

Special points of interest:

- Stewardship Workshop
- PW Summer Gathering
- Summerlee Mission
- and more...

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A Message from our General Presbyter

During the presbytery meeting on Saturday May 20th, I gave a report about the state of the presbytery. It probably should have been noted that this was only part one – a glance at statistics and trends. Boiled down, we currently have 97 churches with 74 of those churches having 100 members or less. Fewer new pastors are coming into the system while more are retiring. So, we need to be looking at old/new models for doing ministry. I even suggested a circuit rider.

But I realize that before we can really talk about different models of how to do ministry, we need to be able to articulate what our ministry is.

How is it that we are living out our calling from Christ? Is it that we hear the Holy Spirit nudging us to get out and do? Until we wrestle with these questions and know how to focus our calling, will we know what kind of pastoral leadership we need.

And our congregations will have different callings – one may need to focus on hunger issues, another on the welfare of children, another on aging ministries, another on world mission, another on home mission and yes, some will need to be thinking about their legacy as membership wanes.

This summer, let us all be reflecting on what it is to live into our calling in Christ. Let us think how God wants us to use our gifts and talents to share the Good News of the Gospel. Let us listen for and be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Let us imagine what we can do and together we can find the way to do it!

We are here to help.

*Blessings,
Bronwen*



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Pentecost

By the time you read this, Pentecost will have blown the Spirit wind through our congregations.

Acts 2 tells us that devout Jews from every nation were gathered in Jerusalem that day. These faithful people had come to the city, and the Temple, to celebrate the Festival of Weeks, Shavuot, a harvest festival, in which they brought the first fruits of their produce, asking God to bless the remainder of the season and the harvest. They also came to celebrate God's gift of the Law, the Torah.



Faithful people, religious, observant people, going to worship God, to offer a portion of their lives, ask for God's blessing, and hear Scripture together as a faith community. Sound familiar?

And yet what happened that day was certainly not familiar. A sound like a rush of mighty wind, tongues of fire, being able to understand other languages. But perhaps it should not have been surprising. In the Gospel of John, Jesus breathed the Holy Spirit onto the disciples, who were in a locked room, and told the disciples that Jesus would not leave them orphaned, that He would send the Advocate to abide, stay, dwell with them.

The surprising part, I think, was that the Holy Spirit also abided, dwelled, breathed on others. That God would have sent God's own Spirit to those who were not part of them, not like them, in fact, people from all over the world, quite different and diverse.

So that prompts me to ask...where do you see God at work in surprising ways and in surprising people? The disciples were astonished that foreigners were speaking, and they could understand these strangers, so different from them. Who do we need to listen to, who is God blessing with an outpouring of the Spirit? Who is not like us, does not speak like us, is from a different country or culture or sub-group...but is also receiving God's Word and Spirit and speaking praise...and also, perhaps speaking to us?

What voices do we need to hear, as a church? That means we also have to confess about which voices and peoples we exclude, do not listen to, fail to pay attention to.

The Holy Spirit blows where she will. We just need to have ears to hear and hearts to love and be willing to follow where the Spirit blows, even when we are surprised whom God graces and calls. May Pentecost sweep us off our feet as we learn how to be the church God is calling us to be, in new, surprising ways.

Nancy

Mandatory Boundary Training

June 10, 2023 9:30-12:30 via Zoom

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 to attend these trainings: Ruling Elders from congregations, congregational staff and employees, and members of congregations as well.

Our next training will be held on Saturday, June 10, 9:30-12:30 via zoom.

If you are due to retake the training in 2023, you have already received an email reminder from me. If you would like a refresher, you are welcome. If you are a congregation member/Elder/church employee, you are also welcome. The more people who know, understand, and practice healthy boundaries, the healthier our congregations will be!

To register: <https://shenpres.breezechms.com/form/Boundary-Training-June10>

For any questions, please contact Rev. Dr. Nancy Meehan Yao at assocgp@shenpres.org or call 904 806 5795.

