



Shenandoah Press

Volume 9, Issue 4

May 2023

A Message from our General Presbyter

If someone were to ask you what your church is doing to further the kingdom of God – how would you answer?

It is a question we all need to be pondering as we move into the future. What are we doing as followers of Christ to love our neighbors as ourselves? What are we doing to make a better life for those around us that we may not know? Are we making sure that everyone who needs it is housed, clothed, and fed? What are we doing to let people know that all – and I mean all – people are made in the image of God? What are we doing to accept those who are different from ourselves, who think differently than we do, who do not know how they fit into today's society – how are we, the church, a place for all people?

In this season of Eastertide, let us work towards being the kingdom of God on earth – doing what Christ calls us to do, out in the world, so that we can answer the question – how is your church furthering the kingdom of God?

If you would like some help in exploring the question, give me a call.

Let us be the people Christ calls us to be, in all that we do and all that we say.

*Blessings,
Bronwen*



Stated Meeting of Presbytery May 20

The 197th Stated Meeting of Shenandoah Presbytery will be held on **Saturday, May 20, 2023** at 9:30 am at **Staunton Third Presbyterian Church**, in Staunton, Virginia. This will be an in-person meeting with anticipated adjournment around 12:00 pm; lunch will not be served. The meeting will be live-streamed, but if you wish to vote, you must be there in person.

The Handbook and additional information will be forthcoming. If you have any questions, contact the presbytery office at shenpres@shenpres.org or 540-433-2556.

* *There will be no Zoom option*

At our Stated Meeting on February 28, we approved all but five of the Proposed Amendments. Those five were pulled for further discussion and to vote on at our May meeting.

We will again be holding a Zoom meeting for those who want to discuss these amendments. The virtual meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 4 at 7:00 pm. [Click here](#) to join the meeting.

The five amendments to discuss are: 22-A; 22-B; 22-E; 22-I; 22-P. To view the complete Proposed Amendments document, [click here](#).

Associate General Presbyter—Nancy Meehan Yao

Happy Eastertide!

The joy and praise of Easter morning continues for a week of weeks, 7 weeks, until Pentecost, which, this year, occurs on May 28.

Many of the Scriptures read in this season are about Jesus' being present with the disciples. The disciples experience joy and doubt, despair and awe, belief and unbelief—sometimes, all at the same time.



What is also clear in these Scriptures is that this Jesus is both the same and is changed. Jesus shows his wounds to the disciples, so they know it is actually Him, and not a mirage or a fevered dream. He feeds them...cooking breakfast for the fishermen after a night of failed fishing. His body mysteriously appears in a locked room, and he eats a bite of fish. Jesus relates, on that walk to Emmaus, how all the Scriptures point to the Messiah, and in the breaking of bread, the travelers suddenly realize this is Jesus, among them. And then He disappears, yet another change.

In what ways do you see and experience Jesus among you, in your life as a faith community? What has changed for you, and what remains the same? What hard realities about death and failure are you experiencing...and yet finding that God's peace and presence are still there?

In the locked room, Jesus breathes on the gathered disciples, and tells them to receive the Holy Spirit. We, too, have received the Holy Spirit in our baptisms, and are called to live out that holy, breath filled life.

And that life, Spirit filled though it is, will have challenges and difficulties and grief. And yet, like those disciples, like those travelers on the road to Emmaus, we are still called to be joyful. As the farmer/poet Wendell Berry writes: "be joyful though you have considered all the facts."

May you find deep Eastertide blessings in this season of joy!
Nancy

Mandatory Boundary Training

Saturday June 10, 2023 9:30am—12:30pm via zoom

To serve our Lord faithfully, and to guard the welfare of our congregations, Shenandoah Presbytery requires that all congregational leaders (Teaching Elders, Commissioned Ruling Elders, and those At Large) take part in a Mandatory Boundary Training, given through Shenandoah Presbytery, every three years. Others are invited and welcome to attend these trainings: Ruling Elders and Deacons from congregations, staff, and members of congregations as well.

Many of you have already attended these trainings; those who are due for 2023 will receive an email. To register for the June 10th training, [CLICK HERE](#).

If you have questions about when you last completed your Mandatory Training, please contact Rev. Dr. Nancy Meehan Yao at assocgp@shenpres.org and not the office staff.

The next Mandatory Boundary Training will be Thursday, November 9, 6:30-9:30 pm. These will be the only 2 trainings offered in 2023.

