREAT FRIDAY'!

**PRESBYTERY OF
SHENANDOAH**

P. O. Box 1146
Harrisonburg, VA 22803

Phone: 540-433-2556
E-mail: shenpres@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!

April 2023

- 3 - CCVT 1:00 pm
- 11 - CNCD 3:30 pm
- 12 - CPM 10:00 am
- 13 - CRE Oversight 4:00 pm
- 18 - Strong Ministers 3:00 pm
- 19 - Nominations 10:00 am
- 19 - Staff Meeting 11:00 am
- 20 - Shenandoah Press Deadline
- 20 - CER 9:00 am
- 20 - CPA 1:30 pm
- 25 - CPC 10:00 am

Other Dates

- 10 - Office Closed for Easter
- 13 - Pastors' Meeting 12:00 pm
- 15 - PW Spring Gathering 8:30 am
at Massanetta Springs
- 22 - Family Systems Workshop 9:00 am
at Resource Center at Massanetta Springs
- 22 - Session Minutes Review 9:00 am
at Staunton Third Church
- 25 - PW Bible Study 7:00 pm
- 27 - Pastors' Meeting 12:00 pm

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