197th Stated Meeting of Shenandoah Presbytery May 20, 2023 at Staunton Third Presbyterian Church



Tina Glenn is Commissioned at Goshen Church

You may view the recording of our Stated Meeting
of Presbytery of May 20, 2023 on our web page:
<https://shenpres.org/presbytery-meeting/>.



Kimberly Shank
presented as a
Candidate for Ministry

Smyrna Presbyterian Church Hosts Mothers' Day Tea



Opequon Church Happenings

On Mother's Day, May 14, Pastor David Witt baptized his grandson, Knox Allen Witt, at Opequon Presbyterian Church. Knox is the first baby of a baby (his son, Joel, baptized in June 1989) who David has baptized within 35 years of ordained ministry. Knox's grandmother and Opequon Director of Christian Education Carole Witt was the proud elder who assisted in the baptism.



On Wednesday, May 17, Opequon Church celebrated Older Adult Month with its 20th Annual Older Adult Luncheon. After entertainment in the sanctuary by a local singer who shares classics and Patsy Cline tunes, the more than 75 people in attendance enjoyed a roast pork lunch with all the trimmings. Following the lunch, and program facilitated by DCE Carole Witt, Jean Smith and Alan McKay were named Opequon's co-older adults of the year for their past and ongoing contributions to the church.



Submitted by Rev. David Witt, Pastor of Opequon Church

Buena Vista Church Gets New Piano

On May 4, 2023, Gary's Piano delivered a 1985 Mason and Hamlin Grand Piano, which had only one owner, to Buena Vista Presbyterian Church. This session approved the purchase of this beautiful instrument from memorial funds after a presentation by Organist/Choir Director, Kay Horner. In our May Newsletter, she explained the benefits of this instrument:

I have thought for some time that an upgrade to a grand piano would enhance the role of music in our services. While there is no shortage of sacred organ selections, there is also no shortage of sacred selections for piano. In addition, we are seeing an increase in anthems and hymns written for smaller choirs (thank you, composers!) and with piano accompaniment. We will also have a fine instrument for more intimate services, such as Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday, where the choir's presence in the pews undergirds our singing.



We are grateful to Kay for her leadership in acquiring this instrument. Also, we thank Marolyn Cash, the moderator of our Worship Committee, who supported the use of memorial funds; Jeff Entsminger, who made the changes to the sanctuary to accommodate this instrument; the number of friends and family members who gave memorial gifts for the music program of Buena Vista Presbyterian Church; and the generations of choir members, choir directors, and organists who made music an important part of worship at Buena Vista Presbyterian Church.

Submitted by Rev. Howard Boswell, Pastor of Buena Vista Church

Waynesboro Second Church

Beginning, Monday, April 3, 2023, Second Presbyterian, Waynesboro began hosting Augusta Health's Mobile Primary Care Clinic the first Monday of each month from 10:00 – 2:00. Below is brief information about these clinics.

During these clinics in April & May the doctor saw average of 8 patients, the nurses an average of 9 and many folks attending our free lunch meal program (Disciples' Kitchen) received a bag of groceries provided by the Community Outreach and Partnership Group at Augusta Health. When necessary, those receiving care may also receive follow-up calls from the hospital, referrals for additional care and assistance with other needs. These clinics are not solely for those attending the meal program. They are open for anyone needing medical care assistance.

Clinics this summer will be on Monday, June 5, Monday, July 3 and Monday, August 7.

- ◇ Health consultations with a doctor for adults
- ◇ General medical problems, medication refills and medical checkups
- ◇ No health insurance required

*Submitted by: Linda
Fields*

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



From the PCC

It is the time of year when we remind all presbyteries that they must elect and report their ordination exam readers (G-3.0302b) for the 2023-2024 cycle.