He is Risen!

Thank you to everyone who sent in their Easter crosses! On this page and the next are the photos you sent. They are arranged in alphabetical order. Enjoy!



Berryville



Bridgewater



Broadway



Bunker Hill



Charles Town



Clear Brook



Gerrardstown



Hermitage



Loch Willow

He is Risen Indeed!



Mt. Olive



Monterey



New Providence



Smyrna



Opequon



Staunton Third



Timber Ridge



Warrenton



Waynesboro First



Woodstock



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Robbie and I want to thank you for your prayers, heartfelt cards, texts, calls, and emails during the most difficult time we have ever had: the passing of our son, Ben. He was an amazing man of faith, and the Celebration of his life on March 11th was truly a time of tears. But it was also a time of gratitude for the years that Ben was part of our lives. We will cherish the time we have with his wonderful wife, Dona, and our seven-year-old granddaughter, Helen Lou. He will be forever missed, but we have confidence that He is with the Lord, free from pain, and that we will all be reunited again one day. Jesus died on that wooden cross, and rose again, so that we can have that assurance. Thanks be to God!

Again, thank you and may God bless you all,
Love, Punker

College Scholarship Announcement

Shenandoah Presbytery has limited funds to support members of Presbyterian churches in the Presbytery pursue post-high school education. The application for the 2023-2024 school year is available on the Presbytery website (<https://shenpres.org/scholarship-grants/>). Applications must include an endorsement from the applicant's session and completed applications are due by June 1st, 2023. We will accept mailed applications, but digital is preferred. The Committee on Educational Resources will evaluate applications at our July meeting and will notify all scholarship recipients by August 1st, 2023.



If you have any questions about the application, disbursement procedures, or the scholarship process in general, please contact Tommy Carrico, chair of the Committee on Educational Resources, at FinleyPastorTJC@gmail.com.

Photos Needed for Presbytery Video!

We are in search of photos from your church or presbytery events! If you have photos from **any** event and would like to share, please send them to Rebekah Witt.

The photos will be used in a video to share with churches and the presbytery. For questions or more information, contact Rebekah Witt at wittrebekah2@gmail.com.

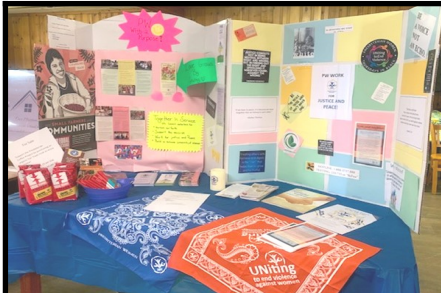
We need many photos!!

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THIS LARGE PRINT EDITION WAS WORKING OUT PRETTY WELL

07-01-2011



PW Display

Presbyterian Women Meet for Spring Gathering

Submitted by Pam Snyder, Leadership Coordinator,
Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team,
Shenandoah Presbytery

The Presbyterian Women of Shenandoah Presbytery held their annual Spring Gathering at Massanetta Springs Camp and Conference Center on Saturday, April 15, 2023. This annual event is an opportunity for all PW throughout our Presbytery to meet and gather in fellowship, mission and worship. We also conducted our annual Business Meeting during this Gathering.

This year's theme, *Clothing Yourself with a Holy Way of Life*, was based on Colossians 3:12. Exhibitors included Massanetta Springs, Sunnyside Communities, iCare, First Step Virginia and PW Justice & Peace, Celebration Giving and Mission. The PW Coffee Project, which supports small farmers, held a drawing and Carolyn Graham of Tuscarora in Martinsburg, WV and Andrea Fakone of Ivanhoe in Lost City, WV were the recipients of free, organic, fair trade coffees.

Our PW Synod Moderator, Nancy Long of Delaware, was also present and shared greetings and news from the Synod and Churchwide PW.

During the Business Meeting, a slate of officers for the PW Coordinating Team of Shenandoah Presbytery was presented for consideration, and the slate was unanimously approved.

The following were installed for the 2023-2024 term:

- *Karen Stevens: Co-Moderator and Treasurer
- *Connie Woods: Co-Moderator
- *Vickana Norton: Secretary
- *Pam Snyder: Leadership Coordinator; Highland-Augusta Mission Community Coordinator
- *Paula Osborne: Spiritual Nurture; Eastern Panhandle, Potomac Highlands Mission Community Coordinator
- *Ruth Williams: Justice and Peace
- *Punker Robertson: Together in Service
- *Pat Armstrong: Sunrise Editor
- *Donna Parker: Mountain & Central Valley Mission Community Coordinator
- *Frances Craig: Maury River Mission Community Coordinator

Gratitude was shared with Harriet Kopp who has faithfully served as Historian.

