

Special points of interest:

- Disaster Preparedness
- The Big Event
- iCARE
- Pre-Retirement Workshop
- and more...

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I want to thank you all for submitting your articles, church news, photos, and invitations to us each month for our Shenandoah Press newsletter! We couldn't do it without you, so please continue sending your information. The presbytery members love to read what is happening throughout this grace-filled Shenandoah Valley! This is a special place...

*Thank you,
Donna Lanaghan
Editor*



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I once had a work supervisor who often said: “flexibility is key.” That is, in a dynamic work situation, a reminder that we had to both plan, and also be ready to adjust those plans as the changing situation dictated.

The same is true in church. Often times, we have plans, and in truth, they are plans that have worked for years—we know how to set up fellowship hall for the harvest dinner, we know how much ice melt to order for the walkway, we know how to set up and what time to start the coffee maker for Sunday morning.

But we are in a dynamic ministry context, one that has changed, and will continue to change. You know this is true for your congregation.

This is true in the Presbytery, as well. Bronwen Boswell, our General Presbyter and Stated Clerk, has taken a leave of absence from her General Presbyter role, after being called to serve as Acting Stated Clerk of the PC(USA). Bronwen’s leave of absence will conclude in July of 2024. The Presbytery has pivoted, with many people stepping up and stepping in. Our wonderful staff continues to be their usual talented and caring selves.

Rev. John Peterson will serve as Stated Clerk pro tempore for our Presbytery meetings, scheduled and called.

I will be on Sabbatical September 15-December 15. For any pastoral care needs during that time, please contact the Presbytery office, at shenpres@shenpres.org. They will contact Ann Held, who has agreed to contact other pastors, who are spread regionally throughout the Presbytery, to respond to pastoral care needs. I will be monitoring email during my sabbatical as well.

Jesus responded with flexibility to the ministry opportunities that were presented before him; healing, teaching, feeding, being with people, as the situation called for and evolved. We, as a Presbytery, as people of faith, are called to follow His example. As a Presbytery, we are a community of Christ for worship, nurture and mission. That continues, even in—or maybe especially in—times of change.

If there are other issues in this time, please feel free to contact me- by cell phone 904 806 5795, or by email: assocgp@shenpres.org

Nancy



Pre-Retirement Workshop

On Friday, November 3, there will be a PRE-Retirement workshop, led by Keenan Rodgers from the Board of Pensions. This workshop will cover all the things you need to know/ask/prepare prior to retirement. This workshop will be held at Massanutten Presbyterian Church, in the morning.

If you are planning to retire in the next 1-3 years, this is an important workshop to attend, to help you prepare wisely for a good retirement.



Luncheon for Retired Pastors

Luncheon for Retired PC(USA) Ministers of Word and Sacrament will follow, at Massanutten Presbyterian Church. Look for an invitation from Keenan Rodgers and the Board of Pensions.

International Peacemaker's Visit

Shenandoah Presbytery is excited to host International Peacemaker, Noemí Sánchez, over World Communion Sunday weekend! Noemí serves on the board of the Calvinist Reformed Church of El Salvador and will be accompanied by an interpreter, Leslie Vogel, who serves as a PC(USA) World Mission Regional Liaison for Guatemala and Mexico. We are very excited that Noemí and Leslie will serve in worship leadership at Massanutten Presbyterian Church on World Communion Sunday and are grateful to the members of Massanutten who are serving on the host team!

The Committee on Mission and Outreach, as well as the Committee on Educational Resources, are working with the host team to plan speaking engagements for Noemí and Leslie on Saturday, September 30th and Monday, October 2nd with the goal of accessible locations for as many Shenandoah communities as we can! Please stay tuned for specific times and locations for those engagements! In the meantime, here is a brief bio of Noemí and Leslie.

Noemí Sánchez of El Salvador



Abdias Noemí Iglesias Sánchez has been a member of the Calvinist Reformed Church of El Salvador (IRCES) for approximately 30 years, as part of the youth group and now as a member of the IRCES Board of Directors. Through the IRCES Board of Directors, Noemí is the primary representative, ensuring the implementation of General Assembly agreements as well as the community and pastoral work of the IRCES's strategic plan.

In youth ministry, she attended various youth camps as well as workshops on building a culture of peace. She studied Business Administration from the University of El Salvador, and has put her faith and skills into practice by assisting IRCES colleagues in coordinating youth workshops and community activities promoting peace and teaching peaceful inter-personal skills.

Married 16 years with 2 children, family is one of the most important parts of Noemí's life.