The 225th General Assembly (2022), as part of its standard six-year review of the Presbyteries' Cooperative Committee on Examinations for Candidates (PCC) and the ordination exams process, directed "the Office of the General Assembly to remind all presbyteries ... that it is the presbyteries' responsibility to elect readers who have the racially, culturally, and linguistically diverse gifts, experience, abilities, and commitment to appropriately evaluate ordination exams." This directive arose from a review that found the exam evaluation process was being impacted by presbyteries that do not provide exam readers and by readers who are elected by presbyteries that then do not follow through with their commitments. In the just completed 2022-23 program year, presbyteries reported roughly one-quarter (23%) fewer readers than were allotted. One-in-five readers (20%) who were reported did not confirm their availability for the assigned reading week, and about one-in-seven (14%) who did confirm did not actually participate. Additionally, almost one-in-six (15%) of readers who participated evaluated only 1 or 2 exams. Keep in mind that every exam must be evaluated by two, and in about a third of cases by three, readers. As a result, the bulk of the work of evaluating exams had to be accomplished by less than half (46%) of the number of readers requested from the presbyteries by the PCC under the directive of G-3.0302b.

As a reminder, the PCC offers the essay-based exams three times each program year. Presbyteries supply readers for one reading week each year based upon the region to which they are assigned, with two of the six regions evaluating exams during each administration period.

Shenandoah Presbytery continues as part of the Mid-Atlantic Region that evaluates exams the week of May 6-10, 2024. Based upon the allocation formula set by the PCC, your presbytery is requested to provide 2 ruling elder(s), and 2 teaching elder(s). Presbyteries should also elect an alternate reader in case a primary reader needs to be replaced.

Anyone interested in serving as a reader for the May 2024 Exams should contact Chair of Shenandoah Presbytery's CPM, Rev. Kate Rascoe, shenprescpm@gmail.com.



Summerlee Mission

Summerlee Mission will be held July 9 - 14, 2023 in Fayette County, West Virginia. Our new home base will be the Lewis Christian Community Center (LCCC) in Oak Hill. Join us for the Summerlee organizational meeting on Sunday, June 4, at 3:00 p.m. at Westminster Presbyterian Church. If you want to participate in this worthwhile mission, please make

every effort to attend this meeting. Not only will we be learning about the work to be done and the particulars of the trip to WV, we will also be conducting mandatory child abuse prevention training. This training along with a background check is required for adults 18 years of age and older in order to participate. If you are unable to attend this meeting we will make arrangements for you to take the training.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Summerlee Mission coordinators, John and Brenda Bosserman, johnbosserman08@comcast.net. We look forward to seeing everyone on June 4th.

Learn more about Summerlee mission at <https://summerleemission.weebly.com>.

Build a culture of generosity: Stewardship for Congregations Workshops

Rev. Sandra Moon, Shenandoah Presbytery's Ministry Relations Officer from the Presbyterian Foundation, will be here with us in August (23 and 24) to help congregations Build a Culture of Generosity through Year-Round Stewardship Efforts.

"In today's ever-evolving culture, it is important for churches to develop creative and comprehensive annual stewardship programs.

Successful stewardship programs are generally not one time, fall events but rather ongoing, year-round initiatives that keep members challenged and engaged. For these programs to be most effective, they must be able to reach across all generations and utilize a variety of communication approaches.

Traditional approaches of writing an annual campaign letter to the congregation's membership may have worked well in the past, but may not generate the same type of membership response today for many congregations. Technology advancements, communication preferences, and motivations for giving differences are just a few of the factors that require us now to develop a much more multifaceted approach."



Rev. Moon will hold workshops on August 23 and August 24, in multiple sites throughout our Presbytery. Watch for details about time and location. Congregations may send multiple people to these workshops. These workshops will be extremely helpful for pastoral leaders, Stewardship, finance and benevolence committees, as well as Session members. Hope to see you there.

Rev. Sandra Moon, JD, serves as the Ministry Relations officer for the Cumberland Region (KY, TN, VA). Sandra is an experienced civil attorney specializing in estate planning, probate, and real estate. She brings a wealth of knowledge in law, fundraising, and ministry to her work at the Foundation. Prior to joining the organization Sandra was employed at the Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary holding various roles throughout her tenure, including Director of the Women's Center, Director of Alumni and Church Relations, and most recent, Director of Admissions. To contact Rev. Moon directly: sandra.moon@presbyterianfoundation.org.