There are several vacant positions on the Coordinating Team. Prayerfully consider how you might serve in one of these roles and contact Karen or Connie for details. The Presbytery PW CT meets quarterly and all women are invited to participate in any of these meetings to learn more about the work of PW in our Presbytery.

A special part of our annual meeting is the presentation of a PW Honorary Life Membership. We were happy to present Karen Stevens, of Olivet Presbyterian in Staunton, with this year's award. Karen embodies the PW Purpose and has shared much time and energy in service to her church, community and the Presbytery PW Coordinating Team. Congratulations to Karen!

The Rev. Joel Thornton, who currently serves churches in Lost City and Wardensville, WV, led the worship service and special music was provided by Teresa Whitesell, of Olivet Presbyterian in Staunton. The offering recipient was Martinsburg Union Rescue Mission.



Installation of Officers



Connie Wood and Karen Stevens,
PW Presbytery CT Co-Moderators

Mondays at Mt. Carmel



Mt. Carmel Presbyterian Church is launching a new program of outreach to the community. Beginning on May 1, followed by the next three Mondays, speakers from various services will present programs of interest in the fellowship hall at the church.

To begin on Monday, May 1, the organization, Intercept, will offer a program about foster care opportunities. Suggestions about how to support those who have foster children will be discussed. Some ideas could involve providing backpacks of overnight items such as stuffed animals, pajamas, toiletries that would be needed for a child in an emergency. This program kicks off Foster Care Awareness Month.

Next, on May 8 Connections Plus, formerly Rockbridge Area Hospice, will discuss their new mission which is not only providing end-of-life palliative care, but also in-home medical care, patient and family support services, and enlarging their service area.

On Monday, May 15, the Shenandoah EMS Council will bring a hands-on program relating to CPR. EMS instructors will come to demonstrate and provide opportunities to practice CPR and how to use an AED machine. Small groups will practice on manikins.

Our last May event will be on May 22 where Valley Community Services Board will present information on mental health and substance abuse services, especially when to seek help for either type of problem. Professionals will clarify early warning signs and appropriate responses to this widespread situation.

All programs begin at 6:30 pm, are free and open to the public with refreshments afterwards. Mt. Carmel Presbyterian Church is located on Rt. 11 at Steeles Tavern, 6410 Lee Jackson Highway. For more information you may call the church at (540) 377-6742. There will be no program on Memorial Day, May 29.

Join us for Middle School Conference! For the first time ever, we're forming a cohort for youth who don't have full groups to attend the conference with.

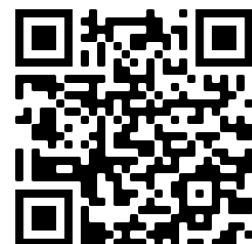
Our summer staff will guide a group of middle schoolers through worship, workshops, and recreation for a week of fun and meaningful faith formation. This five day, four night program is \$459, including all programs and a t-shirt.

To register, visit <https://massanettasprings.org/programs/msc> and enter Group Hold code MSCC23 in Campwise when prompted. Questions? Contact Colleen Earp, Program Director, at colleen@massanettasprings.org.



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

Try it!



**PRESBYTERY OF
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 2023

- 1 - CCVT 1:00 pm
- 2 - CPT 10:00 am
- 4 - Community Cup NWC 9:30 am
- 6 - CMO 9:30 am
- 9 - CNCD 3:30 pm
- 10 - CPM 10:00 am
at Massanetta Springs
- 11 - CRM 9:30 am
- 17 - Staff Meeting 8:30 am out of office
- 18 - CER 9:00 am
- 18 - CPA 1:30 pm
- 24 - Shenandoah Press Deadline
- 25 - Community Cup NWC 9:30 am

Other Dates

- 4 - Proposed Amendments Discussion 7:00 pm
- 6 - Session Minutes Review 10:00 am
at Petersburg Presbyterian Church
- 20 - Stated Meeting of Presbytery 9:30 am
at Staunton Third Presbyterian Church
- 25 - Pastors' Meeting 12:00 pm
- 29 - Office Closed for Memorial Day
- 30 - PW Bible Study 7:00 pm

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