Leslie Vogel



The Rev. Leslie Vogel has served as a PC(USA) mission coworker in El Salvador from 1988 through 1995, and in Guatemala since 2013. Now regional liaison for Guatemala and México since 2018, Leslie serves as a facilitator of PC(USA) to provide support for global partner programs, relationships, and activities, and as an implementer of Presbyterian World Mission Strategy. She supports PC(USA) mission personnel in Guatemala and México by sharing information, mentoring/guiding, and encouraging missiological reflection. In addition, Leslie facilitates and seeks to strengthen healthy, effective, and missiologically appropriate relationships between partners in México and Guatemala and their counterparts in PC(USA) congregations and presbyteries.

More recently, in a context of political unrest in Guatemala, Leslie has been providing pastoral accompaniment with some political prisoners there. Also trained as a professional interpreter and translator, Leslie often accompanies global partners to facilitate and enhance communication between them and PC(USA) constituents.

A teaching elder member of the Presbytery of Grand Canyon, Leslie lives in Guatemala.

198th Stated Meeting of Shenandoah Presbytery August 22, 2023 via Zoom

Welcome to Our New Pastors!



Rev. Brittney Lane
Pastor, Woodstock Church



Rev. Jeff Binder
Interim Pastor,
Staunton First Church



Rev. Dwight McCormick
Pastor, Community Cup NWC



Rev. Teri McDowell Ott
Validated Ministry
Presbyterian Outlook Magazine
Editor and Publisher

You may the recording of our
Stated Meeting of Presbytery on
August 22, 2023

on our web page:

<https://shenpres.org/presbytery-meeting/>.

Our New Refugee Resettlement Ministry is Busy

Shenandoah Presbytery congregations and others are supporting refugee resettlement in the Harrisonburg and Winchester areas. Our region's refugee resettlement agency is Church World Service (CWS). CWS has had an office in Harrisonburg for many years. After the pandemic, a new office was opened in Winchester. That office is now staffed with several CWS workers who are responsible for finding housing, arranging jobs, teaching English, registering children in schools, and connecting families to medical professionals. Here are links to the CWS offices and services in Harrisonburg and Winchester:

<https://cwsharrisonburg.org>; <https://cswwinchester.org>.



In Winchester an ecumenical group of volunteers, including many Presbyterians, is supporting CWS by collecting donated furnishings and setting-up each new household. The volunteers also help with local transportation and community orientation. To date over 200 individuals have been welcomed. This fiscal year's goal of welcoming 100 refugees will likely be exceeded.

At the national level Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), who has a mandate to help with refugee resettlement, has increased its staff and is working hard to support resettlement efforts across the country. PDA also advocates for more just immigration policies and processes for all our new neighbors. They now identify this vital ministry as "migration accompaniment."

Submitted by Dave Thalman, Committee on Mission & Outreach (CMO)



September is Disaster Preparedness Month

September is Disaster Preparedness Month. Disasters strike with little warning and produce chaos among families and communities, including churches. Shenandoah Presbytery has a Disaster Preparedness and Response Team that can help families and churches be prepared for disasters to reduce the chaos and improve the time for recovery. The Presbytery website has resources to help: <https://shenpres.org/disaster-preparedness/disaster-preparedness-resources/>



There are several online resources for families to prepare. Both the Red Cross and FEMA have excellent advice on how to plan.

- <https://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan>
- <https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/make-a-plan.html>

For churches, there are sample plans and resources on the Presbytery website. Carolyn Thalman, member of the Presbytery Team and the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance National Response Team is available to assist churches in creating disaster plans. (cjthalman@comcast.net).

We can also be prepared to help our neighbors impacted by disaster. Preparing Gift of the Heart Kits (<https://shenpres.org/disaster-preparedness/church-world-service-cws/>) and taking them to the Church of the Brethren District Office in Weyers Cave. There they will be ready to deploy to when needed. <https://lwr.org/ingathering/shenandoah-district-church-brethren-office>.

Submitted by Carolyn Thalman, DPRT

PDA responds to the fires on Maui:

Multiple fires continue to burn in Hawai'i on the islands of Maui and Hawai'i (The Big Island). While there are no PC(USA) congregations on those islands, PDA is collaborating with UCC and other National VOAD members to respond.

An initial response grant has been disbursed to address emergency needs, and PDA will be present through the long-term recovery phase. Emergency needs include but are not limited to food, shelter, WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene), medicine and more.

To support our response, gifts can be designated to **DR000165**.

Dear iCARE Sponsors and friends,

Students at the Gore Home in Ethiopia need your support. Life at the Gore Home proceeds and school session is approaching. Thankfully the Home seems to be out of the way of the war which is in its 2nd year, but the fighting is in the North and Gore is in the West, even a bit SW.