Church Job Openings

For more information, go to our website at <https://shenpres.org/church-openings/>

Church Organist, Hebron Presbyterian Church

Hebron Presbyterian Church, in Staunton, Virginia, seeks a Church Organist. This is a part time position for Sunday worship services. Rehearse with choir one hour before worship. Other special services throughout the year. Pay negotiable based on experience and ability. See the [presbytery website](#) for more information, or contact the church at myhebronpc@gmail.com.

Church Organist, Westminster Presbyterian Church

Westminster Presbyterian Church (WPC), in Waynesboro, Virginia, seeks a part-time Contemporary Music Director to develop and oversee the contemporary music ministry of WPC assuring musicians are prepared to offer music during worship services and special church events. See the [presbytery website](#) for more information, or contact the church at 540-942-1145 or wp.waynesboro@gmail.com.

Accompanist/Church Musician, Westminster Presbyterian Church

Westminster Presbyterian Church (WPC), in Waynesboro, Virginia, seeks a part-time accompanist/church musician to provide appropriate organ and piano music for regular worship and special services of WPC, including weddings and memorial services. See the [presbytery website](#) for more information, or contact the church at 540-942-1145 or wp.waynesboro@gmail.com.

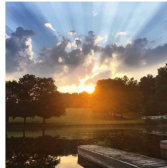
Director of Music Ministries, Tinkling Spring Presbyterian Church

Tinkling Spring Presbyterian Church in Fishersville, Virginia, is looking for a dedicated, energetic and creative Christian to become the part-time Director of Music Ministries for its long-established, well-supported music program. See the [presbytery website](#) to view the full job description.

Interested applicants should send a resume and cover letter to Debra Fitzgerald O'Connell at fitzgerald.tspc@gmail.com. We will be considering applications as they are received and will begin initial conversations with candidates May 22, 2023. This position is available June 1, 2023.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN
in the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic
2023 Summer Gathering
June 8-11, 2023



*Open your heart to a Sacred Encounter . . .
Come unto me (Luke 18:16)*



Featuring...



Rev. Dr. Olive Mahabir

Author of 2023-2024 Horizons Bible Study
*Sacred Encounters: The Power and
Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke and Acts*

Shani McIlwain

Author - Podcaster - Leadership Coach
Sharing Love, Light and Life
www.shanimcilwain.com

Also joining us are:
PW Moderator Kathy Reeves & PW Executive Director Susan Jackson Dowd

For more information
and to register:
www.pwsma.com

Hybrid Option
Plenaries & some
workshops will be
available on zoom.

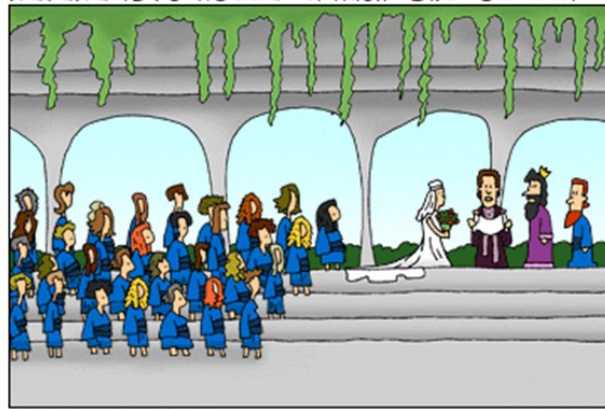
Join us at



Massanetta Springs Camp and Conference Center
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(See 1Kings 11:1-9)

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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!

June 2023

- 3 - CMO 9:30 am
- 5 - CCVT 1:00 pm
- 6 - CPT 10:00 am
- 8 - CRM 9:30 am
- 14 - CPM 10:00 am
- 15 - CRE Oversight 4:00 pm
- 22 - Shenandoah Press Deadline
- 22 - Community Cup 9:30 am
- 28 - Staff Meeting 10:00 am

Other Dates

- 8 - Pastors' Meeting 12:00 pm
- 10 - Boundary Training 9:30 am—12:30 pm
- 22 - Pastors' Meeting 12:00 pm

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