As of June 2023, the ET inflation rate was 29.3%, which is actually the lowest rate since July 2021. Drought, Covid-19, and the war have all taken their toll. Ethiopia has a population of 23.38 million. Food inflation, which is measured separately, is up 28% over last year. Kes Ayana recently quoted to me that a Kg of onions, which used to cost 10 Birr (\$0.18 USD), now was quoted as costing 100 Birr (\$1.80 USD). One hopes that cooler weather will bring better crops and more reasonable prices.

Kes Ayana reports that the tables and chairs at the school, which are probably 25-30 years old, are getting beyond repair. Replacements would cost \$1700. This is something several people could contribute towards.

Donations for the support of iCare are now due and they are \$1200/child which covers the whole upcoming year. Please send your check to Shenandoah Presbytery, P. O. Box 1146, Harrisonburg, VA 22803. In the note line, please label iCare and your child's name and/or number.

We have three children available for sponsorship now and four children waiting, hoping to get in. It is your generosity that enables that to happen. See one picture below.

This May we have had four children (out of 50) graduate from TVET, which is a technical and vocational training school. They are now seeking jobs with their new training with a very good odds of getting one. One student, Teshome Mamo has just graduated from Mettu University.

Your support is so important to helping these children become productive members of Ethiopian society. The Home gives them food, clothing, support for schooling, good habits, and encouragement. Thank you for believing in them!

If you have questions, you may contact any of us. If this work interests you, please consider becoming a member of the committee. The work load is only occasional.

Yours in Christ, Lou

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Abdi Teferi

Stewardship Workshops

The Rev. Dr. Sandra Moon, our new Ministry Relations officer from the Presbyterian Foundation, was with us in August to talk about Stewardship; specifically, Building a Culture of Generosity. The workshops were filled with good information about how to create and nurture that culture in your congregation, and filled with good questions and discussion.

To have Sandra work with your congregation, either about Stewardship, or other sound financial practices, please contact her at sandra.moon@presbyterianfoundation.org or at 502-457-5641, 833-391-4756 toll-free.



Opequon Church “Church Fair”

On Sunday, August 20, Opequon Church had a “Church Fair,” with more than 15 teams/committees/small groups sponsoring “creative booths” that highlighted their ministries. Most booths included snacks (fresh popcorn!) and treats and games, from table top cornhole to a photo booth to guessing how many beans are in a jar (for the “bean counters” from Stewardship & Finance!). There were demonstrations of the church’s livestreaming efforts, blood pressure checks by the parish nurses, and visioning activities.



Worship that morning included a minute for mission by Rev. Clayton Rascoe, Executive Director of Massanetta Springs Camp & Conference Center, who spoke about the “Building A Place for All” capital campaign at Massanetta.



It was a fun-filled and memorable day for all ages!



Gerrardstown Church Celebrates 230 Years!

Gerrardstown Presbyterian Church (GPC) is celebrating 230+ years. The exact date the congregation first met is unclear, however In the early days they used to meet in the Gerard House and worship with the Methodists. The church was once called Middletown Presbyterian, later changed to Gerrardstown.

The celebration begins Saturday evening at Coffee House Church followed by dinner and continues Sunday September 10th at 11am in worship and on the grounds with a smoked pork tailgate party (in the Hall if inclement weather).

Come home to Gerrardstown and help us celebrate! GPC address is 372 Dominion Rd. Gerrardstown, WV 25420.

Mt. Olive Church 2023 VBS

Our theme this year: KEEPERS OF THE KINGDOM
June 26-June 30 was this years VBS.

It started every evening at 6:30 with a light dinner consisting of a meat, a vegetable, a fruit, potato chips, tea and lemonade. Each evening we had 38 to 41 children attending, not counting youth helpers and adults. They all got their Bible Study lesson Keeper of the Kingdom, and sang songs after dinner. Then they were separated into groups by age for their crafts and other activities. Every evening a new project. After all of this was completed each evening it was time for them to enjoy cookies and a drink. Time to go home until tomorrow evening with the parents picking up there children. Everyone, including youth leaders, youth helpers, and adults from the church seemed to enjoy the fellowship with one another. On Sunday morning July 2, there was a VBS program put on by the children and lots of pictures were shown for the Congregation to enjoy.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Drive-thru Tenderloin Supper Sept.22nd and Oct.20th.
- Oct. 28 First Responders Day snacks for the Fire Department and Rescue Squad in our area.
- Oct. KINGSWAY PRISION OUTREACH CONCERT and mission outreach for inmates.
- Nov.-Dec Samaritan's Purse gift boxes for needy children.

Thank you
Lois Howe, Mission Outreach Chair



Saturday, September 9 at Massanetta Springs

The Big Event

Saturday, September 9, 2023

8:30 am—3:30 pm

at Massanetta Springs Conference Center

Last Fall, leaders from Shenandoah churches gathered for a Big [Training] Event at Massanetta Springs Camp and Conference Center. We shared our experiences in transitional church leadership, discussed challenges that we currently face on national and local levels, and grappled with ways to live out our faith amidst difficult decisions and divisive times. This year's Big Event grew out of those conversations.

Rev. Dr. Teri McDowell Ott (Editor/Publisher The Presbyterian Outlook) and Rev. Dr. Mark Douglas (Professor of Christian Ethics, Columbia Theological Seminary) will address the theme "Faithful Decisions in Difficult Times" with a particular emphasis on the unique challenges facing churches in our region. How do the "big issues" of the day impact our local sessions and ministries? How do we navigate conflict while simultaneously navigating demographic changes and leadership transitions? How do we build on our traditions while joining Christ's work in making all things new? How do we serve our neighbors and share Christ's good news amidst the inevitable disagreements and debate that characterize life in community?

Our day will begin with worship and a keynote address in the morning followed by lunch and then discussion sessions in the afternoon (schedule below). We recognize that the issues that we'll address will likely be heavy and we will therefore have a Centering Space set up for prayer, reflection, silence, and care throughout the day. There will also be childcare offered throughout the day (the deadline for childcare is September 1). We pray that this event will complement leadership training at your church and provide a time for us all to reflect, learn, fellowship, worship, and vision together.

Schedule:

8:30-9:30:	Registration/Welcome/Coffee
9:30:	Worship with Communion, Rev. Dr. Teri McDowell Ott preaching
10:30-10:45:	Break/more coffee
10:50-11:55:	Keynote Address by Rev. Dr. Mark Douglas: "Talking about the Weather: Conflict Transformation in a Time of Climate Change."
12:00-1:00:	Lunch
1:10-2:10:	Discussion #1 led by Rev. Dr. Teri McDowell Ott: "Living a Love Ethic: Practical Strategies for Divisive Times"
2:10-2:20:	Break (and more coffee, if you'd like)
2:20-3:20:	Discussion #2 led by Rev. Dr. Mark Douglas: "Negotiating A Priesthood of All Believers: Maybe We Don't Always Need a Committee."
3:20-3:30:	Closing and Prayer

Registration (\$20.00 includes lunch): <https://shenpres.breezechms.com/form/Big-Event-2023>

Christian Education Employment Opportunity

Weekday Religious Education needs to hire a Bible teacher for Elkton & River Bend Elementary Schools. This is a part-time, paid position for classes held during school hours two days a week. If interested, please call 540-438-9997 or email

VRERock1929@gmail.com.



Preacher:
Rev. John Molina-Moore
National Capital Presbytery
General Presbyter



Worship Leader:
Gene Burke
Musician and Producer
Gene Keys Music

Registration is open! For more information, visit:
massanettasprings.org/programs/keep-awake



CONFIRMATION RETREAT

February 2-4, 2024

REGISTRATION OPENS
SEPTEMBER 15, 2023

For more information contact Colleen Earp at
colleen@massanettasprings.org, or
call (540) 434-3829.
Scan the QR code below!



Online Payments

Remember—we now have the ability for you to make some payments online through our website.

Here is what you can do:

- ◆ Churches may send in their acceptances
- ◆ Churches and individuals may contribute to our Stated Meeting Mission Offering

Place your camera over the QR code to the link, or go to [our webpage](#) to make your payments.

If you have any questions, please contact the presbytery office at 540-433-2556.



**PRESBYTERY OF
SHENANDOAH**

P. O. Box 1146
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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!

September 2023

- 4 - Office Closed for Labor Day
- 11 - CCVT 1:00 pm
- 12 - CNCD 3:00 pm
- 13 - CPM 10:00 am
- 13 - Staff Meeting 11:00 am
at Presbytery Office
- 14 - CPT & CRM 9:30 am
- 14 - CRE Oversight 4:00 pm
- 20 - CER 9:30 am
- 20 - Nominations 10:00 am
- 21 - CPA 1:30 pm
- 21 - Shenandoah Press Deadline
- 26 - CPC 10:00 am
- 28 - Community Cup 9:30 am

Other Dates

- 7 - Pastors' Meeting 12:00 pm
- 9 - The Big Event 8:30 am—3:30 pm
at Massanetta Springs
- 9 - Oasis Event for Pastors 4:00 pm
- 21 - Pastors' Meeting 12:00 pm
- 29 - Strong Minister Grant Deadline

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

